QRCS, QFFD sign pact to support displaced Syrians in Idlib

May 12th, 2020 — Doha: Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS) and Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD) have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to provide lifesaving medical support for Syrian children and women under the Quest Health Initiative.

The $4 million MoU was signed by Khalifa bin Jassem Al-Kuwari, Director General of QFFD, and Ali bin Hassan Al-Hammadi, Secretary-General of QRCS. The signing ceremony was attended by officials from both parties.

In his remarks, Mr. Al-Kuwari said, “We value the ongoing efforts by our strategic partner, QRCS, to make these projects possible in spite of the complicated situation on the ground. We at QFFD are proud of our partnership with QRCS in providing aid across the board, towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and comprehensive development of needy countries”.

“This support falls under the Quest Health Initiative, a program launched by QFFD to help our affected Syrian brothers and sisters both in Syria and in the host neighboring countries,” said Mr. Al-Kuwari. “We seek to build their capacity to withstand
the impact of the crisis, establish peace and justice, and ensure a better future for them”.

He noted that the project is related to the health sector, a main focus of QFFD. It is important not only because it provides primary health care services, but also because it focuses on medical support and capacity-building to save the lives of Syrian children and women.

Mr. Al-Hammadi commended the strategic partnership between QRCS and QFFD, which grew over the years and translated into numerous humanitarian interventions in countries affected by disasters and conflicts. These operations helped millions of affected and displaced persons and made a difference in their lives, particularly in Middle-East countries like Syria, Yemen, Libya, and Iraq.

“This project is inspired by the State of Qatar’s firm commitment towards our Syrian brothers and sisters,” said Mr. Al-Hammadi. “It builds on QRCS’s humanitarian contributions for the benefit of displaced Syrians and the Syrian refugees in neighboring countries”.

According to Mr. Al-Hammadi, this cooperation reflects QFFD’s trust in QRCS’s capabilities, expertise, and standing as a part of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

Regarding the importance of the project. Mr. Al-Hammadi explained, “It addresses the terrible humanitarian conditions
suffered by the Syrians in Idlib Governorate, the serious lack of medical and specialist professionals due to the prolonged Syrian conflict, and the need for better health care and health information management systems, under the Quest Initiative for urgent relief of the displaced Syrians.

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About Qatar Red Crescent (QRCS)
Established in 1978, Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS) is a humanitarian volunteering organization that aims to assist and empower vulnerable individuals and communities without partiality or discrimination. QRCS is a member of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, which consists of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and 191 National Societies. QRCS is also a member of several GCC, Arab, and Islamic organizations, such as the Islamic Committee of International Crescent and the Arab Red Crescent and Red Cross Organization (ARCO). In this legally recognized capacity, QRCS has access to disaster and conflict zones, thus serving as an auxiliary to the State of Qatar in its humanitarian efforts — a role that distinguishes it from other local charities and NGOs. QRCS operates both locally and internationally and has ongoing international relief and development projects in a number of countries throughout the Middle East, Asia, Africa, and Europe. QRCS's humanitarian actions include providing support in disaster preparedness, disaster response, risk reduction, and disaster recovery. To mitigate the impact of disasters and improve the livelihoods of affected populations, QRCS provides medical services, healthcare, and social development to local communities. It is also active at the humanitarian advocacy front. With the help of a vast network of trained, committed staff and volunteers, QRCS aspires to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. QRCS works under the umbrella of the seven international humanitarian principles: Humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary service, unity, and universality.