

Qatar's FinTech Ecosystem: Trends and Opportunities

invest
Qatar



مركز قطر للمال
Qatar Financial Centre

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FOREWORD



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The global financial technology, commonly referred to as FinTech, is rapidly evolving, driven by widespread digital transformation. The FinTech industry revenue is projected to reach \$1.5 trillion in 2030, marking a fivefold increase. This significant growth is primarily fueled by increased digital access worldwide, with internet and mobile connectivity playing a crucial role. Emerging markets are expected to make a substantial contribution to this expansion, as FinTech continues to bridge gaps in traditional banking systems and serve large, underbanked populations. The FinTech industry in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region is flourishing, driven by key factors such as a young, tech-savvy population, a booming e-commerce sector, and supportive government regulations. Islamic FinTech is experiencing rapid growth, offering Sharia-compliant financial solutions to meet the increasing demand for ethical and interest-free banking.

Qatar has made significant strides in building a sustainable and competitive FinTech ecosystem. The journey began with establishing the Qatar National FinTech Taskforce in 2017, followed by the launch of the National FinTech Strategy in 2019 and the Qatar FinTech Hub (QFTH) in 2020. Qatar's FinTech sector has rapidly advanced through its national strategy, supported by enabling regulations and dedicated innovation hubs. Key achievements include a 581% surge in FinTech funding in 2024, the successful implementation of a regulatory sandbox, and the expansion of digital transaction payments projected to reach \$8.5 billion by 2030. These efforts position Qatar

as a growing regional FinTech hub aligned with its Vision 2030 goals. In 2023, Qatar Central Bank (QCB) introduced an updated FinTech Strategy to drive further innovation and diversification. Qatar hosted the Web Summit in both 2024 and 2025. As the world's largest technology conference, the event further reinforced Qatar's position as a hub for digital innovation. During the event, Startup Qatar, an initiative of Invest Qatar, was launched to support startups, attracting over 500 firms and awarding \$18 million in funding to 15 global startups. FinTech startups ranked among the top five clusters of registered firms, highlighting the sector's strong momentum.

Qatar Financial Centre (QFC), in partnership with QCB, Qatar Development Bank (QDB) and QFTH, is expanding Qatar's FinTech sector beyond payments, attracting leaders in Islamic FinTech, Regulatory Technology (RegTech), and other related fields. At the Web Summit in 2024, over 348 firms were licensed under the QFC, including 32 FinTechs, with more in the process. New FinTechs established on the QFC platform benefit from incentives during their first year, including the waiver of application fees and first-year registration fees, and rent-free workspace.

This report examines global and regional FinTech trends, providing a detailed analysis of Qatar's rapidly evolving FinTech ecosystem. It highlights key national strategies, initiatives and value propositions, serving as a comprehensive guide for stakeholders seeking to navigate the dynamic FinTech landscape.

GLOBAL FINTECH MARKET IS THRIVING, DRIVEN BY INNOVATION AND A STRONG DEMAND FOR FINANCIAL INCLUSION

The global FinTech landscape is undergoing rapid transformation, with revenues projected to surge fivefold by 2030, driven by innovations like digital payments lending, Artificial Intelligence (AI), cryptocurrency, Insurance Technology (InsurTech), and financial inclusion, and supported by evolving regulations.

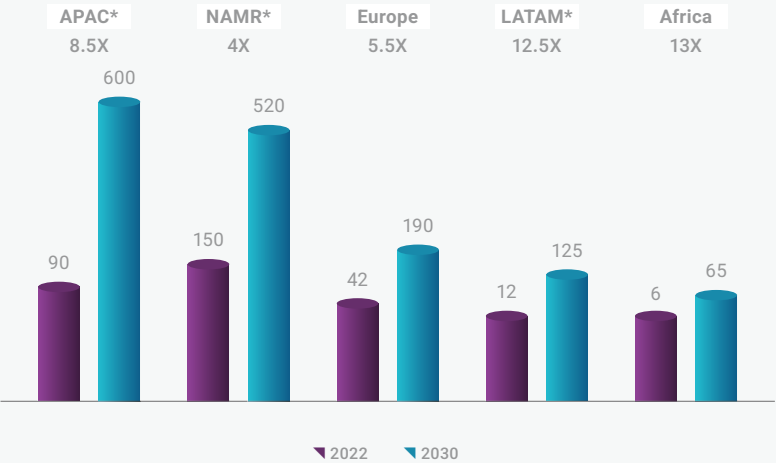
Digital adoption is accelerating globally, with consumer behaviour shifting toward mobile-first financial services. In mature markets like North America and Europe, FinTech continues to grow in areas like digital banking. Meanwhile, emerging markets are rapidly catching up, fueled by a digitally savvy young population, expanding internet access and a rising middle class.

The growth potential in the Asia-Pacific (APAC) region is noteworthy. Similarly, Latin America (LATAM) and Africa are seeing fast growth, with revenues projected to rise. In the Middle East, particularly in Qatar, FinTech is gaining momentum. Qatar's investments in digital infrastructure and regulatory frameworks are driving innovation, positioning it as a key player in the FinTech space. As these trends continue, FinTech will reshape financial services globally, creating new opportunities and challenges.

Global FinTech revenue (\$Bn) and shares by region



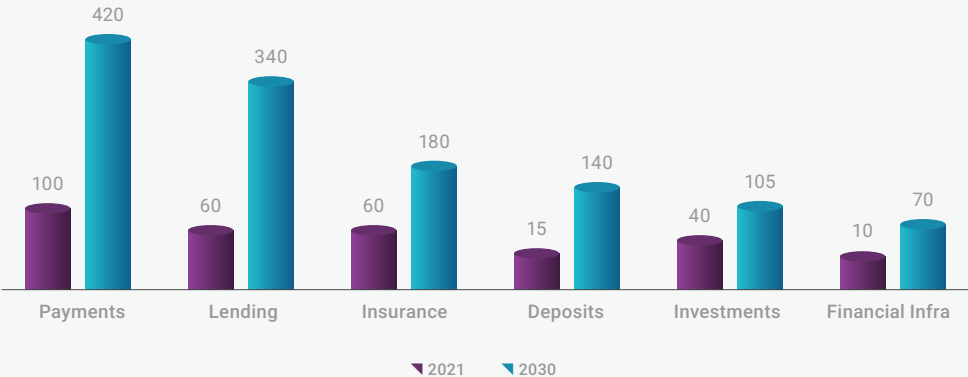
FinTech market share by region (\$Bn)



*Asia-Pacific (APAC), North America (NAMR), Latin America (LATAM)
Source: WEF, BCG, Team Analysis

DIGITAL PAYMENTS AND DIGITAL LENDING ARE EXPECTED TO DOMINATE THE GLOBAL FINTECH INDUSTRY IN THE COMING YEARS

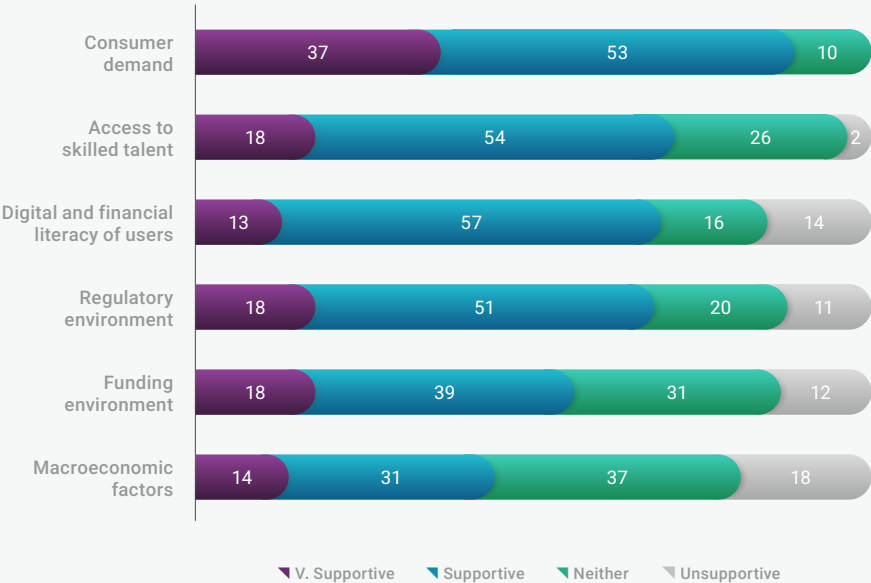
Global FinTech projected revenue share by product segments (\$Bn)



Share1 (%)	35%	21%	21%	5%	14%	4%
% Change2	320%	467%	200%	833%	163%	600%







- Digital payments and lending are expected to remain the largest FinTech segments by 2030, while neo-banking, Insurtech, wealthtech and financial infrastructure are projected to be the fastest-growing areas.
- These trends are driven by the increasing demand for convenient, digital financial solutions and the expansion of tech-driven services across the globe.

Factors impacting FinTech growth



- Consumer demand, digital financial literacy and skilled talent remain key drivers of FinTech growth, while macroeconomic conditions and low user literacy are the main barriers.

DEVELOPING ECONOMIES ARE RISING FAST IN FINTECH, WHILE TRADITIONAL MARKETS MAINTAIN THEIR LEAD

	# FinTech (as of July 2024)	Growth % (2019-2024*)	Funding (\$) (June'19-June'24)	# Deals (June'19-June'24)	# Unicorns (as of June'24)	# Soonicorns (as of 2025)
	39,065	10%	\$218 bn	7,266	131	222
	14,576	10%	\$71 bn	2,339	28	29
	12,370	12%	\$26 bn	2,479	24	44
	4,535	10%	\$11 bn	621	7	11
	4,082	6%	\$9 bn	372	3	4
	4,010	5%	\$13 bn	520	22	41

- Developed countries dominate FinTech due to mature ecosystems, robust financial infrastructure and access to capital, fostering innovation and rapid growth.
- Emerging markets in Southeast Asia, Latin America and Africa are witnessing rapid FinTech expansion, fueled by supportive government policies, improved mobile infrastructure and increasing demand from the growing middle class.
- A renewed emphasis on leveraging FinTech to address financial inequality in emerging markets is also one of the key trends driving the sector's growth.

FOUR KEY TRENDS ARE EXPECTED TO SHAPE THE FUTURE OF FINTECH GLOBALLY



Embedded Finance

Embedded finance by 2030



Insurance Lending Payment

\$7.2 tr



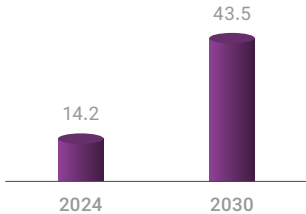
Key applications and opportunities:

- Enhance the customer experience.
- Increase client retention and loyalty.
- Drive significant ROI through modernised financial solutions.



Artificial Intelligence (AI) & Machine Learning

Global AI in FinTech market (\$ Bn)



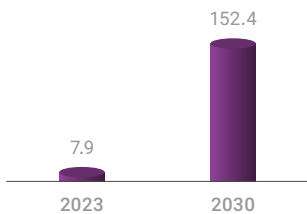
Key applications and opportunities:

- AI-powered budgeting and expense tracking.
- Automated investment advisory (Robo-Advisors).
- Personalised financial planning.
- Smart bill management and payment automation.



Insurance Technology (InsurTech)

Global InsurTech market (\$ Bn)



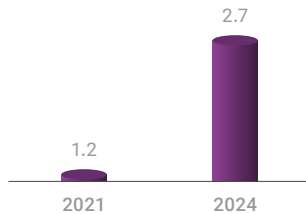
Key applications and opportunities:

- Offer personalised, low-cost insurance at checkout or within apps.
- Expand insurance to underserved users through digital platforms.



Climate FinTech

Funding volume (\$ Bn)

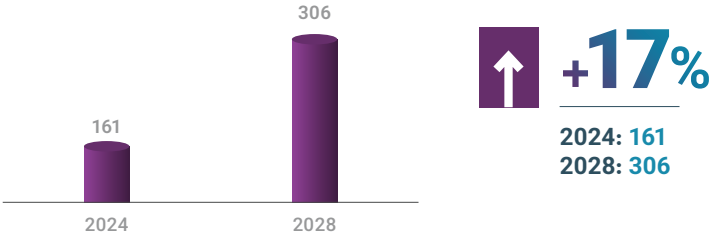


Key applications and opportunities:

- Provide tools such as carbon tracking, Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) investing, green loans and carbon credit platforms.
- Offer ESG compliance, reporting and risk assessment tools.

ISLAMIC FINTECH IS A RAPIDLY GROWING SEGMENT, DRIVEN BY INCREASING DEMAND FOR SHARIA-COMPLIANT FINANCIAL SOLUTIONS

Global Islamic FinTech market (\$ Bn)



490

Total Islamic FinTech globally as of 2024

72%

of Islamic FinTech in top 5 subsectors

- While Islamic FinTech is not yet a mainstream trend in global markets, it is rapidly gaining traction, particularly in Asia and the Middle East. This growth is driven by rising demand for Sharia-compliant financial solutions, a broader shift toward ethical finance, increasing alignment with the environmental, social, and governance (ESG) principles, and supportive government policies.
- Islamic FinTech not only provides financial inclusion for underserved segments but also represents a differentiated value proposition that blends innovation with ethical financial practices, making it well-positioned to compete globally and contribute to sustainable economic development.
- In 2023-2024, the estimated global Islamic FinTech market size stood at \$161 billion, accounting for just 1.4% of the global FinTech market, based on transaction volumes and assets under management. This indicates substantial potential for growth and innovation.
- The global Islamic FinTech market is projected to grow at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 17% between 2024 and 2028, reaching approximately \$306 billion. This growth is fueled by demand for Sharia-compliant financial services, government support and accelerated digital transformation in key markets.
- Alternative finance, payments, wealth management, raising funds, deposits and lending are the top five subcategories that are dominating the growth of Islamic FinTech.

