

# NEWSLETTER

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## Family Stability and Environmental Sustainability

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

Dear Readers,

Climate change has become a daily reality threatening the stability of the planet and human life. Its effects go beyond environmental changes to impact social and economic structures. Families, as the fundamental unit of societies, directly bear the pressures resulting from natural and climatic disasters, making it a scientific and humanitarian necessity to understand these crises' impacts and find sustainable solutions to support families.

According to a report by the Doha International Family Institute (DIFI) in collaboration with the Duke University, the dimensions of climate change's impact on families were analyzed across various social aspects, showing that of the report showed that families affected by environmental disasters, such as floods and droughts, experienced a significant deterioration in the mental health of their members, particularly children, who became more prone to anxiety and depression disorders. Additionally, the study showed that low-income families faced partial or complete loss of their income sources, exacerbating economic challenges, and increasing poverty rates in vulnerable communities.

Climate change not only threatens families' food and water security but also exacerbates social inequalities. The report showed that families living in areas with poor infrastructure suffer disproportionately, reporting an inability to meet basic needs such as food and water during disasters, this impact extends to family cohesion, as economic pressures and health risks contribute to increased family conflicts, with increased social-emotional problems in children and reduced cognitive performance.



Despite these challenges, comprehensive policies and sustainable initiatives, such as investing in climate-resilient infrastructure by creating effective water drainage systems and enhancing electricity and clean energy networks in disaster-prone areas, can support families in confronting these challenges.

Additionally, it is critical to strengthen financial and social support programs by providing effective social protection schemes that focus on compensating affected families and ensuring their stability. Efforts should also focus on launching awareness campaigns targeting families to enhance their understanding of climate change and how to handle related disasters, including incorporating these topics into educational curricula.

Lastly, there is a need to strengthen partnerships between governments and international organizations to ensure coordinated efforts among all stakeholders, with a focus on providing the necessary support for families in the most affected regions.

In conclusion, addressing climate change requires a collective effort that includes families as a central element in building a more stable and sustainable future.

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

## International Studies

### **Climate Change and Families: Review of Evidence and Policy Recommendations**

The report examines the impacts of climate change on families from a comprehensive perspective. It aims to summarize current scientific knowledge on how climate change affects individuals within families and the family system as a whole, focusing on physical and mental health, child development, and family relationships. The report also highlights policies and interventions that can enhance family resilience and well-being in the face of increasing environmental challenges. By reviewing scientific evidence and providing specific recommendations, the report seeks to guide policymakers and researchers towards effective strategies for addressing the impacts of climate change on families.

 [Click here to view more](#)

## Regional Studies

### **The State of Urbanization, Migration, and the Family in the MENA Region**

This report by the Doha International Family Institute (DIFI) provides a systemic literature review to map the evidence on the interlinkages between migration, urbanization, and family dynamics in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, from multidisciplinary perspectives. The report aims to provide a widened insight into these interlinkages in efforts to kickstart dialogue and provide a more holistic understanding.

The report first explores the declining trend of 'extended families' upon the rising prominence of urbanization, and unravels the beneficial traits associated with extensive family structures, elucidating how its sustainable framework addresses and compensates for the challenges faced with contemporary urban living modes (nuclear

families). Then, the paper attempts to answer two big research questions within the MENA context. The first restricts the impact of urbanization on family structures, focusing on extended families within urbanized contexts, and the dilemma of household size and family size. The second focuses on the consequences of migration on family dynamics at a local and transnational scale, addressing multifarious challenges by the different social structures in the region.

 [Click here to view more](#)

## Local Studies

### Urbanization and Sustainable Cities in Qatar

This policy brief by SESRI, outlines the challenges facing Qatar due to the rapid and unprecedented urban growth over the past two decades, with 99% of the population now living in cities. The key challenges lie in managing future growth and expansion, maintaining the highest standards, and enhancing urban well-being and quality of life. Implementing evidence-based, informed, and comprehensive urban policy decisions is crucial for the urban future of Qatar.

 [Click here to view more](#)

## DIFI News

### DIFI and Al-Minaratein co-organize a lecture by Sheikh Othman Al Khamees

Sheikh Othman Al-Khamees delivered an insightful lecture on the importance of proper upbringing and the father's responsibility in raising his children, under the title "Each of You is a Father and a Steward, and Each of You is Responsible for Your Children's Upbringing".

### DIFI Participated in the 4th Meeting of Sustainable Family-friendly Cities, in Aguascalientes, Mexico

Dr. Ahmed Aref, Planning and Content Manager at DIFI, presented on "The Impact of Environmental Context on Spousal Relationships."

### DIFI participated in the 6th meeting of the Maria Kopp Institute for Demography and Families (KINCS) Executive Network in Hungary.

Dr. Sharifa Al-Emadi, Executive Director of DIFI, presented the key outcomes of the 30th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family Conference, calling for enhanced collaborative efforts among stakeholders, organizations, and governments to achieve the goals of sustainable families.

### DIFI participated in the 6th Summit for KADEM

Invited by KADEM Istanbul, Dr. Khalid Al Naama, Director of the Family Policy and Research Department, and Dr. Ahmed Aref, Planning and Content Manager at DIFI, participated in the Leading 6th Summit on Women and AI, commenced by President Erdoğan.

## DIFI chaired the session “While We Raise” with Wifaq

Highlighting the importance of learning through play in enhancing parenting skills. Dr. Sharifa Al Emadi, Executive Director of DIFI, emphasized how learning promotes positive behaviors in children and strengthens family bonds, thereby supporting family cohesion.

### Video



Each of You is a Father and a Steward, and Each of You is Responsible for Your Children’s Upbringing”, with Sheikh Othman Al Khamees.



معهد الدوحة الدولي للأسرة  
Doha International Family Institute  
البحوث لدعم السياسات الأسرية  
Research to advance family policies

