



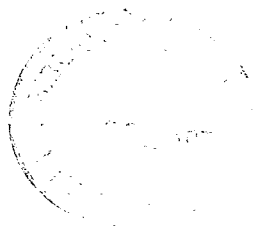
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION  
ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA SANTÉ

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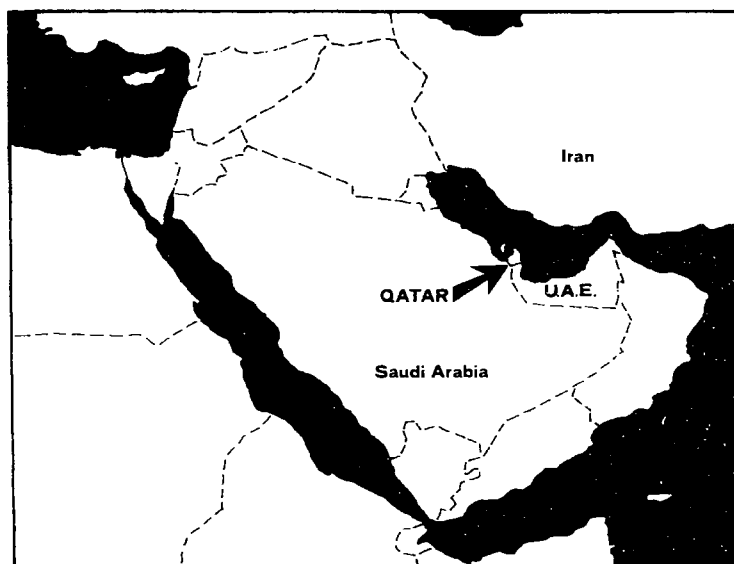
ENGLISH ONLY

INDEXED

**REPORT TO  
THE GLOBAL COMMISSION  
FOR CERTIFICATION OF  
SMALLPOX ERADICATION**



**QATAR**



**MINISTRY OF HEALTH  
QATAR**

**WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION**

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## Q A T A R

### 1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

#### 1.1 Geography

Qatar is a fully independent sovereign Arab state on the western shores of the Arabian Gulf. Its territory occupies a peninsula of approximately 4 000 square miles that projects true north into the gulf for about 100 miles and has an approximate maximum width of 55 miles.

There are also some small offshore islands. Those permanently settled include Halul, important as the storage centre and tanker terminal for two offshore oilfields.

The capital, Doha, is situated on the eastern coast. At the base of the peninsula, Qatar is bordered by Saudi Arabia to the west and Abu Dhabi to the east.

The terrain is flat except for the Dukhon anticline in the west, a gradual rise from the east to a central limestone plateau and some low cliffs on the north-eastern coast. The country is mostly a desert with little water or vegetation.

#### 1.2 Climate

Qatar lies outside the area of the south-western monsoons and its seasons generally conform with those of the Temperate Zone lands.

The weather in the winter months of December to March is relatively cold for the latitude, although humidity is frequently high. Great heat invariably persists from June until the end of September. The months of April, May, October and November normally provide the most agreeable climatic conditions.

Rainfall is extremely light. Falls of one millimetre or more occurred on only 43 days in 1971. Average monthly falls in that year were 26.2 mm (January), 13.4 mm (February), 4.5 mm (March), 23.2 mm (April), 26.6 mm (May), 10.0 mm (November) and 38.8 mm (December).

#### 1.3 Population

The population of Qatar is around 200 000 of which 80% live in the capital, Doha. The majority of the people are Qatari or expatriates from other Arab countries, but there are now sizeable communities of British, American and other European families, as well as those from Iran, Baluchistan, Pakistan, India and Africa.

#### 1.4 Government

Qatar is an absolute monarchy with full powers vested in the Amir as Head of State. A provisional constitution came into effect in July 1970. Executive power resides in the Council of Ministers, which is appointed by the Head of State, who is also Prime Minister. An advisory council with 20 nominated members was set up in April 1972 and was expanded to include 30 members in December 1975.

