حوار الدوحة 2014
حول الهجرة
Doha Dialogue on Migration
Qatar Red Crescent has sought not only to be active in providing relief for the needy all over the world, but also to be rationally effective in terms of having a clear understanding of the issues and situations and to develop better ways to deal with them through better local and global cooperation networks, in order to have an integrated system. Accordingly, this dialogue was held in collaboration with the International Federation, bringing together brothers from all over the world who have incurred the hardship of traveling long distance. Therefore, let us make this even as fruitful as possible, God willing.

Dear brothers,

Although migration does not represent more than 3% of the population of the world and that most of migrants target neighboring states and territories of similar cultures, high walls have been erected in some of these areas to prevent the entry of immigrants. Although such walls cost billions of dollars to build and manage, we have not seen many of these investments in countries whose economy or security was one of the main reasons of immigration for many of these migrants.

The Gulf region has a special status. Although Gulf States host workers working on fixed-term basis, they outnumber the workers in any other country in the world, giving rise to real challenges regarding the provision of services in these countries. Our role as national societies is to be there to ease the suffering of the vulnerable and ensure the preservation of human dignity, as our recommendations will be supported until we have a high-level discussion over this issue.

I would like to thank the companies and organizations that have supported this meeting and the volunteers who are making a great effort in order to make a success of it. My special thanks also go to Abdullah Al Khulaifi for honoring us in this august gathering.
Remarks of
QRC Secretary General
Mr. Saleh Bin Ali Al Mohannadi

From the first moments of making preparations for the Doha Dialogue 2014 on Migration, the QRC has put in mind a set of objectives to find a platform bringing together national societies from around the world to discuss issues of migration and the opportunities and challenges it begets, so that to come up with some learned lessons that help improve the conditions of migrant workers. The conference has seen constructive discussions and important clarifications from participating experts and officials on several issues related to migration and foreign workers.

The conference was an opportunity for stakeholders themselves, namely the representatives of the communities, to talk about their issues and speak their mind with regard to the pros and cons of their living conditions, share their vision of the applicable solutions and to address the issues and solutions from the different legal, right, official, social and economic perspectives.

We have been keen to bring together in this Dialogue all stakeholders involved in this important issue, including officials from international agencies and humanitarian organizations, representatives of foreign communities and embassies in Qatar, chairpersons of several national societies and specialists in law, human rights and international relations.

I would like to make something clear: the concept of expats from the perspective of this conference is not limited to the working class, but it is a broad term encompassing all foreigners working in Qatar from various professional and economic levels.

We would like to thank all those who have contributed to the conference either through preparations or participation, especially the sponsors, who are credited with making a success of this conference, on the basis of their faith in the values of the public interest, their awareness of social responsibility and its important role as partners in humanitarian and social work and supporting charitable and social organizations in their quest to achieve sustainable development of the society in light of the objectives and strategy of the Qatar National Vision 2030.
Introduction

The purpose of Doha Dialogue 2014 on Migration is to shed light on the leading role played by the State of Qatar and its business community in protecting expatriate workers, and to raise awareness about the importance of having concerted efforts to mainstream this approach as a nationwide culture and practice.

The conference opened on 15 June 2014, with a dialogue on migrant workers, under the supervision of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC). The conference reviewed different experiences from around the world, discussed by presidents of more than 25 Gulf, Arab, Southeastern Asian, and European National Societies, as well as senior executives of Qatar government and private institutions and corporations.

As a significant push to the development of national economy, Doha Dialogue on Migration 2014 received wide attention from key players in the country, with sponsorships from SCH, the Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy, Chevron Phillips, National Leasing Holding (ALIJARAH), and United Development Co. (UDC).

Intensive arrangements were implemented before the launch of Doha Dialogue on Migration 2014. Qatar Red Crescent (QRC) held a meeting at its headquarters with delegations of foreign communities living in Qatar, with a view to introducing them to the nature and purpose of the event and discussing how to make their participation more effective.

