

National Committee
on Sustainable Development Goals



اللجنة الوطنية
لأهداف التنمية المستدامة



EXCELLENCE IN IMPLEMENTATION

SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS





The UAE places the SDGs at the core of its work domestically and abroad. Since its inception in 1971, the UAE has fostered an approach of giving and generosity by extending foreign assistance to communities and countries in need. The UAE's foreign assistance aims to enhance global peace, prosperity and eradicate poverty in all its forms everywhere by placing the SDGs and fostering global partnerships at the core.

**His Highness Sheikh Abdullah
bin Zayed Al Nahyan**
Minister of Foreign Affairs
and International Cooperation





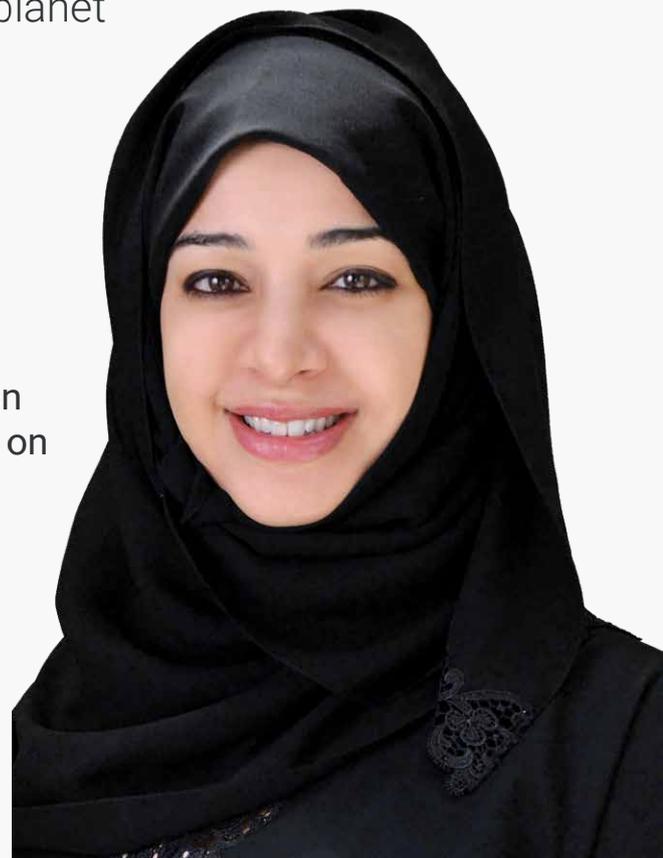
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The SDGs were the heart of Expo 2020 - Dubai. In accordance with the theme 'Connecting Minds, Creating the Future', Expo 2020 provided a unique and profound global opportunity to bridge divides, celebrate diversity, and drive collective action for a better tomorrow. It was a privilege and a responsibility to bring the world together, to inspire compassion, passion, and action for humanity and our planet to thrive. For the UAE, the realisation of the 2030 Agenda is only a beginning. We consider these goals part of our national development outcomes in the coming years. Actions drive impact, and impact drives results. With conscientious efforts and unwavering ambitions, the UAE is translating its passion into action to ensure that humanity and the planet thrive for generations to come.

**Her Excellency Reem bint Ebrahim
Al Hashimy**

Minister of State for International Cooperation
Chairwoman of the UAE National Committee on
SDGs

Director General of Expo 2020 - Dubai
President of the Global Councils on SDGs





The SDGs are rooted in the UAE's commitment to its international responsibility as well as its national vision. It is a collective, responsible, and informed mindset that will transform the planet, our home, into a place where each one of us is empowered. Globally, through robust partnerships, data-driven decisions, transparency, governance, and knowledge sharing, we can achieve the pinnacle of sustainability while keeping progress at the forefront. We are dedicated to strengthening our commitments to the SDGs and amplifying measurable efforts through partnerships, national and international platforms, and milestones in the journey towards 2030 and to fully realising our roadmap to our centennial in 2071 and beyond.

His Excellency Abdulla Nasser Lootah

Director General of the
UAE Prime Minister's Office
Vice-chair of the UAE's National
Committee on SDGs





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Introduction

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has delivered its first Voluntary National Review in 2018, stating the country's strong advocacy for the formulation of the 2030 Agenda. The UAE remains committed to the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, through alignment and integration of the global goals within national development and planning policies. In addition, the UAE has been at the forefront of adopting a multi-stakeholder approach to ensure the implementation of the SDGs, and to leave no one behind. This is being accomplished through the institutional governance mechanism that ensures cross-sectoral stakeholder engagement.

The UAE is committed to actively participating in the High-Level Political Forum's Voluntary National Review (HLPF-VNR) in a periodic manner, to share lessons learned from challenges, and also best practices and mechanisms to overcome these challenges.

This report examines the mechanisms in place in the UAE to oversee the implementation of the SDGs by reviewing key national partners and stakeholders, sharing success stories, and highlighting the major progress made in each goal, including performance, policies, challenges, celebrations, and initiatives.

In recent years, the UAE has been at the forefront of catalyzing change agents for an inclusive, prosperous, and sustainable global future. The UAE host multiple international events that positions the SDGs at the heart of its execution plans, whilst technology is being adopted to accelerate the implementation of the SDGs at the national level. In return, multiple technologies, initiatives, and programs drive sustainable development at the national, regional, and global levels.





Acknowledgments

The Federal Competitiveness and Statistics Centre (FCSC), in its capacity as the Secretariat of the National Committee on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and convener of the UAE's SDG report, acknowledges the valuable contributions of the National Committee members and their support in the preparation of this report. FCSC extends its appreciation and gratitude to all federal and local entities, the private sector, academia, youth members, and contributors to the report, without which this publication would not have been possible.



PART 1





CHAPTER 1

UAE's Role in Formulating the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development



CHAPTER 1

UAE's Role in Formulating the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The process to develop the SDGs was launched by the United Nations (UN) Conference on Sustainable Development ('Rio+20') in June 2012. The idea of the SDGs was first proposed in 2011 by Colombia and Guatemala. In the run-up to Rio+20, the SDGs were championed by other countries, including Peru and the UAE. The negotiating process on the SDGs was first carried out in an Open Working Group (OWG) of the UN General Assembly (UNGA), which met 13 times in 2013-2014 and in which the UAE held a seat. The UAE participated in the OWG representing the Asia-Pacific region via a seat shared with Cyprus and Singapore. The UAE provided substantive input on issues such as energy, education, global partnership, health, water, and women's empowerment. The UAE also represented the Arab Group in these negotiations. The SDGs were finalized in August 2015, after eight sessions of intergovernmental negotiations. At the UN Sustainable Development Summit in September 2015, which formally adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the UAE highlighted access to clean energy, alongside sufficient and affordable food, quality education and healthcare, sustainable economic growth, healthy ecosystems and increased resource efficiencies, as issues that resonate strongly with the country. The UAE also pledged to 'leave no one behind' and 'shift the world onto a sustainable and resilient path'¹. Further, the UAE's Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, H.H. Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, participated in the UN Secretary General's High-Level Panel on Global Sustainability (GSP), which produced a report titled 'Resilient People, Resilient Planet' as a key input to the Rio+20 Summit. H.E. Dr. Sultan bin Ahmed Sultan Al Jaber, Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology, and H.E. Reem bint Ebrahim Al Hashimy, Minister of State for International Cooperation, also represent the UAE on the Leadership Council of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)².

¹ Permanent Mission of the UAE to the UN, 'Statement by H.E. Sheikha Lubna bint Khalid Al Qassimi', 26 September 2015

² Sustainable Development Solutions Network Leadership Council: <https://www.unsdsn.org/leadership-council>



CHAPTER 2

UAE's National Committee on Sustainable Development Goals





CHAPTER 2

UAE's National Committee on Sustainable Development Goals

1. GOVERNANCE

In January 2017, the UAE's National Committee on SDGs was formed by decree of the UAE Cabinet. Her Excellency Reem bint Ebrahim al Hashimy, Minister of State for International Cooperation, chairs the National Committee. The FCSC serves as the Secretariat of the Committee. The Ministry of Cabinet Affairs, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, and 13 other federal-level government organizations are also members and are responsible for the national implementation of the SDGs, monitoring and reporting of progress towards targets, and stakeholder engagement.



Figure 1: Members of the UAE's National Committee on SDGs





CHAPTER 2

The committee facilitates the alignment of the SDGs with government plans and undertakes regular follow-ups and progress reviews on implementation. The National Committee has a mandate to engage with relevant local and international stakeholders to promote the SDGs and align the SDGs with the UAE's national development priorities, UAE Vision 2021. The Committee also monitor and report on the indicators in accordance with the UAE's statistical capacity, and undertake regular follow-up and review on implementation.

In 2017, the Committee focused on creating the strategies necessary for the implementation of the 17 goals as well as engaging local and international stakeholders. Examples of strategies developed during 2017 include a national SDG operational strategy to kick start reporting and monitoring of data related to the SDGs and a communication strategy to engage local stakeholders and raise awareness of the SDGs in the UAE.

Since 2018, the National Committee has established supporting councils, including the UAE Private Sector Advisory Council, the SDG Young Leaders Programme, and the Global Councils on SDGs, to further accelerate the national and international implementation of the global goals. The National Committee has also further progressed its focus on identifying priority indicators through a tailored SDG Race. Members have been awarded for their contribution to the race during the SDGs Excellence in Implementation side event at the Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week (ADSW) 2020.

Members of the National Committee can be mapped to specific goals, in different roles³. Custodian agencies lead the efforts, whilst a selection of members serve as cross-cutting agencies who have a unique contribution to the success of the specific goals.

The table below details the primary roles of the agencies that are National Committee members:

National Committee Member	Role as Custodian Agency
Federal Competitiveness and Statistics Centre	Secretariat of the National Committee
Ministry of Cabinet Affairs	Cross-cutting role for state sector strategy and performance management
Ministry of Community Development	SDG 1, 10
Ministry of Climate Change and Environment	SDG 2, 12, 13, 14, 15
Ministry of Health & Prevention	SDG 3
Ministry of Education	SDG 4
Gender Balance Council	SDG 5 and cross-cutting role to ensure policy coherence on gender issues
Ministry of Energy & Infrastructure	SDG 6, 7, 11
Ministry of Human Resources & Emiratisation	SDG 8
Ministry of Economy	SDG 9
Ministry of Interior	SDG 16
Ministry of Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation	SDG 17 and cross-cutting role on international engagement
Ministry of Finance	Cross-cutting role liaising with the Central Bank
Central Bank	Cross-cutting role liaising with the Ministry of Finance
Federal Youth Authority	Cross-cutting role to ensure policy coherence for youth welfare and engagement in the implementation of the goals

³ For goals with targets relevant to multiple agencies, the National Committee member assigned the highest proportion of targets in a particular SDG to a designated custodian agency. For instance, 7 out of 12 targets in SDG 9 are mapped to the Ministry of Economy, which is assigned as the designated custodian agency for that goal.



2. IMPLEMENTATION

Over the past decade, UAE's public sector has undergone a large-scale transformation, which has resulted in the country being ranked as having one of the best performing governments globally.

Continuous national development supports the aim of ensuring that the government is agile, efficient, and a global reference for public sector administration. Driving towards achieving excellence, the government has state-of-the-art programs to ensure constant sustainable and inclusive development across federal and local levels with its people at the heart of activities and policy-making deliverables.

3. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The National Committee has developed an active engagement strategy to involve domestic and international stakeholders in the implementation of the SDGs. The Committee's communication strategy is based on three principles: Make Aware, Engage and Maintain.

The central idea is that the strategy should guide engagement with cross-sectoral stakeholders over the short, medium and long-term to ensure that there is momentum behind their combined efforts to achieve the SDGs.⁴

The National Committee has also been an active participant in international fora on sustainable development by participating or hosting high-profile events on data, policy and global partnerships and providing platforms to enhance global dialogue on the SDGs.

⁴ For detailed information on the different platforms, please review the UAE's SDG Annual Report 2017/2018 by visiting <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org>.





4. METHODOLOGY AND PREPARATION OF THE REVIEW

The National Committee is dedicated to engaging a wide range of governmental and non-government stakeholders in the annual reporting on SDGs. The preparation of the review and process for this report was organized in parallel with stakeholder engagement and outreach. Stakeholders from multiple sectors have been invited to participate in awareness sessions on the UAE's journey to implementing the SDGs and to actively contribute details of programs, initiatives, data, and success stories on themes related to the 2030 Agenda.

Since the UAE's first VNR in 2018, the Committee has hosted multiple stakeholder meetings and events, to drive SDG alignment with a unified mission: to accelerate the implementation of the global goals. Stakeholders included UAE government officials, the private sector, academia, NGOs, youth groups, international delegations and guests. Engagements with the stakeholders served as platforms for dialogue and coordination for the review and cross-sectoral implementation plans.

Year on year, stakeholders have contributed to the UAE's annual reporting structure through official annual reports, private sector-driven reports, tailored social media campaigns, and the UAE SDG Data Hub. This report features a selection of stakeholders.⁵

The UAE National Committee on SDGs, consisting of 15 federal government entities, participated in a dedicated VNR workshop to determine the status and progress made toward the SDGs and during the Global Goals Week, between 2018 and 2021. During the workshop, held on the sidelines of Expo 2020 - Dubai, the National Committee members developed content in support of the report. The focus of the workshop was to highlight best practices from public sector entities, and the journey towards implementing the global goals. Members of the SDG Young Leaders Programme have played vital roles in documenting the outcomes of the workshop.

⁵ To review additional stakeholder contributions, please visit <https://fcsc.gov.ae>



CHAPTER 3

**Mechanisms to Implement UAE's
National Development Priorities and
2030 Agenda**





CHAPTER 3

Mechanisms to Implement UAE's National Development Priorities and 2030 Agenda

The UAE has one of the best performing public sectors in the world. The UAE government is characterized by its ambitious visions for national development and a commitment to achieving high-quality economic, social, and environmental outcomes. This is achieved by a machinery of government that functions openly and transparently and is underpinned by a systematic performance framework, a highly-skilled civil service along with efficient and innovative mechanisms for the delivery of public services.

This section describes the institutional architecture that services the UAE's national development plans and, over the next 8 years, will facilitate the implementation of the SDGs as well. The UAE will leverage all aspects of this architecture to ensure that the SDGs are localized and harmonized across federal and local levels of government; that policy coherence is achieved using the mechanisms, which align national and sub-national policies; and that the enabling technologies and stakeholder relationships are deployed to their full effect to achieve the SDGs.

Report	Publisher	Indicator	Global Rank			
			2018	2019	2020	2021
		Government's responsiveness to change		3		
		(Absence of) Bureaucracy	2	1	1	1
		Adaptability of government policy	2	2	2	1
		(Absence of) Need for economic and social reforms	1	1	6	1
		Public trust in politicians		2	2	2
		Transparency of government policy	10	10	10	10

Figure 2: UAE performance in international indicators



1. UAE's INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE

The UAE is a federation of seven emirates: Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sharjah, Ajman, Umm Al Quwain, Ras Al Khaimah, and Fujairah - that united in 1971 under the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan as President, and the late Sheikh Rashid bin Saeed Al Maktoum as Vice President.

Federal and local government authorities govern the UAE across the seven emirates. The Constitution sets out their powers and roles.

The key institutions of the federal government are:

- a. Federal Supreme Council
- b. President and Vice President
- c. The Cabinet
- d. Federal National Council
- e. Federal Judicial Authority

Federal government authorities handle core sectoral strategies, policies and service delivery portfolios, including foreign relations, defence, interior policies and services, environmental policy, secondary and higher education, health, macroeconomic policy, etc.

Local governments are responsible for the delivery of municipal services such as waste management, local urban planning, land usage, sewerage, sanitation, economic licensing, local roads, public transportation, etc. in accordance with federal policies, strategies, and standards. However, each Emirate has considerable autonomy to shape its development trajectories using the UAE's national vision as a template for planning.

2. UAE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS (2014 – 2071)

a. UAE Vision 2021⁶

In accordance with the principles of the founding fathers and under the patronage of the late H.H. Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the former President of the UAE, the National Work Program was launched in 2005. This led to the development of the UAE's Vision 2021, which was launched in 2010, by H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai. The vision aimed to position the UAE among the best countries in the world by the Golden Jubilee of the Union in 2021.

In 2014, H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, launched the 'National Agenda' to guide efforts towards Vision 2021. The agenda was the result of a series of workshops ('Vision Labs') attended by over 300 officials from 90 federal and local government entities, participants from civil society organizations and the private sector and subject-matter experts from academia and research institutions.

⁶ UAE Vision 2021: <https://www.vision2021.ae/en>





Figure 3: Vision 2021 pillars and priorities

The agenda specified a wide-ranging work program centred around six national priorities and 52 National Key Performance Indicators (NKPis).

The UAE's commitment to sustainable development is at the heart of the country's vision for its future and aligns with the SDGs. As an outcome of the Vision 2021, the UAE fulfilled its goals by ranking first worldwide in 152 indicators and among the top 10 countries globally, in 425 indicators. In the year 2020, the UAE commenced shaping a comprehensive development plan for the next 50 years starting from the UAE's Golden Jubilee in 2021 until the UAE's Centennial in 2071.⁷

b. Year of preparation for the Next 50 (UAE Centennial Plan 2071)⁸

H.H. Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates, and H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, announced 2020 to be the year of preparation for the next 50 years. Themed '2020: Towards the Next 50', the year witnessed the launch of the largest national strategy to prepare the UAE for the Next 50 years and its Golden Jubilee celebrations in 2021. The federal and local government coordinated, along with individuals from all segments of the society, participation in shaping life in the UAE over the next 50 years.

Their Highnesses also announced the formation of two committees to achieve the goals of '2020: Towards the next 50'. The first committee, chaired by H.H. Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Presidential Affairs, and H.E. Mohammad bin Abdullah Al-Gergawi, Minister of Cabinet Affairs, as his deputy, is tasked to develop a comprehensive development plan for the next 50 years. The second committee, chaired by H.H. Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International

⁷ UAE Centennial Plan 2071: https://UAEnext50.ae/?page_id=117&lang=en

⁸ Year of preparation for the Next 50: https://UAEnext50.ae/?page_id=75&lang=en



Cooperation, and Her H.H. Mariam bint Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan as his deputy, oversaw preparations for the Golden Jubilee.

The 50-year Development Plan Committee is charged with preparing a comprehensive plan for development in the UAE, developing the government administrative system to make the UAE the fastest and most flexible and adaptable government to future changes, and engaging all segments of the society in shaping life in the UAE over the next 50 years. The Committee's tasks also include drawing a new economic map for the UAE and developing projects and policies to make giant leaps in the national economy. It will also work on cementing the soft power of the UAE and establishing media systems to share the UAE story with the world, bringing economic and social returns that enhance opportunities in the new economy. It shall further review the federal-local coordination system and set new mechanisms and systems to achieve integration in all sectors. Among the Committee's responsibilities is developing vital sectors including health, education, housing, transport and food security across the UAE to increase future readiness. The Committee also developed a comprehensive vision for UAE society over the next 50 years that adapts demographics, family life and cultural identity to a rapidly-changing world.

It set a new system to consolidate the UAE's global impact, especially in the humanitarian and environmental fields, enhance cooperation efforts with international organizations, and foster the values of productivity and passion for progress to prepare the new generation for the aspirations of the country in the next 50 years.

The launch of '2020: Towards the next 50' came at a turning point in UAE history, as the UAE prepared to celebrate the 50th anniversary of its union in December 2021. The UAE's Golden Jubilee marked a major milestone that calls for revamping the country's development model. Institutional efforts across the UAE will continuously be coordinated, and innovative expertise, talents and capabilities will be harnessed to design new systems for the next 50 years. A social vision will be developed to ensure engaging the whole society in shaping the future of the UAE to become the most advanced country that embraces the best wellbeing strategies worldwide.

c. UAE Centennial 2071

H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, launched UAE Centennial Plan 2071 in February 2021. It is a long-term, full-vision plan that extends for 5 decades after 2021. It forms a clear map for the long-term government work, to fortify the country's reputation and its soft power.

The UAE Centennial 2071 is based on four pillars⁹ as follows:

- 1. Future-focused government:** The objectives of the government under UAE Centennial 2071 include establishing the government of the UAE as the best government in the world, with a long-term vision and inspirational leadership

⁹ Pillars of the UAE Centennial Plan 2071: <https://u.ae/en/about-the-UAE/strategies-initiatives-and-awards/federal-governments-strategies-and-plans/UAE-centennial-2071>





that anticipates and prepares for the future. Other objectives include achieving happiness in society and spreading positive messages internally and to the world, and developing mechanisms for monitoring long-term variables in various sectors.

2. Excellent education: Regarding education, UAE Centennial 2071 highlights the importance of excellent quality of education. Certain areas of focus in education include advanced science and technology, space science, engineering, innovation and health sciences. Other educational measures include teaching students mechanisms for discovering their individual talents early. On the institutional level, educational institutions are encouraged to be incubators of entrepreneurship and innovation and to be international research centres.

3. A diversified knowledge economy: The UAE's economy is aimed to be competitive and one of the best economies worldwide. This can be achieved by increasing the productivity of the national economy, support of national companies, investing in scientific research and promising sectors, focusing on innovation, entrepreneurship and advanced industries, and developing a national strategy to shape the future of the UAE's economy and industry, and place the UAE among international important economies. A knowledge economy can be achieved by a generation of UAE inventors and scientists by supporting them in technical sciences.

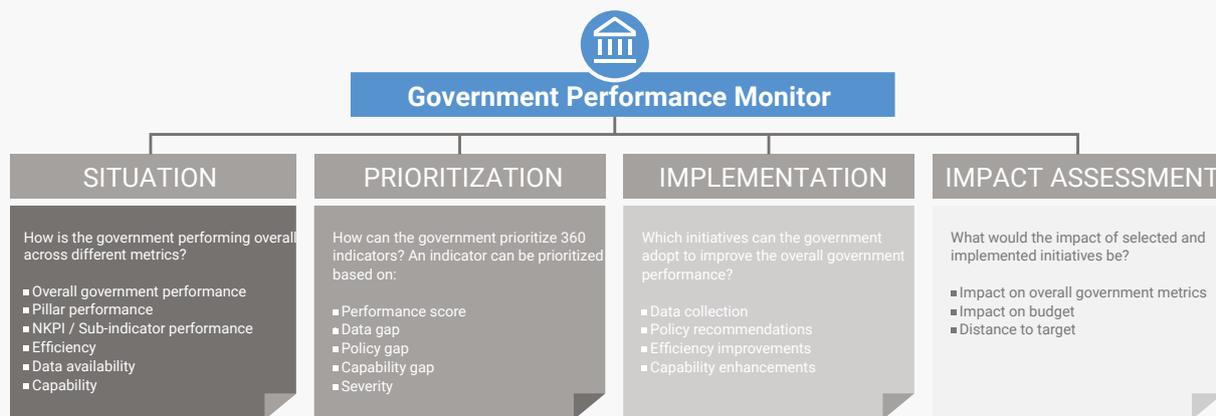
4. A happy and cohesive society: Community development is an integral part of UAE Centennial 2071. Some objectives in this regard include establishing a secure, tolerant, cohesive and ethical society that embraces happiness, a positive lifestyle and high quality of life. The pillar also focuses on developing programmes to prepare future generations to serve as the UAE's goodwill ambassadors, as well as promoting women's participation in all sectors, making the UAE one of the best places to live in.

The plan aims at investing in the future generations, by preparing them with the skills and knowledge needed to face rapid changes and to make the UAE the best country in the world by the centennial anniversary in 2071. The programme includes fortifying the country's reputation, diversifying the imports and the exports by relying less on oil, investing in education focusing on advanced technology, building Emirati values and ethics for the future generations, raising the productivity of the national economy, and enhancing society's cohesion



3. GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE MONITOR

The Government Performance Monitor (GPM) was launched in 2017. The GPM is an analytical tool to support Ministries to make informed policy decisions to achieve National Agenda targets. It aims to improve the overall performance of the government in four stages, as shown in the following diagram.



a. National Key Performance Indicators (NKPIs)

NKPIs are measures of performance outcomes in national priority areas. Targets for the NKPIs, benchmark UAE’s performance to global best practices. The system is monitored by H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, the Ministers and the Prime Minister’s Office (PMO) regularly to track progress towards targets. The PMO uses several platforms to monitor the NKPIs - one such platform is the Government Performance Monitor.

b. Performance Management Framework

To ensure the efficient implementation of the UAE National Agenda, the NKPIs and their associated national initiatives and strategies are incorporated into the government’s performance management framework and linked to the five-year strategic and operational plans of federal ministries. Strategic plans include strategic objectives and KPIs that are implemented via an operational plan involving initiatives and service delivery KPIs. These are further supported by KPIs for government enablers.

An electronic performance management system, known as ‘ADAA’,¹⁰ is used to manage the strategic plans of federal government agencies. All government plans and KPIs - national, strategic, service or operational KPIs - are managed through this system. Strategic plans, policy baselines, outcome tracking and progress reports are approved, audited and validated by the Prime Minister’s Office to ensure vertical and horizontal alignment between federal government agencies and coherence with the National Agenda 2021.

NKPIs in ADAA are periodically uploaded to the National Agenda dashboard system, which is monitored by H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, on a regular basis.

¹⁰ Adaa in Arabic means ‘performance’



c. SDG Aada System (Performance Monitor System)

Embedding Government Performance into the Digital Sustainable Development Goals: Success Stories from UAE Government

A data ecosystem is fundamental to the successful realization of the SDGs. To foster transparency, economic growth and to improve efficiency and effectiveness, an unprecedented amount of data is necessary to monitor and incentivize the advancement of these goals. Aiming to achieve data transparency and efficiency, FCSC encouraged action through interactive and engaging workshops and a collaborative initiative titled 'The SDG Data Readiness Race'. The secretariat of the UAE National Committee on SDGs launched a tailored SDG race to assess data readiness, indicator data availability and map priority indicators of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Members from the National Committee participated throughout the race, in different phases and connected different teams to determine the outcome. The race resulted in identifying 105 priority indicators for the UAE and more than 200 staff members across the National Committee, and their stakeholders participated in the race. The next step to ensure working on the priority indicators and report on the progress made was to liaise with the Prime Minister's Office who worked on incorporating the SDGs into the Aada system

The Prime Minister's Office monitors the government performance of all the United Arab Emirates' government entities (ministries & authorities). The challenge was to align and coordinate these entities' efforts toward the SDGs, highlight the success stories, and share any lessons that can be beneficial to other government entities and the world. Thus, an overall project was undertaken to coordinate the government efforts and programs, highlighting the achievements and programs of the UAE government to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, and enable ministries and government authorities to follow up on progress in achieving these goals through the Digital Sustainable Development Goals Dashboard (DSDGD) which will support the country in its vision realization and to promote wellbeing and prosperity as core values in the society and the world. To enable these objectives, the SDG Aada Development team undertook a major project to raise the awareness of the SDG in the UAE government and also to develop the DSDGD which includes screens of the 17 goals and their achievements, based on the relevant projects' progress and clearly defined targets for the relevant government entities. The SDG vision realization progress is now included as part of the entity's strategic plans and the overall government performance, coordinating the government efforts and programs, highlighting the achievements and programs of the UAE government to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, and enabling ministries and government authorities to follow up on progress in achieving these goals. This project was undertaken to align and coordinate the UAE government's efforts at a strategic level and to monitor the SDG progress through a digital platform. This enabled the central government team to promote, manage and follow up on the performance of the SDGs realization in the government work. The system includes screens of the 17



Visualizing the UAE's SDG Aadaa System

goals and their achievements, based on the relevant projects' progress and clearly defined targets for the relevant government entities. The SDG vision realization progress is now included as part of the entities' strategic plans and the overall government performance. The system enabled the government entities to align their programs and projects with the corporate strategic plans and to tell the world the UAE government's success stories in the SDG.

The initiative raised the awareness of the SDG in the whole UAE government with the involvement of the various hierarchical levels including UAE government leaders, middle managers, Subject Matter Experts and front-line staff. These efforts were reflected in clearly defined Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) that measure the impact of the entities' projects at the national and international level, these KPIs were defined after a series of focused workshops and meetings with the relevant government entities and stakeholders to set clear targets for 2030 and clear segmented targets at fixed periods (annually or every 2 to 3 years targets) to reach the ultimate 2030 target. The UAE set a clear objective to attain the SDG at the national level and to monitor its progress as part of the entities' strategic plans and the overall government performance. The system enabled the government





CHAPTER 3

entities to align their programs and projects with the corporate strategic plans and to share with the world the UAE government's success stories in the SDG. Thus, the initiative will touch on the following SDG goals:

This initiative will sustain the UAE's efforts toward the SDG since it is linked with the UAE government's current and future strategic plans for the whole government which is aligned with all aspects of social, economic and environmental terms. For example, the Ministry of Health and Prevention will work to achieve its vision as 'An effective and sustainable Healthcare System for a happy society'. Thus, the ministry linked all its projects to the relevant strategic objectives, for example, the strategic objective of providing comprehensive and integrated healthcare in innovative and sustainable ways to prevent the spread of diseases in the community.

The project has provided a platform for both the UAE's central government and the strategic teams in the relevant government entities to plan for their SDG's contribution until the year 2030. Currently, there are more than 120 SDG KPIs and more than 150 initiatives that are reflected as part of the UAE's contribution to the SDG. The SDG digital system has provided an effective performance management environment that ensures vision realization that promotes wellbeing and prosperity as core values in the society.

The main objective of this initiative for Sustainable Development is the imperative of monitoring progress and holding leaders of the government entities accountable for their entities' programs and projects. For this purpose, clear Sustainable Development Goals and focused 120 indicators were established for the UAE government to monitor the impact of the UAE's SDG programs and projects at both the entities level and the central government interdependent level to serve better governance for sustainable development in diverse contexts within the country. While the SDGs' formulation may allude to varying degrees of devotion, one thing remains constant, public administration is embedded throughout the SDGs in the UAE government. The same is applicable for public services as currently many initiatives are related to the public services like the initiative of 'Regulating the practices and activities of productive families' which plays a critical role in SDG 1 and SDG 8 and there are many others by the various ministries and authorities within the UAE government.

The various government entities adopted targeted KPIs to address COVID-19 impact at both strategic and services level to ensure the minimal impact at the government level through a holistic measurement mechanism.

Through a central Government Performance System and the DSDG a robust comprehensive system is made available for the central government.



4. ACCELERATING THE GOVERNMENT TRANSFORMATION (GOVERNMENT ACCELERATORS¹¹)

Government Accelerators (GA) is a UAE Government initiative by H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, established in October 2016. It serves as a platform for federal and local government entities to address challenges and achieve ambitious goals in short periods. It focuses on accelerating the delivery of strategic programs, the development of policies and regulations, and enhancing government services.

The GA model encourages engagement and partnership with strategic stakeholders from the public and private sectors as well as the NGOs and the community to discuss the challenges and provide input for the acceleration teams to innovate solutions to overcome the challenges. The GA emphasizes integration between federal and local government entities, the private sector, academic institutions, and NGOs to drive innovation and ultimately achieve the UAE's government's ambitious plans.

The Government Accelerators introduces a framework that not only allows for better integration between federal and local government entities but also enables experimentation and innovation to transform government work. By empowering front line employees and giving them the reins, the initiative has bypassed bureaucracy, fostered agility, and allowed to hone government human resources leadership capabilities.

Since its establishment, the Government Accelerators addressed innovative solutions to more than 50 high-priority government challenges and has engaged over 1,500 government and private sector employees through conducting different acceleration models: accelerated planning, accelerating implementation, and accelerating decision making. The Government Accelerators has also built the capacity of government employees and trained over 80 Diploma participants from different federal and local entities in UAE through the successful completion of two diploma cohorts. Recently, the third diploma batch got launched with the participation of 44 employees from 23 federal and local entities.



¹¹ Government Accelerators: <https://www.accelerators.gov.ae/home>





Although the GA was developed by the Government of the UAE to support the government transformation domestically. However, recently the UAE has been collaborating with different governments through the UAE government exchange program to transfer the knowledge and experience of the UAE to Jordan, Senegal, Iraq and Uzbekistan to enable the acceleration of innovative solutions to overcome challenges in their countries. As part of this collaboration, the UAE has assisted with capacity building for government employees in these countries through a train-the-trainer programme on the implementation of GA.

One example of the Government Accelerators outcome is the announcement of the Net-Zero emission strategy by 2050. In October 2021¹², the UAE has announced its plan for achieving net-zero emissions, making UAE the first country in the Middle East and North Africa region to launch a concrete initiative to achieve the climate ambition commitment¹³. This announcement was a result of a multi-stakeholder engagement through a government accelerator cohort, in which 140 participants from over 40 federal, local, and private sector entities have worked in 4 different sectors (Environment, Industry, Energy, and Transportation).

As an outcome of this cohort, the team came up with over 200 initiatives that have a direct impact on achieving carbon neutrality. In addition to the effect



“ Successful nations are not gauged by their size, but speed by which they accomplish achievements and bring forward innovative solutions to challenges in transitioning to the future, as well as active participation in making a difference in the lives of people.

H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum
Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai

¹² UAE Announces Net Zero by 2050 Strategic Initiative: <https://UAEun.org/UAE-announces-net-zero-by-2050-strategic-initiative/>

¹³ UAE Net Zero 2050: <https://u.ae/en/information-and-services/environment-and-energy/climate-change/theUAEsresponsetoclimatechange/UAE-net-zero-2050>



on decarbonization, the initiatives have been assessed for their economic viability in terms of creation, employment effect, and economic diversification. This was translated into a national roadmap for net-zero emission by 2050, with the creation of economic opportunities with a total value of 600 billion dirhams.

UAE sets Net Zero Emissions by 2050 target, aligning with the Paris Agreement

Federal Decree adopted by UAE Cabinet on 27th June, 2021, aimed at charting a sustainable economic growth pathway for the UAE, powered by innovations in technology, policy and business.

3 Leading Entities 4 Priority Sectors 11 Integrated Programs	 UNITED ARAB EMIRATES MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY & ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY	 UNITED ARAB EMIRATES MINISTRY OF ENERGY & INFRASTRUCTURE	 UNITED ARAB EMIRATES MINISTRY OF CLIMATE CHANGE & ENVIRONMENT	
	INDUSTRY	ENERGY	TRANSPORT	ENVIRONMENT
	Industrial Processes Optimization Technology: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deployment of new, efficient technologies Indigenous technology development and innovation Lean approach in handling of materials 	Higher Sustainable Energy Mix: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expansion of grid-based solar PV and CSP Nuclear power development Decentralized solar systems 	Smart Mobility: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public transport Sustainable freight movement R&D for autonomous vehicles 	Waste Management & Circularity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waste to energy Refuse derived fuel Reduction in MSW generated
	Switch to Clean energy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fuel switch to renewables Reliance on grid electricity 	New Green Technology: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decoupling of desalination from power production Sustainable cooling Battery storage 	Electric Vehicles & hydrogen: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alternative vehicle technologies for passenger vehicles Use of hydrogen for buses 	Natural Habitat Rejuvenation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effectively managed Protected Areas Enhancement of blue carbon ecosystems
Investment in Future Technology Platform: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capture of CO2 from gas plants Process innovation in cement mills Replacement of gas with green hydrogen 	Demand Side Management: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Equipment and appliance standards Consumer awareness 		Sustainable Agriculture: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New agricultural technology and practices Organic farming Efficient use of water 	

5. GOVERNMENT EXCELLENCE MODEL 2.0

The UAE government is relentlessly pushing forward the efforts for improvements and enforcement of excellence and this has led to countless breakthroughs and the establishment of the UAE government as a world leader in excellence.

In line with the UAE Vision and its long-term strategic view, the Government Excellence Model (GEM) was developed based on the directives of H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai. The Model is aimed at advancing future orientation, innovation, disruptive thinking and delivering excellent and sustainable value. Over two decades of consistent efforts in defining and driving Government Excellence, the UAE Government has gone through major development leaps that delivered benefits to the nation and government efficiency. Building on these accomplishments, the Government Excellence Model 2.0 (GEM 2.0) is revived to further enhance and energise the evolution of Excellence maturity across the UAE Government. GEM 2.0 is developed based on the accumulated experiences and the evolution of Government Excellence concepts and approaches at both national and international levels. Progressing to GEM 2.0 is the way that the UAE can ensure that Government Excellence remains relevant and agile in anticipating dynamic advancements in government policy and ensuring the pre-eminence of UAE globally.



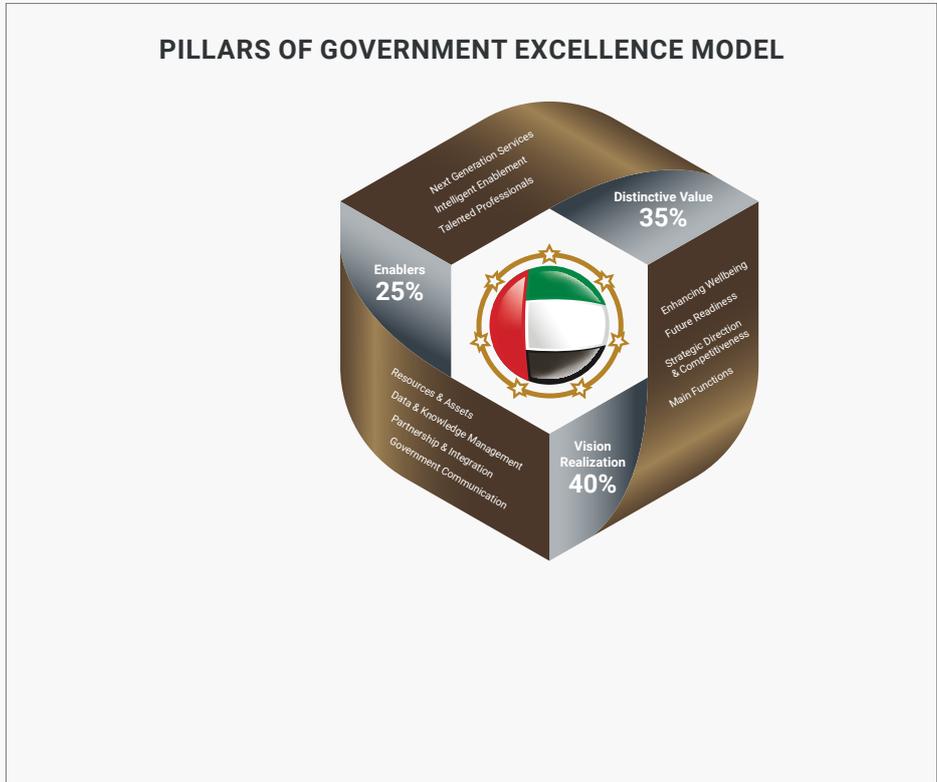
The GEM 2.0 is designed to inspire government entities on their journey toward excellence and to keep the momentum of Excellence. This momentum is intended to result in major leaps in performance and leading positions. The model is based on pioneering thinking and advanced approaches that pave the way for defining and steering future governments.

GEM 2.0 emphasizes the government's ultimate vision and its core purpose to enhance the well-being of the nation. The model promotes a purpose-driven government that develops and deploys a set of distinctive and dynamic capabilities to drive an ambitious strategy that anticipates and ensures future readiness, creates customer-centric value, enables and empowers human capital, exploits the full potential of digital enablement, leverages through smart partnerships and resources optimization, build capacity for knowledge exchange, and synergize through collaboration, co-creation and stakeholder orientation. The GEM 2.0 is designed to inspire government entities on their journey toward excellence and to keep the momentum of Excellence. The model is based on pioneering thinking and advanced approaches that pave the way for defining and steering future governments. GEM 2.0 redefines what result orientation means and seeks to make measurement more relevant and value-oriented. The model emphasizes measuring what matters through; assessing operational excellence holistically in relevant areas, measuring the quality value-based (direct) outcomes, and ultimately measuring the real impact on wellbeing. In GEM 2.0, gauging performance outcomes is made possible by putting in place a measurement system that defines the toughest standards in the world as the only worthwhile ultimate objectives. The model promotes a dynamic measurement system that captures relevant data, explores data analytics to provide meaningful insights and enables better decision making to drive competitiveness and sustainable outstanding results.

GEM Fundamentals are designed to inspire and guide the efforts of government entities in their journey to achieve further levels of excellence and maturity. They embed a mindset that drives the transformation required to deliver value and ultimately enhance the well-being of citizens and the nation.

GEM 2.0 consists of the following 10 Fundamentals:

- Ambitious Vision
- Enhancing Wellbeing
- Leadership at Helm
- Anticipating and Adapting
- Inspiring Confidence
- Embracing the Ecosystem
- Outcome-Based Measurement
- Benefits Realization
- Leading Government
- Transformational and Disruptive Mindset



GEM 2.0 consists of Three Pillars that are considered the basic foundations of Government Excellence: Vision Realization, Distinctive Value, and Enablers.

Vision Realization

The First Pillar comprises Four Criteria that emphasize the ultimate purpose of the government to enhance the wellbeing of the nation. It highlights the importance of setting and delivering agile strategies and functions to realize the vision and the national agenda, ensure future readiness, and enhance the competitiveness of the nation.

- Enhancing Wellbeing
- Future Readiness
- Strategic Direction and Competitiveness
- Main Functions

Distinctive Value

The Second Pillar comprises Three Criteria that place services at the heart of the government’s core business. It focuses on the importance of delivering distinctive value through providing proactive, innovative, personalized and seamless services. This new generation of services is enabled by the intelligent use of digital transformation, the leverage of partnerships, and the creative potential of human capital and their unique talents to design and deliver distinctive services that delight customers and elevate competitive performance.

- New Generation Services
- Intelligent Enablement
- Talented Professionals





Enablers

The Third Pillar comprises of four criterias that emphasize the importance of integration and collaborative partnerships with stakeholders across the ecosystem to leverage all potential capabilities necessary to deliver distinctive and sustainable value and positive impact on the national wellbeing. Embracing the ecosystem is vital to ensure the efficient and effective management of tangible and intangible resources including data and knowledge, and to harness their optimum return on investment.

- Resources and Assets
- Data and Knowledge Management
- Partnership and Integration
- Government Communication

6. UAE GOVERNMENT LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME – SHAPING THE FUTURE



برنامج قيادات حكومة الإمارات
UAE GOVERNMENT LEADERS PROGRAMME

In 2008 H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, launched the UAE Government Leaders Programme (GLP)¹⁴. GLP is an initiative driven by the Prime Minister's Office, in collaboration with the Leadership and Government Capacities Sector of the UAE Cabinet, and the Ministry of Cabinet Affairs, with a mission to identify and develop change agents that will shape and lead the future of the UAE, and the world¹⁵. The Programme seeks to foster national expertise and qualify change agents capable of achieving the objectives of the UAE Vision 2021, the UAE Centennial 2071, and driving global impact through development programmes. The GLP is a result of the Government's realization of developing future leaders, who are equipped with skills to drive positive impact and change, after the launch of the federal government's strategy in 2007.

UAE Government Leadership Model

Programmes and initiatives are designed based on the UAE Government Leadership Model, which is the second generation of the Leader of the 21st Century model that is based on three pillars:

1. Leadership Spirit
2. Future Outlook
3. Achievements and Impact

This model was adopted by different government entities within the UAE as well as international strategic partners to assess and develop the future leaders.

Qiyadat Platform

The leadership network, the first of its kind in the UAE, is an interactive digital society that attracts national minds and competencies. It contains an integrated database of information through which the Prime Minister's Office identifies the capabilities of leaders and their skills, to place them in positions where their expertise can support national development, in line with the government's efforts towards excellence.

¹⁴ The UAE Government Leadership Programme: <https://www.UAeglp.gov.ae/en>

¹⁵ UAE Government Leaders: <https://www.moca.gov.ae/en/area-of-focus/UAE-government-leaders>



By 2022 the platform has 14,500 users, from the 7 Emirates, including 8,000+ females. The majority of users are below the age of 34, which is defined as the top range of youth in the UAE.

The features of the Qiyadat platform include;

- 15 digital tools for online assessments
- Alumni Engagement and continuous learning activities, inclusive of 'Government leadership talks and practices from the UAE'
- Recommend a leader, a tool that allows the community to recommend individuals with leadership skills to join the platform
- Knowledge hub
- Networking area
- Innovative solutions towards challenges
- Online coaching and mentorship

UAE Government Leaders Programme

The GLP targets employees from federal and local government offices, the private sector, semi-government, and non-profit organizations. The Programme comprises four sub-programs, based on the level of seniority (see infographic 1 for more information);





UAE Government Leaders Programme in Numbers



Through the years, the GLP has partnered with several well-known executive education schools, including Harvard, Oxford-Said Business School, Duke, Berkeley, Ashridge, Stanford University, University of Cambridge, University of Bath, and London Business School. In addition, GLP partnered with other leadership development schools such as INSEAD, LinkedIn Learning, IMD, and multiple local schools within the UAE.

Capacity Building Programme

The program works to build and develop the specialized capabilities of national cadres in federal and local institutions and the private sector. It aims to contribute to achieving the vision of the UAE towards the development of the human element and achieve strategic goals in accordance with global best practices, through the design and implementation of specialized training programs in collaboration with international training institutions.

UAEGLP x SDGs

- The GLP is uniquely positioned to drive impact across the 17 SDGs, with its focus on developing future leaders for sustainable and positive impact.
- Contribution in the assessment and selection process of the SDG Young Leaders Programme on SDGs.
- Alumni engagement within solutions for challenges in SDGs.
- UAE GLP forms part of the supporting arm to the Global Council on SDG 16 – Leadership 4 SDGs.



In the near future, several initiatives will be delivered to drive outcomes towards the Global Council on SDG 16, through the UAE GLP Alumni and their contributions towards leadership development for strong institutions.

In addition to sharing UAE best government practices, GLP further contributes to support capacity building to international strategic partners in collaboration with the Government Experience Exchange Programme.

- UAE GLP alumni serve as trainers in capacity building programmes for public employees in the following countries: Egypt, Jordan, Senegal, Uzbekistan, Costa Rica, Colombia, Kyrgyzstan, and Iraq
- Engagement activities: Sharing UAE best practices and study trips to the UAE
- Youth leadership programme for Uzbekistan young leaders



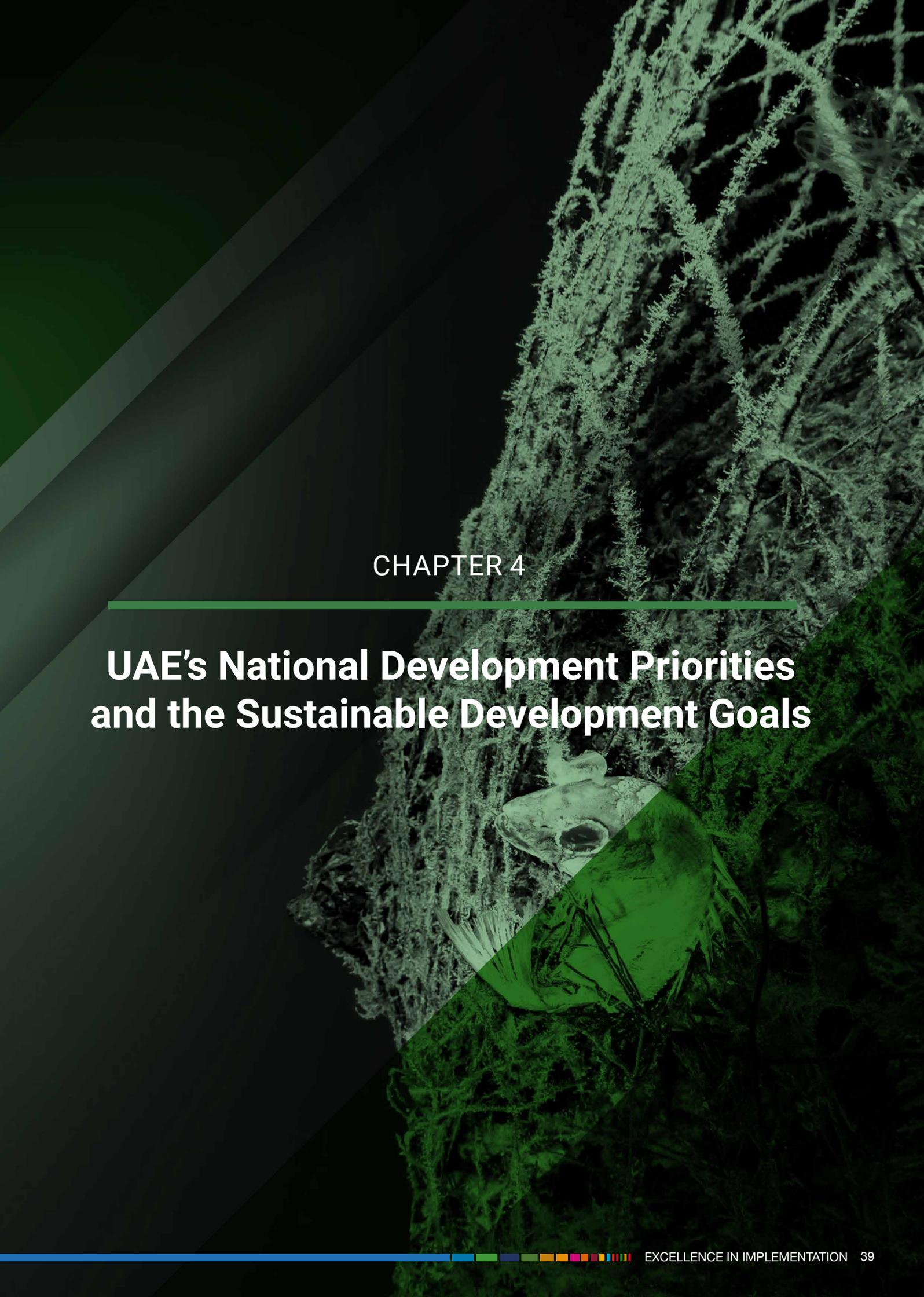
“ Human beings, their ideas, innovations, dreams, and connections, are the capital of the future. Because where great minds go today, great things will happen tomorrow.

H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum
Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai

7. BUILDING CAPABILITY: HUMAN RESOURCES AND ENABLING PROGRAMS AND TECHNOLOGIES

UAE’s government is continuously striving to build deeper capabilities and capacities to progress its ambitious development plans. Several national programs to develop human resource capabilities have been launched recently, such as the UAE Leadership Program, Chief Happiness and Positivity Officers program, Chief Innovation Officers, a Performance Diploma, a Government Excellence Diploma, Excellence Service Program and several others. There is close collaboration between the public and private sectors to identify issues of common concern such as gaps in specialist expertise, variations in demand for and supply for particular skills and with the higher education system to ensure that people are being equipped with the knowledge and skills to be productive in their respective vocations. In addition to a cross-sectoral dialogue on skills, labour laws and regulations are being continually reviewed and updated and ensuring workplace satisfaction and well-being is given the highest priority.





CHAPTER 4

**UAE's National Development Priorities
and the Sustainable Development Goals**



CHAPTER 4

UAE's National Development Priorities and the SDGs

1. NATIONAL AGENDA AND THE SDGs

There are significant overlaps between UAE's 2021 National Agenda - consisting of 6 national priorities, 52 NKPIs and 365 sub-NKPIs - and the 17 goals, 169 targets and there are 231 indicators of the SDGs.

A target mapping exercise was undertaken by members of UAE's National Committee on SDGs. At a thematic level, all 17 SDGs can be mapped to a pillar of the National Agenda. For instance, several NKPIs in the pillar World-class Healthcare are also detailed in SDG 3 (Good Health & Well-being) .

2. THE UAE GOLDEN JUBILEE

Following Vision 2021, the late H.H. Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, former President of the UAE, has declared 2021 as 'The Year 50', in the UAE, as the nation celebrates its milestone Golden Jubilee. of yearlong initiatives, events, and celebrations that will be governed by the UAE Golden Jubilee Committee. The celebration includes a series of initiatives to behold the UAE's admired history, honourable values and achievements. These initiatives will help define our future as the nation is heading toward its Centennial 2071. The UAE aspires to uphold its commitment to building its future by investing in future generations and equipping them with the skills and knowledge needed to face rapid changes, to make the UAE the best country in the world by the next 50 years. The 50th Year is an opportunity to contemplate and appreciate the achievements made over the past 50 years at a time we are gearing up for the next journey. The Golden Jubilee is only the starting point for the quantum leaps and marvels envisioned for making the UAE the best country in the world by its 100th anniversary, relying on the strong foundations laid down by our founding fathers and the major accomplishments that we have achieved over the past decades.





3. KEY CONSIDERATIONS TO PRIORITISE AND IMPLEMENT THE SDGs

As a part of Vision 2021, the National Committee on SDGs undertook the following steps to prioritise and phase in the SDGs.

1. Mapping SDG targets to UAE's National Agenda and prioritizing which targets to pursue in a particular time frame
2. Determining the criteria for incorporating these targets into the national development agenda and aligning monitoring and reporting cycles with the work program and capacity of the National Statistics System
3. Managing the size and scope of SDG implementation given the resource capacities and constraints in a particular year



Infographic 2: Mapping of SDGs to UAE's National Agenda¹⁶

¹⁶ A detailed mapping between the National Agenda and the SDGs was undertaken at the target and indicator levels. The infographic shows a summary of the mapping exercise at the level of goals and pillars



4. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS AND ALIGNMENT

Each Emirate design and implement its own respective development plan, aligned with the National Agenda. The SDGs have been mapped, at the high-level, to the objectives of the development plans of the local Emirates and are reviewed annually.

Abu Dhabi Plan 2030	SDG	Pillars of Dubai Plan 2021	SDG
Social Development		Upgrade Dubai's urban areas	
Security, Justice and Safety		Improve the efficiency of resource utilisation	
Economic Development		Develop vibrant, healthy and inclusive communities	
Vital Sectors Contributing to Economic Diversity		Provide sustainable and flexible means of mobility	
Vital Sectors Contributing to Economic Diversity		Foster greater economic activity and attract foreign investments to new sectors	
Pillars of Sharjah	SDG	Enhance environmental sustainability	
Commerce and Tourism Development		Safeguard the emirate's cultural and urban heritage and strengthen citizens' attachment to older neighbourhoods	
Education, Arts and Cultural		Develop comprehensive legislation and plan a governance model to support sustainable development and growth	
Industrialization and Infrastructure		Pillars of RAK Strategic Framework 2015 - 2017	SDG
Economic Development		Creative Talents	
Pillars of Ajman Plan 2021	SDG	Competitive Economy	
A Distinguished Government		Quality of Life	
A Green Economy		A Leading Government	
A Vibrant Community		Integrated Environmental and Health System	
Best Place to Live		Pillars of Umm Al Quwain Vision 2021	SDG
Pillars of Fujairah 2040 Plan	SDG	Sustainable and diversified economy	
Preserve Natural Resources and Celebrate Culture and Heritage		Social solidarity	
Building a Sustainable Environment		Attractive tourism	
Prosperous Economy		Excellent infrastructure	
Build a Community of Skilled and Active Citizens		Innovative government	
		Sustainable Blue Economy Strategy	





CHAPTER 5

Stakeholder Engagement to accelerate the implementation of the SDGs



CHAPTER 5

Stakeholder Engagement to accelerate the implementation of the SDGs

1. PRIVATE SECTOR'S ENGAGEMENT WITH THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Engagement with the private sector to progress the SDGs is managed through existing institutional mechanisms to service the National Agenda and the local development plans. However, new pathways for partnerships are being explored. First, federal agencies that are members of UAE's National Committee on SDGs engage with relevant industry partners to mobilise support for SDG targets prioritised in a particular year. Members of the National Committee are at liberty to work with any private sector partners they deem necessary to progress the SDGs. A second pathway for public-private-partnership is via the Global Compact Network UAE (GCN-UAE) - the official local chapter of the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC), which has been particularly active in raising awareness of the SDGs and in shaping the corporate sustainability agendas of organisations operating in the UAE. In keeping with the UN Global Compact mission of 'mobilising a global movement of sustainable companies and stakeholders to create the world we want, the network facilitates high-impact collective action through accelerator programs, task forces and multi-stakeholder dialogues that bring together diverse companies to address various facets of the sustainable development goals.

The Global Compact Network-UAE is hosted by the World Green Economy Organization¹⁷, with 182 members taking an important public step to transform the world through principled society, 165 Businesses adopting the UN Global Compact Ten Principles, and 17 Non-businesses helping shape effective ideas, develop tools, research and policy dialogue. The network provides opportunities for large organisations, SMEs and micro-enterprises to participate in collective action to achieve the goals. Companies represented on the UAE Local Network Board include DEWA, Majid Al Futtaim Holding, Chalhoub Group, Pearl Initiative, Societe Generale and Green Touches among others.

Participating companies of the UN Global Compact are committed to making measurable progress and must communicate their advancement toward the Ten principles and the SDGs through the Communication on Progress (COP). As the central component of the Global Compact's integrity measures, the COP's main objective is to serve as a public vehicle for information on sustainability performance. At the same time, the COP can represent an effective tool for stakeholder dialogue and the sharing of best and emerging practices. As a public document, the COP is an important demonstration of a company's commitment to transparency and accountability.

¹⁷ World Green Economy Organization: <https://worldgreeneconomy.org/>





CHAPTER 5

In terms of programming, the GCN UAE has identified four focus areas in line with the Government of the UAE and its initiatives to leverage its footprint and mandate representing the UNGC on the ground, and ultimately best support the private sector in setting ambitious corporate targets. For each of these areas, there is a portfolio of engagement opportunities so that companies of all sizes, industries, and stages of sustainability can scale ambitious actions and accelerate progress. This translates into a set of programs and initiatives that the Local Network is facilitating around women's representation and leadership, climate action, youth inclusion, and the SDGs to a larger extent.

