

Article by the Urban Planning Sector - Ministry of Municipality and Environment on the World Statistics Day

The State of Qatar believes in the importance of the provision of data and statistics in line with its interest in the comprehensive planning approach. Thus, it paid special attention to the statistics and its agencies in order to lay the foundations of inclusive and comprehensive development based on sound grounds. Besides, it took first steps in this direction by working to raise the level of the state's statistical agencies, which were keen to carry out their duty with a sufficient accuracy and speed in line with the requirements of general development for all sectors in the country. Moreover, the statistical agencies have sought to raise statistical awareness in Qatar, while demonstrating the highest levels of cooperation and coordination with the relevant state agencies, led by the Ministry of Municipality and Environment as the agency responsible for preparing urban development strategies and plans that need a lot of data and statistics.

The Planning and Statistics Authority (formerly the Ministry of Development Planning and Statistics) supported the Urban Planning Sector at the Ministry of Municipality and Environment during a journey that spanned over years. This journey began in 2008 in the preparation of the Qatar National Master Plan (QNMP) and its spatial plans for municipalities, as well as urban development projects and strategies in various fields such as the housing sector, the environmental planning sector, and other projects that, in turn, contribute to the achievement of SDGs in Qatar. They are a spatial translation of the Qatar National Vision 2030 in the achievement of its goals, and the implementation of the first and second national development strategies. This was evidenced in the provision of the state orientations on demographic statistics that determine the current population number and the future projections at the national, municipal and regional levels, and their socio-demographic studies, in addition to economic data on the analysis of the national product at the level of various activities, and studies determining households and individuals income. Furthermore, such statistics provided data on inventory and classification of establishments at the level of different regions, which formed the building block for preparing all types of plans, whether at the national or

sectoral level, and contributed to supporting the various entities in the state. One of the most important aspects of that support can also be seen in the provision of the state's general directions and policies and the cooperation in the preparation of Qatar National Development Framework and formulation of its policy in order to set the strategic framework for directing the comprehensive and integrated development across different sectors in the country. This proved that the success of developing plans and projects and the ability to implement them greatly depend on the efforts made to provide the data and statistics necessary in a comprehensive, accurate and reliable manner.

In addition, the importance of urban and demographic statistics is also seen in the standards and indicators concerned with measuring urban development and comparing it with global indicators to raise the level of competitiveness of the State of Qatar globally, and to develop national plans, policies and strategies that will raise the quality of life and achieve SDGs. Hence, we emphasize the close relationship and continuous cooperation between the Planning and Statistics Authority and the Ministry of Municipality and Environment, which have borne remarkable results. One of the most important fruits was the cooperation for the issuance and adoption of the Guide to the National Standard Classification of Buildings in agreement and coordination with all concerned authorities in Qatar. It has a great importance across all sectors, as it works to increase the efficiency of the exploitation of statistical data and information and improve their quality.

In conclusion, we find that the efforts made by the state are apparent in the remarkable development of statistics. Many gaps were filled by providing basic statistical data on the aspects of economic, social and urban activity in the country and its natural and human resources. Such efforts fulfilled the needs of different agencies in the state in order to set their strategies and prepare their plans as a basic tool that guides the planner in selecting and designing the optimal plan that leads to achieving the desired goals of planning, namely raising the standard of living and achieving real prosperity and well-being for citizens.