

## **QATAR KATRINA FUND**

### **FACT SHEET**

#### **About the Fund**

- During a September 2005 visit to the U.S. after Hurricane Katrina, His Highness the Amir of the State of Qatar, Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani, pledged \$100 million on behalf of the People of Qatar to assist the victims of the hurricane.
- Qatar's former Ambassador to the U.S., HE Nasser Bin Hamad Al-Khalifa, was appointed to Chair the "Qatar Katrina Fund."
- Projects were selected with the assistance of a distinguished Advisory Committee including: Hon. James A. Baker III, former U.S. Secretary of State; Dr. John J. DeGioia, President, Georgetown University; Mr. Lee Raymond, former Chairman and CEO, Exxon Mobil Corp.; Dr. Laura D'Andrea Tyson, Professor, Haas School of Business, University of California at Berkeley.
- The entire \$100 million pledge was committed to 18 housing, healthcare and education projects in Katrina's hardest hit communities across Mississippi, Louisiana, and Alabama.
- Since the storm, the fund has touched the lives of thousands of Katrina victims -- new houses have been constructed, sick children have received critical health care at no cost, students have received scholarships to return to college, and places of worship have been rebuilt.
- In April 2008, His Highness visited the U.S. Gulf Coast to review the progress of the Fund. During his tour, His Highness met with former President George H.W. Bush, New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin, Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal, Mississippi Governor Haley Barbour and Lt. General Robert Van Antwerp, Commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
- ***As of December 31, 2009, the fund disbursed all \$100 million.***
- Many of the projects will continue to operate using facilities or resources that were provided by the Qatar Katrina Fund. For example, in September 2010, Xavier University of New Orleans will inaugurate a new pharmacy college building donated by the Qatar Katrina Fund – the "Qatar Pharmacy Pavilion" – a state-of-the-art facility that will train generations of new pharmacists.

#### **Qatar Katrina Fund Projects**

##### \$38.1 Million in Education Projects:

- ***Boys and Girls Clubs of the Gulf Coast (\$5 million):*** Designed, built and equipped a new 28,000 square foot community center – the Qatar Center in Pass Christian, Mississippi – that provides after-school programs to 1,300 youth and teens each year.
- ***Humanity First USA (\$.78 million):*** Completed renovations and reopened six mosques and schools serving the Muslim community in Greater New Orleans.

- **Louisiana State University “Katrina Student Relief Fund”** (\$3.3 million): Provided 1,367 students affected by Hurricane Katrina with scholarships to help pay tuition, room and board.
- **Loyola University of New Orleans “Qatar Loyola Scholarship Fund”** (\$1.4 million): Provided 162 students affected by Hurricane Katrina with partial academic scholarships.
- **Tulane University “Qatar Tulane Scholars Fund”** (\$10 million): Awarded full tuition scholarships to 109 students affected by Hurricane Katrina.
- **Xavier University “Qatar Katrina Fellowship Fund”** (\$5 million): Provided scholarship assistance to 497 students adversely affected by Hurricane Katrina.
- **Xavier University College of Pharmacy** (\$12.5 million): Building a new “Qatar Pharmacy Pavilion” that will include additional classrooms, state of the art teaching labs, lecture facilities, and computer labs to increase the number of pharmacy students at Xavier University.

#### \$27.5 Million in Healthcare Projects:

- **Children’s Hospital of New Orleans - Kids First Clinics** (\$.4 million): Completed repairs and reopened two primary care children’s clinics in low-income areas of New Orleans.
- **Children’s Hospital of New Orleans “Qatar Cares Fund”** (\$5 million): Provided funding to pay for more than 19,000 pediatric patient visits for uninsured children affected by Katrina.
- **Coastal Family Health Center** (\$3.4 million): Provided free medical care for over 30,000 patient visits and a mobile medical unit to reach patients in remote areas damaged by Katrina.
- **March of Dimes** (\$3 million): Purchased and staffed three Mom and Baby Mobile Health Centers that provide prenatal and early pediatric care in hurricane-damaged neighborhoods.
- **Memorial Hospital** (\$10.8 million): Established the “Qatar Hope Fund” to cover medical services for uninsured, low-income victims of Katrina.
- **Tulane University Community Health Center** (\$5 million): Expanded and sustained operations at two community health centers and provided a mobile medical unit to deliver care to remote neighborhoods damaged by Katrina.

#### \$34.3 Million in Housing Projects

- **Habitat For Humanity** (\$25.26 million): Built 293 new homes in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama for Katrina-impacted families, with 44 additional homes to be completed in 2010.
- **The NHP Foundation** (\$1.54 million): Provided rental assistance for low- and moderate-income victims of Hurricane Katrina.
- **Neighborhood Housing Services of New Orleans** (\$3.1 million): Extended financial loans to 120 Katrina-impacted families to purchase new homes in the New Orleans area.
- **Treme/Lafitte Renewal Project** (\$2.5 million): Restored 100 homes for low-income Katrina victims in the historic Treme/LaFitte neighborhood of New Orleans.
- **UNITY of Greater New Orleans** (\$2 million): Repaired and reopened eleven housing facilities for homeless and special needs victims in New Orleans.

## **About Qatar**

The State of Qatar is a peninsula on the western edge of the Arabian Gulf. Qatar has the largest proven natural gas reserves in the Middle East and the second largest in the world — estimated at 900 trillion cubic feet, or the equivalent of about 162 billion barrels of oil. In partnership with many American companies and others, Qatar has successfully developed these resources, as well as its oil reserves, to become a key energy exporter and a fast-growing economy.

Under the leadership of the Amir, HH Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani, Qatar has become a prominent voice for progressive change in the region. A free press thrives in Qatar. Professional opportunities for women are growing, and women now comprise over 26% of the national workforce in positions that include senior government officials, physicians, university professors, and police. Two-thirds of the students at Qatar University are women, and the Government has actively supported women's participation in political affairs. Qatari citizens voted overwhelmingly on April 29, 2003 to adopt a new Constitution which includes broad guarantees of human rights and equality, including: "All people are equal before the law. There shall be no discrimination on account of sex, origin, language, or religion."

Qatar and the United States have been very active defense cooperation partners for many years. In the first Gulf War in 1991, U.S. and Canadian air units were based in Qatar, and Qatar itself was an active member of the coalition assembled to liberate Kuwait. On June 22, 1992, Qatar and the United States signed a comprehensive Defense Cooperation Agreement, and later established a military pre-positioning storage facility in Qatar — the largest outside of the United States — to support the defense of the region. Days after September 11, 2001, U.S. forces at the Al Udeid air base in Qatar launched air operations against the Al Qaeda terrorist network in Afghanistan. Qatar remains the principal air operations center for U.S. forces in the Middle East.

Qatar has made an extraordinary national commitment to quality education. Since 2001, some of America's most prestigious universities have established branch campuses in Qatar, at which they offer degree programs identical to those offered in the United States. These include the Weill Cornell Medical College, Carnegie Mellon University, Texas A&M University, Virginia Commonwealth University, Northwestern University, and Georgetown University. The students at these universities are drawn from Qatar and throughout the world. The presence of these universities has brought a culturally rich and diverse expatriate community to Qatar, and closer ties to the United States.

## **For More Information**

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