

The Use of Statistical Data and Indicators in Formulating and Monitoring the Implementation of Qatar Population Policy

There is no exaggeration in emphasizing the crucial role of statistics in the work of states and political, economic and social institutions and organizations whose fate of major projects or decisions is often linked to the availability of relevant statistical information, data and indicators. The lack of statistical effort can prevent the determination of the success or failure of a project or a decision, making it an unsure risk.

Accordingly, Qatar's first Population Policy (2009-2014) and second Population Policy (2017-2022) would not have seen the light without the statistical data provided by Qatar Statistics Authority, which has modern databases that conform to international standards.

In order to justify the preparation of the aforementioned Population Policy, it was necessary for those in charge to monitor the State's population reality and know the privacy of the Qatari society and its needs. As such, there was a need for the use of accurate and reliable statistical data and indicators, which were produced by Qatar Statistics Authority.

For example, those responsible for preparing the Second Population Policy (2017-2022) used statistical data and indicators on population challenges related to the Qatari population on the one hand, and the non-Qatari population on the other hand. Among the challenges associated with the Qataris is the inability of the Qatari society to provide the Qatari labor market with sufficient quantitative and qualitative human cadres to implement mega development projects. Moreover, the issue of the small number of Qatari population was accompanied by a set of other challenges represented by demographic phenomena imposed by the social and economic transformations that the country witnessed. These challenges or population phenomena are: the decline in crude birth rate, the decrease in total fertility rate, the delay in the age of marriage ... etc.

As for the challenges related to non-Qatari population, which were monitored statistically, they relate to the large numbers of expatriate workers that have been

recruited to meet the needs of various development projects in recent decades and the 2022 World Cup projects. Although this recruitment of foreign workers has played a positive role in achieving a comprehensive development renaissance and moving the wheel of progress that Qatar is witnessing at various levels, the large numbers that were brought in have negatively affected various walks of life. In addition to the imbalance in population growth rates between Qataris and non-Qataris, there are other imbalances represented in the geographical distribution of the population, the demographics of the Qatari society and the structure of the labor market .

These and other challenges that were documented through statistical data and indicators are what justified the development of a population policy that includes a set of procedures, programs and measures that can contribute to facing such challenges and reducing their various impacts.

In a related context, statistical data and indicators were not only necessary to justify the preparation of Qatar Population Policy, but also to follow up on its implementation, by monitoring the progress made in the implementation of the procedures and goals included in its program, in addition to the statistical presentation and analysis of issues related to the State's demographic and developmental reality. This has contributed to drawing a comprehensive panoramic picture of Qatar population and development status by highlighting the most important achievements and challenges .

In the field of urban growth, housing and the environment, for example, the results of phase three (November 2019 - October 2020) of the follow-up of the implementation of the second population policy, through the use of the necessary statistical measures, indicated the existence of important achievements represented by the implementation of many relevant measures and tangible progress in achieving the goals.

In light of these results, and based on the latest local and international statistical data, the most important development achievements in the field of urban growth, housing and the environment were reviewed, such as the decrease in the population pressure on Doha, the increase in the population of urban centers outside, the access of all residents

of Qatar to decent housing and relevant basic services, the provision of a clean urban environment, ensuring the sustainability of natural resources ... etc.

All of the above confirm, once again, the difficulty of thinking about sound population and development planning without the availability of accurate, comprehensive and reliable statistical information, data and indicators. The success of development plans and projects depends on the availability of such data and their use in the form of statistical figures and indicators that reflect the studied reality .