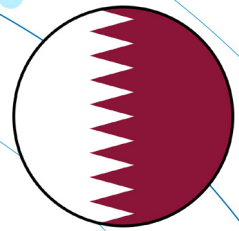


Sustainable Development Goals Tracker

QATAR 2025
Voluntary National Review

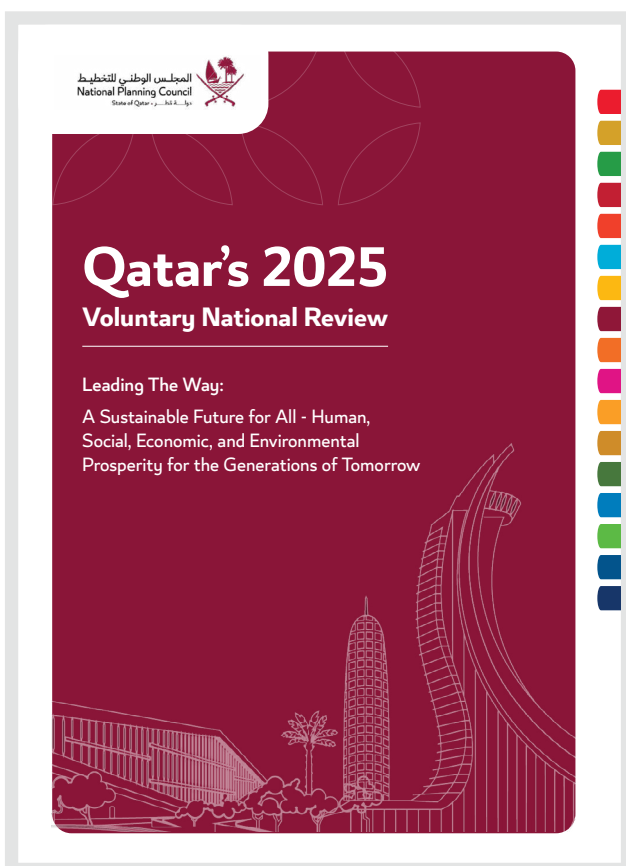




Qatar VNR 2018
Report



Qatar VNR 2017
Report



Qatar VNR 2025
Report



Qatar VNR 2021
Report



DOI: 10.47556/R.UN-VNRS2026.11

Qatar
2025

Voluntary National Review (VNR)

VNRs Submitted: 4 (100%)



SDGs Achieved: 3 (18%)



SDGs On-Track: 10 (59%)



SDGs Off-Track: 4 (23%)



SDGs No Progress: 0 (0%)

Introduction

Qatar's 2025 VNR shows significant progress on the **2030 Agenda** for Sustainable Development, aligning it with the country's national vision and development strategy. The report is data-driven and highlights that Qatar has already achieved 82 **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** indicators, with many others on track. The overall impression is one of steady momentum, with a growing "*culture of sustainability*". No goals are listed as "*seriously off-track*", but some, e.g., renewable energy and recycling rates, need considerable scaling up. The VNR showcases Qatar's progress in social welfare, economic diversification, education, and environmental sustainability, while identifying remaining challenges such as data integration, climate adaptation, and private sector engagement in sustainable development (United Nations, 2025a; United Nations, 2025b).



VNR Framework Approach to assess Qatar's Progress towards the 2030 Agenda

A VNR is a self-assessment process through which United Nations (UN) Member States review and report on their progress in implementing the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** and its **17 SDGs**. These reviews are **voluntary, country-led, and inclusive**, allowing each nation to share experiences, identify challenges, and highlight best practices.

VNRs are essential because they promote accountability and transparency in the implementation of the SDGs, allowing countries to demonstrate their commitment and progress openly. They help governments track progress, identify gaps, and strengthen policies, ensuring that national development strategies remain aligned with the 2030 Agenda. Moreover, VNRs facilitate knowledge sharing among nations by enabling the exchange of experiences, innovations, and lessons learned. They also encourage multi-stakeholder participation, bringing together government institutions, civil society, the private sector, and academia in a collaborative effort to advance sustainable development. Finally, the VNRs serve as the foundation for the UN High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) reviews, providing evidence-based insights that guide global discussions on accelerating progress towards achieving the SDGs.

Objectives of VNRs

- Assess a country's progress towards achieving the SDGs.
- Identify key challenges and barriers to implementation.
- Share lessons learned and innovative approaches.
- Mobilise support, partnerships, and policy coherence for sustainable development.

Methodology to Measure VNRs Progress

VNRs assess development performance using quantitative and qualitative data, aligning national priorities with SDG targets. Countries use available indicators and national statistics to evaluate whether they are:

- Achieved, on-track, moderately off-track, seriously off-track or no progress.
- Facing data gaps or methodological challenges.

Due to incomplete or inconsistent data, some assessments rely on proxy indicators or qualitative descriptions of progress. Each Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) is rated on a 0-5 scale to measure Qatar's progress towards the 2030 Agenda.

0 - No Progress: No measurable progress or data available.

1 - Severely Off-Track: Very little advancement; major gaps persist.

2 - Off-Track: Limited progress with minimal improvement.

3 - Moderately Off-Track: Some progress achieved, but key challenges remain.

4 - On-Track: Noticeable progress made; close to achieving the target.

5 - Achieved: Goal fully met with sustained performance and monitoring in place.

This scale helps to quantify Qatar's SDG performance, showing where strong progress exists and where further policy actions are needed.

VNRs are vital tools for evaluating and accelerating progress towards the 2030 Agenda. They enable countries to reflect on achievements, recognise shortcomings, and strengthen collective action for a more sustainable and equitable world.

Explanation of Analysis (Applied to Qatar SDG Report)

This analysis applies the (*VNR*) framework to Qatar's SDG Report. Initially, the report was processed using an AI tool to extract, summarise, and categorise data related to the 17 SDGs. The AI provided

preliminary insights into Qatar’s progress, challenges, and measurable indicators across social, economic, and environmental dimensions.

Following the AI review, the information was cross-verified by two independent human experts to ensure factual accuracy, contextual relevance, and alignment with the official UN SDG indicators. This validation step strengthened the reliability of the data interpretation.

Finally, a team of SDG experts conducted an in-depth qualitative and quantitative analysis to identify key challenges, potential solutions, and policy-level recommendations. The comprehensive approach, integrating AI-driven insights with expert validation, provides a balanced, evidence-based assessment of Qatar’s progress towards achieving the 2030 Agenda, highlighting strategic areas for improvement, innovation, and sustainability.

Overall Progress

Table 1 presents Qatar’s progress across the 17 SDGs, with ratings assigned to each goal based on the report’s findings. The ratings reflect the extent of progress made, highlight areas where challenges have been addressed, and identify those that remain unresolved.

Table 1. SDG Progress Scoring

Score: 5		
Justification	- Extreme poverty eradicated; Qatar has one of the highest per capita incomes globally. - Strong social protection policies, including a national minimum wage and universal access to healthcare, education, housing, and utilities. - By end of 2023, ~20,000 people received social security support. - Demonstrated resilience to global shocks like COVID-19 through institutional preparedness. - Through the Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD), Qatar contributed over US\$2.6 billion (2020-2024) to global poverty reduction, focusing on health, education, humanitarian aid, and economic development.	
Challenges	- Data gap: Lack of timely, disaggregated data to track multidimensional poverty. - Decline in spending: Drop in social protection spending despite growing needs. - Service challenges: Difficulty identifying/reaching all target groups; balancing support with self-reliance. - Co-ordination need: Lack of cross-sector co-ordination for sustainable social protection.	
Progress/ Solutions	- Qatar has eradicated extreme poverty, providing universal access to basic services, housing, and social protection. - Through the QFFD, Qatar allocated US\$903.9 million (2020-2024) to poverty alleviation globally.	
Unsolved Challenges	- Lack of disaggregated poverty data for non-citizens. - Limited labour participation among vulnerable groups and informal workers.	



Score : 4

Justification	- Ranked 1st in Arab region, 30th globally in 2022 global food security index. - Achieved 100% self-sufficiency in fresh milk, reached 175% self-sufficiency in grains, reached 61% self-sufficiency in eggs, reached 56% self-sufficiency in vegetables. - Implemented food security strategy 2024-2030, stunting in children under 5 reduced to 4.8% in 2023. - Agricultural productivity rose to 57.5 tons/hectare, with a slight decline in 2023. - Plant genetic resources conserved increased from 87 to 233, maintained food resilience despite global price pressures.
Challenges	- Heavy reliance on food imports (80-90% of national needs). - Vulnerability to geopolitical conflicts in key supply regions. - Limited arable land (<6% elsewhere of total area), harsh desert climate restricting agriculture. - Severe water scarcity and critical groundwater depletion (133% in 2023). - Persistent undernourishment despite food availability and rising childhood overweight due to dietary habits and social norms. - Gaps in conservation of plant and animal genetic resources.
Progress/Solutions	- Food security programmes using hydroponics, vertical farming, and desalination-supported agriculture. - Global Dryland Research Institute (GRDI) and Qatar University's Agricultural Research Station advancing local sustainable agriculture. - World Food Forum Qatar Youth Chapter launched to empower youth in agrifood systems.
Unsolved Challenges	- Heavy dependence on food imports (80-90% of needs). - Harsh desert climate and water scarcity (133% stress level). - Less than 6% elsewhere of arable land.



Score: 4

Justification	- Universal healthcare has led to a life expectancy increase to ~81.6 years. - 80-90% of medicine costs are covered by government. - Improved health data availability, with 96.4% of SDG 3 indicators publicly accessible (2023).
Challenges	- Prevention efforts are not well co-ordinated across the health system. Non-communicable disease (NCD) risks, such as poor nutrition and inactivity, are not fully addressed.
Progress/Solutions	- Expansion of Hamad Medical Corporation and Primary Health Care Corporation services. - Universal health insurance, advanced disease control, and emergency preparedness. - Internationally, US\$560.99 million in global health aid (2020-2024).
Unsolved Challenges	- Rising non-communicable diseases and obesity rates. - Limited health data transparency and co-ordination gaps.

Score: 5

Justification	- Near-universal educational outcomes: 99.3% Adult literacy rate, 99.8% enrolment in organised learning, 97.4% secondary completion, 100% of schools with digital access and Internet coverage, fully qualified teachers, and true gender parity.
Challenges	- Low student performance in mathematics and limited lifelong and vocational learning options. - Weak integration of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and Global Citizenship Education (GCED), especially in private schools. - Lack of curriculum alignment and assessment tools for ESD/GCED.
Progress/Solutions	- Education Above All, Qatar Foundation, and Qatar University driving access and quality. - Integration of STEM and vocational education, partnerships with global institutions. - Global aid: US\$498.93 million to education projects abroad.
Unsolved Challenges	- Skill mismatches and low vocational training enrollment. - Quality gaps between public and private institutions.

Score: 3

Justification	- Achieved 84% on SDG 5.1.1 legal indicator (strong legal protections). - Low gender-based violence and elimination of child marriage among Qatari nationals. - Expanded AMAN centre services: legal counseling, psychosocial support, 24/7 hotline. - Global gender parity in education: ranks 1st in primary and tertiary levels. - Equal literacy rates and narrowing secondary education gap. - Legal guarantees: equal pay, maternity leave, land ownership, pensions, mobile access and increased female workforce participation. - Data-driven initiatives under National Development Strategy 3 (NDS 3) support inclusive policy-making.
Challenges	- Outdated legal provisions, including the 2006 Family Law, misaligned with current social and economic realities. - No dedicated law criminalising domestic violence; gaps in protection services, especially for young men over 18. - Family-friendly policies gaps: Civil Human Resources Law lacks paternity leave; maternity leave below International Labour Organization (ILO) standards. - Social protection and housing inequities for Qatari women married to non-Qataris. - Low women's political representation: 10.5% of ministerial positions, 4.4% of Shura Council seats, 0% in Central Municipal Council. - Lack of centralised gender data, limiting evidence-based policymaking. - Economic disparities: Female labour force participation at 61.7% (2024), but women remain under-represented in leadership and high-skilled roles.
Progress/Solutions	- Legal reforms and empowerment initiatives expanding women's participation in education, entrepreneurship, and leadership. - "Women in Conflict Areas" initiative supports resilience of women in crises.

