

# **QATARI WATER CRISIS AND SUMMARY OF THE QATARI STATE**

*Global Food and Water Crises Research Programme Summary. Qatar experiences an extremely high level of water stress owing to its scarcity of positions the country in a state of "structurally-induced water abundance".*

The lens has been heavily overexploited. Future self-sufficiency plans need to be balanced and should consider the economic and environmental ramifications of expanding domestic production and the associated requirements on natural resources. The non-conventional sources of water in Qatar are desalinated sea water and treated sewage effluent. Development of deep aquifers: A recent study indicates that the development of the aquifer is constrained by several factors. In southern Qatar the depressions are often more crater-like in appearance, with the bottoms usually covered by aeolian sands. The rainfall, although scanty, is the only source of natural water replenishment while groundwater is the only natural source of water supply. This has been determined from lysimeter observations. The annual rate of extraction is almost four times that of recharge. Qatar is a rocky desert area with scattered oases formed by separate depressions. This represents approximately three days' supply based on average national consumption rate. Such mining will continue to cause lowering of the water table, deterioration in water quality, upcoming of highly saline water from deeper aquifer and resulting in a greater water cost. The government is aiming at lessening dependence upon oil and gas and focusing on the development of the agricultural sector in order to achieve large measure of self-sufficiency in basic foodstuffs. Instead, Qatar was forced to reroute flights to Africa and Europe through Iranian airspace. Economy, agriculture and food security Virtually all economic activity depends on oil, gas and its derivatives. Qatar is capable of expanding desalinated water resources to meet the water requirements for domestic agricultural expansion. The return flow from irrigation to groundwater reservoirs is estimated at an average of 25 percent of the gross water application. Bigger homes, higher income and lavish lifestyle drives water consumption. The self-sufficiency concept should be revised on the basis of practical self-sufficiency to ensure sustainability. The MMAA is planning to implement a technical study and survey for the development of groundwater resources over the next two years. The aquifer is of limited extent with an average thickness of 15 m. In general terms the host country strategy is encouraging the diversification of its economy, focusing on agricultural development in order to achieve self-sufficiency in foodstuffs. However, there is popular support for reusing treated wastewater. Further information: United States-Saudi Arabia arms deal and Riyadh Summit Since he took power in , Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani believed Qatar could find security only by transforming itself from a Saudi appendage to a rival of Saudi Arabia. This strategy implies utilization of desalinated sea water for domestic and industrial use, whereas ground water resources to be utilized in irrigation purposes. Water usage is currently unmetered and it is unlikely that the Qatari government will produce unpopular policies to restrict its usage.