

Issue No. VI  
May 2021



# QATAR HIGHLIGHTS

By the Consulate General of the State of Qatar in Hong Kong

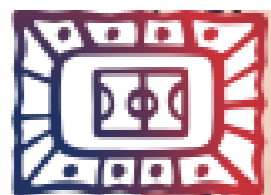
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## AGREEMENTS SIGNED FOR UN OFFICES IN QATAR



Qatar and the United Nations have signed an agreement to establish the United Nations Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in Qatar.

HE the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations Ambassador Sheikha Alya Ahmed bin Saif al-Thani signed the agreement on behalf of the State of Qatar, while the Under Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Co-ordinator Mr. Mark Lowcock signed the agreement on the UN's behalf.

Similarly, The State of Qatar and United Nations Development Program (UNDP) have signed an agreement to establish an office for the program in Qatar. The agreement comes within the framework of increasing the effectiveness of government-funded development programs and strengthening cooperation programs in areas of common interest.

HE Sheikha Alya has also signed the agreement on behalf of the State of Qatar, while UNDP Administrator Mr. Achim Steiner signed on behalf of the Program.

Find out more through the QR code



## Qatar Provided Assistance to Nearly 100 Countries to Fight Covid-19

The Government Communications Office (GCO) announced that The State of Qatar has been providing medical and humanitarian assistance across the globe since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Aid from government and non-government entities stands at over \$256m, and has been offered to around 88 countries.

Qatar pledged \$20m in support of the Global Alliance for Vaccine and Immunisation (GAVI) in 2020. The Qatar Fund for Development has committed \$10m to support the GAVI COVAX Advance Market Commitment, aiming to procure 1.3 billion vaccine doses by the end of 2021.

Qatar Airways Cargo has shipped nearly 20 million vaccines to countries around the world. “In April 2021, Qatar Red Crescent launched an international campaign to raise \$100m in donations for COVID-19 vaccines for more than three million refugees, internally displaced persons, and migrants across 20 countries.”





Established in 1963, **Qatar Chamber** aims to organise business interests and represent the Qatari private sector locally and globally, among its main activities:

- ❖ Regulating, representing, defending and promoting the commercial, industrial and agricultural interests.
- ❖ Support and develop the economy and productivity for the advantage of Qatar in general and the interests its member companies in particular.
- ❖ Support and develop a sustainable business environment for local and foreign businesses.
- ❖ Developing the international trading system and enhance its cooperation with other chambers of commerce around the world.
- ❖ Enhance Qatar's economy diversity and attract foreign investments.
- ❖ Exert all possible efforts to enhance the position of Qatar as an international center and destination for business and investment.
- ❖ Holding and participation in exhibitions, locally and abroad.
- ❖ Concluding cooperation agreements with similar unions, chambers, or bodies so as to enhance the cooperation and the commercial ties.

[Click the picture to visit their website](#)

## Invest Qatar

The Investment Promotion Agency Qatar (**IPA Qatar**), or as widely known as “**Invest Qatar**”, oversees investment promotion activities under the Invest Qatar brand and acts as the country's umbrella organization for FDI attraction. Through its vast resources and close coordination with Qatari licensing platforms, it helps businesses advance their ambitions and achieve long-term success by delivering the support, advice, and expertise needed.

### Among the Services of IPA Qatar:

#### ❖ Provision of market information to investors

Business environment, regulatory environment, economic drivers.

#### ❖ Business Development:

Sharing information and tools to identify opportunities, sector size and characteristics, and potential partners.

#### ❖ Other Services:

Assistance in business establishment, facilitation of specific requests and introductions, as well as the provision of additional support for large projects.

“Invest Qatar was created to help transform one of the world's richest economies. We do this by sharing the story of Qatar, coordinating among a portfolio of partners on the ground, and partnering with investors to support their long-term success.”