Unsolved Challenges	- Persistent gender disparities in the private sector. - Gaps in legal rights and leadership participation.
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6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



Score: 4	
Justification	- 100% access to safely managed drinking water, sanitation, and handwashing services since 2020. - Umm Al Houl Power Plant expansion increased desalination capacity by 13%, supporting a 28% reserve margin. Water Security Mega Reservoirs Project provides up to 7 days of potable water; world's largest interconnected drinking water storage system. - Wastewater treatment: 99.7% of domestic and industrial flows safely treated; extensive reuse via Treated Sewage Effluent (TSE). - Integrated Water Resources Management, score reached 93% in 2023.
Challenges	- High per capita water consumption (224 cubic metres per person annually in 2019). - Severe groundwater depletion: extraction 4-5 times the annual recharge (groundwater availability 1-2 billion m³, annual recharge 55 million m³).
Progress/Solutions	- Desalination and wastewater recycling expansion through advanced treatment plants. - International Water and Food Security Conference 2025 (WFCC) advancing water innovation.
Unsolved Challenges	- Groundwater depletion and high water stress levels. - Over-reliance on desalination and limited reuse.

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



Score : 4	
Justification	- Achieved universal access to electricity and clean cooking fuels. - Renewable energy share reached 1.5% of final energy consumption (2023). - Al Kharsaah Solar Plant as a flagship renewable energy project Increased international clean energy finance supporting global transitions. - National targets: 4 GW renewable capacity by 2030 and 27% reduction in electricity-related carbon intensity. - Qatar Energy sustainability programmes: daily 57 million standard cubic feet of gas saved, 6.3 million metric tonnes of CO₂ captured.
Challenges	- Limited availability of updated, publicly accessible energy data (e.g., energy intensity 7.3.1). - Lack of detailed performance metrics for energy efficiency programmes such as Tarsheed. - Land constraints for solar energy expansion and environmental impacts on solar performance (dust storms, high temperature, humidity).
Progress/Solutions	- 100% electricity access, 741 MW renewable capacity by 2023 (up from 49 MW in 2019). - Tarsheed programme improving energy efficiency. - Targets: 4 GW renewable capacity by 2030, with smart grid modernisation.

Unsolved Challenges	- Limited energy data transparency. - Land constraints for solar projects. - Harsh environmental conditions affect solar efficiency.
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8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



Score : 4	
Justification	- Real GDP per capita reached US\$62,488 (2023). - Average hourly wages rose from QAR 54.4 (2020) to QAR 62.9 (2023). - Low unemployment and strong labour market performance. - Introduced non-discriminatory minimum wage and reformed Kafala system. - Tourism contribution to balance of payments 4.1% (2023). - Financial inclusion: 97.6% of adults have bank or mobile financial accounts. - Workforce development initiatives: Certified Career Counselor Programme, National Workforce Planning Project, National Talent Management Programme.
Challenges	- High reliance on hydrocarbons: 36-37% of GDP in 2024. - Volatility in non-oil sectors: Construction contracted by 7.5% in 2023 post-World Cup. - Low private sector participation: 9% overall; female participation 8.7% (2023). - High youth NEET rates (Not in Education, Employment, or Training) Skill mismatches: Only 15% of students enrolled in technical or vocational education. - Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) financing constraints: Non-performing loan rate 14.9% (2022), improved to 10% (2023). - Fragmented policy co-ordination between ministries, limiting green and tech employment promotion. - Low renewable energy share: 5% of energy mix vs. 2030 target of 18%. - Limited circular economy adoption: 56% reuse rate.
Progress/Solutions	- Labour reforms, dismantling of Kafala system, and Wage Protection System. - Support for SMEs and digital economy through Qatar Development Bank and blockchain-based financing. - Green bonds and circular economy incentives under NDS3.
Unsolved Challenges	- High dependence on hydrocarbons (36-37% of GDP). - Only 9% private sector participation and 8.7% female employment. - SME financing constraints and policy fragmentation.

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



Score: 4	
Justification	- Manufacturing value added increased from 8.37% (2020) to 8.70% of GDP (2023). - Per capita manufacturing output grew by 44%. - R&D spending rose 25.6% (2018-2021). - Hamad International Airport and Hamad Port highly ranked globally. - Achieved near-universal 5G and fibre optic coverage, establishing Qatar as a regional leader in ICT infrastructure. - Doha Metro expansion and improved road networks enhance mobility and connectivity.

