UAE AND THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

EXCELLENCE IN IMPLEMENTATION

2017

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

اللجنة الوطنية لأهداف التنمية المستدامة
National Committee on Sustainable Development Goals

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FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
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...2017

SPECIAL MESSAGE

The Sustainable Development Goals are the defining multilateral agreement through 2030 - and one especially central to the United Arab Emirates as both a country and a major international donor. Never before have the 193 countries of the United Nations - and hundreds of thousands of stakeholders - agreed on such a far-reaching vision for our collective future.

The Goals enshrine a new way of understanding and undertaking development in a holistic manner. No longer is it solely a measure of how much people earn or how long they live, but about how they experience life. It takes into account a tremendous range of factors, from the plastic floating in their oceans, through mental well-being and happiness, to their ownership of a mobile phone. Moreover, the new definition puts the emphasis on the long-term. Development that cannot provide for future generations economically, environmentally, and socially is not true development.

The UAE believes this focus on high-quality life for future generations is the mindset we need to succeed as a nation, and to maximize the impact of our foreign aid. The UAE played an important role in the dialogue around SDG and make them the core outcome of the Rio+20 Summit, as well as to institutionalize them from then until UN adoption in 2015. We challenged global perception of our region through our championship of women's empowerment, sustainable energy, and climate action, alongside our world-class work on education, poverty eradication, and health, among other fields. The SDGs are therefore part of our legacy, and a reinforcement of our plans for the future.

The progress we have made in only the last year is encouraging. The UAE's National Committee on SDGs is actively aligning the work of all our ministries to achieve the SDGs as part of our existing development frameworks like Visions 2021 and 2071. Our cabinet - with landmark expansion into happiness, tolerance, future, and youth portfolios in 2016 - continues to evolve with the reconceptualization of sustainable development, appointing ministers for food security, advanced sciences, and artificial intelligence. The youth engagement strategy means that the next generation is actively mainstreaming the SDGs and their ethos into the blueprint for the country. Abroad, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation has released the UAE's first-ever aid policy, with the SDGs at their heart in terms of both content and - critically - reporting. And, to deepen all this work, the National Committee on SDGs will lead a national process to prepare for our first-ever official international review on implementation - the Voluntary National Review - at the United Nations High-Level Political Forum in July 2018.

While all SDGs are essential, we must not risk false equivalencies. The most serious gaps need to be highlighted. The role of the National Committee on SDGs, as well as the UAE in the UN, is to raise these red flags and mobilize action to address them.

Meaningful change is never straightforward. But I am confident that we in the UAE now have both the mindset and the systems in place to make a real difference towards the Sustainable Development Goals - and to continue enhancing our efforts. We owe it ourselves and to our posterity to dream big and deliver accordingly.

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

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRWOMAN

Partnerships Supporting Implementation for Our Common Future

Two years have passed since the global community ratified the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in September 2015. It is evident in the frenetic pace at which conversations about making the goals a reality have occurred, that countries the world over are committed to achieving the shared vision for a common future which the SDGs represent. This commitment is highlighted in the growing number of member-states that participate in the voluntary national reviews at the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) in July each year, from twenty-two countries in 2016, to over forty in 2017. In July 2018, the United Arab Emirates will be one of them.

It is by now a much-lauded fact that the UAE's commitment to sustainable development is at the heart of the country's vision for its future. The ideas and principles of sustainable development permeate Vision 2021 - the UAE's national development plan - and the plans of the seven Emirates. In fact, making it over the challenging bar that the SDGs prescribe by the year 2030 is only the start - last year, the UAE announced a fifty-year strategy for national development, the UAE Centennial 2071. Our national dialogue on UAE's development is located on the premise that it is essential to redefine the 20th century version of the societal compact that has regulated the relationship between citizen and the state and contemplate the bonds that our citizens of tomorrow will have with our state and the world of the future. It is in its demands to revaluate the parameters of our responsibilities from an intergenerational perspective that sustainable development is truly transformational. Therefore, in the UAE, the national dialogue to shape the 2071 strategy has begun and it will derive significantly from UAE's current National Agenda, will use as milestones the ambitions of subsequent development plans, with the fulfillment of the SDGs being an important measure of progress in the year 2030.

However, to say more about the tangible aspects of how the SDGs will be progressed in the UAE, I'd like to highlight three in particular. First, the federal governance mechanism that will localize and implement the SDGs in the UAE. Second, how the SDGs are shaping the portfolio of international cooperation. Lastly, UAE's role in contributing to and shaping the global dialogue on sustainable development and forging partnerships to mobilize action on the SDGs.

With the establishment of the National Committee on SDGs in early 2017, the UAE Federal Government prioritised the development of a national implementation plan that aligns and integrates the SDGs with the UAE's development agenda. This national committee serves as a platform for multi-stakeholder engagement and coordination; it provides the whole-of-government systems and procedures for information-sharing, policy coherence and progress review. This report is the Committee's first official account of its activities and will form the basis for the UAE's Voluntary National Review in July 2018.

Earlier this year, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation published the UAE Foreign Assistance Policy, a reaffirmation of the federal government's commitment to supporting the achievement of the SDGs globally. The foreign assistance policy framework of the UAE is built on the comparative advantages of the country's institutions and its fundamental values as an open, inclusive and progressive society. Another objective at the core of the policy is that development and technical assistance to partner countries should contribute to the achievements of their sustainable development priorities. It is a well-known fact that the UAE's Official Development Assistance (ODA) as a ratio of Gross National Income (GNI) is among the highest in the world and assisting other countries in achieving the SDGs will remain a centrepiece of the UAE's efforts.

Finally, as UAE's flagship event on global issues - the annual World Government Summit (WGS) - grows in stature, so does its program of events on the SDGs. The 'SDGs in Action @ WGS' series is now in its third iteration following highly successful sessions on monitoring and reporting, financing and the role of science, technology and innovation. The 2018 event is themed 'Partnerships Supporting Innovation for our Common Future'. At SDGs in Action this year, the UAE will also launch a global initiative that will focus on developing innovative solutions for the SDGs and mobilizing the support needed to see them through implementation.

Preparations for Expo 2020 Dubai are also fully underway. In the 167-year history of world expos, Expo 2020 will be the first to be held in the Middle East, Africa, and South Asia (MEASA) region, the first in the Arab world, and the first to offer all its expected 180-plus participating nations their own pavilion to showcase the best of their innovations and culture. It is also expected to set new records for attendance at a World Expo with 70 percent of its anticipated 25 million visitors coming from overseas. With a theme of Connecting Minds, Creating the Future, and the sustainability pavilion being one of the highlights of the event, Expo 2020 reflects UAE's ambition to build effective partnerships for the 21st century to foster economic development, social inclusion, and environmental sustainability.

I look forward to the prospect of SDGs serving as a guiding path for global development to ensure a brighter future for all.

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

FOREWORD

UAE and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
Excellence in Implementation

Individually and as a collective, countries are striving to attain happiness, prosperity and wellbeing for the people of the world. Some countries are succeeding in this endeavor; others, sadly, for a variety of reasons, are struggling.

Last year, UAE made a commitment to its people that by the year 2071, they would be living in the best country in the world as adjudicated by reputable global organizations using a range of criteria. Not only that, but in keeping with its tradition of being an outward looking country, the UAE is committed to remaining a source of support to those most in need of life's basic needs and necessities. The UAE's vision for itself and for its role in the world is to ensure happiness, peaceful coexistence, social justice and dignity for all.

The dedication with which the UAE contributed to the formulation of Agenda 2030 and the pace with which it has adopted and implemented the framework, is testament to the level of the country's ambition to pursue a trajectory of sustainable development. In January 2017, the UAE Cabinet decreed to put SDGs at the heart of the government's development plans, its strategies and operations, at both federal and local levels. A National Committee on SDGs involving 15 federal-level ministries, authorities and councils was announced and in 2017, this Committee agreed upon and set in motion a comprehensive implementation plan for the SDGs. The SDGs and associated targets and indicators were mapped to federal and local development plans and aligned with the core mandates of portfolio Ministries. Given the significant overlap between UAE's current national development plan (Vision 2021) and the SDGs, a detailed strategy of concurrently progressing both frameworks was developed. One outcome of the Committees' discussions on implementation was a consensus that the existing machinery of government had the capacity, the flexibility, the information channels and means of service delivery to accommodate both, Vision 2021 and the SDGs. Part 1 of this report details the governance, performance tracking and service-delivery mechanisms by which the UAE will progress its national development framework and the SDGs.

In recognition of the fact that the SDGs can only be successful if many governmental and non-governmental stakeholders are involved, a comprehensive outreach and engagement plan was developed. Over a hundred federal and local government entities from the seven emirates were involved in consultations. Outreach with the private sector, academia, civil society and youth groups was undertaken to ensure that a range of voices outside of government were involved in shaping the implementation plan. The first phase of this outreach concluded in a national event on SDGs - held in October 2017 - that was attended by over 500 officials including members of UAE's royal families, ministers, director generals, global experts, youth groups and representatives from academia and civil society. The strategic objectives of the National Committee's engagement plan, the process by which it was enacted over the past year and its outcomes are highlighted in the pages that follow.

This annual report details the efforts of the National Committee in its first full year as steward of the SDGs in the UAE. The efforts featured in Part 2 of this report are only the highlights package of the actual outcomes achieved by the UAE, domestically and internationally. As vice-chair of the National Committee, it gives me great pride to see the collective efforts of the committee members and the contribution of dozens of officials from within and outside of government culminating in this annual report, which will also be the basis of UAE's first Voluntary National Review at the UN High-Level Political Forum in July 2018.

His Excellency Abdulla Nasser Lootah
Director General of the Federal Competitiveness and Statistics Authority
Vice-chair of the UAE's National Committee on SDGs

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PART - 1
UAE AND 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 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, 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 State and H.E. Reem bint Ebrahim Al Hashimy, Minister of State for International Cooperation, also represent the UAE on the Leadership Council of the UN 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: http://unsdsn.org/about-us/leadership-council/

CHAPTER 2:
UAE's NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

GOVERNANCE

In January 2017, 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 and Chairwoman of the Federal Competitiveness and Statistics Authority (FCSA) chairs the National Committee. FCSA serves as vice-chair and secretariat for the Committee. The Ministry of Cabinet Affairs and The Future, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and 12 other Federal-level government organizations are also members and are responsible for the national implementation for SDGs, monitoring and reporting of progress towards targets and stakeholder engagement.

UAE's National Committee on SDGs

Members of the National Committee have a variety of sector specific and cross cutting roles to implement the SDGs. Portfolio agencies, such as the Ministries of Education, Health and Energy coordinate the implementation of SDGs that most closely correspond to their core business, however they also support lead agencies for other SDGs. For instance, the Ministry of Health & Prevention, the lead agency for SDG 3 (Good Health & Well-being), collaborates with the Gender Balance Council and the Ministry of Climate Change and the Environment to advance targets in SDG 5 (Gender Equality) and SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) respectively. The Gender Balance Council lead efforts to progress SDG 5 and has a cross cutting role to address gender specific issues across the SDG framework.

SDG targets are also mapped to federal agencies that are not part of the National Committee. For instance the Ministry of Justice advances targets in SDG 16 (Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions) working closely with the Ministry of Interior.

The table below details the primary roles of the agencies that are National Committee members[3]:

National Committee Member	Role as Coordinating Agency
Federal Competitiveness & Statistics Authority	Vice Chair and secretariat of the National Committee
Ministry of Cabinet and Future	Cross cutting role for state sector strategy and performance
Ministry of Community Development	SDGs 1, 10
Ministry of Climate Change & Environment	SDGs 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 & Industry	SDGs 6, 7
Ministry of Human Resources & Emiratisation	SDG 8
Ministry of Economy	SDG 9
Ministry of Infrastructure Development	SDG 11
Ministry of Interior	SDG 16
Ministry of Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation	SDG 17 and cross cutting role on international engagement
Central Bank	Cross cutting role liaising with the Ministry of Finance
General Youth & Sports Authority*	Cross cutting role to ensure policy coherence for youth welfare

*In October 2017 a revised mandate for the General Youth & Sports Authority was announced - the portfolios for youth and sports are no longer overseen by the same authority

Other organizations whose core business overlaps with the SDGs are invited to be observers to the proceedings of the National Committee depending on the topics of discussion. These organizations include federal government entities that have a significant supporting role in the implementation of SDGs, think tanks and representatives of local government.

In 2017, the National Committee's priorities were to map the SDG targets to UAE's federal and local development plans. A prioritization exercise for SDG targets was undertaken and dialogue to incorporate priority SDG targets in Cabinet's decision processes and the UAE government's performance management framework and statistical reporting processes was initiated. A countrywide effort to raise awareness of the SDGs and to engage with a range of stakeholders across federal and local government, the private sector, academia and civil society organizations, was launched.

Mandate of the National Committee on SDGs

1. Align the SDGs with UAE's national development priorities and serve as a coordination body to implement the SDGs
2. Undertake regular follow up and review of progress on implementation
3. Manage domestic and international stakeholder engagement
4. Coordinate the collection of official statistics, identify new data sources and assist the National Statistics System to build capacity to monitor and report on SDG indicators
5. Manage adhoc SDG-related projects assigned by Cabinet

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3 For goals with targets assigned to multiple agencies, the National Committee member assigned the highest proportion of targets in a particular SDG is designated coordinating agency. For instance 7 out 12 targets in SDG 9 are mapped to the Ministry of Economy which is designated coordinating agency for that goal. Target mapping is reviewed annually to account for changes in portfolios of Ministries

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Role of the Secretariat of the National Committee on SDGs

- Provide strategic advice and support for the implementation of the SDGs
- Organize quarterly meetings of the National Committee, identify implementation priorities and serve a coordination role for review and follow up
- Liaise with National Committee members to manage external engagement with domestic and international stakeholders

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"SDGs: Excellence in Implementation"

The theme of the 2017 annual event on SDGs was 'Excellence in Implementation'. Members of the National Committee provided an overview of the strategic framework for implementation of the SDGs. In addition, case studies highlighting SDG implementation in selected areas of policy in the UAE were presented. The UN Sustainable Solutions Development Network (UN SDSN) presented the SDG Index, which assesses the global community's progress towards the SDGs, highlighting how cross-country comparisons can be used to address policy gaps that will assist in the fulfillment of the SDGs. Finally, the importance of and mechanisms for policy coherence and monitoring and reporting were discussed, emphasizing the all-important interface between data and policy for the success of the SDGs.

IMPLEMENTATION

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

The state sector performance architecture that the UAE has implemented to progress its national development priorities aims to ensure that government is agile, efficient and on the leading-edge of public sector administration across the full spectrum of its activities, from the policy-making process to service delivery. The same performance architecture that spans the breadth and depth of government, across the federal and local levels, will be used to localize, harmonize and monitor progress on the SDGs (see Chapter 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.

Principles of National Committee's Stakeholder Engagement Strategy

AWARE	ENGAGE	MAINTAIN
■ Define the Challenge (Internal and External Challenges)	■ Define Communication Tools (UAE and International Channels)	■ Reports and Follow-ups (Report and Evaluate)
■ Define SDGs and their Role (Domestic and International Objectives)	■ Define National Initiatives (National Matrix: Target, Action, Mechanisms)	■ Support Stakeholders (Achievement Respository)
■ Define Stakeholders and Subcommittees (Domestic and International Partners)	■ Define International Initiatives (International Matrix: Target, Action, Mechanisms)	■ Coaching and Motivating Stakeholders (Training, Coordination and Partnerships)

4 For details on the National Committee's engagement with specific stakeholders, see chapter 5

CONSULTATION PROCESS FOR IMPLEMENTATION AND ANNUAL REPORTING

The National Committee is committed to engaging a wide range of governmental and non-government stakeholders in the annual reporting on SDGs. The consultation process for this report was organized in parallel with the stakeholder engagement and outreach for 2017. Partners within and outside of government were invited to participate in awareness raising sessions on the UAE's implementation plan and to contribute details of programs, initiatives, data and success stories on themes related to sustainable development.

In October 2017, the Committee hosted its first, annual, stakeholder meeting on SDGs. The purpose of the Committee's annual events is to convene senior UAE government officials and representatives from the private sector, academia, NGOs and youth groups to inform them of the ongoing program of work for the implementation of the SDGs in the UAE. The event also serves as a platform for dialogue and coordination for the review of cross-sectoral implementation plans. The first draft of this report was based on the outcomes of the October 2017 meeting. Thereafter, stakeholders were asked to review and provide feedback on subsequent drafts.

In 2018, the National Committee seeks to engage a wider range of partners, both nationally and internationally, with a specific focus on local government, youth and gender groups and the non-profit sector.

Timeline of National Committee Activities in 2017 & 2018

January **2017** — World Data Forum (WDF) — The UAE wins the bid to host the second World Data Forum

January **2017** — Inauguration of UAE SDG National Committee — UAE's National Committee on SDGs formed by decree of the UAE Cabinet with HE Reem Bint Ebrahim Al Hashimy, Minister of State of International Cooperation as Chairperson

February **2017** — SDGs in Action at the 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

April **2017** — 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 **2017** — SDG October Annual Event — UAE National Committee's first annual stakeholder event to review progress implementation of SDGs. Participants included government officials, respresentatives from the private sector, academia, NGOs, youth goups and officials from international organizations

February **2018** — Launch UAE National committee's 2nd Annual Report on SDG's

February **2018** — SDGs in Action at the WGS Theme: Global Partnerships

July **2018** — UAE Voluntary National Review UN HLPF

October **2018** — Host UN World Data Forum UAE

October **2018** — National Committee Annual Event

CHAPTER3:
MECHANISMS TO IMPLEMENT UAE's NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES AND AGENDA 2030

The UAE has one of the best performing public sectors in the world. Government in the UAE 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 in an open and transparent way and is underpinned by a systematic performance framework, a highly skilled civil service and efficient and innovative mechanisms for the delivery of public services.

This section describes the institutional architecture that services UAE's national development plans, and over the next 12 years, will faciliate 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 that align national and sub-national policies; and that the enabling technologies and stakeholder relationships are deployed to their full effect to achieve the SDGs.

Examples of Global Rankings of Government Performance 2017

Report	Indicator	Global Rank
World Competitiveness Yearbook, 2017 IMD	(Best) Government Decisions	1
Global Competitiveness Report - World Economic Forum 2017/18	Public Trust in Politicians	2
Global Competitiveness Report - World Economic Forum 2017/18	(Absence of) Favoritism in Decisions of Government Officials	2
World Competitiveness Yearbook, 2017 IMD	(Least) Bureaucracy	2
World Competitiveness Yearbook, 2017 IMD	Government Efficiency	4
World Competitiveness Yearbook, 2017 IMD	(Highest) Transparency	4

UAE's INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE

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

The UAE is governed by federal and local government authorities across the seven emirates. The Constitution sets out their powers and roles.

The key institutions of the federal government are:

1. Federal Supreme Council
2. President and Vice President
3. The Cabinet
4. Federal National Council
5. Federal Judicial Authority

Federal government authorities handle core policy and service delivery portfolios including foreign relations, defense, 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 their development trajectories using UAE's national vision, Vision 2021, as a template for forward planning.

UAE VISION 2021

In accordance with the principles of the founding fathers and under the patronage of H.H. Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the President of the UAE, the National Work Program was launched in 2005. This led to the development of 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 aims to position the UAE among the best countries in the world by the Golden Jubilee of the Union in 2021 (see Box below for more information about the pillars of UAE's Vision 2021).

Quote

"In a strong and safe union, knowledgeable and innovative Emiratis will confidently build a competitive and resilient economy. They will thrive as a cohesive society bonded to its identity, and enjoy the highest standards of living within a nurturing and sustainable environment."

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

Box

Vision Pillars

United in Responsibility
An Ambitious and Confident Nation Grounded in its Heritage

United in Knowledge
A Competitive Economy Driven by Knowledge and Innovation

United in Destiny
A Strong Union Bonded by a Common Destiny

United in Prosperity
A Nurturing and Sustainable Environment for Quality Living

UAE's Vision 2021

1. United in Responsibility: An ambitious and confident nation grounded in its heritage

Ambitious and responsible Emiratis will successfully carve out their future, actively engaging in an evolving socioeconomic environment, and drawing on their strong families and communities, moderate Islamic values, and deep-rooted heritage to build a vibrant and well-knit society.

2. United in Destiny: A strong union bonded by a common destiny

The UAE Federation will uphold the legacy of its Founding Fathers to ensure balanced development throughout the Emirates, through active coordination among levels of Government and integrated national planning and execution in all policy areas.

3. United in Knowledge: A Competitive Economy Driven by Knowledgeable and Innovative Emiratis
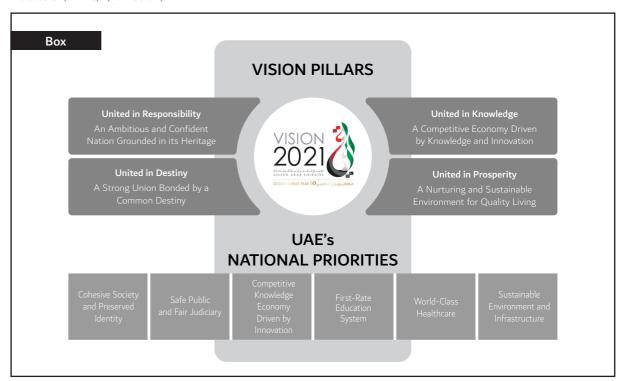
A diversified and flexible knowledge-based economy will be powered by skilled Emiratis and strengthened by world-class talent to ensure long-term prosperity for the UAE.

