

World Innovation Summit for Health - Opening Ceremony

Her Excellency Dr. Hanan Mohammed Al Kuwari, Former Minister of Public Health

13 November 2024 – QNCC

Your Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, Chairperson of Qatar Foundation,

Your Excellence Sheikha Hind bint Hamad Al Thani, Vice Chairperson and CEO of Qatar Foundation,

Your Highnesses,

Your Excellencies,

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As-salamu'alaykum.

Welcome to WISH 2024.

It is an honor to see so many familiar faces back in Doha, along with those joining us for the first time.

Your participation and commitment make this summit an inspiration for health innovation and collaboration.



Under the visionary leadership of Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, WISH continues to expand as a global community committed to making healthcare safe, accessible and humane.

At WISH, we strive to present the world's most cutting-edge ideas and scientific advancements. But we also focus on confronting the urgent health challenges before us.

Qatar holds a firm belief in our shared responsibility to foster understanding, drive progress, and uphold the spirit of global cooperation.

And it is in this spirit that this 7th Edition of WISH is organized in collaboration with the World Health Organization.

This year's theme, "Humanising Health: Conflict, Equity, and Resilience," reflects our commitment to addressing the profound health challenges people face worldwide, especially those who have, and continue to endure unimaginable hardship.

We see this resilience personified in the story of a young Palestinian girl, Dareen Al Baya, whose life changed when she lost her entire family in a day, reminding us of the human cost of conflict.



The toll of war and displacement has tested humanity's resilience and underscored the urgent need for peace, health, and protection.

This is why today's session on "Protecting Health in Armed Conflict" has drawn such an extraordinary response, so much so, that we will continue the discussion tomorrow with an additional plenary focused on rebuilding healthcare in communities ravaged by war.

This is about rebuilding lives, restoring hope, and reimagining a future defined by compassion, adaptability and resilience.

Over the next two days we will also be addressing many important topics such as antimicrobial resistance, mental health, palliative care, and tuberculosis with a special focus on women, children and vulnerable populations.

We will also draw your attention to the need to invest more in women's health.



The recent WISH report on women's health in the Eastern Mediterranean Region highlights that, while breast and cervical cancer rates are high, preventive measures remain low. These gaps can be addressed through HPV vaccines and early detection, where treatment is not just a humanitarian necessity but a pivotal and efficient investment in the health of future generations.

In Qatar, the health care sector has witnessed an incredible transformation.

Under the unwavering and unlimited support of His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, the Emir of the State of Qatar and driven by the Qatar National Vision 2030, the State of Qatar has established a robust world-class health system.

Building upon the milestones attained by the health system, the Ministry of Public Health launched the third National Health Strategy (2024-2030) last September. This strategy aims to enhancing the health and well-being of the People of Qatar, through excellence in service provision, whilst ensuring sustainability and efficiency across an integrated, resilient, health system.



As I am moving from my role as Minister of Public Health, allow me to seize this opportunity to extend my deepest gratitude and appreciation to His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, the Emir of the State of Qatar, for his trust and for his unwavering support of the healthcare sector.

I also wish to express my sincere gratitude to Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser for her dedication to and creative initiatives in advancing the health and education sectors, both locally and globally, as well as for her continuous encouragement to me personally and to all healthcare workers.

I am grateful to the leaders and health professionals at the Ministry of Public Health, Hamad Medical Corporation, Primary Health Care Corporation, and the healthcare sector in general for their tireless efforts in advancing patient care in Qatar. I am immensely proud to have worked with you.

I am also pleased to congratulate His Excellency Mr. Mansoor bin Ibrahim Al Mahmoud, the new Minister of Public Health on his appointment, and I am confident that he will lead the healthcare sector to further strong developments.



WISH has long been known for sparking innovative thinking. Many important reports and projects have been launched at this forum, and you will hear progress on some of these. The panel on precision health will share with you the most recent developments of the Qatar Precision Health Institute which was launched by Her Highness Sheikha Moza following the 2020 Precision Medicine Report.

This year, sessions on issues of interest within Qatar—such as Childhood Obesity, the Health Impacts of Air Quality in Arid Regions, and launching our National Action Plan on Obesity, Diabetes, and cardiovascular risk factors—reflects our dedication to advancing health at home and abroad.

In the coming days, I encourage you to engage deeply with these sessions and colleagues in attendance, bring your ideas, challenge assumptions, and connect with one another.

Together, let us shape a future where health is genuinely humanized, and no community is left behind.

Thank you for your commitment, for your partnership, and for joining us on this journey.