Supported by the UN Global Compact Office, the GCN UAE has been delivering since 2020 flagship accelerator programs, which, through facilitated performance analysis, capacity-building workshops, peer-to-peer learning, and multi-stakeholder dialogue at the country and regional level, support companies engaged with the UN Global Compact in setting and reaching ambitious corporate targets. Launched in 2020, the Target Gender Equality Accelerator supports companies engaged with the UN Global Compact in setting and reaching ambitious corporate targets for women's representation and leadership. The Local Network was Introduced also in the 2020 SDG Ambition Accelerator, which aims to challenge and support participating companies of the UN Global Compact in scaling up ambition and accelerating the integration of the 17 SDGs into core business management. The program provides participants with tools and guidance to integrate each of the SDG Ambition Benchmarks into a company's business systems, as well as the key design decisions required to engage technology partners. Lastly, ahead of COP 28 and in support of the UAE's Net-Zero by 2050 Strategic Initiative, the Local Network will be launching in May 2022 the Climate Ambition Accelerator, a program for participants of the UN Global Compact who are looking to make progress towards setting science-based emissions targets and create a path to address their organisation's transition to net-zero.

The Local Network has also launched task forces tackling diversity and inclusion and youth. As part of those task forces, multi-stakeholder dialogues hosted in partnerships with key local and regional partners unlocked many new opportunities across business units driven by a collaborative spirit, knowledge sharing, and innovative thinking. Hosted in partnership with the UAE chapter of the Women Empowerment Principles (WEPs), the D&I focus group has been an opportunity for corporates to share their insights and challenges around D&I related topics, such as gender barriers, impact measurement, Gender Responsive Procurement, programs learning development, policy implementation, among others. Currently, in the process of being relaunched, the youth task force aims to on the one hand engage the youth with climate action, and on the other hand, upskill academic students and young professionals to respond to the high rates of unemployment in the MENA region. Finally, the network will energise the work of existing programmatic activities, establish new ones where needed, specifically around climate action, and publish an annual local and regional impact report of its activities.



a. Private Sector Advisory Council

With trillions of dollars a year required over the next decade, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development requires a significant scaling in resource mobilisation and collective efforts to materialise the promises of Heads of State on sustainability. The 2030 Agenda acknowledges the role of the private sector in the implementation of the agenda and calls for businesses to apply their creativity and innovation to solve sustainable development challenges. As such, the SDGs symbolise an important change in thinking by calling for an unparalleled level of collaboration and partnership among societal actors for their achievement, especially with the private sector. For that reason, in 2018, the UAE National Committee on SDGs launched the Private Sector Advisory Council on SDGs (PSAC) as the Committee's official platform to engage with UAE's biggest companies across different industries on the implementation of the SDGs. On an annual basis, the council advises the National Committee on different policy areas affecting business within the UAE.

b. Reports

Achieving Sustainable Development Goals in the UAE Private Sector Contribution (2019)¹⁸

Given the pace of economic development in the UAE, the Government understands that sustainability efforts are most effective if supported by the private sector. Open communication regarding priorities and challenges and timely support for each other's initiatives are key to enabling continuous progress going forward.

The Achieving Sustainable Development Goals in the UAE Private Sector Contribution report was written by the FCSC in collaboration with Oliver Wyman with the aim to facilitate dialogues between the government and the private sector in order to learn how they can support each other. The paper outlines the priorities for the UAE and analyses other countries' approaches to similar challenges. Extensive interviews have been conducted with private sector companies in the UAE to understand how they ensure the sustainability of their core businesses and contribute to addressing the UAE's priority issues. The report aims to serve as a platform for more targeted collaboration between the government and private companies in the future to enable the sustainable development of the UAE.

Accelerating achievement of the SDGs in the UAE: A blueprint for public-private data-sharing partnerships (2021)¹⁹

Developed by the FCSC, in cooperation with the UAE PSAC and Kearney, the white paper includes case studies by members of the UAE's PSAC on SDGs to illustrate public-private data sharing in action, and demonstrates how effective, data-driven public-private collaboration can be initiated and further expanded in the UAE. Surveys and interviews with private sector companies reveal pathways to greater public-private data sharing. Perspectives include where companies stand on SDG awareness and reporting and how companies are sharing data with the government. Based on analyses of interviews and case studies, the paper highlights key learnings from existing partnerships between the private

¹⁸ Achieving SDGs in the UAE - Private Sector Contribution: <https://fcsc.gov.ae/en-us/Pages/SDGs/Reports.aspx>

¹⁹ Accelerating achievement of the SDGs in the UAE: A blueprint for public-private data-sharing partnerships: <https://fcsc.gov.ae/en-us/Pages/Media/Publications.aspx?id1=3>





sector and UAE government identifies roadblocks to public-private data transparency and engagement and offers enablers needed to facilitate greater public-private collaboration. Policymakers need to consider data interoperability as well as privacy. Achieving greater public-private data sharing requires a framework that addresses the challenges and obstacles and establishes enablers for successful data sharing. This requires building effective data sharing governance, establishing a unified public-private vision for sustainability, constructing data partnerships that are grounded in trust and transparency, and promoting partnerships with strong mutual benefits that outweigh burdens. The paper concludes with recommendations for the UAE to consider strengthening and expanding public-private data-sharing partnerships in service of greater SDG progress and achievements

2. YOUTH'S ENGAGEMENT WITH THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

UAE Youth Engagement

Since its founding in 1971, the UAE has been focused on offering the best quality of life for its citizens and residents alike, while also maintaining the integrity of its biodiversity and ecosystem. This future focus has catapulted the UAE from an arid desert into a bustling metropolis, making it the preferred country for Arab youth to live in for the past 10 years (Arab Youth Survey, 2021).

The UAE has witnessed rapid growth and economic development over the last 50 years led by a young generation of dreamers and doers. Nearly half of its population is under 35 years old, and they act as engines for the country's productivity and catalysts driving positive change. Youth can effectively and innovatively put forward solutions and, through their unique perspectives, harness opportunities that will allow them to facilitate the implementation of the SDGs locally and globally.

In the UAE in particular, the unique multicultural backgrounds of its youth make them an integral part of tackling the challenges presented within the SDGs, to achieve a happy, healthy, and prosperous future for all. Therefore, the UAE government has launched many youth-centric initiatives, giving youth the chance to shoulder national responsibilities and contribute to the progress of the nation's visions and strategies. These initiatives have integrated the youth into the country's long term vision, which has adopted the SDGs wholeheartedly, for the 2030 Agenda and beyond.

The UAE recognises the potential that lies in its youth and therefore has launched initiatives and programmes to empower them as the leaders of tomorrow. These initiatives are not only meant to serve the youth, but are also led, ideated, and executed by the youth, for the youth.

At 22 years of age, Her Excellency Shamma bint Suhail Al Mazroui was appointed as Minister of State for Youth Affairs, in 2016. Following that, the Federal Youth



Authority (FYA) was established. At the time of her appointment, she was the youngest governmental minister in the UAE and the world. The FYA developed the UAE's first Federal Youth Agenda, which highlights five objectives that focus on the development and productivity of youth. One of the objectives ensures the engagement of youth in shaping policies through Youth Councils, which are composed of young members (18-35 years old) that act as representatives for all policies in their respective entities. As of 2022, there are 104 local, ministerial, corporate, and global Youth Councils with nearly 1,300 youth members who act as ambassadors, relaying the youth's concerns and collaborating to solve the youth's issues.

The FYA has also launched 13 Youth Hubs, which are collaborative work and convening spaces that connect young people throughout the UAE with world-class resources and host workshops meant to empower the youth. One of the tangible results coming out of the UAE's youth-centric vision is the UAE Cabinet's decree to make it mandatory for federal government entities to include young Emiratis (under 30 years old) on the Boards of Directors.

Youth's involvement in the 2030 Agenda

The UAE has vigorously promoted the SDGs by creating initiatives and programmes and going as far as incorporating SDG targets into its own long term vision and strategies. One main theme of the SDGs is leaving no one behind, and the UAE has proven that it is committed to enabling an inclusive transition towards a better future for all. That can be seen through its direct and active involvement of youth and the practical role that it has given them in the journey towards realising the SDGs.

The SDGs Young Leaders Programme is a program designed to empower youth to shape their own future by tackling global challenges through increasing awareness, fostering partnerships, and exchanging knowledge. This program, formerly known as the Youth Advisory Council in its second cycle, aspires to accelerate the actions and cement the impacts towards the fulfilment of the goals, driven by the sense of urgency carried by the youth. The programme is designed and conducted in a strategic partnership with the UAE Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Fund, the Federal Youth Authority as well as the Government Leadership Programme at the Prime Minister's Office and Dubai Media Office.

The program is divided into three streams: the SDGs Youth Council, the Youth Media Council for SDGs, and the Global Council's Youth Representatives. The SDGs Young Leaders Programme through the three task forces will focus on the UAE's objectives towards achieving the goals locally, regionally, and internationally. Young Emiratis in the program are eager to shape the world around them and demonstrate their capacity for influencing legislation, initiatives, and perceptions on local and global matters.

A high-level breakdown of the SDG Young Leaders Programme:

1. SDGs Youth Council, where the youth members will be working closely with the Secretariat of the UAE National Committee on SDGs on developing initiatives and projects that encourage UAE youth involvement in the SDGs and develop SDG related studies, initiatives and policy proposals to support





- the objectives of the UAE National Committee on SDGs.
2. Youth Media Council for SDGs, this group aims to educate, captivate, and accelerate youth's involvement in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and highlight the power of media and how youth approach media.
 3. Global Councils on SDGs Youth Representatives, the 2021/23 Councils will each have a youth member to ensure capacity development for future global decision-makers. The UAE has ensured the inclusion of youth in implementing the SDGs by initiating and allowing them to lead programs that serve all of the 17 goals.

Youth and COVID-19 Response

Since the emergence of COVID-19, healthcare systems called for volunteers, and in response, the FYA launched initiatives to include Emirati youth in supporting the efforts to combat the virus by providing a free course on the basics of prevention against pandemics, aligning with SDG 3 - Good Health and Wellbeing. As a precautionary measure, the UAE's Ministry of Education (MoE) implemented distance learning for students in schools and higher education institutions. To transition effectively to distance learning, the MoE conducted remote professional training for nearly 35,000 of its teachers and administrators. It also offered free satellite broadband services for students in areas where the internet was unavailable (SDGs 4 and 9).

The challenge of youth unemployment was heightened during the pandemic, leading the UAE government, in collaboration with nearly 200 companies in the private sector, to launch the 'Nafis' program. The program aims to empower Emirati youth and equip them with the right skill sets to meet the demands of the evolving labour market in order to find suitable jobs in the private sector, connecting directly to SDG 8 - Decent Work and Economic Growth. Encouraging youth to actively participate in growing the economy is done through initiatives such as 'Done by Youth', where Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) owned by youth are supported financially and facilitated by subsidised trade licences and entrepreneurial workshops (SDGs 8 and 9).

The UAE has recognized the necessity to achieve self-sufficiency in food, which is aligned with SDG 2 which aims to achieve zero hunger and food security. For example, Abu Dhabi Agriculture and Food Safety Authority in collaboration with Rabdan Academy, has conducted training programs for the alternative national service recruits to raise their readiness to manage and operate food facilities during emergencies.

Emirati youth involvement in SDGs is not constrained to the UAE, as they also participate in many international forums as members of the United Nations Youth Delegates Programme, where they play a key role in working with stakeholders to implement the SDGs, in accordance with SDG 17.

Emirati youth also work with youth from the Arab world on developing innovative and sustainable solutions to combat climate change as part of the Arab Youth Council for Climate Change in collaboration with the UAE's Ministry of Climate Change and Environment. Currently, 12 young members serve in the Council,



coming from 7 different Arab countries, all working to address the challenges related to SDG 13: Climate Action.

Gender equality is of paramount importance to the UAE, where women take an active part in all aspects of economic, civil, and political life. As a testament to the UAE's empowerment of women, its space program is led by H.E. Sarah bint Yousif Al Amiri, Minister of State for Advanced Technology, Chairwoman of UAE Space Agency and the UAE Council of Scientists. The average age of the engineers involved in the successful Emirates Mars Mission is 27 years old, where 80% of the scientists and a third of the technical team are women.

These are a few of many examples where youth are active agents of change and engage with their communities to ensure a better future for all.

3. KNOWLEDGE INSTITUTIONS ENGAGEMENT WITH THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

In the UAE, there is an acknowledgement that knowledge institutions, such as universities and think tanks, are key partners in the implementation of the SDGs. The UAE hosts 134 institutions of higher education²⁰ and hosts the largest concentration of International Branch Campuses (IBC) worldwide²¹. The UAE's budgetary commitment to higher education is demonstrated by the government's substantial investment in universities. The 2020 budget included AED 10.41 billion for the public, higher and university education programmes²². This is in addition to publicly funded think-tanks and research institutes such as the Anwar Gargash Diplomatic Academy, Masdar Institute and the Mohammed bin Rashid School of Government (MBRSG).

Given this landscape, the UAE seeks to leverage the knowledge, resources and partnerships that the higher-education sector can offer to progress the SDGs. There is a recognition that interdisciplinary, solution-focused research is essential to fulfilling the SDGs, given the complex interactions between the various targets. The implementation, monitoring and reporting of the SDGs rely on detailed information and holistic solutions that in turn require interdisciplinary expertise. In some cases, the traditional boundaries between the pure and applied sciences, the humanities and social sciences, law and public policy will have to be redefined if the SDGs are to have a lasting positive impact on UAE's society. Knowledge institutions are also key partners in co-creating and co-designing solutions along with stakeholders such as national and local governments, the private sector, youth and civil society.

The National Committee on SDGs identifies three areas for cooperation between the public, private and knowledge sectors that will greatly assist in progressing the SDGs in the UAE.

²⁰ UAE hosts 134 institutions of higher education: <https://fcsc.gov.ae/en-us/Pages/Statistics/Statistics-by-Subject.aspx#/%3Fyear=&folder=Demography%20and%20Social/Education/Higher%20Education&subject=Demography%20and%20Social>

²¹ International Branch Campuses: <https://wemr.wes.org/2019/06/international-branch-campuses-part-two-china-and-the-united-arab-emirates>

²² Budget 2020, Ministry of Finance, UAE: <https://www.mof.gov.ae/en/resourcesAndBudget/federalBudget/Pages/budget2020.aspx>





First, knowledge institutions should serve as incubators of technological innovation and thought leadership. Research agendas in knowledge institutions should aim at developing new paradigms for research and innovation to create solutions for sustainable development. A focus on evidence-based research on the SDGs - such as that carried out by MBRSG, Anwar Gargash Diplomatic Academy, and the Masdar Institute - is essential for its application in service of the SDGs.

Second, knowledge institutions can play a role in the localization of international knowledge. Implementing the SDGs requires translating global agendas to a local context and knowledge institutions should play the role of facilitators and communicators of knowledge and information. Such collaboration is essential to enhancing resource exchange and shaping the UAE's future as a competitive knowledge-based economy. Global networks of students, academics and researchers are underutilised as sources of knowledge to alleviate common problems of public policy, and given its international outlook, the UAE aims to be an engaged partner, eager to deploy cutting-edge research regardless of its origin, to solving issues of sustainable development.

Third, the UAE aims to ensure that the principles of sustainable development are reflected in the curricula of all levels of secondary and tertiary education. Sustainable development is a relatively new paradigm that is radically different to traditional models of development that prioritise economic growth, at times to the detriment of environmental and social outcomes.

If sustainable development is to become entrenched as the dominant framework for analysing the viability of policy and gauging standards of living, prosperity and the welfare of citizens, it is essential that it is the dominant narrative and that it forms part of the everyday vernacular of our future generations.

Anwar Gargash Diplomatic Academy²³

Anwar Gargash Diplomatic Academy integrates sustainable development and SDGs into multiple areas of its work and activities, including its regionally pioneering work in diplomatic training on UN climate change negotiations. The Academy also runs a research programme on Energy, Climate Change and Sustainable Development that publishes research and organises events dedicated to SDG-relevant issues.

Sustainable Development Goals Centre of Excellence for the Arab Region (SDGCAR)²⁴

In November 2018, the academy, in collaboration with the UN SDSN, launched the Sustainable Development Goals Centre of Excellence for the Arab Region (SDGCAR). The SDGCAR serves as a convening point for SDG activities across the Arab world. The SDGCAR promotes educational training, research and policy advisory activities and supports Arab policymakers in their effort to achieve the SDGs.

²³ Anwar Gargash Diplomatic Academy: <https://www.agda.ac.ae/>

²⁴ SDG Centre of Excellence for the Arab Region: <https://www.eda.ac.ae/special-initiatives/sdgc/ar/overview#:~:text=The%20SDG%20Centre%20of%20Excellence,or%20diplomacy%20and%20international%20cooperation>

**Mohammed bin Rashid School of Government²⁵**

For MBRSG, sustainability policy is one of six priority research tracks. Their research and educational activities are complemented by policy forums held by the School to facilitate the practical exchange of knowledge. MBRSG works closely with government agencies and international organisations on policy research and capacity building.

Masdar Institute of Science and Technology

Masdar Institute of Science and Technology plays a critical role, serving as an interdisciplinary research unit focused on long-term strategic priorities. Its research focuses on clean energy (e.g. Advanced Power and Energy Centre, Nuclear Technology Centre) as well as water and the environment (e.g. Sustainable Bioenergy Research Consortium). As a research institute, it also connects fundamental research with practical application through its partnership with local and international organisations, like the major renewable energy and sustainable urban development leader Masdar.

Madrasa (the eLearning platform)

In October 2018, the UAE launched Madrasa.org as one of MBRGI initiatives, a free eLearning platform that provides 6,000 free quality Arabised video lessons in general science, math, biology, chemistry, physics, and Arabic literacy covering learners from kindergarten to grade 12. Madrasa has more than 3 million subscribers and to date provided more than 65 million lessons with an average of 15,000 lesson per day, with 61% being of users being female learners from around the world. The platform and its content are free and easily accessible online through www.madrasa.org or through the Madrasa mobile app or through its YouTube Channel.

Madrasa.org aims to support the educational process and make it available free of charge to millions of Arab students so that they can access it anywhere, and contribute to changing the reality of education in the Arab world, raising the educational attainment of millions of Arab students, and opening up knowledge horizons.

Digital School

The success of 'Madrasa' was the foundation for launching The Digital School to support disadvantaged students at a time when the outbreak of COVID-19 has affected education throughout the world and forced a shift to online learning. 'The Digital School' is an initiative by Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives (MBRGI) with a vision to drive the frontiers of digital learning to empower underserved communities towards a brighter future. 'The Digital School' is an integrated digitally enabled school that provides digital and hybrid learning pathways in a smart and flexible ways. It provides learning models, processes and material that are compatible with national and international curriculum. The initiative, particularly targets young people in refugee camps and marginalised communities, irrespective of their social, economic and educational backgrounds. It aims to reach one million students by the year 2026.

²⁵ MBRSG Sustainable Development Policy: <https://www.mbrsg.ae/home/research/sustainable-development.aspx>





4. ALL-OF-SOCIETY'S ENGAGEMENT WITH THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

a. SDG School Awareness Programme

Children and youth of today are the reapers of the SDGs as they are the ones for whom the goals were designed as well as the ones implementing them. However, research shows that there is a lack of awareness among the public about the SDGs. In particular, it is important to share SDGs and involve children of ages 6 to 18, otherwise, it will lead to a misfired opportunity to raise a new generation of SDG change makers. Having this challenge in mind, the UAE FCSC created the SDGs School Awareness Campaign to educate children about sustainable development.

UAE SDGs School Awareness Campaign has three elements: creating awareness about SDGs, engaging children, and building their capacity. The campaign aimed at public and private schools, with the target audience being teachers; children aged 6 to 18, and their parents, reached 85 schools, 1,700 children and 100 teachers. The goal now is to increase school participation and reach a target of 200 teachers, 3,000 children and their parents in 2019 across the UAE to ensure that no child is left behind.

The FCSC team has customised the campaign structure to its target audience – children and teachers for whom the topic of sustainable development is new for the most part. Therefore, SDG stories were created, which are interactive and engaging storytelling sessions where children can connect a particular SDG to an example from their daily lives. Gamification of the SDGs for ages 14 to 18 included identifying global challenges, choosing one challenge to analyse and suggesting implementable solutions. Games with the younger children consisted of a Pictionary and a game called 'Yes or No'. The game consisted of a 'Yes' and a 'No' card that was given to the children. A real-life scenario was sketched and the cards were used to engage with the children – i.e. asking whether it is acceptable to bully their friends, and children raising the 'no' card. The 'Yes or No' cards were given to the children as gifts to show to their parents. The cards targeted the parents by introducing and creating awareness of the SDGs and a call to action



to engage through social media applications by sharing innovative ideas related to the SDGs. For example, SDG 6 – a picture of a tap being closed with a caption reading ‘closing the tap whilst brushing teeth saves water that can be used for cooking food’. This allowed facilitators to get children’s attention, receive feedback, as well as make the SDGs learning experience actionable.

Findings include that some schools teach the SDGs in their curriculum. Still, the majority lack basic awareness and capacity building skills to successfully incorporate the SDGs into their educational practice. Through the campaign, the awareness levels increased and daily applications of the SDGs were simplified to ensure that it is applicable to the generation. In addition, the parents were made aware of the SDGs with a call to action.

In conclusion, raising awareness, engaging children, and building their capacity are critical factors to achieve, which are addressed through the UAE SDG School Awareness Campaign. The results so far prove that children are excited and ready to tackle the issues toward achieving the 2030 agenda for sustainable development.

b. SDG Photography Award

The 17 SDGs are an effective mechanism to elevate global development and prosperity. The SDGs are an urgent call for action by all countries - developed and developing - in a global partnership. The SDGs recognize



Figure 4: SDG Photography Award - Raising global awareness about the SDGs.





that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth – all while tackling climate change and working to preserve our oceans and forests. Established and adopted in September 2015, the SDGs inspire a better world to live in – for all.

We have all heard the saying ‘a picture is worth a thousand words’, and to that, we would add, ‘a picture can change the world’. By promoting awareness about a better world, a photograph can have a significant impact by inspiring change. The Secretariat of the UAE National Committee on Sustainable Development Goals, in collaboration with Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum International Photography Award (HIPA), launched the first SDG Photography Award in May 2019.

The SDG Photography Award aimed to create global awareness around the SDGs, through the lenses of photographers of all levels. The award invited amateurs, enthusiasts, semi-professionals and professional photographers to participate in the five (5) categories that included People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnerships (the 5 P’s of the SDGs).

The means of raising awareness around the SDGs and communicating the award to the global society included radio interviews, press releases, website marketing, email campaigns, flyers and social media. The social media global campaign included videos in 13 different languages. The six official United Nations languages – English, Arabic, Russian, French, Spanish and Chinese – as well as Portuguese, Hindi, Urdu, Swahili, German, Filipino and sign language were identified and utilised throughout the social media global campaign. These 13 videos have been promoted globally, in regions where the respective language was broadly spoken. Each video introduced the SDG Photography Award and invited the global society to tag their photographer friends to participate. It also encouraged viewers to learn more about the UN SDGs. The social media global campaign reached over 3 million people globally.

The five category winners were announced in October 2019 and an exclusive publication of the award was officially launched during the ADSW in January 2020. The publication will be in the form of a coffee table book that will inspire the reader to learn more about the SDGs and the global challenges and solutions the world faces today. Complementary to the publication, the SDG Photography Award will also be exhibited in various locations across the Emirates to raise awareness and engage the UAE population and visitors with the SDGs. The SDG Photography Award further raised awareness through exhibitions in highly populated locations, including the Dubai Mall, the Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week, and others.

In conclusion, the SDGs are not only the responsibility of the public- and private sectors, but also the duty of academia, research institutions, youth and the global society around the globe. The SDG Photography Award, targeting the global society and launched in May 2019, raised awareness in more than 110 countries in 13 different languages over a period of 9 weeks. The award attracted more than 4,105 participants from 132 nationalities and 130 countries.

c. SDG Data Hub - Innovative ways the UAE is joining hands for a better world

SDG 17, Partnerships for the Goals, is at the centre of the success of the SDGs. Therefore, global and local partnerships are key pillars to achieving the SDGs. However, the SDGs will not succeed without significant public awareness. To address the challenge, the FCSC established a multi partnership engagement with the private- and public sectors, and the UAE society.

A partnership with Esri Global Inc., the world leader in developing geographic information systems (GIS) solutions, addresses the SDGs through the UAE SDGs Data Hub²⁶ (the HUB) that connects the multiple

²⁶ UAE SDG Data Hub: <http://sdgsUAE-FCSC.opendata.arcgis.com/>



partners addressed across the public-private sector and UAE society. The HUB, integrated with the UN Open SDG Data Hub, promotes open data, and sustainable partnerships and serves as an educational tool that addresses the lack of public awareness about the SDGs through open data, SDG related data stories and initiatives.

- **Open Data** – Geospatially referenced indicator data. In other words, data is mapped at the emirate level.
- **Data Stories** – SDG stories consisting of a great amount of data displayed through interactive story maps
- **Initiatives** – Highlight mainstream initiatives in an easy to visualise manner, whilst engaging the whole of society with the SDGs. UAE is the global pioneer in initiatives.

The integration of the HUB feeds the UN Open SDG Data Hub, previously known as the Federated System for the SDGs (FIS4SDGs), with SDG indicators, data, stories and mainstream initiatives. The UN Open SDG Data Hub promotes the exploration, analysis, and use of authoritative SDG data sources for evidence-based decision-making and advocacy.

The HUB inspires numerous partnerships from the public- and private sectors whilst taking advantage of the web GIS principles allowing data connections from multiple sources and organisations that promote open data between the government, sectors and the society that assist policymakers, decision-makers and ultimately, the SDGs.

Additionally, SDG implementation demands proactive engagement across all sectors, including society. The FCSC introduced a world pioneering initiative element to the HUB that encourages all sectors to actively engage and share initiatives directly with the UN Statistical Division (UNSD). The initiatives module of the HUB serves as a tool to translate aspirations into initiatives, whilst creating awareness of the SDGs. Each initiative reflects how the UAE is addressing a specific SDG through a specific initiative, in an easy to visualise and ready to adopt manner, by any country or organisation worldwide. Moreover, the HUB reinforces public



participation through calls for action within the initiatives by participating in public surveys, or other data interaction tools offered within the initiatives pages. One initiative that resonates well with public participation is that of the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, the Integrated Waste Management (IWM). IWM aims to increase the whole of society's awareness about policies and initiatives in support of SDG 12 – Responsible Consumption and Production. The initiative encourages society to adopt sustainable practices by recycling products in the nearest 'Manjam' centres. 'Manjam' Centers are dedicated waste collection centres in residential areas. These centres can be found on an interactive map via an app by MOCCA, or via the SDG Data Hub. A data story featured on the HUB, the SDG School Awareness Campaign by the Federal Competitiveness and Statistics Centre in collaboration with the UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network (ASPNet Schools), under the Ministry of Education, aims to raise awareness about the SDGs in school students whilst engaging the students through gamification of the SDGs and building their capacity to become the next generation of change-makers.

The HUB is a global best practice and won multiple international awards such as

1. IdeasUK Special Judges Award 2019
2. GISTEC Excellence in GIS Implementation (EGI) Award 2020
3. ESRI Special Achievement in Geospatial Information Systems (SAG) 2021
4. Group on Earth Observation (GEO) SDG Award 2021

In conclusion, with 16 initiatives, 59 indicators, 12 data stories, the HUB proved that there is a hunger to sector-wide engagement through a centralised system. Highlighting SDG progress and achievements to the global society will support sustainable partnerships and the implementation of open data.

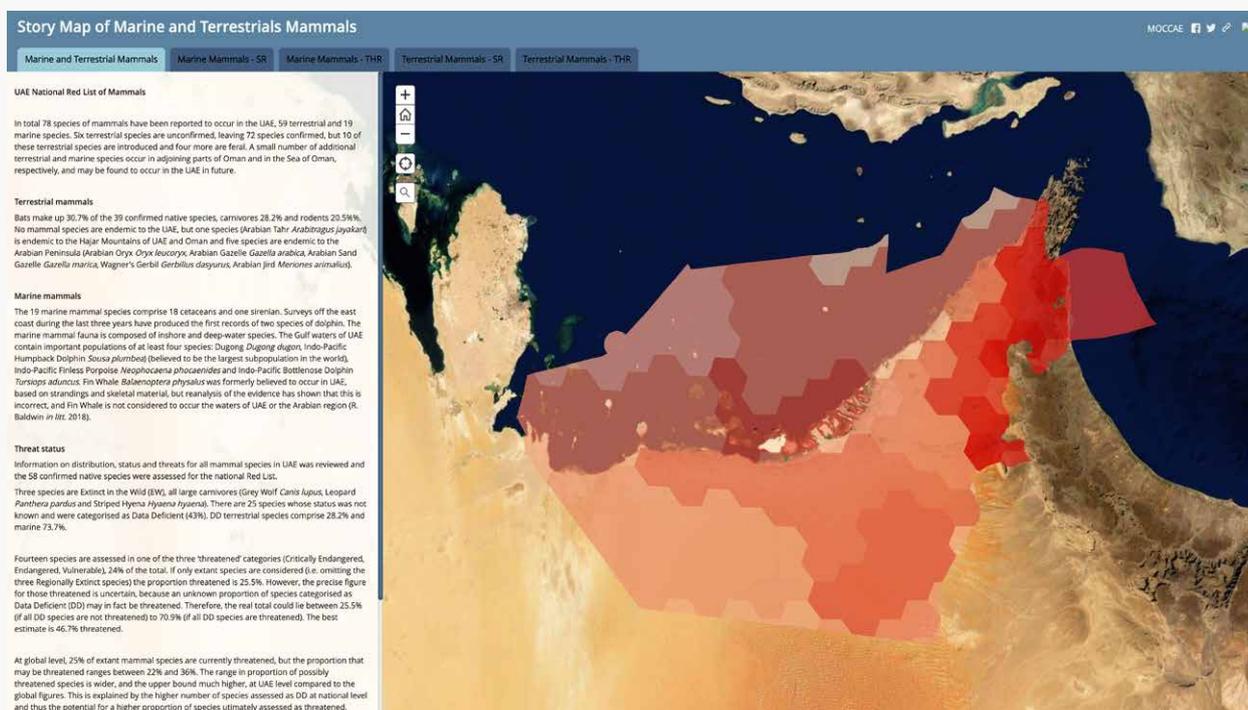


Figure 5: Ministry of Climate Change and Environment - Sustainable Wildlife Initiative on the UAE SDG data hub, showing red-listing classification maps and protected areas story maps

**d. UAE Volunteers Campaign – Leveraging volunteerism for community response**

The community's response to the UAE Volunteers Campaign has amply demonstrated the eagerness of those who freely volunteer their time and expertise to serve the country in times of crisis with a spirited expression of loyalty, awareness and a social commitment to helping others in times of need. The UAE Volunteers campaign was a joint community response spearheaded by Emirates Foundation. It leveraged volunteerism to fight the pandemic and enable the UAE to be a world leader in gauging the spread of COVID-19.

Launched by the Higher National Committee for Regulating Volunteering during crisis, and hosted on volunteers.ae²⁷, the Emirates Foundation operated platform in collaboration with the Ministry of Community Development, the campaign harnessed the community's desire to 'give back' and protect the most vulnerable. The campaign attracted more than 65,000 registered volunteers and over 11,000 skill-based volunteers from 165+ nationalities – and provided over 600 opportunities open to all citizens and residents of various ages and skill-sets.

Immense progress has been made in field volunteering during the pandemic, as the Foundation's Takatof and Sanid platforms proudly supported the UAE's frontline heroes, making every effort in the field in their response to the repercussions of COVID-19, particularly in population mobility and border control points, official quarantine facilities and aiding in public and private building sterilisation efforts. The platforms assembled more than 25,000 registered volunteers of which 8,000+ were skill-based volunteers. They represented 140+ nationalities, volunteered in 250+ field opportunities and 60+ virtual opportunities, and also supported other important facilities, including Humanitarian City, the Sinopharm vaccine trials at ADNEC, and related anti-COVID projects across the Emirates.

Emirates Foundation has also introduced a number of virtual initiatives offering uplifting opportunities for 'remote' volunteering that have a positive impact and enable our volunteers to fully engage with communities, albeit at a distance. The 'Live from Home' project was designed and introduced in the early phase of the pandemic with the purpose of encouraging households to pursue a healthy indoor lifestyle in the event of possible lockdowns through webinars and inspirational talks in subjects as diverse as music and the performing arts, literature and language, health, COVID-19 awareness, and self-improvement. The platform received over 4,000 views and carried out more than 60 virtual sessions.

During COVID-19, mental health issues were brought to the forefront of our thinking due to the pressures and stresses of lockdowns, curfews and restrictions on mobility. In order to help those in need of emotional support, Jusoor platform was created to help protect the mental health of individuals and societies across the UAE in light of the risks and possible repercussions of the pandemic, by promoting mental wellbeing. The platform attracted 500+ views and carried out more than 20 virtual sessions with an experienced team of mental health experts, creating a living online community where people share their stories and experiences in complete privacy, and work together to generate a resilient community.

²⁷ Volunteering in the UAE: <https://volunteers.ae/>





Achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development requires a collaborative effort from all-of-society. Through volunteerism, the UAE can leverage its network of volunteers to the realization of the SDGs.

Additionally, aiming to elevate mental health in the community, a Mental Support Line was launched to provide mental support to individuals via a group of trained volunteers including psychologists and mental health professionals. The service is provided in a safe and confidential experience via phone to help the community cope with mental challenges resulting from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The line has since become a legacy project and still runs till today addressing various social issues callers may have.

Consequently, in collaboration with the Ministry of Community Development and in cooperation with the International Association for Volunteer Effort, Emirates Foundation organized the first-of-its-kind 'Virtual Ideathon' where NGOs and volunteering organizations from around the world competed to develop sustainable and impactful solutions to key challenges of volunteering during the COVID-19 pandemic. Out of 22 teams from 20 countries, two winning organizations got awarded a grant with the amount of US\$ 25,000 to allow the implementation of their idea in the community.

Volunteers.ae impact



485,810
Registered
Volunteers



100,02512.47
Volunteering
Hours



601,316
Skills
(Where each volunteer
has more than one skill)



189
Nationalities



10,187
Diversified/Specialized
Opportunities



863
Organizations
Registered



53%
Male



47%
Female



In essence, volunteerism serve as a SDG accelerator that brings all-of-society together in a collaborative manner. With a diversified number of opportunities, which interlink and interconnect with the 17 SDGs, the UAE foster a culture of giving through multiple entities and centres (non-exhaustive);

- Volunteers.ae aim to grow the UAE volunteer community. Volunteers can match their skills and competencies with volunteering opportunities provided by multiple sectors across the UAE. The platform acts as a dynamic, easy-to-use resource that creates a culture of giving.
- The Volunteer Department of the UAE Red Crescent Authority attracts volunteers and engages their efforts in realizing SDGs. Volunteers engage in activities that support communities in different development segments, including schools, culture, and economic development.
- The Emirates Voluntary Academy in Abu Dhabi²⁸ embodies the UAE's commitment to integrating the volunteerism culture in its major institutions. As a flagship project of the Emirate Volunteer Conference and the Gulf Volunteer Forum, the Emirate Voluntary Academy qualifies local cadres with the help of public, private, and NGO institutions.
- The Dubai Volunteering Center (DVC)²⁹ is a project pioneered by the Community Development Authority. Through the DVC, both individuals and organizations can register as volunteers for the many events organized by the center under the Volunteers Affairs section.
- The Sharjah Volunteer Center³⁰, through its e-platform, recruit and manage members whilst improving volunteering skills through workshops that seek to improve the impact of volunteering work.

²⁸ Emirates Voluntary Academy in Abu Dhabi: <https://u.ae/en/information-and-services/charity-and-humanitarian-work/volunteering-platforms-and-initiatives/volunteering-platforms>

²⁹ Dubai Volunteering Center: <https://www.cda.gov.ae/DubaiVolunteer/#/>

³⁰ Sharjah Volunteer Center: <https://sssd-volunteer.shj.ae/register>





5. GLOBAL COUNCILS ON SDGs FOR THE 2030 AGENDA

In September 2015, 193 UN Member States and world leaders gathered in New York at the UN Sustainable Development Summit to endorse the set of new SDGs for the next 15 years. The scope and ambition of the SDGs are greater than anything that the international community has ever attempted before, and rightly so. The SDGs aim to transform our world and leave no one behind, while also ensuring the future of our planet. The United Arab Emirates activated the Sustainable Development Goals with a first of its kind and dedicated event at the World Government Summit Organization, SDGs in Action.

Global partnerships to accelerate the implementation of the SDGs. The first term of the Global Councils on Sustainable Development Goals (2018/20) was launched at the World Government Summit (WGS) in February 2018, to give visibility to the best approaches & ideas vetted by practitioners. The Global Councils on SDGs is a unique interdisciplinary network of decision-makers from governments, international organisations, academia, & the private sector, who came together over the last two years to share innovative practices & discuss the creative implementation of the 17 SDGs at the national & global levels.

During the councils' two-year work plan, the councils aimed to work on creating new partnerships between countries, organisations, & sustainable development advocates for the implementation of SDGs through the discussion of innovative solutions, & integration of their findings into the United Nations & other global fora on SDGs.

The initiative was launched as a cross-collaborative project between the United Arab Emirates Prime Minister's Office, WGS & the FCSC during the WGS SDGs in Action event.

The Goals of the Initiative

- Identify factors, which are inhibiting progress towards their particular SDG;
- Find solutions to issues identified & develop a plan for the implementation of successful policies, programs, technologies &/or innovative service delivery mechanisms to resolve the issues;
- Build a framework for knowledge sharing amongst multiple stakeholders, within & between countries, that will catalyse the council's vision of sustainability well into the future.

During the Expo 2020 – Dubai Global Goals Thematic week, the second cohort of the Global Councils on SDGs has been launched. The 2021/23 Councils (second cohort) will divert from a singular SDG to a nexus-model approach. With the complexity and interlinkages of the SDGs, the Councils will galvanise and accelerate the implementation of the SDGs through innovative partnerships, projects, whitepapers, technologies, and initiatives.



A summary of the SDGs in Action platform

2016 ● The UAE launched the 'SDGs in Action' at the World Government Summit (WGS), to support the global implementation of the SDGs through innovation and partnerships. The SDGs in Action became an integral part of the WGS program, to drive the implementation and accelerate change throughout the years.

2017 ● Under the theme 'Role of Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) in achieving the SDGs' brought together scientists, experts, government officials and other key stakeholders to identify STI driven solutions to accelerate the implementation of the goals.

2018 ● SDGs in Action saw the launch of an interdisciplinary network dedicated to promoting innovative thinking and creativity in the implementation of the SDGs and 2030 Agenda. The 12 Global Councils on SDGs commenced on a 2-year journey, driving global impact and acceleration of the SDGs.

2019 ● 'Leadership for achieving the goals' featured a combination of plenary sessions and Global Councils' breakout sessions. It aimed to foster partnerships and cooperation among council members in their respective fields to support the implementation of specific goals.

2020 ● The SDGs in Action took to a virtual event due to the novel Coronavirus pandemic. The first term of the Global Councils on SDGs concluded under the theme 'SDGs Global Councils: Preparing for the Decade of Action'.

2021 ● A soft launch of the second term of the Global Councils on SDGs, under the theme 'Galvanizing the Global Acceleration of the SDGs', saw 18 Councils commence with a diverse range of projects and whitepapers, driving a nexus model to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

2022 ● Expo2020 - Dubai's Global Goals thematic week saw the 'Decade of Action: Accelerate SDG Implementation' segment officially launch of the second cohort of the Global Councils on SDGs. Chairpersons has delivered interventions of the respective work plans to enhance the collaboration of interdisciplinary networks to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



CHAPTER 5

The Global Councils on SDGs Leadership

GLOBAL COUNCILS
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



المجالس العالمية
أهداف التنمية المستدامة



Her Excellency
Reem bint Ebrahim Al Hashimy
Minister of State for International Cooperation,
Chairwoman of the UAE National Committee on SDGs
President of the Global Councils on SDGs



His Excellency
Omar bin Sultan Al Olama
Minister of State for Artificial Intelligence,
Digital Economy and Remote Work Applications,
Managing Director of the World Government
Summit Organization



His Excellency
Abdulla Nasser Lootah
Director General of the UAE Prime Minister's Office,
Vice-President of the Global Councils on SDGs



The Global Councils on SDGs 2021 to 2023 Chairpersons:



HE Suhail bin Mohamed Al Mazrouei
Minister of Energy and Infrastructure
United Arab Emirates



Dr. Mahmoud Mohieldin
Executive Director,
International Monetary Fund (IMF)
and Special Envoy (UN)



Dr. Muhammad Ali Pate
Julio Frenk Professor of the Practice
of Public Health Leadership,
Harvard



HE Dr. Tariq Al Gurg
Chief Executive Officer and
Vice-Chairman of Dubai Cares



HE Mona Al Marri
Vice President of the
UAE Gender Balance Council
and Director General
of the Dubai Media Office



HE Francesco La Camera
Director General of International
Renewable Energy Agency
(IRENA)



Ibrahim N. Al-Zu'bi
Chief Sustainability Officer
Majid Al Futtaim Holding



Hon. Rt. Helen Clark
The 37th Prime Minister of New Zealand,
and former Administrator of the
United Nations Development
Programme



Dr. Tatyana Teplova
Head of Division, Policy Coherence
for SDGs, Senior Counsellor for
Gender Equality, Justice and
Inclusiveness, OECD



Marie Aimee Boury
Head of Impact Based Finance
at Societe Generale
Corporate and Investment
Banking (SGCIB)



Isobel Abulhoul
Chief Executive Officer and Trustee
of The Emirates Literature
Foundation



Dr. Manal Taryam
Chief Executive Officer
and Board Member of
Noor Dubai Foundation



Dr. Sonia Ben Jaafar
Chief Executive Officer of the
Abdulla Al Ghurair Foundation
for Education



Dr. Elizabeth Cousens
President and Chief Executive Officer
of the UN Foundation



Luc Remont
Executive Vice-President -
International Operations,
Schneider Electric



Mohammad Al Hashimy
Deputy Group General Counsel
and Company Secretary,
DP World



Hana Al Rostamani
Group Chief Executive Officer,
First Abu Dhabi Bank



Clint Brown
Director of Product Engineering,
Esri





CHAPTER 6

**Enabling Mechanisms:
Programs and Technologies**





CHAPTER 6

Enabling Mechanisms: Programs and Technologies

1. NEW AND EMERGING OPPORTUNITIES

a. The World Government Summit: Shaping Future Governments

Founded in 2013, the World Government Summit (WGS) is the world's leading platform to shape the future of government. As a global, neutral, non-profit organisation, the Summit inspires and enables the next generation of governments by convening leaders from government, international organisations, the private sector, and academia.

The Summit organises highly anticipated events and activities throughout the year, culminating in its flagship Main Event, which includes the launch of global partnerships, innovative government strategies and programs, and flagship meetings and reports. The critical discussions taking place at the Summit focus on harnessing innovation and technology to address humanity's greatest challenges.

To date, the Summit has hosted more than 29,000 participants, 700 speakers, and 140 countries in more than 1,100 sessions and workshops. The 2022 Main Event highlighted eight interrelated themes and featured fifteen global forums that advanced dialogue and collaboration between governments and the private sector to recover from the unprecedented impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and reach the Sustainable Development Goals.



WORLD GOVERNMENT SUMMIT 2022

WGS THEMES
Actioning the SDGs for a Better Future

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
Exploring the Frontiers

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING
Designing the Future of Healthcare Systems

4 QUALITY EDUCATION
Enabling the Future of Education and Work

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY **11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES**
Building Cities of the Future

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS **16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS**
Policies that Drive Progress and Government Development

1 NO POVERTY **2 ZERO HUNGER** **6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION**
Empowering Societal Resilience

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH **5 GENDER EQUALITY** **10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES**
Accelerating Global Economic Recovery

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION **13 CLIMATE ACTION** **14 LIFE BELOW WATER** **15 LIFE ON LAND**
Actioning Sustainability for Positive Impact





The Summit's sessions engaged experts through thought leadership. Each of the forums had its priority areas to shape the future and contribute to a more just and inclusive world, ranging from climate change to healthcare, education to energy, and women in government to future preparedness (non-exhaustive – for a full list of forums, please visit www.worldgovernmentsummit.org):

1. **Women in Government Forum** is a global platform for dialogue that discusses how to advance women's inclusion and empowerment in the public sector. The Forum provided a global platform for governments to pledge their support to empower more women in their highest ranks. It also built a global network of women leaders in the public sector to support, nurture, and mentor a new generation of women leaders.
2. **SDGs in Action**, launched in 2016 by the World Government Summit, focuses on the importance of multilateral efforts in implementing the world's 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Since its inception, the SDGs in Action platform has become synonymous with innovation and impact toward the Global Goals. The platform, launched during the WGS the Global Councils on SDGs, addresses global challenges through innovative projects, whitepapers, and initiatives to accelerate the implementation of the Decade of Action. Learn more about the Global Councils on SDGs within this report, an outcome of the SDGs in Action.
3. **Global Health Forum**, held in partnership with the World Health Organisation, discussed the prospects for the rest of 2022 and the way societies are adjusting to the new normal. The Forum also discussed the importance of a multilateral approach toward promoting global health, as well as adopting new technologies in personalised care, remote medicine, genomic medicine, medical robotics, data-driven algorithms, and biotechnological advancements.
4. **Climate Change Forum** explored the roadmap and economic opportunities to accelerate and scale the transition to a net-zero future.
5. **Global Crypto Forum** explores the latest developments in digital and cryptocurrencies by providing a platform for thought and industry leaders in the field to discuss innovation in the sector and the mechanisms needed to ensure a responsible approach to financial solutions today and in the future.
6. **Global Energy Forum**, in partnership with the Atlantic Council, is an annual forum bringing together key decision-makers to intensify global efforts for a transition towards a safe and clean energy future.
7. **Future Ministers Forum** is an exclusive Future Ministers Roundtable organised in collaboration with the European Commission. The Forum brought together ministers championing future portfolios, foresight, and long-term planning to share insights on enhancing future-readiness, building resilience, and turning future challenges into opportunities.

The 2022 Main Event hosted more than 110 sessions and workshops to shape the future of governments in the attendance of more than 4,000 global leaders and experts and 30+ international organisations. The Summit also recognised public sector excellence that accelerated socio-economic development and the SDGs through exceptional editions of the GovTech Prize, which highlighted the innovative use of technology in government to solve pressing global challenges, and the Best Minister Award, which highlighted impactful government leadership and execution.



Our world has become an increasingly complex place but SDGs remain a beacon of hope and progress for the planet helping to promote peace and partnership. However, it remains imperative for government leaders to make the tough decisions required to ensure sustainability is at the heart of government policy.³¹

H.E. Amina J. Mohammed
UN Deputy Secretary-General

b. Driving the Adoption of the 4th Industrial Revolution (4IR) Technologies in the UAE's Manufacturing Sector

As the UAE is embarking on an ambitious industrialization journey outlined in its 'Operation 300Bn' strategy in March 2021, there is an urgent need to adopt new advanced technologies to revitalise existing industrial sectors as well as seeding new technology-based sectors within the economy. These technologies have the potential to raise productivity, improve operational efficiency, and reduce waste.

The idea is simply to support and encourage the manufacturing sector in its technology adoption journey through a 4IR maturity assessment that's provided by 3rd party experts for 200 companies. The assessment is designed to do the following:

1. Raise awareness of the 4th industrial revolution
2. Educate the industry and unify the concepts
3. Measure the 4IR maturity level for the company and provide benchmarks
4. Prioritise high impact areas
5. Provide a high-level action plan, and recommendations

The assessment follows a three-step process:

1. An online onboarding session where the company is briefed on 4IR and the assessment methodology
2. Site visit where the facility is toured by experts and several workshops are held with various teams
3. Report debrief where the findings are presented to the company with the recommendations

The assessment is provided free of charge with no commitments on implementation. Moreover, the aggregate results of these assessments provide policymakers with a tool for evidence-based policymaking.

The 4th industrial revolution promises a quantum leap in competitiveness, productivity, efficiency, and sustainability. The pace of digital transformation in

³¹ WGS 2019: Five key areas will enable realization of Sustainable Development Goals: <http://wam.ae/en/details/1395302738195>





the manufacturing sector is accelerating exponentially due to the rapid growth in the maturity of various digital technologies such as AI, Additive Manufacturing, IoT, robots, and drones. However, the implementation of the 4th industrial revolution solutions is rife with challenges and still, adoption is considered to be significantly low. In addition, two out of each three manufacturers deploying digital solutions fail. Some of the challenges for adoption include the following:

1. Lack of awareness on 4IR
2. The gap in digital skills and knowledge
3. Unclear economic benefit/return on investment
4. Lack of funding

Accordingly, the government announced the industry 4.0 program and more specifically the Industry 4.0 Assessment initiative to tackle these challenges.

The Industry 4.0 Assessment initiative succeeded in raising awareness as well as educating on 4IR concepts. Follow-up surveys indicated that more than 90% of participating industrial companies reported an increase in understanding of 4IR.

Moreover, the companies significantly benefited from the exercise and the recommendations that were provided in the report which provided them with clear direction on how to proceed. The survey indicated that the companies are planning to invest ~\$204M in advanced technologies based on the provided recommendations.

The UAE announced its ambitious national strategy for Industry and Advanced Technology ‘Operation 300 Bn’ in March 2021. The strategy aims to more than double the Manufacturing Value Add (MVA) from AED 133Bn to AED 300Bn by 2031. A core element of the national strategy is the Industry 4.0 program which aims to foster a competitive, productive and sustainable industrial base at the forefront of the 4IR.

c. UAE to host COP 28, November 2023

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) endorsed the UAE to host the 28th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 28), November 2023. At a time of rapidly rising climate risk that threatens all countries, the UAE will approach COP 28 with determination to support the global community with a practical agenda that focuses on implementation, mitigation, and opportunities that drives change, aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the Paris Agreement.



“

The UAE is honoured to have been selected as the host country for COP 28 in 2023³². We look forward to working with the international community to accelerate global efforts to address climate change and environmental protection and create a more sustainable economic future.

H.H. Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan
President of the United Arab Emirates

COP 28 will be significant as its stock takes of National Commitments after the Paris agreement. The goal is to ensure COP 28 is inclusive and action-orientated that brings together developed and developing countries and unites all sectors – public, private, academia, and civil society – to focus on tangible solutions.

The UAE remains committed to climate action and aims to foster an ecosystem that includes all elements to take innovation to scale, from the capital to research and development, technology development, and project delivery. The approach aligns with the UAE’s Net-Zero by 2050 strategy that will define growth opportunities in the next phase of development by creating new knowledge, new industries, new skills, and new jobs.

The UAE has a long-standing commitment to investments that are helping the community mitigate and adapt to climate change with a positive economic impact on its people. The UAE is home to three of the largest and lowest-cost solar plants in the world. A reaffirmation of the UAE’s commitment to climate mitigation, renewable energies, and zero-carbon energies such as hydrogen.

COP 28 will take a holistic approach to climate action, recognizing that food systems account for almost one-quarter of all global emissions. Therefore, the UAE has partnered with 39 nations to launch the Agriculture Innovation Mission for Climate, a global initiative aimed at accelerating investments in R&D for climate-smart agri-tech.

Having invested over \$17 billion in clean energy projects on six continents around the world, and as home to the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), the UAE’s approach is built on bridge-building with the international community, to build partnerships to maximise the sustainable success of COP 28.

³² Official tweets by His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan: https://twitter.com/MohamedBinZayed/status/1458867117973983237?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etweetembed%7Cwtterm%5E1458867117973983237%7Ctwgr%5E%7Ctwcon%5Es1_ref_url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.khaleejtimes.com%2Fuae%2Fuae-to-host-global-climate-summit-cop-28-in-2023





d. Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week (ADSW)³³



Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week is the global sustainability platform that convenes the world's leaders to develop action-oriented solutions to the most pressing challenge of our time – climate change

Addressing the Problem

Addressing climate change and the impact it presents to the planet is a global challenge, one which requires action at all levels of society – policy, industry, investment, technology development and community.

Across the world, many events address sustainability as a fringe discussion topic but not as a central theme. Events which do focus primarily on sustainability do not represent the wide spectrum of stakeholders that are required to maintain alignment or deliver broad positive action.

As an inclusive platform, ADSW brings together the global community, ensuring that stakeholders from all segments of society and across the world are represented while ensuring that action is taken and delivered as a result.

A Global Sustainability Platform: Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week

Hosted by Masdar, ADSW has since 2008, hosted a series of global events which bring together heads of state, policymakers, international business leaders and technology pioneers, providing them with an inclusive platform to share knowledge, showcase innovation and outline strategies as we work together towards a net-zero future.

ADSW takes a proactive approach at a grassroots level, encouraging social inclusion by hosting a series of platforms and initiatives aimed at engaging and empowering young people, females and members of the community to play an active role in delivering a sustainable future.

Representing the Global Community

- **IRENA Assembly³⁴:** The Assembly is the supreme decision-making body of the International Renewable Energy Agency and brings together heads of state, ministers, government officials and representatives from the private sector, civil society and other international organisations to reaffirm the global renewable energy agenda and make concrete steps to accelerate the global energy transition.

³³ Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week: <https://abudhabisustainabilityweek.com/>

³⁴ IRENA Assembly: <https://www.irena.org/events/2022/Jan/Twelfth-Session-of-the-IRENA-Assembly>



- **Atlantic Council Global Energy Forum³⁵:** The Forum gathers international and regional political, industry and thought leaders to set the global energy agenda for the year and examine the longer-term geopolitical and geo-economic implications of the changing energy system.
- **The ADSW Summit:** An annual Summit that brings together heads of state, senior policymakers, CEOs, entrepreneurs and members of academia to identify pathways to accelerate global leadership, economic development and the implementation of the technologies and innovations needed to deliver the world's climate and sustainability goals.
- **The World Future Energy Summit³⁶:** The world's leading business event for future energy and sustainability. The event brings together hundreds of international exhibitors from around the world to showcase and discuss the latest solutions in solar and clean energy, water, waste management, mobility and smart city infrastructure.
- **Abu Dhabi Sustainable Finance Forum³⁷** convenes top global institutional investors, selected Heads of State and Ministers of Finance, regulators and financial institutions to discuss areas of collaboration to increase the flow of capital toward sustainable investment.
- **Innovate³⁸:** Masdar City's global initiative, showcases groundbreaking technologies from international start-ups and small and mid-size enterprises (SMEs), focusing on the areas of urban mobility, clean energy, agritech, food security, and artificial intelligence.
- The **Youth 4 Sustainability (Y4S)³⁹:** A year-long platform and youth-led program dedicated to creating awareness of the skills needed for future jobs in the green economy, and educating up to one million young people in sustainability by 2030 through a blended learning experience.
- **The WiSER Annual Forum⁴⁰:** The flagship event of the WiSER platform, which is dedicated to empowering women so they may play a greater role in carrying forward the sustainability agenda.
- **The Zayed Sustainability Prize Awards Ceremony⁴¹:** The Prize recognizes and rewards organisations and high schools that can demonstrate impactful, innovative and inspiring sustainability solutions. The five award categories are Health, Food, Energy, Water and Global High Schools.

³⁵ Atlantic Council Global Energy Forum: <https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/event/2022-global-energy-forum/>

³⁶ World Future Energy Summit: <https://www.worldfutureenergysummit.com/>

³⁷ Abu Dhabi Sustainable Finance Forum: <https://www.adgm.com/initiatives/sustainable-finance/adsff-2022/event-archive>

³⁸ Innovate – by Masdar City: <https://masdarcity.ae/en/innovate>

³⁹ Youth for Sustainability: <https://masdar.ae/en/strategic-platforms/youth-4-sustainability>

⁴⁰ WiSER Annual Forum: <https://masdar.ae/en/strategic-platforms/wiser/wiser-annual-forum>

⁴¹ Zayed Sustainability Prize Awards Ceremony: <https://zayedustainabilityprize.com/>





Impact and Results from ADSW 2022

**30,000**

Global participants

**150**

Countries represented

**600+**

International speakers

**12** Million views
online

across events and campaign films

**3,500+**New articles representing
US\$14.8m of media value**300+**Over 300 international exhibiting
companies, with country pavilions
from China, India, Japan, South
Korea, Germany, France, Italy,
Netherlands, Austria, Switzerland,
Nigeria, and more**e. Net Zero 2050⁴²**

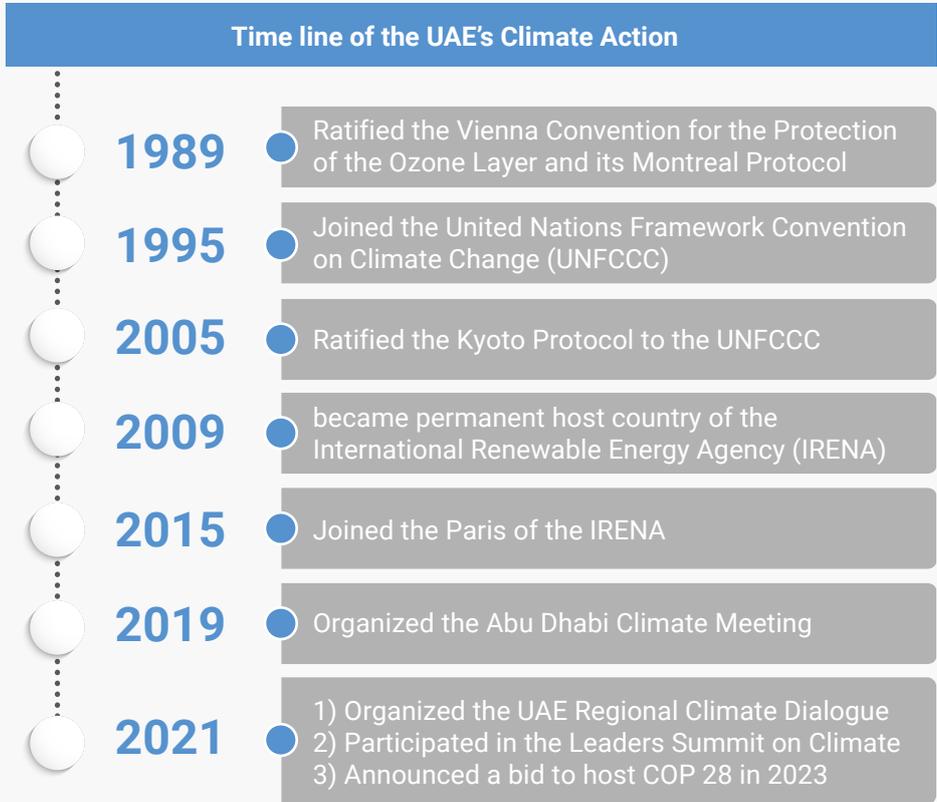
In October 2021, the UAE government announced the UAE Net Zero 2050 strategic initiative as a national drive to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050, making the UAE the first Middle East and North Africa (MENA) nation to do so. The initiative was announced at Expo 2020 - Dubai with the presence of H.H. Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates, and it aims to underpin dynamic economic growth alongside positive environmental impact.

The initiative aligns with the 'Principles of the 50', the UAE's roadmap for accelerating national economic development to mark the country's golden jubilee year, as the nation enters a new 50-year cycle of growth. The major economic opportunities offered by the path to net-zero directly support a vision to develop the Emirates into the most dynamic economy in the world.

Furthermore, the UAE Net Zero 2050 strategic initiative aligns with the Paris Agreement, which calls on countries to prepare long-term strategies to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and limit the rise in global temperature to 1.5 C compared to pre-industrial levels.

The UAE Ministry of Climate Change and Environment (MOCCA) will be leading and coordinating the efforts to execute the UAE Net-Zero by 2050 strategic initiative and ensure collaboration at the national level to fulfil this objective. Stakeholders in key sectors, such as energy, economy, industry, infrastructure, transport, waste, agriculture, and the environment, will update relevant plans, strategies, and policies, and implement initiatives and projects to achieve net-zero by 2050 in line with their needs and growth requirements. Federal and local government authorities will be responsible for preparing comprehensive studies

⁴² UAE announces Net Zero by 2050 strategic initiative: <https://www.wam.ae/en/details/1395302978138>



and developing plans that introduce the measures necessary to reduce emissions while also ensuring economic growth based on principles of sustainability.

The UAE Net-Zero by 2050 strategic initiative builds on the country's three decades of climate efforts and represents a strategic target for the next three decades, as the deployment and use of clean energy solutions are one of the main pillars of the UAE's model of addressing the challenge of climate change and reducing GHG emissions. The country began financing clean energy projects more than 15 years ago and has invested over US\$40 billion in the sector to date. Current trends predict the production capacity of clean energy, including solar and nuclear, to reach 14 GW (Giga Watt) by 2030, up from about 100 MW (Mega Watt) in 2015 and 2.4 GW in 2020. Moreover, in 2017, the country launched the National Climate Change Plan of the UAE 2017-2050, which sets out a framework for managing GHG emissions, adapting to the impacts of climate change, and diversifying the economy through innovation. In December 2020, the nation submitted its second Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to the Secretariat of the UNFCCC, which entailed raising its climate ambition through several measures, including strengthening its efforts to reduce emissions by 23.5% compared to business as usual for the year 2030. Additionally, the UAE supports green infrastructure and clean energy projects worldwide and





has invested in renewable energy ventures worth around US\$16.8 billion in 70 countries with a focus on developing nations. It has also provided more than US\$400 million in aid and soft loans for clean energy projects.

As mentioned by H.E. Dr. Sultan bin Ahmad Sultan Al Jaber, Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology, and special envoy for climate change, the UAE will use the path to net-zero as a way to create economic value, increase industrial competitiveness and enhance investment.

f. The Emirates Mars Mission - 'Hope Probe'

The Emirates Mars Mission⁴³ – Hope Probe is the first Arab mission to study the Red Planet. With the aim of establishing the Arab world as a key player in the global space race, the ambitious project carries the aspirations of millions of people across 56 Arab nations.

The Mission serves to send a strong message pronouncing the UAE, and the wider Arab world's potential in achieving significant scientific leaps and developing capabilities for interplanetary explorations that contribute to the future of humanity. The Hope Probe presents an investment in the coming generations and a source of inspiration for today's youth that the sky is not the limit.

Key facts about the "Hope Probe"

- The Hope Probe carries a message for future generations that the impossible is possible. With determination and willpower, people can turn challenges into opportunities.
- The Hope Probe is developed by a team of more than 200 Emirati engineers, experts and researchers, of which 34% are women, the highest in the world for such project.
- The Emirates Mars Mission largely contributes to humanity and the global scientific community. The data gathered by the Hope Probe will be shared freely with more than 200 research centers and scientific institutions across the world.
- This mission seeks to inspire Arab youth to pursue studies in science, math, engineering and technology (STEM), and build national expertise in these fields.
- The Emirates Mars Mission cements the UAE's status as a global partner in knowledge-sharing and strengthens the region's scientific contributions. The space mission will assist in UAE's and the Arab world transformation into knowledge sharing contributors to the global space community.
- The ambitious science project will significantly contribute to boosting engineering, industrial, scientific and research capabilities of the UAE and the Arab world.
- Through strategic and scientific partnerships across local and international markets, the probe was developed in six years.
- The project has developed more than 200 technologies.
- The Emirates Mars Mission team has established 15 global partnerships with universities and research centers.

⁴³ Emirates Mars Mission 'Hope Probe': <https://www.emiratesmarsmission.ae/>

**g. Digital Economy**

In the early months of 2022, the UAE's Digital Economy Strategy was approved, and the digital economy sector is expected to double its contribution to the non-oil GDP over the next ten years reaching 20%. This will create opportunities for foreign direct investments serving the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, specifically goals 4, 8, 9 and 11.

Digital Economy will ultimately lead to a diverse economy, attract, develop, upskill and retain the world's best digital talents, and it will also enhance economic security through

- Human ingenuity from world-class talents collaborating.
- Leading-edge technology to catalyse business applications.
- Exponential economic and social values.

Shedding light on the strategy's nine strategic objectives that include:

1. Production in key sectors
2. Production in new economy
3. Transactions
4. Consumers
5. Next-generation technology
6. Digital talents
7. Digital infrastructure
8. Regulatory framework
9. Financing

The UAE aspires to be a hub for the digital economy sector as well as adopting technologies and driving digital uptake in core sectors. Also, considering the change the pandemic forced on the economy, the UAE aims to digitise the interactions of consumers to boost market efficiency. Moreover, the strategy incorporates enabling digital empowerment and supports the use of emerging technologies to digitalize the economy which will attract, develop, upskill and retain the world's best digital talents. Furthermore, the UAE aims to create an environment that fosters computational thinking of the youth through creating advanced infrastructure to ease digital transformation as well as strengthening the current infrastructure and supporting the UAE's Digital Economy Agenda.

The UAE recognizes the importance of digitising its economy and aims to be a world leader in sectors such as Artificial Intelligence (AI). Starting by integrating AI in industry assets and emerging sectors, as well as the country's smart governments leading to growth in industries. The strategy targets six sectors and it will include more than 30 initiatives and programs that will be periodically measured to note growth. One example is the retail industry, e-commerce witnessed rapid growth, and it is playing a role in expanding sales in comparison to traditional retail sales. This trend is expected to be reinforced due to the shift towards internet services and the expansion of electronic payment systems.

The impact of the digital economy will be comprehensive in the long term and will possibly transform the way systems work today. Nonetheless, the UAE highlighted the importance of a digital economy, universal accessibility and affordable access to the internet to achieve the SDGs by 2030. The vision goes





beyond 2030 as well. The UAE's Centennial 2071 Strategy focuses on digitalization through promoting innovation, supporting research and development (R&D), and adopting advanced technologies. However, a rapidly developing world requires fast-paced and smart technologies to manage its development therefore digital government proved to be critical.

The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs of United Nations (UNDESA) published the UN e-Government survey that targets government officials, the private sector, people of the public, and many more to gather data to further develop. The survey is used as a tool for countries to learn from each other and it identifies the issues related to digitalization which proved to be crucial for achieving the Sustainable development goals. Advanced technologies can be deployed to improve the quality of life in various sectors such as transportation, health, education, and infrastructure.

Driving impact towards SDGs:

1. SDG 4, Quality education
2. SDG 8, Decent work and economic growth.
3. SDG 9, Industry, innovation and infrastructure
4. SDG 11, Sustainable cities and communities

h. Circular Economy

In January 2021, the UAE set out on an ambitious mission to transform its economy from a linear economy to a Circular Economy through the introduction of its Circular Economy (CE) Policy⁴⁴. The driver for this transformation recognised that the current linear economy wastes too many valuable resources, creates too much pollution, and fails to adequately preserve Nature.

In contrast, by transitioning to a Circular Economy, the UAE is striving to optimise its use of resources, 'design out' waste and pollution and preserve and enhance Nature. The UAE's CE policy identifies four priority sectors for transition to a Circular Economy:

- The food sector
- The manufacturing sector
- The infrastructure sector; and
- The transportation sector

By transitioning to a more circular food sector, the UAE expects to reduce food waste and optimise water usage, reduce greenhouse gases associated with food production and waste and increase the sequestration of carbon in soils. It will also improve the quality of soils and biodiversity, reduce the contamination of soils, and reduce unsustainable fishing. Furthermore, it will increase access to

By transitioning to a Circular Economy, the UAE is striving to optimise its use of resources, 'design out' waste and pollution and preserve and enhance Nature.

⁴⁴ UAE Circular Economy Policy; <https://www.moccae.gov.ae/assets/download/73d7daa1/UAE%20Circular%20Economy%20Policy%202021-2031.pdf.aspx?view=true>



Overarching Priorities

- Set Clear Direction
- Gather Data
- Technology, Circular, Economy Innovation, R&D
- Building Awareness & Capacity
- Partnerships & Collaboration
- Access to Sustainable Finance
- Circular Procurement Policy
- Waste Management



Sustainable Transportation

- Low Carbon Vehicles
- Green Integrated Inter-Modal Plans
- Public Transport and Sharing Models



Sustainable manufacturing

- Resource Efficiency
- Remanufacturing and Reuse Business Models
- Product and Material Design
- Green Sectoral Clusters (Eco-industrial parks)



Green infrastructure & development

- Smart and Sustainable Urban Plans
- Green Building Design and Construction
- Utilisation, renovation and upgrade of Buildings and Infrastructure



Sustainable food production & consumption

- Regenerative Production
- Input Productivity
- Reduce Food Loss and Waste
- Upcycling Biological Waste

healthy and nutritious food, extract more value from biowaste and create green jobs and business opportunities in the redesign and production of food and the production of bio-fertilizers and bio-energy.

By transitioning to a more circular manufacturing sector, the UAE expects to reduce the demand for energy, water and virgin raw materials used in the manufacturing sector, reduce the amount of waste being generated and ending up in our oceans and environment, reduce emissions of GHG and other pollutants associated with the extraction, manufacture, use and disposal of raw materials. It will create a more productive, competitive, advanced and innovative manufacturing sector and create green jobs and business opportunities in circular design, circular manufacturing, remanufacturing, circular business models, eco-innovations and upcycling and recycling.





By transitioning to a more circular infrastructure, the UAE expects to reduce the demand for energy, water and virgin raw materials used in the construction sector and infrastructure. It reduces the amount of construction waste being generated and ending up in landfills and reduces emissions of GHG and other pollutants associated with the construction, use and demolition of infrastructure. It will also create more productive infrastructure and healthier, more livable cities and regions and improve access to goods, services and housing and the public's connection with nature.

The circular economy will certainly create green jobs and business opportunities in the design, development, approval and construction/production of circular buildings, building materials, and infrastructure, the redesign, repurposing of existing infrastructure and the upcycling, and recycling of building materials.

By transitioning to a more circular transportation sector, the UAE expects to reduce the demand for energy and raw materials used in the production, use and disposal of vehicles, reduce the amount of waste generated by the transport sector, emissions of GHG and other pollutants and negative externalities associated with the transportation sector and reduce congestion and travel times

The Circular economy will create more liveable and healthier cities, reduce the number of traffic accidents and improve access to jobs and services

Scale360° Partnership with the World Economic Forum

The United Arab Emirates became the first signatory of the initiative in 2019 through a partnership with the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, the Office of the Minister of State for Artificial Intelligence, and the World Economic Forum and proceeded to establish the first-ever Scale360° national program. Scale360° seeks to scale up the use of Fourth Industrial Revolution technology innovations and connect stakeholders across regional and global endeavours with the aim of fast-tracking the circular economy.

The United Arab Emirates participated in the inaugural meeting of the Scale360° Global Advisory Board, the governing body of the World Economic Forum. The Advisory Board meeting convened leaders from the public and private sectors to review progress, provide guidance on program development, and activate members' commitment to the Scale360° initiative. Participants also discussed ways in which the global community can enhance the existing circular economy landscape, and how the forthcoming playbook, part of the Scale360° UAE National Program, will help guide the approach to circular innovation worldwide.



2. DATA

a. Data and Statistics

1. Statistical Framework in the UAE

The UAE's federal statistics system consists of statistics offices at the federal and local levels. The National Statistical System (NSS), in the UAE, comprises the Federal Competitiveness and Statistics Centre, the seven Emirates statistical offices, ministries, authorities, and other government entities that collect, produce, and publish administrative data as part of their core business. The FCSC's role is to provide governance, coordination, and support for capacity building across the NSS, and to serve as the UAE's National Statistical Office (NSO).

Since the establishment of the UAE National Committee on SDGs, the Committee has agreed to expand capacity, diversify sources, and produce data at pace with decision-making cycles for the SDGs. The Committee has established multiple working groups and task forces to coordinate the collection and production of data in support to track, monitor, and report progress made toward the SDG indicators. Partnerships have been established across sectors and borders, in support of the production of rich data sets that the SDGs require. The Committee leverages the UAE's STI framework and continues its collaboration with frontier shaping STI sectors to address data requirements, including the UAE Space Agency.

The UAE is a global partner in multiple data-driven Committees, in support of the national, Emirate, regional and global levels, and recognizes the importance of the Decade of Action and its call to accelerate sustainable solutions to the world's greatest challenges. In September 2019, the UN Secretary-General called on all sectors of society to mobilise the Decade of Action on three levels; Global Action (to ensure that the SDGs have greater leadership, resources, and wiser solutions), Local Action (Governments, cities, and local governments must include the necessary transformations into their policies, budgets, institutions, and regulatory frameworks), and People Action (a whole-of-society approach, to generate inevitable movements for required transformations)⁴⁵.

The UAE has embedded the three call-to-actions of the UN Secretary-General into its statistical framework;

Global Action:

- The UAE hosts one of four UN Regional Hubs (UNGP), governed by the UN Committee of Experts on Big Data and Data Science for Official Statistics. The UNGP-UAE aims to facilitate projects in the use of big data and data science for official statistics and the SDG indicators.
- The UAE is an active member of the Committee of Earth Observation toolkit for sustainable cities and human settlements. The goal of the Committee is to develop and assess geospatial methodologies, toolkits, data, and techniques, to monitor the SDGs using multiple Earth Observation Products, whilst publishing results on a centralised portal.

⁴⁵ Decade of Action: <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/decade-of-action/>





- The UAE hosted the 2018 UN World Data Forum bringing together more than 2,500 data experts, high-ranking government officials and prominent policymakers from 120 countries around the world. The UN WDF discussed leveraging the data revolution for sustainable development, improving the use of data and statistics, and transforming the human community for a better future in line with the 2030 Agenda.
- The UN Youth Hackathon was hosted in 2021. The Hackathon is globally renowned and suffices as a platform to create opportunities for the youth. The participating youth members have been tasked to transform creativity into reality, placing data for SDGs at the centre of its execution. The Hackathon saw 70 teams, 250+ participants, from 33 countries participating, with the winners being announced during the Global Goals Week at Expo 2020 - Dubai.

Local Action:

- The creation of a Digital Ecosystem in the UAE is a key priority of the government. FCSC has developed a Data Enabling Framework that aligns with sustainability and governance. The framework utilises data from multiple sources, including administrative data, survey data, earth observation data, municipal maps (geospatial data), citizen-generated data (crowdsourcing), big data and private sector data (2nd party data). The Framework utilises the data through AI data analytics, and geospatial data, in support of developing a data strategy that will oversee data quality, application, the respective life cycles, and processes, to ensure sustainable development in a governed manner whilst producing quality data to support policymakers, regulators, and decision-makers.
- The FCSC has established a Higher Committee for Coordinating Statistical Work. The Committee includes memberships of more than 50 entities that produce data, inclusive of federal and local government offices. The Committee aims to standardise statistical indicators and methods, connected to government data and electronic data exchanges.
- The Data Maturity Index (DMI) serves as a new governance framework across all statistical offices and data providers, to ensure data accuracy, and quality, and support the digital transformation. DMI include and utilise 85 data producers and established a national data team that supports governing data production, quality, and accuracy. The team, consisting of nominated champions from the respective entities, are tasked to encourage data governance within current data structures within each entity. In essence, DMI is an operational governance framework that embeds data quality, flow, and availability, seamlessly towards the SDGs and national requirements, in support of policymakers, law reforms, and regulations.
- Maydani, a survey application developed by the FCSC, has three main objectives, namely;
 1. Manage all national surveys and polls within the UAE.
 2. Support the Emirates Data network with raw data, databases, and national indicators.
 3. Utilise GIS principles and link relevant SDGs to outcomes.

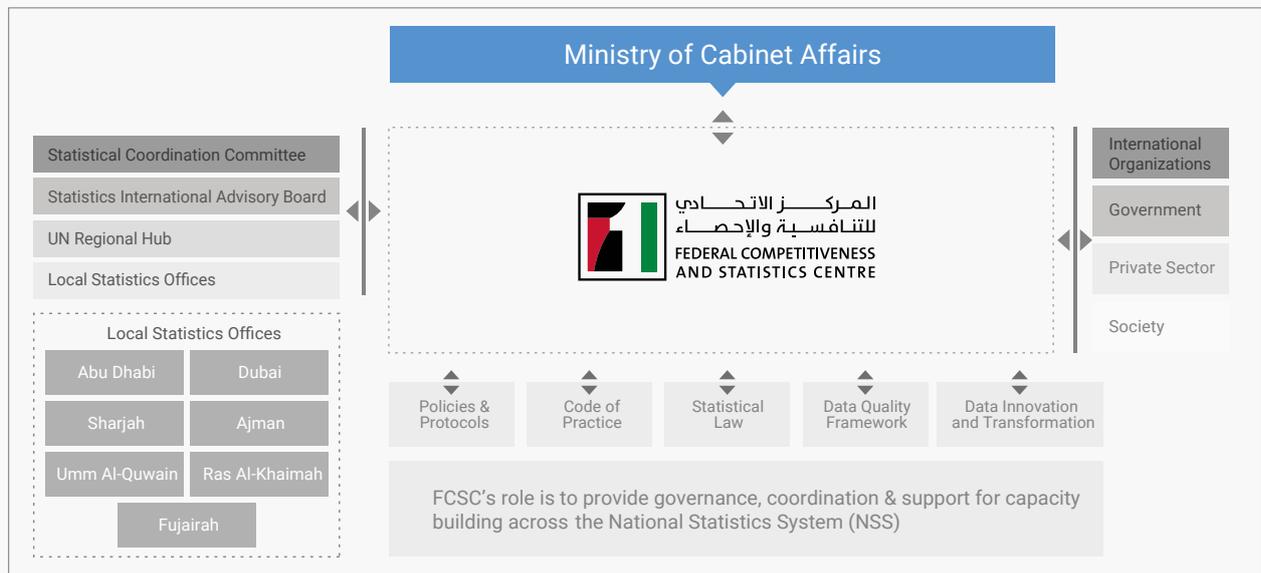


People Action:

- The UAE National Committee on SDGs, in collaboration with Esri, has established the UAE SDG Data Hub. The Hub aims to engage the whole of society with the SDGs through four main elements, namely; SDG Indicator Data at the National and Emirate level, best practices through its initiatives element, data stories to engage society with multiple aspects including protected areas, and media elements that include ministerial messages (see chapter 5 for more information).
- The UAE National Committee on SDGs has established a Private Sector Advisory Council (PSAC) in October 2018, during the UN World Data Forum. PSAC has been working with the UAE government to bridge policymaking in a sustainable, cohesive and inclusive manner. In addition, PSAC has been working with the National Committee on SDGs to progress the SDGs and cross-sector data sharing practices. This resulted in a report being published, A Blueprint for Public-Private Data-Sharing Partnerships, in 2021.

The report provided data-related barriers to tracking progress towards the implementation of the SDGs and highlighted that data-sharing requires a framework that addresses challenges, and the following enablers

- Building effective data-sharing governance
- Constructing data partnerships that are grounded in trust and transparency, ensuring a clear understanding of the benefits of data sharing
- Establishing a unified public-private vision for sustainability
- Promoting partnerships with strong mutual benefits that outweigh burdens.





B. NON-TRADITIONAL DATA SOURCES

1. One Million Arab Coders equips the region's youth with skills for a digital future⁴⁶

According to a recent report by the World Bank, Middle East nations stand to make major gains through the digitalisation of their economies. GDP per capita could rise by more than 40%, with long-term unemployment rates falling to negligible levels and female labour force participation doubling. Yet, the report concludes, that substantial national-level programs of digital skills development are essential in equipping the youth of today to reap these rewards.

One Million Arab Coders (OMAC) – the UAE's answer to that call in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals of education, economic growth, innovation and global partnership – went above and beyond in developing digital literacy across the entire Arab region, ultimately ensuring the readiness of the youth for the future and preparing the next generation of technology experts.

OMAC achieved this through a digital platform providing online programming courses accessible by Arab nationals from around the world.

Launched in 2017 by H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, OMAC is the largest initiative of its kind in the Arab world. It has now expanded to chapters in Uzbekistan and Jordan.



Figure 6: A snapshot of the One Million Arab Coders program

⁴⁶ One Million Arab Coders: <https://www.dubaifuture.ae/initiatives/capacity-building/one-million-arab-coders/>



The program – led by the Dubai Future Foundation, and under Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives Initiatives, provides an opportunity for Arab talents to learn a wide variety of coding skills and apply them in website and mobile application development, blockchain, artificial intelligence, and data and cloud computing.

The participating coders clocked in five million training hours with 1.2 million enrollments, 76,000 workshops, and completed 100,000 successful graduation projects. The initiative has also awarded over 1,500 nano-degree scholarships to distinguished students.

More than 3,600 certified trainers from around the world were at hand to help the participants with the technical aspects and provide support in turning their innovative ideas into complete projects.

The participating coders clocked in five million training hours, participated in 76,000 workshops, and completed 100,000 successful graduation projects.

As part of the program, H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, called upon graduates to compete in a challenge to develop projects and solutions using the skills they acquired. The grand prize for the most innovative coding project was US\$1 million, with five runners-up receiving US\$50,000 each.

2. UNGP-UAE (Regional Hub): A regional platform enabling better decision-making for the SDGs through the power of big data

According to Forbes, humans produce 2.5 quintillion bytes of data every day, and as we become increasingly dependent on technology on a global, regional, national and individual level, this rate is growing. The importance of the synergy of technology and data for driving decision-making and monitoring progress cannot be overstated.

With less than 8 years to successfully implement the 2030 Agenda, it is imperative to harness new sources of data and adopt innovative methods to help countries measure the SDGs and to ensure no one is left behind.

Governed by the UN Committee of Experts on Big Data and Data Science for Official Statistics (UN-CEBD), the Global Platform has built a cloud-service ecosystem to support international collaboration in the development of Official Statistics using new data sources and innovative methods and to help countries measure progress made towards the SDGs, and to support in the implementation of the





The UAE Regional Hub is establishing itself as a sandbox and incubator for data science and artificial intelligence projects for governmental authorities and facilitating global knowledge exchange through partnerships, talent acquisition, and expertise.

global goals. The UN Global Platform has four physical hubs around the world (China, Rwanda, Brazil, and United Arab Emirates) working together to educate, collaborate and develop new technologies to incorporate Big Data sources and methodologies into the implementation of the SDGs. The UN's decision to make the UAE the regional headquarters of the platform is a testament to the country's position as a regional leader in technology and big data.

The UAE Regional Hub aims to facilitate projects through the use of Big Data and data science for official statistics and SDG indicators, to share knowledge on newly developed methods, algorithms, and tools, and to offer training in the use of Big Data, AI, and data science to the community of official statisticians in the region.

The UAE-UNGP's strategic working areas include creating the largest data collaborative in the MENA region, fostering a knowledge hub regionally by bringing industry experts together, and positioning the hub as a data science accelerator. To maximise the use of data tech for people and the planet for better social impact, the hub is actively supporting access to data, technology services, and expertise.

The UAE-UNGP is establishing itself as a sandbox and incubator for data science and artificial intelligence projects for governmental authorities and facilitating global knowledge exchange through partnerships, talent acquisition, and expertise. As a result, harnessing the power of data to improve lives and accelerate sustainable progress through global collaborations.

Building forward towards the official launch of the UAE-UNGP, the UAE, in collaboration with the UNCEBD, hosted a webinar series titled 'Road to Expo 2020'. The series acted as a tool to pave the way towards Mobilizing Big Data and Data Science for the SDGs forum, hosted during Expo 2020 Dubai. The Forum brought together global data industry experts to share experiences, knowledge, and insights on the importance of big data and data science in developing innovative solutions and strategies for the implementation of the SDGs. The Forum, inclusive of its three-day technical workshops, welcomed 86 data experts who participated in 16 distinct sessions and workshops. Virtual participation provided a platform for global participation, which included senior government officials, UN officials, big data and data science experts, multinational and national companies, academia, and the youth, from 22 countries.



The government of the UAE invests immensely in data and digitalization, including the establishment of multiple data centres, publishing data laws, and investing in big data, AI, and data analysis platforms. The UAE, a host of a UNGP, looks forward to serving as a global reference in activating various streams across sectors and society and driving the national, regional, and global implementation of the SDGs.

3. UN Youth Hackathon 2021: Rethinking, redesigning, and innovating new ways of creating a shared sustainable future

Since 2020, the Novel Coronavirus has made it clear that the world cannot operate as 'business as usual'. Globally, we need to rethink, redesign and innovate new ways that pave a brighter and more sustainable future for all. The youth of today are the leaders of the future, who will drive a resilient future through creativity and innovation for people and the planet⁴⁷.

The UN Youth Hackathon 2021 had a notable impact in highlighting the importance of empowering the next generation of programmers, coders, and data scientists to not only be part of the change but to initiate action by way of harnessing relevant data, leading technologies, services, expertise, and teaching them the best practices in utilising data science and AI to drive impact.

In 2021, the United Nations Statistics Division and the Major Group for Children and Youth (MGCY), in collaboration with regional hubs in Rwanda, UAE, Brazil, and China, organised a virtual hackathon to empower youth to develop solutions to some of the world's toughest problems using data⁴⁸.

As the UAE strengthens its knowledge-based economy through initiatives and reforms, the UAE is placing high emphasis on youth engagement, listening to the voice of the youth, and cultivating leadership skills. It is with great pride that the UAE has activated multiple initiatives, including the UN Youth Hackathon 2021, to support the efforts of knowledge transfer and form a generation of young women and men capable of adopting advanced technology to address current future challenges. The UAE plays an important role in the region as an incubator for the youth's creative skills and innovations, by way of empowering them to ideate and take action to pave the way toward a better sustainable future.

⁴⁷ UN Response to COVID-19: <https://www.un.org/en/coronavirus/UN-response>

⁴⁸ UN Youth Hackathon: <https://www.unmgy.org/main-news-updates/2021/10/04/un-youth-hackathon-dec-2021>





The hackathon was launched by the UAE UN Regional Hub in the MENA region in partnership with the UAE Federal Youth Authority and was sponsored by H.E. Shamma bint Suhail bin Faris Al Mazrui, Minister of State for Youth. The hackathon aimed to provide a platform for young people to build their data science skills by giving them direct access to important data sets and allowing them to work collaboratively with their teams. The hackathon encouraged youth participation in evidence-based decision-making through data analysis, and it ensured that participants received feedback from their peers and professional mentors in order to globally scale up their solutions to accelerate SDGs.

The Hackathon witnessed the participation of 70 teams from all around the world. The MENA Region was represented by the participation of 29 teams. The hackathon sponsored numerous awards, including the Best Visualisation award given to the 'Datax' team from Morocco, the Most Promising Team award given to 'DragonFly' from the UAE, the Third Best Project and Best All Student Team awards given to 'UNAMOR' from Mexico, and the First Place Overall winning project was given to the 'Sustainability' teams from France and Ivory Coast.

The winning team developed visualisation tools to aid in assessing households' sensitivity to COVID's impacts in Uganda. The team was awarded a visit to EXPO 2020 - Dubai, where they attended the 'Mobilizing Big Data and Data Science for the Sustainable Development Goals Forum' and engaged with world-renowned experts in big data and artificial intelligence. Additionally, the hackathon participants joined by data enthusiasts participated in a youth circle organised in collaboration with the UAE Federal Youth Authority. This interactive session includes discussions centred on the future from development and sustainable perspective between the youth, decision-makers, and data science pioneers.

The UN Youth Hackathon 2021 had a notable impact in highlighting the importance of empowering the next generation of programmers, coders, and data scientists to not only be part of the change but to initiate action by way of harnessing relevant data, leading technologies, services, expertise, and teaching them the best practices in utilising data science and AI to drive impact.

4. 51 Positions Ahead - The UAE takes a leap of faith in promoting transparency in government action (Open Data Inventory Global Index (ODIN))

In 2020, the UAE embraced the opportunity for data openness & transparency through the Open Data Watch Report, also known as ODIN, in its fifth edition. The compliance to ODIN saw the UAE's rank improve by 51 positions in 2018, to 16 out of 187 countries globally^{49,50}. Open data and its transparency play an important role in decision-making processes and cross-sector collaboration.

ODIN measures how complete a country's statistical offerings are and whether its data meet international standards of 'open data to the public'⁵¹. In addition, the assessment and measurements included coverage and openness of the official statistics of participating governments. It aimed to identify gaps, and promote open data policies to improve accessibility to data for public use. Thus promoting open dialogue between the data users & the official data producers.

⁴⁹ UAE ranks 16th globally in Open Data Inventory Report 2020: <https://www.mofaic.gov.ae/en/mediahub/news/2020/12/8/08-12-2020-uae-ranking#:~:text=The%20UAE%20ranked%2016th%20globally,an%20overall%20score%20of%2075>

⁵⁰ UAE country profile - ODIN: <https://odin.opendatawatch.com/Report/countryProfileUpdated/ARE?year=2020>

⁵¹ ODIN 2020 - New indicators and updates: <https://opendatawatch.com/blog/odin-2020-new-indicators-updates/>



Participating in such an international report, the UAE trusts that fulfilling ODIN requirements shall indeed have a direct positive impact on the majority of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. The Open Data Inventory (ODIN) assesses data for 65 representative indicators in 22 data categories. The ODIN indicators are not meant to be a comprehensive list of all indicators produced by a country, but rather an indicative sample of the fundamental types of data produced by countries.

Innovation is at the forefront of the UAE's efforts to be amongst the best countries worldwide. Therefore, in 2020, the FCSC launched the Open Data Race at the federal government level to raise awareness of the importance of open data, adopt open data policies, and celebrate best practices by data-producing government entities. One of its criteria was to publish non-confidential data through the respective open data portals, by uploading and publishing data in a specific standard and format. Publishing open data through these portals resulted in a positive impact on ODIN indicators, including open data made available in machine-readable formats through standardised methodologies (metadata), which saw duplication of metadata availability and an improvement in the value of the indicator.

13 Government entities participated in the inaugural edition of the UAE Open Data Race. Participants provided 277 open data sets, covering 30 vital indicators related to education, health, infrastructure, economy, energy, gender equality, and food security, among many others, in 50 days. External data experts evaluated the performance of entities and served as the judging panel to identify the best performing entities.

The Open Data Race had a significant contribution to the UAE's competitiveness file and increased awareness at the national level about the importance of open data to the community. It further enhanced and developed the capacities of the participating government entities, to manage and deliver open data in a short time period.

H.E. Omar bin Sultan Al Olama, Minister of State for Artificial Intelligence, Digital Economy and Digital Economy and Remote Work Applications, reiterated the UAE's performance in the report stating: Government open data publishing aims to promote the concept of transparency in government actions, which is among the top priorities of the UAE's leadership. Open data also helps increase the efficiency of resource usage, supporting decision-making, exploring development opportunities, and paving the way for the launch of successful projects in the field of artificial intelligence to serve communities. The UAE Government has adopted an open data policy as part of the digital transformation process, to facilitate





access to government data and statistics about the UAE for researchers and the community. National federal authorities make data available to the public via their official e-portals.

The ODIN report noted: 'The year 2020 was a challenging year for the world as countries grappled with the COVID-19 pandemic. Nonetheless, and despite the pandemic's negative impact on the capacity of statistics producers, 2020 saw great progress in open data.'⁵²

Open Data supports the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. ODIN assesses data for 65 indicators in 22 data categories. Therefore, the UAE trusts that fulfilling ODIN requirements shall have a direct and positive impact on the 17 SDGs. The ODIN report engages specific indicators that have a direct linkage to the SDGs, including spurring economic growth, reducing inequality, improving education, and tackling global environmental issues.

The UAE will accelerate open data in support of reporting and monitoring the journey towards implementing the 2030 Agenda successfully.

5. UAE.Stat: Cross-sector collaboration to centralise data for better decision-making

Better decision-making and policymaking are enabled by quality data. In this age of big data, governments, businesses, and individuals are not primarily interested in data because it is intrinsically valuable, but rather to gain insights from it. Insights lead to better decisions. Better decisions lead to incremental improvements in society and the economy – which is a nation's progress and wellbeing. Data has always been a valuable resource for governments and companies, but in the last 20 years, there has been an explosion in the appetite for quantitative and qualitative data.

The UAE Government places emphasis on open data as it is instrumental in achieving the SDGs by providing critical information on natural resources, government operations, public services, and population demographics. These insights can inform national priorities and help determine the most effective avenues for action on national issues.

The UAE government is taking concrete steps to establish a strong digital economy and make use of the advantages and benefits provided by digital transformation. In line with the national efforts, UAE.Stat, a local version of OECD.stat was established, using the same technology. This centralised repository of government open data was developed and is managed by the FCSC Centre and provides enhanced access to open data systems for the public. Participation and transparency form the basis for the portal, which represents the government's intention to enhance sustainable communities. Data sets such as economy, education, society, technology, transportation, environment, government, health and infrastructure are accessible through the portal's homepage.

⁵² UAE ranks 16th globally in Open Data Inventory Report 2020: <https://wam.ae/en/details/1395302893180>



The UAE.Stat is a centralised portal that makes data search, visualisation, export, and sharing easy. Using the standards of Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX), the FCSC is responsible for publishing the government data in the UAE. Stat portal after undergoing robust quality checks procedures such as data cleansing, sorting, and performing certain logical tests. Thus, ensuring its optimal value to the users, and at the same time reflecting actual information and realistic data from a trusted government source. UAE.Stat has an easy-to-use table builder interface to create accurate reports and success stories based on the wealth of data contained in the portal. This portal, both in its credibility and functionality, underscores the efforts of the United Arab Emirates toward accurately measuring the impact of the SDGs. The portal emphasises metadata, code lists, and setting definitions of the data in a very specific pattern and time series, as such, it enables the monitoring of the development of the relevant indicators related to the SDGs. UAE.Stat is an enabler for the national implementation and measurement of the SDGs for the UAE.

UAE.Stat provides data for decision-makers and policymakers to use in planning for a better and more sustainable future in a variety of ways including; fostering economic growth and job creation, improving the efficiency and effectiveness of public services, increasing transparency, accountability, and citizen participation, and, most importantly, facilitating better information-sharing within government.

6. World Data Forum 2018 – Dubai Declaration

The United Nations has launched the UN World Data Forum in 2017 based on a recommendation from the UN Secretary General's Independent Expert and Advisory Group on Data Revolution for Sustainable Development. The first forum took place in Cape Town, South Africa with the support of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs under the guidance of the UN Statistical Commission.

For the second edition of the forum, the United Nations Statistics Division invited governments of the Member States and their National Statistical Offices to express their interest in hosting the second United Nations World Data Forum. Auspiciously, the UAE Federal Competitiveness and Statistics Centre submitted the bid and managed the dossier for the forum to host the second session of the World Data Forum. The UAE showed interest and demonstrated its capability to host and organise large-scale events during the first forum in Cape Town and competed with Switzerland, Finland, Mexico and other countries in the final bid process. These countries all have a long history of hosting highly attended international events and eventually, the UAE was announced to host the next UN World Data Forum in Dubai, in 2018. The announcement was made at a press conference in Cape Town.





I would like to congratulate the UAE leadership and people for this important accomplishment. Selecting the UAE asserts our leadership's commitment to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals 2030, and hosting the World Data Forum reconfirms the UAE's growing role within the international community. We aspire for the World Data Forum to become a platform for a global roadmap for excellence in data management and utilisation, and to serve the UAE and the entire international community.

H.E. Reem bint Ebrahim Al Hashimy

Minister of State for International Cooperation
Chairwoman of the UAE National Committee on SDGs
Director General of Expo 2020 - Dubai
President of the Global Councils on SDGs

This event had significance for the UAE because it comes in line with the country's transformational vision to galvanise its sustainability towards 2030 Agenda. The forum supports the improvement of data used to achieve the goals for a better future for all and leaving no one behind. In addition, the UAE has always been keen on technology and innovation for strengthening systems and data mechanisms and what can be better than this platform to intensify cooperation and build capacity for the 2030 agenda for sustainable development.

The 22nd of October, 2018 marked the inauguration of the second United Nations Data Forum in Dubai in, a three-day forum, which brought together more than 2,500 data experts, high-ranking government officials and prominent policymakers from 120 countries around the world. The forum was hosted by the UAE Federal Competitiveness and Statistics Centre, with the support of the Statistics Division of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs. The forum was co-organized by a number of partners, including governments, the World Bank, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), PARIS21, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), the United Nations Foundation, as well as a number of civil society organisations and entities.

With 80 interactive discussion panels and more than 400 global speakers, the forum discussed harnessing the data revolution for sustainable development and improving the use of data and statistics to achieve change towards a better future for human communities in line with the SDGs 2030. The forum also featured presentations on interactive visual data and discussion panels, which enabled the participants to interact, exchange ideas and views, and enhance data-use capabilities to meet the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

This forum was a testimony of the UAE's capability to host such an important global event, and it particularly supported the country to leap closer to achieving UAE Vision 2021 and the 2030 Agenda.



CHAPTER 7

EXPO 2020 – DUBAI





CHAPTER 7

EXPO 2020 – DUBAI

1. INTRODUCTION

For six months from 1 October 2021 to 31 March 2022, Expo 2020 - Dubai was a global gathering of 192 nations, the private sector, and international organisations in collaboration with the United Nations.

A purpose-built city and community with the SDGs ingrained in its every facet, from design to construction and day-to-day operation, Expo welcomed 24 million visitors from around the world, and over 200 million online, driving awareness and inspiring engagement around the themes of Sustainability, Mobility and Opportunity and the Sustainable Development Goals in the Decade of Action.

The exhibition design of Expo's flagship Thematic Pavilions had a direct impact on the knowledge and behaviour of millions of visitors. Our Programme for People and Planet convened more than 19,000 global change-makers and ensured that everyone had a seat at the table, prioritising new forms of partnership and empowering youth, women and underrepresented voices.

Plastics reduction and carbon offset programmes gave participants and visitors the opportunity to directly impact their environmental footprint. And the Change the World Challenge, which was launched in Global Goals Week at Expo 2020 - Dubai, was embraced by more than 80,000 members of the public and generated more than 57,000 personal 'To Do List' pledges to help make the world a better place.

2. WHAT EXPO 2020 - DUBAI DID

How Expo built

The entire Expo site has been crafted according to sustainable values. Expo's Sustainability Report 2020, developed in accordance with Global Reporting Initiative Standards, details the many ways in which they have delivered one of the most sustainable World Expos in the storied history of this prestigious event. Expo has evolved its sustainability targets and metrics to address a wide spectrum of initiatives and programmes that aim to deliver the greatest positive impact, reflected in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as well as key national strategies and initiatives, such as UAE Vision 2021. In the report, which examines Expo 2020 - Dubai's performance across 21 topic areas, including innovation, biodiversity, and occupational health and safety, they seek to provide readers with a comprehensive perspective on how Expo entrenched sustainability across all its functions.



From environmental planning and data monitoring to compliance monitoring, ecology protection, waste management, spill and air pollution prevention, and much more, the Expo 2020 - Dubai site has been built on a bedrock of sustainable urban development practices. Meanwhile, Expo's International Participants held to sustainable building standards and aligned with the sustainability vision where they were able.

Siemens Mindsphere connected, monitored, and controlled more than 130 buildings on-site, providing Expo with a comprehensive data-driven insight into building performance statistics around energy efficiency and renewable energy production, water efficiencies, water recycling systems, and waste management. In Expo's permanent buildings, they achieved an average 33% reduction in energy demand as compared to international standards, thanks to their focus on passive design solutions and the integration of efficient cooling systems, efficient lighting and more. More than 91% of waste has been diverted from landfills to date (April 2022), while 98% of materials used in permanent structures were retained for legacy use.

Approximately 90% of Expo's native and adaptive landscape areas were managed without the use of chemical pesticides, herbicides, or fertilisers, and Expo planted around 14,000 trees, 2,500 date palms and more than 3.5 million small plants.

All Expo 2020 - Dubai's permanent buildings have achieved the LEED certification, with seven buildings (including the Sustainability Pavilion and the UAE Pavilion) achieving LEED Platinum and 103 buildings achieving LEED Gold. Expo 2020 - Dubai also achieved 8 CEEQUAL Excellent certifications for Expo infrastructure projects, making the Expo site the highest-rated infrastructure and public realm project in the region.

Permanent buildings have renewable energy systems (rooftop solar PV panels) to support the onsite generation of renewable energy, providing approximately 22% of the energy required to operate the buildings in the legacy phase, and Expo is supporting the use of Electric Vehicles by providing 68 charging points across the site allowing its visitors to charge their vehicles while they enjoy the site.

How Expo operated

Upon that bedrock Expo layers social and environmental responsibility into its actions and operations every single day through the implementation of Expo RISE guidelines, which protect people and the planet.

Honey from bees (*Apis Mellifera*) rescued and relocated from the Expo 2020 site in 2019 has been harvested and bottled. As of now, there are more than 60 wild beehives at the Expo site left to pollinate and thrive as part of the Expo ecosystem, in which the team have also rescued and relocated more than 20 different species of animals such as falcons, honey bees, spiny-tailed lizards, baby hares and deer, as part of Expo's no-harm policy to all animals on site. Expo also showcased edible plants that have been germinated from seeds and grown in their nursery, including alfalfa sprouts, millet and other herbs, to highlight the importance of food security for future generations.

Expo upcycled their billboards to create beautiful gifts and diverted them from going to landfills, as part of the commitment to the circular economy. Expo used





local manufacturers and suppliers for the entire supply chain and worked hard to encourage innovations in the circular economy by highlighting local companies in this space.

On 16 October 2021, World Food Day Expo announced the launch of their Food Rescue Programme (FRP) in partnership with Cisco, to reduce food waste throughout the entire event. FRP utilises Replate, a seamless webpage that automates the food rescue process and connects donors to charities and communities in need while tracking the environmental impact of all donations. Expo has so far donated (as of April 2022) a total of 15,600 kilograms of food to people in need. This means that Expo has served 32,475 meals and saved 35.6 million litres of water through this process.

On 5 October 2021 Expo 2020 - Dubai hit a major milestone through the attainment of 'ISO 20121:2012 Event Sustainability Management Systems. This certification verifies that Expo 2020 - Dubai has embedded sustainability across its entire lifecycle. The certification is specifically designed for events and aims to optimise sustainability opportunities and minimise impacts across the environment, communities and the local economy. The Expo is just one of three mega-events to have achieved the certification.

Expo 2020 - Dubai has also built accessibility into its very fabric, to ensure that People of Determination are fully supported during their visit to the mega-event. Expo has received the Sensory Access Certification, the first of its kind for any mega-event, which comes after an audit of all our pavilions, and the development of Sensory Rating Cards. The cards are available for each of the pavilions measuring the impact of six sensory criteria – sight, smell, light, terrain, touch and sound. This ensures neuro-diverse people are able to fully enjoy Expo 2020 with informed choices on what works for them and their families.

Exhibition

Expo's sub-themes of Opportunity, Mobility and Sustainability spoke directly to the pursuit of the SDGs, the principles of which were brought to life in the exhibition design of Expo's flagship Thematic Pavilions, visited by more than 4.6 million people from 178 countries over the course of event-time.

Expo's Opportunity Pavilion was a testament to the 2030 Agenda and the power of the individual as an agent of change. Titled 'Mission: Possible', the pavilion experience imagines a world in which our finite resources might be turned into infinite uses, through smart and innovative solutions. It shows us an empathetic world, one in which conversation and connection can inform positive acts and practices, enabling us all to lead our best lives while taking individual responsibility for collective existence.

According to surveys conducted over the six months of event time, 90% of visitors to the Opportunity Pavilion have pledged to make a positive change: at home (48%); in society (41%); at work (35%); in their community (39%); or at school (18%). In total, more than 540,000 pledges were received throughout Expo, including more than 99,000 personalised written pledges submitted by visitors of all ages, from all around the world.



Expo's Sustainability Pavilion, meanwhile, incorporated more than 4,900 solar panels on its 130-metre wide canopy and 18 Energy Trees, which helped to generate 4GWh of alternative energy per year, enough electricity to charge more than 900,000 mobile phones. The pavilion, titled 'Terra', employed a raft of innovative irrigation techniques, including a greywater recycling system, to reduce water use in the landscape by 75%. It was awarded LEED Platinum certification, the highest available accreditation for sustainable architecture.

More than 96% of visitors to the Sustainability Pavilion said that the pavilion experience had inspired them to make a positive change in their life by creating less waste (54%); supporting sustainability- or environmentally-focused initiatives (42%); making sustainable food choices (33%); reducing the number of items they buy (31%), or advocating the importance of making sustainable choices (42%).

Finally, 92% of visitors to the Mobility Pavilion, titled 'Alif', said that the pavilion experience had inspired them to make a better future by ensuring that technology is used for a good purpose (49%); building stronger links with people in their community (40%); furthering their interest in robotics, AI and mobility-related technology (38%); furthering their interest in space (28%); or advocating for more and better public transport (28%).

Countries' exhibitions were also dedicated to these overarching sub-themes, for example, Singapore, Germany, and Malaysia, each of which was designed to highlight and engage visitors around Sustainability. In total, 40 pavilions from all continents directly referenced the SDGs in their exhibitions.

Programme for People and Planet

At Expo 2020 Dubai, the Programming team sought not just to bring the world together, but to actively chart a course forward for that world. With more than 200 nations and international organisations coming together, Expo represented a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for them to empower millions of visitors from around the world so that they can be active participants in meaningful change.

The UAE Cabinet adopted the Programme for People and Planet (PPP) on April 14, 2021. Designed in harness with 192 nations, this was the world's programme, catalysing global action and impact and ensuring that everyone, from government and business to individuals had a seat at the table. With new forms of partnership at its heart, it prioritised youth, women and underrepresented voices and, indeed, more than 19,000 changemakers came from all over the world and were joined by more than 27 million online viewers.

Working in close association with UAE ministries and global international organisations, as well as ensuring the broad inclusion of grassroots organisations across all event streams, Expo also partnered with, among others, the Earth shot Prize, the Zoological Society of London, and even music legends Coldplay who performed live at Expo in support of PPP and its values.

Together with all these friends and partners, Expo started a movement in which the world identified the 10 most urgent priorities of our time, around which Expo convened more than 220 events, and the momentum of which will shape our shared future for decades to come.





At Expo 2020 - Dubai's **Climate & Biodiversity** week, the world is committed to channelling our collective ability towards crafting policy and influencing behaviour. We must reverse damage to our environment by investing in concerted, collaborative and scalable biodiversity conservation and regeneration efforts. All of us must exercise our right and responsibility to advance climate action for the benefit of future generations.

At Expo 2020 - Dubai's **Space** week, nations and organisations identified significant opportunities for collaboration in space exploration, prioritising advances that will help to positively impact life on Earth. The youth of today - the leaders of tomorrow - heard how we need to reframe space as the new frontier for international collaboration and diplomacy. Both space-faring and non-space-faring countries can harness space data and technology for sustainable and inclusive development here on Earth, addressing key challenges such as climate change, food security and deforestation. We must develop the space sector as an inclusive, equitable and aspirational nexus of opportunities, at both individual and institutional scales.

The **Urban & Rural Development** week took place at an Expo site that is itself a blueprint for smart, sustainable, human-centric cities of the future. Moving from building over nature to building with it, from habitats that divide and fragment communities to ones that connect and empower them, we are enabling mobility both within and between urban and rural environments. Our future will inevitably bring us in ever-closer proximity to one another. It is up to us to ensure that this transition prioritises equal access to services, including for People of Determination, essential for a dignified life. We must respect the value of local knowledge and facilitate greater community participation in the planning, design and governance of urban and rural spaces.

At the **Tolerance & Inclusivity** week of the most inclusive World Expo in history, the Expo 2020 - Dubai's mission was to adopt a fact-based worldview and address common misconceptions so we may know one another better. With easier access to information for all through technological progress, it is a collective responsibility to use information and knowledge wisely and ensure inclusion efforts are informed by a wide range of perspectives and experiences, engaging all members of society including People of Determination, women and girls, youth and indigenous communities. We must develop and implement new economic models, which prioritise people over profit, and are built on values of compassion and common humanity.

Expo 2020 - Dubai's **Knowledge & Learning** week positioned the information and innovation revolution as an opportunity to make knowledge and learning more accessible than ever before, bridging connectivity gaps for women and girls and marginalised communities. The global community needs to advance play-based, experiential and practical learning methodologies to encourage the development of social and emotional skills. It is more important than ever to foster critical thinking, nurture social and emotional intelligence, and preserve the knowledge and heritage of our past to secure a more prosperous future. We must all recognise education as a basic human right and acknowledge its value as a cornerstone of a just and peaceful world.



As a consequence of the global health and travel situation, Expo’s **Travel & Connectivity** week pivoted to a predominantly virtual experience, demonstrating the global need for a digital environment that reflects and meets the interests and needs of our physical reality. We must acknowledge digital connectivity as a fundamental human right that underpins our ability to achieve a dignified life for all. We need to recalibrate physical travel to operate within planetary boundaries, making care for people and the planet central to our exploration of the world. We must harness the power of data and technology to identify which communities are being left behind, to turbo-charge our efforts in closing the digital divide and bringing the world online.

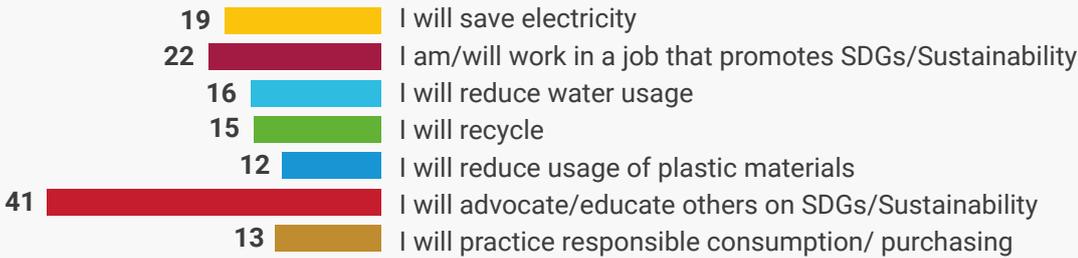
Taking place outside New York and the UN General Assembly for the first time in history, **Global Goals** week at Expo 2020 - Dubai brought the goals to life as ‘The World’s To-do List’, providing a unique global stage to inform and inspire and act on achieving the SDGs. By leveraging relatable, empathetic storytelling, we injected fresh momentum into the Decade of Action, mobilising governments, businesses and the general public and collecting more than 75,000 individual commitments towards a better future for people and the planet by 2030. We must build creative and purposeful partnerships to catalyse sustainable growth, inclusive of all stakeholders along the value chain. For optimal impact, these collaborations must be holistic and address the interdependencies of the SDGs.

Global Goals week at Expo 2020 - Dubai manifested in 20 events with 114 physical and 52 virtual speakers, and 911 physical and 5,209 virtual attendees. No fewer than a third of general Expo visitors were inspired to participate in SDG-themed events and activations during their time on-site, with both event participants and general visitors articulating actions they will personally take to make the world a better place.

Expo Visitors were most inclined to save water and electricity, while GG Participants were focused on advocating/ educating others on SDGs

Are there any actions you will personally take to make the world a better place?

GG Participants



EXPO visitors





Held amid a global pandemic, **Health & Wellness** week at Expo 2020 - Dubai welcomed millions of visitors from around the world. We did so while prioritising safety and wellbeing for all, as well as considering how to prepare for the next pandemic while ensuring the sanctity of physical and mental health. We must acknowledge the reconciliation of human, animal and planetary health as core to building resilience to future pandemics while enhancing the health and wellness of all life on Earth. We need to invest in, and value frontline workers, recognising their immense sacrifice in shepherding us through the pandemic and other crises. We must ensure that the highest quality healthcare is accessible to all, driven by deeper inter-sectoral collaboration and the equitable distribution of digital technology.

Expo 2020 - Dubai's **Food, Agriculture & Livelihoods** week recognised that from farm to plate, the food value chain is an integral part of society, providing income and livelihoods for billions. Yet, how we cultivate our food is a significant contributor to climate change through deforestation, land degradation, pollution and food waste. Expo provided a platform for showcasing gastronomic traditions from across cultures, continents and generations, and highlighted the pivotal role of good food in powering economies and communities and in protecting our planet. We must enshrine good food for all as a basic human right and build a global food system considerate of the needs of all actors across the value chain. We need to grant agency, recognition and fair remuneration to smallholder farmers who, while feeding the world, are some of the poorest workers on the planet. We must enable environmentally and socially conscious consumption through responsible food and nutrition choices. In this spirit Expo created and launched the first Chef's Manifesto in Arabic, a resource that engages chefs to advocate for a less wasteful and more nutritious and sustainable food system for all.

Finally, Expo 2020 - Dubai's **Water** week reflected that our most precious resource is the foundation of all life on Earth, fuelling our growth and connecting communities the world over. Yet, we do not understand its true value, leading to mismanagement and inequitable access and distribution of this common good. We must reimagine our relationship with water, from one of extraction to one of responsibility, valuing it for the vitality it brings to our cultures and communities. As responsible stewards, we need to raise awareness among government, businesses and individuals that water is the critical resource for a well-nourished, climate-safe and peaceful planet. We must forge robust and binding international frameworks and collaborations to build a sustainable blue economy that avoids the exploitation of our oceans and waterways. We need to find innovative business and finance models to attract the private investment required to ensure access to water for all.

Expo created Seeds of Change as a way to connect millions of people to inspiring projects around the world that are reducing carbon emissions while also providing social and economic benefits to their local communities. Our visitors helped us select carbon offset projects from around the world that are linked to the SDGs. Through this programme, 377,575 tons of CO₂e have been offset, but more importantly, the visitors have been exposed to inspiring carbon-offset projects from around the world expanding their understanding and inspiring personal action.



This programme builds on Expo's comprehensive approach to carbon management that has been based on recognised international standards and protocols and addresses the unique challenges of carbon accounting for a global event. The successful implementation of Expo's sustainability strategy has reduced embodied and operational carbon for the pre-event, event, and post-event phases, resulting in an estimated reduction of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions in the amount of 667,599 tons of CO₂e from the start of site preparations in 2015 through the Event and decommissioning phase at the end of 2022. The operational GHG reductions will continue at the Expo site following the transition to District 2020 with annual energy savings of 33%, water-saving of 53%, and reduced emissions from other sources such as transportation, waste, materials and others.

Expo developed the Planet Over Plastic Pledge, signed by 50 countries, to encourage its stakeholders to minimise single-use plastics in their pavilions and outlets. The Pledge focuses on reducing the procurement and use of single-use plastics for packaging; encouraging recyclable packaging for prepackaged front-of-house products such as gifts, food products and sellable memorabilia; eliminating the use of single-use plastics as much as possible; ensuring that at least 90% of any packaging for back-of-house operations are recyclable; utilising the #PlanetoverPlastic to spread the word on reducing single-use packaging within their pavilions and countries.

Expo's Global Best Practice Programme, 'Small Steps, Big Leaps: Solutions for Sustainable Impact', showcased innovation from around the world in a dedicated exhibition, the Best Practice Area (BPA). The Programme and exhibition brought together ideas and solutions from across the world that can be replicated, adapted or scaled. The BPA also served as a place for practitioners, curious visitors and creative minds to connect, innovate and encourage positive change through knowledge sharing and collaboration. Expo visitors were able to learn about best practices and how these solutions have yielded positive impactful interventions, localising the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In total, 50 best practices from 39 different countries were on display. The solutions related to building resilient habitats; advancing livelihoods and enterprise development; enabling affordable access to healthcare and education; sustainably managing water, food and energy resources; enhancing effective approaches to inclusive service delivery; and short and long-term integrated solutions that are helping communities prepare, respond and recover from the effects of the global COVID-19 pandemic.

Launched in 2016, Expo Live was a \$100m Expo Partnership Fund to accelerate entrepreneurial spirit around the world and support projects delivering lasting and positive impact. The programme received more than 11,000 applications from 182 countries, ultimately supporting 140 global innovators and empowering 5.8 million beneficiaries globally. During event-time, no fewer than 250,000 people visited The Good Place, the Expo Live pavilion, a multi-sensory interactive experience exploring the innovators and their impact on communities around the world.





The People and Planet Podcast was designed to highlight some of the most compelling stories and conversations that took place across this rich and meaningful programme of events. Hosted by Bahraini social entrepreneur Tariq Al-Olaimy, the series shone a light on change-makers from around the world advancing critical dialogue and solutions within their communities, and inspiring audiences to have a tangible impact on the future of our planet and society. Available on all major podcast platforms, with the last of 10 episodes released in April 2022, the podcast has attracted a global audience as it seeks to bridge the diverse cultures, geographies and experiences that make up our world.

Visitor Engagement

Launched in Global Goals Week at Expo 2020 - Dubai, the Change the World Challenge was a public-facing activation that engaged visitors in a journey across the Expo site to collect 17 SDG stamps (plus the SDG wheel stamp and a 'To Do List' stamp), to help build their understanding and to catalyse action for the SDGs. To complete the challenge, participants were required to visit 17 activated spaces across the site and earn 19 stamps by walking through pavilion exhibitions related to the SDGs, answering thought-provoking and fact-based questions, and creating their own 'To Do' note in support of the Goals.

More than 80,000 visitors took part in the challenge throughout its 10-week activation, with participants contributing 57,053 to-do's in support of the SDGs, and close to 12,000 collecting all 19 stamps, a completion rate of approximately 15%. The SDGs with the most commitments were SDGs 2: Zero Hunger; 4: Quality Education; and 7: Clean and Affordable Energy.



CHAPTER 8

UAE Foreign Aid (Summary)





CHAPTER 8

UAE Foreign Aid (Summary)

The UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MOFAIC) leads the nation's international development cooperation agenda. The UAE Foreign Assistance Policy for 2017–2021⁵³ provides the strategic direction of the UAE's support to developing countries in their quest to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, strengthening universal peace, empowering women and protecting girls, improving infrastructure and transportation, and government effectiveness, as outlined in the 17 SDGs. This chapter provides a high-level overview of the UAE's foreign aid from 2018 to 2020.

1. OVERVIEW: UAE AID IN NUMBERS (2018 TO 2020)

The United Arab Emirates has always taken it upon itself to stand by the global peace and development, however, in 2020 precisely, all of the UAE's donors, charities and humanitarian foundations doubled their efforts to lend a helping hand to the brotherly and friendly nations in support of their development projects and response to crises and disasters; in a bid to mitigate the repercussions of the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19), in collaboration with the regional and international partners and the United Nations' agencies working in the development and humanitarian fields. Over the course of 2020, the UAE provided total foreign assistance amounted to AED 10.24 billion (USD 2.79 billion)⁵⁴ even though this amount marks a 65% decrease from 2019 disbursements, it is still an outstanding achievement given the prevailing circumstances of global lockdown, curfews and international travel restrictions, compounded with the difficulties to implement humanitarian and development projects in the beneficiary countries, particularly with the expanded geographical scale of the UAE aid that covers more than 170 countries, including at least 46 of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Lower-middle Income Countries (LMICs).

The UAE took it upon itself to stand by the brotherly and friendly nations, either by supporting their development projects or through the humanitarian response to crises and disasters; in a bid to achieve prosperity and stability in these countries and alleviate their humanitarian suffering, in collaboration with the regional and international partners and the United Nations' agencies working in the development and humanitarian fields. In 2019, the United Arab Emirates extended a total of AED 29.4 billion (USD 8.0 billion) in foreign assistance, reporting an increase of AED 782.0 million (USD 213.0 million) over 2018 disbursements⁵⁵.

⁵³ UAE Policy for Foreign Assistance 2017 - 2021: <https://www.mofaic.gov.ae/en/the-ministry/uae-international-development-cooperation/uae-foreign-aid-policy>

⁵⁴ 2020 UAE Foreign Aid Report: <https://www.mofaic.gov.ae/en/the-ministry/uae-international-development-cooperation/annual-foreign-aid-report>

⁵⁵ 2019 UAE Foreign Aid Report: <https://www.mofaic.gov.ae/en/the-ministry/uae-international-development-cooperation/annual-foreign-aid-report>



In 2018, the UAE continued its commitment to advance global peace and prosperity, supporting development, humanitarian and charitable programmes in several developing countries, including 42 LCDs. This assistance reached AED 28.62 billion (USD 7.79 billion) in 2018. When only the Official Development Assistance (ODA) is considered, UAE assistance to causes beyond its borders amounted to AED 13.94 billion (USD 3.79 billion). In terms of ODA as a proportion of Gross National Income (ODA/GNI)⁵⁶, the UAE continues to exceed the 0.7% UN target, as it did in the last six years, providing 0.93% of ODA/GNI in 2018. Looking at the most vulnerable, the UAE was also one of the most generous donors to LDCs, when it overachieved the UN target of 0.15%-0.20% of ODA/GNI to LDCs, providing 0.66% ODA/GNI in 2018.

2. UAE SUPPORT TOWARDS SDGs AND ITS SECTORS OF ASSISTANCE

The UAE is committed through its Foreign Aid Policy, 2017-2021 to supporting the achievement of the 17 SDGs of the 2030 Agenda.

In 2020, the UAE continued its dedicated efforts started in 2016, towards supporting the achievement of all the 17 SDGs. However, the SDGs focus on poverty eradication, addressing hunger, health and wellbeing, quality and gender-inclusive education and the partnerships for the SDGs received most of the UAE aid during the last few years.

The UAE's foreign aid total disbursements to support the achievement of the SDGs in partner countries and according to their national sustainability plans and priorities, have reached 2020, AED 10.24 billion (USD 2.79 billion). The UAE's support to partner countries has been channelled through bilateral and multilateral cooperation.

More than 46.2% of this assistance is disbursed to support the Least Developed and the Lower Middle-Income countries.

3. HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Despite the immense challenges caused by the COVID-19 outbreak to the countries worldwide, the UAE spared no effort to extend a helping hand through its humanitarian assistance and relief efforts, especially to those most affected by the devastating outbreak. In 2020, the UAE disbursed a total of AED 1.99 billion (USD 542.5 million) in humanitarian assistance, accounting for 19.45% of the total UAE's foreign aid for the same year.

Furthermore, the UAE maintained its solid commitment to those affected by the natural disasters due to the climate changes, after the ongoing drought spells, wildfires and devastating floods took a heavy toll on the lives of millions of people in 2020, making them in dire need for assistance and relief.

⁵⁶ 2018 UAE Foreign Aid Report: <https://www.mofaic.gov.ae/en/the-ministry/uae-international-development-cooperation/annual-foreign-aid-report>





The UAE's humanitarian assistance encompassed a wide range of main and subsectors, in a reflection of the diversity and comprehensiveness of the UAE aid and responsiveness to the needs of the partner countries. The Emergency Health sector came on top of the most supported sectors in terms of the UAE's humanitarian and emergency relief efforts, which amounted to AED 1.4 billion (USD 374.6 million), and accounted for 69% of the total UAE's humanitarian aid in 2020, predominantly for supporting the affected countries in response to the COVID-19 outbreak.

Coordination and support services came in as the second most supported sector, with AED 241.6 million (USD 65.8 million), accounting for 12.13% of the total UAE's humanitarian aid, while the Emergency multi-sector aid ranked third, receiving AED 175.2 million (USD 47.7 million), accounted for 8.78% increase over the past year.

4. GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS OF UAE ASSISTANCE

Throughout 2020, the UAE foreign aid was extended to more than 179 countries around the world, 53 countries of which are in Africa, receiving 47% of the total aid, amounting to AED 4,81 billion (USD 1,31 billion); 42 countries in Asia, accounting for 39.6%, valued at AED 4,05 billion (USD 1,1 billion); 31 countries in Europe, at 3.1%, amounting to AED 321 million (USD 87,3 million), 36 countries in the Americas, at 2.9%, amounting to AED 293.5 million (USD 79.9 million), in addition to around another 17 countries across the globe.

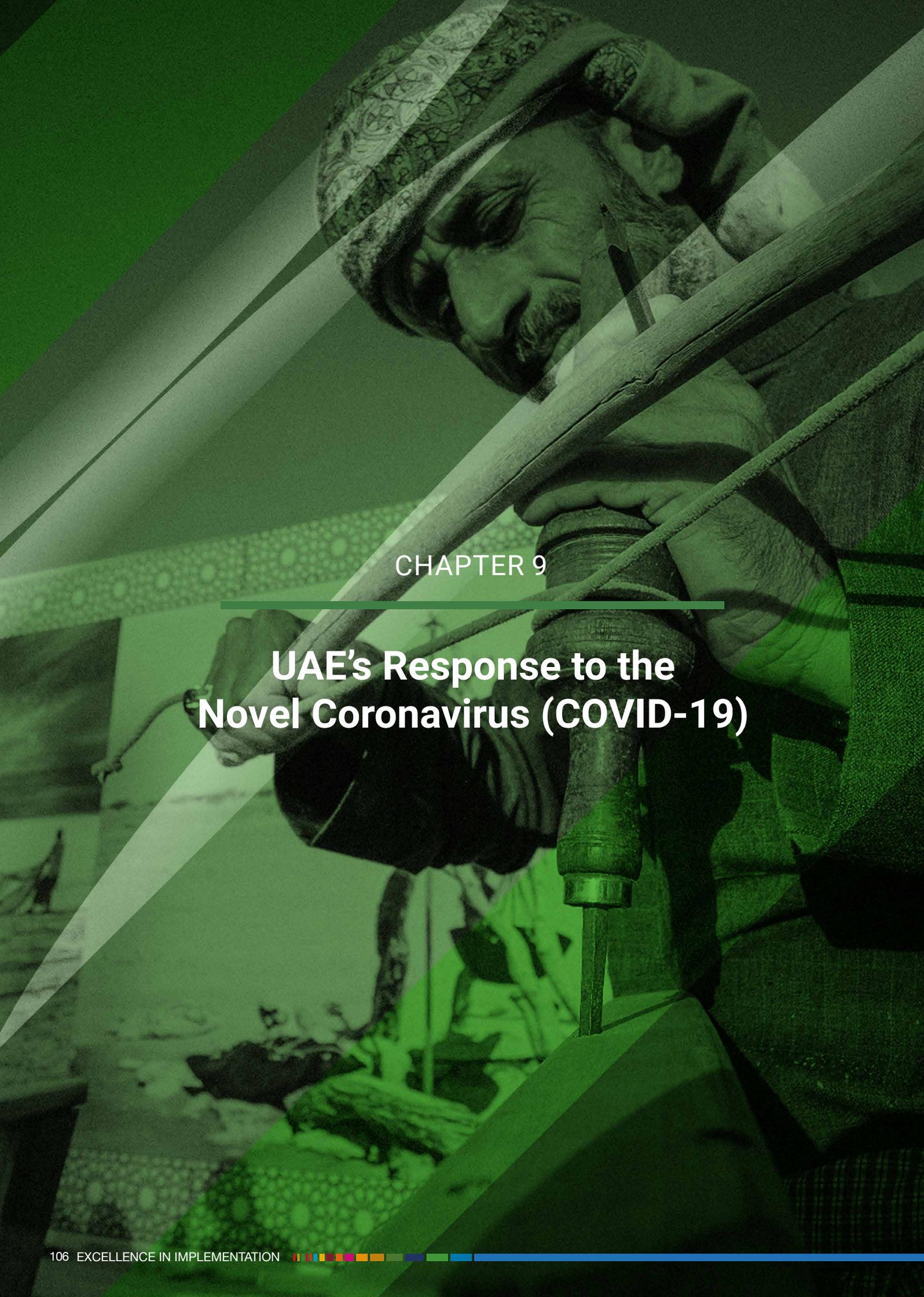
5. DONORS

In 2020, the UAE foreign assistance donors varied to include diverse UAE foundations and entities; first and foremost, the UAE Government, in addition to another 30 UAE donors included charities, development funds, humanitarian foundations and UAE's private sector companies.

6. OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE (ODA)

Official Development Assistance (ODA) – defined by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's Development Assistance Committee (OECD-DAC) in 1969 – is a key measure of efforts provided by donor countries as well as resource flows to developing countries.

Starting with 2018 aid flows, a new methodology to calculate ODA is being applied by the OECD-DAC. The previous ODA calculation counts grants, as well as the entire face value of a loan, and repayments were progressively subtracted. The new grant-equivalent methodology means only the 'grant portion' or the loan amount the donor gives away by lending below market rates, counts as ODA. The ODA loan parameters are set so that donors can henceforth only provide loans to poor countries on very generous terms.



CHAPTER 9

**UAE's Response to the
Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)**





CHAPTER 9

UAE's Response to the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

1. INTERNATIONAL SUPPORTING MEASURES⁵⁷

The UAE is playing a critical role to facilitate and accelerate the distribution of COVID-19 vaccines to developing countries, and help combat the coronavirus pandemic. With its logistics networks, storage capacity and central geographic location, the UAE is helping ensure countries around the world have equitable access to vaccines against COVID-19. By January 2022, the UAE has provided more than 2,250 tons of medical supplies to over 136 countries worldwide.

In 2020, the UAE provided more than 1,860 tonnes of medical supplies and personal protection kits, amounting to AED 1.35 billion (USD 366 million) to 128 countries worldwide, over 184 airlifts. The shipments included 4.2 million Coronavirus testing kits and 2.1 thousand ventilators to fight the spread of the COVID-19 outbreak and provide protection to more than 2 million medical staff on the front lines around the world, in addition to collaboration with the international organisations of concern, e.g. World Health Organisation (WHO), providing it with AED 36.7 million (USD 10.0 million) support, in addition to World Food Programmes (WFP) and the International Humanitarian City (IHC).

By August 2021, the UAE provided more than 2,217 tons of medical aid, ventilators, testing kits, personal protective kits and supplies to 136 countries worldwide.

⁵⁷ 2020 UAE Foreign Aid Report: <https://www.mofaic.gov.ae/en/the-ministry/uae-international-development-cooperation/annual-foreign-aid-report> https://www.uae-embassy.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/UAE%20Embassy_Vaccine%20Distribution%201.26.pdf

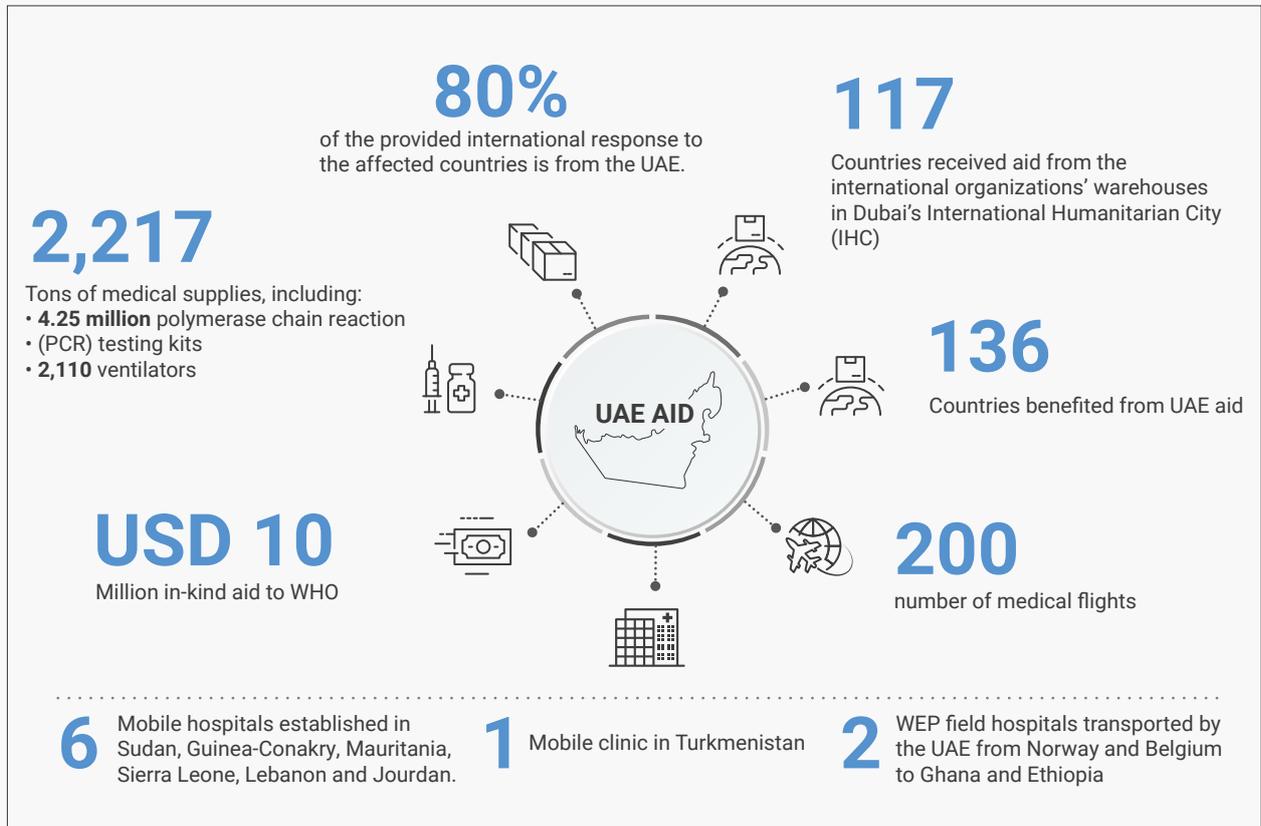


Figure 7. UAE's international response to COVID-19⁵⁸

2. NATIONAL SUPPORTING MEASURES

A summary on the UAE Government's initiatives to combat the COVID-19 crisis report.

The FCSC, in coordination with various government agencies, issued a report that monitors the measures taken by the UAE in the public and private sectors to confront the COVID-19 crisis⁵⁹. The report documents pioneering measures and exceptional laws taken by the country to contain the crisis and limit its impact on society in its various sectors and segments. Consequently, it enhances the competitive position of the UAE at the global level, promoting the UAE as a role model in facing and managing the crisis by transforming it into opportunities for development and readiness for the future.

The report was issued in two parts, where the first part highlighted the most important measures, laws and exceptional initiatives implemented by government agencies in the UAE from March 1 to April 10, 2020, while the second part focused on measures and initiatives from April 11 to June 4, 2020. The report included 764 initiatives, guidelines and laws, which aim to shed light on the government's efforts and its exceptional procedures to combat the COVID-19 pandemic in society.

⁵⁸ UAE Response to COVID-19, Embassy of the United Arab Emirates, Washington DC, March 18, 2022

⁵⁹ UAE Government Initiatives to combat COVID-19 (First and Second editions): <https://fcsc.gov.ae/en-us/Pages/Media/Publications.aspx?id1=3>





The report focused on seven main pillars including; Strengthening Economic and Business Growth, the National Disinfection Program and Safe Distancing Rules, Exceptional Rules and Regulations, Strengthening Food Security Strategy, Scientific Research and Innovations, UAE's Humanitarian Initiatives, UAE Volunteers, and Return to Normalcy.

The report confirmed that the UAE government has taken proactive steps in fostering innovation to manage the COVID-19 pandemic, including the UAE's distinctive infrastructure, which stimulates the development of scientific research to provide qualitative innovations that constitute important steps in supporting the UAE's efforts to contain the virus.

The FCSC aimed to raise societal awareness of the tremendous efforts undertaken by the UAE government, by monitoring the initiatives and measures. Therefore, enhancing the society's confidence in the government's decisions during the pandemic, and shed light on societal and institutional harmony and cohesion in the country. As a result, it fostered strong partnerships at the federal and local levels and between the government and the private sector to address the global crisis caused by the pandemic.

PART 2







Overview of Progress in SDG 1 in the UAE



As part of the UAE's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development journey, the Ministry of Community Development has devised a plan for human development that focuses on diminishing the proportion of the population experiencing any mode of financial scarcity by 2030. The rise in global inflation in combination with the pandemic has increased the amount of income inequality and disparity. We saw this as an opportunity to assume a unique emergency-based sustainable economic growth model that has enabled us to devise agile policies, legislations and initiatives for more than 21 identified segments of the community that have been affected and are in need of social support and enablement. Our approach assisted us in reducing the income gap between the bottom and mean percentile in order to enable all UAE citizens to sustain a better quality of living.

Her Excellency Hessa bint Essa Bhumaid
Minister of Community Development





ABOUT SDG 1

End poverty in all its forms everywhere

GENERAL BRIEF ABOUT THE UAE IN RELATION TO SDG 1

Sustained economic growth cannot be achieved without social inclusion as the whole-of-society has a role to play in the development of a country. Federal Law No. 13 of 1972 and its amendments by Law No.2 in 2001 was issued by the Cabinet of the UAE as the first law to provide social benefits to members

of the community to ensure and sustain the high quality of living for all UAE citizens. The Ministry of Community Development (MOCD) continues to work today on enhancing social inclusion for all members of society where social benefits are extended to cover twenty-one segments of the community.

POLICIES AND INITIATIVES

- In April 2022, AED340 million (\$92.6 million) was granted by H.H. Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates, to those who are entitled to social assistance, in addition to monthly assistance to all eligible groups. This initiative aims to support families with low income to provide essential needs during the holy month of Ramadan.
- Yearly food basket distribution during the Holy month of Ramadan for more than 38,000 families across the UAE.
- Emergency support: Financial assistance is given in emergency cases, which results in a threat to people's change in social status and financial situation does not allow them to overcome it. Where AED 31,640,073 (\$8,644,828) were paid to cover 2,210 emergency cases for 6,130 individuals.
- Encouraging the able to work beneficiary's policy: an initiative to encourage those of working age from social assistance lists to equip them with adequate work skills and provide training courses to qualify them for employment. Within this initiative, 26,500 beneficiaries of social aid enrolled in the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratization (MOHRE) programmes. The Ministry continues its cooperation with the private sector in transferring the profiles of more than 1,000 beneficiaries in order to qualify and employ them, of which 200 of them were appointed to the private sector in the first quarter of 2022.
- Social Farming Program: The project targets various societal groups such as widows, divorcees, senior citizens, people with health and financial disabilities, and People of Determination, in order to empower them and improve their wellbeing, by providing greenhouses in the homes of social security's beneficiaries; and at the Ministry's sites. The project consists of four phases:
 - The first phase is providing greenhouses in 100 homes and training them to ensure annual agricultural production, each greenhouse grows 13 types of vegetables, leaves and fruits, with a production of up to 800 kilograms annually.
 - The second phase of the project is Adopting the greenhouses in the Ministry's sites as training centers for the target groups, providing the opportunity to practice agricultural activities, and training them in hydroponic farming and harvesting methods by developing their personal skills. Each greenhouse is expected to produce 7-9 tons of agricultural crops annually.



- The third phase focuses on training and guiding beneficiaries to upgrade and increase families' production of agricultural crops through activating strategic partnerships for the purpose of marketing, distributing and selling products in local markets. In pursuit of achieving additional financial income and raising the quality of life for individuals.
- The fourth phase aims to train beneficiaries in the production and marketing of food industries from agricultural products (such as the manufacture of jam, pickles and sauces). Also, increasing the number of the community agriculture initiative's members in order to strengthen and expand the community and institutional partnership network, and to provide smart technologies in the field of hydroponics.
- Family protection policy: This policy was developed in collaboration with federal and local entities in the UAE that deal with children. The UAE prioritises the protection and development of families in fostering a healthy cohesive society, based on the principles of Islam that promote tolerance, kindness, and compassion. This policy protects women, men, children, the elderly, and People of Determination against all forms of violence and harm.
- The Productive Families Programme: The policy is based on improving the economic level of productive families by diversifying their sources of income, investing the efforts of the members, and expanding their skills and capacities, all of which will eventually benefit the nation. In the years 2018-2021, the following was accomplished:
 - The programme witnessed a 28% increase in the number of participating families.
 - The programme organised more than 3,000 training courses, with more than 2,800 memberships, an increase of 11% in the number of exhibitions.
 - The families benefited from this project and witnessed a 28% social security increase. Since its inception in 2008, the financial returns of families reached AED 28.8 million (\$7.84 million) which is 34% of AED 59.9 million (\$16.3 million) the total income of productive families.

Did you know?



- The Ministry of Community Development classifies the number of groups receiving permanent social assistance in 21 classifications.
- Only 3% of the total citizens of the UAE receive social assistance.
- AED 13 Billion (\$3.5 million) worth of social assistance was provided between 2018 and 2022
- G20: UAE is a guest country participant. More than 100 million people are in extreme poverty. 48 out of 73 eligible countries took part in the initiative before the end of December 2021. From May to December 2021, DSSI suspended \$12.9 billion in debt-service payments owed by participating countries to their creditors.

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Integrated social platform

There lies a challenge in the integration of beneficiary data across entities that are involved in community development. The need for integration is crucial and it was demonstrated during the COVID-19 period. The Ministry of Community Development has joined the government acceleration programme in regards to technological integration with federal entities in 2020. The purpose of the integration was to save customers and employees time and effort while providing accurate and concise data. The waiting time for requesting social assistance was reduced, and the automatic data updates resulted in reducing physical visitation to customer centres. The main objective was to integrate with more than 75 entities by 2025. In April 2022, direct integration has been made with 51 entities, and the collaboration with the other authorities is under process. The result of integrated services reflected in achieving 18,331,143 transactions, reducing 22,000 annual visits to customer happiness centres, saving more than AED 20 million (\$5.45 million) annually from the social security budget. By 2026, the integration will save more than 1.7 billion working hours, and more than





AED 7 billion (USD\$ 1.91 billion) in cost of service providers. It will further have a direct impact on saving 9,885 trees by reducing the use of 98,854,650 papers.

The opportunity of expanding mass weddings virtually:

The Ministry of Community Development organised the first virtual mass wedding with the participation of 100 Emirati bride and grooms under the title 'The virtual collective wedding... the joy of the people of the Emirates', through visual communication technology, taking into account all preventive and precautionary measures to face the repercussions of the COVID-19. Five virtual locations nationwide were celebrated simultaneously within each ceremony, followed by seven additional mass weddings with more than 600 participants in a festive initiative aimed at enhancing the approach and experience of mass weddings in the United Arab Emirates. The wedding included various celebratory events organised 'remotely', which drew joy and reflected the cohesion and bonding between the leadership and the people in these exceptional circumstances. The organisation of the virtual group wedding comes in support of the state's directives to confront the Corona pandemic and the need to adhere to precautionary measures with social distancing and to ensure that services are provided to young people who are about to marry in distinct and innovative ways.

COVID-19 RESPONSE

- The Ministry of Community Development adopted the Emergency Economic Support Initiative during the COVID-19 pandemic, which provided financial assistance to members of society who were affected by the pandemic, including those who had lost their jobs or were required to meet urgent needs.
- During the COVID-19 crisis, food assistance was provided to more than 42,000 beneficiaries from the social security databases and low-income families during Ramadan and in collaboration with the Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan Foundation for Humanitarian Works. This initiative continues on an annual basis, wherein 2022 the number of beneficiaries reached 45,559 families.

Target 1.1: By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day.

Indicator 1.1.1 Proportion of population below the international poverty line, by sex, age, employment status and geographical location (urban/rural).



Source: FCSC

Target 1.2: By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions.

Indicator 1.2.2 proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions.



Source: FCSC

Target 1.4: By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance

Indicator 1.4.1 Proportion of population living in households with access to basic services



Source: FCSC

Indicator 1.4.2 Proportion of total adult population with secure tenure rights to land, (a) with legally recognized documentation, and (b) who perceive their rights to land as secure, by sex and type of tenure



Source: FCSC



- During the pandemic, the MOCD Electronic recruitment platform for the employment of People of Determination, continued to motivate People of Determination to register on it to highlight their professional and practical, in addition to encouraging federal, local and private sectors to offer job opportunities available to them. The platform also contributes to an inventory of the number of People of Determination wishing to work, and the parties willing to employ them, in addition to professions and vacancies that match their abilities and inclinations.
- MOCD is an active partner in the Nafis Program, launched in September 2021, which is a federal program to increase the competitiveness of Emirati human resources and empower them to occupy jobs in the private sector. The program aims to provide:
 - Emirati Salary Support Scheme
 - Merit Program
 - Pension Program
 - Child Allowance Scheme
 - Talent Program
 - Apprentice Program
 - Recruitment Targets
 - National Healthcare Program
 - Unemployment Benefit
 - Vocational Counselling Program
 - Job Offers
 - Coaching, professional training, mentoring services, and counselling to the program participants
- The number of people on the Nafis platform who are eligible to benefit from the offered initiatives:
 - Number of beneficiaries that joined the private sector (5,558 participants)
 - Number of registered participants (25,876 participants).
 - Available vacancies to recruit applicants (2,524 vacancies)
 - Number of private sector partnerships participating in the initiative (1,774 partners).
 - Number of participants who benefited from the services on the platform (4,074 beneficiaries).
- A Partnership with Noon Mahali is a platform from Noon to support the youth who own small and medium projects through Mahali, who can expand their business and reach a larger segment of customers through the Noon website and application. Also, Alsanaa which is a product of the effort put forth by Emirati families and

Target 1.5: By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters

Indicator 1.5.1 Number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population



Source: National Emergency Crisis and Disasters Management Authority (NCEMA)

People of Determination, to show their talents and reinforce their societal standing as active contributors to economic growth, displays its products platform at Noon with a wide range of locally made products to reach more customers and markets.

- ‘Mashagel’ online training and workshops It is a project aimed at the continuity of People of Determination’s performance of professional work at home, the permanence of products and marketing them, and the sustainability of the financial returns for People of Determination, which will have a physical and psychological impact on them.
- MOCD is an active partner in the program, as it contributes to identifying participants that will get unemployment benefits until they obtain jobs within the program.
- MOCD has signed multiple memorandums of understanding (MOU) with the private sector in support to the government’s directions to develop multiple sectors. As part of the social responsibility in the private sector, memorandums of understanding have been signed through which mass weddings are carried out annually, and financial support is provided to establish day clubs for senior citizens. The MOCD also signed an MOU with Mohammed bin Rashid University of Medicine and Health Sciences to organise visits to support Wellness on Wheels beneficiaries that aim to provide health services to senior citizens, People of Determination and low-income orphans and their families.





List of relevant stakeholders:

- Ministry of Health and Prevention
- Ministry of Cabinet Affairs
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of Interior
- Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratisation
- Ministry of Climate Change and Environment
- Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure
- Ministry of Finance
- Federal Youth Authority
- Central Bank of the UAE
- UAE Gender Balance Council
- Federal Competitiveness and Statistics Centre
- Khalifa fund
- Aswaq

SDG 1 – CASE STUDY

Achieving financial independence through micro-business support services in the UAE

The Productive Families Program⁶⁰ at the Ministry of Community Development, enlists and enables small and micro businesses, allowing them to establish a sustainable stream of income and elevate familial financial standing for a better quality of life. Transitioning individuals from ideation to reality, by enabling them to enhance their skill sets via specific market-oriented workshops, while providing them with the necessary tools to successfully run a business.

The productive families department allows those enlisted to benefit from an organised path to refine their business. The program utilises different tools and strategies to highlight and grow those businesses, including, but not limited to Categorising and inventory of products/services; Providing raw material and facilitating workspace; Assisting in packaging and distribution; Online and real-life placement in marketplaces and outlets; Seasonal fairs and pop-ups; Continuous advertising with emphasis on festive seasons; Marketing via different mediums in both print and digital; The program enables small and micro business development.

Since its inception, the program has graduated multiple business units and helped them refine their product line and image. The Productive Families Program aims to create a direct line of income that will sustain a respectful living for business owners that aspire to achieve financial independence. The program hosts businesses run by both genders and different age groups and is inclusive of professions that are more common amongst the elderly, to ensure they are self-dependent and well-provided for via harnessing their



The Productive Families Program aim to establish a sustainable stream of income and elevate familial financial standing for a better quality of life.

strengths and marketing their products via the proper channels.

The goal of the program is to assist in creating a fully independent and successful business which ensures a proud and financially stable household.

⁶⁰ Productive Families Program: <https://www.mocd.gov.ae/en/services/productive-families-services.aspx>



Between 2018 and 2021, the Productive Families Program successfully registered 889 businesses', in addition to executing 180 workshops with 4,880 participants. During this timeframe, the program facilitated the participation of 2,871 registered businesses' within 209 pop-ups and exhibitions, an exceptional number in light of the of limitations imposed by the emergence of COVID-19 in the year 2020. The returns of these exhibitions are estimated at around 4,000,000 AED.

During the height of the pandemic, great efforts were made towards diverting participants to a more hybrid/ e-commerce model via intensifying online presence and diverting sales to digital. Non-Government Organizations (NGO) participated in enabling the families through continued workshops and skills development seminars online.

One of the major opportunities provided to the productive families registered within the program is the chance to participate within the Global Village, the program grants businesses a space to exhibit and showcase their brands and accomplish high returns. between 2018 and 2021, the participating entities yielded a return upwards of AED 28 million, which is a direct profit to the 320 projects showcased at the Global Village. Most recently, participants of the program set up 8 sales points for the duration of Expo



2020 - Dubai, through the Ministry of Community Development, thus highlighting their efforts on a global scale.

The program participants are also granted the opportunity to sell their products within 6 different outlets across the country, in association with the program. Additionally, electronic sales and e-commerce websites have listed the products from the program as part of their support for the program, with productive family products being found on outlets such as www.noon.com and utilising tools such as Zbooni, two major e-commerce retailers within the UAE.







Overview of Progress in SDG 2 in the UAE



Building sustainable food systems will allow us to achieve our global climate targets. However, governments cannot advance food systems agendas without political will. Fortunately, the UAE has the political will to enforce a secure plan. The country's success is a result of the National Food Security Strategy's long-term and short-term goals. People beyond the government and the private sector must realize the importance of food security. Consumers have a role to play as well, as food security is also influenced by their behaviors, eating habits, and the amount of food waste they generate.

Her Excellency Mariam bint Mohammed Saeed Hareb Almheiri
Minister of Climate Change and Environment





ABOUT SDG 2

End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

GENERAL BRIEF ABOUT THE UAE IN RELATION TO SDG 2

Access to quality and nutritious food is fundamental to human existence. Food security produces a wide range of positive impacts such as economic growth and poverty reduction and has an important foreign policy dimension due to trade. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)⁶¹, the UAE imports 87% of its total food supply. Therefore, securing sustainable sources of food is a matter of national security. Following the appointment of the Minister of State for Food Security in 2017, a first for the region, a food security office was established to aid in developing the national strategy, accelerate technology adoption, and identify the relevant

research agenda. All efforts are geared towards helping the UAE achieve its vision of becoming a leader in innovation-driven food security by utilising technologies that can limit greenhouse gas emissions, water use and waste whilst guaranteeing the health of the consumer. A national strategy was endorsed in 2018. In 2019 an Agricultural Accelerator program was launched with 10 initiatives to reform the food and agriculture business ecosystem, followed by the formation of the Emirates Food Security Council, the body overseeing the implementation of the national strategy and all relevant programs.

POLICIES AND INITIATIVES

- In June 2020, the UAE Cabinet approved the National System for Sustainable Agriculture (NSSA) to augment the National Food Security Strategy's goals and objectives. The system is projected to increase self-sufficiency from the targeted crops by 5% and increase the average farm income by 10% annually.
- The FoodTech Challenge, launched in September 2019 by H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of

- the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, serve as a grassroots competition and a global initiative to identify sustainable and technology-driven solutions that could be applied to the UAE's food value chain
- As part of the program for climate-smart agriculture, the UAE through various research arms is leading the development of alternative crop cultivation for arid environments.

⁶¹ UAESDGS website, SDG 2: <https://uaesdgs.ae/en/goals/zero-hunger>



CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

- The UAE faces perennial challenges to crop growing, notably having less than 5% arable land, its low annual levels of rainfall and its diminishing groundwater levels – all of which act on each other and exponentiate each one's effects. To address this issue, the UAE formed the AgTech development team early in 2020 to mitigate these challenges. The team comprises public and private sector stakeholders from the UAE's AgTech sector. They examined ways of applying the latest scientific methods and policy developments to enhance more sustainable food systems by up-taking technology-enabled agricultural methods. The team developed a comprehensive national plan to foster the adoption of ag-tech applications in all sectors of agriculture.
- Early in 2021, the Food Tech Valley was launched in Dubai, with the intent to be an integrated modern city, serving as a hub for future clean tech-based food and agricultural products. It will also act as an incubator for researchers, entrepreneurs, startups and industry experts to develop solutions to shape the future of the food industry.

COVID-19 RESPONSE

- Developing plant and animal health and food safety procedures in terms of certificates that are compatible with exporting and importing countries.
- Developing legislation related to animal and plant health in terms of updating the legislative framework for importing live animals in line with international standards.
- Developing and introducing electronic services and accelerating the examination and conformity procedures for the incoming consignment.
- Enhancing entrepreneurship for commodities with the private sector, opening new countries' markets to import livestock, and signing agricultural business development agreements with the private sector.
- In March 2020, The Emirates Food Security Council convened to establish a national plan to ensure food security during the pandemic. Under



Did you know?

- Food is labelled a 'strategic sector' in the UAE's 'next fifty' plan.
- 70% of the region's food trade goes through the UAE, valued at over 100 Billion AED annually.
- The UAE hosts and collaborates with the FAO sub-regional office to address regional food security concerns

Target 2.1: Universal access to safe and nutritious food

Indicator 2.1.2 Prevalence of food insecurity



Source: MOCCA

Target 2.2: By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons

Indicator 2.2.1 Prevalence of stunting (height for age <-2 standard deviation from the median of the World Health Organization (WHO) Child Growth Standards) among children under 5 years of age



Source: MOHAP





the umbrella of the Council's Evaluation and Monitoring Team, mechanisms and procedures were devised to track food products along the supply chain, diversify food import sources, stimulate local production, and enhance market access for these products. Moreover, various enabling initiatives were launched to improve national food availability; including temporary deactivation of non-food safety-related mandatory standards. The extraordinary session concluded with the council conducting a national food stocktaking exercise, with its findings reported to the Cabinet.

List of relevant stakeholders: _____

- Ministry of Health and Prevention
- Ministry of Health and Prevention
- Ministry of Economy
- Ministry of Energy and Industry
- National Emergency and Crisis and Disasters Management Authority
- United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation

Target 2.a: Increase investment, including through enhanced international cooperation, in rural infrastructure, agricultural research and extension services, technology development and plant and livestock gene banks in order to enhance agricultural productive capacity in developing countries, in particular least developed countries

Indicator 2.a.1 The agriculture orientation index for government expenditures, by nation



Agriculture value added share of GDP (%)

Source: MOF



SDG 2 – CASE STUDY

FoodTech Valley

The UAE is situated in an arid desert region with low annual rainfall and some of the highest average temperatures in the world. These conditions, exacerbated by climate change, pose severe limitations to what traditional agriculture can achieve. To address this challenge, the country is turning to emerge technologies and innovative, climate-smart cultivation methods, such as controlled-environment agriculture, developing drought-tolerant crops and Novel futuristic foods, to boost local agricultural production while enhancing the quality and variety of local produce.

The latest and largest project in this space is the FoodTech Valley⁶², launched by H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, in May 2021 in Warsan, Dubai.

Spanning 18 million square feet, the first-of-its-kind Food and Agriculture Technologies city aims to serve as a testbed for pioneering agricultural solutions that will spearhead the regional transformation to more sustainable food systems. The FoodTech Valley will provide a dynamic integrated ecosystem for Food and Agriculture Technology companies of all sizes and stages of their life cycle – from startups and SMEs to multinational conglomerates – as well as scientists, engineers, producers, entrepreneurs, investors, and other relevant stakeholders from around the world to exchange experience and expertise and forge productive collaborations.

Introduced by the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment (MOCCAE) and Wasl Properties, the project presents a wealth of opportunities to everyone involved. Investors can reap long-term dividends from sustainable agriculture in a country whose food trade exceeds AED100 billion annually, key global players can benefit from the UAE's state-of-the-art logistical infrastructure and access to markets of three billion people, innovators and entrepreneurs can participate in R&D platforms and incubator programs, while fledgling companies can build on their groundbreaking ideas and scale them up within a nurturing business environment.

The FoodTech Valley at a glance:

- A vibrant and modern city centred around food, innovation, knowledge, technology, and sustainability
- Supports diverse technologies and methods in a controlled-agriculture environment:
 - Hydroponics
 - Aeroponics
 - Aquaponics
 - Cellular agriculture
 - Aquaculture
 - Algaculture
- 4 focused clusters:
 1. Food Technology & Market
 2. Business Park
 3. Innovation and Research & Development Centre and Academy
 4. Smart Logistics
- 270 customised and scalable plots for lease or sale

The FoodTech Valley represents a blueprint for future smart and food-independent cities. Offering a considerable logistical advantage, its strategic location is connected to the heart of Dubai through three main thoroughfares – Ras Al Khor Road, Emirates Road, and Sheikh Zayed bin Hamdan Street. It is also in proximity to Dubai Academic City and Dubai Silicon Oasis.

Through taking a holistic and future-oriented approach to agriculture that enables the cultivation of vital crops all year round, the FoodTech Valley will make a significant contribution to strengthening the UAE's food security and self-sufficiency and conserving natural resources, which are among the main priorities of the country's strategies. It will also support the objective of the National Food Security Strategy 2051 to position the UAE at the top of the Global Food Security Index and establish the country as a leading global exporter of sustainable agricultural solutions.

⁶² Mohammed bin Rashid launches Food Tech Valley: <https://mediaoffice.ae/en/news/2021/May/01-05/Mohammed-bin-Rashid>







Overview of Progress in SDG 3 in the UAE



The UAE has made giant strides in achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals thanks to the directives and support of the wise leadership. Without a doubt, the progress that we made represents a key driver and impetus for exerting extra efforts to advance vital national sectors, including the healthcare sector, per the Principles of 50 Document.

We will, therefore, continue to build on the achievements realised by our health system to promote its sustainability, foresee its future and improve the quality of life to ensure that every individual leads a healthy life at all ages.

Our outstanding success in recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic will certainly enhance the positive results achieved in all areas of development and reflects the government's vision of leadership and excellence.

His Excellency Abdul Rahman bin Mohammed Al Owais
Minister of Health and Prevention





ABOUT SDG 3

Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

GENERAL BRIEF ABOUT THE UAE IN RELATION TO SDG 3

Sustainable Development Goals placed health as one of the crucial goals on its agenda. The health goal, which is represented by (SDG3) is defined as: 'Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages. SDG3 consists of 13 targets and 15 indicators that include all major health priorities, such

as maternal, new-born and child health, reproductive health, infectious diseases, non-communicable diseases (NCDs), mental health, road traffic injuries, UHC, environmental health consequences, and health system strengthening, and emergencies.

POLICIES AND INITIATIVES

- The UAE Ministry of Health and Prevention has developed a national policy on mental health as part of the country's ongoing efforts to update health policies and legislation, aligned with the national vision. In the United Arab Emirates, the policy seeks to establish a multi-sectoral national framework and foster joint efforts from the public and private sectors for promoting mental health.
- The Ministry of Health and Prevention launched the 'National Initiative to Enhance the Attractiveness of the Nursing Profession' based on three strategic axes; academic education, motivation and promotion.
- The Ministry of Health and Prevention launched its first breast cancer awareness and prevention campaign targeting all women over 40, especially those who have not been screened for at least two years, under the slogan 'Scan Today, Not Tomorrow'.
- MOHAP has obtained international accreditations of health facilities (JCI) and Canadian accreditation for dental facilities, as well as (AABB) for Blood Transfusion and Research Services.
- Integration of non-communicable disease services into primary health care centres with specialised clinics and with the presence of multidisciplinary teams.
- The UAE Ministry of Health and Prevention has developed a national policy on mental health as part of the country's ongoing efforts to update health policies and legislation, aligned with the national vision. The policy seeks to establish a multi-sectoral national framework and foster joint efforts from the public and private sectors for promoting mental health and its services to raise them to global levels according to an effective comprehensive system (preventive, curative and rehabilitative) and use it at all levels of health care accessible to all.
- The National Communicable Disease Control Policy: To combat communicable diseases and respond to them within the framework of a healthy environment free of the risks of these diseases, especially the response to pandemics. An example of this is the country's multiple and successful efforts to eliminate health risks and threats associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The National Immunisation Policy: To combat diseases that can be prevented by immunizations and achieve 100% targeted immunisation coverage for all targeted community members in all emirates of the country.



- The national policy to promote healthy lifestyles was developed by all stakeholders and will be released from Cabinet: to achieve the highest levels of health for community members and enhance their quality of life within the concept of community partnership through a community that adopts a healthy lifestyle, is committed to healthy nutrition and physical activity and avoids smoking.
- The National Drug Policy: To strengthen the pharmaceutical sector in the country to ensure the use of all capabilities of the national pharmaceutical sector, which depends on fairness, accessibility and rational use of safe, effective, affordable and good quality essential medicines to achieve the highest levels of health for members of society.
- Public Health Law, aims to: Promote and protect public health in accordance with the precautionary principle and proven scientific evidence and in accordance with the International Health Regulations. As well as raising the level of society's awareness of the factors and risks that affect human health and their causes, and reducing the risks affecting human health and society.

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

- Rise in obesity, physical inactivity and unhealthy diets constitute a huge challenge in the UAE. MOHAP is working jointly with different sectors to promote a multisector approach to enhance collaboration and improve accountability.
- Promoting mental health initiatives for school students was developed in cooperation with WHO after the rise in the number of students who are attempting suicide.
- To further reduce the maternal and perinatal mortalities the ministry has set up a national surveillance system for maternal and perinatal deaths and responses.
- During the pandemic, data-driven technologies showed it is of critical importance which lead to working on Enterprise data warehouse projects at the country level.

Did you know?



- UAE is ranked first in the world in 11 global health indicators (2018-2020).
- UAE has regional leadership in introducing (HPV) vaccine for schoolgirls

Target 3.1: By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births

Indicator 3.1.1 Maternal mortality ratio



Source: MOHAP

Indicator 3.1.2 Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel



Source: SDG Index 2022

Target 3.2: By 2030, end preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age, with all countries aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births and under-5 mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1,000 live births

Indicator 3.2.1 Under-5 mortality rate per 1,000 births by Emirates (2020)

Death per 1,000 live births

6.6

2020

Source: SDG Index 2022



COVID-19 RESPONSE

- National Infectious Disease Control Program – Al Hosn application – is the UAE’s official app for contact tracing and health status related to COVID-19. It facilitates getting COVID-19 test results and a record of all previous COVID-19 results with their dates. It also helps to notify the person if he/she has been in contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19. AlHosn provides vaccination information, including the type of vaccine you have taken and the date of the dose given.
- The app also facilitates sharing test reports and vaccination certificates by generating a unique personal QR code, especially for international travel and is linked with several countries in the GCC and EU regions. Moreover, Al Hosn’s colour coding system helps authorities identify the health status of individuals according to vaccination and PCR test result status and permit them to go to public spaces and workplaces.
- Electronic Maps for the locations of Hospitals and Clinics: geolocation coordinates (x,y) are available for healthcare facilities across the country.
- UAE has participated in medical R&D related to COVID-19, especially clinical research for (Sinopharm and Sputnik), which resulted in being one of the first countries to implement the national vaccination campaign.
- More than 24,000 existing and new beds during the pandemic, This shows how agile the UAE health system is in responding to emergencies and shows its flexibility. Moreover, the beds that have been added maintain the desired coverage of the health care accessibility for the patients in UAE which provides better health care outcomes.

List of relevant stakeholders:

- Ministry of Interior
- Ministry of Education
- Federal Competitiveness and Statistics Centre
- Insurance Authority UAE
- Abu Dhabi Department of Health
- Statistics Centre Abu Dhabi
- Dubai Health Authority
- Dubai Statistics Centre
- Dubai Healthcare City

Indicator 3.2.2 Neonatal mortality rate per 1,000 births by Emirate (2020)

Death per 1,000 live births

3.6

2020

Source: SDG Index 2022

Target 3.3: By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases

Indicator 3.3.1 Number of new HIV infections per 1,000 uninfected population, by sex, age and key populations

0

2018

0

2019

0

2020

Source: SDG Index 2022

Indicator 3.3.2 Tuberculosis incidence per 100,000 population

0.73

2018

0.73

2019

0.79

2020

Source: SDG Index 2022

Indicator 3.3.3 Malaria incidence per 1,000 population

0

2019

0

2020

Source: ESCWA

Indicator 3.3.4 Hepatitis B incidence per 100,000 population

24.5

2017

24.5

2019

13

2020

Source: MOHAP

Indicator 3.3.5 Number of people requiring interventions against neglected tropical diseases

0

2019

0

2020

Source: MOHAP



Target 3.4: By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being

Indicator 3.4.1 Mortality rate attributed to cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes or chronic respiratory disease (Colorectal Cancer)



Source: MOHAP

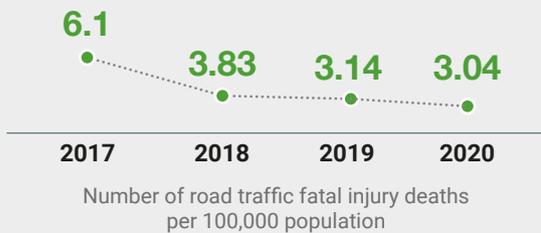
Indicator 3.4.2 Suicide mortality rate



Source: MOHAP

Target 3.6: By 2020, halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents

Indicator 3.6.1 Death rate due to road traffic injuries



Source: MOHAP & MOI

Target 3.7: By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes

Indicator 3.7.1 Proportion of women of reproductive age (aged 15–49 years) who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods



Source: MOHAP

Indicator 3.7.2 Adolescent birth rate (aged 14-10 years; aged 19-15 years) per 1,000 women in that age group



Source: MOHAP

Target 3.8: Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all

Indicator 3.8.1 Coverage of essential health services



Source: MOHAP

Target 3.9: By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination

Indicator 3.9.1 Mortality rate attributed to household and ambient air pollution



Source: MOHAP

Target 3.a: Strengthen the implementation of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in all countries, as appropriate

Indicator 3.a.1 Age-standardized prevalence of current tobacco use among persons aged 15 years and older



Source: MOHAP





Target 3.c: Substantially increase health financing and the recruitment, development, training and retention of the health workforce in developing countries, especially in least developed countries and small island developing States

Indicator 3.c.1 Health worker density and distribution



Source: MOHAP

Target 3.d: Strengthen the capacity of all countries, in particular developing countries, for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks

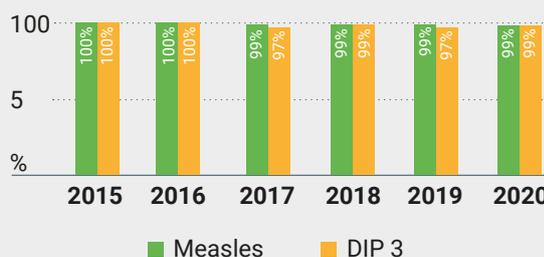
Indicator 3.d.1 International Health Regulations (IHR) capacity and health emergency preparedness



Source: ESCWA

Target 3.b: Support the research and development of vaccines and medicines for the communicable and non-communicable diseases that primarily affect developing countries, provide access to affordable essential medicines and vaccines, in accordance with the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health, which affirms the right of developing countries to use to the full the provisions in the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights regarding flexibilities to protect public health, and, in particular, provide access to medicines for all

Indicator 3.b.1: Proportion of the target population covered by all vaccines included in their national programme



Source: MOHAP



SDG 3 – CASE STUDY

Malaffi

Problem statement

The introduction of mandatory health insurance in Abu Dhabi in 2006 brought tremendous change to the sector. The increasing number of private healthcare providers posed a challenge with coordination of care, overutilization of services and increased financial burden for the payors. The cost of healthcare continued to rise globally, and within the GCC, the UAE became the most expensive^{63,64} also due to the ageing population and increased incidence of chronic diseases. The Department of Health (DOH), the healthcare regulator in Abu Dhabi, needed mechanisms to control the quality of care and access to centralised population health data to manage the healthcare sector better.

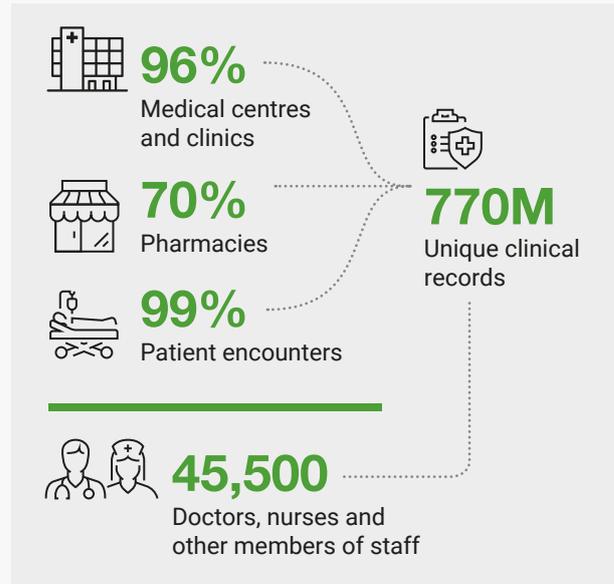
Idea and description

As a result, in 2016, the DOH decided to digitally transform the healthcare sector in Abu Dhabi, aiming to enhance the wellbeing of the Emirate's residents through enhanced prevention and access to integrated, innovative, high-quality and cost-effective healthcare, in line with UAE's National Agenda.

As a key component of the digital transformation, in 2019, the DOH launched Malaffi (Arabic for 'my file'), as a Public-Private Partnership⁶⁵ with Injazat, a regional leader in digital transformation. Malaffi, the first Health Information Exchange (HIE) in the Middle East and North Africa, will safely and securely connect public and private healthcare providers in the Emirate, creating a centralised repository of unified patient records.

Results and impact

In only three years, Malaffi safely and securely connected almost the entire sector in Abu Dhabi and has been noted as one of the fastest HIE implementations worldwide. All hospitals, 96% of medical centres and clinics, over 70% of pharmacies and 99% of the patient encounters are already connected, providing secure access to a total of 770 m unique clinical records, to over 45,500 doctors, nurses and other members of staff.



Malaffi collates information about encounters, allergies, laboratory results and radiology reports, medication, vital signs, vaccination records, clinical documents, problems and diagnosis and procedures. The team is working on expanding the scope to more data points to increase the clinical value of the system, including radiology images, and to also provide patients with access to their medical history through a health portal to motivate patients to be more engaged in the management of their health.

Consistently, around 30% of users with access are using the platform monthly, which compares favourably to averages of other global HIEs. Through user surveys and testimonials, there is strong evidence that Malaffi already yields numerous benefits to patients and providers, such as improving coordination of care and reducing the number of unnecessary and duplicate diagnostic interventions and medical errors. It also supports preventative care and better-informed decision making, improving patient safety and experience, healthcare quality, and outcomes.

⁶³ Department of Health Abu Dhabi 2017

⁶⁴ 2017 CAQH INDEX

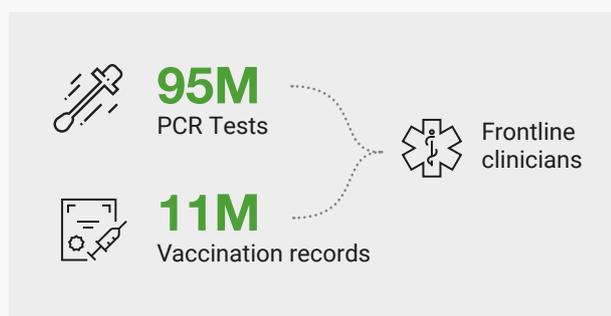
⁶⁵ A special project company called Abu Dhabi Health Data Services was established to build, operate and transfer the HIE to the DOH after a concession period of 10 years.





A key player in Abu Dhabi's COVID-19 response

When COVID-19 emerged in 2020, Malaffi proved critical to the globally recognised successful pandemic response of the Emirate. To date, Malaffi has collated a total of 95 million PCR Tests and 11 million vaccination records available to the frontline clinicians and enabled them to provide better patient care.



In 2021, Malaffi premiered a demonstration of a population risk management platform that uses advanced artificial intelligence (AI) analytic technologies, such as machine learning and predictive models that will empower the healthcare sector to support care management, and improve population health and assist in ensuring continuity of care.

Furthermore, the Government had access to real-time pandemic insights and was better prepared to allocate resources efficiently and implement measures such as mass testing, isolation, and vaccination, safeguarding the population's health and wellbeing.

Improving interoperability and data quality

Analysing the vast database of clinical data, the Malaffi team identified specific gaps and issues that affected data quality. As a result, in November 2021, the DOH issued guidance on coding standards to healthcare providers in Abu Dhabi (such as SNOMED CT⁶⁶ and LOINC⁶⁷). The adoption of these standards will significantly improve interoperability, increase the clinical value of the data, and the accuracy and scope of population health insights.

Better population health insights

Malaffi provided the DOH for the first time access to population health insights in near real-time based on the analysis of the consolidated clinical data of the entire population

Using AI technology, predictive analytics and machine learning, Malaffi will increasingly be used to prevent and reduce disease progression, promote improved health outcomes and, ultimately, prolong life.

Malaffi will contribute to creating advanced systems tailored for syndromic and pandemic surveillance and response, along with other solutions which will ensure Abu Dhabi remains at the forefront of public health and safety.



⁶⁶ SNOMED CT - Systematised Nomenclature of Medicine - Clinical Terms

⁶⁷ LOINC - Logical Observation Identifiers Names and Codes





Overview of Progress in SDG 4 in the UAE



The future of any nation begins at the roots, at its schools. We, at the Ministry of education have embarked on a mission to ensure that our most valuable resource, our human resource is equipped not only for today's labor market demands but for an everchanging evolution of skills. The Ministry can not do this in isolation but with close partnership with educators, private sector and researchers to ensure if we adopt a robust framework and educational philosophy that best prepares our future generations with the relevant skills and knowledge for the future.

His Excellency Dr. Ahmad Belhoul Al Falasi
Minister of Education



ABOUT SDG 4

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

GENERAL BRIEF ABOUT THE UAE IN RELATION TO SDG 4

The UAE places education at the cornerstone of Vision 2021 and its Centennial Plan 2071. Using smart Information and Communications Technology (ICT) systems and a specialised data centre, the Ministry of Education (MOE) and its strategic partners have laid out a strong strategy to harness the national human capital's full potential by maximising participation in high-quality education, encouraging entrepreneurship, and nurturing the public and private sector leaders. The 2016 merger between the Ministry of Education and Higher Education has enabled the UAE to focus on equity and

quality from kindergarten to higher education to fill the gap between academic requirements and labour market demands. The newly developed Curriculum Framework for Excellence is a high-level plan that provides stakeholders with a clear outline of what is needed to achieve the MoE Vision and is accelerating progress towards SDG 4 through its four key drivers for excellence which embrace developments around the fourth industrial age of automation, artificial intelligence, global communication and the importance for sustainability.

