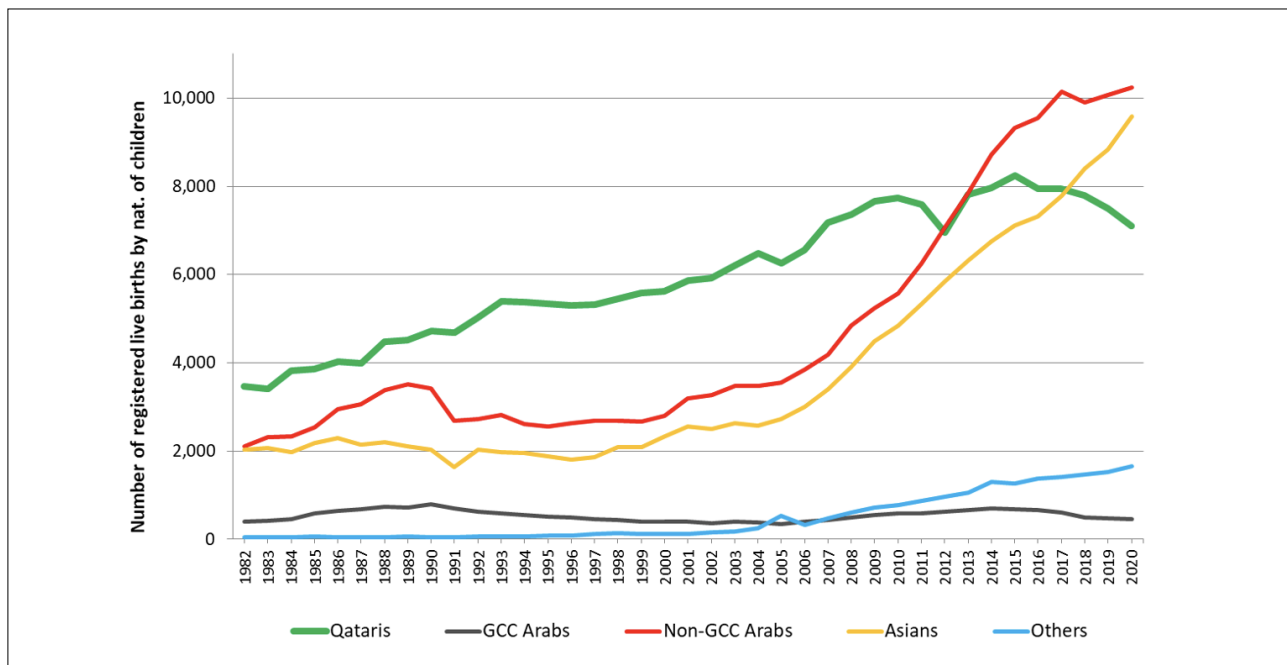# Qataris Make Up Only a Quarter of All Births

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Qatar is a multicultural society, where an estimated 88 percent of its residents are foreign nationals. A rare source of data disaggregated by origin in the country shows the distribution of births by nationality group of the child, highlighting Qatar's unique demographic setup - three-quarters of the 29,000 babies born in Qatar in 2020 were foreign nationals. However, the absence of jus solis (birth right citizenship) in the Gulf States, means that these children are not endowed with any socio-economic or political claim in the country.

Registered live births by nationality group of children (Qatar, 1981-2020)

Source: Bulletin of Vital Statistics, given years, Qatar Planning and Statistics Authority - https://www.psa.gov.qa/.

After decades of steady increase, the number of Qatari births started declining in 2015. Despite governmental pro-natalist policies, Qatari women gave birth to 2.5 children on average in 2020, down from 5.8 in the mid-1980s. The numbers of Qatar-born Arab and Asian babies, after sharply declining during the 1990s in the aftermath of the First Gulf War, rose steadily from the beginning of the 2000s alongside the growing stocks of foreign residents. For two decades now, the share of Qatari births stands below 50 percent of all births.

Births of Asian countries' nationals in Qatar rose markedly since the early 2000s, and the number of Arab births shot up since 2011 (+10 percent annually between 2011 and 2015). The war in Syria doubled the number of Syrians recorded in Qatar, from 25,000 before the conflict to around 54,000 around 2015, according to Qatari authorities' press statements. The stagnation of the number of Arab births in the country since 2017 may be a consequence of the diplomatic crisis between Qatar and a coalition of other Gulf and Arab states, which may have changed hiring regulations for nationals from Egypt and other Arab countries having sided against Qatar.