#### 1.5 Education

Education is free at all levels and has been expanding at a rapid rate since the inception of a state educational system in 1956. The school attendance in 1975/76 was over 30 000, mostly at elementary schools.

## 1.6 Communications

Ships of service lines call at Doha, which is the main port of Qatar. The Gulf Aviation Company operates daily air services from Bahrain. British Airways, Middle-East Airways and about fifteen other Airlines operate regular international flights from Doha airport. There are 600 miles of road. Telephone and radio-telephone services connect Qatar with Europe and America; there were 20 908 telephones in January 1976.

## 2. HEALTH SERVICES

2.1 The medical services are reasonably well developed and treatment is provided free for all, including treatment abroad. There is one main general hospital (150 beds), an isolation hospital (65 beds) and rural hospitals and clinics in Umm Said, Wakra, Khor, Ruwais and Dukhan.

A new large hospital is nearing completion which will replace the Rumaillah hospital and there are plans to open more clinics in and out of Doha. The school health services are run by a medical unit at the Ministry of Education.

Objectives and targets aim at the promotion of health services in the country through strengthening of training programmes, improvement of the information system and building up a cadre of health personnel of Qatari nationals.

### 2.2 Health units and health manpower

The development of the health services over the years is shown below:

	<u>1945</u>	<u>1975</u>
Number of hospitals	1	7
Number of clinics	-	13
Number of hospital beds	30	725
Number of doctors	1	154
Number of nurses	2	547

(For their locations, see Fig. 1)

In the near future, a new hospital of 606 beds will be opened. In order to secure more of the various health services including mother and child care, health education and environmental protection, the general policy of the state is being directed towards providing more nurses and technicians. In 1969, a regional training institute was established in cooperation with WHO to train nurses and health inspectors from amongst Qatar citizens and other states of the Gulf. The institute runs three-year courses and until now, 22 male nurses, 43 female nurses and 50 health inspectors have graduated from this institute.

Existing health staff in hospitals and clinics are shown in Table 1.

### 2.3 Public health structure

The Medical Services Department is headed by the Minister of Health, whose deputy, the Director of Medical and Public Health, looks after the administration.

The Public Health Department founded in 1974 and headed by a medical officer operates the State's immunization, port quarantine, food control and communicable diseases control services. It also collects and collates relevant statistics and organizes health education.