Challenges	- Continued reliance on the hydrocarbon sector. - Talent acquisition and retention challenges, especially in technical and engineering fields. - High costs of infrastructure development and maintenance. - Outdated statistics: small-scale industry contribution (since 2019), CO₂ emissions per value-added (since 2007), R&D expenditure and researcher numbers (since 2021).
Progress/Solutions	- Investments in digital transformation (QNBN-GBI merger) and Qatar Economic Forum promoting innovation. - Support for start-ups (1,520 in 2025, 47% women-founded).
Unsolved Challenges	- Continued reliance on hydrocarbons. - High infrastructure costs and talent retention challenges. - Data gaps in R&D and industrial indicators.

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



Score: 3	
Justification	- Introduced non-discriminatory minimum wage (Law No. 17 of 2020). - Digital Inclusion Index 2024: Qatar ranks 2nd regionally and 16th globally in digital inclusion, reflecting substantial investments. - Implemented mandatory health insurance for all non-Qatari residents and visitors. - Enforced fair recruitment practices through agency inspections.
Challenges	- Limited services for vulnerable groups: Persons with disabilities, elderly, and low-income populations need better access and support. - Legislation gaps: Law No. 2 of 2004 lacks clear definitions and alignment with international standards. - Labour compliance issues: Some migrant workers still face recruitment fees despite legal prohibitions. - Weak enforcement and oversight: Regulatory mechanisms and bilateral cooperation need strengthening to ensure fair practices.
Progress/Solutions	- Social welfare, inclusion of migrants and persons with disabilities. - Qatar Charity and QFFD providing targeted assistance to marginalised groups.
Unsolved Challenges	- Limited inclusion of migrant and low-income populations. - Data unavailability for inequality measures.



Score: 5

Justification	- Major investments: Over US\$200 billion in infrastructure, digital systems, and smart city development under QNV 2030. - Slum eradication: All urban populations now have access to adequate housing. - Equitable public transport: Accessibility achieved 100% for both women and men. - Sustainable urban planning: Reversed inefficient land use patterns; improved land consumption efficiency. - Cultural and sports infrastructure: Significant investments in museums, libraries, cultural institutions, and sports facilities. - Heritage protection: Government expenditure on cultural and natural heritage rose 59.2% [2020-2023, Purchasing Power Parity (PPP)]. - Digital transformation: Advanced technologies integrated into urban planning, healthcare, transportation, communication, and social services.
Challenges	- Nearly 100% of Qatar's population lives in urban areas, and rapid population growth, mainly from foreign labour, increases strain on public services and infrastructure. - Housing & services: High demand on housing, healthcare, education, transport, water, energy, and environment. - Environmental stress: Rapid development challenges balanced, sustainable growth. - Cybersecurity risks: Heavy reliance on digital systems increases vulnerability.
Progress/Solutions	- Lusail City, Doha Metro, and affordable housing projects enhance livability and sustainability. - Urban resilience integrated into Qatar National Master Plan and Cybersecurity Strategy.
Unsolved Challenges	- Rapid urbanisation straining transport, housing, and public services. - Cybersecurity and digital infrastructure risks.



Score: 3

Justification	- Renewable energy expansion: 228.5 watts per capita in 2023. - Energy efficiency: Saved 1.2 million metric tonnes of CO₂ annually; contributing to national goal of saving 150 MMSCFD of natural gas by 2030. - The Domestic Solid Waste Management Centre processes 2,300+ tonnes of waste daily, recycling 24,878 tonnes in 2023, while 59.3 kg of hazardous waste per capita highlights the need to improve recycling and hazardous waste management.
Challenges	- Recycling & waste management: Recycling rate fluctuated at 37.8% in 2023; 54.7% of waste still goes to landfills; hazardous waste generation is 59.3 kg per capita. - Resource recovery & circular economy: Need to optimise resource recovery and scale circular economy practices. - Policy & institutional gaps: Limited inter-agency co-ordination and weak data systems hinder monitoring and policy formulation. - Public participation: Low awareness restricts sustainable consumption behaviours. - Other pressures: Rapid urbanisation, cultural consumption norms, and limited enforcement mechanisms challenge progress.

Progress/ Solutions	- Expansion of waste-to-energy and recycling infrastructure. - Incentives for green businesses and public-private partnerships. - Policy reforms for circular economy and sustainable procurement.
Unsolved Challenges	- Fluctuating recycling rates (37.8%). - Hazardous waste (59.3 kg per capita) and landfill reliance that received 54.7% of waste in 2023. - Policy co-ordination and public awareness gaps.