POLICIES AND INITIATIVES

- The Inclusive Education Policy Framework (2018) defines an Emirati school model focused on providing quality education from birth through its five tracks (Specialisation track, General / Academic track, Professional track, advanced track and Professional Advanced track).
- While striving toward both the National Agenda Vision 2021 and the Centennial Vision of 2071, the Ministry has worked diligently to build an innovative education system that equips learners to live in a global knowledge-based society and to meet the demands of the future labour requirements.
- As part of its commitment to achieving SDG 4, the Ministry has built an organisational structure that caters to life-long learning. An emphasis has been placed on Indicator 4.6, which aims to ensure that all youth and a sustainable portion of adults reach literacy and numeracy by 2030. To ensure that all learners are equipped with fundamental literacy skills essential to economic development and social well-being, a robust bilingual literacy strategy was implemented. To achieve SDG 4, the Ministry incorporated moral education into all levels of education by integrating the basic principles of global citizenship, centred around the themes of personal ethics, the role of the individual and society, and cultural education in the school curricula.
- The admission policies and enrolment criteria aim to ensure that all male and female students are given equal access to learning opportunities through providing technical, vocational, and higher education. Youth are also enabled to get degrees and professional support to achieve a high-quality professional experience. The





Ministry of Education's response to the global pandemic allowed the UAE to become one of the leading countries in the transition to digital education while maintaining stability and quality for all stakeholders. A variety of academic topics, and classroom and non-classroom activities have been added to encourage students to develop skills such as empathy, tolerance, critical thinking, communication, ethical behaviour, respect, cultural diversity, and environmental issues. The social and economic principles of global citizenship have also been integrated into youth community activities.

- Online learning/ early childhood/ operations management (business continuity) How to ensure continuity of educational business during emergencies. Example, COVID-19 How? 1. Utilising online learning 2. Activating business continuity policies.
- The Curriculum Framework for Excellence is a high-level plan that provides stakeholders with a clear outline of what is needed to achieve the MoE Vision and is accelerating progress towards SDG4 through its four key drivers for excellence which embrace developments around the fourth industrial age of automation, artificial intelligence, global communication and the importance for sustainability. The CFE sets out the rationale and

broad content of what will be taught in school and how this will be evaluated. It provides the context through which the children and young people of the UAE will gain a rich, fulfilling and rewarding educational experience. It reflects the emphasis that the leaders of the UAE place on educating its citizens to empower them to take their place in society and the world as confident and highly skilled individuals.

Target 4.2: By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education

Indicator 4.2.2 Participation rate in organized learning (one year before the official primary entry age), by sex



Source: ESCWA

Target 4.a: Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all

Indicator 4.a.1 Proportion of schools offering basic services, by type of service



Source: MOE

Target 4.c: By 2030, substantially increase the supply of qualified teachers, including through international cooperation for teacher training in developing countries, especially least developed countries and small island developing States

Indicator 4.c.1 Proportion of teachers with the minimum required qualifications, by education level



Source: MOE

Did you know?

- MOE's eco-system serves 81,998 teachers, over 1,103,350 students and over 424,598 parents.
- In 2020, the UAE Cabinet approved a record federal budget of AED 61.35 billion with 14.80% allocated to Education.



CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

- One of the major challenges the education sector is facing is the shortage of a skilled workforce to meet the requirements of the educational reforms. The UAE is actively investing in upskilling the existing workforce and offering incentives to attract teachers from other professions.
- There is a skill gap between the skills acquired by UAE graduates and those demanded in the labour market.
- Global pandemics poses a threat to education. The MOE managed to accommodate an eco-system that transformed challenges into opportunities in various domains. For instance, expanding the 3rd language program with Spanish and Japanese besides the existing Chinese and French created the 3rd language prosperity. Dual Credit with Higher Ed is another initiative started during this period, moving students forward through a smoother transition between school and university/college. In addition, standards for the apprenticeship model created another opportunity for students to apply their skills and projects to real-world practice precisely using the challenges that appeared in COVID-19 to enhance the engagement of students in such models remotely or Hybrid to answer the

demand of the labour market. The Recovery of COVID-19 has been adapted by embracing 30% of National Qualifications Center (NQC) standards. Furthermore, students of determination are part of this pandemic challenge, particularly in the first three quarters of the period, where education was in need of parental engagement and so the Baraem Al Mustaqbal (BAM) existed to promote parental awareness and involvement through the BAM platform. This was enhanced by a new initiative for the kindergarten (KG) enrollment to be open for three years. The recognition of qualifications during COVID-19 called for another type of support for students who missed education according to the educational system they have experienced during the pandemic in different places of the world, so supporting disadvantaged communities to overcome the loss and cope with the MoE system. Abu Dhabi Vocation Educational & Training Institute (ADVETI) and Higher Colleges of Technology (HCT) confront challenges as well, in ensuring students meet the level of the Emirates Standardized Test (EMSAT) and the Language International Examinations by adapting and preparing them through accessing platforms and resources such as the myOn.

COVID-19 RESPONSE

- In response to COVID-19, the UAE Ministry of Education conducted a comprehensive evaluation of the process of implementing a distance learning system to develop e-Learning in the next phase.
- Curriculum framework of Excellence Continuity learning devices for all

List of relevant stakeholders:

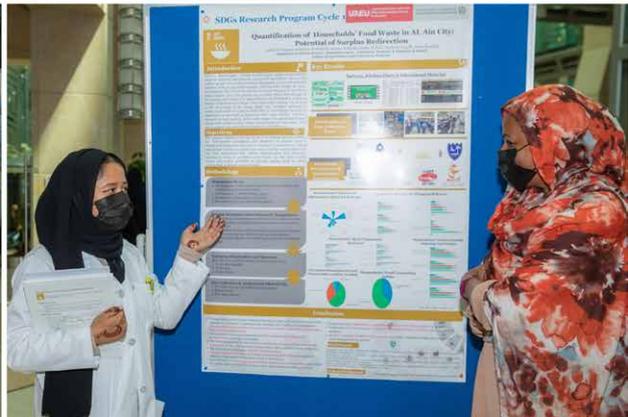
- Ministry of Health and Prevention
- Ministry of Culture and Youth
- Ministry of Interior
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
- Federal Competitiveness and Statistics Centre
- Knowledge and Human Development Authority Dubai
- Abu Dhabi Department of Education and Knowledge
- Abu Dhabi Vocational Education and Training Institute
- Sharjah Private Education Authority
- United Arab Emirates University
- Zayed University
- Higher Colleges of Technology
- Hamdan bin Mohammed Smart University
- University of Sharjah
- Abu Dhabi University
- Etisalat





SDG 4 – CASE STUDY

UAE University (UAEU) Sustainable Development Goals Research Program



The United Arab Emirates University has assumed an active and positive role in achieving the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by supporting initiatives and research projects that are related to the 17 SDGs. The UAE University, therefore, launched the SDGs Research Program for undergraduate students late in 2021. The program is intended to educate the students and raise their awareness of the importance of the SDGs. This program is planned to inform the university community about the importance of achieving these goals and develop a better understanding of the conservation and sustainability of natural resources.

The SDGs research program focuses on achieving sustainable solutions to national and global challenges such as poverty, food security, water

and energy, health, gender equality, climate change, sustainable cities, and peace. These projects aim to promote the culture of giving to the community by resolving societal issues scientifically and innovatively. The projects highlight the students' role in addressing social and environmental issues.

The SDGs research program provides funds to students, working in groups under the supervision of a faculty, to investigate, test, and implement research ideas and find suitable approaches and solutions that will fulfil the sustainability requirements of one of the goals. Each research group is composed of 3-5 students and a faculty member. The outcomes of each research team were presented in a one-day exhibition held on March 21, 2022.



Scientific research represents an important tool to build sustainable societies. The first cycle of the SDGs research program addressed the four SDGs given hereafter.

- SDG 1- No Poverty
- SDG 2- Zero Hunger
- SDG 11- Sustainable Cities and Communities
- SDG 14- Life below Water

After the internal review of the submitted proposals, 56 research projects related to the mentioned four sustainable development goals were supported. The involved teams included 48 female groups and 8 male groups. 31 research projects were funded under SDG 11, 10 research projects under SDG 2, 8 research projects under SDG 1, and 7 research projects under SDG 14. A total of 256 students and 56 faculty members from various colleges were involved in the SDGs research program.

H.E. Zaki Nusseibeh, Cultural Adviser to H.H. The President of the UAE and Chancellor of the United Arab Emirates University, visited the exhibition and reviewed the outcomes of the SDGs research program. He was accompanied by Prof. Ghaleb Al Hadrami Al Breiki - Acting Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Mohammed Al Qasim - Acting Provost for Academic Affairs, and Prof. Ahmed Murad – Associate Provost for Research. Several Deans, academic administrators and heads of departments also attended the exhibition. H.E. interacted with the student members and congratulated them for their ideas and hard work. He emphasised the importance of the implementation of the concept of sustainability as all the resources are finite and must be conserved.

Examples of funded research projects include;

- SDG 1 - Using Machine Learning and Satellite Data to Guide Poverty Reduction
- SDG 1 - Overcoming the effect of COVID-19 on poverty: creative Biopharmaceutical solutions to pandemics



- SDG 2 - Quantification of Households' Food Waste in Al Ain City: Potential of Surplus Redirection to People in Need
- SDG 2 - Pilot study on honey bee parasites in the UAE – a step toward improved health of bee colonies, sustainable pollination and increased honey production
- SDG 11 - Web-Based Electrical Power Quality and Energy Monitoring for Sustainable Energy Utilisation in Buildings
- SDG 11 - An Edge Computing based System for Smart Traffic Vehicles Counting
- SDG 14 - Standardising sustainable aquaponic production of food herbs and fishes: Comparison with conventional systems in United Arab Emirates
- SDG 14 - Converting PET plastic, a major ocean pollutant, to a high-value product with commercial applications

The office of the Associate Provost for Research is planning to offer the SDGs Research program annually. Each year the program will address 3-4 goals. The program is expected to help in developing the knowledge and skills of undergraduate students to achieve sustainability goals.







Overview of Progress in SDG 5 in the UAE



Sustainable partnerships prioritising innovation, knowledge sharing, and inspirational goal setting are the foundation of our success in advancing SDG 5 in the UAE and around the world. Weaving gender balance considerations into all policy and planning efforts in government and the private sector ensures prosperity for current and future generations.

Her Excellency Mona Ghanem Al Marri

Vice President of UAE Gender Balance Council





ABOUT SDG 5

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

GENERAL BRIEF ABOUT THE UAE IN RELATION TO SDG 5

The UAE Gender Balance Council is a federal government entity responsible for overseeing the UAE's gender balance agenda. Established in 2015, the UAE Gender Balance Council is composed of key members from the UAE Cabinet, including representation from the Prime Minister's Office, and oversees the review of legislation, policy, and partnerships to sustainably advance gender balance in the UAE. The UAE Gender Balance Council has driven significant legal reforms that saw the country rank 18 in the world in 2020 as per the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Gender Inequality Index. In line with SDG 5, the Council's objectives are to reduce the gender gap across all government sectors, achieve gender balance in decision-making positions, and promote the UAE's status as a benchmark for gender balance. In March 2022, the 2026 UAE Gender Balance Strategy was launched, with a vision of the UAE being the working model for gender balance and a goal to drive gender mainstreaming across government, the private sector, and diplomacy and foreign affairs.

POLICIES AND INITIATIVES

- The advancement of gender balance is a national priority in the UAE. The 2026 UAE Gender Balance Strategy emphasises sustainable gender mainstreaming across all sectors.
- Gender-based discrimination is prohibited in the UAE.
- Equal pay for equal work is the law.
- In 2022, the UAE Government and 20+ key local and multinational companies launched the SDG 5 Pledge to Accelerate Women's Leadership in the UAE Private Sector, an initiative through which signatories work together to increase the representation of women in middle and senior managerial roles in the UAE to 30% by 2025.

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

- 2020 onwards brought unique challenges to all nations around ensuring gender balance remained a priority across policy areas in government and in the private sector.
- As of 2022, it is mandatory for all government and listed company boards of directors to have female representation. This will drive gender balance at the highest levels of leadership.
- A Global Advanced Practices in Gender Balance Toolkit, created as a project of the Global Council for SDG 5, provides a comprehensive overview of legislation and programming to support women in all sectors, including during times of crisis.
- These actions will drive further evidence-based policy reform to guarantee sustainable gender balance around the world.



Did you know?



- The UAE parliament is fully gender-balanced with 50% women.
- Government and the private sector collaborate to close gender gaps in leadership.
- Equal pay, parental leave, and equal access to credit are cornerstone gender balance policies.

COVID-19 RESPONSE

- Al Manal Humanitarian Initiative launched 'ReacHer', a campaign in partnership with Dubai Healthcare City Authority aiming to provide women with mental health support during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The UAE provides remote work opportunities to working mothers whose children are in grade six and below, or whose children are of determination.
- In line with UAE Cabinet Resolution No. 27 of 2020, a decision has been issued to balance business requirements with helping families fulfil the requirements of distance education needs for children.

List of relevant stakeholders:

- Ministry of Economy
- Inter-Parliamentary Union
- International Public Affairs and Sustainability, UPS, USA
- Standard Chartered Bank
- Kearney
- Ducab

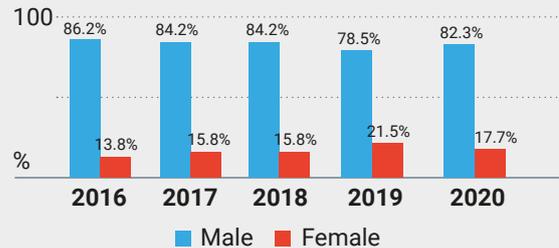
Target 5.5: Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life

Indicator 5.5.1 Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments and local governments. Proportion of women in the Federal National Council



Source: UAE GBC

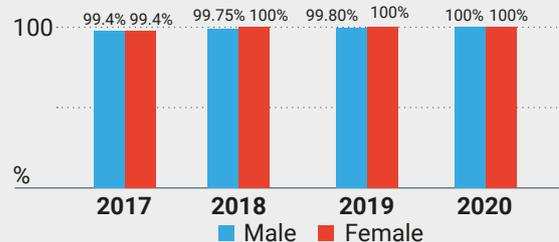
Indicator 5.5.2: Proportion of women in managerial positions (%)



Source: FCSC

Target 5.b: Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women

Indicator 5.b.1: Proportion of individuals who own a mobile telephone, by sex (%)



Source: ESCWA





SDG 5 – CASE STUDY

Women's Leadership in the Private Sector for SDG 5 Advancement



Signatories of the SDG 5 Pledge to Accelerate Women's Leadership in the UAE Private Sector.

Background and objective of the Pledge

In early 2022, 23 leading local and multinational private sector companies in the United Arab Emirates publicly committed to taking tangible steps to increase the number of women in leadership positions within their organisations by 30% by 2025. Since then, SDG 5 Pledge to Accelerate Women's Leadership in the UAE Private Sector has become a milestone gender balance project of the UAE government, demonstrating the value of public-private partnerships in advancing strategic priorities, shared interests, and the sustainable development goals, specifically the universally important goal of SDG 5, Gender Equality.

Co-designed by the government and key partners in the private sector, the SDG 5 Pledge has four key elements:

Gender Balance Acceleration Pledge key elements:

1. Ensure equal pay and fair compensation practices;
2. Promote gender-equitable recruitment and promotion;
3. Reflect our ambitions through policies and programs; and
4. Be transparent with our progress through annual reporting to the UAE Gender Balance Council.

The objective of the Pledge is for the government and the private sector to work together to advance gender balance in the private sector by taking practical, sustainable steps to equip and empower women leaders into increasingly senior positions of

leadership. In addition to the public commitment, companies are working closely both with one another and with the government to share their internal best practices, challenges, and creative policy solutions to reach the 30% target by 2025. Ongoing engagement and partnership through whole-group workshops and one-on-one meetings between signatories and the UAE Gender Balance Council have resulted in candid dialogue and knowledge exchange, which will ultimately contribute to greater gender balance in the UAE through stronger partnerships and more sustainable evidence-based policy reform in the public and private sectors.

History of the Pledge:

The UAE's Private Sector Advisory Council on SDGs, in collaboration with the UAE's National Committee on SDGs as represented by the UAE Gender Balance Council (UAE GBC) and the Federal Competitiveness and Statistics Centre, organised in 2019 a focus group discussion on SDG 5 (Gender Equality). The workshop gathered key stakeholders from the private and public sectors to learn about their experiences and perspectives in areas central to advancing gender balance in the UAE.

This engagement resulted in the UAE Private Sector Advisory Council on SDGs working towards the implementation of a key recommendation: Raising awareness of the importance of 'ensuring women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities at all levels of decision-making' (SDG



Signatories of the SDG 5 Pledge to Accelerate Women's Leadership in the UAE Private Sector.

5 target 5.5.) through developing and signing a UAE Gender Balance Acceleration Pledge.

In an effort to support the initiative and accelerate the UAE's achievement of target 5.5., UAE private sector companies have voluntarily chosen to work together and set an ambitious target to increase the representation of women in middle and senior managerial roles in the UAE by 30% by 2025.

Signatories (accurate as of April 2022):

Majid al Futtaim, Standard Chartered Bank, DMCC, Dubai Holding, Mars, Masdar, PepsiCo., Michelin, Schneider Electric, MasterCard, BASF, General Mills, Unilever, UPS, General Motors, Mondelez International, Nestle, DP World, Kearney, KPMG Lower Gulf, VFS Global, CocaCola, & Danone.

The SDG 5 Pledge to Accelerate Women's Leadership in the UAE Private Sector is overseen by the UAE Gender Balance Council, a federal government entity responsible for overseeing the advancement of the gender balance agenda in the UAE through legislative and policy reform and partnerships. H.E. Mona Al Marri, Vice President of the UAE Gender Balance Council, is also the Chairperson of the Global Council on Sustainable Development Goal 5 (Gender Equality). This Pledge directly aligns with the priorities of both Councils and demonstrates the prioritization of SDG 5 targets across all gender-related work led by and in the UAE.

In early 2022, 23 leading local and multinational private sector companies in the United Arab Emirates publicly committed to taking tangible steps to increase the number of women in leadership positions within their organisations by 30% by 2025. Since then, SDG 5 Pledge to Accelerate Gender Balance in the UAE Private Sector has become a milestone gender balance project of the UAE government, demonstrating the value of public-private partnerships in advancing strategic priorities, shared interests, and the sustainable development goals, specifically the universally important goal of SDG 5, Gender Equality.







Overview of Progress in SDG 6 in the UAE



The Water Security Strategy was born out of the necessity to preserve the UAE's limited freshwater resources. As an arid region with growing pressures, the strategy lays the groundwork to ensure access to clean, adequate, and affordable water for years to come. Water is a precious resource that plays a vital role in our ecosystems and livelihoods, and we must 'Save to Sustain' to safeguard a water-secure future for all.

His Excellency Suhail bin Mohamed Faraj Al Mazrouei
Minister of Energy and Infrastructure





ABOUT SDG 6

Ensure access to water and sanitation for all

GENERAL BRIEF ABOUT THE UAE IN RELATION TO SDG 6

In 2016, the World Economic Forum (WEF) listed 'Water Crises' as one of top 10 global risks to impact the world. Water security concerns are particularly acute in the UAE as the country is located in one of the most water-scarce regions of the world. In line with the UAE Vision 2021 and SDG 6, the Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure (MOEI) developed the UAE Water Security Strategy 2036 with the overarching objective of setting a roadmap to achieve water security. The strategy was developed in collaboration with more than 30 entities in the water sector and built on a large repertoire of previous studies and references. The strategy aims to enhance water security planning and risk management, through

tools such as the national water risk register, an integrated hydraulic water network model and an emergency impact simulator. The strategy was prepared from a national perspective to cover all elements of the country's water supply chain for 20 years with the participation of all water resources authorities involved in its development and adoption.

The strategy also addresses challenges related to the resilience of the water system to deal with extreme emergencies, the water-energy nexus as well as the high carbon footprint of desalination plants.

POLICIES AND INITIATIVES

- The Hydrogeological map (a first in the UAE) displays all-natural water resources within the UAE. The map supports integrated water management and water resource location and allocation with a significant amount of data to ensure clean water and sanitation for all citizens and residents.
- In August 2021 the Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure launched the National Water and Energy Demand Management Programme. The programme was rolled out in cooperation with strategic partners and stakeholders of the federal and local governments and the private sector. The programme will adopt the best international standards in the nation's largest water and energy efficiency drive.
- The Emirates Rain Enhancement Program According to a recent study by the National Centre of Meteorology, rainfall enhancement activity increases the amount of rain by an average of 15% to 30%, which increases the amount of surface water and enhances recharge of the strategic groundwater reserves.
- The UAE is developing three new membrane-based water desalination projects. They will be developed in Abu Dhabi, Dubai and Umm Al Quwain with a combined capacity of 420 million imperial gallons of water per day. Once commissioned in 2024, the projects will increase the total installed water desalination capacity of the country and help to overcome the challenges of water scarcity in future under its UAE Water Security Strategy 2036.



Did you know?



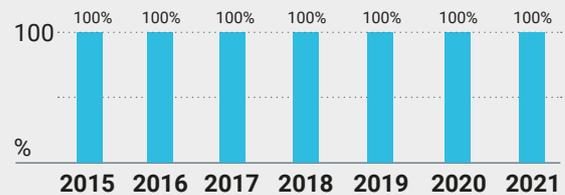
- The Water Security Strategy 2036, launched in 2018, is considered the first unified water security strategy in the country.
- The United Arab Emirates produced a total of 442,319 million gallons of desalinated seawater in 2018.
- Seawater desalination constitutes 41% and reuse of treated wastewater accounts for 11% of the total water supply in the UAE.
- In 2021, UAE built the first hydroelectric power station in the GCC region that will be commissioned by February 2024

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

- Groundwater is a strategic water resource in the UAE. Compared to surface water, changes in groundwater quantity and quality are often a very slow process that occurs under large areas of land. The Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure, in collaboration with Abu Dhabi Environment Agency, is conducting a project to develop a comprehensive hydrogeological mapping of the UAE.
- The water information system and the developed maps will be employed in groundwater, surface water, and dam construction and operation studies. This project will support the achievement of SDG 6, which includes the collection, management, and analysis of data and information related to water resources.

Target 6.1: By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all

Indicator 6.1.1: Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services



Value was measured by accessibility and availability

Source: FCSC

Target 6.2: By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations

Indicator 6.2.1: Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services



Source: FCSC

Target 6.3: By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally

Indicator 6.3.1 Proportion of domestic and industrial wastewater flows safely treated

95.9%

2019

95.9%

2020

Source: ESCWA





COVID-19 RESPONSE

- Tracking COVID-19 with wastewater The Centre for Membranes and Advanced Water Technology at Khalifa University worked on a project for monitoring the SARS-CoV-2 virus in municipal wastewater, as a method for the early detection and to track the spread of COVID-19 among the general population.
- Water utility services moved towards Smart Office to provide services through encouraging all customers to use its digital channels, including the website and smart app, to complete their transactions easily anytime and anywhere, without visiting any of its centres. (e.g. View & Pay Bill, Change Customer Category, Change Premise type, Move In & move Out, Water Supply Points, Contract Services, etc.).
- Water Utilities applied a comprehensive precautionary measure and plan at workplaces and worker residences to ensure the continuity of fieldwork at its water desalination plants and maintained the operation, maintenance, lab tests, among other vital work, to ensure the continuity of providing water services for all customers. (e.g., cleaning, and disinfecting surfaces, providing disinfectants among workers at their dorms, workplaces, and transportations).
- Wastewater Monitoring programs had been established to provide an early warning for potential contaminants and threats to public health and the environment.

The United Arab Emirates Hydrogeological Mapping Project aims to provide the public as well as the decision-makers in the government and the private sector with accurate information and data on the occurrence, utilisation, and vulnerability of groundwater resources in the United Arab Emirates.

Target 6.5: By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate

Indicator 6.5.1 Degree of integrated water resources management



Source: MOEI

List of relevant stakeholders: _____

- Federal Competitiveness and Statistics Centre
- Department of Energy - Abu Dhabi
- Dubai Electricity and Water Authority
- Sharjah Electricity, Water and Gas Authority
- Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi
- Etihad Water and Electricity



SDG 6 – CASE STUDY

Making the Invisible Visible - Development of hydrogeological map of the United Arab Emirates

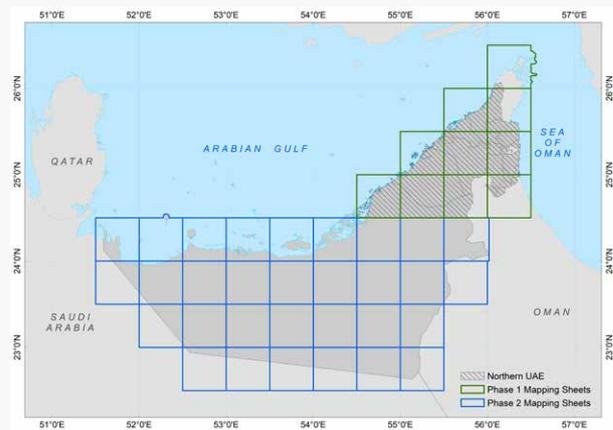
The UAE's groundwater is a vital component of water security: it supports agriculture and food production, provides water supplies in areas remote from the desalination network, and represents a strategic reserve should other supplies be threatened. The UAE water security strategy recognizes this importance, and the need to carefully manage this resource.

The project aims to collect, classify, and analyse all available data on ground and surface water. This information is converted into digital data that can be utilised in preparing high-quality, accurate digital maps using Geographical Information Systems (GIS). This is in addition to preparing an explanation booklet for each map with pictures, sectors, and diagrams, explaining the geological, hydrogeological, and chemical characteristics of groundwater, classifying groundwater aquifers for each area, and various other information and data. This project has many benefits, including, Unifying the available knowledge of groundwater resources into a single map series, and supporting the UAE Water Security Strategy – allowing identification of priority areas of groundwater natural resource abundance and deficit.

The project updates the groundwater maps for the country, and for the first time brings together recent national geological mapping information with up-to-date groundwater monitoring data from each of the UAE's Emirates. The maps were designed to give an overview of aquifer potential, and groundwater quality and level across the Emirates. The maps will help the country's water managers prioritise actions that increase water security and conserve this valuable resource.

The water information system and the developed maps will be employed in groundwater, surface water and dam construction and operation studies. This project shall support the achievement of the sixth goal of sustainable development, which includes the collection, management and analysis of data and information related to water resources.

The Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure, in cooperation with the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD), is conducting a hydrogeological



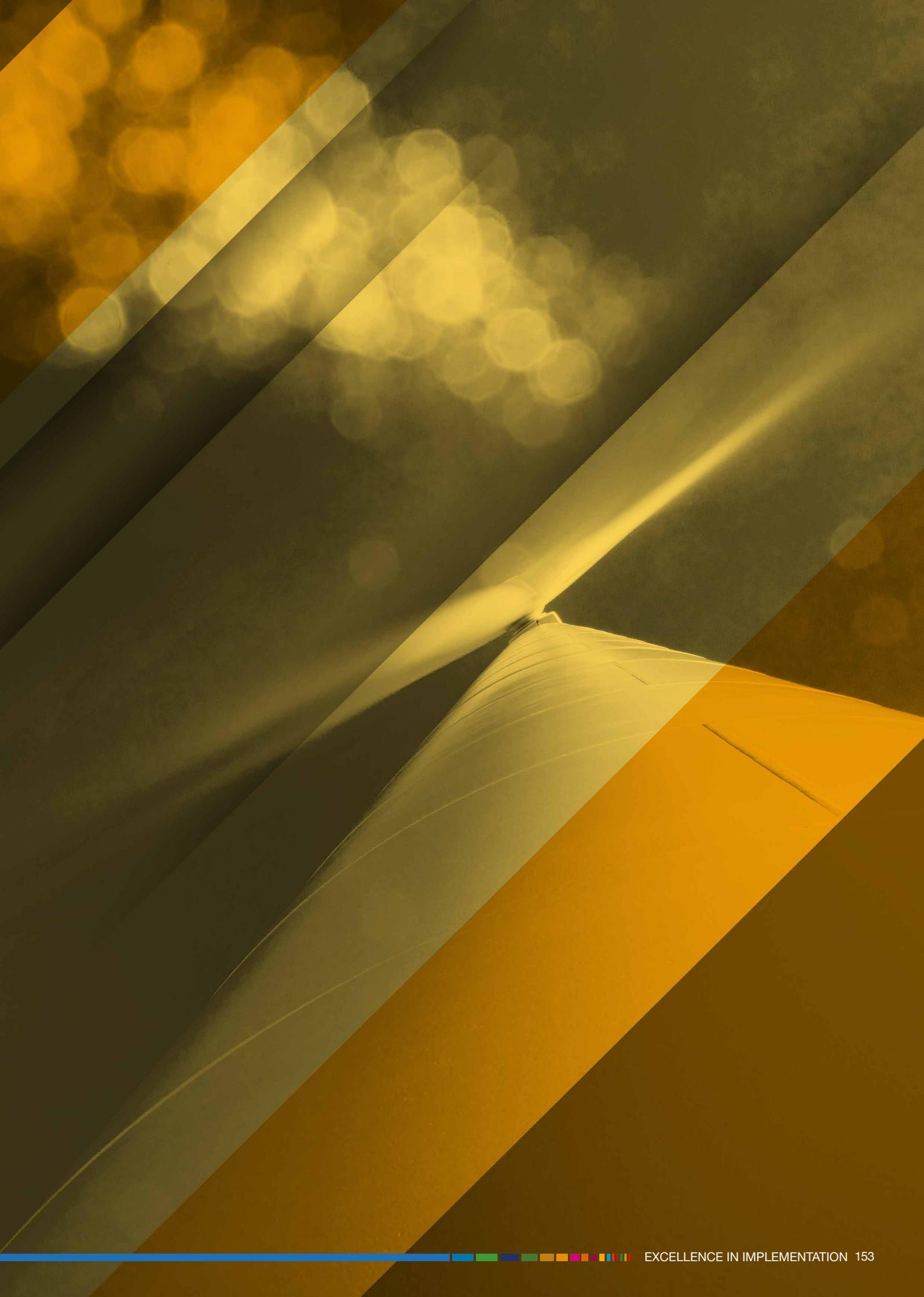
mapping project for the UAE, a unique project at the level of the Arabian Gulf region. The Ministry launched the first phase of the project (The Hydrogeological Maps of Dubai, Sharjah, Ajman, Umm Al Quwain, Ras Al Khaimah, and Fujairah) during the Water Week (23 March 2022) at Expo 2020, while Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi will launch the second phase (The Hydrogeology Map of Abu Dhabi Emirate) by Mid-2023.

Map index showing the location of 1:100 000 Scale Hydrogeological Maps of the UAE and project Phases

The map's information covers groundwater, well locations, geological and topographical data, land use, surface water, ponds, dams and springs, and plant cover and soil. Maps are produced with different drawing scales to determine the types and dimensions of the groundwater aquifers. The maps also determine the locations and depths of these reservoirs which will help to identify the aquifers subject to depletion, salinization, due to increased abstraction, and the extent of pollution to these aquifers.

The project's outputs include preparing digital maps of the UAE with GIS and printing them on A0 sheets with different drawing scales. A booklet was issued with each map, including an explanation and interpretation of the map and additional information.







Overview of Progress in SDG 7 in the UAE



In our efforts to support the stability of the global energy market, the UAE's ambitions focus on building future pathways based on three core pillars: security of supply, affordability, and sustainability. To enable a just, green and prosperous energy transition we believe our activities to produce the world's lowest carbon intensive barrels can go in parallel with our initiatives to achieve 70% emission reductions and 50% clean energy integration by 2050.

His Excellency Suhail bin Mohamed Faraj Al Mazrouei
Minister of Energy and Infrastructure





ABOUT SDG 7

Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

GENERAL BRIEF ABOUT THE UAE IN RELATION TO SDG 7

The role of the energy sector during the decade of action will be pivotal, creating unprecedented opportunities and challenges for the industry. Here in the UAE, we are working towards an energy transition that is both pro-climate, pro-prosperity, and pro-growth. On December 2nd, 2021, we celebrated the UAE's Golden Jubilee and launched the government strategy: 'Towards the Next 50', with energy and climate action being two of the top priorities on our national agenda. To kick-start the

next 50 years, we are updating our national strategy and are currently in the transition phase. In 2017, we launched our first unified federal Energy Strategy with the bold goal of diversifying energy sources. The new energy economy will be more electrified, efficient, just, inclusive, interconnected, and clean, and toward achieving this the Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure launched the National Integrated Energy Model (IEM).

POLICIES AND INITIATIVES

- Shuaa is a web application to estimate potential electricity production and savings on electricity bills by installing solar panels. The second phase of the project was completed in 2017.
- The Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park is one of DEWA's key initiatives towards achieving the Dubai Clean Energy Strategy (DCES) 2050 and is directly contributing to SDG 7. It has also made major contributions to SDGs 8, 9, 12 and 13. The Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park, is the largest single-site solar park in the world, with a planned capacity of 5,000 MW by 2030. Located in Seih Al Dahal, Dubai, the solar park will reduce over 6.5 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions every year starting from 2030.
- Energy Strategy 2050 - In 2017, the UAE launched its Energy Strategy 2050, which is the first unified energy plan in the country that balances production and consumption, global environmental obligations, and ensures a comfortable economic environment for growth in all sectors.
- National Water and Energy Demand Management Programme - The National Water and Energy Demand Management Programme targets 40% efficiency of the three most energy-consuming sectors in the UAE: transport, industry and construction. The programme includes three main pillars: Energy, water and consumption rationalisation. Several initiatives will be launched to reduce energy consumption and realise the following targets by 2050: reduce energy demand by 40%, increase renewable energy's contribution to the energy mix to 50% and expand water reuse by 95%. The programme combines all stakeholders in the UAE to realise the objectives of the UAE Energy Strategy 2050 and UAE Water Security Strategy 2036.



- The strategy will reduce carbon emissions from the power generation sector by 70% from the Business As Usual over the next three decades. The energy strategy targets include a mix of renewable, nuclear, and clean fossil energy to ensure a balance between economic needs and environmental goals.
- UAE is also building one of the world's largest waste-to-energy plants. Dubai is constructing a USD \$1.1 billion facility that will burn garbage to generate power. A smaller plant – the UAE's first on a commercial scale – will start operating this year in the emirate of Sharjah. Once two other projects in Abu Dhabi are finished, the country may incinerate almost two-thirds of the household waste it currently produces
- The 'Shams Dubai' initiative was launched by the Dubai Electricity and Water Authority with the vision to enable distributed solar energy in the Emirate. A pioneering initiative that supports the vision of H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, this vision aims to make the Emirate of Dubai the smartest city in the world.
- The Hydrogen Leadership Roadmap, a comprehensive national blueprint to support domestic, low-carbon industries, contribute to the country's net-zero ambition and establish the country as a competitive exporter of hydrogen. The roadmap's ambitions underscore the UAE leadership's enduring legacy of progressive solutions to global climate challenges, as recently demonstrated by the announcement of 'UAE's Net-Zero by 2050 Strategic Initiative'. The UAE became the first country in the Middle East and North Africa region to announce a net-zero strategic initiative by 2050 in line with the 2015 Paris Agreement.
- Development to begin on the region's first waste-to-hydrogen plant in the UAE, Sharjah-based Bee'ah Energy, a subsidiary of Bee'ah Group and UK-based Chinook Sciences, have signed an agreement to commence the development of the region's first waste-to-hydrogen plant. The facility will produce low-cost green hydrogen and



Did you know?

- The UAE is the first Arab country and the 31st in the world that possesses nuclear technology for energy production
- Nuclear energy can generate large, stable volumes of baseload electricity 24 hours per day, 365 days per year, regardless of the weather.
- Nuclear energy will help the UAE meet its sustainability commitments - when the four plants in Barakah are fully operational, they will reduce 21 million tons of carbon emissions, which is the equivalent of removing 3.2 million cars off the nation's roads each year.

high-quality activated carbon too. Non-recyclable waste wood and plastic will be processed using Chinook RODECS gasification and pyrolysis technology, which will produce up to 18,000kg of green hydrogen a day at full operational capacity. The technology breaks down hydrocarbons from waste through advanced thermal treatment to release and recover green hydrogen. Then, when the green hydrogen is used in vehicles, it emits only water as a by-product

- With our hydrogen goals, the Barakah nuclear power plant has the potential to create one million tonnes of hydrogen per year on top of a production capacity of 4 power plants of 5,600 MW by 2024. When fully operational, the four Barakah reactors will provide 25% of the UAE's electrical energy needs, reducing around 21 million tonnes of CO₂ emission annually and by 2025, it is projected that the Barakah plant will have cut Abu Dhabi's carbon emissions by 50%.





CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

- The penetration of clean energy use in the transport sector remains low. New incentive packages have been launched by the local governments, which shall facilitate the electrification of the transport sector. The number of electric cars used in the United Arab Emirates has increased during the past five years, and this comes as a result of the accelerated steps taken by the country to support the spread of electric cars. The UAE government is working to rehabilitate the country's infrastructure to accommodate the large spread of electric cars and to motivate members of society to own electric cars to reduce energy consumption and carbon emissions from the transportation sector. The Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure is the authority concerned with energy efficiency affairs at the federal level in the UAE. It sets general programs and policies for the energy and infrastructure sectors that help the spread of electric cars in the country. Such as the National Demand Side Management Program, which aims to reduce energy consumption in the main sectors of the country, including the transportation sector. 26,000 electric cars were registered in the UAE until 2022, and the number of electric cars in the country is expected to reach 42,000 by the year 2030. 482 electric car charging stations have been installed in all emirates of the country until 2021, and work is underway by the Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure, in coordination with all concerned authorities in the country, to establish a unified online platform for electric car charging stations to achieve integration among all parties.
- Raise awareness and understanding of the different types of renewable energy in the market. Dubai Electricity and Water Authority is implementing innovative projects for renewable and clean energy, including a 250-megawatt stored hydropower plant in Hatta, the first of its kind in the Arab Gulf region, with an immediate response to energy demand, and the first 'green hydrogen' project in the Middle East and North Africa. Hydrogen will be produced from renewable electricity and will be stored for use in multiple applications. The clean energy initiatives in Dubai are not limited to the major projects implemented by the Dubai Electricity and Water Authority and

Target 7.1: By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy service

Indicator 7.1.1: Proportion of population with access to electricity



Value was measured by accessibility and availability

Source: FCSC

Indicator 7.1.2: Proportion of population with primary reliance on clean fuels and technology



Source: FCSC

include the residents of Dubai to participate in the production of clean energy through the 'Shams Dubai' initiative.

- The UAE has natural competitive advantages in blue, green hydrogen and other hydrogen colours, and as such, hydrogen will further enable the diversification of the UAE economy through the expansion of existing industries and the growth of new industries. In addition, hydrogen will play a significant role in the UAE National Energy Strategy 2050 and UAE Net-Zero by 2050 Strategic Initiative. The UAE is targeting a 25% market share of low carbon hydrogen and derivatives in key import markets by 2030 with an initial focus on Japan, South Korea, India, and Europe while in parallel pursuing export opportunities across other markets.



COVID-19 RESPONSE

The energy sector in Abu Dhabi applies the best standards and precautionary and preventive measures to ensure efficient supplies. Based on its pioneering role in leading the sector in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi and its full commitment to the security of supplies, the Department of Energy - Abu Dhabi has been keen to apply the highest standards of health and safety in the facilities of the sector by employing policies, legislations and regulations to ensure the protection of workers and the establishment of an approach based on the continuity of the sector to implement its strategic objectives Efficiently. Since the beginning of the crisis, the Department of Energy has worked to strengthen security and safety procedures and controls for all workers whose efforts represent the backbone of the sector's work.

In addition, in cooperation with all the licensing authorities in the emirate. Companies operating in the energy sector conducted a survey of the new Coronavirus among workers in the sector to limit its spread, ensure the safety of workers and ensure business continuity.

List of relevant stakeholders: _____

- Federal Authority for Nuclear Regulation
- Emirates Nuclear Energy Corporation
- Department of Energy - Abu Dhabi
- Dubai Electricity & Water Authority
- Sharjah Electricity, Water and Gas Authority
- Etihad Water and Electricity





SDG 7 – CASE STUDY



Not just Hot Air by DEWA



The world faces the challenge of maintaining economic growth while reducing and mitigating the effects of CO₂ and other greenhouse gas emissions. To avoid a climate catastrophe, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has set an ambitious strategy to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050 and accelerate the transition to clean energy.

Clean and affordable energy is ideally sourced from the sun in the UAE, but the needs and demands of industry and transportation for alternatives to fossil fuels require new ways to source energy. One of the challenges of green hydrogen is to ensure it can economically compete with fossil-fuel-powered hydrogen. Production costs of green hydrogen are currently between USD 3 and USD 6.5 per kilogramme. To be competitive, costs will need to fall to less than USD 1.

To achieve this goal, production must be scaled up. According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), the demand for hydrogen as a power source has

grown threefold in the past few decades, and its global production is estimated at 70 million metric tonnes annually. As a result, the costs of producing hydrogen are projected to fall by 64% by 2040. Dubai Electricity and Water Authority's (DEWA's) pilot project will pave the way for higher production in the future.

DEWA came up with an innovative project by partnering solar power with green hydrogen, in partnership with Siemens and Expo 2020 Dubai, to build the first solar-powered green hydrogen-producing facility in the Middle East and North Africa. The plant was commissioned in May 2021.

The pilot hydrogen plant is located at the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park, which supplies green power to the plant. With this pilot plant, DEWA intends to make it economically viable to produce solar-powered green hydrogen for energy storage, and re-electrification. This is a system that allows for buffering renewable energy production, both for



fast response applications, as well as for long-term storage. The plant has been built to accommodate future applications and test platforms for the different uses of hydrogen, including potential mobility and industrial uses. DEWA is developing a strategy for green hydrogen production. The objectives are to develop the green mobility sector, reduce carbon emissions from various industries, as well as generate electrical and thermal energy, producing water and other applications.

The partnership benefits everyone: Siemens is exploring how solar power can make hydrogen production more economical, Expo 2020 - Dubai benefits from sustainable transportation and clean energy solutions, and DEWA continues its progress towards diversifying energy sources and achieving net-zero emissions in line with the Dubai Clean Energy Strategy 2050 and the Dubai Net Zero Carbon Emissions Strategy 2050 to provide 100% of the energy production capacity from clean energy sources by 2050.

H.E. Reem bint Ibrahim Al Hashemy, Minister of State for International Cooperation and Director General of Expo 2020 - Dubai considers this project a successful fusion of innovation, partnership and sustainability: 'The Green Hydrogen Project is leading by example, showing how technology and collaboration can help build a cleaner, safer and healthier future for everyone. It epitomises the shared desire of Expo

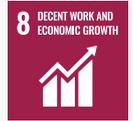
The Green Hydrogen Project is leading by example, showing how technology and collaboration can help build a cleaner, safer and healthier future for everyone.

2020 - Dubai, DEWA, our Official Sustainable Energy Partner and Siemens Energy to develop a global culture of innovation and deploy life-changing ideas and technologies around sustainability.'

H.E. Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of DEWA explained that with this pilot plant, DEWA aims to demonstrate the production of green hydrogen from solar power, storage and re-electrification: 'DEWA has already explored and developed a pilot project for green mobility using hydrogen that can be executed in the near future, in addition to a number of studies, business strategies and a potential roadmap for hydrogen usage. DEWA is building expertise, experience and capabilities to contribute to shaping the clean hydrogen future of the UAE.'







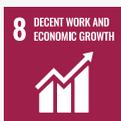
Overview of Progress in SDG 8 in the UAE



The Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratisation (MoHRE) has an integrated system of policies, programs, initiatives and monitoring tools to support it in achieving the UAE's wider strategic objectives. By optimally managing the workforce and future-proofing the UAE economy, the UAE continues to enhance the competitiveness of its labour market. The MoHRE also has an up to date legislative system to regulate labour relations in the private sector and for domestic workers in order to achieve its' national goals whilst responding to changes in the world of work.

His Excellency Dr. Abdul Rahman bin Abdulmanan Al Awar
Minister of Human Resources and Emiratisation





ABOUT SDG 8

Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

GENERAL BRIEF ABOUT THE UAE IN RELATION TO SDG 8

In line with SDG 8, one of the six national priorities of the UAE's national agenda 2021 is transitioning to a 'knowledge-based economy'. In practice, this signifies promoting innovation and research, supporting high value-adding sectors and strengthening the regulatory framework for key sectors. The Ministry of Human Resources & Emiratisation (MOHRE) is responsible for proposing federal laws that regulate labour and labour affairs and supervising their implementation; managing

the job market; transforming the job market in the UAE into an attractive market. Moreover, the Ministry seeks to establish stability in the market, increase productivity, and create jobs.

To do that, MOHRE has focused on developing a system of policies, and standards but also institutional partnerships to empower the labour force, and protect the work environment whilst reinforcing innovation.

POLICIES AND INITIATIVES

Policies

- The Wage Protection System (WPS) policy was launched initially in 2016, it is an electronic salary transfer system that enables organisations in the private sector to pay an employee's wage through banks, approved financial institutions and/or bureau de change. The WPS covers all institutions registered with MOHRE across various businesses in multiple industries. In January 2022, MOHRE broadened the categories, by adding domestic workers to the WPS. As a result, MOHRE offers private sector companies a reliable database to create salary files for their workforce and allows MOHRE to ensure that all employees' dues are paid.
- The Central Bank of the UAE (CBUAE) has enhanced banks' flexibility to mitigate the negative impact of the pandemic and support the UAE's economic recovery. In support of first-time homebuyers, the CBUAE lowered the required down payment on mortgages during the pandemic, which supported the home-ownership rates.
- UAE introduced Federal Decree-Law No. 33 of 2021 on the Regulation of Labour Relations in the Private Sector, known as the 'UAE Labour Law' which governs and applies to all businesses, employers and employees in the private sector. The law became effective on 2 February 2022, repealing the previous Federal Law No. 8 of 1980. The new law introduces several work models such as full-time, part-time, temporary and flexible. It abolishes the 'unlimited' type of contracts and allows only limited or fixed-term contracts. It grants new types of leaves and tackles issues related to harassment, bullying, physical violence and psychological abuse against employees.
- The law prohibits forced labour and discrimination on the basis of gender, race, colour, sex, religion, national or social origin or disability. It also spells out employers' obligations towards employees.



- An amendment to the Commercial Companies Law (Federal Decree-Law no. 26 of 2020) in line with the UAE's future-foresight vision to develop the Economic Sector, the UAE has introduced significant amendments to the Commercial Companies' Law that grants foreigners 100% ownership of their companies, which previously required 51% Emirati ownership to do business outside of UAE free zones. This will contribute to motivating foreign investors to invest in the UAE market. The new investments will contribute to generating employment opportunities, raising productivity, transferring technology, exchanging experiences, and working to develop a more flexible and sustainable economic model to build the economy of the future.
- Launch of the 'UAE Jobs Bank' in line with the Cabinet's decision obligating all government establishments and the private sector to prioritise recruitment of Emiratis in 160 targeted professions. The UAE Jobs Bank is an innovative gateway for directly connecting Emiratis with government and semi-government agencies and the private sector. This would empower job seekers and guide them to the job opportunities available in these agencies and would enable the targeted agencies to attract as highly qualified Emiratis as required.
- Citizen Redistribution Policy (2018) is a job rotation mechanism between the public and private sectors that aims to provide experienced and competent staff from the public sector to take on leading positions in the private sector.
- On 15 October 2018, the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratisation (MOHRE) implemented a new insurance policy for employees. The new insurance policy, called Taa-meen, was approved by the UAE Cabinet in June 2018 and it was intended to be an alternative option to employers keeping a bank guarantee of AED 3,000 upon recruiting a new employee. Instead of needing a bank guarantee of AED 3,000 with the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratisation, employers can now buy insurance for employees, called Taa-meen. The insurance provides maximum insurance coverage of AED 20,000 per employee and protects the employee from a company going bankrupt or failing to get his / her benefits issued. In case the insurance company pays the employee, the employer will have to repay the same to the insurance company.



Did you know?

1. UAE ranked 1st globally in labour market indicator in the IMD World Competitiveness Yearbook 2021, issued by the World Competitiveness Centre of the World Institute for Management Development (IMD).
2. UAE ranked 1st globally in Capacity to attract talented people indicator in Prosperity Index 2021, issued by Legatum Institute.
3. UAE ranked 1st globally in Global Entrepreneurship Index 2022, issued by The Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM).

Target 8.1: Sustain per capita economic growth in accordance with national circumstances and, in particular, at least 7 per cent gross domestic product growth per annum in the least developed countries

Indicator 8.1.1 Annual growth rate of real GDP per capita



Source: FCSC

Target 8.6: By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training

Indicator 8.6.1 Proportion of youth (aged 24-15 years) not in education, employment or training



Source: FCSC





Initiatives

- The UAE cabinet adopts resolutions and incentive packages to enhance the participation of Emirati talents in the private sector. The resolutions come within NAFIS, the federal program that aims to increase the competitiveness of the Emirati workforce and facilitate the private sector employment of UAE citizens. The incentives include reducing the service fees of the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratisation by 80% for private sector establishments, which accomplish major achievements in terms of recruitment and training of Emirati citizens. Increasing the Emiratisation rate to 2% annually from High-skilled jobs in establishments that employ 50 workers or more. The step aims at creating more than 12,000 job opportunities annually for citizens in all economic sectors. The program offers various benefits including the Emirati Salary Support Scheme where UAE citizens will be offered one-year salary support of up to AED8,000 per month during training and monthly support of up to AED5,000 will be paid for up to five years for university graduates. It also offers a Private Sector Child Allowance Scheme. The scheme is a monthly grant made to Emirati staff working in the private sector of up to AED800 per child up to a maximum of AED3,200 per month. The program also offers a subsidised five-year government-paid contribution on the company's behalf against the cost of pension plans for Emirati staff and full support for the Emirati's contribution across the first five years of their employment.
- The Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratisation new unemployment insurance system, consists of compensating the insured employee in the UAE with a cash amount for a limited period. The main objective behind this initiative is providing the Involuntary Loss of Employment (ILOE) insurance offered to the workforce in UAE in an attempt to improve the living standard and improve the lifestyle by providing peace of mind for employees in unfortunate circumstances. The system will enhance the competitiveness of the labour market and establish a stable work environment for everyone.
- The Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratisation launched a 'national program to support the stability of the labour market in

Target 8.7: Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms

Indicator 8.7.1 Proportion and number of children aged 17–5 years engaged in child labour, by sex and age



Source: FCSC

Target 8.9: By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products

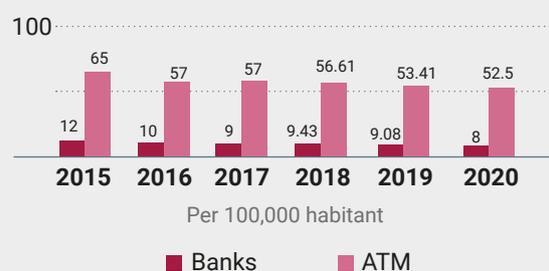
Indicator 8.9.1 Tourism direct GDP as a proportion of total GDP and in growth rate



Source: MOEconomy

Target 8.10: Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and expand access to banking, insurance and financial services for all

Indicator 8.10.1: Number of commercial bank branches and automated teller machines (ATMs) per 100,000 adults



Source: CBUAE

the private sector' to ensure the continuity of performance of the business in the private sector in light of a series of preventive measures and precautionary measures taken at the state level for the federal and local government work system



to confront the 'novel coronavirus' and contain its spread. The program included a package of measures to support employers and workers in the private sector, nationals and residents, in an integrated manner with the economic support packages provided by the state.

- Early Leave Initiative during COVID-19 as part of its humanitarian efforts, the MOHRE launched an 'Early Leave Initiative' in 2020 in cooperation with other federal entities. The initiative allowed all employees working in the private sector to temporarily return to their home countries during the time when COVID-19 precautionary measures were in effect. MOHRE set five procedures that private firms had to comply with for early leave requests:
 1. Both parties must sign the additional temporary form for the job contract and the length of the leave must be specified
 2. Employers must book round-trip tickets for the employees
 3. The contractual relationship between the employee and employer will continue; early leave will be considered unpaid leave, provided that all workers' entitlements are maintained as per the labour law.
 4. Leave ends after the precautionary period is over and the employee is back in the UAE.
 5. Work permits and residence visas of those who returned to their countries will be automatically renewed if they expire during the leave period.
- Organising the 'Tawteen 360 Student Forum' within the framework of the 'National Program for Vocational Guidance' implemented by the Ministry to educate secondary and higher education Emirati students on the importance of working in the private sector. Its aim is to highlight the vital capabilities and advantages provided by companies and institutions of the private sector, in addition to mentoring students professionally and equipping them with the skills and job requirements to work in this sector.
- The Unified e-Portal for Self-employment of Skilled Personnel (2018) aims to connect talented national skills with different programs and services in the private and public sectors. The portal is also a platform for companies to use in order to hire national talent.
- Securing Interest with Movable Property law: Federal Law No (4) of 2020 on Securing Interest with Movable Property enables companies

operating in various business sectors, especially SMEs, to benefit from their movable properties to financially support their operations, especially during exceptional circumstances, such as the current global pandemic. This law improves the ability of financial institutions to manage their current practices, addresses associated risks, and regulates the relationship between banks, institutions and companies to ensure the rights of all parties. This law will have a significant positive impact on the nation's economy, as it can help enterprises, such as agricultural and industrial businesses and projects, to grow through easier access to financing and banking facilities.

- The national payment system, e-Dirham: The Ministry of Finance (MOF) launched an advanced new version of the national payment system, eDirham, in cooperation with relevant government entities and national banks across the UAE. The system provides non-exclusive, competitive banking services, such as the issuance of bank cards as well as digital payment solutions for clearing and financial settlements. The move reiterates MOF's efforts to develop and operate eDirham following the highest international standards in fintech and the digital payment of government services fees.

Challenges and Opportunities:

- Raising the level of Emiratisation in the private sector especially that of females, as the majority of UAE nationals prefer working in the public sector.
- Potential loss of a number of jobs due to the risk that automation poses to administrative jobs hence the importance of equipping UAE nationals with the right skills to succeed in the private sector.
- One of the challenges that the labour market in the UAE faces is the low participation rate of Emirati women in the private sector. There are particular challenges women face while working in the private sector in comparison to the public sector, such as a lower level of job security and difficulties balancing work and family due to the private sector's long working hours. In an effort to raise women's employment in the private sector and women's economic empowerment, the Ministry has identified inventive solutions, such as establishing remote work centres that allow women to engage in innovative work'. It serves as a model to attract private sector companies





to carry out their work from these centres and employ women from remote targeted areas. A self-employment e-platform, providing a collection of tools and services, was also built to enable women to utilise their skills at work independently.

- The UAE Government launched the NAFIS program, which was meant to increase the competitiveness of the Emirati human resources and support empowering them in the private sector. The program has a number of different initiatives and strands by way of support to Emirati nationals seeking either to enter the workplace or to develop their career. The program aimed to create equal job opportunities in the private sector to attract nationals, with an ambitious target of creating 75,000 jobs in the private sector

by 2025. NAFIS Program will provide coaching, professional training, mentoring services, and counselling to the program participants, helping in enhancing their contribution to achieve comprehensive and sustainable development.

- MOHRE has issued a guide to inform workers in the private sector of their rights and obligations as stipulated in Federal Decree-Law No. 33 of 2021 regulating labour relations and the resolutions implementing it. The guide, published in seven languages, including Arabic, English, Urdu, Bengali, Chinese, Hindi and Malayalam, raises workers' awareness of their rights and obligations during the period before arriving in the UAE and after arriving in the country and performing their job, in addition to a set of instructions after the termination of employment.

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

- The penetration of clean energy use in the transport sector remains low. New incentive packages have been launched by the local governments, which shall facilitate the electrification of the transport sector. The number of electric cars used in the United Arab Emirates has increased during the past five years, and this comes as a result of the accelerated steps taken by the country to support the spread of electric cars. The UAE government is working to rehabilitate the country's infrastructure to accommodate the large spread of electric cars and to motivate members of society to own electric cars to reduce energy consumption and carbon emissions from the transportation sector. The Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure is the authority concerned with energy efficiency affairs at the federal level in the UAE. It sets general programs and policies for the energy and infrastructure sectors that help the spread of electric cars in the country. Such as the National Demand Side Management Program, which aims to reduce energy consumption in the main sectors of the country, including the transportation sector. 26,000 electric cars were registered in the UAE until 2022, and the number of electric cars in the country is expected to reach 42,000 by the year 2030. 482 electric car charging stations have been installed in all emirates of the country until 2021, and work is underway

by the Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure, in coordination with all concerned authorities in the country, to establish a unified online platform for electric car charging stations to achieve integration among all parties.

- Raise awareness and understanding of the different types of renewable energy in the market Dubai Electricity and Water Authority is implementing innovative projects for renewable and clean energy, including a 250-megawatt stored hydropower plant in Hatta, the first of its kind in the Arab Gulf region, with an immediate response to energy demand, and the first 'green hydrogen' project in the Middle East and North Africa. Hydrogen will be produced from renewable electricity and will be stored for use in multiple applications. The clean energy initiatives in Dubai are not limited to the major projects implemented by the Dubai Electricity and Water Authority and include the residents of Dubai to participate in the production of clean energy through the 'Shams Dubai' initiative.
- The UAE has natural competitive advantages in blue, green hydrogen and other hydrogen colours, and as such, hydrogen will further enable the diversification of the UAE economy through the expansion of existing industries and the growth of new industries. In addition, hydrogen will play a significant role in the UAE National Energy



Strategy 2050 and UAE Net-Zero by 2050 Strategic Initiative. The UAE is targeting a 25% market share of low carbon hydrogen and derivatives in key import markets by 2030 with an initial focus

on Japan, South Korea, India, and Europe while in parallel pursuing export opportunities across other markets.