FIG. 1: MAP OF QATAR SHOWING HOSPITALS AND CLINICS

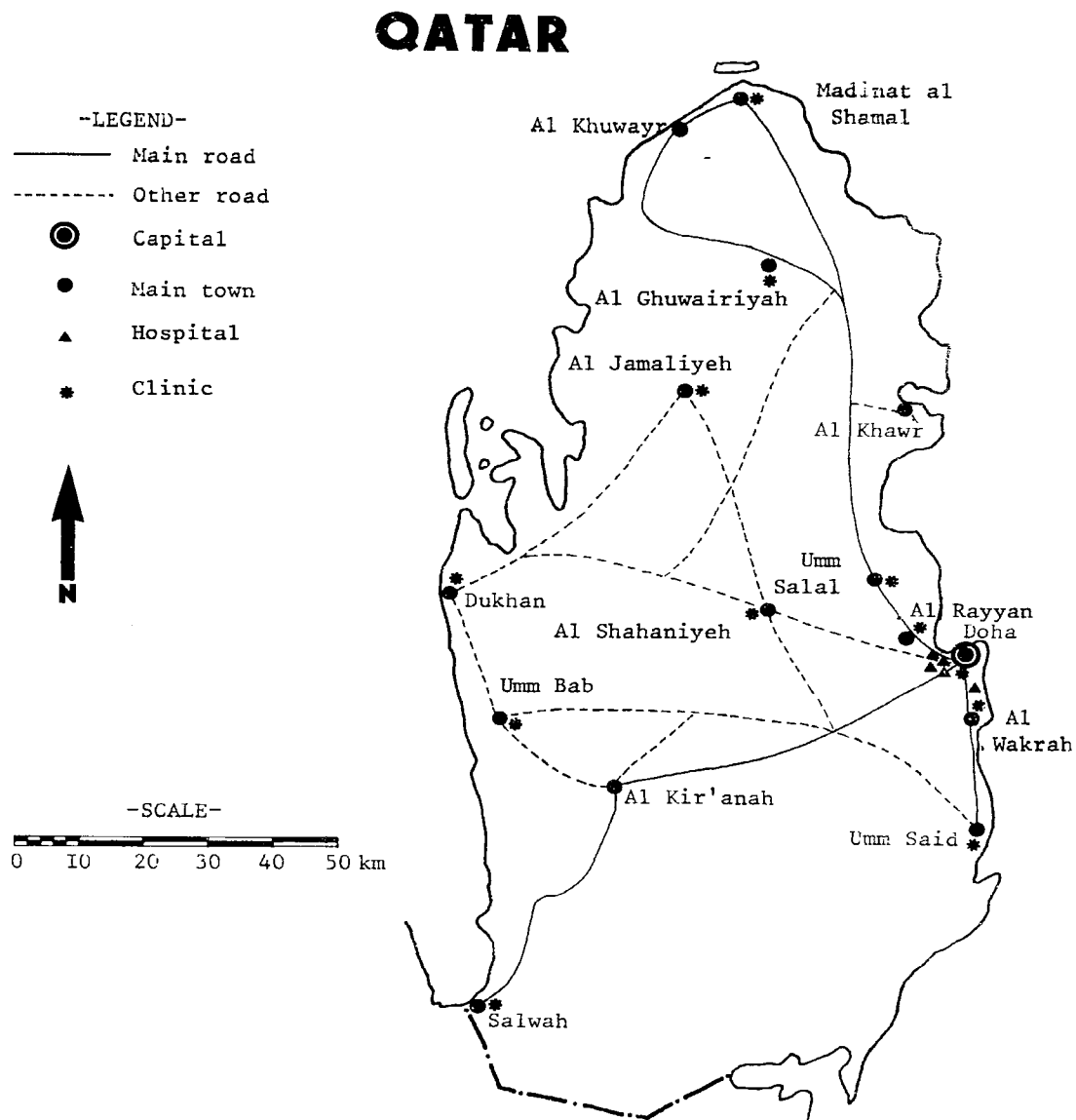


TABLE 1: MEDICAL MANPOWER, 1978

Category of Staff	Rumailah Hospital and Women's Hospital, Doha	Other hospitals, health centres and clinics
Consultants and Specialists	32	-
Medical Officers	68	35
Dentists	9	-
Pharmacists	6	-
Nursing	550	60
Paramedical and Technical	9	7
TOTAL	674	102

### 3. SMALLPOX INCIDENCE

A single case was reported in 1961 and since then there has been no incidence of the disease. No particulars such as the age, sex and address of that 1961 case are available, nor is it known whether it was imported or indigenous. The peninsula has been free of smallpox for over 16 years.

### 4. VACCINATION ACTIVITY

Mass vaccination is undertaken every four to five years. School children are vaccinated at school health clinics. There is a vaccination clinic in Doha under the supervision of the public health officer where all international travellers are vaccinated. All clinics offer a vaccination service.

The number of vaccinations performed by the Public Health Department and the School Health Services are shown in Tables 2 and 3.

### 5. SPECIAL OPERATIONS CARRIED OUT FOR THE CERTIFICATION OF SMALLPOX ERADICATION

#### 5.1 General

Qatar, as all other Arab states of the Gulf, agreed to carry out the specific operations required by the Plan of Action for certification of smallpox eradication, the activities being:

- (i) chickenpox notification individually with all epidemiological details;
- (ii) collection and dispatch of laboratory specimens wherever clinical diagnosis was doubtful;

TABLE 2: SMALLPOX VACCINATIONS PERFORMED, 1968-1978

Year	Department of Public Health		School Health Services	Total
	Primary Vaccination	Revaaccination		
1968	1,341	33,175	- <sup>a</sup>	34,516
1969	1,265	32,250	1,922	35,437
1970	1,186	31,546	17,229	49,961
1971	1,345	31,392	4,156	36,893
1972	1,292	32,553	3,122	36,967
1973	1,380	31,375	2,121	34,876
1974	1,451	31,970	4,915	38,336
1975	1,372	32,014	11,431	44,817
1976	1,260	38,625	8,650	48,535
1977	1,397	39,898	10,010	51,305
1978 <sup>b</sup>	935	23,495	- <sup>a</sup>	24,430

<sup>a</sup> not available

<sup>b</sup> to 31 July

TABLE 3: SMALLPOX VACCINATIONS PERFORMED, JANUARY - JULY 1978

MONTH/YEAR	SMALLPOX REVACCINATION	SMALLPOX PRIMARY
January 1978	4,224	138
February 1978	2,304	120
March 1978	2,272	145
April 1978	2,368	192
May 1978	3,680	102
June 1978	3,751	123
July 1978	4,896	115

- (iii) smallpox scar survey of children under ten years of age to see if there is any evidence of smallpox infection.

Accordingly, the operations were instituted in January 1978 and completed at the end of July 1978.

#### 5.2 Chickenpox notification

Chickenpox has always been a notifiable disease and included in the monthly report of communicable diseases. (Annex 1). This report included the number of cases; however, in January 1978, it was ordered that all chickenpox cases should be reported with all epidemiological details. Up to 31 July 1978, 566 cases were individually reported, although for 288 of them full details were not available (Tables 4 and 5).

**TABLE 4: NOTIFIED CASES OF CHICKENPOX BY MONTH AND SOURCE OF REPORTING**  
**1 JANUARY - 31 MAY 1978**

MONTH	ISOLATION HOSPITAL DOHA	RUMAILLAH HOSPITAL DOHA	SCHOOL HEALTH CLINICS	PERIPHERAL HEALTH UNITS	TOTAL
January	9 <sup>a</sup>	3	38 <sup>b</sup>	-	50
February	31 <sup>a</sup>	-	60 <sup>b</sup>	-	91
March	86 <sup>c</sup>	-	143 <sup>c</sup>	22	251
April	36	8	51 <sup>c</sup>	9	104
May	9 <sup>a</sup>	2 <sup>a</sup>	34 <sup>b</sup>	5	150
June	10	1	-	-	11
July	7	2	-	-	9
TOTAL	188	16	326	36	566

<sup>a</sup> Vaccination status of these cases unknown

<sup>b</sup> No epidemiological details available for all cases

<sup>c</sup> No epidemiological details available for some cases



TABLE 5: AGE, SEX AND VACCINATION STATUS OF  
278 NOTIFIED CHICKENPOX CASES <sup>a</sup>  
1 JANUARY - 31 JULY 1978

AGE IN YEARS	M A L E			F E M A L E		
	VACCINATED	UNVACCINATED	NOT SPECIFIED	VACCINATED	UNVACCINATED	NOT SPECIFIED
1	-	1	1	-	2	-
1 - 4	1	1	-	5	2	1
5 - 14	46	9	2	11	1	2
15 - 24	47	51	38	1	-	-
25 +	22	3	31	-	-	-
TOTAL	116	65	72	17	5	3

<sup>a</sup> Total cases reported during the period was 566 but epidemiological details are unknown for 288 cases

### 5.3 Laboratory specimens for confirmation of diagnosis

Though none of the 566 chickenpox cases seen posed any doubt as to the diagnosis, specimens were taken from cases of specified categories including unvaccinated cases, severe cases in adults, those cases associated with death and those with lesions on palms or soles.

During the six month period, 35 specimens were collected and sent to WHO for laboratory examination. All the results were negative for smallpox. For details of laboratory specimen data see Table 6 and Annex 2.

### 5.4 Facial scar survey of children under ten years of age

The School Health Service medical officers undertook this survey in 16 boys' schools and in 18 girls' schools in different parts of the country. Altogether 7 872 children were examined, but not a single child with smallpox facial scars was seen (Table 7).

15,242 WHO/SE/116 Corr.1

## 6. CONCLUSION

For more than 16 years, there has been no incidence of smallpox in the country. The country-wide scar survey of children indicated that there is no sign of smallpox infection, at least during the past ten years.

Ninety per cent of the population live in Doha, the capital town, and in all the settlements of the rest of the population there is easy access to medical facilities.

Special scrutiny of all the chickenpox cases reported during the period to July 1978 did not reveal any suspect smallpox case. So, from all angles, it appears that the country has been free of the disease for almost two decades, the last known case being in 1961.

TABLE 6: SUMMARY OF CHICKENPOX PATIENTS FROM WHOM  
SPECIMENS WERE TAKEN FOR LABORATORY EXAMINATION  
JANUARY - JULY 1978

A. BY CATEGORY AND SEX

<u>Category</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Cases previously un- vaccinated against smallpox	15	4	19
Severe cases among adults	8	4	12
Cases with lesions on palms and soles	1	3	4
TOTAL	24	11	35

B. BY AGE GROUP AND SEX

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
0 - 4 years	1	3	4
5 - 9 years	3	2	5
10 - 15 years	1	2	3
15 +	21	2	23
TOTAL	26	9	35

TABLE 7: SUMMARY OF FACIAL POCKMARK  
SURVEY IN SCHOOLS, SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 1977

Town or Region	Number of children less than 10 years examined		Number found with facial pockmarks
	Boys	Girls	
Doha <sup>a</sup>	6,470	1,841	0
Doha District	254	624	0
Al Khor	429	375	0
Om Salal	254	198	0
Al Shamal	166	168	0
Dukhan	197	166	0
TOTAL	7,370	7,872	0

<sup>a</sup> 18 schools

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE REPORTING FORM

Diseases According To ICD 1965		DISTRICTS							الأعراض حسب التعريف الدولي للأعراض TOTAL
		الدمنة Date	الوفاة Wafat	الحرور Habr	التهال Shagal	الدمار Damas	أرضية Umm Saq	المسقط Mussat	
CHOLERA	000								كوليرا
TYPHOID FEVER	001								حمى التيفوئيد ٠٠١
PARA-TYPHOID Fever	002								حمى الباراتيفوئيد ٠٠٢
Other Salmonella Infection	003								أمراض أخرى سببها عن السالمونيلا ٠٠٣
Bacillary Dysentery	004								دستاريا باسيلية ٠٠٤
Food Poisoning Bacteria	005								تسمم الطغالي البكتيري ٠٠٥
Amoebiasis	006								دستاريا أميبية ٠٠٦
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	010-012								التهنون الرئوي ٠١٠ - ٠١٢
Other Tuberculosis	013-019								دون غير رئوي ٠١٣-٠١٩
Plague	020								الطاعون ٠٢٠
Leprosy	030								الجذام ٠٣٠
Diphtheria	032								الدفتيريا ٠٣٢
Whooping Cough	033								السعال الديكي ٠٣٣
Streptococcal Sorethroat & Scarlet Fever	034								التهاب الزود بالكورات البنية والحمى القرمزية ٠٣٤
Meningococcal Infections	036								التهاب السحايا ٠٣٦
Meningitis Other Causes	035								التهاب السحايا أسباب أخرى ٠٣٥
Tetanus	037								تتانوس ٠٣٧
Acute Poliomyelitis	040-043								شلل الأطفال ٠٤٠-٠٤٣
Smallpox	050								الجدري ٠٥٠
Chickenpox	052								الجدري ٠٥٢
Measles	055								الحصبة ٠٥٥
Rubella (German Measles)	057								حصبة ألمانية ٠٥٧
Yellow Fever	060								حمى صفراء ٠٦٠
Viral Encephalitis	062-065								التهاب المخ ٠٦٢-٠٦٥
Infectious Hepatitis	070								التهاب الكبد الوبائي ٠٧٠
Mumps	072								التهاب اللثة الكفية ٠٧٢
Trachoma (Active)	076								التراكوما ٠٧٦
Typhus Louse Borne	080								تيفوس القمل ٠٨٠
Malaria	084								الملاريا ٠٨٤
Relapsing Fever Louse-Borne	088-0								الحمى الرجاسة بالقمل ٠٨٨
Syphilis & Its Sequelae	090-097								الزهرى ومضاعفاته ٠٩٧-٠٩٠
Gonococcal Infection	098								البلان ٠٩٨
Rheumatic Fever	390								حمى الروماتيزمية ٣٩٠
Influenza	470-474								انفلونزا ٤٧٤-٤٧٠
Other Diseases (Specify)									أمراض أخرى

From To

من تاريخ إلى تاريخ

STATE OF QATAR  
Ministry of Health  
Preventive Health Directorate

دولة قطر  
وزارة الصحة العامة  
إدارة الطب الوقائي

نشرة صحية عن الاصابات المبلغ عنها  
Monthly Report of Communicable Diseases Notified

DIRECTOR  
Preventive Health Directorate

مدير إدارة الصحة الوقائية

RESULTS OF LABORATORY TESTING OF SPECIMENS FORWARDED TO  
WHO COLLABORATING CENTRES FOR POXVIRUS RESEARCH <sup>a</sup>

Sl. No.	PATIENT			DATE RECEIVED	RESULTS	
	NAME OR CASE NO.	AGE	SEX		HERPES VARICELLA (by EM)	VARIOLA VIRUS ISOLATION
1	Ayed Ahmed Suam	17	M	30.3.78	negative	negative
2	Abdulla Mohd Hamed	17	M	"	"	"
3	Abdul Kadar Shahul Hameed	25	M	"	"	"
1A	Mohdnassir Ahmed	18	M	5.5.78	positive	"
2A	Mohd Hussain Hamed	15	M	"	negative	"
3A	Alhadi Aid	20	M	"	positive	"
4	Ali Mabkoni Hassan	17	M	"	negative	"
5	Gaid Abdulla Alfthani	21	M	"	positive	"
6	Saleh Mohd Nassir	22	M	"	negative	"
7	Farai Mabrook Saif	18	M	"	<u>b</u>	"
8	Hamed Marai Salem	14	M	"	negative	"
9	Mohd Saleh Alhek	20	M	"	positive	"
10	Abdulla Saleh Sheram	17	M	"	negative	"
11	Abdulla Saleh Ali	20	M	"	"	"
12	Ahmed Ahmed Aiash	20	M	"	"	"
13	Abdul Hadi Hussain	19	M	5.5.78	"	"
14	Hussain AlQuawi	30	M	"	positive	"
15	Jaher Mohd Salem	20	M	"	negative	"
16	Abdulla Awad Al-Asmaia	17	M	14.8.78	positive	"
17	Mohd Nassen Mohd	21	M	"	positive	"
18	Abdulla Ahamed Selaf	18	M	14.8.78	positive	"
19	Audab Mohson Awed	20	M	"	negative	"
20	Fahad Farhan Nasser	22	M	"	"	"

<sup>a</sup> A further 10 specimens have been received but details are presently unavailable.

<sup>b</sup> Results pending.