4. United in Prosperity: A nurturing and sustainable environment for quality living

Emiratis will enjoy the highest living standards, long and healthy lives, first-rate education and well-rounded lifestyles guaranteed by excellent public services and recreational activities, within a safe and rich natural and social environment.

In 2014, H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and the 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.

The agenda specifies a wide-ranging work program centered around 6 national priorities and 52 National Key Performance Indicators (NKPIs) (Box below).

Box

VISION PILLARS

United in Responsibility
An Ambitious and Confident Nation Grounded in its Heritage

United in Knowledge
A Competitive Economy Driven by Knowledge and Innovation

United in Destiny
A Strong Union Bonded by a Common Destiny

United in Prosperity
A Nurturing and Sustainable Environment for Quality Living

UAE's NATIONAL PRIORITIES

Cohesive Society and Preserved Identity | Safe Public and Fair Judiciary | Competitive Knowledge Economy Driven by Innovation | First-Rate Education System | World-Class Healthcare | Sustainable Environment and Infrastructure

1. Cohesive society and preserved identity

The UAE Vision 2021 National Agenda strives to preserve a cohesive society proud of its identity and sense of belonging. It promotes an inclusive environment that integrates all segments of society while preserving the UAE's unique culture, heritage and traditions and reinforces social and family cohesion. Furthermore, the National Agenda aims for the UAE to be among the highest ranked countries in the Human Development Index. Some of the NKPIs that measure the progress in achieving this priority are Human Development Index, World Happiness Index, Social Cohesion Index, and Family Cohesion Index.

2. Safe public and fair judiciary

The UAE Vision 2021 National Agenda aims for the UAE to be the safest place in the world. It seeks to reinforce its citizens' sense of security and achieve high global rankings in the areas of security, emergency preparedness, reliability of police & security services and road safety. The National Agenda reinforces the importance of a fair, transparent, efficient and proactive legal system that guarantees the rights of individuals and businesses. Some of the NKPIs that measure the progress in achieving this priority are indicators on sense of security, reliability of security and police services, average response times to emergencies, road traffic death rate and judicial system efficiency.

3. Competitive knowledge economy

The Vision 2021 National Agenda aims for the UAE to be at the heart of the global economy and be resilient and adaptive in the face of economic change. The vision focuses on transforming the UAE into one of world's most prominent economic, touristic and commercial capitals. The National Agenda aims to transition the UAE to a knowledge-based economy by promoting innovation and research and development, strengthening the regulatory framework for key sectors and encouraging the development of high value-adding industry sectors. Some of the NKPIs that measure the progress in achieving this priority are Gross National Income (GNI) per capital, net inflow of foreign direct investment as percentage of GDP, Ease of Doing Business Index, Global Competitiveness Index and growth in the non-oil sectors of the economy.

4. First-rate education system

Vision 2021 National Agenda emphasizes the development of a first-rate education system and begins by recommending a complete transformation of the current education system and teaching methods. There will be significant investments to promote and reinforce enrollment in preschools as this plays an important role in shaping children's personalities and their future. Furthermore, the National Agenda strives to ensure that students in the UAE rank among the best in the world in reading, mathematics and science exams and that they have a strong grasp of the Arabic language. Some of the NKPIs that measure the progress in achieving this priority are enrollment rate in preschools, upper secondary graduation rate, average TIMSS (Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study) score, average PISA (Programme for International Student Assessment) score, percentage of schools with high quality teachers, and percentage of schools with highly effective school leadership.

5. World-class healthcare

The UAE aims to develop the best healthcare system in the world. The Government is working with health authorities across the country to ensure that public and private hospitals are accredited according to clear national and international quality standards. Furthermore, the National Agenda emphasizes the importance of preventive medicine and seeks to reduce cancer and lifestyle related diseases such as diabetes and cardiovascular diseases to ensure longer, healthier lives for citizens and residents. In addition, the Agenda targets a reduction in the prevalence of smoking and an increase in the healthcare system's readiness to deal with epidemics and risks. Some of the NKPIs that measure the progress in achieving these priorities are average healthy life expectancy, prevalence of smoking, rate of deaths from cardiovascular diseases, prevalence of diabetes, prevalence of obesity amongst children, rate of deaths from cancer, and metrics on the availability of medical specialists and nurses.

6. Sustainable environment and infrastructure

Ensuring economic and social development with an appreciation for environmental sustainability is a key priority for the UAE. The Vision 2021 National Agenda focuses on improving the quality of air, preserving water resources, increasing the contribution of clean energy and implementing green growth plans. The Agenda also highlights the importance of infrastructure and aims for the UAE to be among the best in the world in the quality of airports, ports, road infrastructure, electricity and telecommunications infrastructure. Furthermore, the Agenda has set a target to provide suitable housing for eligible UAE nationals within a record timeframe. One of the NKPIs that measures the progress towards this objective is 'time to obtain loan/house from the Government for UAE citizens'.
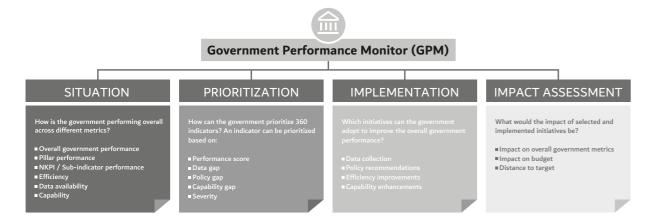
ARCHITECTURE TO MANAGE STATE SECTOR PERFORMANCE

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. 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) monitor the national indicators regularly to track progress towards targets. The PMO uses several platforms to monitor the NKPIs - one such platform is the Government Performance Monitor.

GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE MONITOR

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

Government Performance Monitor (GPM)

SITUATION	PRIORITIZATION	IMPLEMENTATION	IMPACT ASSESSMENT
How is the government performing overall across different metrics?	How can the government prioritize 360 indicators? An indicator can be prioritized based on:	Which initiatives can the government adopt to improve the overall government performance?	What would the impact of selected and implemented initiatives be?
▪ Overall government performance ▪ Pillar performance ▪ NKPI / Sub-indicator performance ▪ Efficiency ▪ Data availability ▪ Capability	▪ Performance score ▪ Data gap ▪ Policy gap ▪ Capability gap ▪ Severity	▪ Data collection ▪ Policy recommendations ▪ Efficiency improvements ▪ Capability enhancements	▪ Impact on overall government metrics ▪ Impact on budget ▪ Distance to target

IMPLEMENTATION AND EXECUTION OF UAE's NATIONAL AGENDA 2021

In order to ensure a comprehensive and efficient execution of the National Agenda 2021, all of the 52 NKPIs are assigned to specific federal entities according to their mandate. For instance, within the national priority of "First-rate Education System", NKPIs such as 'average PISA score', 'average TIMSS score', 'percentage of schools with high-quality teachers' etc. are led by the Ministry of Education. Likewise, the Ministry of Health & Prevention is the lead entity on the NKPIs pertaining to the national priority of "World-class Healthcare", the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment leads the portfolio of the environmental aspect of the "Sustainable Environment and Infrastructure Priority" and so on.

While lead federal government entities are accountable for the policy outcomes specified in the National Agenda, Cabinet also expects the cooperation of all supporting federal and local government agencies and in some cases the private sector, to jointly agree upon, plan for and execute national strategies. The coordination mechanisms to facilitate these partnerships run both horizontally and vertically across the two levels of government and various industry sectors. One such coordination mechanism are the National Agenda Executive Teams that are discussed in the next section.

NATIONAL AGENDA EXECUTIVE TEAMS

To progress the National Agenda, H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, launched 36 National Agenda Executive Teams in a cabinet meeting in October 2016. The teams comprise of over 500 government and private sector officials collaborating to achieve the National Agenda targets by 2021. Roles and responsibilities of the Executive Teams are set out in a Federal decree. The teams are expected to provide periodic reports on their achievements, results of the concerned initiatives and NKPI results to the Prime Minister's Office. At the end of 2016, 71% of the National Agenda targets had been achieved.
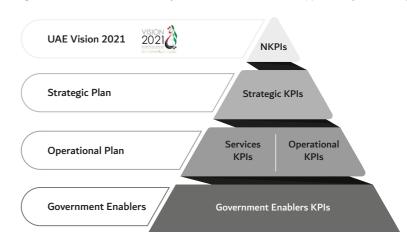
THE GOVERNMENT ACCELERATORS

The 'government accelerators' are a new initiative launched in 2016. The objective of the accelerators is to give momentum to whole-of-government efforts towards the National Agenda by providing a platform for cross-sectoral teams to address specific challenges. The idea is for teams to spend a short period of time 'in residence' at the accelerators to come to a consensus on and implement ambitious solutions to issues of national importance. Each project team aims to make progress on the NKPIs, policies and services, etc. that are required to drive implementation of solutions. Further, they seek to align the machinery of government vertically and horizontally, to instil a culture of innovation and creativity and foster close partnership between the public and private sectors.

One example of a project that was undertaken at the government accelerators was a challenge led by the Ministry of Interior to reduce road traffic deaths on five of the most dangerous roads in the UAE by 21%. In the first 100 days of implementation, a reduction of 63% was achieved. This solution will now be rolled out across the other main roads country-wide. Another challenge, led by the Ministry of Economy, was to achieve a five-fold increase in the number of registered patents in a hundred days - instead, the solution resulted in a seven-fold increase and a detailed study is ongoing to explore how the proposed solutions can be written into policy and implemented across the federal government.

PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

In order to ensure the efficient implementation of the UAE National Agenda, the NKPIs and their associated national initiatives and strategies are incorporated in 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", 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 on a regular basis.

GOVERNMENT EXCELLENCE MODEL

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

The Government Excellence Model (GEM) is a key component of the public-sector performance architecture that supports the implementation of UAE's futuristic vision for national development. Its aim is to ensure that government is agile, efficient and on the leading edge of public sector administration across the full spectrum of its activities, from the policy-making process to service delivery. The same performance architecture that spans the breadth and depth of government will be used to localize, harmonize and monitor progress on the SDGs.

The model uses structured criteria to guide government organizations to be effective stewards of their sectors and develop high-impact policies, programs, initiatives and strategies. Its key elements are based on disruptive thinking and transformation-based innovation that can lead to sustainable socioeconomic and environmental outcomes over the long term.

The Government Excellence Model
The Fourth Cycle of UAE Excellence Journey

1994	1997	2009	2015
Dubai Quality Award	**Dubai Government Excellence Program**	**Sheikh Khalifa Government Excellence Program/ Mohammed bin Rashid Government Excellence Award**	**The Government Excellence Model**
■ The Award founded in 1994 ■ Directed to the private sector ■ Based on international quality standards	■ The Award founded in 1997 ■ Directed to Dubai public sector departments ■ Based on private sector international quality standards applied to the public sector	■ The Award founded in 2009 ■ Directed to federal entities ■ Based on private sector international quality standards and was tailored for public sector	■ The system was launched in 2015 ■ Applicable to any world government sector ■ The first model designed for the public sector ■ Based on UAE public sector best practices and improvement plan

The GEM has been adopted as a basis for assessing government entities participating in the Mohammed bin Rashid Government Excellence Award. The aim is to determine the extent to which organizations demonstrate effective leadership. The excellence model is entirely a leadership-centric philosophy that aims to create organizations that adapt to an environment in which turbulence, great uncertainty and the effect of disruptive technological advancement are becoming the norm. It also aims to identify areas of improvement, challenges to overcome and opportunities to avail of, as the government entities pursue UAE's ambitious development objectives. It considers the organization as an open system with dynamic inter-related activities supported by smart, connected systems that extend beyond the traditional silos and 'closed boundaries'. In addition, it is geared to help develop extended relationships that can further enhance value creation and builds a much bigger capacity for knowledge transfer, capability building, agility and adaptability.

The GEM helps ensure that excellence, as an applied philosophy, is integrated into the organizational cultures, that it can be put to work in all core and support areas and focuses on the development of 'means' and the delivery of 'ends' concurrently. It helps ensure that an organization allows the adoption of fresh ideas thus keeping the organization on a sustainable path for learning and development. It also helps establish connections that support growth whilst ensuring resilience and adaptability.

The GEM is acknowledged internationally as having broken new ground in the frameworks it uses to manage public sector performance.

The model is underpinned by innovative principles and concepts that have been tried and tested within the UAE government and have proven their effectiveness in achieving leading results

Main Features of the Government Excellence Model

The GEM has several features that ensure that it leads to an improvement in the quality of government services. These are highlighted below:

■ Focus on driving innovation in the public sector

■ Observance of the variations and distinctiveness in the nature of the work of government entities

■ Focus on the extent to which the government entities main objectives have been achieved

■ Focus on services and smart government

■ Development of the performance management philosophy to achieve the community's well-being and happiness as well as a competitive advantage and leading position for the UAE

■ New assessment method focusing on the main results so as to bring added value to the entity

■ Ease and clarity of criteria

Pillars of Government Excellence Model

There are three pillars to the criteria used in the Government Excellence Model: Vision, Innovation and Enablers

Vision

The first pillar consists of the following four criteria:

■ National Agenda

■ Main Functions

■ Seven Stars Services

■ The Smart Government

These represent the core business of government work through which government entities work on achieving the government vision. The extent of implementation of the criteria is based on the nature of an entity's work and tasks stipulated in the Memorandum of Association upon whether it is a service, regulatory, monitoring or government supporting entity, as well as the contribution of the entity to achieving the National Agenda objectives and indicators.

Innovation

The second pillar consists of two criteria:

■ Future Shaping

■ Innovation Management

The extent of implementation of the criteria is based on the nature of an entity's work and its integration on future shaping and identifying the most important elements of the ambiguity inherent in the outer boundaries and the impact of these items on their work. This criterion also focuses on the extent to which innovative solutions and pioneering initiatives are applied in services offered and processes and programs implemented. This is to ensure the achievement of strategic objectives and provide customers with the best services.

Enablers

The third pillar comprises three criteria:

- Human Capital
- Assets and Resources
- Governance

The government entities provide services and implement their functions and programs through effective and efficient management of their human capital, assets and resources. They do so in order to ensure commitment to the highest standards of transparency, integrity, governance and effective risk management. The way they achieve this is by providing a work environment that attracts human resources in order to guarantee effective contribution toward achieving the entities' visions and objectives.

The Government Excellence Model

Key Principles of the Assessment Methodology

The assessment approach for the government excellence model is divided into two main sections: one is related to the assessment of 'capabilities' and the other is related to the assessment of 'results'. Capabilities are assessed by three criteria including effectiveness, efficiency, and learning & development. Results are assessed by four criteria including comprehensiveness & usability, achievement of results, performance improvement and leading position.

The model reflects the importance of managing the results and outcomes of implementing processes, programs, services and policies in order to ensure the realization of the community's welfare and wellbeing, as well as a competitive advantage for the entity. Therefore, 70% of the assessment scoring is attributed to results while 30% is considered for the assessment of capabilities.

THE NATIONAL AGENDA & LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS

To ensure the alignment of federal and local development plans, the NKPIs and their associated targets are cascaded to the strategic plans of all local government organizations. While each Emirate has its own development plan, the National Agenda is one of the main inputs for the strategic plans of local governments and is the basis for their annual review. Furthermore, federal and local government authorities work particularly closely to deliver core public services. As discussed earlier, each National Agenda target and NKPI has a lead government entity that is responsible for reporting progress at both the federal and local levels of government. To review and develop strategy and to address concerns of a strategic nature, the Annual Government Meetings are a whole-of-government platform for the leadership of the UAE and officials from federal and local entities to interact.

ANNUAL GOVERNMENT MEETINGS

The Annual Government Meetings (AGMs) are the most prominent national platform for cooperation between federal and local governments. The AGMs are used to:

- Review progress towards the National Agenda by way of detailed progress reports on implementation efforts
- Provide a common platform for federal and local government entities to discuss outcomes of joint efforts across various sectors
- Ensure that federal and local development plans are aligned
- Planning for UAE Centennial 2071

At the first AGM in 2017, over 30 issues across multiple sectors of government were addressed and detailed plans were developed to achieve efficiency gains across the machinery of government. Policy coherence is an important theme of the AGMs. Solutions to common issues that have been piloted in one part of the country are scaled up and implemented nationally. Enabling knowledge transfer and sharing of enabling technologies and programs is another key element of the AGMs.

PARTNERSHIP WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR

While federal and local government agencies are responsible for implementing, monitoring and reporting the NKPIs, many of the intended outcomes pertain to enabling a thriving and productive private sector. This includes the business community but also providers of healthcare, education, logistics, infrastructure and telecommunications among others. For instance, NKPI's for health and education also track the performance and outcomes of private educational institutes and healthcare facilities. The private sector is an important part of the national innovation and R&D landscape and is engaged on discussions related to national R&D expenditures and priorities. Representatives from the private sector are participants in the National Agenda Executive teams, through which they can channel advice on government policy and where possible, compliment government efforts to deliver core public services, be these purely market-based solutions or public-private partnerships.

Case Study

FEDERAL/LOCAL GOVERNMENT & PRIVATE SECTOR COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENT

In order to ensure the oversight and the advancement of all climate change and environmental sustainability matters across the country, the UAE Climate Change and Environment Council was established in 2016.

Chaired by H.E. Dr. Thani Al Zeyoudi, Minister of Climate Change and Environment, the Council includes more than 25 members from federal and local government entities as well as the private sector. The Council meets bimonthly, and guides, advises and approves all emerging policies and initiatives, and reviews the work of the following four technical committees reporting to the Council: Climate Change and Green Development, Environment, Awareness and Municipalities. The committees meet every two-months to review progress and they are also used as a platform to facilitate the sharing of best-practices and knowledge development across sectors.

In addition, in 2016, the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment established two platforms to foster cooperation. The "Environment and Business Majlis" aims to boost contribution of the private sector and guide private companies to be aligned with the government's environmental strategies. The second platform - the Sustainability Research Committee - seeks to bring together the country's leading experts from government and academia to pursue research on climate change and environmental sustainability issues.

These platforms will foster partnership among the public and private sectors as well as academia in order to achieve the strategic objectives of the UAE's National Climate Change Plan 2017-2050 and the Green Agenda 2015-2030, which will also contribute to the attainment of the SDGs.

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, programs to develop Chief Happiness and Positivity Officers and Chief Innovation Officers, a Performance Diploma, 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, labor laws and regulations are being continually reviewed and updated and ensuring workplace satisfaction and well-being is given the highest priority (see Chapter 6).

UAE CENTENNIAL 2071

At the heart of a sustainable development trajectory is to pursue interests and outcomes, the benefits of which, will manifest in the long-term yet their ultimate realization requires urgent action now. In particular, issues of intergenerational justice and fairness motivate such action - no country should burden its future generations with challenges and predicaments, that will leave them worse off, in kind or otherwise, than generations past. As a country highly attuned to the benefits and burdens that fast-paced development can lead to, the UAE is committed to achieving high-quality outcomes for the generations of today and tomorrow. The UAE Centennial Strategy was launched in September 2017 with the express aim of achieving this by the year 2071. The national dialogue to shape the 2071 strategy has begun and it will derive significantly from UAE's current National Agenda, will use as milestones the ambitions of subsequent development plans, with the fulfillment of the SDGs being an important measure of progress in the year 2030.

CHAPTER 4:
UAE's NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES & SDGs

NATIONAL AGENDA & SDGs

There are significant overlaps between UAE's National Agenda - consisting of 6 national priorities, 52 NKPIs and 365 sub-NKPIs - and the 17 goals, 169 targets and approximately 230 indicators of the SDGs.

The table below shows the results of a target mapping exercise 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).[5]

KEY CONSIDERATIONS TO PRIORITIZE & IMPLEMENT THE SDGs

The National Committee on SDGs has taken the following steps to prioritize and phase in the SDGs. The outcomes of this process will be reviewed annually.

1. Map SDG targets to UAE's National Agenda and prioritize which targets to pursue in a particular timeframe[6]
2. Determine the criteria for phasing-in these targets into the national development agenda and align monitoring and reporting cycles with the work program and capacity of the National Statistics System
3. Manage the size and scope of SDG implementation given resource capacities and constraints in a particular year

Mapping of SDGs to UAE's National Agenda[7]

SDG Goals	Linked to National Agenda Pillar
Goal 2. Zero Hunger	National Priority: World-class Healthcare
Goal 3. Good Health and Well-being	
Goal 6. Clean Water and Sanitation	
Goal 11. Sustainable Cities and Communities	
Goal 13. Climate Action	
Goal 16. Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	

SDG Goals	Linked to National Agenda Pillar
Goal 1. No Poverty	National Priority: First-rate Education System
Goal 4. Quality Education	

SDG Goals	Linked to National Agenda Pillar
Goal 1. No Poverty	National Priority: Sustainable Environment and Infrastructure
Goal 5. Gender Equality	
Goal 6. Clean Water and Sanitation	
Goal 7. Affordable and Clean Energy	
Goal 9. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	
Goal 11. Sustainable Cities and Communities	
Goal 12. Responsible Consumption and Production	
Goal 13. Climate Action	
Goal 15. Life on Land	
Goal 17. Partnerships for the Goals	

5 Rate of deaths from cardiovascular diseases, rate of deaths from cancer, percentage of accredited health facilities, average healthy life expectancy, prevalence of smoking, rate of physicians, road traffic deaths etc
6 The National Agenda is UAE's national development plan. See chapter 3 for a detailed overview of the National Agenda
7 A detailed mapping between the National Agenda and the SDGs was undertaken at the target and indicator levels. The table shows a summary of the mapping exercise at the level of goals and pillars

SDG Goals	Linked to National Agenda Pillar
All 17 SDGs	National Priority: Competitive Knowledge Economy

SDG Goals	Linked to National Agenda Pillar
Goal 3. Good Health and Well-being	National Priority: Cohesive Society and Preserved Identity
Goal 5. Gender Equality	

SDG Goals	Linked to National Agenda Pillar
Goal 3. Good Health and Well-being	National Priority: Safe Public and Fair Judiciary
Goal 16. Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES & AGENDA 2030

SDG targets have also been mapped to the objectives of the development plans of the local Emirates. The tables below show the outcomes of the targets mapping exercise.[8]

Abu Dhabi Plan 2030	SDG
Social Development	
Security, Justice and Safety	
Economic Development	
Vital Sectors Contributing to Economic Diversity	
Vital Sectors Contributing to Economic Diversity	

Pillars of Dubai Plan 2021	SDG
The Perferred Place to Live, Work and Visit	
A Pivotal Hub in the Global Economy	
A Pioneering and Excellent Government	
City of Happy, Creative and Empowered People	
A Smart and Sustainable City	

Pillars of Ajman Plan 2021	SDG
A Distinguished Government	
A Green Economy	
A Vibrant Community	
Best Place to Live	

Pillars of Fujairah 2040 Plan	SDG
Preserve Natural Resources and Celebrate Culture and Heritage	
Building a Sustainable Environment	
Prosperous Economy	
Build a Community of Skilled and Active Citizens	

Pillars of RAK Strategic Framework 2015 - 2017	SDG
Creative Talents	
Competitive Economy	
Quality of Life	
A Leading Government	
Integrated Environmental and Health System	

8 Preliminary mapping. To be reviewed annually. Development plans for the Emirates of Sharjah and Umm Al Quwain are being updated

CHAPTER 5:
STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF SDGs

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT FOR AGENDA 2030

In 2015, there were 1.2 billion youth aged 15-24 years, accounting for one in six people worldwide. By 2030 - the target date for achieving the SDGs - this number is projected to grow by 7 per cent to 1.3 billion.[9]

Today's youth face significant challenges in creating a bright future. The SDG agenda has appropriately acknowledged that young people are a crucial catalyst of change, but only if they are provided and empowered with the appropriate skills and opportunities needed to fulfill their potential, foster economic growth, contribute to peace and security and address climate challenge.

As the youth population continues to increase, it is becoming imperative for governments to establish them as a driving force for development. The primary responsibility for implementing the agenda rests with governments; however, direct youth engagement and participation is vital to achieving the SDGs.

History has demonstrated that youth marginalization leads to social, economic and political unrest that can result in an increase in crime, violence, and in extreme cases, lead to political revolutions, as was witnessed in some parts of the world in recent years. Young, restless populations seeking better opportunities and governance from their leaders, led the clamor for change.

Achieving the 2030 Agenda requires a responsive approach to the voices and needs of the world's young populations. Governments and global leaders can achieve the SDGs by equipping young people with the skills, knowledge and confidence to transform a generation and support long-term sustainable development.

YOUTH'S ROLE IN IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA - INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

Today's generation of youth is the largest the world has ever known - young people make up approximately one-quarter of humanity. Nearly 90 per cent of the world's youth live in developing countries, especially in South Asia and Africa, where one in three people is a young person. Demographic trends and projections indicate that the proportion of young people in the global population is declining and it is likely to fall below 20 per cent by 2075.[10]

Over the next few decades, the world has a historic opportunity to reap the promise of this demographic advantage offered to us by "Generation Hope" and working with them to achieve a happy, healthy and prosperous future for all.

The successful implementation of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will undoubtedly have a positive impact on the world; however, supporting, integrating and investing in the youth are essential to achieving the 2030 agenda. In the next 12 years, and by 2030, the world's youth will be the ones most severely impacted by the success or failure of the goals. It is therefore in the world's best interest to have them directly engaged and invested in the agenda's success as partners, as they stand to gain or lose the most.

Youth can contribute greatly in the implementation of the 17 SDGs. The prominent themes they can make a contribution to within the agenda range from peace building (SDG 16), economic empowerment, participation and innovation (SDGs 8, 9, 17), environmental protection (SDGs 7, 13, 14, 15) and social empowerment (SDGs 1, 2, 5, 10). SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals), aims to revitalize partnerships between governments, including the private and public sectors. Youth should be encouraged to engage in this multi-stakeholder partnership to integrate their solutions for sustainable development. Young people are active drivers of change in local communities and can play a key role in engaging people at the grassroots level. Global stakeholders and governments need to synchronize their efforts to provide effective initiatives that promote the rights of the youth by involving them in the decision-making process. Encouraged by serious political commitment and adequate fund allocation, young people have the ambition, aspiration and the ability to make the most effective transformation of the world into a better place for all.

UAE's YOUTH ENGAGEMENT POLICIES

In February 2016, the United Arab Emirates appointed Her Excellency Shamma bint Suhail AlMazrui as Minister of State for Youth Affairs. At the time of her appointment at the age of 22, she became the youngest member of cabinet in the UAE and the youngest government minister in the world.

The UAE has demonstrated tremendous interest in the aspirations of its youth by encouraging their inclusion in order to understand their needs and perspectives on a range of issues. When the Minister of State for Youth Affairs was appointed, numerous initiatives that facilitated the engagement of youth were implemented.

The first initiative was the establishment of the Emirates Youth Council headed by Her Excellency Shamma bint Suhail AlMazrui and seven emirate-wide Local Youth Councils. The Councils comprise a group of youth representatives for each emirate selected through an interview process. By volunteering their time to become a part of the Council, the youth engage with policymakers to influence and improve decisions on youth policies.

9 UN Population Division, 2015 (http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/documents/youth/fact-sheets/YouthPOP.pdf)
10 Global Youth Development Index & Report 2016, Commonwealth Secretariat, referencing UN population projections

Creating a federal-level platform that is structured to align with the local level, allows the creation of local development plans that involve the voices of the youth in policy-making. This allows Local Youth Councils to determine the prioritization of the SDGs within their communities and the overlap with the development plans of the respective emirates and the national development plan of the UAE (Vision 2021). An initial analysis has concluded that the development plans of all seven emirates have four SDGs in common: SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) and SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities). Further to this, the variations in the local development plans are based on emirate-specific development needs.

"Youth Circles" is an initiative that originated from the Emirates Youth Council and was launched by H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE, Ruler of Dubai. Youth Circles are discussions by which youth can engage with each other on different social and political matters and to drive community impact through youth leadership. Through the Youth Circles, the Local Councils seek to build communication channels with the younger demographic in society, which allows the exchange of expertise and the promotion of dialogue with and among the youth. The Circles have yielded several benefits including the launch of the 100 Mentors Program that features 100 inspirational leaders from the public and private sectors, who aim to mentor the UAE's youth.

H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum also launched a social media campaign (#NationalYouthDialogue), which is a platform for Emirati youth to express their aspirations and to set the agenda for the Youth Retreat. The two-day Youth Retreat convened 100 youth from across the UAE to discuss the most pressing areas of concern for their generation. Through this retreat, more than 20 youth-related proposals were approved for implementation. Furthermore, the National Youth Agenda was amended for the Ministry of Youth Affairs to respond to concerns and outcomes presented during the Youth Retreat. The National Youth Agenda is the first in the UAE that champions youth engagement - by the youth and is for the youth.

In association with the Mohammed bin Rashid Global Centre for Endowment Consultancy (MBRGCEC), the Emirates Youth Council created the Youth Endowment to fund and support youth projects, making it the first of its kind worldwide. Organizations contributing to the endowment will offer services valued at 5 million dirhams annually to increase youth engagement in society and help them initiate their projects.

One of the most important initiatives in preparing and empowering the youth to become the future decision makers of the country is the UAE Government Leaders Programme (UAEGLP). This programme was launched by H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum in cooperation with the Ministry of State for Youth Affairs, to build and develop distinguished leaders of the future with world-class institutions from around the world. The programme is an example of the UAE government's efforts to empower its youth for the future so they are equipped with the appropriate skills commensurate to the world's future challenges. The Emirates Youth Council has also launched Youth Data to promote data sharing between the public and private sectors in the UAE in areas of direct concern to the country's youth population. As evidence of the success and achievements of the Emirates Youth Council and the Local Youth Councils, the model of the Youth Council has been adopted by various sectors in the UAE, including: Ministerial Youth Councils, Corporate Youth Councils and Organizational Youth Councils.

The Global Youth Council was also established to connect Emirati students studying abroad in order to make a positive change in their universities and communities. The UAE believes that efforts to empower the youth should not only be limited to the youth of the UAE but also be expanded and extended to the Arab world. Under the patronage of H.H. Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Presidential Affairs, the Arab Youth Forum was held during the World Government Summit 2017. The Arab Youth Forum is considered to be the first ever forum connecting 150 youth representatives from all 22 Arab countries. Over three days, Arab youth discussed and debated their aspirations for a better future. One of the outcomes of the Forum was the launch of the Arab Youth Strategy. H.H. Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Presidential Affairs, also announced the opening of the Arab Youth Center, which will be located in the UAE's capital, Abu Dhabi.

All UAE's youth-centric initiatives are designed to encourage youth participation across all sectors of government. The Youth Councils will facilitate dialogue on SDGs between the federal and local levels of government and ensure that progress towards the SDGs occurs in parallel with work on the national and subnational development plans.

The UAE's welcomes the participation of youth in the implementation of the SDGs, in fact, as for Vision 2021, considers them important partners in this endeavor. In the UAE the rights of youth and future generations are taken into account across all areas of policy. Coherent strategies are in place for the youth population of the UAE and that of the wider region to serve as catalysts for economic growth and enhanced social, economic and civic engagement.

2030 is only twelve years away. And twelve years from now, the world will acknowledge that today's Emirati youth were influential participants in the successful implementation of the 2030 agenda.

PRIVATE SECTOR ENGAGEMENT TO ACHIEVE THE SDGs

Engagement with the private sector to achieve national development goals is part of the operating model of the UAE government. The previous chapter highlighted the various ways in which federal and local agencies work with the private sector, seeking input both when policy is being developed and legislated and when initiatives and means of implementation to achieve targets in the National Agenda are being discussed. Ministries that are assigned National Agenda targets are encouraged to work closely with the private sector. As would be expected, such cooperation is most expansive in areas that involve the delivery of core public services - education, health, infrastructure, municipal services etc. - but increasingly, public- private-partnerships involve data sharing to deliver SMART services, implementing the STI framework, resource mobilization for sustainable development and joint efforts to engage with the public on issues of sustainable living.

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 will engage with relevant industry partners to mobilize 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 UN Global Compact Network of the UAE, which has been particularly active in raising awareness of the SDGs and in shaping the CSR agendas of firms operating in the UAE. In keeping with the UN Global Compact mission of 'mobilizing a global movement of sustainable companies and stakeholders to create the world we want', the network facilitates high-impact collective action through taskforces that bring together diverse companies to address various facets of the sustainable development goals.

The UN Global Compact Network-UAE is hosted by the Dubai Land Department and has engaged over 130 companies that are committed to implementing principles of sustainability and the SDGs in the private sector. The network provides opportunities for large organizations, SMEs and micro-enterprises to participate in collective action to achieve the goals. Companies represented on the UAE Local Network Board include, American University of Sharjah, CEO Clubs Network, Chalhoub Group, CTG Global, dU, Habor Real Estate, Majid Al Futtaim, MENA Properties and Pearl Initiative.

To bridge the gap between industry and academia, knowledge institutions such as American University in Dubai, American University of Sharjah School of Business Administration, IMT Dubai, Middlesex University Dubai, Paris-Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi and Skyline University College are also members of the network. In 2017, one of the network's key initiatives was its engagement with academic institutions for the launch of the Global Compact Local Network Youth Program that recruits youth ambassadors. In less than a year 90 ambassadors have been recruited to raise awareness of the SDGs.[11] This group of youth ambassadors will represent the private sector in dialogue and discussions with the UAE's Youth Councils in matters pertaining to the SDGs.

The local network also launched the UAE SDG Pioneers initiative. UAE SDG Pioneers are organizations that have taken early action to advance the SDGs and in doing so, have set an example for the business community in pursuing sustainable practices. Organizations apply to be UAE SDG Pioneers under one of the five themes of the 2030 agenda: people, peace, prosperity, planet and partnerships. An international committee oversees the selection process and KPMG acts as the third-party processor to ensure transparency. The first batch of UAE SDG Pioneers were honored at a ceremony held on November 2017 and will be nominated for the Global Pioneers scheme.

Each year the UN Global Compact Network-UAE hosts an event to celebrate its establishment. The event highlights local and global best practices in private-sector engagements for sustainable development and provides a platform for discussion and dialogue and networking opportunities for participants.

Box

UAE GLOBAL COMPACT NETWORK-UAE:
- 130 + organizations committed including microenterprises
- Identified as one of the fastest growing local networks worldwide
- 150 + youth engaged through UAE Local Network youth program

In 2018, the local network seeks to engage with a wider segment of the business community with a particular emphasis on underrepresented industries in the current set of signatory companies. It will work to accelerate the work program of the youth ambassadors in particular by seeking to establish dialogue with UAE's Youth Councils and streamlining activities with the youth engagement strategy of the Minister of Youth. The network's women empowerment taskforce will expand its agenda focusing particularly on promoting the Women Empowerment Principles. The network will also enhance the UAE SDG Pioneers initiative. Finally, the network will energize the work program of existing task forces, establish new ones where needed, and publish an annual impact report of its activities.

11 Profiles of youth ambassadors can be found at: ungcuae.org

ROLE OF KNOWLEDGE INSTITUTIONS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SDGs

In the UAE, there is an acknowledgement that knowledge institutions, such as universities and think tanks, are key partners for the implementation of the SDGs. The UAE hosts 79 accredited institutions of higher learning and the largest number of International Branch Campuses (IBC) worldwide. Higher education institutions include public and private universities, research centers, colleges and vocational schools offering more than 780 academic and research programs.[12] More than 40 IBCs have been established in the UAE attracting a diverse student body. The UAE's budgetary commitment to higher education is demonstrated by the government's substantial investment in universities. The 2017 budget included AED 10.2 billion for the public and higher education sector.[13] This is in addition to publically funded think-tanks and research institutes such as the Emirates 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, local governments, 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.

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 and the Emirates Diplomatic Academy (see case study) 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 competitive knowledge-based economy. Global networks of students, academics and researchers are underutilized 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 prioritize economic growth, at times to the detriment of environmental and social outcomes. If sustainable development is to become entrenched as the dominant framework for analyzing 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.

ACTIONS FOR UAE's KNOWLEDGE INSTITUTIONS TO PROGRESS THE SDGs:

- Create, design and implement sustainable solutions with government, private sector, civil society and youth
- Align research agendas with UAE government priorities such as the National Agenda, Centennial 2071 Strategy, SDGs, STI policy etc. In particular, include SDGs in performance strategies of universities
- Provide expertise and facilitate knowledge transfer between stakeholders
- Engage in interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research
- Share best practices in the implementation of SDGs
- Participate in local SDG working groups and networks such as UNGC
- Monitor, evaluate and report the implementation of the SDGs using UN guidelines

12 UAE FCSA Policy in Action: The Heart of Competitiveness: Higher Education Creating the UAE's Future FCSA (2014)
13 Budget 2017, Ministry of Finance, UAE, https://www.mof.gov.ae/En/budget/fedralBudget/Pages/Budget2017.aspx

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RESEARCH ON THE 2030 AGENDA AT THE EMIRATES DIPLOMATIC ACADEMY

This case study describes the in-depth and wide-ranging research that the Emirates Diplomatic Academy has undertaken that is relevant to the 2030 Agenda, and sets out some of its findings. The article concludes by highlighting the EDA's plans for further work to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Policy-oriented research has a fundamental role to play in supporting policymaking in several areas of the 2030 Agenda. With regard to foreign policy and diplomacy, the Emirates Diplomatic Academy (EDA) is conducting research with the aim of generating policy-relevant analysis and new ideas, led by its research programme on Energy, Climate Change and Sustainable Development.

The programme focuses on key global issues related to energy, natural resources and the environment, and examines the role of diplomacy in supporting low-emission and climate-resilient development in the UAE and worldwide. So far, the programme has developed research in three priority areas of UAE foreign policy: the international governance of climate change and sustainable energy (relevant to SDG 13 and SDG 7); the role of foreign policy in sustainable food security (relevant to SDG 2, SDG 13 and SDG 17); and financing for sustainable development (relevant to SDG 17).

In the area of global climate change governance, research at EDA is tracking negotiations under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). A briefing paper released after the 2015 Paris Climate Change Conference examined the groundbreaking Paris Agreement and its role in the global response to climate change. The paper included initial considerations of the direct and indirect implications of the Paris Agreement for the UAE, which included that the UAE's intended nationally determined contribution (INDC), submitted in October 2015, provided a robust starting point for the UAE's NDC but it recommended that the UAE should continue to strengthen its domestic institutional capacity to be able to participate in the new framework in the most beneficial manner.

In the longer term, the study argued, the Paris Agreement may help improve the predictability of the investment climate for clean energy and green infrastructure, creating new economic opportunities in areas where the UAE is already positioning itself as a regional leader, such as renewable energy. Despite the fact that, at the time, the direct impact of the Paris Agreement's implementation on oil prices seemed negligible, the paper concluded that the signals sent by the agreement - including on the long-term emissions and temperature goals - confirmed the importance of the UAE continuing to diversify its economy away from hydrocarbon dependence.[14]

A year later, a follow-up briefing paper evaluated how the Marrakesh Climate Change Conference succeeded in keeping up momentum on the Paris Agreement. It identified three tasks for the UNFCCC in the post-Paris era: making the Paris Agreement functional; sending political signals to provide certainty to markets; and promoting global multi-stakeholder cooperation. It also proposed ways in which the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states could support global climate action in ways that also promote economic diversification and regional cooperation, including through encouraging private-sector participation and cooperation, funding research and promoting information exchange, and participating in global sectoral partnerships for climate action.[15]

Another study from 2016 mapped the international institutions that together comprise the 'global governance of the energy-climate nexus'. The study presented a proposal for a three-step national-level multi-stakeholder process for reviewing existing relationships and engagement strategies with these institutions, and used the UAE as an example of its potential application.[16]

The EDA has also released studies that explore global efforts to reduce emissions in the international aviation sector and through carbon capture and storage (CCS) technologies. A study from 2016 analysed the challenges and opportunities for GCC countries of the Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA), agreed by the International Civil Aviation Organization. Another study, from 2017, examined the global governance of CCS: how it operates today; how it could be strengthened to advance this important climate technology; and what role the UAE and other GCC states could play in supporting an accelerated uptake of CCS technologies.[17]

14 Mari Luomi. The Paris Agreement on Climate Change - Implications for the UAE. EDA Insight, December 2015
15 Mari Luomi. The UN Marrakesh Climate Change Conference: Aligning the UNFCCC with the Post-Paris Era. EDA Insight. December 2016
16 Mari Luomi. Global Governance of the Energy-Climate Nexus: Towards National Engagement Strategies. EDA Working Paper. May 2016
17 Axel Michaelowa. Tackling CO2 Emissions from International Aviation: Challenges and Opportunities Generated by the Market Mechanism 'CORSIA'. November 2016; Robin Mills. Global Governance of Carbon Capture and Storage: Role for the GCC? EDA Insight. December 2017

In 2017, the EDA developed two studies directly related to the 2030 Agenda. One focused on the international agenda on Financing for Sustainable Development and the role of Arab donors therein. It identified ways in which development cooperation donors can support the implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA), also agreed in 2015, which supports the delivery of the means of implementation for the 2030 Agenda.

The paper concluded with suggestions on how GCC countries, alongside other 'emerging' donors, could support the implementation of the AAAA through their development cooperation policies and measures, and strengthen their role in shaping the new international framework for development cooperation and finance. These included: setting an aspirational target for increasing the share of official development assistance/gross national income (ODA/GNI) going to the Least Developed Countries; enhancing coordination among donors and host countries on aligning with the 2030 Agenda and its Goals; developing systematic approaches to leveraging additional financing for sustainable development; and actively participating in the development of a measure of total official support for sustainable development (TOSSD).[18]

In a second study on the 2030 Agenda, the EDA contributed to the growing recognition that policies aimed at reaching the SDGs, which are interdependent in multiple ways, can either reinforce or undermine each other, and that these interlinkages must be properly understood in order to make sound policy choices. Some international assessments have already identified synergies and trade-offs between various goals and targets.

The EDA developed a paper that explored the interactions between two SDGs that have key foreign policy dimensions for the UAE and its regional neighbours, namely SDG 2 (zero hunger, food security and sustainable agriculture) and SDG 13 (climate action). The paper identified measures that the UAE and many other food-import dependent countries could adopt in their foreign policies, drawing from relevant international best practice and knowledge. Understanding the positive, synergistic interlinkages can inform policy choices and identify points of intervention that generate multiple beneficial impacts.[19]

The EDA has also conducted research aimed at supporting the UN as the organisation undergoes reform so as to be fit for the 21st Century. A report titled United Networks, led by former UK ambassador Tom Fletcher, and commissioned under the EDA's research programme on 21st Century Diplomacy, set out recommendations to the UN Secretary-General on how the UN can use new technology to deliver on its mandate. Speaking to SDG 4 (quality education), the report recommended an online global curriculum concentrating on human skills, such as empathy and creativity, and the latest trends, such as the use of artificial intelligence. The report also gave specific recommendations on how virtual reality technology, as used by the UN SDG Action Campaign, could be implemented for innovative approaches to crowdfund compassion.[20]

Furthermore, the EDA has conducted research on data-driven diplomacy, namely on how governments can make better use of big data in diplomacy, which could, among other applications, be used to improve humanitarian aid delivery.[21] Another area of focus under the 21st Century Diplomacy programme has been the increasing role of cities in international relations and examining how subnational and regional actors are playing a prominent role in supporting the SDGs and 2030 Agenda (relevant to SDG 11).

Work under the EDA's research programme on Peace and Security in the Middle East and North Africa has also contributed to thinking around how livelihoods for refugees (relevant to SDG 8) can be supported by transitioning from a humanitarian to a developmental paradigm. A study from 2017 focused on countries that have hosted large numbers of Syrian refugees since 2011 and have recently begun experimenting with integrating refugees into local labour markets. It made a number of foreign policy-related observations, including that the growing efforts by donors to assist refugee-hosting countries can help to maximise the positive development opportunities from the tragedy of the Syrian refugee crisis. The study called for urgent attention to promoting solutions that directly link marketable skills and availability of jobs in order to enhance labour market integration among refugees.[22]

In 2018, the EDA will continue to focus on the various aspects of the 2030 Agenda that relate to foreign policy and diplomacy in the Arabian Gulf region.

18 Mari Luomi. Financing Sustainable Development through Development Cooperation: Role for Arab Donors. EDA Insight. July 2017
19 Mari Luomi. Synergies between Global Food Security and Climate Goals: Recommendations for Gulf Countries' Foreign Trade, Investments and Aid. EDA Insight. September 2017
20 Tom Fletcher (ed.). United Networks: Can Technology Help the UN Meet the Challenges of the 21st Century? EDA. September 2017
21 Seppe Verheyen. Transforming Diplomacy through Data-Driven Innovation. EDA Insight. December 2017
22 Lorraine Charles and Saskia van Genugten. Livelihoods for Syrian Refugees: Transitioning from a Humanitarian to a Developmental Paradigm. EDA Working Paper. April 2017

CHAPTER 6:
ENABLING MECHANISMS: PROGRAMS & TECHNOLOGIES

NATIONAL INNOVATION STRATEGY

Quote
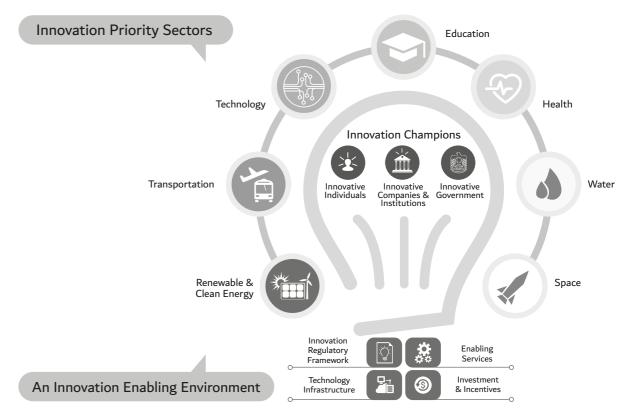
"Innovation, research, science and technology will form the pillars of a knowledge-based, highly productive and competitive economy, driven by entrepreneurs in a business-friendly environment where public and private sectors form effective partnerships"

UAE Vision 2021

The National Innovation Strategy (NIS) sets the overall direction of science, technology and innovation (STI) policy. The NIS aims at realizing UAE's Vision 2021, which is to be among the world's most innovative countries by the country's golden jubilee in the year 2021. The strategy defines innovation as "the aspiration to achieve development by generating creative ideas and introducing new products, services and operations that improve the overall quality of life" and aims to:

- Ensure an innovation friendly ecosystem (including an enhanced regulatory framework, technology infrastructure, supporting services, investments and incentives)
- Create a culture of innovation among individuals, firms, and the public sector
- Focus on seven priority sectors to lead innovation at the national level (see graphic)

National Innovation Strategy Framework

Innovation Priority Sectors

Education
Technology
Health
Innovation Champions
Innovative Individuals
Innovative Companies & Institutions
Innovative Government
Transportation
Water
Renewable & Clean Energy
Space

An Innovation Enabling Environment

Innovation Regulatory Framework
Enabling Services
Technology Infrastructure
Investment & Incentives

UAE's SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION POLICY

The creation of the UAE's Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) policy is a key step in the country's efforts to achieve economic diversification and prosperity. One of the aims of the policy is to prepare the UAE for a post-oil world and to enable the country's transition to a knowledge economy. The STI policy framework, together with the National Innovation Strategy, provides a means of implementation for UAE Vision 2021, the SDGs and the UAE Centennial 2071 strategy.

> **Quote**
>
> "Innovation, scientific research and a knowledge economy will create sustainable opportunities for our future generations. The new Science, Technology and Innovation Policy is a turning point in our march for development and progress"
>
> **H.H. Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan,**
> President of the UAE

The UAE recognizes the importance of innovation and the role it plays in economic progress. UAE's Vision 2021 highlights science, technology and innovation as the main drivers of growth and progress. It asserts their role in the UAE's transition towards a knowledge-based economy and in ensuring sustainable development for the country.

> **Quote**
>
> "The Science, Technology and Innovation Policy is our roadmap to building a better future for generations to come. We have the human capital, effective governance and financial resources to accomplish a transformation of scientific progress in the UAE"
>
> **H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum,**
> UAE Vice President, Prime Minister, and Ruler of Dubai

The UAE's National Agenda 2021 sets ambitious targets for outcomes across the science, technology and innovation portfolios. Acknowledging the role of human capital in enhancing innovation, the UAE seeks to increase the share of knowledge workers to 40% of its total workforce and to advance the ranks of its students in mathematics, science and reading to become among the 20 highest ranked countries by 2021. Many of these outcomes will also serve to assist either in progressing, or prospectively, meeting the targets of the SDGs.

The focus areas of the STI policy are wide ranging, encompassing education, health, energy, food security, water, sustainable cities among others (see graphic: Focus Areas of the STI Policy). Such an expansive agenda for STI provides a mechanism by which to find innovative solutions for all SDGs. Therefore, it is important to highlight that the STI policy, by design, both in its current form and in subsequent iterations, will service UAE's federal and local development agenda, the SDGs and UAE Centennial 2071.

Strategic Sectors in the UAE

Education | Health | Water | Renewable and Clean Energy | Space | Technology | Transportation

Focus Areas of the STI policy

Education Innovation and Technology | Health Information Technology and Bioinformatics | Public Health, Non-Communicable Diseases and Wellness | Biotechnology and Genomics | Water Management and Economics

Solar and Alternative Energy Technology System | Space Sciences | CubeSats and Nanosatellites | Cybersecurity | Semiconductor Process Development

Robotics and Artificial Intelligence | Smart City Applications and Solutions | Architecture and Urban Design | Arabic Digital Technology | Financial Services Technology

Petroleum Geosciences | Internet of Things and Big Data | Additive Manufacturing (3D Printing) | Advanced Building and Construction Materials | Food Security

Transportation Logistics, Analytics and Security | Aerospace Advanced Materials, Manufacturing, Maintenance and Testing | Commercial Unmanned Aerial Vehicles | Autonomous Vehicles

INSTITUTIONAL SETTING FOR STI

In November 2014, the National Science, Technology and Innovation Committee was announced. The Committee's mandate is to monitor the implementation of the NIS, enhance coordination, cooperation and exchange of expertise among federal and local entities, monitor the progress of innovation initiatives and their related indices nationwide, engage the private sector and ensure that its social and economic contributions stimulate innovation. Furthermore, in October 2017, as part of the announcement of the 13th Cabinet, two federal Ministers for Advanced Sciences and Artificial Intelligence were appointed. The Ministers are responsible not only for further entrenching the current STI strategy in the work programs of the federal government, but also to create the foundations for a long-term STI strategy that will service the implementation of the SDGs and the 'UAE Centennial 2071' strategy.

In 2018, a working group consisting of the National Committee on SDGs in partnership with the Ministers of Advanced Science and Artificial Intelligence respectively, academia and the private sector will undertake a detailed analysis of how the STI strategy will serve specific SDG targets.

UAE's SPACE AGENCY & AGENDA 2030

Space has an important role to play in the UAE's economic diversification strategy and transformation from a resource-based to a knowledge-based economy. The UAE aims to build a space sector that:

- Supports and protects national interests and vital industries
- Contributes to the diversification and growth of its economy
- Boosts the UAE's specialized competencies
- Develops scientific and technological capabilities
- Engrains the culture of innovation and national pride
- Strengthens the UAE's status and role in the region and around the world.

As part of its commitment to implementing an effective science, technology and innovation (STI) strategy, UAE's space professionals are developing a space agenda within the purview of a stable space regulatory framework. They are also actively managing radiofrequency and satellite orbital resources and expanding the UAE's national, regional and global collaborations and partnerships.

The national space policy recognizes the importance of space research for addressing several global challenges such as facilitating better emergency response, effective distribution of humanitarian aid and support to natural resources management for instance by enhancing land and climate observation and supporting environment protection.. The program also aims to utilize space technology to improve the quality of life of the UAE's citizens by supporting smart cities and e-governance initiatives. The space sector aims to attract top students with an interest in science and technology and train them to become world-class aerospace engineering professionals.

In the commercial sector, the UAE's space industry is growing rapidly and is creating a competitive industry by promoting entrepreneurship and commercial space projects.

MOHAMMED BIN RASHID SPACE CENTRE

The Mohammed bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC) is integral to the strategic initiatives of the UAE government to inspire scientific innovation, technological advancement and sustainable development in the UAE. It has launched ambitious space science programs to position the space sector at the forefront of the UAE's development agenda. One such program is the Emirates Mars Mission 2021 to coincide with the country's 50th National Day celebrations.

Several streams of MBRSC's work program align with the SDGs.

SDG 4 - Quality Education

MBRSC has launched an outreach program to emphasize space science as a competitive and viable career choice. The Center has earmarked scholarships for undergraduate students and has an internship program to enhance their research skills. The Center is also working with the Ministry of Education to integrate space studies within the national curriculum at all levels of education.

SDG 5 - Gender Equality

The MBRSC is committed to achieving gender equality across its programs and initiatives. Currently the gender ratio is 60:40, male to female ratio. The male to female ratio within the Emirates Mars Mission is 65:35 and at the Assistant Director General level is 50:50.

SDG 6 - Clean Water & Sanitation

Images from DubaiSat-1, DubaiSat-2 and prospectively, KhalifaSat, are used to monitor the levels of reservoirs to track access to clean water. The center has also generated water area maps for seawater, lakes and pools and studied the water surface area of dams over time to monitor the change in surface water.

SDG 7 - Affordable & Clean Energy

MBRSC has built the region's first self-cooling eco-home that is completely independent of the power grid. The Center has also conducted a feasibility study on urban heat islands and on the detection of solar panels through satellite imagery.

SDG 9 - Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

MBRSC has developed an SME program for technology and science sectors. It has launched several innovative programs such as Nayif-1, NSOP and REU. The center has worked on classification maps of urban areas, roads, vegetation, water and undeveloped areas, which help in infrastructure mapping and for monitoring the growth of such areas. The Center also monitors the changes along the coastline and provides government entities with satellite data to support innovation, infrastructure and industrial projects.

SDG 13 - Climate Action

MBRSC has partnered with UN-SPIDER, a platform to facilitate the use of space-based technologies for disaster management and emergency response. Images from DS-1, DS-2 and prospectively, KS will be used to monitor deforestation, pollution levels, ice caps and desertification and enable preventative actions. The Center is manufacturing an environmental nanosatellite, DMSAT-1, with instruments and tools specifically for environmental studies such as aerosol optical depth, aerosol effective radius, and studying concentrations of greenhouse gases. The nanosatellite will contribute to studies of Earth's atmosphere and the effect of greenhouse gases on the climate.

SDG 14 - Life Below Water

MBRSC is using DS-1 and DS-2 images to monitor levels of red tides and fish stock. It is also working on studies about the effects of desalination plants on fish and coral reefs in certain areas.

SDG 15 - Life on Land

MBRSC is using images and data from DS-1 and DS-2 to monitor deforestation, land changes and the impact of natural disasters worldwide. It is also working on vegetation mapping, detection of mangrove forestry and palm trees. The Center works with several government agencies that have a role in conserving natural resources and the habitat by providing them with data and specialist knowledge.
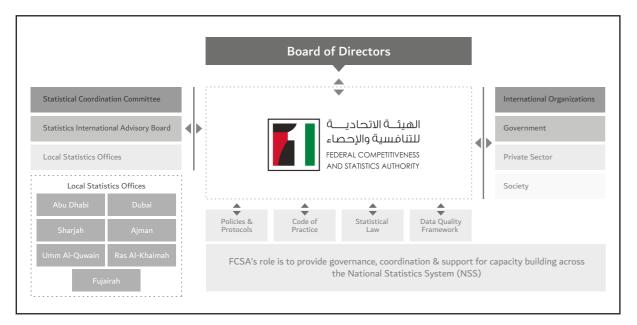
DATA AND STATISTICS

The SDGs are an ambitious policy agenda and commensurately, a data-intensive framework that require that the policy and service delivery functions of government be informed by data sourced from within the National Statistics System (NSS) and from outside government.

The UAE has a federal statistics system consisting of statistics offices at both the federal and local levels of government. UAE's NSS consists of the Federal Competitiveness and Statistics Authority (FCSA), the local statistics offices of each of the seven Emirates, ministries, authorities and other government entities that collect or generate administrative data as part of their core business. As the UAE's national statistics office, FCSA's role is to provide governance, coordination & support for capacity building across the NSS and serve as the primary source of official statistics at the federal-level in the UAE.

Recognizing the demands the SDGs make on statistical systems, in 2017 the National Committee agreed to begin expanding capacity, diversifying sources and producing data at pace with decision-making cycles for the SDGs. The Committee agreed to form working groups and taskforces to coordinate the collection of data and produce an NSS-wide statistical implementation plan that will serve as a strategy for how the government intends to monitor and report on SDG indicators. Partnerships with leading private sector companies are being explored and several pilot projects have been launched to gauge the viability of public- private-partnerships to produce the rich datasets the SDGs require. The National Committee also seeks to leverage the UAE's STI framework and collaborate with the country's frontier-shaping STI sectors (e.g. Dubai Data Initiative, space sector etc.) to address data needs.

The UAE acknowledges that generating and using data and statistics to implement policy is a challenge in many countries, and a particularly vexing issue in the Middle East. Therefore to be an active participant in the global statistical community and to ensure that data and evidence-based policy is given due attention both in the domestic policy discourse and in global discussions, the UAE is collaborating with the United Nations to host the UN World Data Forum in Dubai in 2018. The forum will be a premier global event in consolidating cooperation and promoting awareness on data-issues affecting sustainable development.

Board of Directors

Statistical Coordination Committee

Statistics International Advisory Board

Local Statistics Offices

Local Statistics Offices

Abu Dhabi	Dubai
Sharjah	Ajman
Umm Al-Quwain	Ras Al-Khaimah
Fujairah	

الهيئــة الاتحاديـــة
للتنافسية والإحصاء
FEDERAL COMPETITIVENESS
AND STATISTICS AUTHORITY

International Organizations

Government

Private Sector

Society

Policies & Protocols | Code of Practice | Statistical Law | Data Quality Framework

FCSA's role is to provide governance, coordination & support for capacity building across the National Statistics System (NSS)

Box

UN WORLD DATA FORUM 2018

The United Arab Emirates will host the second United Nations World Data Forum (WDF) in October 2018. The WDF will be a collaboration between the UAE's Federal Competitiveness & Statistics Authority and the Statistics Division of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, under the guidance of the United Nations Statistical Commission and the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Under the patronage of H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, the WDF aims to serve as a global platform of national statistical offices, data scientists, international organizations, and civil society organizations to address challenges and opportunities for harnessing the power of data and monitoring to contribute to the achievement of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The first edition of the WDF took place in South Africa in January 2017 with over 1,500 participants. The Forum was an effort to intensify global multi-stakeholder dialogue and collaboration to support the recommendation by the United Nations report, "A World That Counts: Mobilising the Data Revolution for Sustainable Development," which was presented in November 2014 by the UN Secretary-General's Independent Expert Advisory Group on a Data Revolution for Sustainable Development.

The UAE government is committed to hosting a unique gathering that will set new standards in excellence, innovation and collaboration towards the journey to 2030.

HAPPINESS AND WELL BEING AS NATIONAL POLICY PRIORITIES

One of the core concerns of the SDGs is to ensure the well-being of people around the world. Regardless of ethnic or cultural background, people ultimately desire to lead happy and meaningful lives in societies in which they can flourish and thrive. Social cohesion and well-being are therefore central to the ultimate achievement of Agenda 2030. When the United Arab Emirates was established in 1971, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan expressed that "the most important achievement of the Union, in my view, is the happiness of the community". To Sheikh Zayed, the wealth of his nation was the happiness of his people, suggesting that happiness is about more than simply economic wellbeing. The pursuit of happiness therefore, is not new to the UAE, but rather deeply rooted in its history.

THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT IN HAPPINESS AND WELLBEING

Quote

"The role of government is to create an environment in which people can achieve their dreams and ambitions... Government, in short, should nurture an environment in which people create and enjoy their own happiness"

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

Until very recently, governments typically have not attempted to measure citizens' happiness or subjective wellbeing due to the common notion that they are "fluffy" concepts that are too vague to measure in a scientifically valid and reliable method. Yet, over the past two decades, the measurement of human wellbeing has received a lot of attention. Indeed, in the policy sphere, the measurement of wellbeing - both by national statistical agencies as well as by individual government entities across the world - has become a routine activity.

Happiness therefore has recently been incorporated into many governmental constitutions as a mark of the realization that happiness is an important component of successful governance for the increased wellbeing of society. Recently, the General Assembly of the United Nations unanimously approved a resolution (A/RES/65/309) that calls for viewing happiness as a holistic approach to development, and for considering additional measures that better capture the importance of the pursuit of happiness and well-being in development with a view to guiding public policies. To guide this, the science of happiness has become a source that governments reference in order to ensure that people's wellbeing is a feasible goal for governments and public policy strategies.

The UAE wholeheartedly shares this belief in considering happiness a key measure of social progress and an objective that the government should integrate within its national implementation plans. A vision of happiness for the UAE means that policy-makers will seek to create a society where people's happiness is paramount, by sustaining an environment in which they can truly flourish. It is important to note here that "happiness" does not indicate the momentary, often short-lived feelings. Rather, it refers to the sustainable, authentic happiness; the happiness of society, that is, creating the most happiness for most people. Moreover, happiness does not indicate the absence of laws and policies that regulate society; rather, it ensures that laws and policies are designed in such a way that promotes societal wellbeing.

In practice this is done by linking happiness to policy levers that are generally known to increase people's well-being such as those linked to the economy, income, labor, education, health, social inclusion, public services and the environment. This is further based on studies that have shown that an increase in income, decrease in unemployment, improvement in educational, health, and environmental outcomes, improving the quality of public services and a higher level of tolerance in society all result in happier individuals. It can therefore be argued that happiness is a construct closely related to policy objectives such as the provision of better public health or education services or efforts to increase productivity. In fact, the objective benefits of happiness are of such importance that it matters greatly even if happiness isn't the ultimate goal. There are many reasons why the measurement of happiness is important - three obvious policy uses for happiness data stand out. First, to monitor progress of the wellbeing of people. Second, serving as a basis for policy formulation and finally informing policy evaluation.

It is worth clarifying that although governments can design and align policies to provide the means to lead happier lifestyles they cannot guarantee individual happiness nor can they enforce happiness. While governments should aspire to provide the best possible context for happiness, it is ultimately in the hands of individuals and communities to choose to be happy.

MINISTER OF STATE FOR HAPPINESS AND WELLBEING

The UAE seeks to create the institutional framework so that happiness can be achieved by way of systematic efforts on the part of the government.

In February 2016, Her Excellency Ohood bint Khalfan Al Roumi was appointed as Minister of State for Happiness with a mandate to harmonize all government plans, programs and policies to achieve a happier society. In March 2016, H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai reviewed and endorsed the National Program for Happiness and Positivity. In October 2017, 'wellbeing' was added to HE Ohood Al Roumi's Ministerial portfolio and subsequently, her Cabinet title was modified to Minister of State for Happiness and Wellbeing.

NATIONAL PROGRAM FOR HAPPINESS AND POSITIVITY

The National Program for Happiness and Positivity (NPHP) is an umbrella under which policies and initiatives are developed to achieve the objective of making the UAE to being amongst the happiest nations in the world. The overarching mission of the program is to make happiness and positivity both a lifestyle in society and also the higher purpose of the role of government.

The NPHP specifies policies and strategies to enhance programs and services and specifies KPIs monitor progress. The program seeks to instill happiness and positivity for all members of UAE's community, including citizens, expatriate residents, tourists and even travelers in transit. The Program promotes and encourages the adoption of a crosscutting agenda of happiness programs in the public and private sectors.