COVID-19 RESPONSE

- The Virtual Labour Market Platform (VLMP) initiative - winner of the British Ideas Award 2020 for the category of 'Innovation in Crises' - is one of the initiatives that MOHRE launched under the 'National Program to Support Labour Market Stability' to meet the employment challenge during the period of the COVID-19 pandemic. By registering the data of those workers on the www.careers.mohre.gov.ae website, the platform intends to reduce operational burdens for establishments that have a surplus of non-national workers. The labour market was thus supported as internal workers were available, and overseas recruitment was suspended as a result of the precautionary measures set in place to curb the spread of COVID-19. This initiative was praised by the United Nations as one of the best government practices around the world in addressing the pandemic. In an effort to help employers and employees in the UAE adjust to the sudden and drastic disruptions caused by the spread of COVID-19, the Ministry provided detailed information on their website under 'information and services' on the UAE government's ongoing efforts. Special measures were taken to provide easy sustainable solutions for non-local workers in the UAE, such as 'Updates on UAE visas amid COVID-19', 'Travelling amid COVID-19', and 'Supporting the labour market in the private sector in times of COVID-19'. By implementing
- such responses, MOHRE addressed immediate challenges brought about by the pandemic, and also built towards SDG commitments in the long term.
- The Remote Work System: Applied to all employees and workers whose jobs did not entail their physical presence at the workplace, with priority being given to pregnant women, employees aged 55 and above, People of Determination, employees with respiratory and chronic diseases, and mothers of children in grades 9 and lower, provided that takes place in coordination with the Human Resources Departments at their respective facilities to approve their work remotely.
- Support Stability of Nationals: MOHRE announced support packages aimed at enhancing job security and stability of nationals working in various economic sectors, especially those sectors most affected by economic repercussions and challenges imposed by the precautionary measures of the pandemic.
- Lifting Restrictions: MOHRE announced the loosening of restrictions related to the issuance of work permits applied to all establishments registered with the Ministry, enabling them to get new internal work permits and renew work permits for registered workers across all work categories and sectors.

List of relevant stakeholders:

- Ministry of Economy
- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of Finance
- Central Bank of the UAE, Telecommunications and Digital Government Regulatory Authority, UAE General Civil Aviation Authority, Securities and Commodities Authority
- Local executive councils
- Local economic departments
- Higher Colleges of Technology and other academic institutions





SDG 8 – CASE STUDY

The Role of the Al Ghurair Young Thinkers Program (YTP) in Advancing the Skills Development of Emirati Youth



The Emirati youth are at the heart of the UAE Centennial Plan 2071, in which they are the driving force of the country's economic transformation through jobs in the private sector or entrepreneurship. The areas of highest priority include innovation, creativity, entrepreneurship, environmental sustainability and advanced science and technology. The UAE government also generously supports the educational journey of its youth; roughly 70% of Emiratis are employed in the public sector and only 7% are unemployed, compared to 34% regionally. While Emirati youth have traditionally sought work in the public sector, and despite government efforts to promote Emiratization across the country, private sector companies are still facing challenges finding and retaining local talent. This may be attributed, in part, to three areas of support that Emirati youth require in their education to employment journey.

1. Emirati youth require more information about in-demand skills, career options, the labour market, mentoring, and guidance in their transition to university and employment.
2. There is a perceived mismatch between the skills that are required to thrive in the labour market and those that are taught to students at school and at university. Only 16% of employers in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) region feel that

curricula are in line with the needs of the private sector. In another study, employers reported that UAE graduates enter the labour market without essential skills such as critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and the ability to work in a team.

3. There are limited opportunities for Emiratis to be exposed from a young age to the country's growth sectors and the new career opportunities that will exist as a result. Currently, more students enrol in and graduate from fields that are unsuited to the needs of the labour market than those that are in high demand.

Recognizing these needs, the Abdulla Al Ghurair Foundation for Education (AGFE) developed an innovative education solution that prepares Emirati and Arab youth for success along with the education to employment journey, empowering them to thrive and contribute to the development of their countries. AGFE sought to design a scalable and highly accessible program with low barriers to entry, ensuring that Emirati and Arab youth had equitable and inclusive access to quality education that allowed for lifelong learning opportunities – in line with SDG 4.



In 2018, AGFE launched the Al Ghurair Young Thinkers Program (YTP), a digital platform powered by Arizona State University (ASU). YTP's partnership with ASU is in line with SDG 17, ensuring that the implementation of the program was sustainable, and allowing for the mobilisation and sharing of knowledge, expertise, technologies, and financial resources.

YTP is designed to support Emirati and Arab youth develop the skills they need to succeed at university and in the workplace and to make well-informed education and employment decisions. The program targets youth between the ages of 15 and 35, and in just over three years, the platform has attracted more than 53,000 users from across the Arab region.

The program offers three bespoke components:

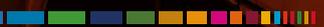
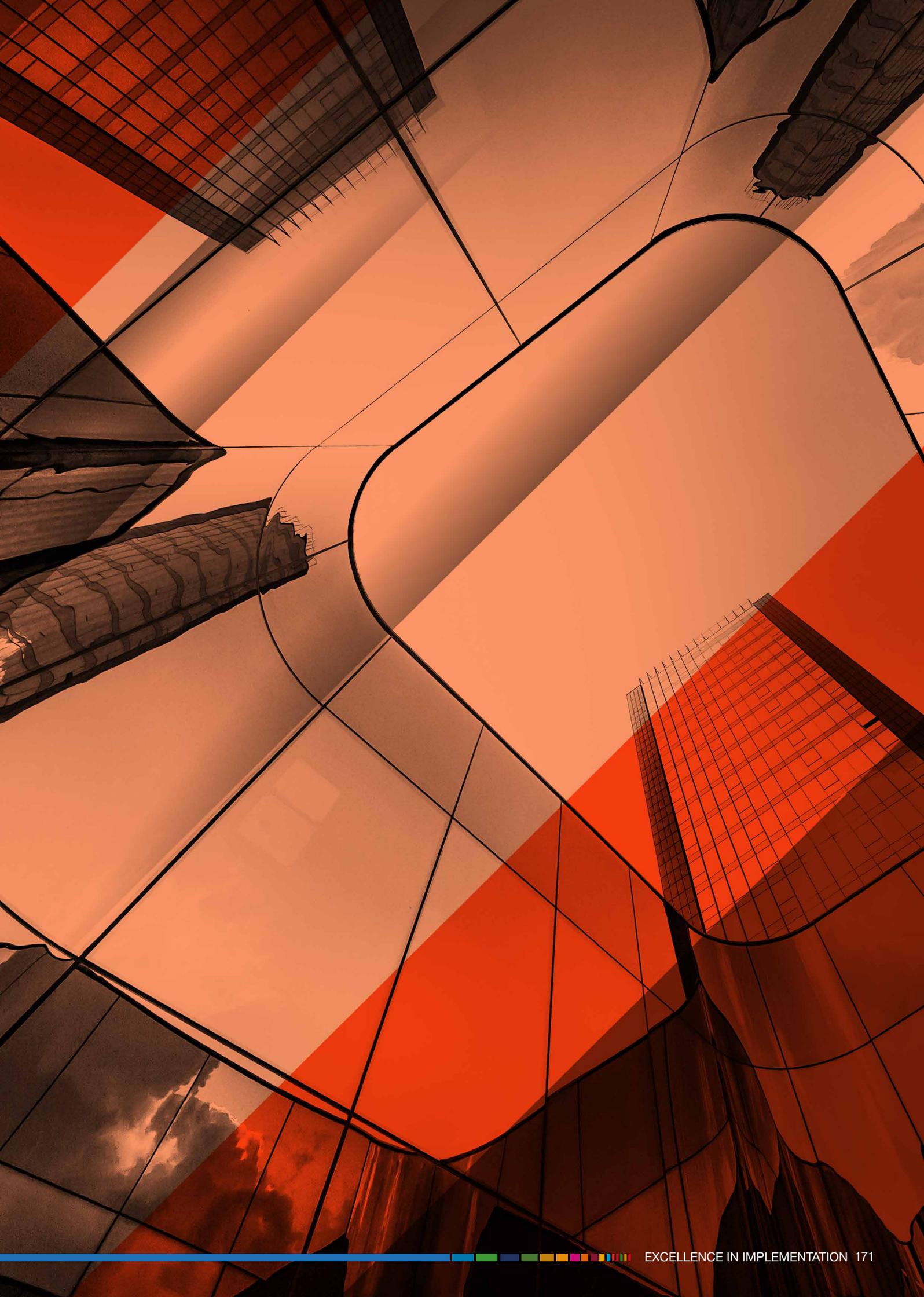
- A psychometric tool to match users to areas of study and careers – with a focus on jobs of the future,
- Over 35 transferable skill development courses, and

- Personalised education and career advising
- Transferable skill courses are divided into five different themes, including;
- (1) personal development
 - (2) character and value
 - (3) communication, strategic thinking, career planning,
 - (4) university preparedness, and
 - (5) digital literacy.

YTPs offer a range of benefits, including

1. Contextually appropriate and regionally focused
2. Available 24/7
3. Bilingual (Arabic/English)
4. Free of charge
5. Accessible through both a web-based and mobile application

As COVID-19 continues to prove the importance and need for online education and digital delivery mechanisms, AGFE is committed to further developing the YTP platform to best serve the lifelong learning missions of Emirati and Arab youth.





Overview of Progress in SDG 9 in the UAE



The Ministry of Economy is keen to support the UN 2030 Agenda through its vision and responsibility in building an integrated and sustainable economic model through developing the infrastructure of the economic policies and legislation in accordance with the best international standards, to ensure a competitive and attractive business environment.

His Excellency Abdulla bin Touq Al Marri
Minister of Economy





ABOUT SDG 9

Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

GENERAL BRIEF ABOUT THE UAE IN RELATION TO SDG 9

The country's economic priorities are geared toward achieving rapid economic recovery and restoring growth rates following a gradual and deliberate path of transformation towards a knowledge-based economy.

The UAE's transition to the future will be enabled by investment in new technologies, new residency policies to attract and retain high calibre human capital, and more liberalised economic policies to enhance the competitiveness of the country's business environment.

The Ministry of Economy (MOEC) is keen to achieve the social and environmental sustainability requirements in all UAE's economic activities. This is

considered to be one of the strategic objectives of the Ministry, with its main vision aiming to achieve sustainable economic growth based on knowledge and innovation.

Investments in industry, infrastructure and innovation are important determinants of economic growth and development. The Ministry's role in realising SDG 9 consists of managing innovation and investment by developing standards and regulations that ensure the ease of doing business, managing economic projects, initiatives, and external trade in a sustainable manner, and collaborating with the private and public sectors to further strengthen the sustainable growth in the country.

POLICIES AND INITIATIVES

- The UAE issued Decree-Law No. 32 of 2021, which updates and replaces the Commercial Companies Law of 2015 (and its subsequent amendments from 2018 and 2020). This restatement of the law represents a significant advancement in developing the UAE's investment environment in a way that enhances the country's regional and international position as a centre for investment and trade. The new law allows for 100% foreign ownership of companies in the UAE with the exception of some activities of strategic importance to the UAE. Enabling foreigners to establish and fully own companies in the UAE will greatly increase not only the flows of foreign investments from abroad but also foreign residents in the country, as these amendments allow full freedom for investors to manage and operate private investments. It is also worth noting that supporting regulations to the new law are expected in 2022, providing further upgrades and enhancements to the corporate environment.
- Federal Law No (15) of 2020 on Consumer Protection: This law aims to protect all consumer rights, especially those pertaining to the quality of goods and services, acquiring them at their published prices, consumer health and safety and promoting sound consumption practices. The provisions of this law apply to all goods and services in the UAE – including free zones – as well as related operations carried out by suppliers, advertisers or trade agents; including through e-commerce if the supplier is registered



in the UAE, and without prejudice to international conventions and treaties to which the UAE is a signatory. The law identifies consumer rights, the mandates of the Higher Committee for Consumer Protection, obligations of suppliers, advertisers and trade agents, price of goods and services and emergencies. This is in addition to the role of the Ministry of Economy in protecting consumer rights and other provisions.

- Launch of the 'Innovative Guide for Companies in the UAE' in cooperation with the National Research Council (NRC) to highlight the Ministry's role in implementing the UAE's National Innovation Strategy
- Launch of the 'Annual Corporate Social Responsibility National Index' to track companies in the UAE based on their contributions to CSR initiatives.
- In 2018, the Ministry of Economy and the Department of Economic Development of Abu Dhabi launched the Technology Innovation Pioneers (TIP). TIP is an innovative government initiative and the first integrated innovation and funding platform in the Middle East region. The TIP initiative aligns with the UAE National Strategy for Innovation, UAE Vision 2021 and the Abu Dhabi Economic Vision 2030. TIP aims to attract innovative and pioneering ideas in a single location to accelerate the development of a comprehensive entrepreneurial ecosystem and expand market access around the world. TIP's current focus areas cover Healthcare, Energy and Environment through network building, funding platforms, and innovation incubators, TIP connects innovators at national, regional and international levels and enables partnerships between the public and private sectors, contributing at the same time to the achievement of Goal 17 – Partnerships For The Goals.
- Circularity Goes Digital. In October 2020, the Ministry of Economy launched a global initiative, 'Circularity Goes Digital', in collaboration with Microsoft, Italy's Antisa SanPaolo Group, and Caribloa Factory, to accelerate the transition to a circular economy using digital technology. The circular economy seeks to eliminate waste, conserve resources, and improve productivity. The transformation toward this economic model is one of the main areas of focus of the MOEC as it strives to create a supportive environment for a circular economy in a way that serves the UAE's orientation and its future vision in this regard.



Did you know?

- According to the Global Innovation Index (GII), the UAE maintains its top position as the most innovative country in the Arab world.
- February of every year is named the 'Month of Innovation' in the UAE.

Target 9.1: Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and transborder infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all

Indicator: 9.1.1 Proportion of the rural population who live within 2 km of an all-season road



Source: MOEI

Target 9.2: Promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and, by 2030, significantly raise industry's share of employment and gross domestic product, in line with national circumstances, and double its share in least developed countries

Indicator 9.2.1: Manufacturing value added as a percentage of GDP and per capita



Source: FCSC

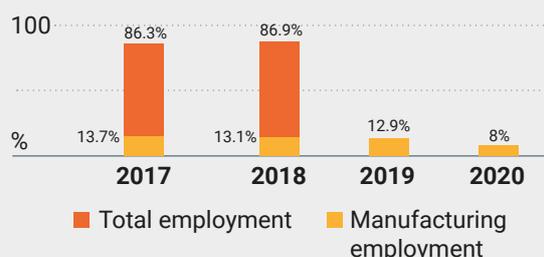




The initiative aims to enable technology-based start-ups in both the UAE and Italy to present their innovations to the world's leading companies. This important initiative provided a supportive environment for entrepreneurs and owners of start-ups and innovative ventures in the country, enabling them access to foreign markets and discovering opportunities for partnerships and exchange of expertise. It offered them an opportunity to sign trade cooperation agreements with some international companies. In turn, this contributes positively to the generation of development opportunities and the enhancement of sustainability requirements. The biggest public-private partnership of its kind, bringing together incubators, accelerators, funding entities and private cooperation with its unique vision, the initiative helps to attract entrepreneurs and makes it simpler to maintain the UAE's top position in the world for conducting business and attracting innovative, research and development companies.

- The Entrepreneurial Nation initiative. The Entrepreneurial Nation initiative was launched by the MOEC in November 2021. It features the biggest public-private partnerships of its kind, bringing together incubators, accelerators, funding entities and private cooperation with its unique vision. The initiative helps to attract entrepreneurs and makes it simpler to maintain the UAE's top position in the world for conducting business and attracting innovative research and development companies. The Entrepreneurial Nation is a call to all entrepreneurs and unicorns to join three separate platforms/programs which are the SkillUp academy, StartUp program, and ScaleUp program. The initiative also intends to create an integrated ecosystem that will attract innovators, pioneering ventures, and high-level investments and increase the number of unicorn enterprises in the country to 20 by 2031. Since Entrepreneurship is a priority in the 'Fifty Economic Plan', Those platforms support the country to become:
 1. The world's entrepreneurial nation by 2031
 2. Home of 20 unicorns by 2031
 3. One of the top 3 countries in the Global Entrepreneurship Index (GEM)

Indicator 9.2.2: Manufacturing employment as a proportion of total employment



Source: FCSC

Target 9.3: Increase the access of small-scale industrial and other enterprises, in particular in developing countries, to financial services, including affordable credit, and their integration into value chains and markets

Indicator 9.3.1 Proportion of small-scale industries in total industry value added



Source: FCSC

Target 9.4: By 2030, upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource-use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes, with all countries taking action in accordance with their respective capabilities

Indicator 9.4.1 CO₂ emission per unit of value added



Source: MOCCAE



COVID-19 RESPONSE

- In October 2020, the Federal Cabinet approved a resolution for setting up a National COVID-19 Crisis Recovery Committee (Formed with representatives of several ministries, departments and public companies, the key mandate of the Committee is to lead the country's economic recovery post the pandemic. The Committee developed a strategic plan and identified key performance indicators for the post-COVID-19 phase for targeted sectors to gauge the performance of the entities concerned with returning to normalcy; it was chaired by the Ministry of the economy.
- On the 3rd of August 2020, the UAE Cabinet approved the launch of 33 initiatives to support the economic sectors. It also formed an Interim Committee to coordinate and follow up on the implementation of the flexible package and increase business growth rates. On 18 October 2020, the Interim Committee approved the implementation plan of the 33 initiatives. The plan was divided into three phases. The first phase involved providing immediate support to business sectors by carrying out 15 major initiatives. The second phase involves launching complementary support to sectors to enable a rapid economic recovery. The third phase will involve providing integrated support to vital sectors and will open up a sustainable and flexible development path for the economy.
- By the first week of November 2021, The Ministry of Economy announced the completion of the first phase of the country's 33 initiatives, which are part of the government's post-COVID economic plan to support vital sectors. Work on the second phase of the initiatives is also now 50% complete.
- The UAE's economy is witnessing growth that has already surpassed the levels seen before the coronavirus pandemic, according to a government statement. With the completion of the implementation of the first phase and 50% completion of the second phase of the 33 initiatives, the national economy is witnessing growth that exceeds pre-pandemic levels in trade, investment, number of new companies, and work permits and economic revenues. The 33 initiatives plan played a pivotal role in

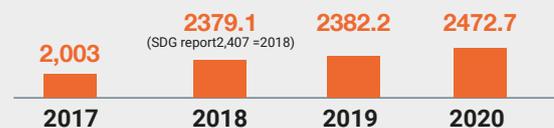
Target 9.5: Enhance scientific research, upgrade the technological capabilities of industrial sectors in all countries, in particular developing countries, including, by 2030, encouraging innovation and substantially increasing the number of research and development workers per 1 million people and public and private research and development spending

Indicator 9.5.1 Research and development (R&D) expenditure as a proportion of GDP %



Source: MOE

Indicator 9.5.2 Researchers (in full-time equivalent) per million inhabitants (SDG INDEX)



Source: MHRE

Target 9.a: Facilitate sustainable and resilient infrastructure development in developing countries through enhanced financial, technological and technical support to African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States

Indicator 9.a.1 Total official international support (official development assistance plus other official flows) to infrastructure



USD\$

Source: MOFAIC





achieving promising results in most indicators of the economy and business climate in the country, supported by the national efforts that were followed to address the pandemic through vaccinations and examinations on a large scale. The most prominent indicators that reflect the strength of economic performance and the efficiency of the outputs of the 33 initiatives plan:

- The country's GDP grew by 3.9% at the end of 2021.
- Attracting \$20 billion in FDI flows to the state in 2020, with a growth of 11.24% compared to 2019.
- The growth of national non-oil exports during the period January-August 2021 by 38% compared to the same period in 2020 and by 41% compared to the same period in 2019
- The number of new companies registered in the country during the period January-September 2021 grew by 47% compared to the same period in 2020, and by 57% compared to the same period in 2019.
- 1.15 million work permits were issued during the period from January to September 2021, with a growth rate of 62% compared to the same period in 2020, and a growth rate of 1% over the same period in 2019.
- Hotel establishments in the country received more than 10 million guests during the period from January to July 2021, with a growth rate of 22% compared to the same period in 2020.



List of relevant stakeholders: _____

- Ministry of Industry and Advanced Technology
- Ministry of Energy and infrastructure
- Ministry of Education

Target 9.b: Support domestic technology development, research and innovation in developing countries, including by ensuring a conducive policy environment for, inter alia, industrial diversification and value addition to commodities

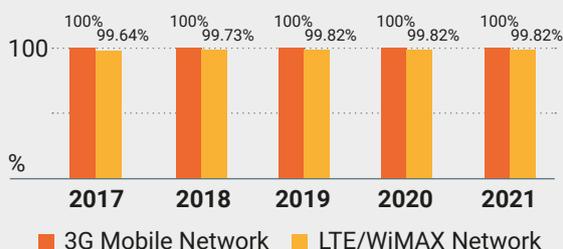
Indicator 9.b.1 Proportion of medium and high-tech industry value added in total value added



Source: FCSC

Target 9.c: Significantly increase access to information and communications technology and strive to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet in least developed countries by 2020

Indicator 9.c.1 Proportion of population covered by a mobile network, by technology/LTE/WiMAX mobile network. Percentage of the population covered by at least a 3G mobile network



Source: TDRA



CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Due to COVID-19 Pandemic restrictions and with lockdown people having to maintain physical distance, the Ministry of the economy has introduced several policies to boost the economy and moderate the impact of COVID-19, with stimulus measures worth about 18% of the GDP and other initiatives supporting vital sectors, which were the outputs of the national recovery committee (mentioned below).

- The UAE's digital transformation infrastructure and measures developed in the UAE before 2020 significantly assisted in addressing challenges borne from the COVID-19 pandemic. The use of highly advanced systems, artificial intelligence, technologies and a digitally agile government provided the UAE with a competitive edge in ensuring business continuity among the public and private sectors.
- The Ministry of Economy is always taking concrete steps to build a stronger, more resilient economy and accelerate economic recovery. It has implemented some initiatives in response to COVID-19 to solve the challenges imposed by that time, which is in line with the directives of the wise leadership of the UAE to facilitate doing business and increase its competitiveness among other countries.
- Basher platform (Doing business in 15 minutes): In November 2020, the Ministry of Economy launched a full range of proactive business services on the 'Basher' platform for getting a business licence, allowing investors to establish and conduct business electronically in the UAE within minutes and from any location. The smart platform provides a spectacular digital experience to explore the market and register your business and get your approvals and obtain all business documents for doing business in simple online steps electronically, allowing investors to begin running the business immediately.
- It implements a comprehensive change of the government services system by adopting proactive government procedures and innovative business models to accelerate business processes, save time and effort,

and make it easier to conduct business and attract investments by simplifying government procedures and shortening the process. Since it brings together the authorities responsible for economic activities in the country.

Basher offers multiple features that are grouped under the following categories:

- Explore Opportunities
- Start your Business
- Manage your Business
- Validate

Launching Basher platform (Doing business in 15 minutes) embodies the vision of the UAE government by focusing on developing government work, adopting proactive and sustainable solutions, and innovating a new generation of government services 'before demand', to reach the best government model that matches the requirements of the future and reflects positively on customers and society.

By launching this platform, the UAE reinforces its position as a preferred destination for investors, entrepreneurs, start-ups, innovators, and SMEs Activities that will create benefits for its economy

- Transforming customer happiness centres into digital platforms
- The UAE Government closed down several customer happiness centres and moved the service centres to digital platforms such as websites and apps.
- The Ministry of Economy has decided to shut down all of its customer happiness centres. The ministry urges all customers to do all dealings through the digital channels provided by it to enable the public to obtain services easily.
- Recognising the role of ICTs amid the pandemic and the role of digital transformation in maintaining the continuity of businesses, the UAE Government launched a Strategy for Government Services which aims that all its services will be accessible from anywhere, any time by the year 2023.





SDG 9 – CASE STUDY

Calculating SDG 9.1.1. Proportion of the rural population who live within 2 km of an all-season road using GIS

Introduction

The UAE FCSC is continuously trying to utilise the latest techniques and tools available such as Earth observations, geospatial information, and big data To track and report SDG indicators.

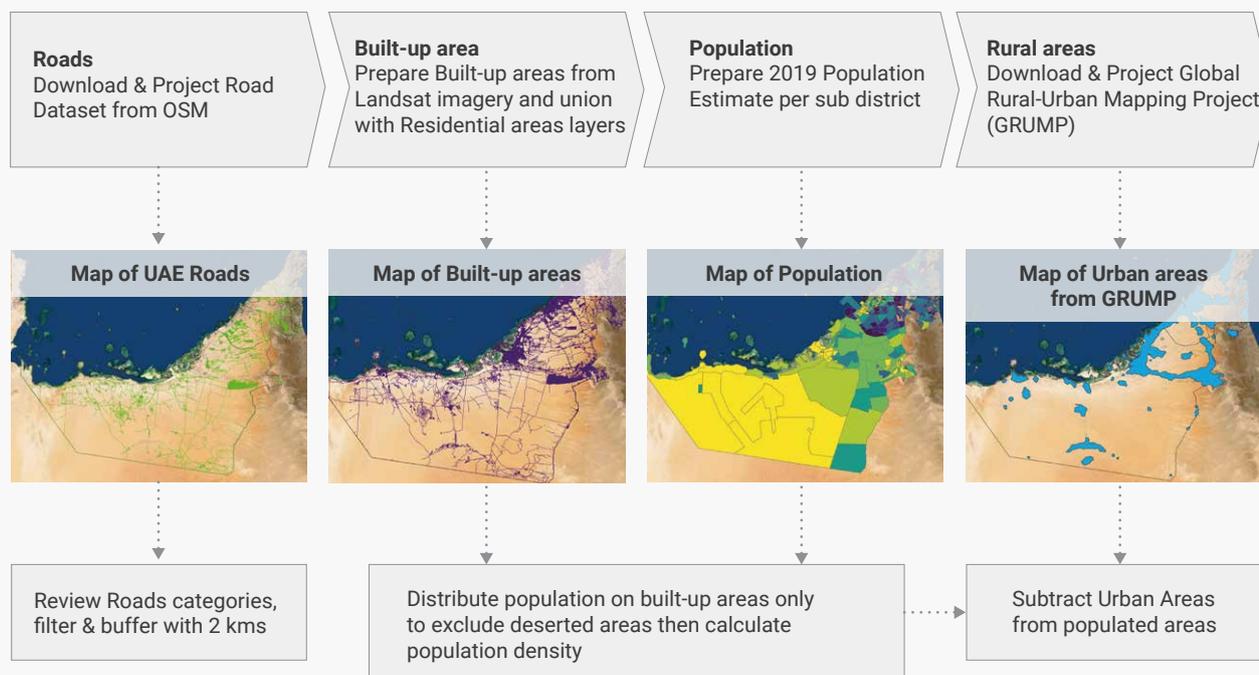
An example of this effort is the approach used in calculating SDG indicator 9.1.1: 'Proportion of the rural population who live within 2 km of an all-season road'. The indicator is part of Target 9.1 which is to develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and transborder infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all

Details of Use Case

The methodology to calculate SDG 'Indicator: 9.1.1. Proportion of the rural population who live within 2 km of an all-season road', requires applying geoprocessing tasks on a set of Earth observation and geospatial datasets to prepare the data.

- Open Street Maps (OSM), and commercial street maps
- Built Up areas extracted from Landsat imagery,
- Building use maps from municipalities,
- Population estimates per sub-district and national population grid
- Global Rural-Urban Mapping Project (GRUMP)
- National Urban/Non-Urban Areas maps

Calculation Workflow of SDG 9.1.1





Once the data is prepared a geospatial analysis model is executed to identify the rural population within the service areas of the roads.

The calculation methodology passed through several stages, where it started by using more open data - as shown in the below workflow then it was further developed when all the national inputs were ready to be processed.

Results & Impact

Rural populations that are more than 2 km from an all-season road represent 0.44% of the total rural population, while rural populations within 2 km from an all-season road – the RAI index - equals 99.56%. Initial calculations based on rural areas delineation by GRUMP dataset resulted in 95.09%, which was then enhanced after applying UAE national definition for urban and non-urban areas according to ground truth data and local statistics offices inputs to achieve the final result of 99.56%.

Enabling Factors to include the availability of Streets Open Data like OSM as well as the availability of global definition for urban areas.

While Constraints faced in the initial stage were related to the accuracy limitation of street open data in the region - Global Urban definitions might not fit all countries, for example, the urban-rural classification by GRUMP may not be consistent with the national definition and perhaps be outdated given the country's high and rapid urbanisation.

Conclusions and Recommendations

While countries are working on developing national geo datasets, like population, urban/rural areas, and streets network, which may take a lot of time and resources to complete, national agencies shall consider leveraging publicly available open datasets and global definitions to start measuring and tracking sustainable development indicators.







Overview of Progress in SDG 10 in the UAE



Reducing inequalities and ensuring no one is left behind are essential fundamentals of UAE's Sustainable Development Agenda. The global pandemic has inexcusably expanded existing inequalities of affected vulnerable groups like women, adolescents and people with disabilities in many countries around the world. In the UAE, we have designed innovative approaches to ensure social inclusion not only continues to provide access to services and equal opportunities in challenging times but to also develop vulnerable-segment specific programs that improve all aspects of their wellbeing with the aid of innovative digitalisation. Digital technologies played a key role for us in increasing social inclusivity and attaining sustainable growth in reducing inequalities. As an outcome, UAE women citizens have long enjoyed the same constitutional rights as men and the UAE has been consistently ranked as one of the leading countries for gender balance and equality in our region

Her Excellency Hessa bint Essa Buhumaid
Minister of Community Development





ABOUT SDG 10

Reduce inequality within and among countries

GENERAL BRIEF ABOUT THE UAE IN RELATION TO SDG 10

Reducing social inequality and ensuring social integration is key to achieving stability and harmony in society and is part of UAE's pledge on 'leaving no one behind'. Inclusion of vulnerable categories like People of Determination, senior citizens, widows, divorcees and families in distress is at the heart of UAE's Social Policies and Strategies. The UAE gives importance to people with special needs, known as 'the People of Determination'. The Ministry of

Community Development (MOCD) provides them with special services to ensure they receive equal education opportunities and vocational training. Moreover, the Family protection policy was launched in collaboration with federal and local entities concerned with children in the UAE; and aims to preserve the integrity and safety-hood of the family which is the main pillar of society.

POLICIES AND INITIATIVES

- The National Policy for Empowering People of Determination, in accordance with the Cabinet's Decree No. (1/6) for 2017, H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, launched the national policy for empowering People of Determination. Through an integrated community free of barriers, the policy strives to empower People of Determination and their families and ensure their wellbeing, through innovative services that accommodate their needs. The Ministry introduced mobile unit services, which provided 20 different services for People of Determination in their homes, issued more than 27,000 People of Determination cards until 2020) launched the unified classification for People of Determination, and the 'Determination Retreat' with the participation of the Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE, the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, ministers and People of Determination to come up with ideas and initiatives to design the services provided to them. Furthermore, the Ministry adopted the Emirates Code for Qualified Buildings aimed at transforming the buildings

and facilities of the Emirates into friendly places and cities for different members of society; and launched the 'Emirates Early Intervention Program' for parents to intervene in the early stages of their children with disabilities and developmental delays. The policy also focuses on the provision of educational opportunities to support and accelerate social inclusion, the accurate diagnosis of cases as well as protection from abuse and the development of welfare & rehabilitation centres to support the social inclusion of People of Determination.

- The Family Protection Policy was developed in collaboration with federal and local entities in the UAE that deal with children. The UAE prioritises the protection and development of families in order to foster a healthy cohesive society, based on the principles of Islam that promote tolerance, kindness, and compassion. This policy protects women, men, children, the elderly, and People of Determination against all forms of violence and harm. In this context, 215 child protection specialists have been granted judicial controller status, to ensure follow-up of the implementation



of laws and measures to prevent abuse, neglect, or exposure to violence, as well as developing their skills in responding to the needs of children who have been harmed or abused.

- Launch of the National Family Policy which aims to empower the Emirati family to achieve sustainable social development. The policy focuses on providing health care, education, housing, financial and family stability, human rights, security and safety, and expanding access to social services
- Launch of the National Policy for Senior Citizens which aims to improve the quality of social services and the well-being of the individual aged 60 and above, covering health care, community outreach and active life, investment of energies and civic participation, infrastructure and transport, financial stability, security and safety and quality of future life. The policy initiatives and activities cover more than 16,000 of senior citizens. The policy also covers a number of services such as 'We are your family', which is periodic phone calls with senior citizens, with more than 15,000 calls made in 2021 to check on them and meet their needs. Senior citizens are also registered in the mobile unit to provide social and therapeutic services to them, and the number of beneficiaries has reached nearly 3,600.
- UAE Digital Wellbeing Council was formed in 2020, and the council aims to develop and follow up the implementation of policies to ensure the digital well-being of community members, spreading positive digital values and healthy digital behaviours. It also aims to raise digital awareness for all members of society in addition to encouraging the purposeful use of technology.
- The Digital Wellbeing Policy: Focuses on creating a safe digital society for the UAE and a positive identity with meaningful digital interaction, which leads to directly enhancing the quality of digital life, especially in learning and work environments. the digital wellbeing for different groups of society (children, youth, family, senior citizens, People of Determination, etc.) among its most prominent initiatives: A charter of positive digital citizenship values and behaviours to promote healthy behaviour in the digital world, Inclusion of digital quality of life in the curricula of all school levels and Digital Wellbeing Cognitive Platform.



Did you know?

- People with special needs are referred to as 'People of Determination' in the UAE.
- Elderlies are referred to as 'Senior Citizens' in the UAE.
- UAE universal design code for qualified buildings that are community inclusive
- UAE sign language dictionary contains 5,000 words

Target 10.4: Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality

Indicator 10.4.1: Labor share of GDP, comprising wages and social protection transfers (%)



Source: FCSC

Target 10.7: Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies

Indicator 10.7.3 Number of people who died or disappeared in the process of migration towards an international destination



Source: MOI & MOHAP





- The Knowledge Platform for Digital Wellbeing: includes educational content for children, parents and teachers to raise awareness of the four main objectives of the platform (digital capacity building, digital behavior, digital communication and digital content). The platform was launched in 2021 and the number of beneficiaries reached 316,000 in the first year of launch. Moreover, training workshops for senior citizens on the digital world were conducted to reduce the culture gap between them and the new generation; and enable them to keep pace with the latest changes.
- The Child Digital Safety Initiative, launched in collaboration with the Ministry of Interior, aim to raise children's awareness of the dangers of the digital world and educate parents to protect their children on the internet.
- The People of Determination Advisory Council include representatives of the federal government (ministries and authorities), associations, entities, parents of People of Determination. The advisory council is an effective step to ensure that People of Determination are involved in the development process and supports the UAE's national policy for the empowerment of People of Determination.
- People of Determination Recruitment in the UAE takes place through an online recruiting platform, established by MOCD. the platform enables and empower People of Determination searching for employment opportunities, and employers who are willing to hire People of Determination based on available vacancies that are appropriate for their abilities and interests. The platform provides full support to the People of Determination through availing introductory guidelines about finding jobs, succeeding in interviews and adapting to their colleagues and working environment. It also offers employers information about how to conduct interviews with People of Determination and mentor and manage them at work. This step reinforces the concept of comprehensive inclusion for the People of Determination and ensures equal access to opportunities. Moreover, the number of People of Determination employed reached 2,310 until December 2020. This number represents people's determination of different nationalities, gender and disabilities, including people with intellectual disabilities and autism.
- MOCD further partnered with Expo 2020 - Dubai to celebrate the International Day of Disabilities (3 December 2021). Additional stakeholders formed part of the partnership, including UNDESA,

Target 10.a: Implement the principle of special and differential treatment for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, in accordance with World Trade Organization agreements

Indicator 10.a.1 Proportion of tariff lines applied to imports from least developed countries and developing countries with zero-tariff



Source: Federal Authority For Identity And Citizenship (Customs Authority)

Target 10.b: Encourage official development assistance and financial flows, including foreign direct investment, to States where the need is greatest, in particular least developed countries, African countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, in accordance with their national plans and programmes

Indicator 10.b.1 Total resource flows for development, by recipient and donor countries and type of flow (e.g. official development assistance, foreign direct investment and other flows)



Source: MOFAIC

International Paralympic Committee, and the Arab League. The aim of the partnership was to;

- Raise awareness of challenges and opportunities for creating an inclusive future for persons with disabilities.
- Showcase how the international community's embrace of persons with disabilities will speed efforts to meet specific SDGs
- Explore key issues to improve the lives of people with disabilities through accessibility, education, decent work, innovation/ technology, and sport.
- 'Soun': a smart system for early detection of potential abuse against any individual by answering a set of questions that show the extent of the person being harmed and providing



them with the action that can be taken and the responsible authorities. There are different levels of assessment in the system, Green: indicates that status is safe, Orange: to urgently, consult specialists to improve your condition, and Red: the system gives you an alert for support and assistance to help live a safe and stable life.

- The Ministry of Community Development issued a law regulating volunteer work aimed at spreading, encouraging and strengthening the culture of volunteer work and raising awareness of its importance. The number of volunteers during the

pandemic reached more than 20,000 volunteers, including 6,738 specialised volunteers from 134 nationalities with 154 volunteering opportunities.

- Ministry of Finance (MOF) shared with the G20 Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion several case studies showcasing UAE's efforts in advancing financial inclusion, and empowering youth, women and SMEs (2) MoF advocated the deployment of DLT-enabled solutions to reduce the cost of remittances to 3%. MoF also developed a concept note to push this agenda forward through the G20 platform

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

- Coordinating councils: In view of the different laws and regulations in the federal and local government which may directly or indirectly affect the achievement of the indicators listed under SDGs 1 and 10. The Family Coordination Council and the Higher Committee for People of Determination Services were formed, with the membership of representatives from the relevant federal and local government agencies, whose duties include proposing legislation, policies and initiatives and following up on their implementation, in addition to anticipating the future and needs of society and ensuring the comprehensiveness of the services provided.
- Provision of education opportunities to support and accelerate social inclusion and support families of People of Determination.
- The accurate diagnosis of cases as well as protection from abuse.
- Developing welfare and rehabilitation centres to support the social inclusion of People of Determination.
- 'Hassantuk' is an initiative that ensure the protection of vulnerable groups from dangers of home fires. MOCD has adopted the Hassantuk initiative for social security beneficiaries. It is a certified wireless fire safety system connected to the general administration of civil defence, that ensures the fastest response time to fire and emergency alerts 24/7 to ensure the communities safety. 12,710 Social security beneficiaries benefited from this initiative.

COVID-19 RESPONSE

- The National Campaign for Community Mental Health Support 'Do Not Worry': An initiative presented by the National Program for Happiness and Wellbeing during the Pandemic, with the participation of over 60 experts and psychologists voluntarily, where 16 closed psychological support sessions were presented with the participation of more than 400 participants. 40 mental health awareness videos were published daily covering aspects of challenges from the curfew and 60 hours of the daily live broadcast of psychological support with doctors and psychological counsellors directed to various groups of society facing challenges and pressures due to the effects of the pandemic were published. The campaign received one million interactions from the UAE and abroad, and more than 2.5 million views.
- A family guide was developed to detect and address any psychological, behavioural and emotional symptoms exhibited by the students of determination during a situation of emergency. In this guide, a range of activities and exercises are outlined so that children can reduce these effects on a short and long-term basis to achieve psychological adaptation to these conditions.





The guide also includes a stress assessment for families, and a counselling intervention program to minimise the stress experienced by mothers of the People of Determination during the pandemic.

- Activated 'Mashagel' from home for People of Determination to further empower them and facilitate the process, it is Project for vocational training and employment for people with intellectual disabilities, as part of the national strategy to empower People of Determination. Mashagel aims to transfer them to inclusive employment through special employment projects that include training in a range of professions and skills such as jewellery crafting from shredded banknotes, bracelets and chocolate, as well as the marketing of their products, which in turn generates income for People of Determination and leads them to self-sufficiency and self-reliance.
- Launching the Emergency Response Policy: The response policy to empower People of Determination in emergencies, crises and disasters, to ensure that rehabilitation, educational and health services are provided to them in emergencies, similar to others and without discrimination, and to provide the necessary support when needed, and to respond quickly to People of Determination in proportion to the needs of each individual.
- Launching 'Taalf' for families counselling (E-service): A family counselling service through a range of channels that guarantee privacy, to contribute to solving the challenges facing families in a healthy and sound environment that advances families' capabilities to build promising generations that assume their responsibilities towards society. 'The e-counselling programs produced '108 episodes with 53,000 viewers'.

- 'Edad': Qualifying those who are about to marry: whether beneficiaries or non-beneficiaries of the marriage grant, through electronic and smart channels, and providing them with the knowledge and skills necessary to build a safe and stable family. Since the lockdown 14,000 participants have benefited from the program.
- 'We are your family': An interactive community initiative that urges all members of society, including volunteers registered through the national volunteering platform 'Volunteers.ae', to communicate with 15,000 senior citizens throughout the year, through periodic visits and phone calls. Which confirms the consolidation of social relations, and the highest meanings of tolerance and humanity.

Launching of a digital campaign to raise awareness for People of Determination to prevent the COVID-19 virus by following preventive measures, sterilisation and distancing, and providing information in multiple formats to suit the condition of each disability.

List of relevant stakeholders: _____

- Ministry of Health and Prevention
- Ministry of Cabinet Affairs
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of Interior
- Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratisation
- Ministry of Climate Change and Environment
- Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure
- Ministry of Finance
- Federal Youth Authority
- Central Bank of the UAE
- Federal Competitiveness and Statistics Centre
- UAE Gender Balance Council



SDG 10 – CASE STUDY

Special Olympics

This Special Olympics portrays one of the keys to achieving SDGs, which is inclusion. Sports like many activities bring people together, though it is not always the case when it comes to people with intellectual disabilities. The UAE's Special Olympics Committee was founded in 1990. To date (May 2022), there are more than 4,900 registered athletes, more than 250 coaches, and more than 60 competition opportunities. The athletes participate in regional and international events to compete in 14 official sports, some of which are: aquatics, athletics, football (soccer), powerlifting and many more. However, inclusion is not only limited to sports, as part of the Special Olympics effort to include people with intellectual abilities in society, they also launched a leadership program for the athletes.

Special Olympics UAE and Special Olympics in the MENA in partnership with KPMG are launching programs and initiatives that will create opportunities for athletes to demonstrate their skills in leadership roles. The stigma around intellectual disability acts as a barrier for the athletes, it deprives them of opportunities that will otherwise be a transformative power. Moreover, the leadership program starts through sports, where athletes are taught discipline and teamwork and then it develops into shaping a new understanding of leadership for the athletes.

Another parameter is inclusive health, people with intellectual disabilities often do not have access to the level of health care they require. Nevertheless, Special Olympics Health in collaboration with Golisano Foundation is making the change by creating opportunities for people with intellectual disabilities to be healthy. This entails people with intellectual disabilities taking full advantage of health care programs and services. It includes services such as fitness and wellness, and improving physical and social-emotional well-being. Consequently, having equitable access to health care will serve to achieve sustainable development goals as it will provide health care access for all.



The stigma around intellectual disability acts as a barrier for the athletes, it deprives them of opportunities that will otherwise be a transformative power.

Education is yet another element that proves to be vital yet not met with quality for people with intellectual disabilities. Special Olympics UAE launched a Unified Robotics program which aims to involve children with intellectual disabilities in mainstream education, especially in STEM and robotics. This will ultimately create meaningful relationships and will allow students to learn effective communication skills. The Unified Robotics program emphasised the prospect of inclusion, and independent thinking, and highlighted self-reliance amongst students with intellectual disabilities.

Inclusion has always been on the agenda of the Special Olympics, however, in 2019 Special Olympics athletes from six different countries demanded inclusion. The athletes ran one of a kind panel to convene at the United Nations, titled 'Revolution is Inclusion: Sport as a Catalyst for Social Inclusion.' This opportunity was created by Special Olympics International, in partnership with the United Nations (UN) Division for Inclusive Social Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. The discussion aimed to promote the need for inclusive policies for people with intellectual disabilities and it discusses the importance of including people with intellectual disabilities and providing them with a seat at the table to achieve the SDGs.







Overview of Progress in SDG 11 in the UAE



We have a responsibility to increase efforts, advance progress, and drive sustainability in our shared goal to ensure cities provide safety, prosperity, and accessibility to all. The Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure continues to transform challenges into opportunities and implement projects that build future readiness by 2030. SDG 11 offers a comprehensive framework to construct resilient and sustainable cities, through the UAE's 2nd New Distribution Capability (NDC) and the Ministry's strategies we are calling for collective action to accelerate the scaling and deployment of sustainable solutions and drive progress towards this goal.

His Excellency Suhail bin Mohamed Faraj Al Mazrouei
Minister of Energy and Infrastructure





ABOUT SDG 11

Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

GENERAL BRIEF ABOUT THE UAE IN RELATION TO SDG 11

The Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure (MOEI) has contributed to the urban development of the UAE through federal and local infrastructure projects such as government houses, buildings, in addition to developing a strong road network linking all seven

emirates to facilitate the commute of UAE citizens and residents. In line with the National Agenda, MOEI strives to achieve an excellent sustainable environment and integrated infrastructure to achieve a high quality of life for all residents.

POLICIES AND INITIATIVES

- The UAE announced an initiative to achieve climate neutrality by 2050: Through this initiative, about 30 million mangrove trees will be planted in the country by 2030, to preserve the coastal environment and enhance its biodiversity. These trees are distinguished by their ability to capture and store large amounts of carbon.
- The Dubai Urban Plan 2040 will encourage public transportation, walking, cycling and flexible transportation, and the creation of a unified planning database that supports decision-making and enhances transparency. The plan will provide for the future housing needs of citizens in integrated communities that include green spaces, commercial centres, and recreational facilities, in addition to re-housing citizens in the old areas to enhance their connection with those areas.
- The Community Councils initiative aims to establish community councils in various residential areas, and these councils aim to involve community members in the planning process and provide suggestions for the development of urban and residential areas.
- Launch of the 'Establishment of PPP National Legal Framework Policy' to develop a public-private partnership policy to finance and implement infrastructure projects to enhance the competitiveness of the UAE, meet the needs and future aspirations of infrastructure and housing, and stimulate the economy and the private sector.
- The Cool Pavement Pilot Project, Zayed Educational Complex. The pilot project will determine the feasibility and benefits of the use of heat reflective coatings for the management of the effects of the urban heat island. The expected benefits include energy saving, a reduction in carbon emissions and improved comfort and well-being of staff and students
- Launch of the UAE's project the Consensual Holistic Plan (2042) in 2018 to develop a long-term integrated plan and roadmap for the UAE which incorporates environmental, urban, economic and social pillars. The UAE National Consensus Plan 2042 will contribute to defining the necessary framework for developing consensual national strategies and appropriate implementation tools to support synergies between the main actors and ensure a better response to current and future opportunities and challenges as well as provide freedom and flexibility for each emirate to enable it to follow its development path and continue it and define its own unique identity.
- The Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure, the National Centre of Meteorology and the University of Sharjah are conducting research studies to



evaluate risk assessments and local specific adaptation measures to the biggest risks to the UAE Infrastructure system, with two focus areas;

- The impact of Climate Change on traffic safety and transportation system performance in the UAE
- The impact Climate Change impact on Materials Selection and Asphalt Pavement Performance in the UAE
- MOEI is committed to the implementation of an integrated system for monitoring air quality in maintenance and under-construction projects to provide a healthy work environment and ensure the safety of those affected inside and outside the workplace. The elements affecting the quality of outdoor air quality and permissible limits were identified as (Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂), Carbon Monoxide (Co), Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂), Ozone (O₃), Total Suspended Particulate Matter (TSPM), Respirable Suspended Particulate Matter (PM_{2.5}) and Volatile Organic Components (VOCs).
- Walkways initiative is a national initiative for the well-being of the community and aims to promote the concept of sustainable planning in residential communities toward sustainable cities and promote the concept of walking to raise health. Sustainability concepts are applied by designing walkways using sustainable and local resources and using renewable energy to raise the level of happiness and quality of life for the community and its customers.

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

- Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure lead the efforts and form a National team that includes all partners from the planning departments, municipalities, and transportation at the state level in addition to the involvement of the private sector, society, the academic sector, the ministry and related bodies as the achievement of SDG 11 is a shared responsibility, requiring a multi-stakeholder approach and commitment to overcome the challenges cities face. This approach focuses on setting the correct governance, strategy and infrastructure in place by harnessing the capabilities of the government, business and civil society across the UAE and globally.

Did you know?



- **Rubberized Asphalt for highways:** The Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure and Michelin have launched the first project of its kind in the UAE, Rubberized Asphalt for more sustainable roads, under the three pillars: Reinvent, Recycle, Renew.
- **UAE's Steel Arch Bridge:** The arch bridge entered Guinness World Records as the longest steel arch bridge in the world. This bridge is much better than concrete bridges in terms of economic advantages; it has been completed in half the time needed for regular concrete bridges and can accommodate up to 2,000 vehicles per hour.
- **The first automated consulting engineer in the world.** The automated engineer is powered by artificial intelligence. The capability objectives of the automated engineer within the MOEI are to support the project decision-making process and reduce risks.
- **The UAE is the second top-remitting country after the United States.** Outwards remittances from the UAE were Dh156.8 billion in 2020.

Target 11.1: By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums

Indicator 11.1.1 Proportion of urban population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing



Source: MOEI





- Lack of awareness, support, and trained staff.
- Difficulty to prioritise the SDGs over the agenda.
- Lack of information.
- Including the SDGs throughout the structure of the MOEI.
- Leading the initiative to establish the national urban observatory.
- Building capacities through workshops and communications with the other urban observatories.
- Setting down the baseline for the urban KPIs and collecting useful data.

COVID-19 RESPONSE

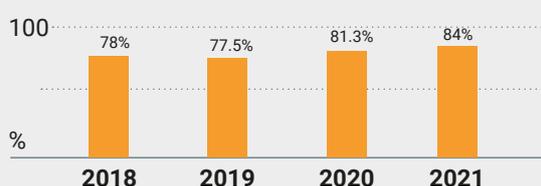
- MOEI COVID-19 Hub: To face the COVID-19 pandemic, the hub is built to explore the Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure's COVID-19 emergency buildings operations management through available data and apps, where it aims to engage and communicate internally & externally with other agencies to effectively respond to the challenges and needs of its partners and clients due to COVID-19.
- The UAE Infrastructure Geospatial Platform is a "one-stop-shop" to deliver trusted, nationally consistent geospatial data and services. It provides a suite of well-managed, highly available, and trusted geospatial data, services, and applications for use by government agencies and citizens.

List of relevant stakeholders: _____

- Ministry of Climate Change and Environment
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
- The National Emergency Crisis and Disaster Management
- Federal Competitiveness and Statistics Centre
- Planning departments, municipalities, and transport agencies
- Private Sector
- Academia

Target 11.2: By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons

Satisfaction with public transport



Source: MOEI & SDG Index

Target 11.5: By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations

Indicator 11.5.1 Number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population



Source: MOHAP

Target 11.6: By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management

Annual mean concentration of particulate matter of less than 2.5 microns in diameter (PM2.5) (g/m3)



Source: MOCCA



Target 11.a: Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning

Indicator 11.a.1 Countries that have national urban policies or regional development plans that respond to population dynamics; ensure balanced territorial development; and increase local fiscal space (1 YES; 0 NO)



Source: MOEI

Target 11.b: By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2030–2015, holistic disaster risk management at all levels

Indicator 11.b.1 Number of countries that adopt and implement national disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2030–2015



Source: NCEMA





SDG 11 – CASE STUDY

Dubai Urban Plan 2040



<p>5.8 million Total resident population in Dubai by year 2040 (7.8 million during the day)</p>	<p>Integrated Service Centres Providing all the needs of the population through the development of Integrated Service Centres accessible using flexible and sustainable means of mobility</p>	<p>168 km² Land dedicated to industrial and economic activities</p>	<p>Comprehensive and Flexible Law Issuance of an Urban Planning law to support sustainable development and improvement in the emirate.</p>
<p>5 Urban Centres Development of two additional main urban centres</p>	<p>55% Of the population will live within 800 meters from main public transport stations</p>	<p>60% Total of nature reserves and rural natural areas in the emirate</p>	<p>+400% Increase in space designated for public beaches</p>
<p>+105% Doubling of the green and recreational areas</p>	<p>+25% Increase in the spaces designated for educational and health facilities.</p>	<p>National Housing Providing diverse options and solutions with the highest standards for more than 20 years</p>	<p>+134% Increase in space for hospitality (hotels) and tourism activities</p>

The Dubai Urban Plan 2040 has been developed to reach several goals and in response to the development witnessed by the emirate in all fields. It is a strategic plan that has been developed to increase the standards of happiness and economic, social, and environmental well-being in Dubai, and to make Dubai an international centre by adopting the best smart urban planning mechanisms and effective efficient designs.

Timeline: 2021 - 2040

The plan's objectives include:

- Concentrating development around five major urban centres, in addition to two new centres; The Expo 2020 Centre and the Dubai Silicon Oasis Centre.
- Increasing the efficiency of resource utilisation.
- Develop vibrant and healthy communities and double the recreational green spaces and parks to provide a healthy environment for residents and visitors.

- Provide flexible and sustainable mobility options
- Raising the efficiency of land use to support economic activities, and promote the attraction of foreign investments in new sectors.
- Improving environmental sustainability
- Preserving the natural and built features, and protecting the cultural and urban heritage.
- Implementation of legislation and planning governance.

By 2040, the Dubai Urban Plan will achieve the following:

- Green and recreational spaces and public parks doubled.
- Paying attention to the nature reserves and rural areas, which constitute 60% of the area of the Emirate.
- Create a network of green pathways connecting service areas, residential areas, and workplaces.
- Facilitating pedestrian, bicycle, and sustainable mobility across the city.
- The area of hotel and tourism activities will double



by 134%, and the area of economic activities will increase to 168 km².

- Increasing the areas of land allocated to education and health facilities by 25%.
- Beach lengths open to the public will increase by 400%.

The Dubai Urban Plan 2040 will encourage public transportation, walking, cycling and flexible transportation, and the creation of a unified planning database that supports decision-making and enhances transparency.

The plan also includes the completion of the development plan for the Hatta region during the

next twenty years, in line with the state's tendency to encourage domestic tourism and attract more foreign tourists, as well as enhancing the attractiveness of the Hatta region and its natural and heritage components and preserving the sustainability of its environment.

The plan will provide for the future housing needs of citizens in integrated communities that include green spaces, commercial centres, and recreational facilities, in addition to re-housing citizens in the old areas to enhance their connection with those areas.

2040 دبي DUBAI
Dubai, the best city for living in the world.

National Housing

Providing integrated and diverse housing options, with the highest planning standards, to cater to citizens' needs for more than 20 years

- Partnership with mega-developers for citizen housing
- Developing integrated Town House complexes and communities allowing multi-storey units to be built
- Revitalizing old central districts for national housing
- Reserving strategic land banks to cater for national 2040 housing beyond







Overview of Progress in SDG 12 in the UAE



The Ministry of Climate Change and Environment plays a key role in the implementation of the SDGs through its focus on protecting the environment, preserving natural resources, advancing climate change mitigation and adaptation, and promoting the adoption of sustainable economic models. The UAE is profoundly committed to the principle of human-nature coexistence. Although our population growth is accelerating and our ambitious projects necessitate additional resources, we continue to work to fulfil our objectives sustainably not for a year or two but many more years.

Her Excellency Mariam bint Mohammed Saeed Hareb Almheiri
Minister of Climate Change and Environment





ABOUT SDG 12

Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

GENERAL BRIEF ABOUT THE UAE IN RELATION TO SDG 12

The UAE has shown a strong commitment to achieving more sustainable consumption and production patterns through the adoption of numerous policies, initiatives and targets that explicitly and implicitly aim to reduce or eliminate the wasteful consumption and use of resources

in all sectors of the UAE economy. The UAE is committed to transforming from a linear economy where resources are too often wasted and nature is damaged to a more efficient, less wasteful, more sustainable regenerative circular economy where both society and nature thrive.

POLICIES AND INITIATIVES

- In November 2018, the UAE launched its National Food Security Strategy – a comprehensive strategy which aims to improve food security in the UAE that sets out targets to reduce food loss and food waste. ([foodsecurity.gov.ae](https://www.foodsecurity.gov.ae))
- In 2018, the UAE launched the Food Waste Pledge, a national initiative which encourages commercial kitchens in the hospitality sector in the UAE to reduce food waste.
- In November 2019, the UAE became the first signatory to the Scale 360° Initiative – a World Economic Forum initiative, affiliated with the Platform for Accelerating the Circular Economy (PACE) that aims to harness the potential of technology innovations to fast-track a more circular economy.
- In November 2020, the UAE launched its Environment Policy⁶⁸ – a broad-ranging policy which confirms the UAE's firm commitment to protect and sustain the environment and includes commitments to preserve the natural environment and promote the environmentally sound management of chemicals and waste.
- In January 2021, the UAE launched its Circular Economy Policy – an ambitious policy which strives to ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns are mainstreamed in the UAE through the elimination or minimisation of waste and pollution, the efficient and effective use of resources and the regeneration of the environment.

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Challenges:

- Transitioning to the Circular Economy requires a multi-faceted approach, requiring multiple initiatives to be undertaken, across multiple sectors, across multiple levels of governance

(local, emirate and national) with multiple different stakeholders from the public, private and civil society sectors and across multiple timeframes (short, medium and longer-term).

⁶⁸ UAE's Environment Policy: <https://www.moccae.gov.ae/ar/knowledge-and-statistics/green-economy.aspx>



- Economic incentives need to be realigned, particularly concerning inefficient and distortionary subsidies which encourage overconsumption and production and with respect to unpriced costs (externalities) which lead to socially suboptimal outcomes.
- There is currently insufficient knowledge, understanding and information about current consumption and production patterns in the UAE, the impact that it has on environmental, social and economic outcomes and how to make them more sustainable.

Opportunities:

- New Technologies and their associated business models offer many innovative opportunities for the UAE to rethink how goods and services are consumed and produced, which in turn offers the UAE a tremendous opportunity to transform its economy and develop new competitive advantages.
- As a very large buyer of goods and services, the Government is in an excellent position to encourage or mandate more sustainable and innovative consumption and production through the use of innovative green procurement practices.