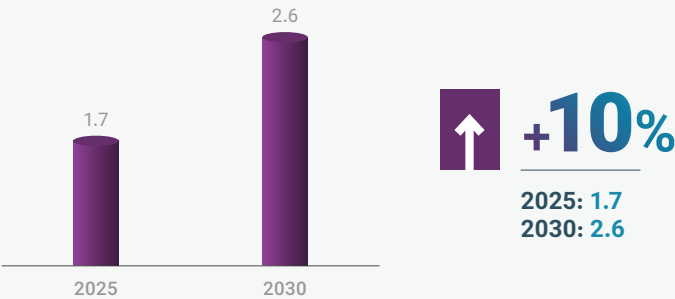
EMERGING VERTICALS SUCH AS INSURANCE CONTINUE TO OFFER UNTAPPED ISLAMIC FINTECH OPPORTUNITIES

Islamic FinTech segments	# of FinTech (as of July 2024)	MENA-GCC	Other MENA	SE ASIA	Europe
1 Alternative Finance	101	38	3	34	16
2 Payments	69	28	8	17	4
3 Wealth Management	66	23	1	18	11
4 Raising Funds	59	13	3	23	12
5 Deposits and Lending	55	12	2	11	18
6 Digital Assets	32	13		4	8
7 Enabling Technologies	26	12		13	1
8 Technology Providers	19	3		5	4
9 Insurance/Takaful	18	7	1	7	
10 Social Finance	17	1		6	3

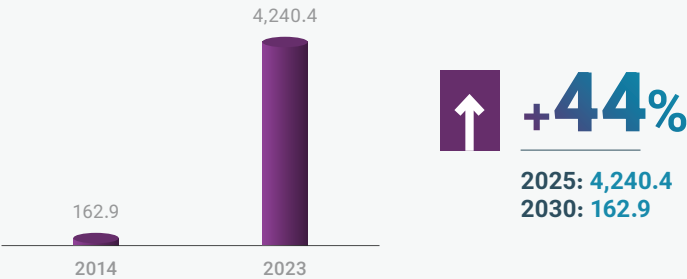
- Alternative finance is the most dominant Islamic FinTech segment globally, while social finance and technology providers are signalling opportunities for growth.
- MENA-GCC and Southeast Asia (SE Asia) are leading Islamic FinTech hubs, with MENA-GCC excelling in alternative finance, payments and wealth management, while Southeast Asia dominates in raising funds, enabling technologies and alternative finance due to strong financial inclusion and tech adoption.
- Europe shows strength in traditional Islamic FinTech segments such as deposits & lending and wealth management, but lags in innovative and enabling technologies, indicating a more conservative, compliance-driven landscape.
- Other MENA countries remain underdeveloped in Islamic FinTech, with limited presence outside payments, highlighting a need for better infrastructure, regulatory support and investment to foster growth.

MENA REGION IS POISED FOR RAPID FINTECH GROWTH, DRIVEN BY GOVERNMENT SUPPORT AND DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE ADVANCEMENTS

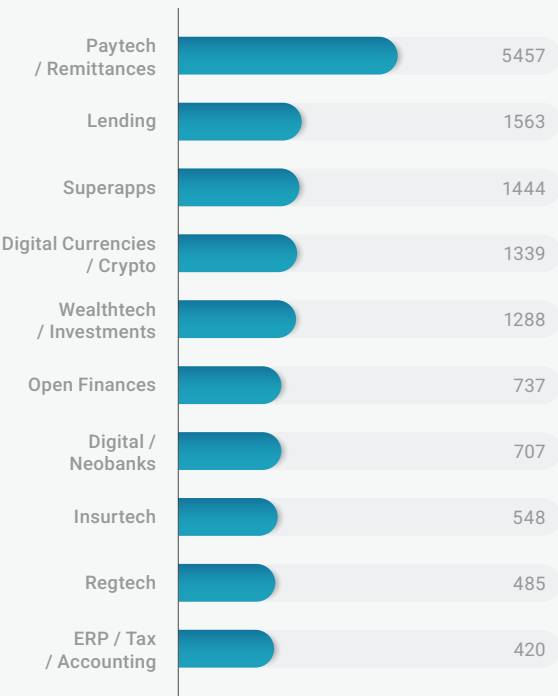
MENA FinTech market revenue (\$ Bn)



FinTech funding in the Middle East (\$ Mn)



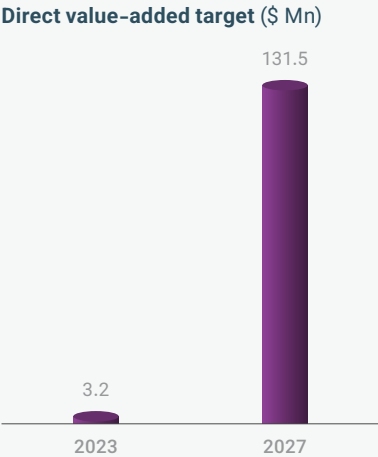
Most funded FinTech segments (\$ Mn)




- ▼ With a projected 10% CAGR in market revenue by 2030, MENA FinTech is transitioning from early-stage to scalable growth.
- ▼ Paytech and remittances dominate MENA FinTech segments, driven by a large unbanked population and high remittance flows from expats.
- ▼ Lending, superapps, crypto and wealthtech are fast-growing areas, addressing gaps in credit access, digital lifestyle integration and investment tools.
- ▼ Segments such as Regulatory technology (Regtech), ERP (Enterprise Resource Planning)/Accounting and insurtech remain underdeveloped but offer high future potential as the ecosystem matures.
- ▼ MENA's FinTech ecosystem is entering a scale-up phase, marked by strong investor interest and a growing user base. While paytech dominates, future innovation and returns may come from lending, superapps and wealthtech as the market matures.

QATAR'S FINTECH MARKET THRIVES ON STRONG FUNDING, SUPPORTIVE POLICIES AND RAPID INNOVATION

Over the next years, the number of FinTechs is expected to grow.



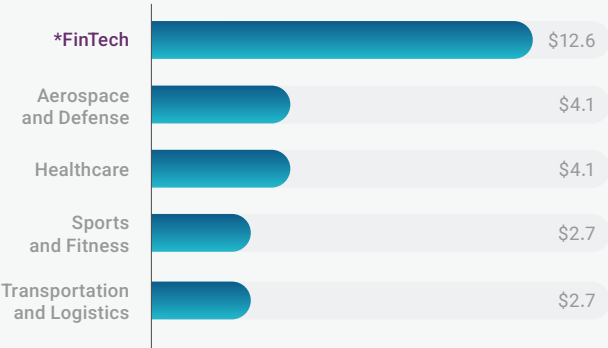
 **40x**
2023: 2.3
2027: 131.5

Supported by growing national funding initiatives, the FinTech sector leads Qatar's venture funding in 2024.

\$1 bn

Qatar Investment Authority's (QIA) Funds of Funds is expected to drive VC investments

Qatar Venture Investment Industry Comparison 2024 (\$ Mn)



*FinTech led all sectors in funding, accounting for 40% of the country's total and registering a remarkable 581% year-over-year increase in 2024.