The meeting was attended by chiefs of expatriate communities and representatives of their respective embassies, including the Philippines, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Yemen, India, Pakistan, and Morocco. Top officials from QRC and workers’ health centers were also present.

During the two-day discussions, the attendants discussed highly important topics such as: challenges of migration in a changing world; sponsorships and partnerships with corporate sector; humanitarian consequences of labor migration; labor migration in a crisis context; and the inclusion of migration in the post 2015 development agenda.
The opening day of the 2014 Doha Dialogue on Migration was dedicated to the launch of the Red Cross Red Crescent Cooperation Platform and mainly involved the participation of Movement representatives from 20 National Societies from the MENA, South and Southeast Asian regions, the IFRC and the ICRC. The first day of the dialogue aimed to establish the current Movement position and approach to migration, and to identify the areas in which the Red Cross Red Crescent can contribute more actively to assisting migrants workers who often find themselves in vulnerable and/or marginalized positions. From the outset, there was a common consensus from National Societies from both ‘sending’ and ‘receiving’ countries that they are keen to engage and work together on the issue of migrant worker protection - both operationally on the ground and in terms of advocacy and humanitarian diplomacy.

The Cooperation Platform was opened by the IFRC Vice-President for Asia Dr. Baige Zhao who, in her opening address, said the time had come for the Movement to play a greater role in migration and stressed the need for participants to concentrate on the needs and vulnerabilities of labour migrants rather than focusing on the shortcomings in specific countries or apportioning blame. Dr. Zhao also added that migration was one of the biggest humanitarian issues of the modern age and that the trend of labour migration was likely to continue due to factors such as poverty, conflict and unemployment. The Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, she said is in a “unique and powerful position to bring about real change.”

Following on Dr. Zhao’s remarks, Dr. Mohammed bin Ghanem Al-Ali Al-Maadheed, President of the Qatar Red Crescent, reminded participants the role of the Red Cross Red Crescent in migration was to preserve human dignity and the fundamental principle of neutrality saying ‘our compassion cannot be segmented to an ethnic or political group, our strength is our humanity.

Dr Al Maadheed also said that the 2014 Doha Dialogue was the result of over three years of efforts and commitment by many partners within the Movement. Two working groups provided an opportunity for National Societies to examine in more details the reasons why people move to work overseas and the vulnerabilities and risks they are facing. Greater exchange of information and training visits between partner National Societies were identified as a key way in which the Red Cross Red Crescent global network could be beneficial to labour migrant protection. More pre-departure outreach and assistance to migrants in sending countries was also suggested as an important avenue for National Societies to explore. It was noted that many labour migrants are not aware that the RCRC can provide assistance and more could be done to raise our public profile and visibility in migration.
Day I – Recommendations

The launch of the Red Cross Red Crescent Platform on Migration concluded with six commitments:
- A commitment from participants to move the Dialogue forward and attend a second RCRC Migration Platform in Manila in December 2014
- An agreement from participants to support/attend a regional workshop focusing on inter-cultural dialogue in Jakarta in September 2014. Further workshops to be potentially hosted by National Societies from sending and receiving countries to over the next 3 years.
- Enhance communication and exchange of ideas between sending and receiving National Societies through Red Cross Red Crescent ‘study visits’ to various countries and through workplace exchanges for staff and volunteers in sending and receiving countries.
- Agreement from the National Societies to nominate one staff member/volunteer to act as a focal point for Movement-wide discussions and action on migration.
- RCRC Movement to be more proactive in establishing relationships and partnerships with external migration agencies and existing networks.
- National Societies to strengthen advocacy efforts and humanitarian diplomacy around migration and build on the RCRC auxiliary role with governments.
Day II – The opening Day

In the opening ceremony, Dr. Al-Khulaifi gave an overview of the efforts made by the State of Qatar and the legislation and actions adopted to improve labor conditions and benefits of foreign workers in Qatar.

