

NEWSLETTER

Special Issue



International Year of the Family Conference 2024

Executive Director, Dr. Sharifa Noaman AL – Emadi's Message

Dear Readers,

As we reflect on the successful completion of the 30th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family (IYF+30) conference, we are filled with gratitude and optimism. Over the past few days, experts, policymakers, and youth from around the world gathered in Doha to engage in rich discussions about the global challenges facing families and the innovative solutions being developed to address them.

The conference brought attention to critical topics, such as the ongoing global fertility crisis, the impact of assistive technology on inclusive societies, and the importance of family-friendly policies in a fast-changing world. Our keynote sessions, including

“The Fertility Crisis and Its Global Impact” and “Tech for All: Bridging the Gap,” were not only informative but also actionable, presenting tangible steps that governments, institutions, and communities can take to foster a family-supportive environment.

This landmark event marked a pivotal moment in our collective efforts to strengthen the family system and address the key megatrends shaping global demographics. We were especially inspired by the dynamic exchange of ideas during the youth debates and the engaging Q&A sessions with our esteemed panelists, including experts in demography, sociology, and public policy.

Qatar Foundation, through the Doha International Family Institute (DIFI) is proud to have hosted this historic event and remains committed to furthering the dialogue on family well-being and development. We look forward to continuing this momentum, with the insights shared at IYF+30 guiding our future programs and initiatives.

We would also like to extend our deepest appreciation to all the speakers, partners, and participants who



contributed to the success of this event. Together, we have laid the foundation for the next chapter of family empowerment and advocacy.

Stay Connected: In the coming months, we will be releasing comprehensive reports on the IYF+30 outcomes, along with policy recommendations and follow-up actions. Be sure to visit our website and follow our social media channels for the latest updates and opportunities to engage with our work and upcoming projects.

Dr. Sharifa Noaman Al-Emadi
Executive Director
Doha International Family Institute

International Year of the Family Reports – Duke Reports

Climate Change and Families: Review of Evidence and Policy Recommendations

The report examines the profound impacts of climate change megatrend on families in the Gulf region and elsewhere. It outlines how climate change affects various aspects of family life, including physical health, mental health, child development, family structure, and migration. Utilizing a social-ecological framework, the report explores climate change's impact on individuals, and family systems, as well as learned lessons from earlier interventions and applied policies.

 [Click here to view more](#)

Global Demographic Trends and Their Impact on Children, Families, and Policy

This report analyzes significant global demographic trends and their multi-dimensional repercussions, both negative and positive ones. The report addresses six primary demographic trends: declines in fertility, changing partnering patterns, reductions in early childhood and maternal mortality, a burgeoning youth population, changes in child marriage rates, and a growing aging population. Each section investigates the historical contexts, regional variations, contributing factors, and the resulting social, economic, and health implications. The paper also summarizes existing policy interventions and suggests recommendations to mitigate negative impacts and enhance potential benefits.

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Migration and Urbanization in the context of family

This report explores the intersecting trends of urbanization, migration, and family dynamics by reviewing literature published since 2019. It aims to inform policymakers on the complex interactions between these elements and provide actionable policy recommendations. It analyzes predictors, mediators, and outcomes of urbanization and migration, thereafter it presents a thorough overview of best practices and policies deployed to enhance positive effects and mitigate the negative impacts of global migration and urbanization trends on families. It touches upon a myriad of issues in the process, including forced migration, socioeconomic contexts, and gender, using examples from most of the world's regions. The report stresses the importance of integrated policy approaches to manage migration and urbanization effectively and advocates for further research on this issue.

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The Technology Megatrend: Families and Technology

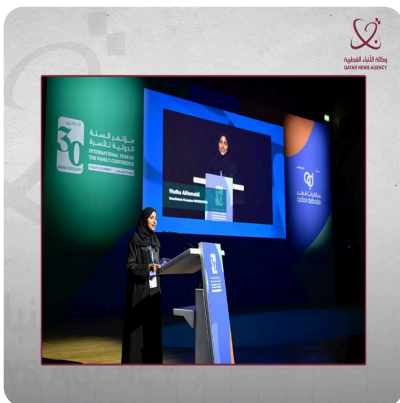
This report examines the technology megatrend's influence on family dynamics, changing parenting patterns, and family members' well-being, over the last decade. It outlines how technological advancements affect various aspects of family life, including fertility, remote work, communication, and mental health, positively and negatively. The study deploys Bioecological Theory as a theoretical framework, and uses theoretical elements from other theories as well, to explore predictors, outcomes, and moderators of technology's impact on families. The study concluded that the increased technology usage especially among children and adolescents has both beneficial and detrimental effects on development and mental health; it has also changed parental roles. The report confirms the increased need for societies to maximize their benefits from modern technology, as well as mitigate its downside.