COVID-19 RESPONSE

- Abu Dhabi Investment Office (ADIO) invested USD \$100 million in April 2020 to bring four agriculture technology companies to the UAE to build agri-tech research and development facilities and production centres in Abu Dhabi to explore how arid climate countries can benefit from their technologies.
- The Central Bank of the UAE (CBUAE) launched an AED 100 billion comprehensive Economic Support Scheme for retail and corporate customers affected by COVID-19.
- Abu Dhabi Executive Council announced an economic stimulus package which includes allocating AED 3 billion to the SME Credit Guarantee Scheme.
- The Dubai Government launched an AED 1.5 billion economic stimulus package which seeks to enhance liquidity and reduce the impact of the current global economic situation.

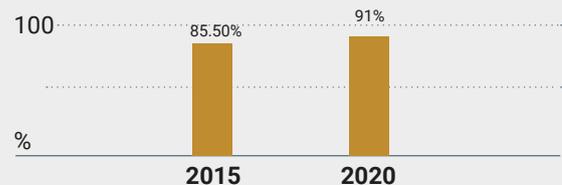


Did you know?

- The UAE was the first country in the Middle East to adopt a Circular Economy Policy.
- The UAE has the fourth-highest re-use of water rate in the world.

Target 12.4: By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment.

Indicator: 12.4.1 Number of parties to international multilateral environmental agreements on hazardous waste, and other chemicals that meet their commitments and obligations in transmitting information as required by each relevant agreement.



Source: MOCCA

List of relevant stakeholders:

- Ministry of Energy & Infrastructure
- Ministry of Industry & Advanced Technology
- Ministry of Economy
- Office of the Minister of State for Artificial Intelligence, Digital Economy and Remote Work Application
- Local environmental authorities





SDG 12 – CASE STUDY



PepsiCo's Journey Towards Accelerated, Sustainable Growth in the UAE

In 2021, PepsiCo launched its pep+ strategy globally, an end-to-end transformation strategy that puts sustainability at the centre of future growth. Through pep+, PepsiCo is inspiring people to make responsible choices, changing how they source ingredients, and building a circular and inclusive value chain to meet bold sustainability goals.

PepsiCo is striving to build a world where packaging never becomes a waste. That vision is rooted in three interconnected strategies: reducing the amount of plastic used, boosting recycling rates, and reinventing packaging. Through active partnerships and stakeholder engagements, PepsiCo is driving change across all three pillars.

Through pep+, the company has committed to introducing more sustainable packaging into the value chain and cutting virgin plastic per serving by 50% across its global food and beverage portfolio by 2030. This will be achieved by using 50% recycled content in plastic packaging and scaling business models that avoid or minimise single-use plastic, like the Aquafina® Water Station.

Accelerating systemic change and meaningful progress through collaborative, holistic solutions is essential. As the Official Beverage and Snack Partner of the world's biggest gathering - Expo 2020 - Dubai, PepsiCo has brought the pep+ vision to life in the UAE, envisioning a sustainable future during and beyond the current World Expo.

Impact and Results

- In 2021, PepsiCo committed to collecting and recycling the equivalent of 100% of Aquafina plastic packaging produced in the UAE. With the help of local partners, Dulsco, and Bee'ah, this target has been exceeded.
- By 2022, PepsiCo renewed Aquafina's recycling commitment to support the UAE's goal to divert 75% of landfills.
- PepsiCo signed an MoU with Dubai Tourism to scale its innovative Aquafina Water Stations beyond Expo 2020 Dubai. Under the agreement

As the Official Beverage and Snack Partner of the world's biggest gathering - Expo 2020 Dubai, PepsiCo has brought a shared vision of a more sustainable future to life. From product innovations that encourage reuse and recycling, to the ambitious collection and recycling goals, the F&B leader has helped deliver one of the most sustainable World Expos ever. At least 85% of waste was diverted from the Expo 2020 - Dubai site, the Aquafina® Water Station helped save more than 500,000 plastic bottles from being used, and the Aquafina Cans and Sunbites Compostable packaging minimised plastic footprint on-site.

- framework, PepsiCo will install the innovative hydration platform in 50 locations, primarily Government and corporate offices, to encourage a culture of refill and reuse in Dubai. This is part of the 'Dubai Can' initiative, a sustainability movement led by the Crown Prince of Dubai to minimise the global environmental impact by reducing single-use plastic pollution.
- PepsiCo hosted Expo 2020 - Dubai visitors at the Aquafina pavilion. The Drop, made from 41,000 fully recyclable aluminium cans, helped educate visitors on sustainable farming operations, the importance of water to the human body and the planet, and how individuals can drive positive change.
 - PepsiCo supported Expo 2020 Dubai's goal of diverting at least 85% of onsite waste from landfills through collection & recycling. This was



achieved by working with Expo 2020 - Dubai's waste management partner, Dulsco to sort, collect, and recycle PepsiCo waste onsite. In parallel, PepsiCo and its local bottling partner, Dubai Refreshment Company, committed to collecting and recycling the equivalent of 100% of Aquafina plastic packaging produced in the UAE in 2021, supporting the country's goal to divert 75% of total waste from landfill. This commitment has been reaffirmed in 2022.

- PepsiCo reduced the use of single-use plastic on site by providing:
- Exclusive Expo 2020 - Dubai Aquafina branded reusable bottles for use at the Aquafina Water Stations, giving users personalised water adjustable for temperature, and flavour, intensity, and carbonation. So far, the Aquafina Water Stations have saved more than 500,000 plastic bottles from being used;
- Fully and infinitely recyclable Aquafina aluminium cans; and
- Sunbites Compostable Packaging, made from 85% plant-based materials and a 40% lower GHG footprint compared to traditional snack bags.
- PepsiCo has participated in several thought leadership discussions including the UN SDGs,

Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week, Global Energy Forum, Water Week, and Food, Agriculture and Livelihoods Week, to share best practices and facilitate cooperation with the public sector, to affect change at a systemic level.

- PepsiCo has also partnered with Spinneys to introduce a reverse vending machine at its sustainable concept store Layan, providing an easy solution for customers to dispose of their plastic waste responsibly and in turn, enable materials to be reused or repurposed. Plastic bottles collected by the RVM are recycled by local manufacturer DGrade who will give new value to materials that may otherwise have been littered or added to landfills. All colleagues in the Spinneys sustainable store are wearing polo shirts, made in the UAE by DGrade, from the bottles collected in the RVM, to communicate the circular concept to customers and build trust in local recycling systems. No one company or industry can alone drive the change needed to achieve a circular economy but working collectively to increase recycling rates is key to paving the way for a more sustainable future. The Spinneys partnership allows cross-industry collaboration and paves the way for more retailers to follow suit.







Overview of Progress in SDG 13 in the UAE



Climate change demands global action now. We can lead the way by investing in climate-smart solutions that improve agricultural producers' profitability and resilience as well as forest health while creating new income opportunities and wealth that stays in rural communities. Nation-wide steps to combat climate change are critical to ensuring the sustainability of our environment. In the UAE, this is evident in the variety of initiatives and preventive measures and policies directed at mitigating and adapting to the impacts of climate change.

Her Excellency Mariam bint Mohammed Saeed Hareb Almheiri
Minister of Climate Change and Environment





ABOUT SDG 13

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

GENERAL BRIEF ABOUT THE UAE IN RELATION TO SDG 13

The UAE government places climate change at the top of the government's list of policy priorities, evident from the establishment of the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment (MOCCA) in 2016. Similar to all countries, the UAE is prone to the impacts of climate change if left unmanaged; ranging from increased numbers of extreme weather events, sea level rises, and indirectly, disruptions in food supplies

due to other countries' vulnerability to climate change. For all those reasons, MOCCA is leading the way by proposing legislation, plans, strategies and policies to mitigate the impact of climate change in the UAE. In addition, MOCCA actively engages in international climate change negotiations through close coordination with all concerned stakeholders to address global climate challenges.

POLICIES AND INITIATIVES

- Launch of 'The Climate Project' (2018), in cooperation with the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, the International Renewable Energy Agency, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Antigua & Barbuda and the renowned actor, Robert De Niro. The initiative intends to raise awareness of climate change and the importance of climate resilience, underpinned by a standard to mainstream the consideration of climate resilience in the UAE's foreign development assistance and will cover the entire AED 18.35 billion (USD 5 billion) UAE aid portfolio.
- To strengthen and accelerate UAE's climate mitigation and adaptation efforts, the National Climate Change Plan (2017-2050) was adopted in 2017. The three main priorities of the plan include; National GHG Emissions Management System, Adaptation Planning & Implementation, and Private Sector Driven Innovative Diversification Program. In the plan, capacity building and awareness-raising are identified as key enablers of climate action. The implementation of the plan includes preparing the UAE's workforce to capitalise on opportunities arising from the development of a green economy; engaging relevant stakeholders in climate action and building their capacity; as well as raising awareness about climate change – its impacts and related solutions.
- The 'Target Climate' initiative: MOCCA, in collaboration with Emirates Nature-WWF and HSBC Middle East, organised a series of workshops during the year 2020 to increase the private sector's capacity for climate action. These workshops, delivered under the 'Target Climate' initiative, were successful in raising awareness about climate science and action, as well as developing capabilities in estimating carbon footprint. A guided toolkit and other resources were provided to corporations to encourage them to adopt emission reduction strategies.
- National Climate Adaptation Program: In 2018, the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment began the preparation of the National Climate



Adaptation Program as one of the main outputs of the National Climate Change Plan 2017-2050, with the aim of making the UAE one of the most equipped, climate-resilient countries in the world to face the repercussions of climate change. By laying the necessary foundations for taking measures that ensure the resilience and durability of the various economic and social sectors in the face of change. Three main phases were required to ensure the success of the initiative. Under the program, climate risks have been assessed for four key sectors including energy, infrastructure, health and environment, and sectoral adaptation plans are being developed in consultation with relevant stakeholders.

- Updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) 23.5% by 2030: The nationally determined contributions represent the country's commitments to reduce emissions by 2030 as per the UNFCCC. The new update incorporates new initiatives in all sectors of the country and models the projected reductions in emissions in line with an increase in granularity and transparency relative to the 2nd NDC (23.5% reduction by 2030) submitted in 2020 as part of Paris Agreement commitments. The update is set for completion by the end of 2022 and will act as a powerful representation of the UAE's Climate commitment to the upcoming COP 28 in 2023.
- Launch of CCRN: The Climate Change Research Network (CCRN) represents a community of researchers and industry experts designed to facilitate the dissemination of climate knowledge and advance the development of research collaborations. A network of climate scientists and researchers, the Network will further data collection and management, and advance policy-relevant research on climate impacts and adaptation, in the UAE and the wider region. The network was launched in January of 2021 and has been growing steadily to align the research agenda of the country, provide risk assessments and advance data sharing and research in the UAE as a whole.
- The UAE State of Climate Report⁶⁹: The Ministry of Climate Change and Environment developed the UAE State of Climate Report in January of 2021. The report acts as a synthesis of how the UAE's climate is projected to change under climate change by 2050 and 2100 as per the results of

⁶⁹ The UAE State of Climate Report <https://www.moccae.gov.ae/assets/download/8fb9d5bb/61a79c31.pdf.aspx>



Did you know?

- The UAE was one of the first countries in the region to adopt the Paris Agreement on Climate Change (2016).
- The UAE was the first country in the Middle East to announce the Net Zero strategic initiative by 2050.
- The Arabian Gulf (off the coast of the UAE) is considered warm enough that thermal adaptation of marine life is being explored as a case study for global climate change.
- The UAE will host COP 28 in November 2023.

Target 13.2: Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning

The UAE ranked



2020

Globally in the Environmental Agreements indicator

Source: The World Competitiveness Yearbook by the International Institute for Management Development

a multitude of regional models. The report was reviewed by several researchers at New York University Abu Dhabi (NYUAD) to evaluate the scientific relevance and credence of the results in the report.

- Plant 100 million mangroves to enhance carbon reduction: During COP 26, the UAE announced that it has stepped up its ambition to expand its mangrove cover by aiming to plant 100 million mangroves by 2030. The UAE originally agreed to plant 30 million trees by 2030, in its second NDC report. Mangroves reduce carbon emissions and provide critical natural habitats for baby fish and other sea creatures. The trees also protect the UAE's coasts from rising sea levels and storms.
- National Air Emission Inventory: In late 2021





MOCCA launched the National Air Emission Inventory, to update the GHG inventory of air pollutants from primary sectors: the energy sector, the transportation sector, the building and construction sector, the Industrial Processes and Product Use (IPPU), agriculture sector, waste sector, and Livestock sector. This type of study contributes to a better understanding and analysing of the nature of pollutants and emissions, their sources and rates, to develop plans that will improve air quality on accurate and realistic grounds to ensure the efficiency of future policies and projects and their compatibility with the current situation.

- Net Zero Strategic Initiative: The UAE has announced its national drive to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050, making it the first in the MENA region. The initiative aligns with the Paris Agreement, which calls on countries to prepare

long-term strategies to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and limit the rise in global temperature to 1.5°C compared to pre-industrial levels. It also aligns with UAE's 'Principles of the 50' - the UAE's roadmap for accelerating national economic development to mark the country's golden jubilee year, as the nation enters a new 50-year cycle of growth. The major economic opportunities offered by the path to net-zero directly support a vision to develop the Emirates into the most dynamic economy in the world.

- National Dialogue for Climate Ambition (NDCA): To raise national climate change ambition, a robust stakeholder engagement exercise shall commence by May 2022. The initiative will introduce a whole national platform to foster climate change sectoral efforts to raise the climate ambitions and establish a national sustainability outlook.

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

- Since MOCCA's initiatives and projects depend on multi-stakeholder dialogue and capacity enhancement, the COVID-19 crisis meant that creative solutions were needed to keep stakeholders involved. It was particularly relevant for two key initiatives that MOCCA launched in 2020 namely, the 'Target Climate workshops' and the 'Climate Adaptation initiative' targeted toward the UAE's insurance sector.
- Through a partnership with Emirates Nature-WWF and HSBC Middle East, MOCCA delivered a series of virtual workshops for the private sector during 2020, intending to develop their capacity on climate change, particularly on emissions measurement and reporting. A total of 110 participants from 84 corporations joined the workshops. In September 2020, as part of ongoing efforts with the insurance sector, MOCCA organised a virtual workshop on climate-related opportunities and risks for the insurance sector, which brought together 50 insurance companies and relevant stakeholders to discuss the sector's impact on the SDGs and climate action.
- In 2022, the UAE has the honour to lead the discussion at the G20. This platform provides an opportunity to spearhead the propagation of knowledge dissemination and incentivize further research and initiatives in the fields of climate change and sustainability. The UAE aims to take hold of the opportunity to act as an influential figure driving the needed changes that have opened up as part of the G20.
- During the proceedings of Middle East and North Africa Climate Week (MENACW), the UAE had the opportunity to address a critical challenge concerning knowledge dissemination, collaboration and data sharing by addressing the gaps and bridging connections in the facilitation of the prospective outcomes.
- To mitigate some of the main challenges outlined by the research community in the UAE, MOCCA developed the UAE Climate Change Research Network to align researchers, facilitate data sharing and increase the country's overall research capacity concerning climate change mitigation and adaptation (2021).



COVID-19 RESPONSE

- MOCCA has highlighted the importance of treating the 'green economy' as a cornerstone of recovery efforts. Even though the COVID-19 crisis has revealed the vulnerability of global food supply chains, food security remains a critical aspect of UAE's climate strategy, given the need to reduce emissions from agriculture as well as build resilience of food systems. By adopting cutting-edge technology and climate-smart agricultural practices to improve local agricultural yield, MOCCA addresses the UAE's critical development and risk management priorities. While sustainable food consumption is a priority, one of the building blocks of a crisis-proof food

system is building capacity among stakeholders, including communities, farmers, and research institutes.

List of relevant stakeholders: _____

- Federal and Emirate-level government entities including ministries, environment agencies and municipalities, amongst others
- Private sector companies, including heavy emitters, large local firms, SMEs and companies operating in sectors at risk from climate change
- Research institutes and universities





SDG 13 – CASE STUDY

The UAE's Adaptive Potential – The National Climate Change Adaptation Program (NCCAP)



In the realm of climate change, there exist two fundamental approaches by which a country would be able to reduce the negative implications it is set to experience. The two forms include mitigation and adaptation. Despite the inherent difference in the efficacy of the two approaches, mitigation serves to reduce the impacts of climate change by weakening the potency of the climatological influence whereas adaptation operates as a means to increase a country's resilience in light of the intensifying conditions. Both approaches offer a different means of tackling the risks of the intensifying climate, however maintain equal importance and operate as a unit in the fight against climate change.

In light of their importance, mitigation and adaptation have been at the forefront of the UAE's ambitions to combat the implications of the warming climate, as evident by the recent announcement to achieve Net Zero by 2050 and the earlier release of the UAE National Adaptation Programme.

The National Climate Adaptation Program was launched as one of the main strategic outputs of the National Climate Change Plan 2017-2050, and the program aims to make the UAE one of the most climate-resilient countries in the world to face the repercussions of climate change, by laying the necessary foundations for taking measures that ensure the resilience and durability of the various economic and social sectors in the face of change. The program is tailored toward increasing climate resilience by minimising risks and improving adaptive capacity. The program also contributes to listing the country's efforts and achievements in the field of climate adaptation and highlighting them at the international level.

The Ministry of Climate Change and Environment in collaboration with partners conducted sectoral climate risk assessments and adaptation measures in four key sectors: health, energy, infrastructure and the environment as a part of the National Adaptation programme, in the effort to have a better understanding of the challenges and increase the sectors' climate resilience and improve adaptive capacity. Its achievement was based thoroughly

on reviews of available research, consultation with stakeholders and expert contributions.

The programme facilitated the identification of potential climate change impacts as effects of extreme climatic events on natural and human systems occurring within a specific period. Further, it outlined the means by which the UAE has been affected by the vulnerability of an exposed society or system which are detrimental to the country's livelihood and subsequently demands urgent actions.

Examples of climate change impacts in the UAE context include:

- Loss of productivity and higher health costs due to increases in heat stress, allergies and infectious diseases.
- Increased pressure on food supply and production.
- Coastal erosion due to various climate impacts, reduced seawater quality due to increased water temperature and acidity.
- Increased demand on water and electricity due to increased temperature and humidity.
- Mortality increases for vulnerable populations due to rising temperature and humidity.
- Increased disruption in energy supply due to extreme weather events.
- Damages to public infrastructure (e.g., roads and ports) due to sea-level rise.
- Natural habitat and species losses due to extreme temperature and sea-level rise.

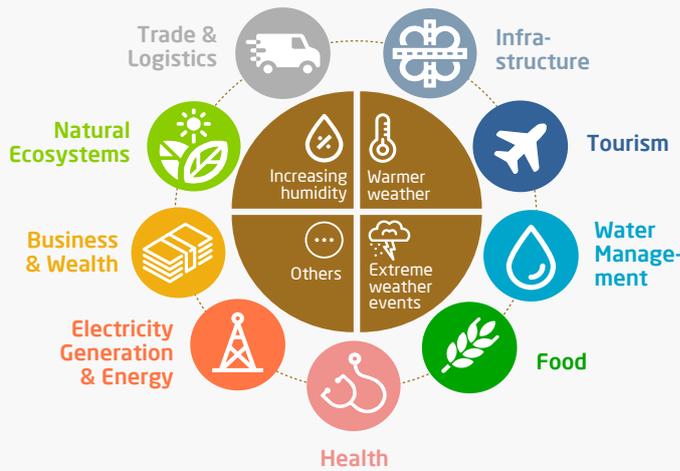
With a greater understanding of the risks and a roadmap for future adaptation, the UAE has best outlined a manner by which to develop sustainably and effectively adapt to the upcoming implications. Following the completion of the climate change risk assessment in the four primary sectors, the UAE has set the fundamental framework to mainstream the implementation of adaptive practices in all sectors. Further, the effective adaptation coupled with the mitigative initiatives towards Net Zero will compound to allow the UAE to stand at the forefront of the battle against the warming climate.



The Framework of the National Climate Change Adaptation Program

Part one:

Identify climate trends and assess their impacts



Part three:

Involve all sectors in implementation

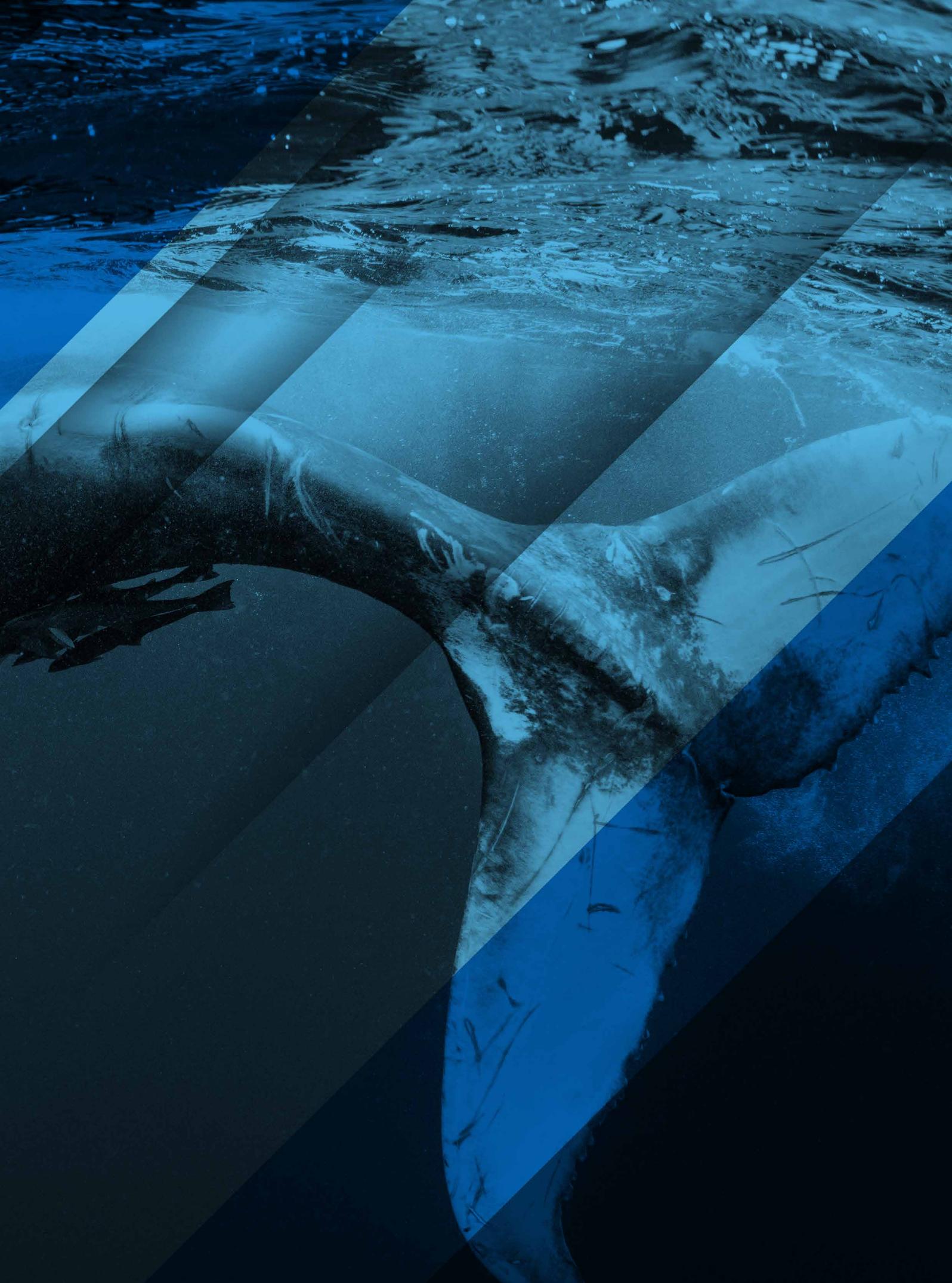
- Address urgent impacts and seize opportunities
- Utilise and build on existing capacity and knowledge
- Embed adaptation within policy
- Increased awareness: "Why is adaptation important?"
- Encourage climate adaptation measures
- Monitor progress and effectiveness

Part two:

Identify impacts demanding urgent action

- Lost productivity and higher health costs due to increases in heat stress, allergies and infectious diseases
- Increased pressure on food supply and production
- Coastal erosion due to various climate impacts
- Reduced seawater quality due to increased water temperature and acidity
- Increased demand on water and electricity due to increased temperature and humidity







Overview of Progress in SDG 14 in the UAE



Oceans are the largest and most critical ecosystems on Earth. They span three-quarters of our planet's surface, serve as the world's greatest carbon sinks, and provide subsistence for hundreds of millions of people worldwide. The Ministry of Climate Change and Environment is always on the lookout for the best long-term solutions to environmental problems that endanger our future. The UAE's marine environment has a high level of biodiversity, and our recognition of the economic, social, and environmental relevance of this marine treasure has led us to take multiple steps to safeguard its resources and address challenges that affect ocean health.

Her Excellency Mariam bint Mohammed Saeed Hareb Almheiri
Minister of Climate Change and Environment





ABOUT SDG 14

Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

GENERAL BRIEF ABOUT THE UAE IN RELATION TO SDG 14

The marine and coastal environment of the UAE is important for economic, social and environmental reasons. The coast is populated; it is utilised by various industries, such as port operations, petrochemical industries, as well as for desalination. To respond to these competing demands, the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment (MOCCA), in collaboration with its

partners in the public and private sectors continuously work to improve the protection of marine resources for sustainable development. Based on international standards, MOCCA is aiming to have by 2015 at least 10% of coastal and marine areas conserved through effective and equitable protected areas and other conservation measures. Now we achieved 12.01%

POLICIES AND INITIATIVES

- The updated Federal Law 23 of 1999, which is considered the backbone of fisheries legislation in the UAE, is complemented by Ministerial Decrees constituting a comprehensive legislative framework to achieve fisheries sustainability.
- The UAE National Framework Statement for Sustainable Fisheries (2019-2030): The overall objective of this framework is to achieve sustainable fisheries for the UAE by pursuing the environmental sustainability of fisheries with the support of economic and social elements.
- The UAE encourages and endorses community participation in marine environment protection such as the Stuck Threads Initiative, which is led by a voluntary diving team that is dedicated to the removal of lost and discarded fishing gear.
- The UAE National Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks (2018-2021) was launched as a response mechanism to conserve the UAE's sharks and rays.
- The Ministry has launched the National Plan of Action for the Conservation of Marine Turtles in the UAE 2018-2021 which seeks to protect

marine turtles and their habitats in the country's waters. The Plan focuses on mitigating the direct and indirect causes of marine turtle mortality and advancing the implementation of national legislation and policies for the protection and integrated management of marine turtles. Improving the understanding of marine turtle ecology and enhancing the population of marine turtles through research, monitoring, and information exchange is also part of the initiative. In addition, the programme aims to preserve and rehabilitate marine turtle habitats, raise awareness and encourage public participation in marine turtle conservation activities, and build relevant capacities.

- The United Arab Emirates has created an international partnership launching a nature-based solution to mitigate climate change called 'The Mangrove Alliance for Climate (MAC)'. MAC is a global initiative that aims to scale up, accelerate conservation, restoration and growing plantation efforts of mangrove ecosystems for the benefit of communities globally, and recognize the



importance of these ecosystems for climate change mitigation and adaptation. Specifically, the members commit to planting, rehabilitating and restoring mangroves within their country; as well as supporting others to do the same. The initiative aims at creating momentum to crowd-source, and effectively engage the community and the private sector to utilise philanthropy approaches to boost planting and reserving mangroves that serves as active carbon sinks

- With the success of the 'Safi' and 'Sheri' fishing regulation during the spawning season, the Ministry has approved a legislative plan implemented in 2021 that will be extended to 2035 to regulate fishing of several species during the spawning season. During the next 15 years, two species will be banned for a month in three consecutive years reaching ten species banned in total.
- Rehabilitation Programs: The UAE has embarked on an ambitious rehabilitation program, which includes planting over 30 million mangrove seedlings by 2030, deploying more than 4,400 artificial reefs so far, and transplanting coral fragments using the micro-fragment technique. Additionally, researchers have been working diligently to develop super coral species capable of adapting to the UAE's extreme environmental conditions. An estimated 300,000 square metres will be devoted to the establishment of one of the world's largest coral nurseries.
- Single-Use Plastic Policy:
 - Abu Dhabi announced that single-use plastic bags will be banned from June 2022. The decision is based on the Emirate's integrated single-use plastic policy that was introduced in 2020 and is part of the UAE's vision to enhance sustainable living in Abu Dhabi.
 - The plans to gradually reduce the amount of single-use plastic products consumed across the Emirate, and encourage the use of reusable ones. Single-use plastic products include 16 single-use plastic products that include cups, stirrers, lids and cutlery. Additionally, it is also looking to phase out single-use styrofoam cups, plates and food containers by 2024.
 - Also in Dubai, Starting July 1, 2022, single-use bags will cost 25 fils at stores across



Did you know?

1. The UAE has maintained its global leadership in the marine protected areas with 16 marine protected areas. The total protected area coverage in the country has increased from 15.07% of the territory in 2019 to 15.53% in 2020, accounting for 18.4% of its terrestrial territory and 12.01% of its marine territory.
2. The UAE joined the UK-initiated Global Ocean Alliance, a group of 32 countries working to protect the ocean and improve the livelihoods of coastal communities. The UAE is the first Middle Eastern country to endorse the target.
3. The Ministry of Climate Change and Environment launched the 'UAE's Sustainable Fisheries Programme' in partnership with the Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi to ensure sustainable fishing. The programme was implemented from 2016 to 2018 and achieved several results including the completion of a Fisheries Resources Assessment Survey, which assessed the status of key demersal fish stocks in the UAE's waters, and the launch of UAE's National Framework Statement for Sustainable Fisheries 2019-2030⁷⁰.
4. The UAE has embarked on an ambitious rehabilitation program, which includes planting over 30 million mangrove seedlings by 2030, deploying more than 4400 artificial reefs so far, and transplanting coral fragments using the micro-fragment technique.

⁷⁰ Life below Water: <https://u.ae/en/about-the-uae/leaving-no-one-behind/14lifebelowwater>



the Emirate. The tariff applies to restaurants, pharmacies and e-commerce deliveries.

- A total ban on single-use bags will be implemented in two years.
- Protecting 12% of Marine Protected Areas in the UAE
 - The UAE has 16 designated marine protected areas that are under federal protection achieving Aichi Target 11; with a total of 12.01% of marine and coastal areas being protected, as well as ranking #1 in Marine protected areas according to the Environmental Performance Index (EPI). The role of protected areas is to help preserve and/or restore habitats and ecosystems that are important for the marine biodiversity of the UAE and this came in line with UAE's Vision 2021. These marine protected areas also play an important role in conversation at an international level having received international recognition with 5 Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs), 6 Wetlands of International Importance (also known as Ramsar sites) and 1 UNESCO Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Reserves.
 - Coral plantation/ transplanting 16,000 achieved out of the 3,000,000 goals for the next 5 years
 - Mangrove soil carbon sequestration
- The coastal and marine environments of the UAE are diverse and include mangrove forests, salt marshes, and seagrass meadows. The mangrove forests, the main component of the UAE's coastal blue carbon ecosystems, efficiently sequester carbon dioxide. Indeed, they serve as powerful carbon sinks. Mangrove forests have a range of other benefits, such as the protection of the UAE's coasts from rising sea levels and storm surges and providing critical habitats for biodiversity. The protection and restoration of these ecosystems are therefore a key means of limiting climate change and building resilience to its effects. The UAE is undertaking significant restoration, conservation, and plantation efforts, resulting in the mitigation of CO₂ with co-benefits of adaptation. The new step that has been taken is strengthening UAE's blue carbon ecosystems with an increase in mangrove-planting target to 100 million by 2030.
- The UAE prioritises the assessment of Blue Carbon as a positive step toward capitalising

Target 14.3: Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels

Indicator 14.3.1 Average marine acidity (pH) measured at agreed suite of representative



Source: MOCCA

Target 14.5: By 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information

Indicator 14.5.1: Coverage of protected areas in relation to marine areas



Source: MOCCA

on the blue ecosystems' full climate mitigation. The UAE has undertaken a range of projects that have enhanced its understanding of the UAE's blue carbon stock. Such as The National Blue Carbon Project (phase I and II), the UAE Oceanic Blue Carbon, and the Mangrove Soil Carbon Sequestration of the United Arab Emirates project. These projects have been commissioned to help the improve the understanding of the services of the Emirate's coastal and marine ecosystems and to provide carbon stock inventory for intertidal and subtidal natural Blue Carbon ecosystems, and present an opportunity to incorporate carbon sequestration rate and dating within national policies, strategies, national inventories, and coastal management planning.

- Marine water quality monitoring program: achieved 81% according to the marine quality index
 - Maintaining marine water quality is one of the important objectives of the MOCCA strategic plans. This objective is associated



with an important set of indicators defined in the National Agenda, the UAE Centennial 2071 and the Ministry's strategic goals. At the international level, it is linked to SDG 14 and relate to the conservation and sustainable use of oceans, seas and marine resources to achieve sustainable development.

- The main objective of this project is to provide a guideline for marine water quality at the national level so that these Marine water quality indexes represent marine water quality status must be adopted and applied by the competent and relevant authorities in the country in order to maintain the quality of marine water quality and its properties, and ensure the best possible performance of its vital functions and economic, social and environmental services.

- UAE marine water quality index includes a set of basic parameters of marine water such as temperature, salinity, dissolved oxygen, acidity, turbidity, major nutrients, and microbial bacteria.
- UAE marine water quality index represents one of the important tools to regularly monitor changes that may occur in the quality of marine water and enable competent and relevant authorities to immediately respond to these changes and address them. Moreover, the UAE Marine Water Condition Index (MWCi) allows the identification of the factors that affect the quality of marine water, assessment of the effectiveness of legislation and measures taken to protect and preserve it, in addition to their contribution in supporting the decision-making process by following up the specified reference values.

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

- The impacts of climate change and extreme weather events on the marine environment (marine water quality and biodiversity) pose a formidable challenge, which the UAE has been monitoring closely through the use of advanced technologies and an artificial intelligence monitoring program based on satellite images and modelling systems. In addition to this, the UAE has launched the Super Coral Project, which involves bringing various species of corals from their natural habitats and exposing them to extreme conditions, to activate formerly idle genes that can help the corals cope with climate change.
- Limited valuable historic data of biodiversity can cause implications when developing projects specific to marine biodiversity, for example, uncertainty with regards to several certain species. Searching for data in ancient resources can help to overcome this challenge.
- Limited awareness concerning the importance of biodiversity can lead to misunderstandings with regard to species and their habitats. Therefore, online campaigns can make a difference.

COVID-19 RESPONSE

The Ministry and its partners have devised and supported implementing various measures to curb the spread of COVID-19. Among the main measures taken was the transition to e-services for the provision of all fishing-related government transactions and services. Temporarily, a grace period and auto-renewals were offered to fishermen as a means of accommodating their transition to e-services.

List of relevant stakeholders: _____

- Local emirates environmental authorities and municipalities
- Critical Infrastructure and Coastal Protection Authority
- Private sector entities





SDG 14 – CASE STUDY

A New Model for Sustainable Growth in Umm Al Quwain (UAQ)



The Challenge

Social and economic development is distributed unevenly in our nation, but for the UAE to achieve its shared goals, all must be enabled to flourish. At the same time, urgent demands that we play our part in tackling the global challenges associated with climate change require new and innovative approaches to economic growth that can serve as inspiring, feasible models for the future. How might these two challenges be tackled together, at the same time, and in the same place?

The Strategy

UAQ’s Sustainable Blue Economy Strategy is an integrated approach to social, cultural, and economic development, anchored in the abundant gifts of the emirate’s marine ecosystem.

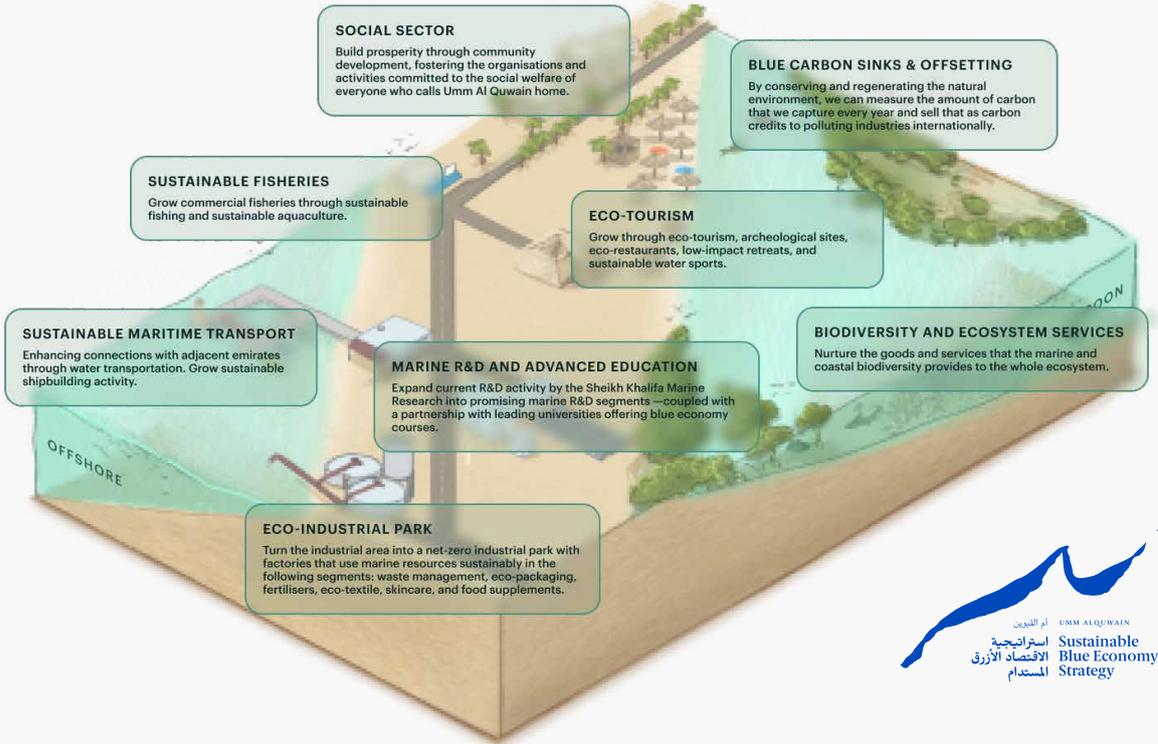
A Sustainable Blue Economy is one where we actively regenerate the marine and coastal environment by making more than we take, and where we reinvest our precious resources to create more value for everyone.

The strategy incorporates three unique and overlapping elements, each drawing on efforts and skills from both the public and private sectors:

1) Environmental levers

This protects, sustains, and regenerates a resilient and adaptive coastal and marine environment, ensuring its resources and gifts remain available and plentiful—and are never depleted. The central enabling mechanism is the

Umm Al Quwain: Sustainable Blue Economy Strategy





establishment of a Marine Protected Area (MPA), a formally-recognised natural ocean space containing unique biodiversity and habitats that all parties commit to conserving over the long term, especially as it intersects with other ambitions and priorities.

2) Cultural and community levers

By twinning an environmental focus with deep attention to UAQ's heritage and culture, the strategy prioritises the qualities most likely to draw residents, tourists, and entrepreneurs to the emirate. Equally, the strategy requires deep attention to the specific needs and aspirations of the local community, which ensures public and private investments are well-targeted and likely to result in meaningful improvements to the quality of life.

3) Economic levers

The strategy is designed to create a virtuous cycle of economic growth that delivers improved livelihoods, widens job opportunities, and attracts investment. It achieves this by designing explicit dependencies between marine ecosystem health, business incentives and regulation, tourism and commerce, and local quality of life.

The Commitment

Deals to pursue and implement the Sustainable Blue Economy Strategy were signed in the wake of its announcement by H.H. Sheikh Saud bin Rashid Al Mu'alla, Ruler of Umm Al Qaiwain at the World Government Summit 2022.

Head of the Department of Tourism and Antiquities in Umm Al Qaiwain, H.H. Sheikh Majid bin Saud bin Rashid Al Mu'alla, said: 'The strategy for a sustainable blue economy adopts a partnership approach and enhances cooperation with all partners in the public and private sectors, contributing to accelerating the pace of achievement and achieving the desired goals in all developmental, economic, and social paths. We look forward to increasing the blue economy's share of the emirate's GDP so that its contribution is no less than 40%.'

Driving impact towards the SDGs:

This work is rooted in Goal 14 (Life below water), but it encompasses and connects many others.

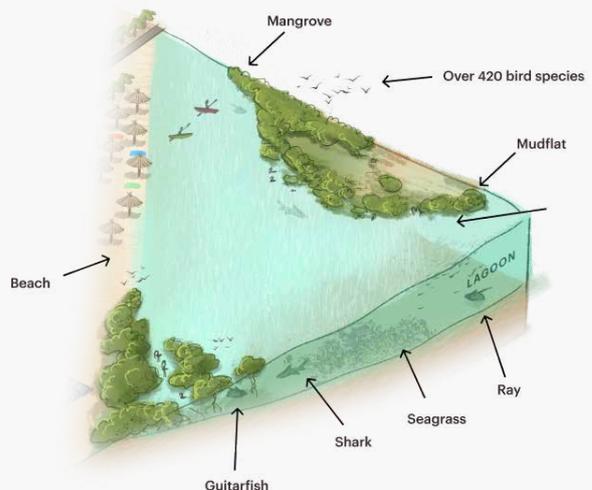


Nature is not only the greatest source of all the resources we need for life, but it is the most important ally in our fight against the climate crisis.

H.E. Mohammed bin Ahmed Al Bowardi

Minister of State for Defence Affairs

Chairman of the Emirates Nature Association



The Sustainable Blue Economy strategy demonstrates that the protection of marine ecosystems does not impede economic development. On the contrary, it is a driver not only of growth, but also of sustainable food production (12), clean and affordable energy (7), healthy communities (11), positive climate impact (13), responsible consumption (12), enhanced food security (2), employment opportunities (8), and wider technological innovation (9). And it achieves it not through a single organisation but by building partnership and collaboration into the model itself (17).







Overview of Progress in SDG 15 in the UAE



The Ministry of Climate Change and Environment works to adopt plans, strategies, and policies aimed at encouraging responsible use of natural resources, battling desertification, and conserving biodiversity in the UAE in the interests of the future generations. We are also collaborating closely with non-governmental organizations and the private sector to ensure the long-term sustainability of our mangrove forests.

Her Excellency Mariam bint Mohammed Saeed Hareb Almheiri
Minister of Climate Change and Environment





ABOUT SDG 15

Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

GENERAL BRIEF ABOUT THE UAE IN RELATION TO SDG 15

The UAE's major terrestrial habitat is a sandy desert that supports different amounts of sparse seasonal vegetation and animals. In line with the UAE 2021 vision UAE's Centennial 2071, of pursuing economic growth whilst preserving the environment, MOCCA

seeks to promote the sustainable use of vital resources through the adoption of plans, strategies and policies. The target is to combat desertification and preserve the UAE's biodiversity in the interest of our future generations.

POLICIES AND INITIATIVES

- The Important Bird Areas (IBA) Project aims to identify, monitor and protect a global network of sites critical for the conservation of the world's birds and other wildlife. As the Ministry worked on updating the important bird areas in the United Arab Emirates in cooperation with Birdlife International. The country constitutes an important geographical location for millions of migratory birds from Europe, Africa, and Asia, such as regional or international seabirds. The UAE hosts large numbers of visiting migratory birds, with the total number of breeds reaching about 435 species of birds, and the country has rare species and factions that distinguish it from the rest of the world. The ministry updated and identified 30 important bird areas in the country.
- The National Ecotourism Project will raise awareness about the 43 protected areas in the UAE and encourage sustainable tourism to minimise the impact on biodiversity. The National Ecotourism Project that was launched in 2018 by the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment was a multi-phase national that aimed to raise awareness about the 43 protected areas, and other ecotourism sites all over UAE. And it also aimed to encourage sustainable tourism to minimise the impact on biodiversity and promote UAE as a leading eco-tourism hub. A guideline, application and e-book were issued on ecotourism, which included information on the UAE protected areas to raise awareness of their importance and the diversity of sites in the UAE.
- Federal Law No. 9 of 2020 was enacted regarding the biosafety of genetically modified organisms and their products. Under this law, human health and safety are protected from the risks of genetically modified organisms and their products, and the environment is protected during the manufacture, development, production, transfer, or circulation of these organisms and products. Aside from preventing the release or introduction of genetically modified organisms or their products into the local environment, efforts such as controlling and eliminating their potential damages, and conducting advanced scientific research in this area are undertaken.



- Red List of Endangered Species: The national project for the Red List of Endangered Species focuses on assessing the status of living species of land and marine mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles and a selection of marine species (sharks, corals and cartilaginous fish) and plants. Furthermore, the project will measure the red list index for these categories by 2020, according to the methodology of the International Union for Conservation of Nature.
- DP World's Contribution to Global Wildlife Conservation Efforts in Partnership with United for Wildlife: In 2018, DP World invited visitors to its 'Innovation Sandbox' initiative in Dubai, a temporary installation that consisted of 10 cargo containers showcasing some of the technological solutions that illustrate how DP World will shape the future of world trade. DP World refurbished and donated these cargo containers to four wildlife charities (partners of United for Wildlife) to be used in wildlife conservation programs dedicated to combating the Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT). As a global trade enabler, DP World is committed to identifying and disrupting trade flows linked to IWT. DP World is The Principal Partner of the Royal Foundation's United for Wildlife (UFW) initiative, which aims to break the chain in IWT between suppliers and consumers by disrupting and restricting criminal networks. A major focus of this project is target 15.7 – Take urgent action to end the poaching and trafficking of protected flora and fauna, and address both the demand and supply of illegal wildlife products, which are directly related to SDG 15.
- Wildlife poaching and trafficking 0.19%: Monitoring and controlling borders
 - The UAE security and customs authorities play a major role in regulating and monitoring the borders and combating the wildlife poaching and trafficking, whether on the land, air or sea border. The laws and regulations in force in the country are applied to all shipments that enter or pass through the country's territory, including the import and export of wild species of plants and animals. The Ministry, in cooperation and coordination with the competent authorities, monitors all border crossings through the use of the latest technologies that will help detect and combat illegal shipments. It also cooperates with international governmental and non-governmental organisations to benefit from

Did you know?



- The UAE has nearly 60 species of terrestrial reptiles, 19% of which are endangered.
- The UAE has the second-largest population of dugongs in the world, where it is protected through one of the largest network protected areas.
- The UAE has 459 bird species, 53% of which are endangered.
- The country has 66 species of reef-building corals.
- The UAE has 54 species of sharks and 26 species of stingrays.
- UAE waters host the world's largest concentration of humpback dolphins.
- The Arabian tahr is an endemic species of mammals in the UAE, it's endemic to Al-Hajar Mountains. It cannot be found anywhere else in the world besides the UAE and Oman.

their expertise and technologies in line with the UAE's strategy.

- To curb the illegal trade in wildlife in the country, the customs authorities in the country, such as Dubai Customs, have developed innovative facilities and systems for inspecting containers. The system was developed to enhance the security of the ports, reduce the resources, and reduce the risks resulting from the illegal wildlife trade.
- The importance of eliminating the illegal trade is not limited to government entities but it is extended to the transport sector as well, where they have an important role in limiting illegal activity and they are working hand in hand with the UAE government in the implementation of the regulations. For example, the national airlines of the UAE are active partners in addressing biodiversity conservation by adopting commitments and conducting initiatives, all of which contribute to the conserving of wildlife. In addition, DP World is a global ports operator in partnership with Customs authorities playing an



important role in combating the illegal trade of wildlife. The ministry in cooperation with the competent authorities in each emirate, which includes municipalities and environmental authorities, works on monitoring local markets by inspecting all markets such as pet stores and the fish market, reporting all violations to take the necessary legal action. In addition, the Ministry in coordination with the Communications Regulatory Authority and the Digital Government has curbed the illegal e-commerce of endangered animal and plant species listed in the CITES. This is tackled by tracking advertisements for the sale of endangered animals through social networks and websites.

- The indicator is the value of illegal trade (value of legal trade + value of illegal trade). The percentage of traded wildlife that has been caught or illegally traded in 2021 was 0.27%
- UAE announced the first digital certification (the first country to do this)
 - Within the framework of the Ministry's keenness to promote digital transformation within the government work and customer happiness, to enhance trade and address the repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic. Based on the directives of our wise leadership, and in order to achieve the goals of the UAE Vision and the National Agenda 2021, ranking the UAE as first within the global (smart) electronic services index. The Ministry of Climate Change and Environment (UAE CITES Management Authority) has transformed all paper certificates for the regulation of international trade in endangered animals and plants (CITES) into digital electronic certificates starting from the 2nd of Feb 2021. notice to all Parties was shared mentioning the changes and the CITES Secretariat also published notification No. 2021/012 on the CITES website. All CITES permits are issued electronically with an electronic signature and QR code. This will enable customers to download CITES certificates through the ministry's website through smart devices.
- The following can be achieved through the digital certification:
 - The speed of completion and accuracy of issuing the certificate would be better as there will be no need to review the customer happiness centre to print the

Target 15.1: By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements

Indicator 15.1.2: Proportion of important sites for terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity that are covered by protected areas, by ecosystem type
(This is a proxy indicator for the UAE: Percentage of Terrestrial Protected Areas in the UAE)



Source: MOCCA

Target 15.7: Take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products

Indicator 15.7.1 Proportion of traded wildlife that was poached or illicitly trafficked



Source: MOCCA

certificate.

- Saving time and effort for the customer, as the certificate can be obtained without the need for collection from the customer happiness centre
- Providing financial resources without the need to use certificate requirements such



- as papers, inks, security seals and printing devices.
- Using the advantages of the digital infrastructure available in the ministry.
 - Building a strong electronic database that can be referenced when needed, will make it easier for employees to complete tasks and contribute to the happiness of customers.
 - Reducing interactions between customers and customer happiness service employees, from a health and safety aspect
 - Ensure the accuracy of the data contained in the certificate through the Ministry's website, to ensure that there is no forgery.
 - The integrated electronic link between issuance and release of shipments
- Federal Law No. 8 of 2021 developed regarding access to genetic resources and fair and equitable benefit sharing. The law aims to protect and conserve genetic resources, limit their depletion, and regulate access and circulation to contribute to the conservation and sustainability of biodiversity in the country. As well as to ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources and their derivatives and associated traditional and heritage knowledge, practices and innovations.
 - Based on the result of the Invasive Species Project, the country developed a management action plan to combat invasive species, which includes an overview of invasive species status in the country and developed objectives, goals and main procedures for their management. As well as the ministry is working on developing legislation that aims to control the pathways and prevent the further spread of invasive species. The UAE has identified 24 invasive species of fauna and flora, and their pathways within the country with technical support from the International Union for Conservation of Nature.
 - The Ministry has implemented the procedures for personal exemptions from CITES in accordance with Resolution No. 13.7. Accordingly, Ministerial Resolution No. 229 of 2020 was issued to implement personal exceptions in the country, as it allows individuals to move samples designated for personal use through border crossings and are excluded from CITES. according to the quantities mentioned against each type as shown in Appendix No. (1) without the need to obtain import, export or re-export certificates from the country. Also Due to the frequent movement of falcons during hunting season, necessitated the need to find a legal procedure that allows falconers to legally escort their falcons across international borders following international procedures. Accordingly, the administrative authority represented by the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment of the CITES Convention issued legal ownership and travel document for falcons based on Resolution No. 10.20 of the CITES Convention regarding the transiting movements of live animals personally owned, thus being the first country in the agreement to implement this procedure.
 - The Ministry in collaboration with International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is currently working to identify Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) in the UAE following the Global Standard for the Identification of KBAs as sites of importance for the global persistence of biodiversity. This project will provide fundamental information to UAE decision-makers and help in Mapping potentially sensitive areas that need to be considered and integrated into UAE development strategies and planning processes. In addition to supporting the private and financial sectors in managing their environmental risks related to biodiversity impact, identifying potential sites to be included in Protected Area (PA) systems or covered by other area-based conservation measures and monitoring progress toward global and national biodiversity targets.





CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

- The UAE Natural Capital Smart Map project is a map that includes a set of biological and geographical surveys and environmental and economic assessments of terrestrial and marine environments and habitats at the national level. The project aims to provide information and data related to the country's ecosystems in the form of a smart and interactive map that is taken into consideration in the process of policy development and decisions related to land use and investment opportunities. Ecological services provided by natural systems are often excluded from economic calculations, exacerbating the unsustainable exploitation of these systems that are already facing increasing human and natural pressures and challenges. The project bridges this gap through these smart maps that display natural systems of land, marine and coasts and the services they provide, economic and social evaluation, and the development of models for future visions regarding urban development and climate change.

Challenges

- International Forums and Dialogs was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which resulted in difficult consultation and preparation worldwide

COVID-19 RESPONSE

- Develop an eco-tourism guide/app to encourage internal tourism.
- Eco-tourism guide: Ecotourism is a new type of tourism that appeared in its current form in the eighties of the twentieth century and developed as a result of several economic and cultural factors until it became one of the most important types of tourism in the world and the most developed in the past few years. The UAE Ministry of Climate Change and Environment issued a guideline in 2017 that listed ecotourism sites in the UAE, which include Nature sites, Dams, Protected areas, Zoos and Sanctuaries, resorts and hotels. Eco-tourism App: An application was launched in

for the process of implementing international targets.

- The lack of valuable historical data on biodiversity may pose challenges when developing projects related to biodiversity. Therefore, MOCCA launched several projects that leverage today's expertise to track historical knowledge on biodiversity through backcasting exercises.

Opportunities

- The UAE Future Foresight Strategy involves building future models for the health, educational, developmental, and environmental sectors, harmonising the current governmental policies, building national capacities in the field of future foresight, establishing an international partnership, and launching research reports on the future of the various sectors in the country.
- Environment Vision 2030 for the emirate of Abu Dhabi was developed to ensure integration among the three pillars of sustainability: environmental, economic and social vision. It aims to preserve and enhance Abu Dhabi's natural heritage in the efficient use of resources and to contribute to a better quality of life for all. Environment Vision 2030 identifies five priority areas.

2018 that includes ecotourism sites in the UAE to showcase the richness and diversity of the UAE in terms of sites and activities. The application is available on iTunes and Google Play and as an eBook. The application contains a list of UAE protected areas, natural and archaeological sites, diving sites, parks, Nature sites, Dams, Protected areas, Zoos and Sanctuaries, resorts and hotels. It provides the users' information, images and videos, which highlight the rich diversity across the country's areas.

- Implementation of the key biodiversity project, using remote meetings and expert workshops.



List of relevant stakeholders:

- Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi
- Environment and Protected Areas Authority- Sharjah
- Local Emirates Municipalities
- Environment Protection and Development Authority - Ras Al Khaimah
- Emirates University
- Zayed University
- Khalifa University of Science and Technology
- New York University
- American University of Sharjah
- American University Dubai
- Emirates Airlines
- Etihad Airways
- Al Ain Zoo
- Dubai Safari
- DP world
- Al Barari
- Emirates Nature -WWF
- International Fund for Animal Welfare
- International Fund for Houbara Conservation
- The Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund

SDG 15 – CASE STUDY

Protected areas in the UAE

The United Arab Emirates currently has 49 designated protected areas that are under federal protection. The total area of these protected areas accounts for 15.53% of the total area of the country. These protected areas are divided into Terrestrial and Marine protected areas. There are 16 marine protected areas and 33 terrestrial protected areas. Looking at international targets, the UAE has achieved the International Aichi Target 11; with a total of 12.01% of marine and coastal areas as well as 18.4% of terrestrial areas of the UAE are protected areas.

These protected areas are evaluated every two years by using a Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) to ensure sustainable management of species and ecosystems in close cooperation with relevant entities. In regards to the METT scores of 2014, the UAE scored an average of 57% compared to the global standard of 53%. Throughout the following years, there has been a continuous improvement in the management of protected areas, with an increase of 13.5% from 2014 to 2020. One of the reasons for the evaluations of the protected areas is to help local authorities determine progress along the management continuum as well as identify where they are succeeding and where they need to address the gaps. The general goal is to improve the management performance of the protected



Ramsar Sites in the UAE



areas. The management effectiveness evaluation aims to enable and support an adaptive approach to the management of the protected areas, assist ineffective resource allocation, as well as improve communication and cooperation between the management of the protected areas. The increase in scores shows the efforts that the competent authorities are continuously working hard to protect



and conserve biodiversity within the country. These efforts were also reflected during the UAE National Red List Project which was conducted over the course of three years undertaken by the Red List Unit (Cambridge, UK). It brought together data compiled through three National Red List Assessment workshops. The Project assessed the Red List status of 1,167 species (433 marine and 734 terrestrial) at the national scale, of which 819 species (vascular plants, mammals, and birds) also underwent a back-casted retrospective assessment for 1996. The Red List Index for both birds and mammals has increased slightly since 1996 (birds increased from 0.64 to 0.65, and mammals increased from 0.61 to 0.63). For example, the successful restoration of Arabian oryx and two species of gazelle, all of which are endemic to the Arabian Peninsula. The project helped to provide a baseline and an indicator of recent biodiversity trends in the country. It also helped to identify and recommend essential measures that would be needed for future conservation work.

To showcase the country's efforts in protected areas the UAE's profile with the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA) reflects the protected areas (via shapefiles) as well as the certified international protected areas such as Ramsar Wetlands of International Importance and UNESCO Man and Biosphere Reserve (MAB). To date, the UAE has:

- 10 certified Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites)
- 5 Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSA)
- 2 UNESCO Man and Biosphere Reserves
- Al Wathba Wetland Reserve was certified by IUCN onto the Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas, a first for our region.

Driving impact towards SDGs:

Goal 14 - Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

- Target 14.5 - By 2020, conserve at least 10% of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the



best available scientific information. The UAE currently has 16 marine protected areas that account for 12% of the total marine areas of the country.