Qatar's FinTech readiness is driving growth and creating opportunities in key areas of innovation and adoption.



Digital payments



SME-enabling tech



Insurance technology (Insurtech)



Ethical and Green FinTech



Regulatory technology (RegTech)



Islamic FinTech



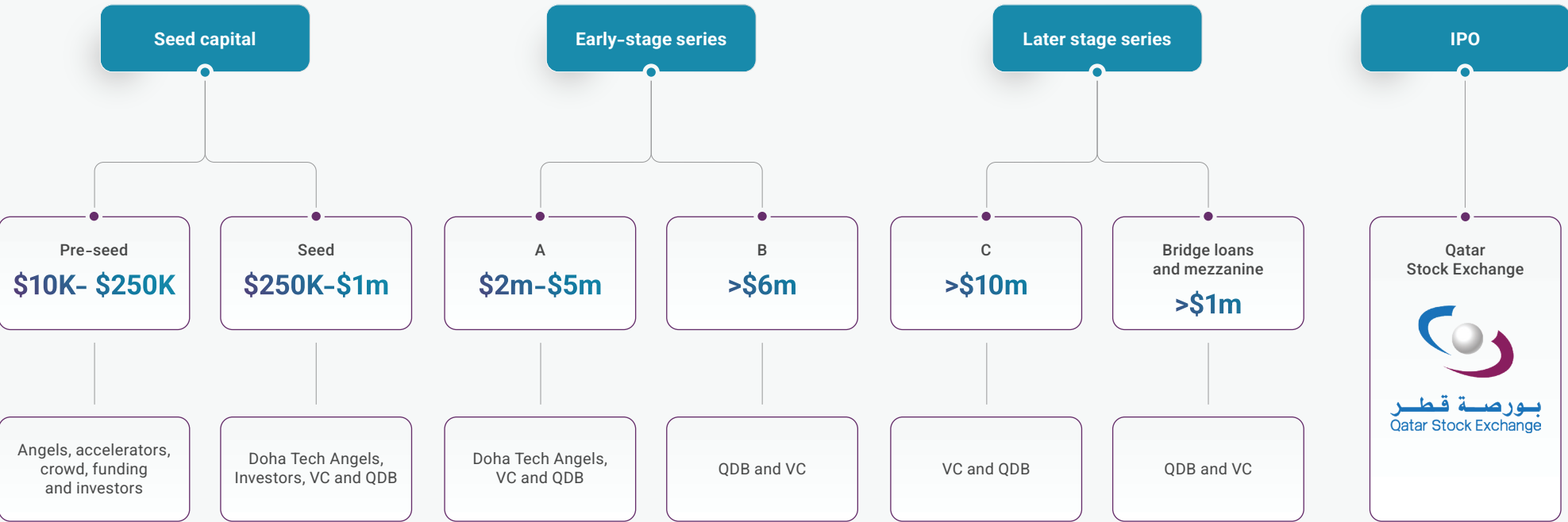
Corporate Enablement Tools
(Distributed Ledger Technology (DLT), payments, AI, Electronic Know Your Customer (eKYC), and more)



Underbanked tech
(financial inclusion - crowdfunding and embedded finance)

QATAR OFFERS END-TO-END FUNDING SUPPORT FOR FINTECHS, EMPOWERING THEIR GROWTH JOURNEY FROM EARLY-STAGE TO PUBLIC LISTING

Different funding opportunities (in US \$)



QATAR HOLDS A UNIQUE REGIONAL POSITION, BACKED BY COMPREHENSIVE AND WELL-INTEGRATED SUPPORT STRUCTURES WITHIN ITS FINTECH ECOSYSTEM



Progressive Islamic FinTech regulatory frameworks

- ▼ Buy-Now-Pay-Later (BNPL) models are being tested and scaled under ethical finance guidelines.
- ▼ Tokenisation is central to the 2024 QFC Digital Assets Framework, which sets legal grounds for smart contracts and custody, supporting QFC and QFCRA's digital asset ecosystem.



Integrated government pathways

- ▼ The QCB Sandbox allows for live-market experimentation under regulatory oversight, with a clear progression pathway to licensing.
- ▼ The QFC offers FinTech-friendly legal and tax frameworks, fast-track licensing and 100% foreign ownership, facilitating easier market entry and scale for regional and global players.



Catalysing private capital

- ▼ QIA's first venture capital Fund of Funds is a strategic initiative aimed at enhancing Qatar's venture capital ecosystem by attracting top-tier VC firms and entrepreneurs. It also seeks to generate a multiplier effect that supports the growth of early-stage FinTech and Islamic technology startups.



Structured startup enablement: From idea to scale

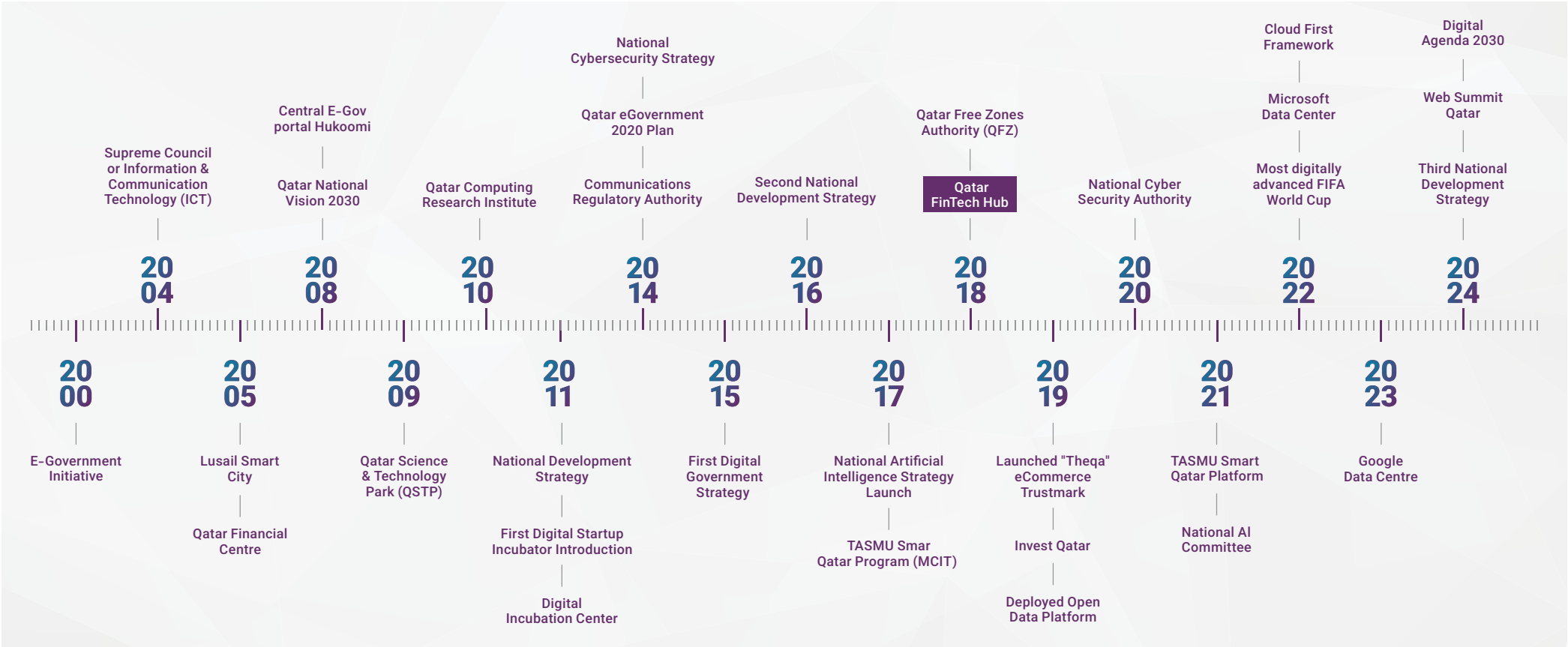
Unlike fragmented approaches elsewhere, Qatar offers a coordinated startup support system:

- ▼ Venture Builders like Alchemist Doha help validate and build early-stage ventures.
- ▼ QFTH and TASMU Accelerator provide pre-acceleration and acceleration programs for both domestic and international startups.
- ▼ Qatar Science and Technology Park (QSTP) XLR8 delivers commercialisation support for research-backed FinTech ideas.

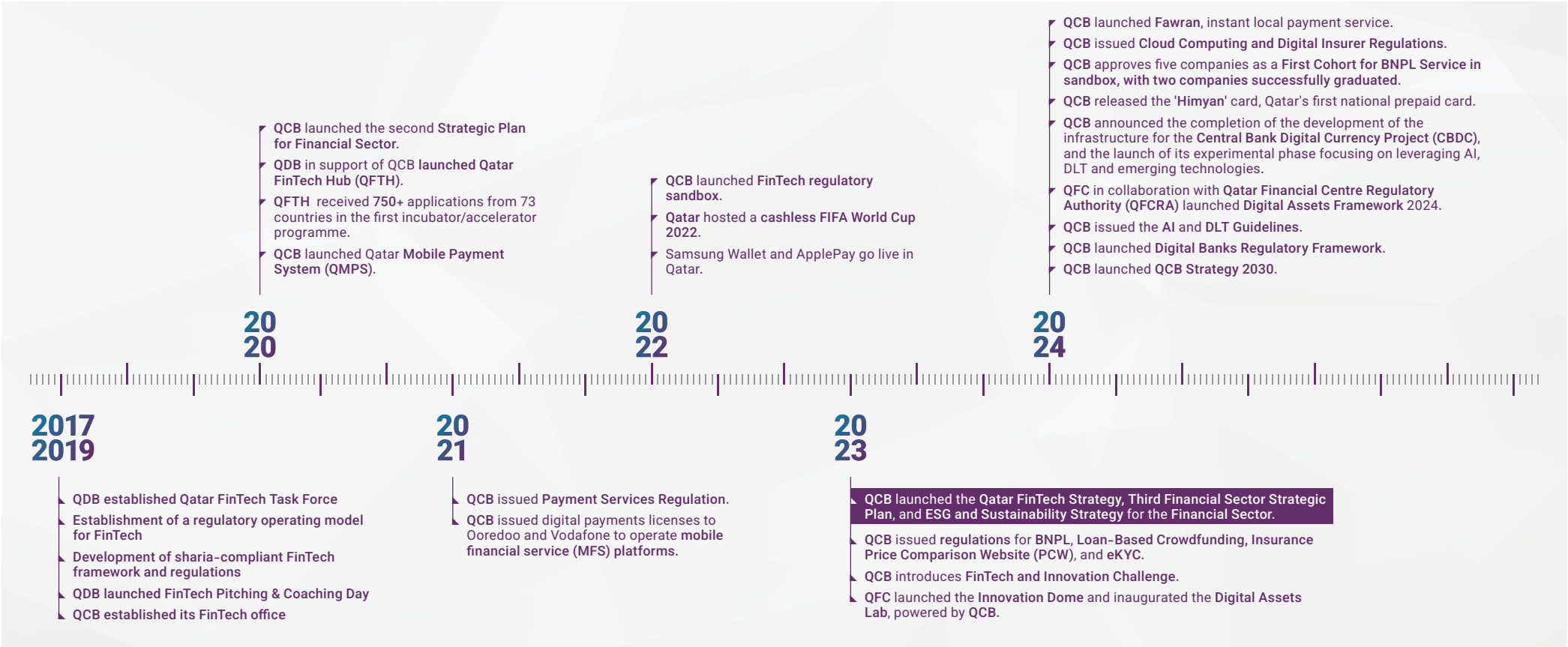


QATAR IS ACCELERATING ITS EFFORTS IN DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION, WHILE STRATEGICALLY POSITIONING ITSELF AS A LEADING FINTECH HUB IN THE MIDDLE EAST

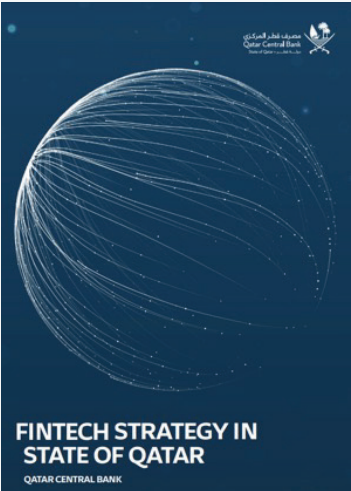
Non-Exhaustive



THROUGH TARGETED REFORMS AND REGULATIONS, QATAR IS ADVANCING ITS FINTECH JOURNEY



QATAR'S NATIONAL STRATEGIES PROVIDE A SOLID FOUNDATION FOR CULTIVATING A CONDUCTIVE ECOSYSTEM TO FOSTER FINANCIAL TECHNOLOGIES



Vision

“To enable the growth, diversification and competitiveness of Qatar’s FinTech and financial services sector by fostering market infrastructure development, FinTech Talent, FinTouch, and a focus on specific Fields of Play”

Qatar’s FinTech Strategy is centered around four strategic pillars aimed at strengthening the country’s leadership across four areas



FinTech foundation and infrastructure

Build world-class infrastructure to position Qatar as a launchpad for FinTech seeking to leverage its advanced infrastructure



Growth drivers/Focus areas

Leverage Qatar’s leadership across its core competencies to establish a distinctive niche that defines the country’s global role



FinTech talent and capability excellence

Develop a FinTech Talent Centre of Excellence to become the leader in FinTech knowledge, training and immersive learning experiences



FinTouch

Enable FinTech to touch and positively impact both citizens and corporate life, improving the overall well-being of the community



20+
Initiatives



10+
FinTech Regulations

QATAR'S NATIONAL STRATEGIES PROVIDE A SOLID FOUNDATION FOR CULTIVATING A CONDUCTIVE ECOSYSTEM TO FOSTER FINANCIAL TECHNOLOGIES