The NPHP has three main pillars:

1. Happiness and wellbeing at work
2. Happiness and positivity as a lifestyle
3. Measuring happiness and wellbeing (development of benchmarks, indicators, and tools to measure happiness, wellbeing and positivity)

INITIATIVES LAUNCHED UNDER THE NATIONAL PROGRAM FOR HAPPINESS AND POSITIVITY

Examples of initiatives under the pillar 'Happiness, Wellbeing, and Positivity at Work':

- Training Chief Happiness and Positivity Officers (CHPOs) in the public and private sectors
- Establishing councils for happiness and positivity at federal government entities
- Allocating time for happiness-related programs and activities in federal government entities
- Creating a customer happiness formula by which customer service centers are transformed into customer happiness centers. Officials dedicated to increasing customer happiness are appointed and are given specialized training
- Happiness and Positivity Councils have been established in each federal government entity. The Councils are responsible for aligning policies, services, and launching and following up on initiatives

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Examples of initiatives under the pillar 'Happiness and Positivity as a Lifestyle':

- #100DaysofPositivity: Launched in 2017 - 116,000 students participated in spreading happiness and positivity and learning about their enabling factors
- #1MillionActsofGiving: An initiative that received global attention to promote acts of charitable giving in society. The initiative promoted the view that charitable giving is not only limited to financial donations
- Engaging volunteers through the Friends of Happiness platform under the NPHP
- Happiness Journey: An annual celebration of the International Day of Happiness. The Happiness Journey aims to raise society's awareness of the science behind wellbeing, happiness & positivity through multi-sensory, experiential practices. Attendees leave program with insights and practices to increase their happiness and wellbeing in their everyday lives
- 2018 has been designated the "Year of Zayed". Activities arranged during the year will focus on instilling the founding father's values of charitable giving
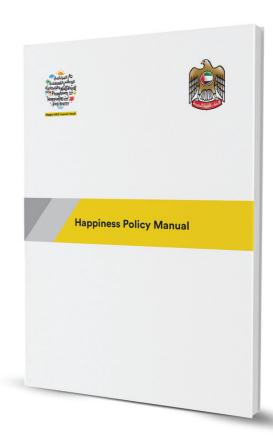

Examples of Initiatives under the pillar 'Measuring Happiness and Wellbeing':

- Happiness meters have been installed in government customer service centers to measure customer happiness in real time
- Launch of the Happiness Policy Manual
- The first National Survey for Happiness and Positivity was launched as a baseline measurement for happiness and positivity in the UAE - over 16,000 individuals responded to the survey

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HAPPINESS POLICY MANUAL

The UAE government appreciates the importance of creating a positive environment for all government employees and of instilling values of happiness and positivity in all ministries and government entities. Policies, programs, services and the work environment in government entities should focus on happiness and enhance cooperation with the private sector to achieve this target. This, in turn, leads to improving customer service, promoting innovation, creating better jobs, and as a result enhancing competitiveness and advancing the economic development at the national level.

To help instill such a focus on happiness in a systematic way, the UAE government launched a Happiness Policy Manual that adds a happiness lens on the policy-making process through developing perspectives and policy tools to be applied when formulating new policy initiatives and revisiting existing ones. The Manual also includes a Happiness Impact Assessment Tool - a mandatory screening tool for any policy submitted to Cabinet - to ensure that happiness is viewed holistically in policy-making. The Tool assesses the expected impact of any policy on society's happiness based on six evaluation domains - namely, economy, health, education, society and culture, government services and governance, and environment and infrastructure.

THE STORY BEHIND THE SDG LOGO

UAE's National Committee on SDGs has created a bespoke logo to represent the approach the country is taking to implement the SDGs.

Inspired by the colors of the 17 SDGs, each color in the logo represents a goal and the blending of colors is intended to convey the complexity, indivisibility and crosscutting nature of the SDGs. The map of the UAE at the center of the ring of colors illustrates the fact that sustainable development is very much a way of life for the country.

Furthermore, the logo for each SDG places UAE's map in the middle and gives prominence to the official color of that goal. Here is the bespoke icon for Goal 17: Partnerships for the Goals.

PART - 2
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE UAE: THE STORY SO FAR

01 | NO POVERTY

COORDINATING AGENCY:
MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

END POVERTY IN ALL ITS FORMS EVERYWHERE

UAE's SOCIAL ASSISTANCE SYSTEM

The UAE ranks high in world indices that monitor and evaluate human development, global competitiveness, ICT services, people's trust in government, financial stability, government efficiency and access to a skilled labor force. UAE's high rankings reflect sustained economic progress, growth and prosperity in recent decades and an accompanying rise in living standards. Furthermore, the UAE government has adopted a number of policies and announced many large-scale initiatives to pursue a sustainable development trajectory.

**UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT**

Domestically, through the provision of wide ranging social welfare programs, the UAE government proactively tackles the underlying causes that often lead to poverty. The UAE's Ministry of Community Development and the national charity organizations such as the Emirates Red Crescent offer a wide range of social assistance programs to those who are unable to attain sufficient income levels for themselves and their families.

The UAE is a country with high per-capital income and a comprehensive welfare state that ensures domestic poverty does not become a pressing issue for the government. Since the launch of its first federal government strategy in 2008,[1] the UAE has taken a comprehensive approach to ensuring the welfare of its citizens, driven by balanced social and welfare policies that provide targeted support to those who need it.

Given the absence of poverty in the UAE, the government has developed policies and programs specifically for the care of vulnerable groups. These policies are guided by the provision of social assistance under the Social Security Law No. 2 of 2001, which identifies twenty-one categories of vulnerable population groups including the elderly, orphans, widows, the unemployed, 'people of determination' (special needs), families of the imprisoned and those in ill health. Categories of beneficiaries are reviewed regularly and the law gives special consideration to women.

Under the Social Security Law, the government also provides financial and in-kind relief at the time of natural disasters and catastrophes, such as fires and floods in order to alleviate the burden on families affected.

EXAMPLES OF ADDITIONAL SOCIAL BENEFITS

■ **Exemption from electricity and water consumption**

Families covered by the Social Security Law benefit from special assistance and privileges provided by federal and local governments, as well as public and private companies, including exemptions from the cost of water and electricity consumption provided by the Federal Electricity and Water Authority and electricity and water authorities in Emirates of Abu Dhabi, Dubai and Sharjah.

■ **Additional assistance from local governments**

On a case-by-case basis, local governments provide additional monetary assistance as and when needed. Some emirates have set thresholds of minimum monthly incomes for their citizens and local governments pay the difference between private income and the prescribed minimum. In other instances, local governments provide financial assistance towards rental costs, if an individual or family does not own their home and subsidized public transport. Social security benefits for the elderly include the free allocation of shares of some joint stock companies to provide them with a stable and permanent income - approximately 25% of those covered by the Social Security Law have benefited from this scheme.

The government also provides beneficiaries with special housing privileges through the Sheikh Zayed Housing Programme or the Mohammed bin Rashid Housing Establishment and other local housing programs in all emirates, by granting the beneficiary housing or by providing them with a plot of land intended for construction, a financial grant and a soft loan to build their own homes.

■ **Associations of public interest and voluntary work**

The government works to stimulate and support the participation of the public and private sectors, civil society organizations and individuals to contribute to the social development by supporting volunteerism and encouraging the establishment of civil society associations and institutions of public interest.

The number of such associations increased from 115 in 2004 to 175 at the end of 2017. They comprise organizations such as the Red Crescent Authority and registered associations of local governments (Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahayan Charitable and Humanitarian Foundation, Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan Foundation, Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Humanitarian and Charity Establishment, Al Maktoum Charity Foundation and other associations). These associations and institutions play a broad developmental role in addition to their active contribution in the field of social and humanitarian care by providing in-kind and monetary assistance to families. The activities of the humanitarian associations extend beyond the UAE.

In order to strengthen the status of volunteering, a law is being adopted which aims to enhance the social status of voluntary work as a humanitarian act.

Finally, the government considers the role of strong families central to a stable and cohesive society and therefore provides support for young Emirati families in the form of one-off, income-tested grants prioritized based on need.

UAE's INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS

Despite a significant decrease in the number of people living in poverty, by some estimates close to a billion people worldwide still experience extreme poverty.

The UAE has been an active contributor to many international humanitarian initiatives to poor and developing countries, especially in providing relief to victims of natural disasters and conflicts. According to the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the UAE is ranked as one of the ten largest donor states for Official Development Aid (ODA) in 2015.[2] In addition, a number of government-financed charitable organizations provide aid and humanitarian assistance across the world. The Abu Dhabi Fund for Development (ADFD) was established in 1971 to help developing countries achieve sustainable economic growth and reduce poverty by providing financial resources, forging partnerships in the public and private sectors, and adopting international best practices to ensure aid effectiveness. The Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan Foundation was established in July 2007 and its outreach is focused on health and education on domestic, regional and global scales. The educational strategy of the Foundation includes supporting vocational educational projects in countries of the region, health needs related to malnutrition, child protection and care and the provision of safe water on a global level. Poor and needy communities are also supported by the provision of infrastructure such as schools, healthcare and other forms of social infrastructure. In order to implement these strategies, the Foundation has entered into partnerships with global organizations affiliated with the United Nations and public welfare organizations. The various assistance given by the Foundation around the world has reached more than 87 countries since its inception.

Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives (MBRGI) is a foundation that was inaugurated in October 2015.[3] It aims to improve the world through humanitarian, developmental and community work. In the field of combating poverty, Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives (MBRGI) and its affiliated bodies have given financial and practical support to more than 1.5 million disadvantaged households in 40 countries. The Mohammed bin Rashid Charity and Humanitarian Establishment is also active in helping the poor, the sick, widows, children, the needy and distressed in the UAE and elsewhere around the world.

1 UAE Strategy 2008-2010, https://uaecabinet.ae/en/uae-strategy-2008-2010

2 UAE Aid to Foreign Countries, https://government.ae/en/information-and-services/charity-and-humanitarian-work/the-uae-aid-to-foreign-countries
3 Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives, http://www.almaktouminitiatives.org/en/about

02 | ZERO HUNGER

COORDINATING AGENCY:
MINISTRY OF CLIMATE CHANGE & ENVIRONMENT

END HUNGER, ACHIEVE FOOD SECURITY AND IMPROVED NUTRITION AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

**UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
MINISTRY OF CLIMATE CHANGE
& ENVIRONMENT**

By 2030, the UN wants to end hunger and achieve food security, particularly for the poor and those in vulnerable situations. While there are many ongoing projects to address these issues, a prominent example is the recent launch of the UAE Food Bank.

H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, dedicated the celebration of his Accession Day in 2017, January 4th, to launching the UAE Food Bank, a non-profit charitable organization committed to distributing food to those in need while eliminating food waste. The UAE Food Bank collaborates with local authorities as well as local and international charity organizations to introduce a comprehensive ecosystem aimed at improving the efficiency of food storage, packaging and distribution. It partners with food producers such as hotels, restaurants, supermarkets

and farms to store and package excess fresh food effectively. It then works with volunteers and partners to distribute the well-packaged food within and outside of the UAE. In addition to its philanthropic vision, the initiative also aims to position Dubai to be the first city in the region to achieve zero food waste.

Another highlight is the inaugural of "Climate in Action" segment during the annual World Government Summit in February 2017. This was organized by the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment (MOCCAE) and focused on addressing the future of food in view of expected impacts of climate change on the world's food production. During the event, world leaders discussed policy and technological solutions that can help meet increasing food demand while also meeting environmental objectives.

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

Agriculture in the UAE is challenged by limited water resources and arable land, as well as high temperatures and humidity in the summer months. The Ministry of Climate Change and Environment is working with local authorities and farmers to increase productivity while taking sustainability into consideration, most notably, to protect the finite ground water resources that are being rapidly depleted mainly for agricultural purposes. This includes the adoption of the climate-smart agriculture (CSA) approach to adapt agricultural systems, mitigate emissions and ensure food security in a changing climate that encourages organic farming and hydroponic farming. The adoption of the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach is also promoted to control the palm pests through the "NAKHILNA" ("Our Palm") initiative to ensure sustainable palm cultivation which hold an important economic value in the UAE's agriculture sector.

At the policy-level, the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment with technical cooperation from the UN Food and Agriculture Organization and key UAE stakeholders undertook a year-long process to develop a food diversification policy and strategy in 2017, aimed to diversify and enhance domestic food production and food imports in order to ensure the long-term food security of the country. Five regulations were also introduced in 2017 to ensure sustainability and the proper functioning of food commodity markets: fertilizers, seeds, lists of quarantine pest, protection of new plant varieties, pesticides.
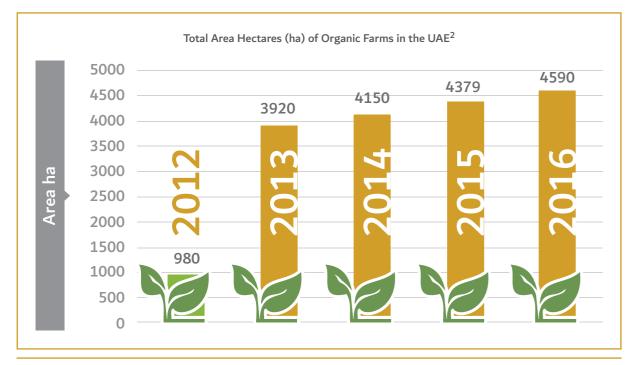
Research and development is an important factor in the sustainable development of the agricultural sector, including crop varieties adaptive to the local environment (e.g., saline and drought tolerant varieties, such as quinoa), utilization of Mycorrhiza (a beneficial type of fungi that grows in most plant roots, commonly used to enhance horticultural and agricultural crops), and efficient protected agriculture technologies (e.g., efficient greenhouses with cooling and recycled water systems).

Given the large quantities of food and livestock that are imported into the UAE, food safety is an important issue. Major progress was made in 2017 Ministry of Food Security to improve biosecurity measures, which will result in streamlining and privatizing the border inspection and quarantine procedures with enhanced technical capabilities to protect the safety of the UAE population.
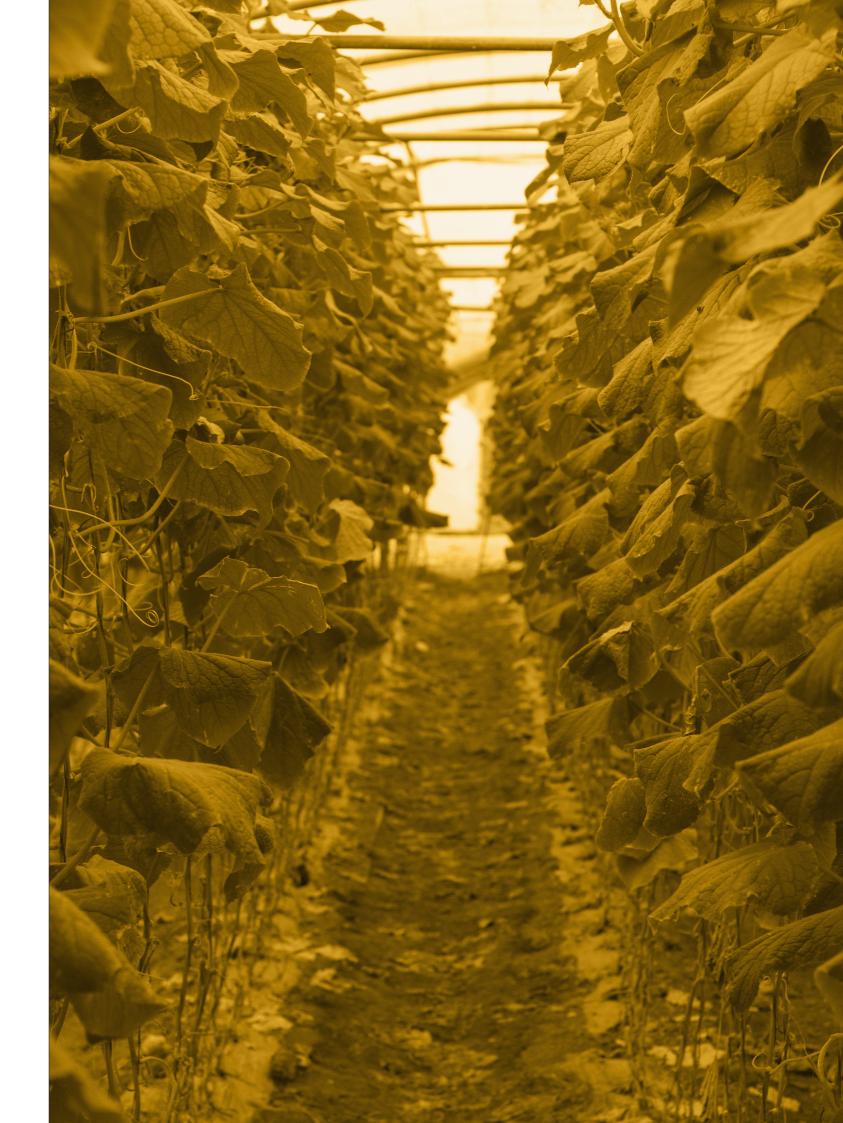
UAE Ranked # 33
Out of 113 countries in the Global Food Security Index - The Economist[1]

Total Area Hectares (ha) of Organic Farms in the UAE[2]

Year	Area ha
2012	980
2013	3920
2014	4150
2015	4379
2016	4590

1 Global Food Security Index - The Economist
2 Source: Ministry of Climate Change & Environment

03 | GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

COORDINATING AGENCY:
MINISTRY OF HEALTH & PREVENTION

ENSURE HEALTHY LIVES AND PROMOTE WELL-BEING FOR ALL AT ALL AGES

UAE's Ministry of Health and Prevention (MOHAP) leads the implementation of health-related targets in the SDGs.

While MOHAP's primary focus is on SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), there are several targets in SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), SDG 13 (Climate Action), and SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) for which it is the lead or supporting agency.[1]

1 WHO's 2017 report is the source for all figures used in this chapter: http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/255336/1/9789241565486-eng.pdf?ua=1

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES MINISTRY OF HEALTH & PREVENTION

ALIGNMENT OF THE SDG TARGETS TO THE NATIONAL AGENDA 2021

Implementation efforts for health-related SDGs are aligned with the ongoing work towards the pillar of "World-Class Healthcare" in UAE's Vision 2021 which emphasizes the importance of disease prevention and a strong healthcare system, capable of responding efficiently to epidemics or health risks.

The UAE aspires to create one of the best healthcare systems in the world and the National Agenda specifies a set of ambitious targets and indicators (KPIs) to achieve this. Many of these targets are closely related to the health-related targets in the SDGs.

SDGs have been incorporated in the following multi-sectoral plans: National Non-Communicable diseases (NCD) plan, National Nutrition plan, National Maternal and Child health (MCH) plan and the Childhood Obesity Framework. In 2018, further integration of the SDGs with the local development plans of the seven Emirates will be undertaken.

INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS

In 2017, MOHAP established a taskforce for health related-SDGs which reports to UAE's National Committee on SDGs. The taskforce is responsible for developing a framework and governance mechanism to integrate health-related SDG targets and indicators within the strategic plans of federal and local level government agencies. The taskforce also provides guidance on policy and service delivery and engages with the national statistics system to develop and enhance systems for data capture, monitoring and reporting.

UPDATES ON SELECTED HEALTH-RELATED SDG TARGETS

Target (3.1) & Target (3.2)

The current rate of maternal mortality in UAE is 6 per 100,000 live births and the target is to reduce it to 3 per 100,000 by 2030.

The current under-five mortality rate is 6.8 per 1,000 live births and the target for 2030 is 4 per 1,000 live births. In the UAE, births attended by skilled health personnel is 100%.

In order to strengthen maternal and child health, MOHAP developed the 2017-2021 National Maternal and Child Health (MCH) plan in partnership with national stakeholders and the WHOs. One way to ensure good health for newborn babies is to encourage breastfeeding; MOHAP has adopted a baby-friendly concept at both public and private hospitals and increased the number of lactation consultants. In addition, MOHAP has undertaken efforts to expand screening for possible instances of congenital heart disease and hearing disabilities.

Target (3.3): End the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases.

According to the World Economic Forum, UAE has the lowest HIV prevalence in the world (<0.2%) and the lowest tuberculosis rate (1.8/100,000). The WHO reports that UAE is completely free of malaria.

'Infants receiving three doses of hepatitis B vaccine' is used as a proxy indicator to track the prevalence of hepatitis. The UAE is at 94% hepatitis vaccine coverage with an aim to reach 100% by 2030.

Target (3.4): Reduce by one-third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being.

Non-communicable diseases represent a major health burden for UAE. Mortality results from the four main NCDs (cardiovascular diseases, cancer, diabetes and chronic respiratory diseases) accounts for 65% of all deaths in UAE. Moreover, the four main diseases account for 17.4% of premature mortality (30-70yrs) in UAE. There is a strong national commitment to address NCDs as part of an integrated multi-sectoral approach. UAE's National Agenda, includes a set of national targets for reducing NCD mortality and burden. These targets are aligned with WHO global targets for 2025 and the targets for the SDGs.

To achieve the national targets and to be aligned with global commitments, MOHAP has developed a multi-sectoral national action plan for NCD prevention and control for (2017- 2021). In addition, a national high-level multi-sectoral NCD Committee was established in 2016 with membership of all relevant sectors to oversee the progress in the implementation of the NCD action plan and its KPIs. Recently implemented excise taxes on tobacco (100%) and sugary drinks (50%) reinforce government commitments to NCD prevention and obesity reduction. A national framework to combat childhood (ages 5-17 years) obesity and mass media campaigns targeting adult obesity (18+) has been developed by MOHAP in collaboration with stakeholders across the federal and local governments and the private-sector.

NCD screening and management: The national agenda was a turning point to scale up screening programs in Primary Health Care (PHC).

MOHAP, in collaboration with the WHO launched an initiative to integrate CVDs & diabetes screening programs in PHC.

The "integrated NCD program" focused on estimating the cardiovascular risk among population aged 40+, increasing early detection of NCDs and sensitizing healthcare providers in these settings on the importance of health promotion and screening.

An initial assessment of this initiative showed improved access to NCD screening. Higher patient satisfaction and trust in PHC was also observed. MOHAP will continue expanding this initiative to cover all PHC, encouraging patients to self-manage NCDs and will build capacity of staff for counseling activities.