Goal 15 - Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

- Target 15.1 - By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements. For this target, the UAE has 10 internationally recognised wetlands of importance as well as 33 terrestrial protected areas that account for 18.4% of the total terrestrial regions of the UAE.
- Target 15.5 - Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species. This target is related to the Red List Index, which the UAE has published and





Overview of Progress in SDG 16 in the UAE



The UAE's powerful response to COVID-19 pandemic, along with its strategy in the optimal investment of challenges-based opportunities, led the country to move forward with confidence and determination in its journey towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals in line with its strategic plans, guided by the wise leadership and its continuous support and vision, allowing the UAE's experience in handling crises positively to win the appreciation and admiration of the international community.

Lieutenant General His Highness Sheikh Saif Bin Zayed Al Nahyan
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior



ABOUT SDG 16

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

GENERAL BRIEF ABOUT THE UAE IN RELATION TO SDG 16

The UAE government upholds a 'safe public and fair judiciary' as one of the cornerstones of Vision 2021. The UAE's commitment to the rule of law has maintained order, eradicated violence, and contributed to a sense of justice and security for UAE nationals and all residents alike. The Ministry of Interior (MOI) continuously works on establishing

and strengthening public institutions to ensure the UAE remains amongst the safest and most secure countries to live in. The Gallup Global Law and Order 2021 report ranked the UAE as the number one country for walking at night safely after scoring 95%.

POLICIES AND INITIATIVES

- Rapid Response Policy: Adopting a policy that manages emergency response processes. The policy organises and frames the process legally in terms of specifying the responsibilities and powers of the concerned entities and identifying the powers and responsibilities of the operations rooms employees and drivers of response vehicles to enhance the rapid response process and provide assistance to those in emergencies who need Police support.
- Adoption of a Crime Scene Management Policy to promote cooperation and coordination between partners in scene management (fingerprints and samples).
- Smart Safe City: Data collection by identifying data of known theft crimes, identifying their patterns and developing a model to predict the data of the unknown offender (artificial intelligence).
- Safe Neighborhood Initiative: Achieved (zero) serious crimes per 100 thousand population in the region.
- Robotalk Project: Special project to support the investigation of child crimes and spreading awareness to children in schools.
- E-Police in Your Mobile: A smart application on mobile devices is considered to be an innovative idea and a smart service that contributes to reporting crimes and achieving a fast response.
- International Security Alliance: Initiative to combat child sexual exploitation online.

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

- Lack of clarity on the methodologies of some international global reports.
- Multiple and different sources of results.
- Demographic, multinational and multicultural diversity in the same neighborhood.
- The use of social media facilitated the circulation of rumors.
- The tremendous technological developments to achieve security require modifications in legislation and policies to deal with the fast-changing work environment.





COVID-19 RESPONSE

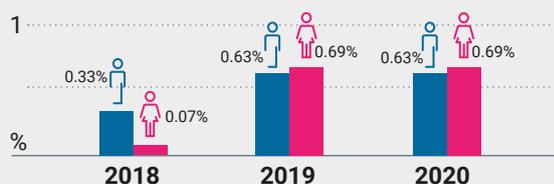
- Reduce the spread of Coronavirus: The early detection for COVID-19 through the K9 project.
- Reduce the spread of Coronavirus: SmartPass and Smartwatch project.
- Ensure business continuity: Remote Trial Initiative
- Ensure business continuity: Provide telemedicine service, home clinic service and drug delivery service for medical services to Ministry of Interior employees.
- Ensure business continuity: Issued a policy to deal with pandemics and communicable diseases.
- Ensure business continuity: Participation of the Civil Defence in the National Sterilization program.
- Reduce the outbreak of Coronavirus: Voluntary vaccination of those wishing to be in Punitive and Reformatory Establishments

List of relevant stakeholders: _____

- Ministry of Justice
- Ministry of Finance
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
- Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratisation
- Federal Authority for Identity and Citizenship
- Central Bank of the UAE
- Roads and Transport Authority - Dubai

Target 16.1: Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere

Indicator 16.1.1 Number of victims of intentional homicide per 100,000 population, by sex (in %)



Source: MOI

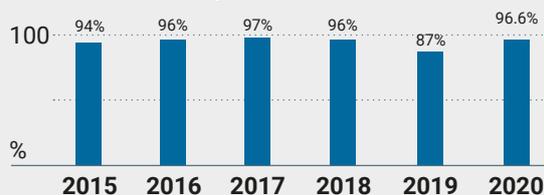
Did you know?



- MOI has designed and developed an educational game about policing areas and a special section on the novel Coronavirus.
- The UAE hosts 110 foreign embassies, 73 consulates and 15 regional and international organisations.
- UAE Supported those wishing to return to their countries during the pandemic.

Target 16.6: Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels

Indicator 16.6.1 Primary government expenditures as a proportion of original approved budget, by sector (or by budget codes or similar)



Source: MOF

Target 16.9: By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration

Indicator 16.9.1: Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority, by age

100% — 2020

Source: MOI



SDG 16 – CASE STUDY

Sharing knowledge and building bridges of cooperation



The Government Experience Exchange Programme (GEEP)⁷¹ is an Emirati initiative launched by the United Arab Emirates Government in 2018. The program is a product of the wise leadership vision stemming from H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai.

In a world of exclusion, disunity, and a very noticeable gap between governments' intentions and performance which is prominent in the field of capacity building, futuristic governmental services and transformation, and knowledge infrastructure. GEEP comes to bridge this gap through the exchanging of successful and leading practices of the UAE Government to all governments around the world.

Why is GEEP important to the global community?

- The program aims to contribute to creating and foreseeing the future of government work with all countries around the world for the good of humanity and to serve the people.
- Through this, the Programme has managed to establish a platform that acts as an enabler of sharing governmental experiences in the government administration model with all countries around the world.
- Which ultimately contributes to building valuable partnerships with the aim of sharing knowledge to continue supporting the international community to enhance all opportunities for development, excellence, and achievement.

⁷¹ Government Experience Exchange Programme: <https://www.governmentexchange.gov.ae>





We share with the governments of the world our successful experiences to achieve the good of humanity and serve the people.

H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum
Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE
and Ruler of Dubai

What does GEEP offer & what were the impact and results?

- GEEP envisions the potential of government-to-government cooperation to be limitless in terms of the knowledge, skills and experience that can be shared.
- Cross-border knowledge and skills transfer around the public sector and community.
- The program offers a variety of more than 100 areas of cooperation (Work-streams) delivered by various sectors across the government on the local and federal level & the private sector by 500 UAE National experts which are trained through UAE Government Leadership Program.
- Different specialised initiatives and projects contribute to the overall development of the Government Officials, Students, and the community impacting the lives of more than 400 million citizens residing in the countries GEEP has partnered with.
- The results can be seen in the outcome of the Best Mobile Service Government Award initiative, which effectively created a bridge of cooperation between students and governments in solving challenges facing governments and their citizens.
- The result is reflected in the Capacity building work-stream through delivering more than



900 workshops both physically and virtually and building capabilities of more than 380,000 individuals which resulted in a total of 3 million Working & Training hours.

- GEEP has nine activated cooperation with different governments around the world which include: Colombia, Costa Rica, Egypt, Greece, Iraq, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Senegal, and Uzbekistan. With an overall percentage of implementation of initiatives & projects 60%.
- Inauguration of the first Government Accelerators (GA) centres outside the United Arab Emirates in The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Republic of Uzbekistan, which resulted in the solution of 18 governmental challenges through the GA Works-stream of cooperation.

GEEP x SDGs

Through the various initiatives, projects and workstreams, the government Experience Exchange Programme contributes to the achievement of 17 SDGs. By building capabilities, GEEP targets enhancing the economic growth by which it contributes to creating strong institutions, well equipped public servants, and focusing on partnership for the goals.





Overview of Progress in SDG 17 in the UAE



The objectives of the 2030 Agenda, driven by the aspiration to maximise the impact of our foreign assistance on communities, including working with partner countries to achieve their and plans to promote global peace and prosperity.

Her Excellency Reem bint Ebrahim Al Hashimy

Minister of State for International Cooperation

Chairwoman of the UAE National Committee on SDGs

Director General of Expo 2020 - Dubai

President of the Global Councils on SDGs



ABOUT SDG 17

Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

GENERAL BRIEF ABOUT THE UAE IN RELATION TO SDG 17

Internationally, the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MOFAIC) leads the nation's international development cooperation agenda. The UAE Foreign Assistance Policy for 2017 – 2021 provides the strategic direction of the UAE's support to developing countries, in their quest

to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, strengthen universal peace, empower women and protect girls, improve infrastructure and transportation, and government effectiveness, as outlined in the 17 SDGs for 2016 to 2030.

POLICIES AND INITIATIVES

- Poorest and most vulnerable people, reaffirming the UAE's commitment to supporting the 'leave no one behind' theme of the 2030 Agenda. The policy includes four key elements including the Country Partnerships for Development Programme, the three Global Thematic Programmes, humanitarian assistance, private sector engagement, and partnerships.
- The Country Partnerships for Development Programme tailors its activities to support each country's national priorities and development plan and covers a wide range of activities, from health, education, access to renewable energy, etc. depending on the needs. At a global level, the policy focuses on three thematic areas: Empowerment and Protection of Women; Transport and Urban Infrastructure; and technical cooperation to enhance Government Effectiveness. These themes represent areas of particular strength in the UAE's development. The country and global programmes are further supported by the UAE Technical Assistance Programme, which provides a central vehicle for exchanging knowledge with partner countries. Through this programme, the UAE shares lessons from its development experience sends expert missions, provides training, and seeks to learn its partners' perspectives on global challenges.
- Under humanitarian assistance, the UAE continues to respond to emergencies, including 'forgotten crises' that receive less international attention, as the country expands its role as an international hub for humanitarian aid. In addition to emergency interventions, the policy also focuses on building the capacity and resilience of developing countries to better respond to crises within their communities. In recognising the key role the private sector can play as a catalyst for development, the policy also supports various modalities of engagement to encourage private sector contributions, as well as trade and investment in partner countries.
- Underpinning the success of the UAE foreign assistance policy and programmes are UAE's local and international partners. These include partner countries, peer donors, multilateral





institutions and international organisations, UAE donor entities, as well as the private sector, each with their unique role in development cooperation. Through this spirit of collaboration, the policy works towards achieving its goals and the realisation of the 2030 Agenda.

- The SDGs continue to be an important factor in shaping and reporting on UAE foreign assistance. The policy emphasises the following eight goals as UAE foreign assistance has the most contribution; however, given the demand-driven nature of the policy, UAE foreign assistance is not limited to these SDGs alone. The UAE's foreign assistance will remain rich and diverse, evolving with the changing priorities of the UAE and its partner countries and with the agility to adapt its activities to the needs of the recipient populations.
 - Goal 1: End poverty in all forms everywhere
 - Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
 - Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
 - Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
 - Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
 - Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries
 - Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies, and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
 - Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development
- The Anwar Gargash Diplomatic Academy (AGDA), in collaboration with the Sustainable Development Solutions Network, launched the Sustainable Development Goals Centre for the Arab Region (SDGCAR) at the Rosewood Hotel in Abu Dhabi, UAE.
- UAE Foreign Aid Strategy 2017 -2021: The main objective of the UAE's foreign aid is to reduce poverty, improve the lives of less fortunate societies, alleviate poverty in them and spread stability, peace and prosperity in the region. Moreover, it seeks to develop the UAE's relations with other countries, whether those that receive



Did you know?

- In 2020, the UAE provided more than 1,860 tonnes of medical supplies and personal protection kits, amounting to AED 1.35 billion (USD 366 million) to 128 countries worldwide.
- The shipments included 4.2 million Coronavirus testing kits and 2.1 thousand ventilators to fight the spread of the COVID-19 outbreak and provide protection to more than 2 million medical staff on the front lines around the world.
- By August 2021, the UAE provided more than 2,217 tons of medical aid, ventilators, testing kits, personal protective kits and supplies to 136 countries worldwide.
- According to the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the UAE continues to rank among the largest providers of official development assistance (ODA) relative to national income worldwide.
- Over the course of 2020, the UAE provided total foreign assistance amounted to AED 10.24 billion (USD 2.79 billion).

aid from the UAE or other donor countries that cooperate with it. The UAE's approach towards foreign aid focuses on assisting in the implementation of development projects that are in favour of the beneficiary countries. It also steers away from linking humanitarian aid with the political agenda or orientation; and rather takes into account the humanitarian aspect that is represented in the needs of the people, which has made the UAE highly respected and appreciated in all international forums. The UAE's international development policies focus on three basic areas in which the UAE has the strengths and abilities to benefit partner countries. These areas include protection and empowerment of women, transportation and urban infrastructure, and technical cooperation to enhance the effectiveness of government performance.



- Dubai International Humanitarian City⁷²: The Dubai International Humanitarian City (IHC) is the largest humanitarian hub in the world. Founded in 2003 by H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, through the merger of Dubai Aid City and Dubai Humanitarian City. IHC is the only non-profit, independent, humanitarian free-zone Authority hosting a community of around 80 members composed of UN organisations, nonprofits and non-governmental organisations, in addition to commercial companies. The International Humanitarian community in Dubai consists of about 500 people representing more than 68 nationalities. In 2011, the IHC was relocated into its current strategic location near Al Maktoum Airport and close to Jebel Ali Port, by tripling its size from the previous 30,000m² to 90,000m² and giving members the ability to move shipments from sea to air in as little as 10 minutes. Today, the International Humanitarian City offices and warehouses have further expanded to 135,000m² in size. The IHC together with its community is continuing its journey by preparing itself for any new challenges, creating new synergies and partnerships with innovators, in addition to partnering with private sector players operating with high-level standards. IHC is also partnering with academic institutions to share knowledge and experiences to create opportunities for preparing the future generation of humanitarian workers.
- Mohammed bin Rashid al Maktoum Humanitarian and Charity Establishment⁷³: The Organisation flourished in 1997 upon a decree issued by the late H.H. Sheikh Maktoum bin Rashid Al Maktoum, aiming to help the poor, patients, widows, orphans, needy, and those afflicted in the UAE and around the globe. In a few years, the Establishment has become one of the most highly active establishments in the field of charitable and humanitarian work on both local and foreign levels; and since its registration, it has shouldered the responsibility to reach the needy whether they are inside or outside the UAE.
- The Establishment aims to the achievement of high human principles through providing aid to the needy inside and outside the UAE. It further

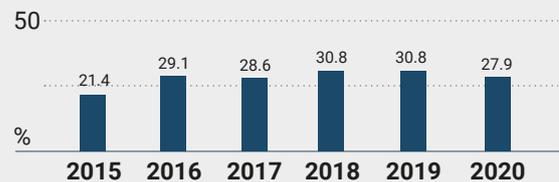
⁷² Dubai International Humanitarian City: <https://www.ihc.ae/ihc-at-a-glance/>

⁷³ Mohammed Bin Rashid al Maktoum Humanitarian and Charity Establishment: <http://mbrch.gov.ae/en/about>

⁷⁴ The Arab Hope Makers initiative: <https://www.arabhopemakers.com/en/about-us>

Target 17.1: Strengthen domestic resource mobilization, including through international support to developing countries, to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection

Indicator 17.1.1 Total revenue as a proportion of GDP %



Source: MOF

Target 17.8 Fully operationalize the technology bank and science, technology and innovation capacity-building mechanism for least developed countries by 2017 and enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology

Indicator 17.8.1: Proportion of individuals using the Internet



Source: TDRA & SDGs Index

contributes to the international relief and rescue processes in areas affected by disasters and the scourge of wars and aims to help the poor through various forms of aid. It is also involved in building places of worship, schools, hospitals, dwellings, and drilling wells, among other facilities, inside and outside the UAE.

- Arab Hope Makers Initiative⁷⁴: The Arab Hope Makers initiative honours people and institutions that pursue a humanitarian goal. The Arab Hope





Maker must have a project, programme, campaign or initiative that is creative and influential, and that contributes to improving the lives of others. The Arab Hope Maker also relieves the suffering of a particular social group, develops a social, economic, cultural or educational environment, or contributes to solving any challenge faced by his or her community, is a non-profit and volunteer capacity, without any profit or material benefit. The Arab Hope Makers initiative seeks to send a message of hope to the entire region

by celebrating and highlighting the people who dedicate themselves to helping others. The message is to channel hope to fight despair, frustration and pessimism, enhance optimism, strengthen the culture of giving, and provide the opportunity for positive change through the people who spread those aspirations with their initiatives and projects.

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

- More than 40 Donors in the UAE provided foreign aid, which requires internal strategies to increase the efforts to achieve the SDGs. Currently, SDG 17 is focusing more on the UAE foreign aid data, however, domestic entities in the UAE should report their achievements towards SDG 17 'Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development' in domestic projects in the UAE. Increasing UAE Donors' knowledge of and commitment to 2030 Agenda to achieve the SDGs globally and improve the process for effective coordination.
- The United Arab Emirates has always taken it upon itself to stand by global peace and development. In 2020, all of the UAE's donors, charities and humanitarian foundations doubled their efforts to lend a helping hand to the brotherly and friendly nations in support of their development projects and in response to crises and disasters;

in a bid to mitigate the repercussions of the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19), in collaboration with the regional and international partners and the United Nations' agencies working in the development and humanitarian fields. Over the course of 2020, the UAE provided total foreign assistance amounted to AED 10.24 billion (USD 2.79 billion). Despite the fact that this amount marks a 65% decrease from 2019 disbursements, it is still an outstanding achievement given the prevailing circumstances of global lockdown, curfews and international travel restrictions, compounded with the difficulties in implementing humanitarian and development projects in the beneficiary countries, particularly with the expanded geographical scale of the UAE aid that covers more than 170 countries, including at least 46 of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Lower-Middle Income Countries (LMICs)⁷⁵.

COVID-19 RESPONSE

The Novel Coronavirus has had an impact across all sectors of society worldwide. The UAE Government has contributed to curbing the spread of COVID-19 through various means that include comprehensive support to the global community. Even though it takes aggressive action in our home country to fight the spread of the COVID19 virus, the UAE is still assisting other countries in responding to the

pandemic. Subsequently, the UAE has delivered critical medical supplies, made UAE owned facilities located abroad available to local governments, supplied donations to local initiatives, and assisted in the repatriation of foreign nationals. In 2020, the UAE responded to the COVID-19 crisis by providing over 1,736 metric tons of aid to 128 countries in need, supporting other nations during the pandemic.

⁷⁵ Annual Foreign Aid Report: <https://www.mofaic.gov.ae/en/the-ministry/uae-international-development-cooperation/annual-foreign-aid-report>



SDG 17 – CASE STUDY

The Digital School⁷⁶



COVID-19 is considered the biggest disruption to education, impacting 1.6 billion students in 190 countries representing 94% of the student population globally. In low- and medium-income countries, this percentage was over 99% of students. In an attempt to ensure learning continuity, education systems had to shift to remote and online learning. Most education authorities struggled to deliver quality education using remote and online learning due to education systems' lack of readiness for digital learning, including teachers' skills and infrastructure. Having invested in digital learning, the UAE education sector's response to COVID-19 was considered as one of the fastest and most successful. This drew UAE leadership's attention to the potential of digital learning and ability to utilise it to extend learning opportunities to underserved communities.

The Digital School (DS) initiative was launched by H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, in November 2020, under the umbrella of the Mohammed bin Rashid Global Initiatives (MBRGI), with an ambitious vision to drive the frontiers of digital learning to empower underserved communities towards a brighter future.

The DS aims to provide a certified digital hybrid and blended education to students who do not have easy access to formal education. Through learning models, processes and the proper use of technology, the school blends live and self-paced virtual classes in several subjects, grades, languages and countries. The initiative targets young people in refugee camps, war zones, and under-poverty and marginalised communities, irrespective of their social, economic and educational backgrounds. And by engaging and interacting with licensed digital educators, as well as providing a smart evaluation mechanism, students will develop lifelong autonomous learning skills.

Building on partnerships with local ministries of Education, international organisations such as UNICEF, UNESCO, and WFP as well as local NGOs

and implementation partners, the DS is building a model based on integrating the strengths of each stakeholder into a much more effective model. These partnerships build a sustainable solution to problems facing these underserved communities.

Aiming to enrol and serve one million students by the year 2025. The DS is currently operating in 5 countries (Mauritania, Iraq, Egypt, Jordan and Colombia). The digital school is targeting to allow over 20,000 students in these countries to have access to better education within 2022.

Through partnering with several reputable and globally recognized entities such as Arizona State University (ASU), the DS rigorous professional development program is designed to raise teaching performance and learner engagement, collaborate on quality program development and build a solid system of metrics and feedback mechanisms that support continuous improvement. This is part of the DS overarching community of practitioners' forum built to ensure global interaction between educators to continuously develop, learn and share experiences that guarantee growing educator's skills and allow them to provide better education as well as contribute to their professional career opportunities. Measure, Evaluate and Learn (MEL) is an integral part of the DS strategic and operational activities. The DS will continue to avail evidence for underserved communities' education to all global research entities to enrich further and stimulate better solutions for challenges facing education in these communities. The DS believes technology is a means to an end, and the student is the centre of all activities and efforts. Therefore, appropriate and context-sensitive technology is used to provide students with hybrid and blended learning.

Initial findings from MEL:

- Facilitators were able to dedicate more support and guidance efforts to students
- Facilitators indicated that the DS implementation improved student engagement

⁷⁶ The Digital School: <https://thedigitalschool.org/>





- Students showed a noticeable increase of interest in comprehending topics in Science in specific
- Facilitators were able to apply better classroom management skills
- Facilitators valued DS professional development program's impact on their digital and teaching skills

Driving impact towards SDGs

The DS provides an integrated package of interventions that invests in human capital and improves the living conditions of the target communities through quality education. Thus, contributing to achieving the progress towards SDG 4 Quality Education, SDG 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth, SDG 10 Reduced inequalities and SDG 17 Partnerships for the Goals.

The Digital School aims to drive frontiers of digital learning to empower under-served communities to a brighter future, and aim to enroll and serve 1 million global students by 2025.



SDG 17 – CASE STUDY

Barakah Nuclear Energy Plant



The Emirates Nuclear Energy Corporation (ENEC) has been mandated by the UAE Government to deliver the UAE Peaceful Nuclear Energy Program to tackle climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions and ensure energy security, through the generation of clean baseload electricity, along with spearheading technology innovation in clean energy and related sectors. The Program’s flagship project - the Barakah Nuclear Energy Plant – is the first nuclear new build project in the Arab World.

The Barakah Plant supports the diversification of the UAE’s energy portfolio, providing clean electricity to meet the country’s domestic energy demand for decades to come, and supporting the nation’s efforts toward sustainable economic growth and environmental protection. Located in the Al Dhafra Region of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, the Plant’s four APR1400 design nuclear reactors will supply up to 25% of the UAE’s electricity needs once fully operational.

The Barakah plant is an important part of the UAE’s efforts to diversify its energy sources and is providing clean and efficient electricity to homes and businesses while reducing the nation’s carbon footprint. While increasingly supporting the country’s strategy to diversify energy sources in a shift towards cleaner energy, ENEC is also spearheading the UAE Net-Zero by 2050 Strategic Initiative by preventing millions of tons of carbon emissions annually, delivering climate solutions today.

When its four units are commercially operating, the Barakah Plant will prevent about 22.4 million tons of carbon emissions annually, equivalent to the emissions of 4.8 million cars. The Barakah Plant significantly boosts the UAE’s energy security through domestic clean electricity generation. By 2025, the Plant will be responsible for generating more than 85% of Abu Dhabi Emirate’s clean electricity making it the biggest contributor to reducing Abu Dhabi’s carbon emissions by 50% by the middle of the decade.

Barakah is a powerhouse for the UAE’s sustainable development, generating competitive advantages for UAE companies and access to US\$54 trillion in green ESG funds through Abu Dhabi’s Clean Energy Certificates scheme, the first market globally to include nuclear energy. It is responsible for

The Emirates Nuclear Energy Corporation is developing the Barakah Nuclear Energy Plant as a powerhouse for the UAE’s sustainable development, reliably powering the economy today by generating clean electricity 24/7 and access to the UAE’s Net-Zero by 2050 initiative.

developing a high-tech nuclear industry and supply chain in the UAE, as well as improving the intellectual wealth of the nation with thousands of high-value career opportunities for UAE Nationals.

ENEC also provides talented UAE youth with the skills, capabilities and experience necessary to become the future leaders of the nation’s growing peaceful nuclear energy sector. ENEC employs over 3,000 people, and 60% of them are talented and skilled UAE Nationals, spearheading the advancement of the intellectual wealth of the Nation and inspiring the next generation of clean energy leaders. Women represent 20% of the total employees of ENEC and its subsidiary companies. Over the past decade, ENEC has invested in developing technical capabilities to successfully deliver the Barakah megaproject to the highest standards of quality.

In the UAE, over 2,000 local companies have so far been awarded contracts worth \$4.8 billion to deliver goods and services to the Barakah Plant. Nuclear Science and technology also create opportunities for research and development in sectors such as medicine, agriculture and space exploration.

The Barakah plant is the cornerstone of the UAE’s Nuclear Program and ENEC’s wider mission is to explore and incubate strategic investments in nuclear energy that support the growth and development goals of the UAE and the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals.

APPENDICES





LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS:

4IR	4th Industrial Revolution
ADIO	Abu Dhabi Investment Office
ADSW	Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week
ADVETI	Abu Dhabi Vocation Educational & Training Institute
AGDA	Anwar Gargash Diplomatic Academy
AGFE	Abdulla Al Ghurair Foundation for Education
AI	Artificial Intelligence
ASPNet Schools	Associated Schools Project Network
ASU	Arizona State University
BAM	Baraem Al Mustaqbal
BPA	Best Practice Area
CBUAE	Central Bank of the UAE
CE	Circular Economy
CFE	Curriculum Framework for Excellence
CO	Carbon Monoxide
COP	Communication on Progress
COP 21	21 st session of the Conference of the Parties
COP 26	26 th session of the Conference of Parties
COP 28	28 th session of the Conference of the Parties
COVID-19	Novel Coronavirus
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
DCES	Dubai Clean Energy Strategy
DEWA's	Dubai Electricity and Water Authority's
DMI	Data Maturity Index
DOH	Department of Health
DS	Digital School
DSDGD	Digital Sustainable Development Goals Dashboard
DSSI	Debt Service Suspension Initiative
EAD	Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi
EBSAs	Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marines Areas
EGI	Excellence in GIS Implementation





EMSAT	Emirates Standardized Test
ENEC	Emirates Nuclear Energy Corporation
EPI	Environmental Performance Index
ESCWA	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FCSC	The Federal Competitiveness and Statistics Centre
FIS4SDGs	Federated System for the SDGs
FRP	Food Rescue Programme
FYA	Federal Youth Authority
GA	Government Accelerators
GCC	Gulf Cooperation Council
GCN-UAE	Global Compact Network UAE
GEEP	Government Experience Exchange Programme
GEM	Global Entrepreneurship Monitor
GEM	Government Excellence Model
GEO	Group on Earth Observation
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GII	Global Innovation Index
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
GLP	UAE Government Leaders Programme
GNI	Gross National Income
GPM	The Government Performance Monitor
GPM	Government Performance Monitor
GRUMP	Global Rural-Urban Mapping Project
GSP	Panel on Global Sustainability
HCT	Higher Colleges of Technology
HIE	Health Information Exchange
HIPA	Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum International Photography Award
HLPF	High-Level Political Forum
IBA	Important Bird Areas
IBC	International Branch Campuses
IEA	International Energy Agency
IEM	Integrated Energy Model



IHC	International Humanitarian City
ILOE	Involuntary Loss of Employment
IMD	Institute for Management Development
IRENA	International Renewable Energy Agency
IWM	Integrated Waste Management
IWT	Illegal Wildlife Trade
KBAs	Key Biodiversity Areas
KG	Kindergarten
KPIs	Key Performance Indicators
LDCs	Least Developed Countries
LMICs	Lower-middle Income Countries
LOINC	Logical Observation Identifiers Names and Codes
MAB	Man and Biosphere Reserve
MAC	Mangrove Alliance for Climate
MBRGI	Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives
MBRSG	Mohammed bin Rashid School of Government
MEL	Measure, Evaluate and Learn
MENA	Middle East and North Africa
MENACW	Middle East and North Africa Climate Week
METT	Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool
MGCY	Major Group for Children and Youth
MOCCAEC	Ministry of Climate Change and Environment
MOCD	Ministry of Community Development
MOE	Ministry of Education
MOEI	Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure
MOF	Ministry of Finance
MOFAIC	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
MOHRE	Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratisation
MOI	Ministry of Interior
MPA	Marine Protected Area
MVA	Manufacturing Value Add
NCCAP	National Climate Change Adaptation Program
NCDs	Non-communicable diseases





NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
NDCA	National Dialogue for Climate Ambition
NKPIs	National Key Performance Indicators
NO ₂	Nitrogen Dioxide
NRC	National Research Council
NSO	National Statistical Office
NSS	National Statistical System
NSSA	National System for Sustainable Agriculture
NQC	National Qualifications Center
O ₃	Ozone
ODA	Official Development Assistance
ODIN	Open Data Inventory Global Index
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
OECD-DAC	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's Development Assistance Committee
OMAC	One Million Arab Coders
OSM	Open Street Maps
OWG	Open Working Group
PA	protected area
PACE	Platform for Accelerating the Circular Economy
PM2.5	Respirable Suspended Particulate Matter
PMO	Prime Minister's Office
PPP	Programme for People and Planet
PSAC	Private Sector Advisory Council on SDGs
R&D	Research and Development
Rio20+	Conference on Sustainable Development
RTA	Roads and Transport Authority
SAG	Special Achievement in Geospatial Information Systems
SDGCAR	Sustainable Development Goals Centre of Excellence for the Arab Region
SDGs	National Committee on the Sustainable Development Goals
SDMX	Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange
SDSN	Sustainable Development Solutions Network
SMEs	Small and Medium Enterprises



SNOMED CT	Systematised Nomenclature of Medicine - Clinical Terms
SO ₂	Sulphur Dioxide
the HUB	UAE SDGs Data Hub
TIP	Technology Innovation Pioneers
TSPM	Total Suspended Particulate Matter
UAE	United Arab Emirates
UAE GBC	UAE Gender Balance Council
UAQ	Umm Al Quwain
UFW	United for Wildlife
UN	United Nations
UN-CEBD	UN Committee of Experts on Big Data and Data Science
UNDESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs of United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNGA	UN General Assembly
UNGC	United Nations Global Compact
UNGP	UN Regional Hubs
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNSD	UN Statistical Division
VLMP	Virtual Labour Market Platform
VOCs	Volatile Organic Components
WDF	World Data Forum
WDPA	World Database on Protected Areas
WEF	World Economic Forum
WEPs	Women Empowerment Principles
WFP	World Food Programmes
WGS	World Government Summit
WHO	World Health Organisation
Y4S	Youth 4 Sustainability
YTP	Young Thinkers Program





Annexes

The following table lists the 2030 Agenda indicators included in this report



SDG 1: No Poverty

End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Indicator	Tier	Latest Year	Value	Unit	Source	Custodian Agency(ies)
Target 1.1: By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day						
Indicator 1.1.1: Proportion of population below the international poverty line, by sex, age, employment status and geographical location (urban/rural)	1	2021	0	Percentage	FCSC	World Bank
Target 1.2: By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions						
Indicator 1.2.2 proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions	2	2021	0	Proportion	FCSC	World Bank
Target 1.4: By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance						
Indicator 1.4.1 Proportion of population living in households with access to basic services	1	2021	100	Percentage	FCSC	WHO
Indicator 1.4.2 Proportion of total adult population with secure tenure rights to land, (a) with legally recognized documentation, and (b) who perceive their rights to land as secure, by sex and type of tenure	2	2021	100	Percentage	FCSC	FAO, UN-HABITAT
Target 1.5: By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters						
Indicator 1.5.1 Number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population	1	2021	0	Percentage	NCEMA	UNDRR



SDG 2: Zero Hunger

End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

Indicator	Tier	Latest Year	Value	Unit	Source	Custodian Agency(ies)
Target 2.1: Universal access to safe and nutritious food						
Indicator 2.1.2 Prevalence of food insecurity	1	2021	7.53%	Percentage	MOCCAIE	FAO
Target 2.2: By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons						
Indicator 2.2.1 Prevalence of stunting (height for age <-2 standard deviation from the median of the World Health Organization (WHO) Child Growth Standards) among children under 5 years of age	1	2020	2.58		MOHAP	UNECEF, WHO, World Bank
Target 2.a: Increase investment, including through enhanced international cooperation, in rural infrastructure, agricultural research and extension services, technology development and plant and livestock gene banks in order to enhance agricultural productive capacity in developing countries, in particular least developed countries						
Indicator 2.a.1 The agriculture orientation index for government expenditures, by nation	1	2020	0.9	Percentage	MOF	FAO





SDG 3: Good Health and Wellbeing

Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Indicator	Tier	Latest Year	Value	Unit	Source	Custodian Agency(ies)
Target 3.1: By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births						
Indicator 3.1.1 Maternal mortality ratio	1	2021	3		MOHAP	WHO
Indicator 3.1.2 Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel	1	2021	100	Percentage	SDG Index 2022	WHO
Target 3.2: By 2030, end preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age, with all countries aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births and under-5 mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1,000 live births						
Indicator 3.2.1 Under-5 mortality rate per 1,000 births by Emirates	1	2020	6.6	Death per 1,000 live births	SDG Index 2022	WHO
Indicator 3.2.2 Neonatal mortality rate per 1,000 births by Emirate (2018)	1	2020	3.6	Death per 1,000 live births	SDG Index 2022	WHO
Target 3.3: By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases						
Indicator 3.3.1 Number of new HIV infections per 1,000 uninfected population, by sex, age and key populations	1	2020	0		SDG Index 2022	WHO
Indicator 3.3.2 Tuberculosis incidence per 100,000 population	1	2020	0.79		SDG Index 2022	WHO
Indicator 3.3.3 Malaria incidence per 1,000 population	1	2020	0		ESCWA	WHO
Indicator 3.3.4 Hepatitis B incidence per 100,000 population	1	2020	13		MOHAP	WHO
Indicator 3.3.5 Number of people requiring interventions against neglected tropical diseases	1	2020	0		MOHAP	WHO



Indicator	Tier	Latest Year	Value	Unit	Source	Custodian Agency(ies)
Target 3.4: By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being						
Indicator 3.4.1 Mortality rate attributed to cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes or chronic respiratory disease (Colorectal Cancer)	1	2020	12.7		MOHAP	WHO
Indicator 3.4.2 Suicide mortality rate	1	2020	1.3	Percentage	MOHAP	WHO
Target 3.6: By 2020, halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents						
Indicator 3.6.1 Death rate due to road traffic injuries	1	2020	3.04	Number of road traffic fatal injury deaths per 100,000 population	MOHAP & MOI	WHO
Target 3.7: By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes						
Indicator 3.7.1 Proportion of women of reproductive age (aged 15–49 years) who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods	1	2020	67.2		MOHAP	WHO
Indicator 3.7.2 Adolescent birth rate (aged 10-14 years; aged 15-19 years) per 1,000 women in that age group	1	4.5			MOHAP	WHO
Target 3.8: Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all						
Indicator 3.8.1 Coverage of essential health services	1	2020	78%		MOHAP	WHO
Target 3.9: By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination						
Indicator 3.9.1 Mortality rate attributed to household and ambient air pollution	1	2020	16		MOHAP	WHO





Indicator	Tier	Latest Year	Value	Unit	Source	Custodian Agency(ies)
Target 3.a: Strengthen the implementation of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in all countries, as appropriate						
Indicator 3.a.1 Age-standardized prevalence of current tobacco use among persons aged 15 years and older	1	2020	9.3%		MOHAP	WHO
Target 3.b: Support the research and development of vaccines and medicines for the communicable and non-communicable diseases that primarily affect developing countries, provide access to affordable essential medicines and vaccines, in accordance with the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health, which affirms the right of developing countries to use to the full the provisions in the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights regarding flexibilities to protect public health, and, in particular, provide access to medicines for all						
Indicator 3.b.1: Proportion of the target population covered by all vaccines included in their national programme	1	2020	99%	Percentage	MOHAP	WHO, UNICEF
Target 3.c: Substantially increase health financing and the recruitment, development, training and retention of the health workforce in developing countries, especially in least developed countries and small island developing States						
Indicator 3.c.1 Health worker density and distribution	1	2020	142.11	(per 10,000 population)	MOHAP	WHO
Target 3.d: Strengthen the capacity of all countries, in particular developing countries, for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks						
Indicator 3.d.1 International Health Regulations (IHR) capacity and health emergency preparedness	1	2020	100		ESCWA	WHO



SDG 4: Quality Education

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

Indicator	Tier	Latest Year	Value	Unit	Source	Custodian Agency(ies)
Target 4.2: By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education						
Indicator 4.2.2 Participation rate in organized learning (one year before the official primary entry age), by sex		2020	99.70%	Percentage	ESCWA	UNESCO-UIS
Target 4.a: Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all						
Indicator 4.a.1: Proportion of schools offering basic services, by type of service	1	2020	100%	Percentage	MOE	UNESCO-UIS
Target 4.c: By 2030, substantially increase the supply of qualified teachers, including through international cooperation for teacher training in developing countries, especially least developed countries and small island developing States						
Indicator 4.c.1: Proportion of teachers with the minimum required qualifications, by education level	2	2020	100%	Percentage	MOE	UNESCO-UIS



SDG 5: Gender Equality

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Indicator	Tier	Latest Year	Value	Unit	Source	Custodian Agency(ies)
Target 5.5: Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life						
Indicator 5.5.1: Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments and local governments. Proportion of women in the Federal National Council	1	2021	Females: 50% Males: 50%	Percentage	GBC	IPU, UN Women
Indicator 5.5.2: Proportion of women in managerial positions (%)	1	2020	Females: 17.7% Males: 82.3%	Percentage	FCSC	ILO
Target 5.b: Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women						
Indicator 5.b.1: Proportion of individuals who own a mobile telephone, by sex in 2017 (%)	2	2020	100	Percentage	ESCWA	ITU





SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation

Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

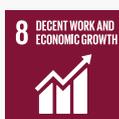
Indicator	Tier	Latest Year	Value	Unit	Source	Custodian Agency(ies)
Target 6.1: By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all						
Indicator 6.1.1: Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services	2	2021	100%	Percentage	FCSC	WHO, UNICEF
Target 6.2: By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations						
Indicator 6.2.1: Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services	2	2021	100%	Percentage	FCSC	WHO, UNICEF
Target 6.3: By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally						
Indicator 6.3.1 Proportion of domestic and industrial wastewater flows safely treated	2	2020	95.9%	Percentage	ESCWA	WHO, UN-HABITAT
Target 6.5: By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate						
Indicator 6.5.1 Degree of integrated water resources management	1	2020	79		MOEI	UNEP



SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy

Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

Indicator	Tier	Latest Year	Value	Unit	Source	Custodian Agency(ies)
Target 7.1: By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy service						
Indicator 7.1.1: Proportion of population with access to electricity	1	2021	100%	Percentage	FCSC	World Bank
Indicator 7.1.2: Proportion of population with primary reliance on clean fuels and technology (2015)	1	2020	99.8%	Percentage	FCSC	WHO



SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

Indicator	Tier	Latest Year	Value	Unit	Source	Custodian Agency(ies)
Target 8.1: Sustain per capita economic growth in accordance with national circumstances and, in particular, at least 7 per cent gross domestic product growth per annum in the least developed countries						
Indicator 8.1.1 Annual growth rate of real GDP per capita	1	2021	0.8	Percentage	FCSC	
Target 8.6: By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training						
Indicator 8.6.1 Proportion of youth (aged 15-24 years) not in education, employment or training	1	2020	11.3		FCSC	ILO
Target 8.7: Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms						
Indicator 8.7.1 Proportion and number of children aged 5–17 years engaged in child labour, by sex and age	2	2021	0		FCSC	UNECEF





Target 8.9: By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products

Indicator 8.9.1 Tourism direct GDP as a proportion of total GDP and in growth rate	2	2020	6.1		MOEC	UNWTO
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Target 8.10: Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and expand access to banking, insurance and financial services for all

Indicator 8.10.1: Number of commercial bank branches and automated teller machines (ATMs) per 100,000 adults	1	2020	Bank branches per 100,000 adults: 8 ATMs per 100,000 Adults: 52.5	Per 100,000 habitant	"CBUAE ESCWA"	IMF
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SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

Indicator	Tier	Latest Year	Value	Unit	Source	Custodian Agency(ies)
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Target 9.1: Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and transborder infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all

Indicator 9.1.1: Proportion of the rural population who live within 2 km of an all-season road	2	2020	99.49	Percentage	MOEI	World Bank
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Target 9.2: Promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and, by 2030, significantly raise industry's share of employment and gross domestic product, in line with national circumstances, and double its share in least developed countries

Indicator 9.2.1: Manufacturing value added as a percentage of GDP and per capita	1	2020	9.70%	Percentage	FCSC	UNIDO
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Indicator 9.2.2: Manufacturing employment as a proportion of total employment	1	2020	8%	Percentage	FCSC	UNIDO
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Target 9.3: Increase the access of small-scale industrial and other enterprises, in particular in developing countries, to financial services, including affordable credit, and their integration into value chains and markets

Indicator 9.3.1 Proportion of small-scale industries in total industry value added	2	2020	3.1 (small + micro)		FCSC	UNIDO
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Target 9.4: By 2030, upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes, with all countries taking action in accordance with their respective capabilities

Indicator 9.4.1 CO2 emission per unit of value added	1	2020	1.9		MOCCAIE	UNIDO
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Target 9.5: Enhance scientific research, upgrade the technological capabilities of industrial sectors in all countries, in particular developing countries, including, by 2030, encouraging innovation and substantially increasing the number of research and development workers per 1 million people and public and private research and development spending

Indicator 9.5.1: Research and development (R&D) expenditure as a proportion of GDP%	1	2020	1.45%	Percentage	Ministry of Economy	UNESCO-UIS
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Indicator 9.5.2 Researchers (in full-time equivalent) per million inhabitants (SDG INDEX)	1	2020	2472.7		MHRE	OECD
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Target 9.a: Facilitate sustainable and resilient infrastructure development in developing countries through enhanced financial, technological and technical support to African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States

Indicator 9.a.1: Total official international support (official development assistance plus other official flows) to infrastructure	1	2020	234,601,147	USD \$	MOFAIC	OECD
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Target 9.b: Support domestic technology development, research and innovation in developing countries, including by ensuring a conducive policy environment for, inter alia, industrial diversification and value addition to commodities

Indicator 9.b.1 Proportion of medium and high-tech industry value added in total value added	1	2020	37.49		FCSC	UNIDO
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Target 9.c: Significantly increase access to information and communications technology and strive to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet in least developed countries by 2020

Indicator: 9.c.1 Proportion of population covered by a mobile network, by technology/LTE/WiMAX mobile network. Percentage of the population covered by at least a 3G mobile network	1	2021	3G Mobile Network: 100% LTE/WiMAX Network: 99.82%	Percentage	TDRA	ITU
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SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities

Reduce inequality within and among countries

Indicator	Tier	Latest Year	Value	Unit	Source	Custodian Agency(ies)
Target 10.4: Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality						
Indicator 10.4.1: Labor share of GDP, comprising wages and social protection transfers (%)	1	2020	Country: 37.6	Percentage	FCSC	ILO
Target 10.7: Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies						
Indicator 10.7.3 Number of people who died or disappeared in the process of migration towards an international destination	1	2021	0		MOI & MOHAP	IOM, UN Migration
Target 10.a: Implement the principle of special and differential treatment for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, in accordance with World Trade Organization agreements						
Indicator 10.a.1 Proportion of tariff lines applied to imports from least developed countries and developing countries with zero-tariff	1	2020	3.3		Federal Authority For Identity And Citizenship (Customs Authority)	UNCTAD
Target 10.b: Encourage official development assistance and financial flows, including foreign direct investment, to States where the need is greatest, in particular least developed countries, African countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, in accordance with their national plans and programmes						
Indicator 10.b.1 Total resource flows for development, by recipient and donor countries and type of flow (e.g. official development assistance, foreign direct investment and other flows)	1	2020	12,370.8 MAED		MOFAIC	OECD



SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

Indicator	Tier	Latest Year	Value	Unit	Source	Custodian Agency(ies)
Target 11.1: By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums						
Indicator 11.1.1 Proportion of urban population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing	1	2020	0		MOEI	UN Habitat
Target 11.2: By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons						
Satisfaction with public transport		2021	84%	Percentage	"MOEI SDG Index"	UN Habitat
Target 11.5: By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations						
Indicator 11.5.1 Number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population	1	2020	15		MOHAP	UNDRR
Target 11.6: By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management						
Annual mean concentration of particulate matter of less than 2.5 microns in diameter (PM2.5) (g/m3)		2020	40.9	Percentage	MOCCAIE	UN Habitat
Target 11.a: Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning						
Indicator 11.a.1 Countries that have national urban policies or regional development plans that respond to population dynamics; ensure balanced territorial development; and increase local fiscal space (1 YES; 0 NO)	1	2020	1		MOEI	UN Habitat





Target 11.b: By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, holistic disaster risk management at all levels

Indicator 11.b.1 Number of countries that adopt and implement national disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030	1	2021	1			NCEMA	UNDRR
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SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production

Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Indicator	Tier	Latest Year	Value	Unit	Source	Custodian Agency(ies)
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Target 12.4: By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment

Indicator 12.4.1: Number of parties to international multilateral environmental agreements on hazardous waste, and other chemicals that meet their commitments and obligations in transmitting information as required by each relevant agreement	1	2020	91%	Percentage	MOCCA	UNEP
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SDG 13: Climate Action

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Indicator	Tier	Latest Year	Value	Unit	Source	Custodian Agency(ies)
Target 13.2: Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning						
Globally in the Environmental Agreements indicator		2020	1	Rank	The World Competitiveness Yearbook by the International Institute for Management Development	UNEP



SDG 14: Life Below Water

Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

Indicator	Tier	Latest Year	Value	Unit	Source	Custodian Agency(ies)
Target 14.3: Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels						
Indicator 14.3.1: Average marine acidity (pH) measured at agreed suite of representative sampling stations	2	2020	8.00	pH on total scale	MOCCAIE	IOC-UNESCO
14.5 By 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information						
Indicator 14.5.1: Coverage of protected areas in relation to marine areas	1	2021	11.50%	Percentage	MOCCAIE ESCWA	IUCN





SDG 15: Life on Land

Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

Indicator	Tier	Latest Year	Value	Unit	Source	Custodian Agency(ies)
Target 15.1: By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements						
Indicator 15.1.2: Proportion of important sites for terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity that are covered by protected areas, by ecosystem type (This is a proxy indicator for the UAE: Percentage of Terrestrial Protected Areas in the UAE)	1	2020	18.4%	Percentage	MOCCAЕ	UNEP-WCMC, UNEP, IUCN
Target 15.7: Take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products						
Indicator 15.7.1: Proportion of traded wildlife that was poached or illicitly trafficked	2	2020	0.24%	Percentage	MOCCAЕ	UNODC, CITES



SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

Indicator	Tier	Latest Year	Value	Unit	Source	Custodian Agency(ies)
Target 16.1: Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere						
Indicator 16.1.1: Number of victims of intentional homicide per 100,000 population, by sex (in %)	2	2020	Male 0.63% Female 0.69%	Percentage	MOI	"UNODC, CITES"
Target 16.6: Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels						
Indicator 16.6.1: Primary government expenditures as a proportion of original approved budget, by sector (or by budget codes or similar)	2	2020	96.6%	Percentage	MOF	World Bank
Target 16.9: By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration						
Indicator 16.9.1: Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority, by age	1	2020	100%	Percentage	FCSC	UNSD, UNICEF



SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals

Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

Indicator	Tier	Latest Year	Value	Unit	Source	Custodian Agency(ies)
Target 17.1: Strengthen domestic resource mobilization, including through international support to developing countries, to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection						
Indicator 17.1.1: Total revenue as a proportion of GDP (%)	1	2020	27.9	Percentage	"MOF ESCWA"	IMF
17.8 Fully operationalize the technology bank and science, technology and innovation capacity-building mechanism for least developed countries by 2017 and enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology						
Indicator 17.8.1: Proportion of individuals using the Internet	1	2021	100%		TDRA SDGs Index	ITU





SDG Photography Award Photographer Credits



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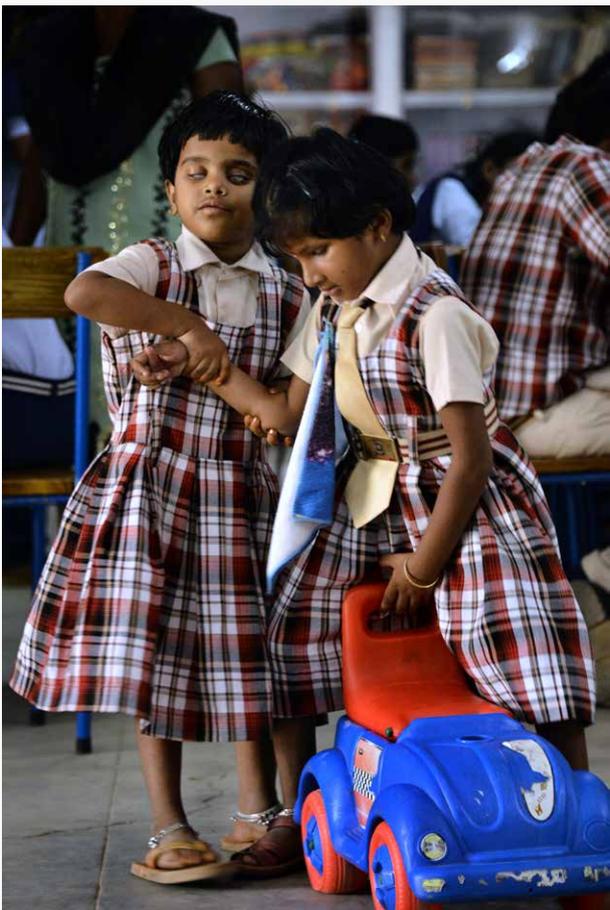
Didit Tri Prasetya | Indonesia



Andreja Ravnak | Slovenia



Po Yi Li | Taiwan Province of China



VENKATA SUNDER RAO PAMPANA | India



Tan Kok Chaon | Malaysia



Myo Min Kywe | Myanmar





Reiko Takahashi | Japan



Abhijit Banerjee | India



Ali Ahmed Al Ali | United Arab Emirates



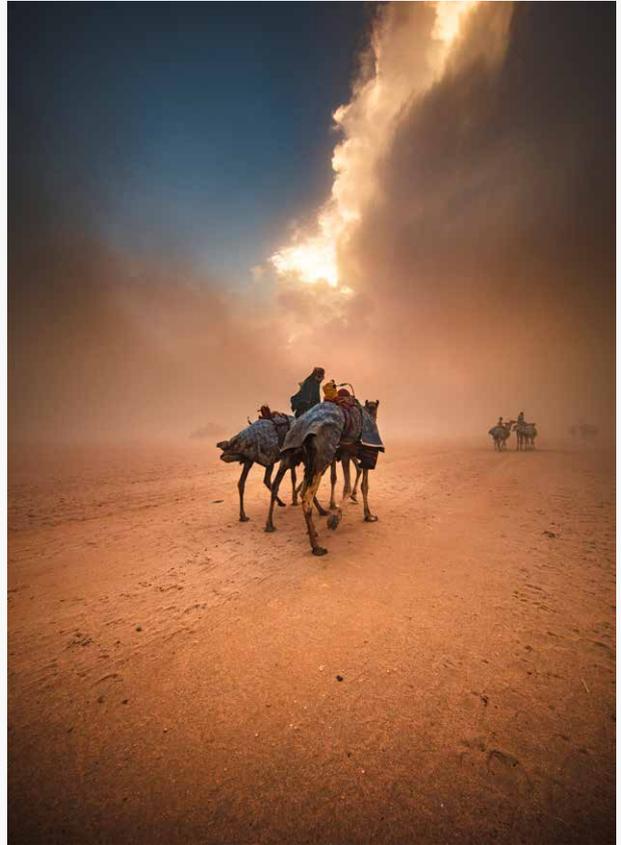
Sameh Housny Aly Flifal | Egypt



Trần Ngọc Anh | Vietnam



Mohamed Abdulla Mohamed | United Arab Emirates



Ziryab Al Ghaberi | Yemen



Sudipto Das | India



Fajar Kristianto | Indonesia

Many photographs, used as introductory pages of this report, has been extracted from the SDG Photography Award 2019. The photographs above showcase the full complement of each photo.

We thank the photographers for their continuous support to highlight SDG challenges and opportunities to the global community.





Highlights of the UAE National Committee on SDGs

March: The UAE was nominated to join the High-Level Panel of the UN Secretary-General on Global Sustainability to create a new blueprint for sustainable development. The panel issued a report on “Resilient People, Resilient Planet: A Future Worth Choosing” with 56 recommendations for eradicating poverty and reducing inequality, while combating climate change

2012

May: UAE invited by the UN Secretary-General to join the Leadership Council of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)

June: UAE provided input to the “An Action Agenda for Sustainable Development”, a report produced by the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) established by the UN Secretary-General

September: United Nations High-Level Political Forum for Development Conference Sustainable Development (HLPF) Inaugurated

2013

July: UAE actively participated in the 30-seat UN General Assembly Open Working Group (OWG) on SDGs

August: Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable development financing Strategy

October: Launch of the intergovernmental preparatory process for the 3rd financing for Development Conference

2014

August: SDGs were finalised after eight intergovernmental negotiations

September: Launch of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

September: The UAE pledged to leave no one behind and to shift the world onto a sustainable and resilient path

2015

January: 1st drafting session on the outcome document for the 3rd financing for Development Conference, with participation from the UAE

July: UAE supported the 3rd UN International Conference on Financing for Development. The UN Member States and development leaders endorsed Addis Ababa Action Agenda, a comprehensive financing framework to achieve the 2030 Agenda

September: UN Summit for the Adoption of the 2030 Agenda Sustainable Development and the SDGs. UAE endorsed SDGs

December: UAE joined world leaders at the 21st session of the Conference of Parties (COP 21) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and adopted the Paris Accord, a universal climate agreement to keep warming below 2°C

2016



- January:** World Data Forum (WDF) The UAE wins bid to host the second United Nations World Data Forum
- January:** Inauguration of UAE SDG National Committee UAE's National Committee on SDGs was formed by decree of the UAE Cabinet with HE Reem bint Ebrahim al Hashimy, Minister of State for International Cooperation as the chairperson
- February:** SDGs in Action at the world government summit (WGS) In collaboration with the UN, World Bank and UN Foundation, the 2nd edition of SDGs in Action at WGS brought together participants from around the world to consider the potential of STI in implementation of the SDGs
- February:** SDG Annual Report, Release of UAE National Committee's 1st first annual report, which constitutes a compilation of the programs, policies and achievements of initial implementation efforts
- October:** National Committee Annual Event, UAE National Committee's first annual stakeholder event, to review the progress implementation of SDGs. Participants included government officials, representatives from the private sector, academia, NGOs, youth groups and officials from international organisations

2017

- February:** Launch UAE National committee's 2nd Annual Report on SDGs
- February:** SDGs in Action at the WGS Theme: Global Partnerships
- February:** Launch of the Global Councils on SDGs in collaboration with the Prime Minister's Office of the UAE at the World Government Summit held in Dubai
- June:** Soft launch of the Private Sector Advisory Council on SDGs
- 24. July: UAE Voluntary National Review at the UN HLPF
- October:** Host UN World Data Forum Dubai
- 26. October: National Committee Annual Event
- October:** Official launch of the Private Sector Advisory Council on SDGs
- October:** Announcement and an open nomination for the Youth Advisory Council on SDGs
- October:** The launch of the UAE SDG Data Hub

2018

- January:** Launching the SDG Schools Awareness Campaign
- February:** SDGs in Action at the WGS Theme: Leadership for achieving the goals
- February:** Official launch of the Youth Advisory Council on SDGs
- February:** Launch UAE National committee's 3rd Annual Report on SDGs
- May:** Launch of the SDG Photography Award
- May:** Host a focus group dedicated to SDG 5 with selected companies from the private sector to discuss policies focused on gender balance in the workplace
- June:** The launch of 'Achieving SDGs in the UAE, Private Sector Contribution' Report
- September:** The launch of the SDG Data Readiness Race
- September:** Conducting the SDG Awareness Survey
- November:** The UAE SDG Data Hub won IdeasUK Special Judges Award

2019





- January:** Hosting the SDGs Excellence in implementation event on the sidelines of ADSW
- January:** The travelling exhibition of the SDG Photography Award, hosted in multiple places around the UAE, such as The Dubai Mall, ADSW and UN World Urban Forum
- January:** Launch of 'Our World Through the Lens' special publication for the SDG Photography Award
- January:** The UAE SDG Data Hub won Excellence in GIS implementation Award by GISTEC
- July:** Host a side event on the sidelines of the UN HLPF for the Global Councils on SDGs titles: Solutions and Innovations from the SDG Global Councils
- July:** the UAE SDG Data Hub won Esri Special Achievement in GIS Award
- November:** the SDG Photography Award won IdeasUK award
- December:** SDGs in Action event (virtually), and the closer of the first term of the Global Councils on SDGs initiative

2020

- February:** Conduct a survey for communication directors and focal points for the UAE national Committee on SDGs
- June:** The launch of UAE National committee's 4th Annual Report on SDGs
- September:** Soft Launch of the Global Councils on SDGs initiative in its second term
- September:** the launch of 'Accelerating achievement of the SDGs in the UAE: A blueprint for public-private data-sharing partnerships' report in partnership with the Private Sector Advisory Council on SDGs
- September:** Open nominations for the SDG Young Leaders Program

2021

- January:** The launch of the second term of the Global Councils on SDGs and their work plans
- January:** The launch of the SDG Young Leaders Program
- January:** SDG National Implementation event
- January:** The first VNR workshop for the National Committee on SDGs members
- January:** Signage of the UAE private sector pledges to accelerate gender balance in leadership
- March:** SDGs in Action 2022 at the World Government Summit. Theme: Scaling New Heights for the Future of Humanity
- March:** Launch of the Global Councils on SDGs Progress Report
- March:** World Government Summit - Youth for SDGs. Theme: Compassion, Passion, and Action for a better future.

2022



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