Qatar Central Bank (QCB) Strategy 2024–2030



“Qatar Central Bank Strategy 2024–2030 aims at achieving the NDS3. The Strategy sets out the QCB’s goals to advance the future of Qatar’s financial sector, and enhance financial stability, transparency, inclusion, and excellence in banking practices”

FinTech outcomes in the strategy include:

- ▼ Achieve a significant increase in the number of licensed FinTech companies
- ▼ Drive the digital transformation of financial institutions
- ▼ Ease the entry and stimulate the growth of FinTech companies



5

Initiatives



35

Projects

Third Financial Sector Strategic Plan



“Qatar Central Bank’s Third Financial Sector Strategic Plan aims to create a financial and capital market that leads the region in innovation, efficiency and investor protection and positions Qatar to unlock its full economic potential in line with the 2030 National Vision”

FinTech outcomes in the strategy include:

- ▼ Unlock the potential to excel in FinTech, Insurtech, Regtech and Suptech
- ▼ Scaled digital payments ecosystem
- ▼ Established FinTech ecosystem



30th

GFCI FinTech rank target to match top digital countries



35

Targeted minimum licensed FinTech and InsurTech players

QCB LAUNCHES REGULATORY AND EXPRESS SANDBOXES TO BOOST FINTECH INNOVATION AND MARKET GROWTH UNDER THIRD FINANCIAL SECTOR STRATEGY

QCB Regulatory Sandbox



About the sandbox:

The QCB Regulatory Sandbox is a framework for live testing innovative financial technologies in a controlled environment.



Entry criteria:

Innovation scope, consumer benefits, consumer protection, market readiness, clear testing, track record & financial soundness.



Who can apply:

Eligible applicants include financial institutions, startups and tech firms offering innovative solutions under QCB regulation.



Programme duration:

Entities in the Regulatory Sandbox operate within a defined scope and a timeframe of up to 12 months.

QCB Express Sandbox



About the sandbox:

The Express Sandbox is a fast-track testing programme for market-ready solutions, designed to enable quicker entry.



Entry criteria:

It must be licensed in Qatar, partnered with a QCB licensee, licensed in different jurisdiction, or graduated from another jurisdiction's sandbox.



Who can apply:

Eligible applicants include financial institutions, startups, and tech firms offering innovative solutions under QCB regulation.



Programme duration:

Entities in the Express Sandbox operate within a defined scope and a 3-6 months timeframe.

- ✓ No administrative charges for applying to or participating in the QCB Regulatory Sandbox
- ✓ Applications to join the Regulatory Sandbox are open throughout the year

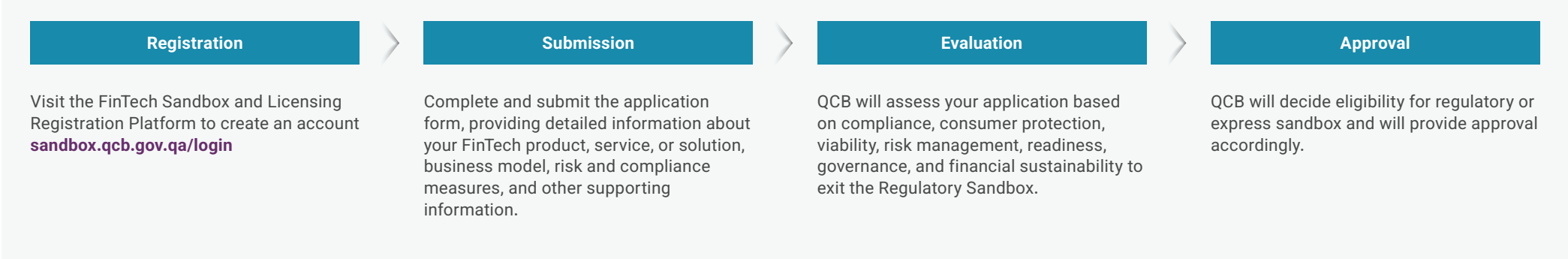
Application process to participate in the Regulatory Sandbox:

- 1 Create an account at <https://Sandbox.qcb.gov.qa/login>
- 2 Confirm account creation via e-mail
- 3 Complete the application and submit supporting documents
- 4 Undergo full evaluation by the Regulatory Sandbox team

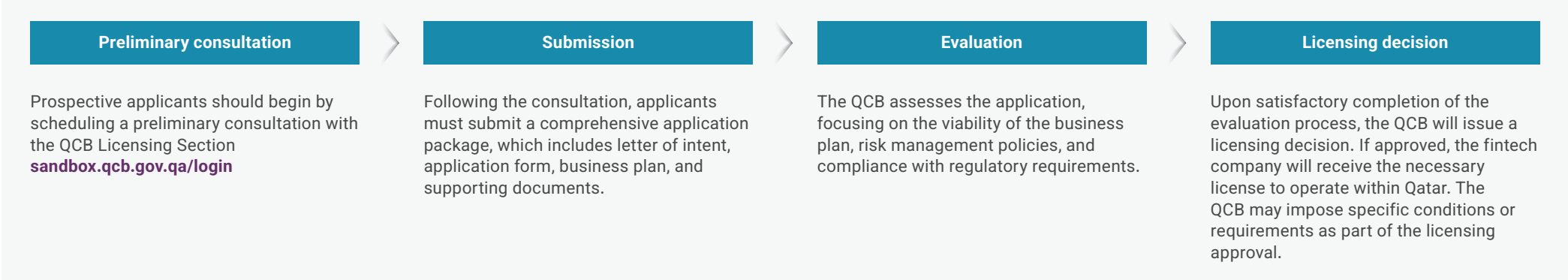
HOW TO START YOUR FINTECH JOURNEY WITH QATAR CENTRAL BANK (QCB)



1 FinTech Express Sandbox



2 QCB Licensing



* Another method is to apply for a licence
Source: QCB

QATAR OFFERS A STRONG, COLLABORATIVE AND SUPPORTIVE ECOSYSTEM THAT FACILITATES THE DEVELOPMENT OF FINTECH

Non-Exhaustive

ORCHESTRATOR



REGULATORS



LICENSORS



ACCELERATORS AND INCUBATORS



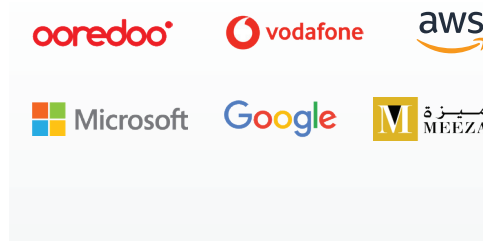
VC COMMUNITY



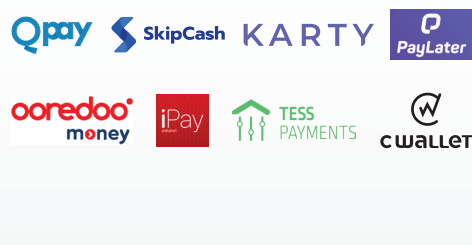
GOVERNMENT ENTITIES



TECHNOLOGY PROVIDERS



FinTech & TECH VENDORS



FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS (BANKS, INSURANCE & CAPITAL MARKET FIRMS)



