Introduction:

Qatar had ratified the Convention in 2008 and in April 2015 it had adopted the law on persons with disabilities (Law N0. 2 for 2004), which covered the rights contained in the Convention. The 2007 Social Security Act provided monthly benefits to persons with disabilities and a monthly cash allowance for domestic help. In 2014, the Department of the Elderly and Persons with Disabilities had been created within the Ministry of Labour to develop and implement relevant programmes and policies. Further, Qatar had adopted a national health strategy which provided free health insurance for persons with disabilities, and a medical Committee of Disability had been established in order to look into health, social and family concerns of persons with disabilities.

Qatari Law prohibits discrimination against persons with disabilities. Among some of the rights and provisions mandated for persons with disabilities are:

* Rehabilitation
* Education
* Transportation
* Medical and social care
* Support services
* Access to public facilities
* Employment

The law requires that 2% of all jobs in government agencies and public institutions be set aside for disabled persons. Private businesses employing a minimum of 25 staff are also required to hire persons with disabilities.

Disability Population

The number of individuals with disabilities in Qatar makes up less than 0.50% of the total population. Qataris with disabilities exceed the number of non-Qataris due to the fact that most expatriate workers are medically fit.

A higher percentage of men is recorded as persons with disabilities than women. Congenital factors and disease are the most common causes for disabilities.

* please refer to the following link for more informatrion
  + <http://www.qsa.gov.qa/QatarCensus/Disability.aspx>
  + Example of the Qatar disability Census can be seen in appendix No. 1, 2, 3

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Q1- information of Services for person with disability:

Social Assistance Allowance for the Disabled

The social security department at the Ministry of Administrative Development, Labor and Social Affairs provides this service to enable the person who is unable to work to apply for social insurance.

A disabled person who is unable to work is defined as:" Every person, male or female above eighteen years of age and below sixty years, who is determined by a competent medical authority that he\she is permanently unable to work due to a physical or mental disability and is unfit even for simple tasks because of illness. He\She has no hope of recovery and does not have sufficient income or funds to live on".

Allowance Amount

The allowance is QR6,000, and if the disabled person is married, then his wife gets QR2,000 and QR1,000 for each child.

Additional Information

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Q2. Access to information:

Qatar has several initiatives underway to improve accessibility for persons with disabilities and provide them with opportunities for education and employment.

Qatar Assistive Technology Center (Mada)

[Mada](http://www.mada.org.qa/) strives to empower and enable persons with disabilities through information and communication technology. The center offers assessment programs to help outfit people with technologies, allowing them to connect to the digital world with ease.

Shafallah Center

[The Shafallah Center](http://www.shafallah.org.qa/cms/english/default.aspx) for Children with Special Needs provides support and counseling services to families, as well as educational, instructional, social, vocational and recreational services to children with special needs.

The center is highly involved in the community, often participating in events that raise public awareness on disability issues.

The center has also created a Post-School Community Services Unit, where graduated students can be trained on various jobs in order to gain respectful employment in the community.

Al Noor Institute for the Blind

The Al Noor Institute for the Blind offers educational services not just to people living in Qatar, but anyone who may be in need of its services year-round. Programs are tailored to fit the individual needs of each client, giving him/her practical skills.

Qatari Association for the Special Needs

The association works to provide suitable accommodations for youth with special needs. It also provides educational aids and artificial limbs to those in need

Q3- responding to the various needs of persons with disability

In terms of practical steps, a national health strategy had been adopted that include but not limited to the following:

1. Newborn screening programme:
   1. Qatar’s Newborn Screening Program (QNSP) has benefited about 205,832 babies since it was established in December 2003, according to experts at Hamad Medical Corporation’s (HMC) Women’s Hospital. The program has enabled early diagnosis of 642 babies with disorders, resulting in over 98 percent of the babies being successfully treated for potentially fatal or disabling conditions that often do not show visible symptoms during the first few days of a baby’s life.
   2. Early identification of disability in NICU
   3. Neuro developmental multiuli-dispealnry clinics following up pre term and high risk infant up to the age of 2 years.
   4. Early referrals to therapy services are generated from the above clinics.
2. Rehab services
   1. Early intervention program in Rumailah hospital ( child development Center CDC)
   2. Outpatient therapy services in all rehab disciplines like Occupational therapy, Physio therapy, Speech therapy..etc.
   3. Pre integration program:
      1. Preparing children for schools or special Centers:
      2. This is carried out by Hamad Medical Corporation under children rehab department.
3. National education Strategy:
   1. Carried out under ministry of education that has de3veloped a national mainstreaming strategy for children with disability that enables them to attend government and private schools along with enabled peers.
4. Semi government daycare Centers for persons with disability like shafallah Center for persons with disability mentioned above.
5. Continuing care carried by Hamad medical corporation
   1. Continuing Care at Hamad Medical Corporation involves providing services for our patients who need care outside of the hospital setting in specialized facilities, in their home or in the community.
   2. The services include rehabilitation, care for the elderly, long-term care and homecare services - all centered around providing the safest, most effective and most compassionate care to each and every one of our patients. Qatar’s demographics, the increase in chronic diseases, disabilities, road traffic accidents and an aging population all require comprehensive and holistic continuing care services.
   3. As such, HMC is leading a national strategy on behalf of the Supreme Council of Health to design a national model of care and configuration of services to ensure best practice is in place.
6. Community based rehabilitation:
   1. The prospect of living with a debilitating injury or illness can be quite daunting for many; particularly for young people who find their capacity, not only to engage in their accustomed activities, but also to achieve their life goals, has become restricted by the limitations of their disability. Young adults with spinal cord injury, acquired brain injury, stroke, and other neurological disabilities (such as cerebral palsy and neuromuscular dystrophy), present a real challenge for rehabilitation in Qatar.
   2. This group is the main cohort looked after by the award winning Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) project team at Rumailah Hospital, who carry out a unique, holistic approach to addressing the needs of people with disabilities at community level, as well as being advocates for this patient group.
   3. CBR provides the link between HMC’s rehabilitation services and the opportunities in the community. On an ordinary day, the multi-disciplinary CBR team – which consists of an occupational therapist/team leader, another occupational therapist, physiotherapist, nurse and social worker – conduct home environment assessments, give recommendations on how to make areas such as bathrooms, kitchens and entrances simpler and more suitable for someone with disability, and train clients in instrumental activities of daily living. The team also conducts job evaluations, and by learning about the client’s skills, education and interests, assists them to find employment, as well as working with prospective employers to ensure an accessibility workplace.
   4. With young clients who are still at school age, the team works with schools to make sure they are suitable in terms of accessibility and we also assess the readiness of the students and teachers to accept the child on their return. They also look for ways for clients to spend leisure time, such as through sports or arts and crafts.
   5. But the CBR team’s role extends beyond the clinical aspects of rehabilitation; they are keen to promote empathy for people with disabilities. They need to work with clients, their families and the community, as well as the government, in order to find ways to support their re-integration in society.
   6. CBR's vision is for people with disabilities to be as independent as possible in all aspects of life and be able to participate fully in society. Patients can spend several months in acute treatment and rehabilitation, so they need a lot of support so they can return to the community and continue their education, find employment, or find their place in sports. CBR helpds them maximize their capacity, to use what they have and become more independent.
7. Senior care
   1. Seniors are an integral part of the family unit in Qatar. While the country is generally considered young, with high ratios of children and youths, citizens over the age of 65 make up about eight per cent of the Qatari population.
   2. Retirees over the age of 60 who are previously employed in government are entitled to receive a pension. Elderly citizens may also [apply for assistance](http://portal.www.gov.qa/wps/portal/services/inviduallandingpages/social%20services/socialassistanceallowancefortheelderly/!ut/p/a1/jY_LDoIwEEV_RT_AtICYskSiiPJIRCN2YyZYsEmlpiUgfy8YXfqY1Z2bMzkZRFGGaAUNL6HmsgIx7HR2chLiGYRgPwkXFg5SN5jH0dLAO6sHjj2AP4yLf92noND6D4) through the Ministry of Administrative Development, Labor and Social Affairs.
   3. Center of Empowerment and Care Elderly
   4. On the private, non-profit front, the [Center of Empowerment and Care Elderly](http://qfepc.gov.qa/ar/) provides a number of health care and social services to seniors. These services are available to both citizens and residents. They include:
   5. Nursing services: Hygiene care, diet counseling, drug treatments and guidance for seniors and their families.
   6. Physical therapy: Examination, diagnosis and treatment programs designed to reduce pain, improve mobility and restore health.
   7. In addition, the foundation can also dispatch social workers to assess individual cases, and provide the necessary assistance, which may include the provision of beds and wheelchairs.
8. Social Integration

While advancements in health care have helped extend the average life expectancy in Qatar, they are by no means the only factors contributing to the overall well-being of seniors.

As members of society, seniors who actively participate in family life and community events are more likely to feel socially engaged and intellectually stimulated. The State regularly organizes events and programs to help integrate seniors into mainstream society. These include:

* Training courses and workshops designed to develop ways for dealing with seniors’ issues.
* Drama programs that encourage the community to take care of seniors and understand their needs in the workplace, home and public.
* Public concerts on national and religious occasions.
* Promotion and adoption of Islamic teachings and values.
* Lectures and seminars on the virtues of parents.

Q4- number of sign language interpreters:

*Kindly check with the school for deaf student.*

Q5- home care services that is provided by HMC can’t cover the whole region of Qatar, so the signed some agreements with private institutions that are specialized in providing home health care services to the areas that can’t be covered by HMC staff. (Example)

Q6- involvement of persons with disability in decision making

1. Family involvement in mental health strategy

* Many people have given their commitment and time to make valuable recommendations in their areas of expertise. The public and private sector organizations of Qatar as well as families have also been involved with their representatives attending a number of deliberative events. The result is a well-informed strategy that has widespread support. (See appendix 4)

1. Family association involvement in national strategy making:
   1. The Ministry of Public Health is set to launch a National Autism Plan by the end of the year to support children with the disorder and provide them with opportunities to lead a comfortable life. Minister of Public Health H E Dr Hanan Mohammed Al Kuwari speaking at a recently held workshop said that the National Autism Plan addresses concerns about rising rates of diagnoses and to develop tailored services, support and education to meet local needs. “The impact on families caring for children with autism is significant and we are committed to finding ways to improve the lives of these children and their families,” she said.  
      The Qatar Autism Families Association of more than 200 parents of children with autism have been an important driving force behind the National Autism Plan.  
      The Chair of Qatar Autism Families Association Fatima Al Sulaiti said, “Even though autism is a lifelong condition, the right support at the right time can make an enormous difference to our children’s life.”  
      Experts from WHO at the workshop presented opportunities to improve care and services for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and their families, which they identified during their consultation visit to Qatar.

Q7- Kindly see appendix 123 and for more information please visit the following link: