



# A skilled Arab woman in solidarity with societies torn by war, disease



**Dr. Rasha Khoury joined the MSF in 2014, to put all her skills to meaningful use. (Courtesy: MSF)**

Around five o'clock on a cold winter's morning, I was called to the delivery room for a patient who was "not well". I jumped out of bed where I had fallen asleep in my hijab and scrubs just a few hours ago, reached for my coat and shoes, and rushed out of my quarters, across the field to the hospital grounds.

The air was biting and after four months in this project, working in confined spaces, the three-minute run left me breathless.

How are we doing?



Women waiting for post-natal and family planning consultations in Kabul, Afghanistan. (Courtesy: Najiba Noori)

“Not well” in Khost was usually code for a catastrophic event related to labor and delivery. I arrived to find a listless patient on the floor of the delivery room, dress covered in blood, head cradled in her caretaker’s lap with the caretaker rocking back and forth in tears. The midwives and doctor looked exhausted. Women were delivering in every bed and others squatting on the floor in between.

## A heavily bleeding patient

I was told the patient had delivered at home earlier that night and was brought to our hospital bleeding. Her family had waited for daybreak when they could travel to us safely. The patient was not awake but appeared to be breathing and had a pulse; we moved her to a stretcher and rushed her into the operating theatre (OT), simultaneously calling the anaesthesia staff and sending the caretaker to our blood bank.

How are we doing?



Babies under phototherapy lamp to prevent jaundice, MSF maternity unit in Kabul, Afghanistan. (Courtesy: MSF)

For the next four hours we performed resuscitation on the patient, supported her breathing (manually) and operated. She had a tear in her cervix that extended up into her uterus. We needed to work quickly, and ultimately removed her uterus and cervix to stop the haemorrhage. She required multiple units of blood.

Once her condition had stabilized, I ran out of the OT in search of more blood. My scrubs drenched in sweat, I grabbed a white coat to step outside.

The caretaker, an older woman without teeth was smiling at me, grabbing my coat and pointing to her abaya. I tried to wave her away and asked a midwife to translate for me, to say that I would be back to talk with her but needed to get to the blood bank first.

The old woman then lifted her arm and showed me the unit of blood she was warming under her arm, she handed it to me and squeezed my hands. The midwife looked at me and we both laughed so hard we were in tears.

I spent six months working as a specialist doctor in the maternity hospital in Khost, Afghanistan; MSF's largest comprehensive emergency obstetric and neonatal care project.

How are we doing?



Dr Rasha Khoury conducts a Caesarean section in Khost maternity hospital. Medecins Sans Frontieres is focusing on managing complicated deliveries. (Courtesy: Pau Miranda/MSF)

In 2016 alone, we safely performed 21,335 deliveries with only four in-hospital maternal deaths, and our admission numbers keep climbing. Our aim is to mitigate the risk of direct obstetric complications in order to reduce maternal morbidity and mortality. We have a large team of medical and non-medical staff with the majority being national staff (midwives, nurses, doctors, logisticians, lab and hygiene staff, data managers, administrative staff, guards and drivers).

## More outreach activities

This year we have intensified our outreach activities in Khost province with our health promotion teams, radio messaging about signs of danger during pregnancy, and community networking. We've increased support to community health centers to help promote access to safe basic delivery services and newborn care and early referral to our hospital when necessary.

When I left for Afghanistan, friends and family were afraid, some were horrified. I am a Palestinian woman, born and raised in East Jerusalem and though I pursued medical education and training in the United States, I returned to East Jerusalem to practice and teach.

As a child I remember being awestruck by the MSF cars and their no weapons logo in a city and country where weapons are everywhere, and violence is a fact of life.

**How are we doing?** I was looking for a way to put all my skills to meaningful use, to practice humanitarianism and to stand in solidarity with women and societies that have been eroded by war, poverty, and epidemics, yet simultaneously feared, much like my own society. I was also looking for ways to be, what I felt I was, a citizen of the world.



Dr Rasha Khoury and the surgical team perform a caesarean section to deliver Albertine's baby. (Courtesy: Jean-Christophe Nougaret/MSF)

In 2014, I was in Sierra Leone when Ebola led MSF to close its maternity project and concentrate efforts on Ebola detection and treatment, and in 2016 I was in Lebanon (Shatila) and Afghanistan (Khost), in 2017 I was in Cote d'Ivoire (Katiola) and Iraq (Mosul).

Working with MSF has been transformational for me, both personally and professionally, and truly, this where I am most happy in my work. The impact you can have as a skilled Arab woman with communities in need of solidarity, and vision-driven high-quality work is incalculable.

One thousand women die every day of pregnancy-related complications, MSF teams are made up of individuals from around the world, the majority working in their own countries – working hard to provide care where no-one else will, in a way that no one else will. You want to be part of that!

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Dr Rasha Khoury received her M.D. from Yale School of Medicine; she completed her specialisation in Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of California, San Francisco and her fellowship in Family Planning and Global Women's Health at Brigham and Women's Hospital. She holds an M.P.H from the Harvard School of Public Health. She is in search of a job that will allow her at least 25 per cent of her time annually to continue working with MSF in the field.

How are we doing?

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# French media call into question Qatari official's real estate dealings in Europe



**Qatar's Attorney General Ali bin Fetais al-Marri speaks after the launch of the Compensation Claims Committee. (File photo: AFP)**

How are we doing?

French media outlets have raised questions regarding properties acquired by Qatar's Attorney General and Chairman of Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption Center (ROLACC), Ali bin Futtais al-Marri.

Those questions were raised after Le Point said that Al Marri has a relatively long list of expensive properties across Europe that are difficult to be explained in relativity to his official income. According to one report, the Qatari official bought "himself a three-story mansion at 86 Avenue d'léna, just a stone's throw from the Arc de Triomphe, for 9.6 million euros in October 2013.

The capital of real estate company IENA 86 is divided into 100 shares, which are owned by Marri (98 shares) and by two of his sons, Hamad Ali, born in 2002 (1 share), and Tameem Ali, born in 2013 (1 share)," wrote Le Point.

Now Mediapart is saying that the IENA company has accounts at the National Bank Of Kuwait, specifically its branch at the Champs Elysees. In addition, his Swiss company also holds accounts in the Geneva branch of same bank.

It added that these revelations pose a number of questions. The first that comes to mind, and "most obvious" is: Where did the funds come from which allowed the Qatar's Attorney General to become a prestigious real estate owner?

Another question raised focused on the choice of using a Kuwaiti bank when the Qatar National Bank, located at 65 avenue d'léna, just a stone's throw away from the mansion in question.

Would Ali Bin Fetais al-Marri perhaps not wish his employer, Qatar, to be aware of his real estate acquisitions?

In February, Le Point, **one of the top five national magazines in France**, called into questions Qatari Attorney-General al-Marri's status as a minister and official focused on anti-corruption cases given doubts raised regarding the source of his own wealth.

This comes at a time when Qatar's ranking in the fight against corruption on the Transparency International has deteriorated, according to World News Media.com. Qatar ranked 22nd in 2015 and 31st in 2016.

*Last Update: Monday, 7 May 2018 KSA 21:56 - GMT 18:56*



# Statistics reveal declining unemployment rate among Saudi women

How are we doing?



## Unemployment rate among Saudi citizens has steadied at approximately 12.8 percent in the fourth quarter of 2017. (Reuters)

Unemployment rate among Saudi citizens has steadied at approximately 12.8 percent in the fourth quarter of 2017, positively indicating that the market is providing job opportunities to local men and women.

Al Arabiya.net spoke to the head of the General Authority for Statistics, Dr. Fahd al-Tkhaifi, who noted an increase in women participation in the Saudi economy, stressing how significant this is to the Kingdom's **Vision 2030**.

Statistics based on governmental records indicate an increase in the participation of women in the Saudi economy, which has reached 19.4 percent compared to 17.8 percent during the fourth quarter of 2017 compared to the third.

It also showed an increase in Saudi men's participation in the economy, reaching 63.4 percent compared to 62.6 percent during the same period. Al-Tkhaifi also noted a decrease in unemployment rates among Saudi women, which went down to 31 percent from 32.7 percent in the third quarter.

He also added that there is a decrease in the total number of Saudis searching for jobs is approximately at 1,086,561 according to the government records. An 11.8 percent decrease was noted in the fourth quarter compared to the third quarter. The statistics also indicate that there's an increase among the Saudi employees and a decrease among foreign employees.

## Unemployment rate compared internationally

He pointed out that Saudi Arabia has the highest population growth rate among the G20 nations, with a 2.5 percent growth rate. High population growth rates in countries with economies that depend on a single source is among the

How are we doing? reduce unemployment.

This is why **Vision 2030** aims to increase economic resources to face the challenge of high population growth rate, he explained.



In this regard, when comparing Saudi Arabia's unemployment rate with other countries in the G20, the rate in the kingdom is average, as it is among the 10 countries where unemployment rates are approximately between 4 percent and 7 percent.

## 350,000 job seekers annually

When reading the unemployment rate, focusing on age groups and population composition in Saudi Arabia is necessary, al-Tkhaifi said. Ages between 15 to 34 years make up 33.9 percent of the population. While considering the total employment by sex, nationality and age groups, statistics show that those employed below the age of 30 are 48 percent.

The statistics also show that students receiving higher education in public and private universities, colleges and institutes amount to approximately 1,600,000. Thus, graduates with high degrees exceed 350,000 each year.

This means that we have 350,000 job seekers every year, which indicates that there is a challenge in the labor market based on our demographic composition.

*Last Update: Monday, 7 May 2018 KSA 15:10 - GMT 12:10*

How are we doing?

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