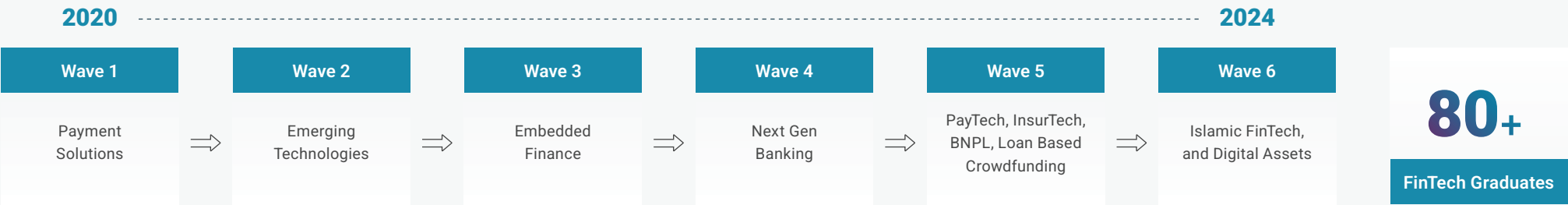
UNIVERSITIES AND RESEARCH CENTRES



QATAR FINTECH HUB OFFERS ATTRACTIVE PROGRAMMES TO FINTECH ENTREPRENEURS, AMONG MANY OTHER ENTITIES

Non-Exhaustive

Since its inception, QFTH has strategically nurtured various FinTech verticals, ranging from payment solutions to Islamic FinTech and digital assets, in alignment with Qatar's strategic priorities and the National Vision 2030.



QFTH serves as a key enabler in advancing the Third Financial Sector Strategy and the National FinTech Strategy, being a central hub for fintech innovation and entrepreneurship. It provides comprehensive support including the following programmes:

QFTH HACKATHON



Designed to attract ambitious and innovative entrepreneurs in Qatar to create and share their creative ideas and solutions.

QFTH INCUBATOR



A 12-week programme for early-stage FinTech with an MVP, offering ~\$250,000 in support, including \$40,000 investment, workshops and investor network access.

QFTH ACCELERATOR



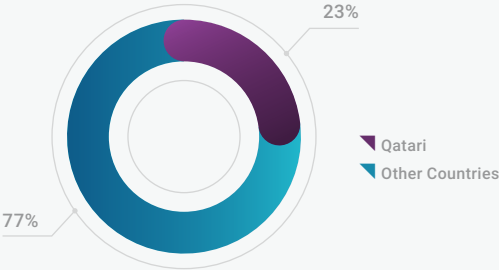
A 12-week programme for later-stage FinTech, offering ~\$300,000 in support, including \$100,000 investment, workshops and Qatar Central Bank Sandbox access.

QATAR FINTECH HUB SERVES AS A CATALYST FOR INTERNATIONAL FINTECH STARTUPS TO ESTABLISH A PRESENCE IN QATAR AND EXPAND ACROSS THE REGION

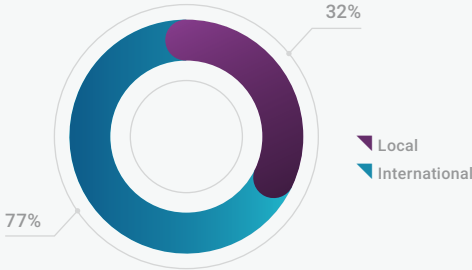
QFTH Pre-Seed Investments



Portfolio Diversification



Startups Localised



Non-Exhaustive



Ehmini is a digital platform offering embedded Takaful insurance solutions tailored for low- and middle-income expatriates in Qatar and the GCC.



InsurTech Takaful platform aims at providing social protection for 25 MM+ blue-collar workers in the GCC.



Firrock is a comprehensive digital asset technology provider, engineered to redefine security, compliance, and seamless integration in the ever-evolving digital asset ecosystem.



Kredflo is a one-shot solution for manufacturers to monitor the financial health of their distributor network and provide credit facilitation when needed.



Greenvycto is a carbon credit tokenisation platform that incentivises eco-friendly behaviours for individuals, businesses and governments.



Blade Labs transforms conventional capital into Shariah compliant investments, enhancing the efficiency of Islamic finance by reducing manual processes by 90%.

QATAR SERVES AS A LAUNCHPAD, ENABLING THE GROWTH OF BOTH LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL FINTECH COMPANIES

Non-Exhaustive

Successful localisation of international FinTech

- ▼ Qatar Development Bank (QDB) has invested the largest global Islamic FinTech, Wahed in 2024
- ▼ Wahed is a U.S.-digital Islamic investment platform and one of the world's largest Islamic FinTech companies, offering Shariah-compliant investment solutions. As the world's first automated Islamic investment platform, Wahed enables individuals to invest in a manner aligned with Islamic principles, avoiding industries such as alcohol, gambling, and firearms.



Successful locally grown FinTech

- ▼ Alongside attracting global leaders like Wahed, Qatar is also cultivating a thriving community of homegrown FinTech innovators. Notable among these are TESS Payments, Noqoody, and SkipCash, which have emerged as strong local players across different FinTech segments.
- ▼ These locally developed FinTech companies reflect Qatar's growing capacity to produce innovative, market-ready digital financial solutions.





THE QATAR FINANCIAL CENTRE (QFC) IS A LEADING ONSHORE BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL CENTRE, OFFERING A WORLD-CLASS BUSINESS PLATFORM FOR BOTH LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL FIRMS TO OPERATE IN QATAR AND EXPAND INTO OTHER MARKETS.

>2,400

Firms have chosen the QFC as their preferred registration platform

> 12,000

Talented individuals within the QFC community

> 120

Countries from which QFC entities originate

QFC WELCOMES ENTERPRISES OF ALL SIZES AND SECTORS, ADVANCING DOHA AS A LEADING HUB FOR BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND WEALTH MANAGEMENT



Regulated activities



Banking



Asset
management



Insurance /
reinsurance



Islamic
finance



Representative
office



Alternative
finance



Fund administration, fund advisory and
fiduciary businesses

Non-regulated activities



FinTech



Professional
services



Ship broking and
shipping agents



Classification services, investment
grading and other grading services



Provision, formation, operation
and administration of companies



Company headquarters, management offices and treasury operations and other related
functions for all kinds of business, and the administration of companies generally

PORTFOLIO OF TOP CLIENTS COMPRISING LEADING TECH, MEDIA AND LOCAL FIRMS



>2,400

Registered Firms



QFC INNOVATION DOME

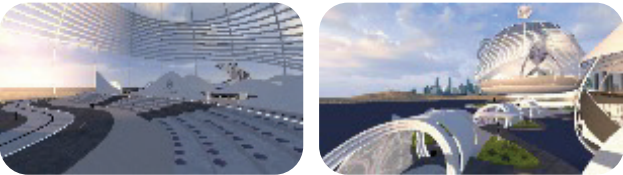


The QFC Innovation Dome is the future of innovation in Qatar. It is a visionary platform where **FinTech firms**, corporates, and innovators converge to co-create and explore new horizons.