“The Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs exerts relentless efforts under its responsibilities as a protector of workers’ rights, in compliance with the enforced laws and decrees that enable the ministry to do its work perfectly.

We at the ministry believe that protecting the rights of workers, whether nationals or expatriates, is a fundamental guarantee to accomplish the vision of His Highness the Emir of Qatar to attain the desired sustainable development for Qatari society,” the minister added.

The continuous development of the programs and plans of expatriate workers recruitment is clear evidence on the true desire of the state to maintain the rights of workers and improve their living conditions. Therefore, the state is developing legislations and policies of recruitment, residency, housing, safety, protection of payments, and settlements of disputes. However, employer commitment varies from one to another.

Ladies and Gentlemen, we at the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs will continue our relentless work to accomplish the vision of His Highness the Emir of Qatar to attain a labor market free from all obstacles that might hinder the active participation of national and expat workers to development that we desire.
Day II- Discussions

Finally, representatives of sponsors talked about the importance of the conference, why they wanted to support it, the business activities of their respective institutions and corporations, and their interest in having strong relations with QRC in pursuit of the common social goals under Qatar National Vision 2030. The sponsors are: the Supreme Council of Health (SCH) (premium sponsor), Alfardan Group (premium sponsor of the Workers Support Fund), the Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy and Chevron Phillips (golden sponsors), National Leasing Holding (Alijarah) (silver sponsor), and the United Development Co. (UDC) (bronze sponsor). The participants discussed various significant topics such as: humanitarian consequences of labor migration, developments in migrant workers’ rights in the Gulf region, risks and preventive work of illegal migration, labor migration in a crisis context (focusing on the Syrian conflict), key concerns and challenges facing migrant workers in Gulf countries, empowerment and social inclusion of low-skilled female migrants, and inclusion of migration in the Post-2015 Development Agenda.
The Final Day

The last-day of the conference discussed input from foreign community representatives regarding the conditions of expatriate workers in Qatar. Working groups were formed on specific topics such as regional cooperation, pre-departure services, advocacy and humanitarian diplomacy, and inclusion of migration in the post-2015 Development Agenda. Finally, the conference debates translated into recommendations and action plans for the future.

The sessions were attended by high-profile figures and experts in migration, labor, law, and humanitarian action, including Mr. Saleh bin Ali Al-Mohannadi, QRC Secretary-General; Dr. Fawzi Oussedik, QRC Head of International Relations and International Humanitarian Law; Mr. Jagan Chapagain, Director, IFRC Asia Pacific Zone; Mr. Tauhid Pasha, Senior Specialist, Labour Migration, International Organization for Migration (IOM); Ms. Fatima Gailani, President, Afghanistan Red Crescent; Dr. Mehmet Gülüöglu, Director General, Turkish Red Crescent; Dr. Bettahar Boudjellal, international human rights expert; and representatives of India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Morocco, the Philippines, and Yemen communities.
Qatar Red Crescent, Supreme Council of Health Celebrate Health Campaign Conclusion

Qatar Red Crescent (QRC) held a closing ceremony at the Museum of Islamic Art for the first phase of Weqaya, a 3-year national communicable disease prevention campaign co-launched late in August 2013 by QRC and the Supreme Council of Health (SCH), mainly to improve health and safety among expatriate workers through educational lectures, awareness fliers, and personal hygiene kits. In his remarks at the ceremony, which was attended by some of the VIP guests of Doha Dialogue on Migration 2014, Mr. Al-Mohannadi expressed his heartfelt thanks to SCH for its effective role in the campaign and its unwavering support for QRC health activities in general, including but not limited to the ambulance system, workers’ health centers, health awareness campaigns, Ramadan medical program, etc.

“As the saying goes, figures don’t lie. Statistics and reports show that 10,000 workers from 40 companies and 21,000 health center visitors received lectures, interactive sessions, and field training for better lifestyle and infection prevention, and that 5,000 workers received personal hygiene kits, in addition to many other achievements,” the Sec-Gen pointed out.