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International Year of the Family Conference News

Youth Summit – 29/10/2024

Inspiring Discussions at the Youth Summit on the 30th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family Conference

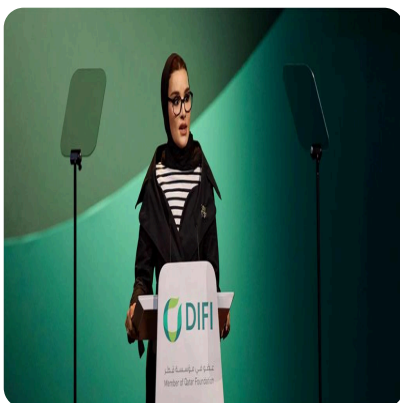


QatarDebate, a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science, and Community Development (QF), organized the Youth Summit on Tuesday in collaboration with the Doha International Family Institute. This summit was part of the events marking the 30th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family, focusing on Family and Contemporary Megatrends.

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Day 1 – 30/10/2024

Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser speaks at the opening of the 30th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family Conference in Doha



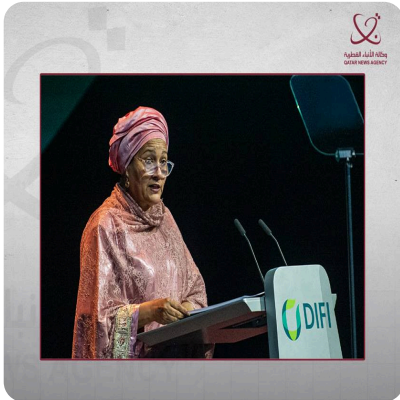
Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, Chairperson of Qatar Foundation, addressed the opening session of the 30th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family Conference on Family and Contemporary Megatrends, organized by Qatar Foundation's Doha International Family Institute.

In her remarks, Her Highness highlighted the challenges facing modern families, stating, "There is no doubt that the issues facing families are similar across societies, yet they vary in nature from one country to another."

Families in both the global North and South share many concerns, notably the negative impacts of technology and the challenge of preserving mother tongues and cultural identities in an increasingly globalized world.”

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UN Deputy Secretary-General Stresses Technology's Significant Role in Developing Societies, Empowering Families



H.E. Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, Amina Mohammed, emphasized the pivotal role of technology in societal development, family empowerment, service accessibility, and addressing health, economic, and demographic challenges, as well as advancing sustainable development. She also highlighted technology's impact on relationships and the problems it can create, including the spread of false and misleading information and threats to national identity.

In her speech at the opening of the 30th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family Conference, organized by the Doha International

Family Institute under the theme "Family and Contemporary Megatrends" at the Qatar National Convention Center, Her Excellency highlighted key challenges and megatrends impacting family life and limiting access to sustainable development. These include climate change, floods, healthcare availability, displacement, and asylum. She emphasized that families can drive positive change through smart policies, digital transformation, expanded use of artificial intelligence, equality, and improved accessibility.

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"Global Conference in Doha Charts the Future of Family Support: Addressing Work, Technology, and Life Amid Conflict"



Policies to protect families in countries affected by conflict, the global impact of population decline, and striking a balance between work and family life were placed in focus on the opening day of the 30th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family Conference on Family and Contemporary Megatrends.

In a session titled 'Shattered Lives: The Impact of War and Conflict', Dr. Nour Naim, executive director of AI Minds Academy, spoke about the targeted destruction of the middle class and education in Gaza – where she is originally from, and where her father continues to work as a frontline doctor despite being injured.

She explained that the situation in Gaza is breaking the bond between families and their homeland, forcing them to migrate to different corners of the world. However, she emphasized, "The strength of the Gazan community lies in its close family ties. Families are coming together, sharing homes, and living as though they are one family. These values form the foundation of Gazan society."

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MCIT Participates in the 30th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family with a Special Hub

The Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT) is participating in the conference, recognizing the importance of investing in technology to benefit families and society. H.E. Mrs. Reem Al-Mansoori highlighted the significance of the Ministry's presence at this key event,



which aims to empower families to adapt to digital advancements while preserving core values. Through its dedicated hub, the Ministry will showcase its initiatives, "Safe Space" and "Studio 5," which combine digital safety and technological creativity to support families and society.

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Day 2 – 31/10/2024

International Conference in Qatar Concludes with Doha Call to Action on Supporting Families



A landmark conference centered on the family – organized by Qatar Foundation’s Doha International Family Institute – concluded with the Doha Call to Action, a set of recommendations for tackling challenges facing families worldwide.

Announced at the closing session of the 30th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family Conference on Family and Contemporary Megatrends – and attended by Her Excellency Maryam bint Ali bin Nasser Al Misnad, Minister of Social Development and Family, and Her Excellency Sheikha Hind bint Hamad Al Thani, Vice Chairperson and CEO of Qatar Foundation – the Doha Call to Action presents over 30 recommendations.

These include prioritizing family needs and humanitarian support amid war and conflict, integrating lessons on family relationships, values, and intergenerational respect, into school curricula, and making family policies a foundation of social justice. Additional recommendations include strengthening research- and evidence-based approaches to guide family policies, implementing child-centered policies that prioritize their best interests, actively involving families, children, and youth in the design of family policies and programs, promoting regional collaboration on family policy, and establishing or enhancing government institutions dedicated to overseeing and implementing these policies.

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Videos



Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser's speech at the opening session of the Conference on the 30th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family



Dr. Sharifa Al Emadi's closing speech at the International Year of the Family Conference.



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Doha International Family Institute
البحوث لدعم السياسات الأسرية
Research to advance family policies