To enhance mental health services "The National Policy for The Promotion of Mental Health in the United Arab Emirates" was developed in 2017.
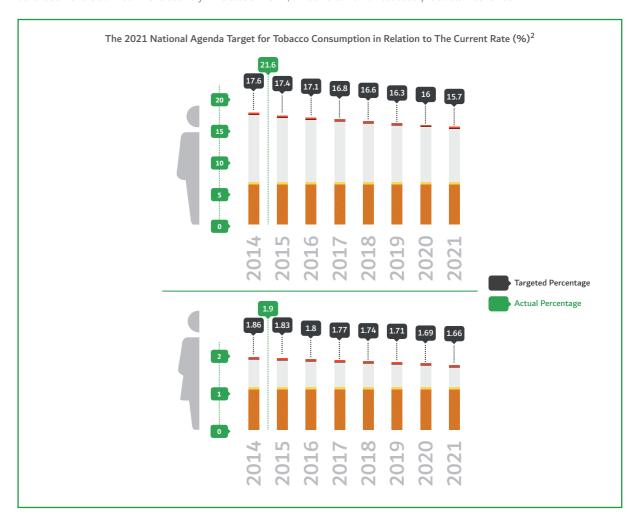
In addition, the UAE established a national cancer registry to monitor cancer programs and enhance strategies to reduce mortality rates from cancer.

Target (3.a): Strengthen the implementation of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in all countries, as appropriate.

Currently, the prevalence of tobacco use among male adults (18+) is 21.6% and the aim is to reduce it to 15.7% by 2021. (See graphs below).

To protect the population from tobacco exposure, UAE endorsed the MPOWER tobacco control measures by participating in the Global Youth Tobacco Survey in 2002, 2006, 2013.

MOHAP has launched annual tobacco awareness campaigns and all tobacco products include a pictorial warning. Direct tobacco advertisement is banned in the country. In October 2017, a 100% tax on all tobacco products was levied.

The 2021 National Agenda Target for Tobacco Consumption in Relation to The Current Rate (%)[2]

Target (3.6): Halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents.

Ministry of Interior is the lead agency responsible for targets pertaining to road traffic. See chapter on SDG 16 for further details.

Target (3.7): 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 programs.

The satisfaction rate with family planning services in the UAE is approximately 70% with an aim to increase this figure to 75%.

According to the WHO, the adolescent birth rate for UAE is 34.2/1,000 women aged 15-19 years.

2 Source: Ministry of Health and Prevention

The Women and Childbirth Monitoring System has been established to improve reproductive health services. The system tracks each step in a patients' pregnancy and captures key information (fetus development, mother's health, pregnancy progress, etc.) in electronic medical records. These records are updated in real-time and are provided to care givers to increase efficiency. The system has many benefits of which the main ones are improving patient care by creating a single portal for all clinical data and increasing the efficiency of healthcare providers by providing immediate access to information needed for planning and decision-making.

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.

MOHAP has undertaken a number of initiatives to improve access to health care, expand health care facilities and integrate health information systems across all levels of care.

To improve the quality of health-care, the Medical Reference Key / Clinical Key program has been implemented. This program provides decision-making support to physicians and nurses regarding a patient's condition and treatment by relaying relevant medical and surgical information based on health updates and clinical research.

In order to meet the universal health coverage requirement, the UAE is continually expanding insurance schemes with an aim to provide all UAE citizens and residents with universal health coverage.

Vaccination services are also central to the National Agenda. Currently, vaccination coverage in the UAE is 94% with an aim to achieve 100% coverage by 2030.

Target (3.9): Reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals air, water and soil pollution and contamination.

The Ministry of Climate Change and Environment (MOCCAE) is a member of the high-level NCD Committee. MOCCAE, in collaboration with MOHAP, has been working on water clean-up campaigns, and more generally, population education and awareness raising campaigns. The UAE has also built several energy- efficient residential communities and commercial areas. The initiative to 'go green' has begun with the aim to have as many "Nearly Zero Energy Buildings (nZEBs)" as possible.

According to WHO, in the UAE current mortality rate attributed to household and ambient air pollution is 7.5/100,000 population. The mortality rate attributable to unsafe water is lower than 0.1. Likewise the mortality rate attributed to unintentional poisoning is 0.3/100,000 population.

Target (3.c): Substantially increase health financing and the recruitment, development, training and retention of the health workforce

The National Agenda also aims to ensure that health-care providers are present in sufficient numbers to facilitate the well-being of patients. Target 3.c aligns with an important National Agenda KPI which aims to increase the number of doctors and nurses per 1,000 population by year 2021. Health worker population density is currently 46.2/10,000 population. A number of initiatives have been launched in support of this target. However more recently, a comprehensive training program for nurses has been inaugurated to ensure that nurses are trained to the highest healthcare standards and that they are also familiar with the cultural context of the UAE.

Target (3.d): Strengthening national capacity for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks

UAE current score for International Health Regulation (IHR) and emergency preparedness is 91 out of a maximum of 100, and the target is to reach a score of 95 by 2030.

OTHER KEY INTERVENTIONS TO IMPLEMENT HEALTH-RELATED SDG TARGETS

In addition to the aforementioned initiatives, there are many cross-cutting programs that were developed to support implementation, monitoring and reporting of health-related SDG goals, targets and indicators:

1. Open data

UAE has introduced a national open data platform to help decision-makers, researchers, biostatisticians and other users to benefit from information and statistics.

2. Nationwide Health Survey

The World Health Survey (WHS) was developed by the World Health Organization (WHO) as a means to compile comprehensive baseline information on the health of populations.

The UAE is conducting a nationwide health survey to collect data for health indicators. The survey is conducted under the supervision and management of the Ministry of Health and Prevention in cooperation with the World Health Organization, and other strategic partners. The recent survey started in late 2017 and will be completed in 2018.

3. National Unified Medical Record Program

The UAE Cabinet has approved the National Unified Medical Record (NUMR) project the objective of which is to build a nationwide integrated platform for sharing data to ensure improved care through interoperability among all health care authorities and medical practitioners. Each patient in the UAE will have one electronic health record that can be accessed by both public and private healthcare entities. The initiative aims to facilitate the timely sharing of vital patient information that will ensure better decision making. Consequently, quality and care would be improved, safety ensured, efficiency increased and health disparities would be reduced. NUMR is expected to be finalized within the next five years.

4. Implementing Advanced Technology

Advanced technologies are being deployed to assist the advancement of medicine, improve the accessibility of health services, reduce the workload of health workers, and reduce human error. For instance, pharmacies in some hospitals are benefiting from robotic technology that dispenses prescribed medication with a click of a button based on a bar code. This minimizes human error and improves the accuracy of data collection on the dispensing and usage of prescription medicines. An added advantage is that the dispensing process is paper free. In addition, the UAE currently houses a cutting-edge surgical technology called "Da Vinci" which is used to perform minimally invasive heart surgeries and ensure short recovery periods for patients.

5. Smart Patient Portal

The Smart Patient portal provides citizens and residents easy access to their own health profiles including details such as appointment records, laboratory reports, medication, history of health problems, allergies and treatments including diagnostic procedures (e.g. radiology) surgical histories. In addition the Smart Room project in hospitals aims to connect medical devices in a patient's room with their electronic file to improve real-time treatment and medical care, and to raise the efficiency of work flow among the medical staff.

6. Supporting Policies and Laws and Regulations

There are many policies and laws that are in place to govern the provision of healthcare services in the UAE. Some recent ones (2013 onwards) are mapped to the relevant SDGs and presented in the following table.

UAE Ranked # 1

(Lowest) Tuberculosis cases/100,000 population - Global Competitiveness Report by World Economic Forum 2017/18

(Lowest) HIV prevalence, % adult population - Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Report by World Economic Forum 2017

(Lowest) Malaria cases/100,000 population - Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Report by World Economic Forum 2017

04 | QUALITY EDUCATION

COORDINATING AGENCY:
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

ENSURE INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE QUALITY EDUCATION AND PROMOTE LIFELONG LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

The National Education Agenda and the newly developed strategic plan of the Ministry of Education (MOE) are designed to achieve education targets that are in total alignment with the UAE's Vision 2021. Processes are in place to ensure the initiatives and programs are constantly updated to meet national aspirations, especially following the announcement of the UAE's centennial strategy 2071.

The strategic plan will guide education reform over the next four years. Its design, planning and implementation of education reform programs, were all based on the assumption that a relevant and responsive quality education system is the bridge to the achievement of sustainable development in UAE. The need for, and value of, citizens who are highly educated, broadly skilled, adaptable, and motivated has been recognized and validated. Our graduates and life-long learners will have the knowledge and skills to maintain UAE's economic competitiveness in the global market, maintain and extend the security and stability of UAE's society.

**UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION**
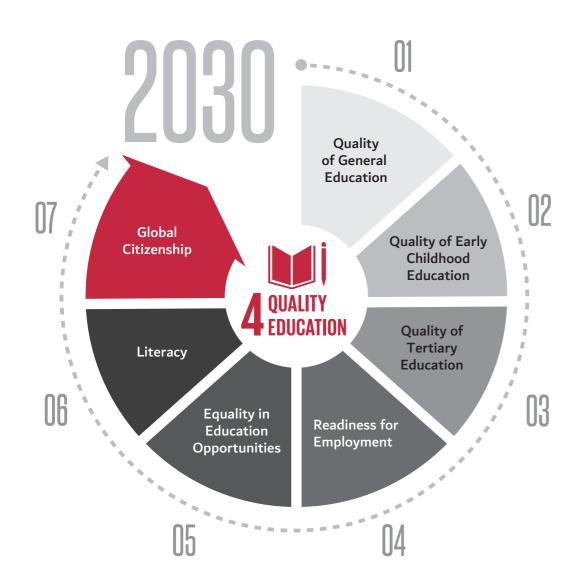
To ensure alignment, responsiveness and harmonization, the UAE recently extended the mandate of the MOE to include Higher Education. The mandate was further expanded to include pre-school education and all other forms of early childhood care. Federal and local government entities in charge of education work in partnership to achieve universal access and quality education through a rich and diverse education system, with public and private schools offering more than 17 curricula.

The SDG 4 framework has been incorporated in the UAE's national educational agenda by emphasizing the need for equitable quality opportunities to education in a holistic and lifelong learning perspective whereby education is recognized as a fundamental human right and a public good.

To ensure responsiveness of national education strategy to the framework of SDG 4, UAE has taken concrete measures to anchor education for sustainable development (ESD) in the National Education Policy Framework. The steps to achieve this have included:

- Building a common understanding and high-level political commitment to promoting integration of SDG 4-Education 2030 into the national education policy and planning

- Mapping existing national policies against SDG 4 to identify gaps, if any. Consequently, the SDG 4 was reflected in the National Agenda goals and targets (see insert below)

- Identifying data gaps to ensure regular and consistent national review

- Ensuring appropriate coordination mechanisms across all education stakeholders at the national level through a National Team for Education 2030

- The strategy adopted by the Ministry and its partners to monitor SDG 4 in terms of pace of implementation and outcomes builds upon existing monitoring structures for education strategy. The National Team for Education 2030 has prepared a plan of action to ensure that data elements required for effective monitoring are in place

- A state of the art Education Data Center has been established making data and analysis readily available to support evidence-based decision-making. To build awareness and capacity across stakeholders, regular workshops are organized on the data requirements for SDG 4 indicators. A dashboard with baseline data on each SDG 4 target has also been developed

National Education Strategy Goals
Ensure inclusive quality education including pre-school education
Ensure competent and highly effective school leaders and teachers
Ensure quality, efficiency and good governance of educational and institutional Performance
Ensure safe, conducive and challenging learning environments
Attract and prepare students to enroll in higher education internally and externally, in light of labor market needs
Improve capacity for research and innovation to meet global competitiveness standards
Provide a quality, efficient and transparent administrative services
Deepen the culture of innovation at all levels of education

UAE's 2021 National Agenda (Targets)
Average TIMSS Score (Among Top 15 Countries)
Upper Secondary Graduation Rate (98%)
Enrollment rate in Preschool education (95%)
Average PISA Score (Among Top 20 Countries)
Percentage of Students with High Skills in Arabic on National Assessment (90%)
Percentage of Schools with High Quality Teachers (100%)
Percentage of Schools with Highly Effective School Leadership (100%)
Enrollment Rate in Foundation Year (0%)
Expenditure on Research and Development as percentage of GDP (1.5% of GDP)

PRESCHOOL EDUCATION

Early childhood care and education is at the heart of the UAE's policy priorities. Recognizing the impact of this phase on individual's subsequent learning and its positive influence on society, recent institutional transformation assigned the supervision of nurseries to the MOE. MOE's initiatives are aligned with the SDG4 indicators related to early childhood with a focus on widening the opportunities for enrollment and improving the quality of education and caring.

The enrollment rate in kindergartens is a target in UAE's National Agenda Goals (95% by 2021). MOE has accomplished significant steps toward achieving this target. Its strategy for developing the early childhood sector is as follows:

1. Develop the legislative framework that includes clear governance explaining roles and responsibilities across stakeholders.
2. Develop a national framework for inspection and quality assurance.
3. Launch programs targeting families in order to raise awareness of the importance of early childhood education and care, provide guidelines for better parenting, develop educational materials and tools that empower parents.
4. Develop a National Early Childhood Development (ECD) Standards Framework.
5. Issue a "quality standards framework" to regulate early childhood care and education centers.

SCHOOL EDUCATION (PRIMARY & SECONDARY EDUCATION)

An outcome of the policies adopted in the provision of free and compulsory education over the last 40 years, as well as promoting diversification of private education to meet demographic structure of UAE population, is that the UAE has achieved universal primary and secondary education, as measured by enrollment rates.

Although universal education within "Education for all" initiative has been achieved, the challenge is quality education as highlighted in UAE Vision 2021: to create "a first-rate education system". This is to ensure that students have the cognitive skills and competencies necessary to participate in a knowledge-based economy. In response to these challenges, the Ministry of Education has developed a new policy framework and designed a sound reform program consistent with SDG 4, to transform the education system into one that provides and ensures quality education in an inclusive and equitable manner.

The drivers and features of the new transformation in education are:

1. Students' learning first.
2. Systemic synergy: Organization, orientation, alignment, linkages and harmonization.
3. Building quality-teaching profession.
4. Reforming curricula focusing on 21st century skills, (STEAM-based), providing diversified pathways to students that suit their personal capacities and interests and national needs with seamless transition within pathways. Such drivers confirms the importance of flexibility of choice.
5. Focus on results: High standards and accountability coupled with institutional support.
6. Learning empowered by technology.
7. The new "Emirati School" model is the face of school development in the UAE, which summarizes the reform measures adopted by the Ministry's strategy in one coherent package. The model is a systemic and a holistic approach to improving quality through ensuring linkages and alignment of reform components (new curriculum, assessment systems, professional development of teachers, learning resources etc.). The ultimate goal of the reform is offering inclusive quality education to empower students with advanced skills.
8. A unified quality assurance system "National Inspection and Evaluation Framework" has been adopted to assess education quality in schools and provide an evidence-based approach to guiding school improvement.

One of the major nation-wide initiatives is intended to improve students' literacy skills. H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, announced 2016 as the "Year of Reading". MOE and local authorities have launched number of initiatives that encouraged thousands of students across the Arab World to consider reading as a core part of their educational experiences. To gauge students' literacy skills, UAE participated in PIRLS.[1]
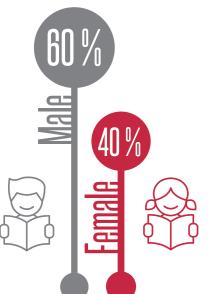
TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

UAE's national education strategy aims at making a significant leap in the country's Technical and Vocational Eeducation System (TVET) designed to equip individuals with the skills to enhance the productivity and competitiveness of the economy.

The national strategy aims to balance current offerings within the National Qualifications Framework in sectors such as peaceful nuclear energy, nuclear engineering technology, electromechanical engineering technology, petroleum engineering technology, information security engineering technology, meteorology, aircraft engineering technology, aircraft maintenance, air navigation management, air traffic management and the health sector.

The national TVET strategy is aligned with SDG 4 in that it provides youth and adults with the education and training opportunities in a variety of forms and settings by emphasizing a lifelong approach to learning.

Enrolment Rate of Male and Female in TVET System

Increase the Percentage of Students in TVET System

1 Progress in International Reading Literacy Study

NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK

To support the outcomes of TVET, the National Qualifications Authority has developed the National Qualifications Framework with the following objectives:

1. Improve the standards of qualifications awarded in the UAE
2. Promote lifelong learning by putting in place policies and tools that allows transfer and progression
3. Promote access to learning across formal and informal settings
4. Benchmark the quality of qualifications in the UAE with those of international best practices
5. Assist mobility of workers inside and outside the UAE through proper recognition of their qualifications
6. Ensure uniform standards for qualifications across all education providers

For the labor market, a coded classification of the twelve main industry sectors was developed that serves as a cross-sectoral mapping for qualifications. An employability indicator is used to map the qualification levels to relevant levels of employment.

Committees of subject matter experts are developing the National Occupational Standards (NOS). These standards play a key role in the development of professional and Vocational Education and Training (VET) framework and can be used for a variety of purposes such as professional recognition of qualifications, development of competency frameworks, job descriptions, performance management, selection and recruitment, and career development.

Qf Level	Principal Qualification Structure	Principal Qualifications Sector Usage
10	Doctoral	Higher Education (HE)
9	Master	Higher Education (HE)
9	Applied Master	Vocational Education and Training (VET)
8	Postgraduate Diploma	Higher Education (HE)
8	Applied Graduate Diploma	Vocational Education and Training (VET)
7	Bachelor	Higher Education (HE)
7	Applied Bachelor	Vocational Education and Training (VET)
6	Higher Diploma	Higher Education (HE)
6	Advanced Diploma	Vocational Education and Training (VET)
5	Associate Degree	Higher Education (HE)
5	Diploma	Vocational Education and Training (VET)
4	Certificate 4	Vocational Education and Training (VET)
4	Secondary School Certificate	Grade 12 General Education (GE)
3	Certificate 3	Vocational Education and Training (VET)
2	Certificate 2	Vocational Education and Training (VET)
1	Certificate 1	Vocational Education and Training (VET)

No	Code	Sectors of Industry
1	A	Government services and public administration
2	B	Community, health and social services
3	C	Business, administration and financial services
4	D	Tourism, hospitality, retail and leisure services including personal care services
5	E	Arts, culture and entertainment
6	F	Education, learning and social development
7	G	Building and construction, estates and assets development and management
8	H	Utilities and infrastructure
9	I	Energy resources - oil, natural gas, petrochemical, chemical and mining/quarrying
10	J	Manufacturing
11	K	Logistics and transport
12	L	Agriculture, livestock and fishery

HIGHER EDUCATION

Aligned with the strategy applied in public education, the Ministry of Education recently launched a new strategy for higher education with four main pillars: quality, relevance, innovation and competence.

The objective of the strategy is to provide quality higher education and research that contributes to the advancement of the UAE as a knowledge economy. The new strategy aims to optimize program delivery and enhance university completion rates by focusing on high quality standards, creating incentives to drive system quality, promoting linkages between academia and the labor market, and creating an ecosystem of innovation across the university system.

The UAE provides free education for its citizens at the undergraduate level in government higher education institutions. Government institutions also provide bachelors, masters and doctoral degrees across a range of subject areas. In addition, technical and vocational colleges offer programs at the diploma, higher diploma, bachelors and masters levels in fields such as supply chains, aviation, health sciences, among others. All options are available to students of both genders across the country.

MORAL EDUCATION

Moral education and Global citizenship principles are amongst the most important outcomes that the MOE seeks to achieve through adopting a set of initiatives and policies in order to develop the skills of students at all levels. MOE considers global citizenship as a strategic priority, which links directly to the safety, inclusion and prosperity of the UAE.

Aligned to SDG4, MOE recently introduced moral education as a subject at all levels of education incorporating fundamental principles of global citizenship based on four main themes: personality and values, personal ethics, the role of the individual and society, civic education and cultural education. The goal is to encourage students to acquire competencies such as empathy, tolerance, critical thinking, communication, respect diversity of cultures, and being engaged in the dialogue on global environmental, social and economic issues. In addition to being incorporated in school curriculums, principles of global citizenship are also being integrated in youth community activities.

TEACHERS' DEVELOPMENT

Teacher training, professional development and creating career paths for teachers are priorities in MOE's strategy. UAE has adopted clear policies to achieve the desired quality of teachers and school leaders starting from a pre-service preparation, having a professional license as a prerequisite for teaching, and creating a career path for teachers. In partnerships with stakeholders, the MOE has also launched programs to fill the gap in the shortage of teachers, especially in scientific disciplines. Examples of such initiatives include "Teach for the UAE" coupled with the adoption of a new policy to attract, hire and retain teachers based on quality. Another example is an initiative called "Future Teacher Scholarship" which provides full scholarships to Emirati and Arab youth residents to be hired as teachers upon completion of their higher education qualifications.

EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES AND PREMISES

Although educational facilities in UAE meet standards of quality, accessibility, and safety relevant to a conducive learning environment as stipulated in SDG 4 framework, the Ministry of Education, has recently adopted a holistic health, safety and environmental framework to ensure that education facilities can accommodate all types of students especially those with special needs (Students of Determination).

A new regulatory code to promote inclusive behavior and address issues such as violence and bullying has been created. A plan to transform all government schools to conform to green building specifications is being created. Finally, the education strategy aims to ensure that education facilities have all the relevant infrastructure and resources, including the latest ICT technologies, to be conducive learning environments.