On his part, Mr. Dr. Mohammed Al-Hajri, SCH Director of Health Protection and Communicable Disease Control, described the campaign as remarkably successful. According to him, it was just a first step that will be followed by other steps on different health-related themes, such as psychological health, occupational health, health education on incommunicable diseases, etc.

Dr. Al-Hajri unveiled already underway arrangements for the second phase of Weqaya in partnership with QRC, inviting other players to support the campaign. “For us, QRC partnership is a top priority, in light of our fundamental responsibilities for individual and collective health of all segments of society, particularly expatriate workers and foreign communities. Actually, the door is open for all institutions and corporations to join us, as the project is too big to be conducted by a single party. After all, it is a project for everyone.”

The attendance watched a presentation about the campaign’s activities and accomplishments. Then, some workers talked about their personal experiences with Weqaya health services and how it made a big difference in their lives. The ceremony ended with honoring the campaign officials, medical workers, volunteers, and sponsors, both financial and logistic.
As part of its awareness and keenness, Qatar hosted the conference and had the privilege to host many national Red Crescent and Red Cross societies and humanitarian societies in East Asia, North Africa and the Middle East. The conference included several meetings and discussions, as the issue of foreign workers has started to raise legitimate questions that need to be answered. It is not a novelty in a particular country, but rather a global phenomenon, and therefore we have held this conference on migration in general and on expats in particular.

As we have seen, the State of Qatar, represented by the Minister of Social Affairs, has enacted a set of special procedures addressing the workers in the State of Qatar. Its legal safeguards meet international standards, in terms of the provision of a healthy environment during working hours, the sponsorship system and securing an adequate salary. This is a rapidly evolving issue at the Arab and international levels and it has legal and political dimensions. The legal aspect is that we are facing the problem of confusion between the public and the private sectors.

Having listened to the three working teams and completed the agenda and dialogues, the participants underlined the following points:

First: continue the dialogue on migration, and the Doha Dialogue should be the starting point for that dialogue, whether in Manila or Jakarta this year.

Third: opening up to the others and the rest of the other components of the international humanitarian movement, in order to serve the interests of the public and contribute to the development of this category.

Fourth: the anatomy of other types of migration; the illegal, the economic and the secret migration as well as immigration for the purpose of human trafficking as well as expats, which is a global problem that needs international answers and local plans not limited to a specific area. Therefore, efforts must be made to find solutions by the host country or by the origin country and sometimes by the transit countries, because all of them are concerned.

Fifth: the need to establish or strengthen and develop existing liaison foundations at the level of national societies concerned with this phenomenon to perform their work flawlessly.

Sixth: drawing the attention to the role of the Qatari Red Crescent, and the partnership of the private sector by virtue of the relationship between private institutions and the migrants, to be the guarantor of these rights. This three-dimensional dialogue must be created to remove any misunderstandings.
حل 94% من الشكاوى العمالية

حدد المشروع للاستجابة لخصوصية المستفيدين ودور العمل السياسي مستقبلي" العامل

رسالة للنظام الشهابي للاستجابة لخصوصية المستفيدين ودور العمل السياسي مستقبلي" العامل

المشروع المتعلق بالمشكلة السياسية للحجاج بالمصالحة المتفق عليها.
افتتح د.حوار الدوحة.. 2014: بتنظيم القطري: "ظرف العمل

تسوية 94% من الشكاوي العمالية العام الماضي

 empezó en el trabajo.. 2014: en coordinación con el Qatari: "la situación de trabajo

Resolución 94% de las quejas laborales del año pasado
تأسّيس صندوق لدعم العمالة بتمويل شركات من القطاع الخاص

خلال الاجتماع التحضيري المتعلق بأدوار ودور المجتمع في النساء في قطر. وتم الانتهاء من الفترة الأولى في جائزة بحضور عدد من الشخصيات والخبراء في مجال المرأة والعمل.

البحث: تدفق المقاولين يجلب عدلاً من مكافحة استقبال مسجلاً في العمل.