invest   
 Qatar

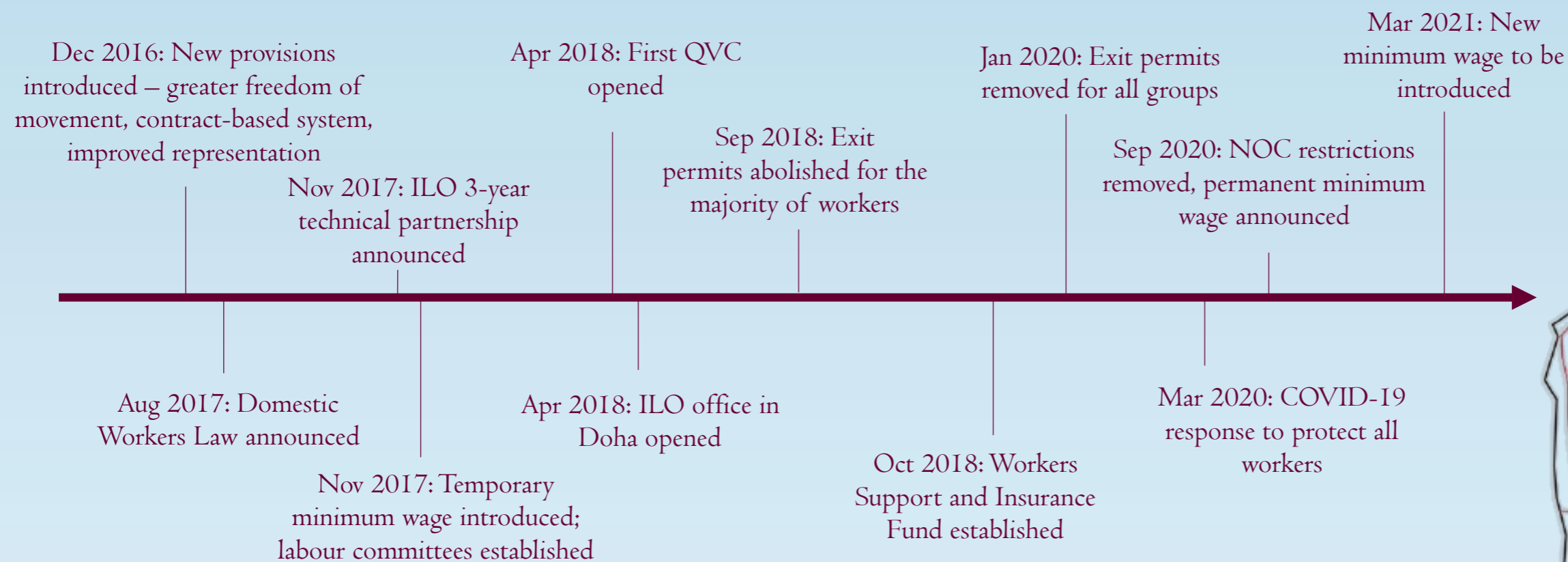





# QATAR LABOUR LAWS REFORM

In the past few years, Qatar has introduced a series of labour laws changes in attempt to adhere to international standards, and to bring a better working experience to all within its borders and especially the foreign workers. Said changes were crowned by the abolishing the Kafala System for foreign workers last year and the introduction of new minimum wage in March of 2021.

## Efforts by the Qatari Government to push for the labour laws changes in the past few years





## FOCUS POINT

# QATAR LABOUR LAWS REFORM

March 2021 reforms: Introduction of a new minimum wage

## 2020 Reforms: Removal of exit permits and NOCs

Labour reforms in 2020 dismantled the Kafala system and marked the beginning of a new era for the Qatari labour market.

### Exit permits:

- Since January 2020, all expatriates have the right to leave the country without first obtaining permission from their employers.
- Only exceptions include members of the armed forces and a maximum of 5% of a company's workforce in special roles.

### No Objection Certificates (NOCs):

- Employees can terminate their contract once they have provided written notice.
- The removal of NOCs allows employees to move jobs freely and is helping to create a competitive and dynamic job market.

First non-discriminatory minimum wage in the Middle East to be introduced on 20 March 2021.

- ❖ The minimum wage has been set at QAR 1,000.
- ❖ The minimum wage applies to all workers across all sectors, including domestic workers.
- ❖ When food and accommodation is not included, the minimum accommodation allowance shall be QAR 500 Riyals and the minimum food allowance shall be QAR 300.
- ❖ The minimum wage was decided following extensive consultations with a specialised national committee composed of relevant authorities in Qatar.
- ❖ The Minimum Wage Committee was established and tasked with reviewing the impact and application of the minimum wage.

AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL 

**Qatar: New laws to protect migrant workers are a step in the right direction**

HUMAN  
RIGHTS  
WATCH

**Qatar: Significant Labor and Kafala Reforms**

Doha



# SPORTS

Get to Know One of  
FIFA World Cup 2022 Qatar  
Eight Marvelous Stadiums




## Al Bayt Stadium


 **Tournament capacity**  
**60,000**


 **Legacy capacity**  
**32,000**


 **Distance from Doha**  
**46 km**


 **Progress**  
The stadium was completed in 2020.

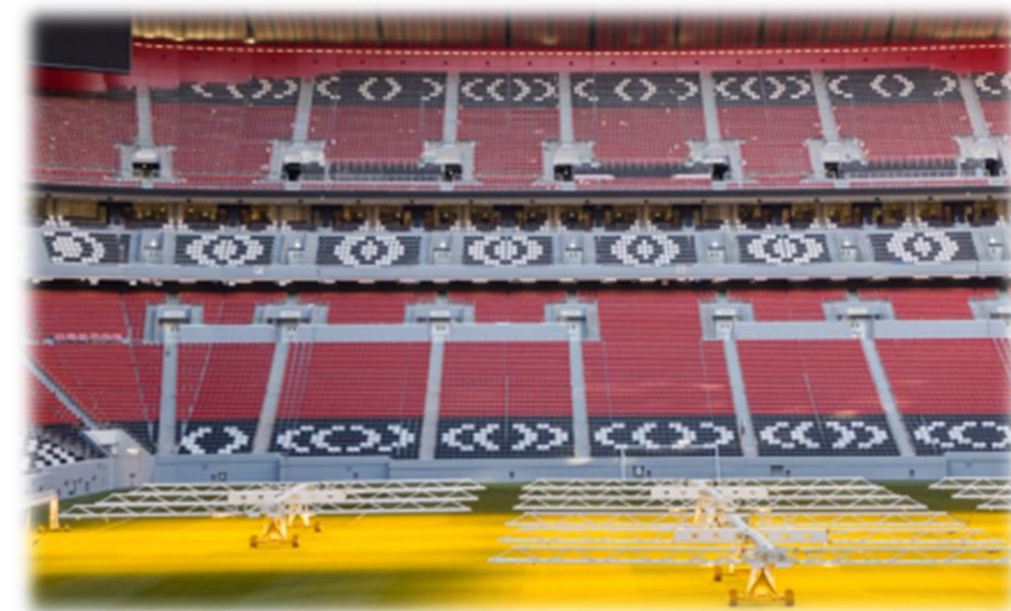
 **Tournament mode**  
Al Bayt Stadium will host the opening match of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™, along with numerous other matches up to and including the semi-finals stage.

 **Legacy mode**  
Home of Al Khor Sports Club. The modular upper tier will be removed after the tournament, with the seats being re-purposed to create sporting facilities in Qatar and overseas.

 **Design**  
The stadium takes its name from 'bayt al sha'ar' – which were tents historically used by nomadic peoples in Qatar and the Gulf region. The design honours Qatar's past and present, while keeping one eye on the future of the community.

 **Precinct facilities**  
After Qatar 2022, the upper concourse of the stadium will be converted into various facilities. The sky box level will be turned into a 5-star hotel, while a shopping centre, food court, gym and multipurpose hall will be incorporated into the stadium building. A branch of the leading sports medicine hospital Aspetar will open, while the precinct will feature a park, running and cycling tracks, play areas, coffee shops and restaurants.

 **Sustainability**  
The stadium has received a Class A\* rating from the Global Sustainability Assessment System (GSAS) for its design and construction process.



# Discover Qatar

## Msheireb Downtown Smart City

### "Smart City with Soul"



Msheireb Downtown Doha is the world's first sustainable downtown regeneration project, that has revived the old commercial district with a new architectural language that is modern, yet inspired by traditional **Qatari heritage and architecture** – its proportion, simplicity, space, light, layering, ornament and response to climate, utilising the latest in sustainable technologies.

This smart city has become a new social and civic hub in the city centre – a place where it is enjoyable to live, work, shop, visit, and spend time with family and friends, it has been developed in time to help enrich the upcoming **FIFA World Cup 2022** experience, by being a place in the heart of Doha where fans get to experience luxury and culture in a Qatari style.



**Msheireb Downtown achieves its objective as the world's first sustainable downtown, through the following:**

- ❖ a 32% energy reduction goal, all buildings are targeting LEED Gold certification, with some buildings targeting LEED Platinum.
- ❖ Streets within Msheireb are oriented to capture cool breezes from the Gulf and shade most pedestrian routes from the hot sun. Buildings are massed to shade one another and light coloured to reduce cooling requirements.
- ❖ Abundant solar energy captured through photovoltaic solar panels and solar hot water panels on rooftops will be used to generate electricity and heat water within buildings.
- ❖ Installing efficient irrigation systems and planting many native species adapted to survive in dry conditions reduce landscape irrigation requirements.
- ❖ A diversity of uses, integration with Doha's new Metro and a safe and convenient public realm encourage both cycling and walking.



### How does Msheireb Downtown continue pushing for smart solutions?

Msheireb Properties signed a deal with Siemens to ensure Msheireb Downtown Doha is a smart city.

It will see the digitalisation of buildings, electric car charging stations, the installation of low consumption traffic lights, and outdoor air quality measurements put in place.

The services will also focus on energy optimisation and performance, site-wide fire alarm, secure smart spaces and offices.



## Museums of Islamic Art

### Know more about Qatar

Qatar Museums

<https://www.qm.org.qa/en>

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Foreign Ministry Twitter Page:

[https://twitter.com/MofaQatar\\_EN](https://twitter.com/MofaQatar_EN)

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Qatar Financial Centre:

<https://www.qfc.qa/en>

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Qatar Free Zones

<https://qfz.gov.qa/>

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Visit Qatar

<https://www.visitqatar.qa/en/home>

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Katara Hospitality

<https://www.katara.net/>

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