INTERNATIONAL AID

The UAE is a leading country in humanitarian and development assistance at regional and international levels. In 2016, total UAE foreign assistance, including official development assistance (ODA) and non-ODA disbursements, amounted to approximately AED 22.23 billion (US$ 6.1 bn), while ODA eligible contributions amounted to approximately AED 15.4 bn (US$ 4.2 bn).[2] The education sector received a considerable proportion of foreign aid which helped to construct new schools, improve schools conditions, support provision of learning resources and teacher training in many countries in need especially those affected by an influx of refugees.

In October 2015, H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, launched a new institution called the "Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives", one of the largest development institutions in the Middle East. The new institution includes 28 Emirati entities that focus on fighting poverty and disease, spreading knowledge and culture, empowering communities and supporting innovation. The new institution has been able, through its various initiatives, to educate 20 million children in 41 countries. It has also encouraged the reading of 500 million books, translating 25,000 titles into Arabic, printing and distributing 10 million books, building 2,126 schools around the world, training 400,000 teachers, distributing and printing more than 3.2 million books, and translating 1,000 knowledge titles. It has also encouraged millions of students in the Arab world to read 50 million books each year.

UAE Ranked # 1

Tertiary Inbound Mobility - Global Innovation Index by INSEAD 2017

Enrolment in Tertiary Education - Global Gender Gap Report by WEF 2017/18

96.7%

Upper Secondary Graduation Rate in 2016

91%

Enrollment Rate in Pre-schools (Public & Private) in 2016

2 Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

05 | **GENDER EQUALITY**

COORDINATING AGENCY:
UAE GENDER BALANCE COUNCIL

ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS

مجلس الإمارات للتوازن بين الجنسين
UAE GENDER BALANCE COUNCIL

The UAE has emerged as a regional leader for gender equality providing women with equal access to education, healthcare, progressive career opportunities and representation in the political and corporate decision-making process.

After the 2015 elections of the Federal National Council, 20 new members were appointed out of which 8 were women. That year, the first woman speaker of the FNC, Her Excellency Dr. Amal Abdullah Al Qubaisi, was also appointed. H.E. Dr. Al Qubaisi was the first woman to hold such a position not only in the UAE but also across Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries. In addition, in 2012, the UAE Cabinet made it compulsory for government agencies and corporations to include women on their boards of directors to make the UAE the first Arab country to have such a law in place - this was further extended to the private sector in 2016. Women currently make up 66% of the public sector workers and occupy 30% of leadership roles and 15% of technical and academic roles.[1]

In 2015, the UAE established the Gender Balance Council (see box that follows) whose mandate is to enact a framework to consolidate the efforts to improve gender equality across government entities and drive efforts to evolve and enhance women's role as key partners in building the future of the country. There are also many women associations and foundations in the UAE that support women's empowerment and rights. The General Women's Union has been tirelessly supporting women since its formation in 1975 and the Dubai Women Establishment is one of the leading government entities in the UAE to support women in the workforce. The work of these organizations and that of several others across the seven emirates, has helped the country support the participation of women in society and in work, and the recently mandated extension of paid maternity leave to 3 months is one example of that.

According to the Global Gender Gap Report 2017, the UAE is ranked first globally for literacy rate, and second globally and first in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) for wage equality for similar work.[2]

1 Source: UAE Gender Balance Council Statistics

2 Source: Global Gender Gap Report by the World Economic Forum 2017

INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT FOR THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN AND GIRLS

Empowerment of women and girls is a strategic focus area under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation's strategy and the UAE Foreign Assistance Policy under the global themes Programme. 2016 results indicate over 14 percent of the UAE's total foreign assistance supported initiatives toward the empowerment of women and girls worldwide, which was a 47 percent increase in disbursements over the previous year. UAE foreign assistance towards such initiatives include vocational training and financial support for female entrepreneurs in low and middle-income countries. Other examples include support for over 100 projects in the field of health sector for women and children. Through its global advocacy initiatives, the UAE also hosted major events including the Global Summit of Women Speakers in Parliament and the Global Women's Forum. 2016 also marked the opening of the UN Women Liaison Office in Abu Dhabi. UAE also supported various multilateral organisations and NGOs dedicated to advancing gender equality and women's rights. Examples include providing financial contributions to the core budget of UN Women and support to the 'Every Woman, Every Child, Everywhere' initiative, as well as supporting local NGOs focusing on women and girls.

UAE GENDER BALANCE COUNCIL

Established in 2015, the UAE Gender Balance Council (GBC) is a federal entity responsible for developing and implementing the gender balance agenda in the United Arab Emirates. The Council is chaired by H.H. Sheikha Manal bint Mohammed bin Rashid Al-Maktoum, Wife of H.H. Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Presidential Affairs. The Council's aims to address persistent issues concerning gender gaps by advocating for gender equality across UAE society, by contributing to legislation on gender issues and proposing ways to achieve a balanced representation of women and men in decision-making positions.

Since its founding, the GBC has launched pioneering initiatives and projects with the objective of positioning the UAE as a model society for gender balance. Much, if not all, of the GBC's program of work serves to implement and progress both, the gender dimensions of Agenda 2030 in particular targets associated with SDG 5 and UAE's federal and local level development plans.

OBJECTIVES OF THE GBC:

- To reduce the gender gap across all government sectors
- To promote the country's ranking in global competitiveness reports on gender gap
- To achieve gender balance in decision-making positions
- To promote the UAE's status as a role model for gender balance
- To promote the UAE's status as a benchmark for legislation on gender balance

RECENT INITIATIVES

1. Launching the World's First Gender Balance Guide for Organizations

The 'Gender Balance Guide: Actions for UAE Organizations' was launched under the patronage of H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai. The guide, which is the first of its kind in the world for workplaces, is a reference to help public and private institutions address gender gaps in line with UAE's Vision 2021 and the 2030 Agenda. One of the aims of UAE's Vision 2021 is to strengthen female participation in society, particularly in the economic sector. The guide details how organizations can assist in achieving that objective by proposing concrete actions that are in line with international standards, UAE legislation and national gender balance indicators. These efforts will enable the GBC to achieve one of its core objectives that is to establish the UAE as one of the top countries globally in the United Nations Development Program's (UNDP) Gender Inequality Index by 2021.

The guide was developed in collaboration with The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), as part of the Council's efforts to build effective international partnerships with international organizations experienced in gender matters. The guide is based on the principles of the OECD Council's 2015 Recommendation on Gender Equality in Public Life (GEPL), the 2013 OECD Recommendation of the Council on Gender Equality in Education, Employment and Entrepreneurship, as well as the results of the OECD's 2010 Report on Gender Balance across the UAE, and the best international practices of OECD member countries.

2. Gender Balance Workshops

The GBC hosted seven workshops on gender balance in collaboration with the OECD. These workshops, presented by global gender experts, were intended to raise awareness of the Gender Balance Guide and highlight the necessary steps that government and private sector organizations can take to enhance the workplace environment to support gender balance. Representatives from the UAE government and the private sector attended.

The workshops covered the following topics:
- Commitment and Oversight
- Delivering Gender Balanced Policies and Programs
- Improving Gender Balance in Leadership
- Incorporating a Gender Sensitive Human Resource Management Approach
- Incorporating a Gender Sensitive Budget
- Engaging Personnel Towards Gender Balance
- Using Gender Sensitive Communication

3. Women on Boards

In 2012, a Cabinet decree aiming to promote the participation of women on boards of government entities, authorities and government-related enterprises, was issued. In 2015, a Ministerial decree extended this mandate to include all publicly & privately held companies as well. The decree states that all boards should have at least one female member. In 2017, the GBC signed an MoU with The Securities and Commodities Authority (SCA) in order to improve the representation of women on boards of directors of public shareholding companies to 20% by the year 2020. This MoU will facilitate cooperation and intensify efforts to increase women's participation in companies listed on the country's financial markets in a bid to narrow the gender gap in vital sectors of the economy. To this end, workshops, courses and conferences to raise awareness about financial tools and products will be organized.

4. Global Gender Circles

To accelerate the implementation of SDG 5, the GBC - in collaboration with UAE's Permanent Mission to the UN - launched the 'Global Gender Circle' initiative at 61st session of the 'Commission on the Status of Women' at the UN headquarters in New York (March 2017). The Global Gender Circle aims to reduce the gender gap in women's economic contribution and provide new opportunities for international leaders and experts in gender equality to share effective gender policy practices, develop innovative ideas and drive transformative change to achieve gender balance.

5. A Review and Amendment of Maternity Leave Legislation

Legislative changes were proposed to support women in the workplace in particular to increase fully paid maternity leave to three-months.

6. Hosting the United Nations Secretary General's High-Level Panel (HLP)

In February 2017, the GBC hosted the first MENA region session of the UN Secretary General's High-Level Panel (HLP) on Women's Economic Empowerment. Senior government officials, representatives from international organizations, civil society groups concerned with women's economic empowerment and prominent figures from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank and UN Women attended the meeting. The meeting resulted in a roadmap to guide the work of the Panel and concrete recommendations were made to enhance the economic participation of women within the framework of the SDGs.

7. Workshop to accelerate the implementation of SDG 5

In 2017, the GBC hosted a workshop during the 5th edition of the World Government Summit in Dubai to discuss implementation issues concerning SDG 5. The workshop was organized in collaboration with the UN, the World Bank and the OECD and involved the participation of scientists, experts, and government officials to discuss key challenges in achieving SDG 5 and to identify potential solutions to those challenges. One proposed initiative called 'Game-IN' involves encouraging schools, governments, corporations and NGOs to partner with local stakeholders to launch multiplatform ICT campaigns on gender equality via SMS, video, radio, online games and applications etc., to disrupt negative gender stereotypes. Also proposed, was a multi-category global award to recognize the ICT campaigns with the most impact on gender balance.

> The UN Women Office in Abu Dhabi was established in 2016. The office will facilitate UN Women's partnership with GCC countries and work to further UAE's vision to enhance women's empowerment in the UAE.

Quick Facts[3]

Education
- 95% of female high-school graduates pursue further education at tertiary-level institutions, compared with 80 percent of males
- Women constitute almost two-thirds of students attending government universities and over half at private tertiary-level institutions
- 56% of the UAE's graduates in STEM courses at government universities are women
- At the prestigious Masdar Institute of Science and Technology in Abu Dhabi, 60 per cent of Emirati graduate students are female
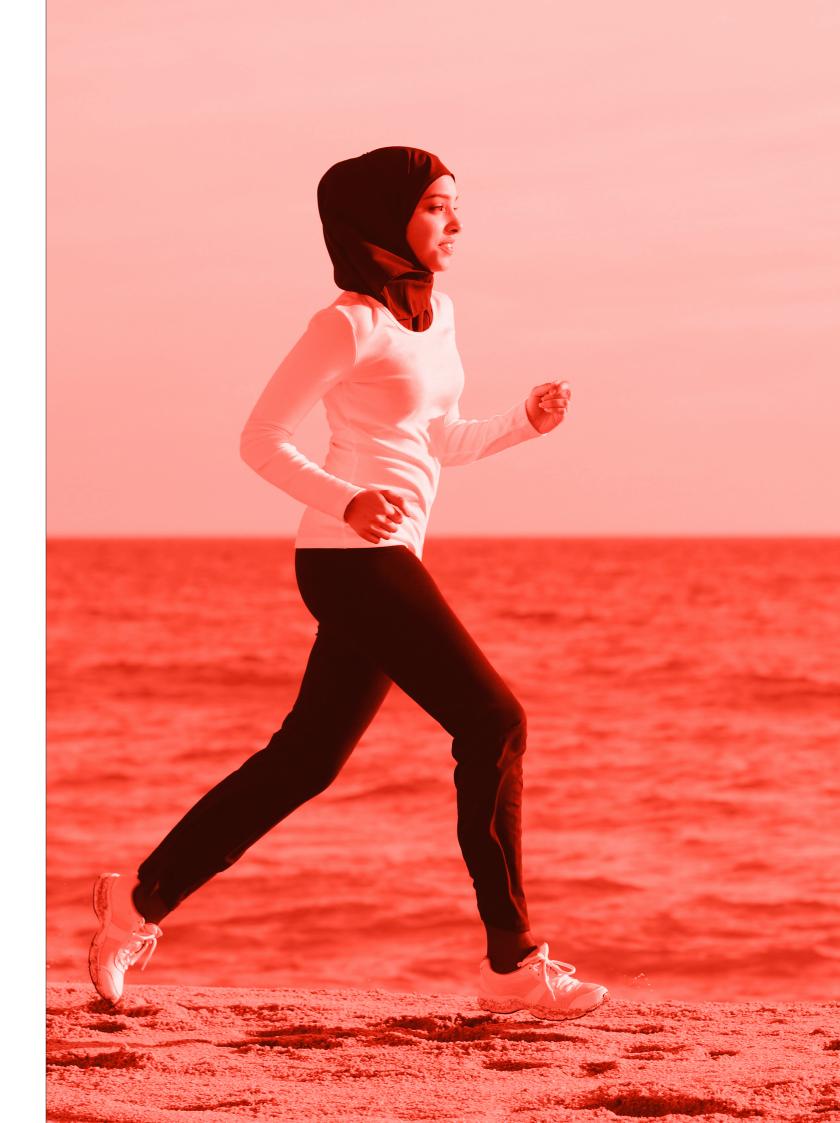
Workforce
- Emirati women began entering the workforce over 30 years ago, going from 3.4% in 1975 to 5.3% in 1980, rising slowly to 11.7% in 1995. Today women age 15 and over constitute 46.6% of the labor force
- Women make up 66% of the public sector workers and occupy 30% of leadership roles and 15% of technical and academic roles
- UAE women comprise over 40% of all employees in education, at least 35% work in the health sector and approximately 20% in social affairs
- The UAE is the first country in the Arab region and to introduce a mandatory female presence in board positions
- The UAE is the first country in the GCC to establish a government entity - the UAE Gender Balance Council - dedicated to reducing the gender gap and enhancing the UAE's global ranking
- At Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange, women constitute 43% of its investors while the Emirate's business women's' association boasts 14,000 members
- 23,000 Emirati businesswomen run projects worth over AED 50 billion, and occupy 15% of the positions in the boards of chambers of commerce and industry nationwide
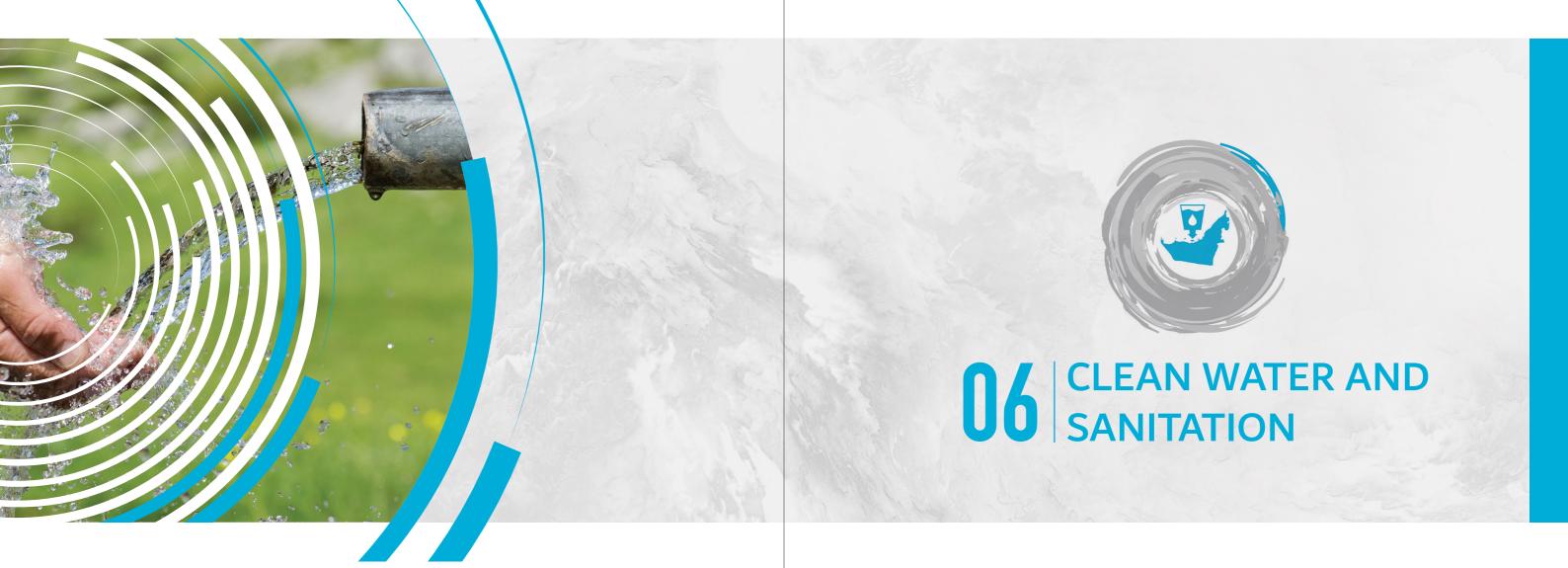
Political
- The UAE has 9 female ministers, making up 29% of ministerial roles, the highest in the region

3 Source: Gender Balance Council unless stated otherwise

06 | CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

COORDINATING AGENCY:
MINISTRY OF ENERGY & INDUSTRY

ENSURE AVAILABILITY AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF WATER AND SANITATION FOR ALL

**UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
MINISTRY OF ENERGY
& INDUSTRY**

WATER

SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation) calls for ensuring universal access to safe and affordable drinking water, sanitation and hygiene. It also aims to improve water quality and water-use efficiency and encourage sustainable abstraction and supply of freshwater. Water scarcity, poor water quality and inadequate sanitation undermine health, food security and livelihood globally.

According to the 2016 Sustainable Cities Index, Abu Dhabi and Dubai are the top ranked Middle Eastern cities in the provision of high standards of water and sanitation networks.[1]

The demand for water in the UAE is estimated at 5 billion cubic meters per year.[2] Water consumption in the UAE is divided into three segments: Private households, Agriculture and Industries. Private households are believed to account for 24% of total water consumption in the UAE[3] with an average per capital consumption of approximately 500 liters per day. Agriculture is responsible for two-thirds of all water consumption in the UAE, however, the country has taken crucial steps to address excessive consumption by introducing new irrigation techniques such as drip irrigation that are more efficient and consume 35% less water than traditional systems. The UAE has also moved away from crops that are water-intensive and is experimenting with the use of treated wastewater for irrigation.

1 Arcadis, Design & Consultancy for Natural & Built Assets, https://www.arcadis.com/en/global/our-perspectives/sustainable-cities-index-2016/comparing-cities/?tf=tab-overall&sf=all&r=middle_east&c=all

2 Source: Ministry of Energy & Industry
3 EcoMENA, Water Management in UAE, August 2015, https://www.ecomena.org/water-management-uae/

Since the UAE is located in a particularly arid part of the Middle East it has a very small amount of renewable water resources. Water resources in the UAE can be classified into two main categories: conventional, such as surface water and groundwater, and non-conventional, such as sea-desalinated water and treated wastewater. The desalinated water is the main source for drinking and municipal uses, while groundwater is mainly used for agricultural production. The treated wastewater is major source for landscaping irrigation in the cities.

Recently, the UAE launched the Water Security Strategy 2036 (WSS2036).[4] The overall objectives of the strategy are to increase water productivity and reduce water scarcity. WSS2036 focuses on reducing the total demand for water, increasing the reuse of treated wastewater and increasing the national water storage capacity.

The strategy focuses on three main programs: the Water Demand Management Program, the Water Supply Management Program and the Emergency Water Production and Distribution Program. The strategy also tackles policy development, legislation, water conservation awareness campaigns, use of advanced technologies, innovation and building national capabilities in the field of water resources management.

The UAE's National Innovation Strategy establishes water as one of its key seven pillars. The scarcity of water resources in the region and some parts of the world gives the UAE the opportunity to innovate in this area, especially with the country's launch of many relevant initiatives, such as UAE Water Aid and The Institute Center for Water and Environment (iWater) in Masdar.[5] The most important R&D areas in this field include: (1) water recycling and waste management technologies and systems; (2) produced water from oil and gas exploration treatment; (3) desalinization technologies; and (4) water pricing and incentives in desert and drought environments. There is a great opportunity to develop modern technologies to address these challenges. These technologies can be shared with other parts of the world facing similar water challenges.

As part of the strategy, the UAE also aims to be a global leader in rain enhancement science and technology. Recently, the UAE Research Program for Rain Enhancement Science was initiated, which aims to advance the scientific and technological base of rain enhancement, where technology is used to stimulate and increase rainfall. Since its inception and with funding of US$ 5 million annually, the program has attracted growing interest from researchers around the world.[6]

The UAE Water Aid initiative, Suqia, was launched in June 2014 as a campaign by H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, to provide drinking water to 5 million people around the world. It concluded successfully after collecting AED 180 million (US$ 47.4 million) in 18 days, enough to complete projects to provide drinking water to the needy around the world.[7] In March 2015, His Highness issued a law establishing the UAE Water Aid (Suqia) as a non-profit organisation. Suqia works to combat poverty and disease, one of the objectives set by the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives. This is done by finding solutions to water scarcity, in addition to serving areas suffering from drought or lack of clean water and the provision of clean water using modern technologies, and purification and desalination of water using solar energy. Suqia has partnered with the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Charity and Humanitarian Establishment for the provision of water in various countries of the world, with 10 well drilling projects currently underway in Ghana, Benin, Tajikistan, Afghanistan and Somalia benefiting a total of 60,000 people.[8]

PROPORTION OF POPULATION USING SAFELY MANAGED DRINKING WATER SERVICES

In order to meet both the qualitative and quantitative requirements for drinking water standards, domestic water supplies rely mainly on sea-desalinated water. Thus, the UAE has one of the highest desalination capacities globally. In 2014, the UAE issued the drinking Water Quality Regulations. Currently, 100% of population are using safely managed drinking water services.[9]

DEGREE OF INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (IWRM) IMPLEMENTATION (0-100)

Based on a UN survey of Degree of Integrated Water Resources Management implementation (0 - 100), the UAE's current state of the indicator is 75%. The WSS2036 has prioritized solutions and grouped them into an integrated framework, comprising three strategic programs and four enablers. The three strategic programs are: Demand Side Management, Supply Side Management & Production and Distribution of Water in Emergency Conditions. The enablers include: Institutional Setting & Capacity Building, National Policies, Plans and Regulations, Technologies and Research & Public Awareness approved.

