

(Translated from Arabic)

**Ministry of Social Affairs
Qatar**

**Response of the Department of Social Affairs to the questionnaire
on cash transfer programmes to support poor families**

The purpose of this report is to describe the direct financial support provided by the Ministry of Social Affairs, through the Department of Social Affairs, to increase real family income and thereby improve the living conditions of groups affected by poverty. The Department performs various functions, including the provision of social welfare benefits to citizens and of financial support to those requiring State assistance in special circumstances. It does so pursuant to Act No. 38 of 1995 on social security, which provides for the payment of monthly benefits to widows, divorced women, orphans, needy families, families with special needs, older persons, families of missing persons, persons who are unable to work and families of prisoners.

Article 17 of the Act also provides for cooperation with competent authorities to help persons receiving social security benefits to become self-reliant by encouraging them to pursue their education, by organizing training courses for them and by helping them to establish their own small-scale productive projects. For instance, support and encouragement is provided to family production units in the development sector by organizing international and local exhibitions at which they can market and promote their products and increase their income.

There is also a Social Welfare Section, which monitors the welfare of older persons, persons with special needs and prisoners' families by making home visits. The Section also provides seasonal assistance in kind, such as school bags and clothing for religious feasts, and distributes relief assistance made available by charitable bodies.

Moreover, a Council of Ministers decision of 1997 concerning carers' allowances provides for a monthly benefit of 800 Qatari riyals, in addition to social security benefits, to help families care for older persons and persons with disabilities in their natural environment.

The provisions of the Act apply only to Qatari nationals resident anywhere in the State. Of the total of 10,166 persons receiving monthly social benefits, 3,275 are male and 6,891 female. The total monthly cost is 18,447,078 Qatari riyals.

Cases to which the Act is not applicable are referred to charitable bodies for assistance.

The procedures for the payment of these benefits are laid down in chapter IV of Act No. 38 of 1995 on social security concerning benefit request and payment procedures. The oversight mechanism is a Complaints Committee established in accordance with the provisions of article 15 of the Act.
