

## HBKU Thematic Research Grant 3<sup>rd</sup> Cycle– Project Highlight

**Project Title:** Mapping the National Policies and Services to Strengthen the Health and Education Systems for Children and Adults with Autism and Other Disabilities in Qatar



**LPI Name:** Dr Hira Amin, College of Public Policy, HBKU.

### Executive Summary

This project has been developed in close collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MOEHE) and the Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) in line with their respective mandates, strategic priorities, and policy goals. The project is divided into two sub-projects:

#### **1: Mapping Accessibility in Qatar’s Higher Education Sector: A National Baseline Study and Roadmap for Inclusive Practice with the MOEHE**

This will provide the first national baseline for disability inclusion in higher education in Qatar, and offer a practical, participatory pathway toward systemic transformation. It will undertake a comprehensive scoping review to examine current policies, infrastructure, and student support systems for students with different disabilities (physical and developmental).

#### **2: Mapping the Diagnostics and Interventional Landscape for Autism and Other Developmental Disabilities in Qatar with the MOPH**

This will deliver a comprehensive mapping of all institutions providing screening, assessment, diagnosis, and interventions for children and adults with autism and other developmental disabilities. This is part of the New Autism Plan currently under development. The mapping exercise will cover both public and private sectors; and document diagnostic points, guidelines,

and procedures; diagnostic modalities; diversity of intervention services and team specializations; service providers' caseloads; and other relevant insights.

## **Expected Outcome**

By mapping the higher education and diagnostics landscapes across Qatar, this project will identify gaps, bottlenecks, and opportunities to strengthen systems and policies, highlight areas requiring targeted interventions, and set priorities for future investment and reform to improve access, quality, and equity. As a strategic priority for both the MOPH and the MOEHE, these mapping projects will provide an evidence-based foundation and clear roadmaps to drive future initiatives on inclusion for persons with disabilities.

## **Collaborating HBKU entities:**

### **HBKU Research Team:**

Dr. Fella Lahmar, CIS, HBKU

Ms. Sabika Shaban, CIS, HBKU

Dr. Ghanimeh El-Taweel, CHSS, HBKU

### **External Research Team:**

Dr. Btool Hashim Alsayed, Director of Higher Education Institutions Affairs Department, MOEHE

Dr. Sara Bassem El Khatib, Non-Communicable Diseases Prevention Programs Department, MOPH

Dr. Alia Satti, Clinical Lead for Developmental Pediatrics, Sidra Medicine

Dr. Hana Al Dhaibani, Pediatric Fellow, Sidra Medicine