13 CLIMATE ACTION



Score: 4

Justification	- Al Kharsaah Solar Power Plant: 800 MW capacity; supplies up to 10% of peak electricity; projected to offset 26+ million tonnes of CO₂ over its lifetime (2022). - Carbon Capture & Storage (CCS): QatarEnergy's North Field Expansion Project sequesters 3.2 million tonnes of CO₂ annually—the largest global LNG deployment (2022). - Institutional strengthening: Ministry of Environment and Climate Change established in 2021; Qatar National Environment and Climate Change Strategy adopted. - Regulatory progress: Ministerial Resolution No. 31 of 2023 enhances environmental compliance. - Climate transition: Measures demonstrate progress towards a lower-carbon economy and readiness to meet 2030 climate targets.
Challenges	- Carbon emissions from gas sector: Natural gas production, processing, and export generate GHGs, including methane. - Decoupling growth from emissions: Need to invest in clean technologies and economic diversification.
Progress/ Solutions	- National Climate Change Plan targeting emission reductions. - Carbon capture (6.3 million tonnes CO₂) and renewable expansion. - Integration of AI in climate forecasting and green hydrogen development.
Unsolved Challenges	- Continued dependence on natural gas and industrial emissions. - Limited renewable energy penetration.

14 LIFE BELOW WATER



Score: 4

Justification	- Marine conservation framework: National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) launched in 2004, renewed in 2015. - Marine protected areas: 3 areas designated, covering 2.5% of total land and marine area (2024); target 30% of exclusive economic zone by 2030. - Pollution reduction: Nationwide beach clean-ups; phased ban on single-use plastics; nutrient monitoring since 2020 to detect harmful algal blooms. - Marine acidification mitigation: Investment in renewable energy reduces carbon emissions, Supporting preservation. - Science-based governance: Proactive measures for long-term ocean health and resilience.
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Challenges	- Overfishing: Unsustainable practices threaten key marine species. - Pollution: Oil spills, industrial discharge, plastic debris, and untreated sewage harm water quality and habitats. - Coastal development: Habitat fragmentation affecting mangroves, seagrasses, and coral reefs. - Climate change: Rising sea temperatures, sea level rise, coastal erosion, high salinity, and pH fluctuations impact marine biodiversity.
Progress/Solutions	- Expansion of marine protected areas (2.6%) and sustainable fishing regulations. - Research collaboration with international bodies for coral restoration.
Unsolved Challenges	- Overfishing (60% of species are affected). - Only 2.6% marine area is protected. - Pollution from industrial discharge and coastal development.



Score: 3	
Justification	- Protected areas: 27% of land designated as nature reserves (12 areas, 3,400+ km²); target of 30% land and marine protection by 2030. - Urban greening: 159 parks established and nearly 3 million m² of green space developed in 2024. - Tree planting: • Million Trees Initiative (2019-2022): 1 million seedlings planted. • Ten Million Trees Initiative (2023-2030): 320,000 seedlings planted to date. - Desertification control: Use of biochar-based land restoration and the Energy-Greenbelt Project. - National initiatives: Global Dryland Alliance, Doha Greenbelt Zone, and One Million Trees support land restoration and climate resilience. - Biodiversity protection: 1,900+ species recorded; illegal wildlife trade kept below 0.01% in 2023; Arabian Oryx among priority species.
Challenges	- Habitat loss: 23% of natural habitat lost over the past decade. - Low marine protection: Only 2.6% of marine areas are protected. - Overfishing: Affects ~60% of locally caught fish. - Land constraints: Only 6% of land is arable; desertification is ongoing. - Biodiversity pressure: Species Habitat Index shows stress from habitat loss, urbanisation, climate change, and overexploitation. - Pollution & fragmentation: Coastal and marine areas impacted by industrial discharge, brackish water, landfills, and dredging. - Environmental stressors: Invasive species, water scarcity, and rising temperatures strain ecosystems.
Progress/Solutions	- Reforestation and habitat conservation programmes addressing desertification. - Protected area network expansion and biodiversity research.
Unsolved Challenges	- 23% loss of natural habitat. - Desertification and limited arable land (6%). - Habitat fragmentation and invasive species.

