

Enabling Social Innovation in Qatar



POWERED BY 1Family Foundation

Country Snapshot

Social innovation: "the processes and outcomes of developing novel approaches to address societal challenges facing people and planet." ¹

This snapshot represents a descriptive, non-exhaustive overview of key highlights from Qatar’s social innovation ecosystem.

Direct focus on social innovation Connected but indirect focus on social innovation No focus on social innovation

INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

Official Definition of Social Innovation



Qatar increasingly approaches social innovation through national development frameworks, particularly Qatar National Vision 2030, which emphasises innovation, social development, and private-sector engagement in addressing societal challenges. ²

Government Body for Social Innovation



Responsibility for social innovation is coordinated across key institutions:

- **Qatar Development Bank (QDB)** supports entrepreneurship, SMEs, and innovation-driven ventures, including those with social impact objectives (2011). ³
- **The Ministry of Social Development and Family** oversees civil society organisations and social development initiatives. ⁴

Government Strategy for Social Innovation



Social innovation priorities are embedded within Qatar National Vision 2030 and the Third National Development Strategy (2024–2030), with focus areas including human development, innovation, and inclusive growth. ^{2 5}

Policies, Laws & Regulations



Qatar has established a regulatory environment that supports socially oriented initiatives:

- **Law No. (12) of 2004** regulates associations and private institutions, enabling civil society participation. ⁶
- **The Commercial Companies Law (2015, amended)** facilitates private-sector and SME engagement in development. ⁷
- **Free Zone and investment frameworks (2019)** promote innovation-led enterprises. ⁸
- **Philanthropy and endowment systems (awqaf)** further support social initiatives. ²

Official Statistics



Qatar’s statistical system captures data on civil society and entrepreneurship:

- More than **300 registered NGOs** and associations are active in the country (2023). ⁴
- Entrepreneurship and SME performance data are regularly tracked through QDB and national statistics frameworks. ³



Government Programs

These programs serve as governmental executive tools to achieve the objectives of the **Third National Development Strategy**:

- **Qatar Development Bank programs** provide financing, incubation, and advisory services for SMEs and startups. ³
- **Qatar National Research Fund** supports research addressing societal and environmental challenges. ¹⁰
- **TASMU Smart Qatar program (2018)** promotes innovation in public services and digital transformation. ¹¹

ECOSYSTEM



Stakeholders

Qatar's ecosystem is developing with several prominent actors:

- **Qatar Foundation** drives research, education, and innovation initiatives with a social-impact dimension (1995). ¹²
- **Silatech** focuses on youth employment and social development across the region (2008). ¹³
- **Qatar Charity** plays a major role in philanthropy and community development. ²
- **UN agencies** and international organisations support development and innovation initiatives



Support Initiatives

Support mechanisms are expanding:

- **Incubators and accelerators** include QDB programs and Qatar Science & Technology Park. ^{3 12}
- **Research funding** and innovation support are provided through QNRF. ¹⁰



Events & Awards

Key platforms promote awareness and innovation:

- **World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE)** serves as a global platform for social innovation in education. ¹²
- **Doha Forum** addresses global development and policy challenges. ¹⁵
- **WISE Awards** recognise innovative social and educational initiatives globally. ¹²

FINANCE



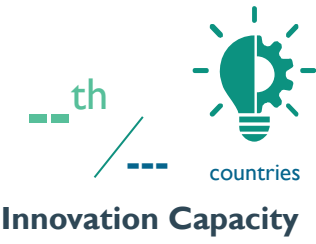
Financing Schemes

- **Public funding** includes QDB financing and QNRF research grants. ^{3 10}
- **Philanthropy and endowments (awqaf)** play a significant role in funding social initiatives. ²
- **Impact investment** is emerging through regional and international partnerships. ¹⁴

Research & Education

- **Qatar Foundation** and partner universities produce research on innovation and development.¹²
- **Entrepreneurship modules** are embedded within higher education programs, particularly within Qatar Foundation institutions.¹²

Entrepreneurship



Global Innovation Index ranking reflects moderate-to-strong innovation capacity (2023).¹⁷

Global Innovation Index



Ranked among the leading countries in the **Global Entrepreneurship Monitor** ecosystem indicators (2023).¹⁶

Social & Environmental Consciousness



Philanthropy and volunteerism are well established and supported by cultural and institutional frameworks.²



Sustainability is increasingly prioritised through national development strategies.⁵