على التحليلاً مع قضية العمالة ينتج واقع بعيداً عن النقد واللوم.
وزير العمل: مشروع إلغاء نظام الكفالة بصداد
قطر تعزز حقوق الإنسان وتحمي العمالة المهاجرة

الوزير الخليفي: تعاون فني بين وزارة ومنظمة العمل الدولية لحماية حقوق العمالة

الشمرى: قطر جعلت الارتداء يحقق العمالة هدفاً أساسياً

المعادي: "الهلال الأحمر" فاعل في إغاثة المحتاجين بعقلانية
Doha Dialogue gets underway to address foreign labour issues

Doha Dialogue on Migration 2014 was officially inaugurated yesterday with the participation of key local and international representatives of the entities concerned. The opening session of the conference was addressed by HE the Minister of Labour and Social Affairs, Dr Abdullah bin Cheir Mohamed Hamad Al-Khalifa, Qatar Red Crescent (QRC) president, Dr Mohamed bin Ghanem Al-Abd al-Masih, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) vice-president, Dr Zhao Baige, and International Union of Humanitarian Law (UIHL) president Prof Feruto Pocar.

International humanitarian leaders, presidents of more than 25 Gulf, Arab, Southeast Asian, and European national societies, top officials of Qatari government and private institutions and corporations, and experts and specialists in migration, law, and labour worldwide were present.

“The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs meets relentless efforts under its mandate as a protector of workers’ rights, in compliance with the enforced laws and decrees that enable the ministry to do its work perfectly,” said Dr al-Khalifa.

Dr al-Masih saw the event as one phase of a prolonged, structured endeavor to address migration and foreign labour issues around the world, with a special focus on the Gulf, as it is specifically one of the world’s most attractive regions for expatriate labour, particularly in the field of construction.

Dr Zhao presented IFRC’s perception of the conference, which is a common platform to bring different migration-related issues openly for consideration, exchange ideas and lessons learnt, and come up with a blueprint to remove disadvantages and reinforce advantages, which is a major mandate of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, the world’s largest volunteer-based humanitarian network.

She urged everyone to work together and co-ordinate to avoid duplication and ensure an “added-value” to this complex and sensitive work.

Prof Pocar described the “Doha Dialogue on Migration” as a unique opportunity to meet and share experiences with representatives from the International Red Cross Movement and its partners from the Middle East, North Africa, and Southeast Asia, with the specific objective of strengthening collaboration and addressing the most current challenges of labour migration and expatriate workers from a legal, humanitarian, and policy perspective.

Eventually, representatives of sponsors talked about the importance of the conference, why they wanted to support it, the business activities of their respective institutions and corporations, and their interest in having strong relations with QRC in pursuit of the common social goals set by Qatar National Vision 2026.

The sponsors are: the Supreme Council of Health (SCOH) (premium sponsor), Alladain Group (premium sponsor of the Workers’ Support Fund), the Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy and Chevron Phillips (gold sponsors), National Training Holding (Alladain) (silver sponsor), and the United Development Co (UDC) (bronze sponsor).

The conference, which concludes today, is jointly organised by QRC and IFRC.

The participants discuss various significant topics, including: humanitarian consequences of labour migration, developments in migrant workers’ rights in the Gulf region, risks and preventive work of illegal migration, labour migration in a crisis context (noting on the Syrian conflict), key concerns and challenges facing migrant workers in Gulf countries, empowerment and social inclusion of low-skilled female migrants, and inclusion of migration in the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

Fardan Fahd Al-Maadeed at the Doha Dialogue on Migration yesterday.

Workers Support Fund helping expats

The Workers Support Fund would have its positive economic and social refections on expatriate workers in the country, pointed out Fardan Fahd Al-Maadeed, representative of Alladain Group, premium sponsor of the Workers’ Support Fund.

He was addressing the Doha Dialogue on Migration 2014, stressing that the Fund is an implementation of deeply rooted traditions of the country of helping the vulnerable and those in need of help.