Score: 4	
Justification	- Global safety ranking: Among the safest countries; zero conflict-related deaths (2015-2023). - Crime rates: Sustained low crime and homicide rates; 97% of residents' report feeling safe. - Security systems: Advanced customs monitoring and anti-smuggling frameworks; participation in Interpol's Operation Thunder. - Child protection & anti-trafficking: Digital reporting platforms launched; expanded United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) partnerships.
Challenges	- Absence of a comprehensive child protection law. - Child protection gap: No comprehensive Child Protection Law; <i>Childhood Bill</i> still pending. - Child well-being issues: Rising childhood obesity, mental health issues, and school bullying. - Gender justice gap: Legal system still largely reflects traditional roles; limits women's full legal representation. - Disability inclusion: Under-registration of persons with disabilities, especially women and girls. - Labour market access: Lack of government-run centres for preparing persons with disabilities for employment. - Institutional gaps: Limited inter-agency co-ordination and data systems affect service delivery and inclusion.
Progress/ Solutions	- Childhood Bill (pending) and anti-trafficking reforms. - Transparency Law (2022) and improved corruption ranking (58 CPI points). - Qatar ranked 2nd most peaceful in MENA, 29th globally.
Unsolved Challenges	- No comprehensive child protection law (Childhood Bill pending). - Rising child mental health and bullying concerns. - Gaps in women's legal rights and representation.

Score: 4	
Justification	- Allocated 0.34% of GNI to development aid in 2023. - Contributed US\$4.8 billion in aid over the past 5 years. - 90% of aid directed to developing countries and LDCs. - Ranks 11th globally in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) access. - Achieved 96% 5G coverage and near-universal Internet usage. - All municipalities certified as "Healthy Cities" by World Health Organisation (WHO) in 2022 (first in Eastern Mediterranean). - Reached US\$130.9 billion in trade volume in 2022. - Sustained support to UN agencies and humanitarian aid during global crises.

Challenges	- No unified communication strategy for international development. - Insufficient institutional capacity and limited training programmes. - Weak public diplomacy and stakeholder co-ordination. - Low private sector and community engagement in SDG initiatives. - Significant data gaps in collection, integration, and reporting.
Progress/ Solutions	- QFFD disbursed US\$4.8 billion (2020-2024) in global aid. - Partnerships with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNICEF, and United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), Right to Access Information Law (2022) enhances transparency. - Ongoing efforts to strengthen data systems, training, and multi-stakeholder governance.
Unsolved Challenges	- No unified communication strategy for development co-operation. - Limited institutional capacity and training. - Private sector and community under-engagement. - Significant data gaps in aid monitoring and reporting.

Source: (United Nations, 2025a; United Nations, 2025b).

Major Challenges

- **Resource and environmental constraints:** Heavy import dependence, severe water scarcity, limited arable land, and harsh climate threaten food and energy security.
- **Economic dependence and labour gaps:** Continued reliance on hydrocarbons, weak private sector participation, low female/youth employment, and skill mismatches hinder diversification.
- **Sustainability and infrastructure challenges:** Limited renewable energy adoption, poor waste management, and strained urban infrastructure slow green transition.
- **Governance, institutional, and data weaknesses:** Fragmented policies, limited institutional capacity, and major data gaps reduce SDG co-ordination and monitoring.
- **Social and environmental concerns:** Gaps in social protection, women's rights, and ecosystem conservation persist.

Key Lessons Learned

- **Aligning with National Vision:** Integrating the SDGs into long-term national plans and creating dedicated institutions is key to successful implementation.
- **Investing in Innovation:** Targeted investments in large-scale projects such as solar power and vertical farms can accelerate progress on multiple SDGs.
- **Strengthening Social Safety Nets:** Universal healthcare, education, and social security programmes ensure basic needs are met and build human capital.
- **Broad Stakeholder Engagement:** Involving youth, NGOs, and the private sector in the planning process and leveraging international partnerships are crucial for success.