Initiatives under QFC Innovation Dome:

QFC Metaverse

QFC Metaverse is a virtual space designed to revolutionise business engagement, collaboration and innovation, developed as part of the QFC Innovation Dome.



For more information: metaverse.qfc.qa

Digital Assets Lab

The Digital Assets Lab aims to foster innovation, research, and development within the Digital Assets and Distributed Ledger Technology (DLT) space.



ALT DRX

evergon

arca-x

DMZ

itoo

Blockchain

BLADE LABS

BlockStead

DAI

ALFA

elbs

HALLO

mintus

Ryzer

Blockchain

OOFI

PARTIOR

Firrock

polygon

TAURUS

PropTech

SettleMint

VERITY

CAISIA

ScieNFT

SurferMonkey

rootVX

DAVID

stobox

For more information: qfc.qa/digital-assets-lab

As of Apr 2025

QATAR OFFERS FOREIGN INVESTORS A PROMISING AND SUPPORTING ECOSYSTEM THAT ENABLES FINTECH TO THRIVE



Digital adoption

- Qatar boasts 100% internet penetration and the world's highest mobile internet speed.
- Ranked 3rd globally on the ICT Development Index (ITU 2023).
- A digitally supportive ecosystem, including the Digital Centre of Excellence, Qatar Smart Program, and Innovation Lab, is backed by fiber-optic networks and data centres.
- The advanced national payment system (QPS) enables secure, real-time transactions via RTGS and SWIFT.
- Digital KYC adoption gaining momentum, driven by the Qatar Central Bank (QCB)'s e-KYC Regulation introduced in 2023.



Dedicated programmes

- Fast-tracked QCB sandbox and licensing pathways.
- Qatar Investment Authority's (QIA) VC Fund of Funds invests over \$1bn to drive innovation in FinTech and other sectors.
- Startup Qatar, by Invest Qatar, offers funding, mentorship and support for startups.
- QFC's Digital Assets Lab provides FinTech companies a platform to develop, test and scale digital asset solutions in a supportive environment.
- QFTH's offerings across investment facilitation, pre-seed grants, subsidised office space, pilot partnerships, licensing support, mentorship and residency programmes.



Access to talent

- 1st in attracting international students, globally, INSEAD Global Talent Competitiveness Index 2023.
- 8th ease in finding skilled employees, globally, INSEAD Global Talent Competitiveness Index 2023.
- 8 universities, offering dedicated programmes.
- Extensive R&D support is offered from renowned universities and research centres (i.e. Qatar Computing Research Institute) to drive digital technology and innovation.



Regulatory support

- QCB has introduced progressive FinTech and innovation regulatory frameworks, with over 10 regulations issued across various areas to date.
- QCB Regulatory Sandbox: Allows FinTech's to test innovative products in a controlled environment before full market entry.
- QFCA and QFCRA Digital Assets Framework (2024): Regulates tokenisation, smart contracts and digital asset custody, with legal recognition of token ownership.
- Direct Integration with National Payment Systems enables FinTech to access NAPS and QPay directly, streamlining digital payment services.

QFC OPERATES WITHIN ITS OWN LEGAL, TAX AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK, OFFERING COMPETITIVE BENEFITS, INCLUDING OPERATIONAL SUPPORT, ROBUST REGULATORY OVERSIGHT



and efficient judicial processes, all designed to streamline business operations in Qatar.

 **100%**
foreign ownership

 **100%**
repatriation of profits

 **0%**
withholding tax


 Competitive
tax system*

 English
common law

 One stop
shop

 No currency
restrictions

 Employment dispute
resolution centre**

 No minimum
capital

*10% corporate tax on locally sourced profits

**Accredited by the International Labor Organization (ILO)



INVEST QATAR'S \$1 BILLION INCENTIVES PROGRAMME

Through tailored incentives aligned with the Third National Development Strategy (NDS3), Invest Qatar provides the tools and support needed to accelerate business success across key growth sectors.



Advanced Industries

Objectives

- Expand advanced technology use to boost value-added output and high-skilled jobs in advanced manufacturing.

Eligible activities

- New investments in manufacturing leveraging advanced technologies.
- Expansion, modernisation, or digitisation of existing manufacturing facilities.
- Advanced manufacturing, pharmaceuticals & chemicals, automotive.



Logistics

Objectives

- Strengthen Qatar's role as a global logistics hub by supporting automation, expansion and high-value logistics operations.

Eligible activities

- Development of logistics infrastructure including service hubs and fulfillment centres.
- Expansion, modernisation or digitisation of facilities.
- Warehousing and storage, re-export and distribution hubs.
- Expanding the service footprint of logistics facilities through digital freight or last mile delivery solution.



Technology

Objectives

- Accelerate Qatar's digital economy by attracting tech firms and building talent in emerging technology domains.

Eligible activities

- Establishment of **technology hubs** and digital infrastructure.
- Expansion or modernisation into **emerging areas** such as cybersecurity, data centers, cloud services, AI and data analytics, semiconductors and quantum computing.



Financial Services

Objectives

- Position Qatar as a leading regional financial hub by attracting institutions that enhance financial innovation and talent.

Eligible activities

- Establishment or expansion of regional or global operations for financial institutions in Lusail.
- Introduction and expansion of innovative financial services and **fintech platforms**.

Notes:

Eligible expenditures: Capital expenditures and Operational Expenditure. Access more details [here](#)

Full list of eligible activities: Access full list of eligible activities for each sector: [Advanced Industries](#), [Logistics](#), [Technology](#) and [Financial Services](#)

Learn more: invest.qa/incentives

SETTING UP YOUR BUSINESS IN QFC



LICENSE IN
24 HOURS
MINIMUM



3
EASY
STEPS

*Subject to the QFC requirements

The QFC's expert team provides **free and confidential advice** to potential investors, helping them uncover how Qatar can play a role in their global business strategy by offering strategic insights and comprehensive support at every stage of their business establishment journey.

Each business is assigned a dedicated relationship manager who guides them through the registration, licensing and operational setup processes with personalised support and expertise.

For more details, please refer to [Your Guide to QFC](#)

HOW INVEST QATAR CAN HELP YOU

Invest Qatar works closely with you to understand your objectives, connect you with the right stakeholders and resources and support you through the investment process to ensure your long-term success in Qatar.

Our Services



Information on the business and regulatory environment



Information on investment opportunities



Connections to relevant organisations in the investment ecosystem



Support for investors, from setup assistance to facilitation of incentives



Introduction to strategic partners

Qatar, Exciting Opportunities Await

Contact: info@invest.qa | Tel: +974 4496 7575 | www.invest.qa



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www.invest.qa



Statement of Non-Commercial Collaboration

This joint report has been prepared through a collaborative effort between Invest Qatar and Qatar Financial Authority (QFC). The information, findings and recommendations presented herein reflect the combined expertise and contributions of both entities. It is important to note that this collaboration is rooted in a non-commercial partnership, with the shared goal of advancing knowledge and raising awareness about Qatar's FinTech Ecosystem in Qatar.

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