

DOHA INTERNATIONAL FAMILY INSTITUTE SIGNS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE UNITED NATION'S POPULATION FUND

MoU To Address Arab Family Issues

Doha, Qatar, 13 July June 2015: Doha International Family Institute (DIFI), a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF), recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the United Nation's Population Fund, the Arab States Regional Office (UNFPA-ASRO).

By contributing to the global knowledge base on issues facing the Arab family, encouraging knowledge exchange, and ensuring prioritisation by policy-makers, DIFI supports Qatar Foundation's mission to contribute to human development and productive change while promoting Qatar's transformation into a successful knowledge-based economy.

The MoU between the UNFPA-ASRO and DIFI will provide a comprehensive framework to facilitate collaboration in areas of common interest, specifically in addressing Arab family issues.

Together, the organisations aim to further progress in the region through the collaboration and engagement of civil society in raising awareness on the importance of family and empowering women, involving men and powerful stakeholders through advocacy and policy dialogue, and unacceptable practices such as Gender Based Violence (GBV), child or early marriage.

Noor Al Malki Al-Jehani, Executive Director of DIFI, stated: "The MoU will provide opportunities for capacity building, exchange and transfer of best practice and research and studies. It will also provide a framework for working with UNFPA on joint projects and advocacy activities that will enhance the role of both organisations in attaining human and sustainable development goals in the region."

Furthermore, Mr Said Mohamed Abdel-Ahad, Regional Director of Arab States - United Nations Population fund (UNFPA) added: "The partnership will utilise UNFPA's international experience and DIFI's strong research capacity and regional outreach to technically support DIFI's flagship report on the 'State of Arab Family'. DIFI's study is based on the lessons learned and best practices from UNFPA's 'State of the World Population' report; transferring experiences from a global to a regional level."

UNFPA-ASRO cooperates and assists governments in the formulation, adoption, and implementation of their population policies and development strategies. The organisation has in-depth expertise in the field of development and cooperation in reproductive health, gender issues including, Arab family GBV, population and development integrating a human rights based and culturally sensitive approach.

Meanwhile, DIFI was founded in 2006 to support family, parental and child rights and dignity, with the mission of encouraging, supporting, and promoting the implementation of the Doha Declaration, and to reaffirm international commitments to strengthen the family.

ENDS

About UNFPA – ASRO

UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, works to deliver a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person's potential is fulfilled. UNFPA partners with governments, civil society organizations, foundations, academic institutions, the United Nations system, other development agencies as well as the private sector.

The UNFPA Arab States Regional Office supports 15 field offices and their national partners in 20 countries and territories. By sharing knowledge, building capacity and forging partnerships, the regional office aims to enhance productivity, efficiency and accountability and to improve the delivery of results at the country level. The office also manages a regional programme and documents and shares development successes as well as best practices throughout the region and beyond.

About Doha International Family Institute (DIFI)

DIFI is a leading international institution in Qatar that supports research, policy and outreach programs that promote the development of Arab families. With research as its core focus, DIFI supports a wide range of international, regional and local evidence-based studies relating to marriage and family structure, women, fertility and demography, child and family safety, and parenting. The Institution is comprised of three divisions; *Family Research Division*, *Family Policy Division* and *Social Outreach Division*. Its body of work includes contributions to the UN Secretary General's campaign to end violence against women; international and regional colloquia in partnership with most UN funds and programmers, including UNDESA, UNFPA, UNAIDS and UNICEF; and the funding and development of a wide range of publications on family in the new millennium. A member of Qatar Foundation, it has a Special Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).