Al-Maadeed stated that the Fund would offer expatriate workers of different nationalities direct and indirect aids, aiming at improving their life conditions and providing them with adequate security.

He also appreciated the efforts of Qatar Red Crescent, the organizer of the event, to help the vulnerable, the weak and those affected by various other adverse circumstances.
Ministry continues to appoint inspectors

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Present at the conference were QRC President, Dr Mohamed bin Ghanem Al Ali Al Maadeed; ICRC Vice-President, Dr Zhao Baige, top officials, private institutions and corporations, and experts and specialists in migration, law, and labour.

The Ministry of Labour has also increased the number of inspectors from 150 to 200.

Qatar taking concrete measures to protect workers, says Khulaifi

Qatar Tribune

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The Minister of Labour has announced that a new inspection system will be put in place to ensure the protection of workers. Al Khulaifi said the ministry has been working to develop labour inspection and occupational health and safety through various training institutions.

Al Fardan to launch fund to support migrants

Al Fardan said that the fund will support workers who have faced difficulties due to their situation. The minister also announced that Qatar will continue to support the development of the community and the workers' rights.
Liberal job market to be put in place

Minister reiterates Qatar’s pledge

DOHA: Qatar yesterday reiterated its pledge to put in place a liberal job market and said rules were being changed whereby expatriates would be able to change jobs based on the contract they sign with their employer.

Current exit permit rules would be abolished and the employment contract of a worker would be of supreme importance in the new system.

In the new system, it would suffice for workers to verbally inform their employers and travel overseas, said the Minister of Labour and Social Affairs, HE Dr Abdullah bin Saleh Mubarak Al Khulaifi.

Talking about expatriates changing jobs in the new regime, he reiterated that one would be able to change jobs at the end of one’s contractual period if the contract was for a fixed period.

About open-ended contracts (where a specific period is not mentioned), an expatriate would be able to change jobs only after five years, said the minister. In both cases, workers would not need permission from their employers to change jobs, he stressed.

Al Khulaifi said the draft law containing the proposed changes in sponsorship and exit permit rules for foreign workers was with the authorities for review.

“The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs is committed to improving the job market — a market which is free of barriers that hinder effective contribution of the Qatari and expatriate workforce to social and economic growth,” said Al Khulaifi.

The government is busy formulating new criteria for labour camps with a view to ensuring that lodging for workers here meet global standards.

The labour ministry is coordinating with the Ministry of Municipality and Urban Planning to put in place new guidelines for labour camps.

Al Khulaifi said a national committee formed earlier with members from different ministries and government agencies had reviewed standards for labour camps.

The review includes recommendations made earlier for building future labour cities, said the minister. He was addressing ‘Doha Dialogue on Migration 2014’ after formally opening it.

The two-day event is being held by Qatar Red Crescent in cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

Meanwhile, an official from Qatar Red Crescent told Al Sharoq that a huge corpus (fund) will be set up for the welfare of labourers in Qatar. Several prominent business groups like Al Fardan United Development Company and Chevron Philip have agreed
مؤتمر (حوار الدوحة) يوصي تعزيز جهود المناصرة والدبلوماسية الإنسانية حول الهجرة
Social Media

The event was fully covered on social media via QRC platforms

#DohaDialogue was trending on twitter during the conference

June 14

17 posts
12 users
57,666 reach
71,285 impressions

Top Posts

Qatar Red Crescent @QRCS

June 14

Qatar Red Crescent @QRCS

June 13

Stay Tuned, tomorrow we will start tweeting about #DohaDialogue 2014 on #Migration with @Federation #Qatar

Qatar Red Crescent @QRCS

June 13

Chinese Delegation arrive in #Doha to participate in #DohaDialogue 2014 on #Migration @Federation @Aids

June 15

#DohaDialogue

401,822 accounts reached
2,649,370 impressions

50 events
23 contributors
3 hours

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A Big THANK YOU To Our Volunteers