

FIFA World Cup 2022: State of Qatar

From November 20 to December 18, 2022, the State of Qatar hosted the 22nd edition of the FIFA World Cup 2022, the first edition of the tournament to be hosted in the Middle East and Arab World. More than 1.4 million fans from across the world visited Qatar for the event. Being the first FIFA World Cup to be hosted in the Middle East, the tournament represented a tremendous opportunity for the region to welcome and connect with billions of people from across the globe to showcase its unique identity and culture and build new bridges of understanding and social cohesion.

A key objective of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 was that it served as a catalyst for the achievement of Qatar's long-term development goals as laid out in the Qatar National Vision 2030, the National Development Strategy 2018-2022, and the implementation of the SDGs and the Paris Agreement.

Sustainability

a. Overall

The FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 was the first edition of the tournament to be certified to the international standard ISO 20121 for event sustainability management systems. New benchmarks were set with regard to long-term community use of infrastructure, seamless operations, and unparalleled services, which will have a positive impact on the way in which future editions of the FIFA World Cup and other large-scale sporting events are organized.

This was the first FIFA World Cup to feature a dedicated program to manage stadium energy, water, and waste impacts through design, construction, and operations. All eight tournament stadiums achieved Global Sustainability Assessment System building certification.

- It was a fully carbon-neutral event and aligned with the SDGs.
- All stadiums were 30% more energy efficient and consumed less water than international benchmarks (ASHRAE 90.1).
- Recycled water vapour from cooling systems in stadiums is used to irrigate the surrounding stadium landscape.
- 90% of temporary diesel generators were replaced by electric sub-stations, providing greener grid power and reducing air pollution.
- All five energy centres at FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 stadiums have GSAS Seasonal Energy Efficiency certification.
- The stadiums were designed to be reused and repurposed, with all but one of the arenas featuring demountable components. Stadium seats from six stadiums are being donated for other purposes. They can be easily disassembled, reused, and relocated thanks to their modular design.

b. Transportation

- All of the venues were accessible via public transport.
- All the stadiums were connected by the new Doha Metro, which runs on electricity using driverless trains that offer better on-time performance, reduced service traffic, and lower energy consumption. The environmental cost is far lower as well. The Doha Metro leaves a legacy not

only for the State of Qatar but also for the global community, showcasing how engineering and design can inspire, innovate, and contribute to green cities.

- Also, with regards to transportation, the FIFA World Cup 2022 had a fleet of 311 eco-friendly hybrid and electric vehicles and 10 electric buses for use as ground transport for teams, officials, and VIPs at the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022. This marks the first time that electrical vehicles have been deployed in such numbers to service event organizers.

c. Recycling

The ecological imperative to avoid, reduce, re-use, and recycle has also been a defining policy of the State of Qatar from the early planning stages, reflecting Qatar's leadership and commitment to divert all tournament waste from landfills, including tournament-wide recycling of plastic, aluminium, cardboard, paper, and glass, and composting of waste food and compostable tableware at all stadiums, training camps, and other official sites. All uniforms for workforce staff and 20,000 volunteers were made from recycled materials and distributed in bags converted from signage and stadium dressing from previous events. Local charity Hifz Alnaema redistributed leftover food from stadiums and events to people in need.

d. Inclusivity

The FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 was the most accessible tournament in history, and it was extremely accessible for persons with disabilities: mobility assistance, accessible transport, parking, facilities, and five ticket types for disabled people and people with limited mobility; Audio-descriptive commentary in English and, for the first time, Arabic, for blind and partially sighted people to enjoy matches in the live stadium atmosphere; For the first time, there were sensory rooms for people with sensory access requirements to allow them to attend a match without becoming overwhelmed by the sounds and stimuli of match day. This is an example and a legacy to be followed in other mega-sport events.

e. Human Impact

A diverse group comprising around 20,000 skilled, multilingual, and motivated volunteers helped to deliver the FIFA World Cup while showcasing the true spirit of Qatar. More than 400,000 volunteer applications were submitted for a program that involved a rigorous selection and training process. The selected volunteers represented a spectacularly diverse mix of 150 nationalities and involved participants from all walks of life who ranged in age from 18 to 77. It was one of the most successful programs in terms of social cohesion and bridging cultures.

f. Legacy, Generation Amazing, and Lasting Social Impact

Through the Generation Amazing Foundation, as an outcome of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, a series of programs were created to empower women, children, and young people across the region and the world. Just in 2022, Generation Amazing programs reached and impacted the lives of 1 million people around the world.

At the centre of the Generation Amazing strategy is a true driver of positive social change, broadening opportunities for all through sports.

- For instance, as it enters its post-World Cup life, the Education City Stadium will become a hub for women's sporting involvement and for programs and facilities geared toward providing pathways

for women and girls at all levels of sports, from grassroots to school to professional to elite. Within the stadium, health and wellbeing will be intertwined with knowledge, inclusivity, and innovation. The Education City Stadium was not only built for a World Cup; it was built for lasting social impact.

- Another program is the GA Community Clubs, which stand as safe havens for all, irrespective of sex, age, race, ability, or religion. They function both as a football development platform and a hub for learning and social enterprise. These clubs foster active youth participation at every organizational tier, from managerial decision-making to hands-on activity involvement. This ensures that the youth play an integral role in a sustainable, cohesive plan geared towards achieving core developmental goals centred on social cohesion.
- The Generation Amazing also introduced the first-ever Youth Festival 2022 and an international school exchange program alongside the FIFA World Cup. Schools from 32 participating nations engaged in a year-long exchange program. As part of this program, students had the opportunity to participate in virtual educational workshops. These workshops focused on sports for development training, helping them to develop essential life skills and address social issues prevalent in their communities. During the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, the festival welcomed these students to Doha for in-person physical training and tournaments, exclusively designed to implement their lessons from the program. This proved to be the largest edition of the festival, promoting international cooperation and cultural understanding.

g. SDGs

An important moment during the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 was the SDG moment, which was a massive campaign during the World Cup to promote and present the SDGs to the world from Qatar. It depicted the universal values of football—airplay, inclusion, solidarity, diversity, and teamwork—as critical to achieving the SDGs.

h. Workers

The State of Qatar was committed to safeguarding the rights and welfare of workers engaged in the FIFA World Cup 2022, leaving a legacy of world-class standards and practices for work in Qatar and internationally.