Notable Contribution

- **National Vision and Inclusion:** Qatar National Vision 2030 aligns all national policies with SDGs, emphasising human, social, economic, and environmental development while ensuring inclusion of women, youth, elderly, and persons with disabilities.
- **Global Humanitarian Leadership:** Over US\$4.8 billion in aid (2020-2024), more than 90% of Qatar's foreign aid was directed to developing and least developed countries, as well as to UN agencies and international organisations delivering SDG-aligned programmes. Major support is given to poverty, health, and education through the QFFD.
- **Environmental and Climate Leadership:** Delivered the first carbon-neutral FIFA World Cup, built Al Kharsaah Solar Plant (800 MW), and advanced a national climate plan with significant CO₂ capture efforts.
- **Economic Diversification and Innovation:** Expanding digital infrastructure, promoting green finance and circular economy, and advancing AI and quantum research through QC² and TASMU Smart Qatar.
- **Data and Innovation for SDGs:** Advanced SDG monitoring through MARS, Q Insights, and the National Analytics Lab to improve data-driven policy-making.
- **Global Recognition and Future Outlook:** Acknowledged by the UN for leadership in SDG innovation, climate action, and partnerships, with a forward focus on green transition and digital governance.

Recommendations

- **Deepen Whole-of-Society Engagement:** Promote active participation of all sectors and inclusive involvement of vulnerable groups in SDG planning and decision-making.
- **Accelerate the Green Transition:** Advance renewable energy, circular economy, and environmental protection while enforcing climate and decarbonisation targets.
- **Expand Local-Level Implementation Capacity:** Strengthen local institutions and municipalities to effectively implement and monitor SDG initiatives.
- **Mobilise Innovative SDG Financing:** Leverage new financial tools and private sector investment to fund sustainable development priorities.
- **Institutionalise Learning and Adaptive Governance:** Use data-driven systems and continuous feedback to improve policies and ensure effective SDG outcomes.
- **Enhance SDG Data Integration and Performance Tracking:** Strengthen national statistical systems to systematically measure, monitor, and report progress across all 17 SDGs and 234 performance indicators. Qatar should provide transparent evidence detailing which of the 84 indicators have been achieved, alongside data-supported analyses of those still in progress. This will ensure greater accountability, facilitate peer learning, and guide policy adjustments towards the 2030 Agenda.

Conclusions

The 2025 VNR highlights Qatar's strong progress on the SDGs, emphasising data-driven, integrated governance and a nationwide "culture of sustainability" across government, business, and society. Institutional reforms and new data platforms support real-time monitoring and evidence-based policy-making. Internationally, Qatar demonstrates its commitment through conferences and aid

pledges. Looking ahead, it plans to expand renewables, promote circular economy practices, empower communities with SDG data, and encourage whole-of-society participation. Overall, Qatar is largely on track to achieve its 2030 Agenda goals through innovation, inclusivity, and global partnerships.

Reference

United Nations (2025a): Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs), High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development 2025. Available at: <https://hlpf.un.org/2025>

United Nations (2025b): *Qatar Voluntary National Reviews 2025*. High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. Available at: <https://hlpf.un.org/countries/qatar/voluntary-national-reviews-2025>

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The SDG Tracker (SDGT) is a global research initiative, developed under the auspices of the World Association for Sustainable Development (WASD), designed to systematically analyse and score the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) submitted by United Nations member states. The SDGT aims to enhance global accountability, promote transparency, provide evidence-based insights for policymakers, and facilitate cross-country comparison and benchmarking, with all its comprehensive findings made publicly available on the dedicated SDGs Tracker Platform. For more information about this report and/or any other activities of the initiative, please contact us: director@sdgstracker.org.



WASD COLLABORATION WITH THE UNITED NATIONS

WASD is delighted to be working very closely with various United Nations Agencies, most specifically with the UN Joint Inspection Unit (JIU). Both JIU and WASD are inspired by the conviction that the UN Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development (SD) and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide the momentum for renewed UN engagement with the public and private sectors.

In 2018, WASD collaborated with JIU on the UN project **Strengthening policy research uptake in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**, aimed at reviewing the policy research uptake in service of the 2030 Agenda for SD. For the first time in its 52 year history, the UN (aided by WASD) officially consulted academics and researchers from all over the world on the policy research uptake in the UN.

In 2019, WASD also worked very closely with the UN JIU to undertake a UN system-wide review of policies, programmes, and platforms to support learning and enhancing the adequacy of training policies in the UN. The report **Policies and platforms in support of learning: towards more coherence, coordination, and convergence** was launched officially on 28 October 2020 at the opening of WASD's Online Learning Conference.

These various initiatives and events with the UN JIU have encouraged WASD to launch its **Sustainable Development Goals Tracker (SDGT)**.



Sustainability Tracker

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