The WSS2036 has also adopted a number of National Key Performance Indicators that measure Available Storage (days), Municipal Consumption (LCD), Sewage water collection Rate (%), TSE Reuse Rate (%), Reduction in Ground water demand (%), Unaccounted for water (%), Water productivity Index (US$/m3) and Water Scarcity Index. These KPIs are expected to significantly improve the performance of the UAE's water sector.

SEWERAGE

The government is continually investing in upgrading and extending sewer systems to ensure a sustainable sewage disposal and treatment system.

In 2009, Abu Dhabi Sewerage Services Company (ADSCC) launched a US$ 1.6 billion Strategic Tunnel Enhancement Programme (STEP), which includes building 41 km of deep sewer tunnels. In 2014, an ambitious environmental plan was revealed to treat and re-use all of the emirate's wastewater to irrigate farms and parks within four years.[10]

Dubai is planning a new deep tunnel sewerage system in the next five years, to replace more than 121 sewerage-pumping stations. A project to expand the Jebel Ali sewerage plant has also been approved which when completed, will serve 1.35 million people and will increase the plant's capacity to 675,000 cubic meters daily, or double its current capacity.[11]

The emirate of Sharjah has a sewerage treatment plant in the Al Sajaa area. The treated water will be used to irrigate plants and green spaces in the city of Sharjah. The plant's waste treatment capacity will be expanded from 30,000 cubic meters to 50,000 cubic meters daily.[12]

PROPORTION OF SAFELY TREATED WASTEWATER

The UAE national sanitation services is estimated at 100%. Treated wastewater represents an important non-conventional and available water resource. The UAE expanded the wastewater treatment facilities and urban sewage networks to maximize the use of the treated wastewater. The UAE's water security strategy set a target to increase the treated sewage effluent (TSE) usage up to 95% by 2036 (64% in 2016).[13]

4 The UAE Water Security Strategy 2036, https://government.ae/en/about-the-uae/strategies-initiatives-and-awards/federal-governments-strategies-and-plans/the-uae-water-security-strategy-2036
5 Masdar Institute, https://www.masdar.ac.ae/innovation-centers/iwater
6 UAE Research Program for Rain Enhancement Science, http://www.uaerep.ae/
7 Dubai Electricity & Water Authority (DEWA), UAE Water Aid Foundation provides drinking water to over 8 million people in 19 countries, https://www.dewa.gov.ae/en/about-dewa/news-and-media/press-and-news/latest-news/2017/04/uae-water-aid-foundation-provides-drinking-water-to-over-8-million-people-in-19-countries
8 UAE Water Aid - Suqia, http://www.suqia.ae/en/2-uncategorised?start=12
9 Source: Ministry of Energy and Industry

10 Sewerage projects - The Official Portal of the UAE Government, https://www.government.ae/en/information-and-services/infrastructure/civic-facilities/sewerage-projects
11 Ibid
12 Ibid
13 Source: Ministry of Energy and Industry

07 | AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

COORDINATING AGENCY:
MINISTRY OF ENERGY & INDUSTRY

ENSURE ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE, RELIABLE, SUSTAINABLE AND MODERN ENERGY FOR ALL

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES MINISTRY OF ENERGY & INDUSTRY

In recent years, the UAE has been expanding its clean energy agenda. It serves on the UN's Sustainable Energy for All, the largest global partnership for energy access, renewable energy and energy efficiency, as well as on the board of REN21, the Paris-based renewable energy policy network. It is also the only Arab member of the Clean Energy Ministerial, a group of the world's 23 largest and most innovative economies focused on voluntary carbon mitigation through clean energy deployment.[1] The UAE has invested significantly in sustainable energy and is increasingly considered a major global hub for renewables through its pioneering initiatives and projects on green technologies.

In January 2017, the UAE Energy Strategy for 2050 was unveiled as the first unified energy strategy for the country. The strategy is a joint effort of all energy-related authorities and executive councils in the UAE, and comes under the supervision of the federal government, represented by the Ministry of Energy and Industry and the Ministry of Cabinet Affairs and The Future. It aims to increase the contribution of clean energy in the total energy mix to 50% resulting in savings of US$ 190 billion by 2050.[2]

The Plan will be implemented in three phases:

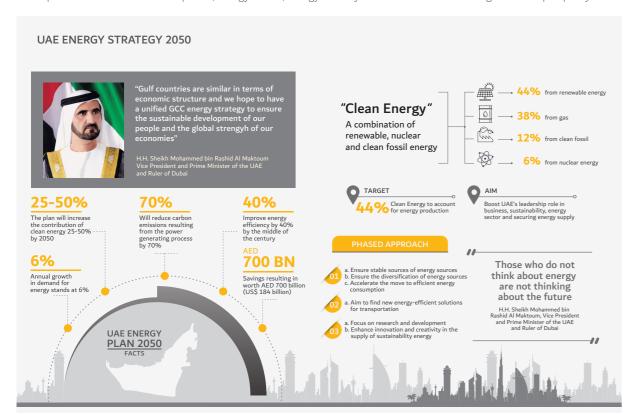1. Accelerate the move to efficient energy consumption, ensure stable sources of energy and diversify energy sources
2. Find new energy-efficient solutions for transportation
3. Focus on research and development, enhance innovation and creativity in the supply of sustainable energy

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1 UAE State of Energy & Industry Report 2015

2 Ministry of Energy & Industry, Media Release 10 January 2017

The UAE has launched ambitious projects such as Masdar, a regional leader and international pioneer in renewable energy and sustainable urban development, which develops clean energy, sustainable real estate projects. Masdar also manages the US$ 4 million Zayed Future Energy Prize, which represents the vision of the late founding father and UAE president Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, who championed environmental stewardship.[3] In addition, Masdar's Clean Energy division is a leading developer and operator of utility-scale, grid-tied projects; small-scale applications providing energy access to communities away from the electricity grid; and carbon abatement projects. Since 2006, Masdar has invested in renewable energy projects with a combined value of US$ 8.5 billion; Masdar's share of this investment is US$ 2.7 billion. Masdar's renewable energy projects span the UAE, Jordan, Mauritania, Egypt, Morocco, the UK, Serbia and Spain. The electricity generating capacity of these projects, which are either fully developed or under development, is 2.7 gigawatts (GW) gross.[4]

The UAE is also engaged in building high-profile renewable energy projects using solar photovoltaic (PV) and concentrated solar power (CSP) technologies that are among the largest in the world, such as the Shams 1 Solar Power Station, the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park and Noor Abu Dhabi, the world's largest solar power plant.[5] The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), headquartered in Abu Dhabi, is an inter-governmental organization that supports countries in their transition to a sustainable energy future and serves as the principal platform for international cooperation, a center of excellence, and a repository of policy, technology, resource and financial knowledge on renewable energy. IRENA promotes the widespread adoption and sustainable use of all forms of renewable energy, including bio-energy, geothermal, hydropower, ocean, solar and wind energy, in the pursuit of sustainable development, energy access, energy security and low-carbon economic growth and prosperity.

UAE ENERGY STRATEGY 2050

"Gulf countries are similar in terms of economic structure and we hope to have a unified GCC energy strategy to ensure the sustainable development of our people and the global strengyh of our economies"

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

"Clean Energy"
A combination of renewable, nuclear and clean fossil energy

- **44%** from renewable energy
- **38%** from gas
- **12%** from clean fossil
- **6%** from nuclear energy

25-50%
The plan will increase the contribution of clean energy 25-50% by 2050

70%
Will reduce carbon emissions resulting from the power generating process by 70%

40%
Improve energy efficiency by 40% by the middle of the century

6%
Annual growth in demand for energy stands at 6%

AED
700 BN
Savings resulting in worth AED 700 billion (US$ 184 billion)

TARGET
44% Clean Energy to account for energy production

AIM
Boost UAE's leadership role in business, sustainability, energy sector and securing energy supply

UAE ENERGY
PLAN 2050
FACTS

PHASED APPROACH

01 a. Ensure stable sources of energy sources
b. Ensure the diversification of energy sources
c. Accelerate the move to efficient energy consumption

02 a. Aim to find new energy-efficient solutions for transportation

03 a. Focus on research and development
b. Enhance innovation and creativity in the supply of sustainability energy

"Those who do not think about energy are not thinking about the future"

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

Quick Facts

100% - The proportion of population with access to electricity - 2015[6]

13.5% - The proportion of population with primary reliance on clean fuels & technology[7]

3 Zayed Future Energy Prize, http://zayedfutureenergyprize.com/en/about-zfep/the_prize_fund/
4 Masdar Clean Energy Division Fact Sheet, http://www.masdar.ae/assets/downloads/content/3574/masdar_clean_energy_factsheet-final-jan_8,_2017.pdf
5 ArabianBusiness.com, World's largest solar power plant to be named Noor Abu Dhabi, http://www.arabianbusiness.com/world-s-largest-solar-power-plant-be-named-noor-abu-dhabi-675787.html
6 Source: Ministry of Energy & Industry
7 Source: Ministry of Energy & Industry

08 | DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

COORDINATING AGENCY:
MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCES & EMIRATISATION

PROMOTE SUSTAINED, INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH, FULL AND PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT AND DECENT WORK FOR ALL

The Ministry of Human Resources & Emiratisation (MOHRE) is the coordinating agency for the implementation of SDG 8 (Decent Work And Economic Growth) and the Ministry's work program is thematically linked to 7 out of the 17 SDGs. More specifically, MOHRE's interventions directly and indirectly relate to more than 18 of the 169 SDG targets.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCES & EMIRATISATION

EMPLOYMENT & DECENT WORK FOR ALL

The UAE has achieved high rates of economic growth and stability over the past decades, which has led to large-scale job creation for local and foreign workers. According to the Central Bank, remittances by foreign workers in the UAE reached US$ 43.81 billion in 2016 - an increase of 7.6 per cent since 2015 - thus raising the standards of living of the people in the recipient countries.[1] The Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratisation (MOHRE) - formerly the Ministry of Labor - is responsible for overseeing the employer-employee relations and for maintaining worker rights in the private sector. In recent years, the UAE made significant efforts to develop laws, policies and awareness campaigns to enhance work conditions of employees across the public and private sectors. The UAE Vision 2021 focuses on the UAE becoming the economic, touristic and commercial capital for more than two billion people by transitioning to a knowledge-based economy that promotes innovation, research and development.

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1 Arabian Post, UAE expats remit AED160 billion in 2016, July 2017, https://thearabianpost.com/tap/2017/06/uae-expats-remit-aed160-billion-2016.html

Despite significant successes in creating an environment for a highly productive workforce to thrive in, MOHRE will continue its efforts to prepare UAE's workforce for the future. First, to further increase labor force productivity and participation, MOHRE seeks to ensure that UAE nationals can attain skills and the professional development opportunities that support them in achieving their full potential. Recent initiatives include support and guidance for career planning, partnerships with the private sector to enable a smooth transition from tertiary study to employment, programs to promote a culture of entrepreneurship and regulatory measures to better balance benefits between public and private sector most prominently maternity and unemployment benefits. Second, as the UAE transitions to a knowledge economy, the government continues to strive to attract overseas talent in key value added industries such as information technology, R&D, high-value added manufacturing, health and medicine related fields. Moreover with bold moves into sectors such as space, artificial intelligence and SMART cities, the UAE seeks not only to provide a place for the best talent to thrive in but also to develop the skills of its domestic workforce.

UAE Ranked # 1
Sustainability of Travel and Tourism Development - WEF Global Travel and Tourism Report 2017

UAE Ranked # 2
Country capacity to attract talent - Global Competitiveness Report by the World Economic Forum 2017/18

Country capacity to retain talent - Global Competitiveness Report by the World Economic Forum 2017/18

UAE Ranked # 8
Employment (%) - IMD World Competitiveness Yearbook 2017

230%[2]
The number of ATMs in the UAE have increased from 1,576 in 2005 to 5,324 in 2017

To protect the rights of workers and promote a safe and secure working environment for all, MOHRE is continuously seeking to increase protection of workers in the country by improving access to complaints services and educating the workforce on their rights and the legal recourses available to them. This includes enhancing the enforcement of labor laws in the country and the availability of Comprehensive Information and Orientation Programmes (CIOP) prior to arrival into the country. MOHRE has also initiated the Abu Dhabi Dialogue in partnership with other GCC countries and those that the most common countries of origin of expatriate workers. The dialogue seeks to mobilize collective action to improve transparency of information on worker rights and address potential trafficking in the migration corridor between the GCC and South Asia (see also SDG 16).

SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH
In January 2012, H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, launched the Green Economy initiative with the slogan 'a green economy for sustainable development'. This initiative aims to transform the UAE into a successful model of a new green economy while enhancing the country's competitiveness and preserving its environment for future generations. The initiative will position the UAE to become a world leader and center for the export and re-export of green products and technologies, and to maintain a sustainable environment to support long-term economic growth. The initiative includes a range of programs and policies in the areas of energy, agriculture, investment and sustainable transport in addition to new environmental policies and regulation relating to building and construction.

2 Source: UAE Central Bank

SUSTAINABLE TOURISM
To address SDG target 8.9, the Ministry of Economy has taken several steps to promote sustainable tourism and build capacity to monitor and report on outcomes:

- In cooperation with the Federal Competitiveness & Statistics Authority, the Ministry established the National Tourism Statistics committee. The committee hosted two technical missions by the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) to evaluate the current situation of tourism data and advise on how to improve data capacity.
- Prepared a road map to establish Tourism Satellite Account (TSA) systems that will enable the Ministry to monitor and measure the economic impacts of the tourism sector.
- Supported local government to assess the outcomes of sustainable tourism initiatives in their respective Emirates.

Ongoing projects include developing a National Tourism Development Strategy with the UNWTO, further implementation of the TSA system and formulating a legal and administrative framework for a new federal tourism law for the UAE. The Ministry of Economy considers the involvement of the local community in tourism initiatives as important and is expanding tourism development in new areas across the seven Emirates. The Ministry also continue to promote the UAE in main source markets of tourism and develop campaigns to penetrate new markets.

09 | INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

COORDINATING AGENCY:
MINISTRY OF ECONOMY

BUILD RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE, PROMOTE INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIALIZATION AND FOSTER INNOVATION

**UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
MINISTRY OF ECONOMY**

INFRASTRUCTURE

The critical success factor that enabled the UAE's economic development since the country's founding in 1971 has been the strategic use of oil revenues that the country's visionary leadership has invested to create a world leading physical and social infrastructure-base that will serve as a catalyst for the future development of the country. In so doing, it has been able to navigate the challenge of being an exclusively natural resource economy based on oil.

The UAE's Vision 2021 highlights the importance of infrastructure and aims for the UAE to be among the best in the world in the quality of airports, ports, road infrastructure, and electricity. Leading the telecommunications infrastructure will allow the UAE to become a forerunner in the provision of Smart services.

Sustainable development and innovation through environmentally sustainable industrialization is an area that the UAE has particularly excelled in recent times. For more than 10 consecutive years, the World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness Report (GCR) has classified the UAE as an innovation-driven country. The UAE was ranked fourth out of 138 countries for the overall quality of infrastructure, first for quality of its roads, fourth in port infrastructure and third overall for quality of air transport infrastructure in the 2017/18 GCR.

Report	Indicator	Global Rank
World Economic Forum, Global Competitiveness Report 2017/18	Quality of Roads	1
	Quality of Air Transport Infrastructure	3
	Quality of Overall Infrastructure	4
	Quality of Port Infrastructure	4

INDUSTRIALIZATION & INNOVATION

The UAE recognizes industrialization as the key to economic development. According to The Annual Economic Report 2015 produced by Ministry of Economy, the manufacturing sector was the third highest sector by percentage of employees hired during the year 2013. The sector hired 11.6 per cent of all employees that year. Employees in that sector earned 9.9 per cent of all the wages earned during the year 2013 making it the fifth highest sector by percentage of wages earned by the UAE's workforce.

The UAE is not only encouraging traditional manufacturing but also technology-supported 3D printing. In April 2016, H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, launched the Dubai 3D Printing Strategy. This initiative aims to exploit technology for the service of humanity and promote the status of the UAE and Dubai as a leading hub of 3D printing technology by the year 2030. Dubai's key goal is to ensure that 25 per cent of buildings in Dubai are based on 3D printing technology by 2030.

In the world's most successful and dynamic economies, competitiveness and innovation are concentrated in clusters. A country's ability to produce high-value products and services that support high wage jobs depends on the creation and strengthening of such clusters. As part of its infrastructure development UAE has focused on developing a number of clusters. Today the country hosts several industrial free zone clusters that vary from renewable clean technology clusters such as Masdar, to media clusters such as twofour54 media and production in Abu Dhabi and Media City in Dubai, and a Financial Cluster, the Dubai International Financial City (DIFC). The UAE ranks 1st in the state of cluster development according to the 2017 Global Talent Competitiveness Index.

Several initiatives have been undertaken to promote and encourage innovation in the UAE, all aligned with UAE Vision 2021 and aiming to make the UAE among the best countries in the world. Under the directive of President H.H. Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE, 2015 was marked as the 'Year of Innovation' that led to a number of innovation-related initiatives being launched across the country. A National Innovation Strategy was launched that aims to make the UAE among the most innovative nations in the world within seven years. The strategy targets seven sectors, renewable energy, transport, education, health, technology, water, space. Also, H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, established the Mohammed bin Rashid Centre for Government Innovation to stimulate the culture of innovation within the government sector, making the UAE one of the most innovative governments around the world. In addition, the Emirates Science, Technology and Innovation Higher Policy launched 100 initiatives with major investments in education, health, energy, transport, space and water. It includes fields such as robotics, solar power, developing intellectual property, stem cell research and biotechnology.

In November 2015, the UAE government launched the Fund to Finance Innovation with a value of AED 2 billion[1] (US$ 0.53 billion), which is a federal initiative designed to provide financing solutions for innovators across various sectors within the UAE. The fund is managed by Ministry of Finance in collaboration with local banks and various investment entities.

1 https://www.uaecabinet.ae/en/details/news/mohammed-bin-rashid-al-maktoum-launches-first-innovation-fund-worth-aed-2-billion

UAE Ranked # 1
Importance of ICTs to Government Vision of the Future - Global Information Technology Report by World Economic Forum 2016

UAE Ranked # 4
GERD % financed by business - Global Innovation Index by INSEAD 2017

ICT use for biz-to-biz transactions - Global Information Technology Report by World Economic Forum 2016

Impact of ICTs on access to basic services - Global Information Technology Report by World Economic Forum 2016

UAE Ranked # 10
Firm-level technology absorption - Global Competitiveness Report by World Economic Forum 2017/18

TELECOMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY (TRA) - ICT FUND
The ICT Fund was launched in 2008 by the TRA to jump-start innovation within the ICT sector in the UAE. The areas of focus for the fund are to enhance intellectual capital, technological leadership, stimulate smart research, innovative ideas, and incubate start-ups. In line with the aim of UAE's Vision 2021 - to achieve a high quality of life in a sustainable environment for the future generations - the ICT Fund seeks to provide support for initiatives and entrepreneurial projects relevant to the ICT sector.

THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMY COORDINATES IMPLEMENTATION EFFORTS FOR SDG 9. COMMENTARY ON SELECT SDG 9 TARGETS:

Target (9.2.1): 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

Progress towards this SDG target is measured by 'manufacturing value added as a percentage of GDP and per capital'. Between 2015 and 2017, UAE's manufacturing value added as a percentage of GDP increased from 14% to 16%. This was the result of a focused and targeted industrial strategy comprising 10 initiatives and 39 projects guided by next generation manufacturing policies. The strategy is aligned with the UAE Vision 2021 as well as the National Green Growth Strategy.

The UAE manufacturing industry index consists of four equally weighted sub-pillars. One measures the alignment of sectors with the UAE Vision 2021 and another alignment with the Green Growth Strategy that covers a number of manufacturing cross-domain sectors covered by the UAE Vision 2021 covering renewable energy, transportation, education, health, water, technology and space. As a consequence, new industrial policies take a holistic approach to address the SDGs. What follows below is an overview of the proposed strategies and policies to achieve the SDG 9 and help the UAE develop a knowledge Manufacturing and Innovation economy:

- Trade to Manufacturing: The strategy aims at linking manufacturing more closely with export growth and transforming share of trade into domestic manufacturing
- Commodity to Technology: Describes the knowledge dispersion from strong commodity sectors in the UAE (e.g. gold, aluminium) and upgrading value chains to move from the solely commodity business to technologies
- Vertical to Horizontal: Instead of 'picking winners', the strategy focusses on strengthening the basis for multiple sectors by improving public-private coordination as well as upgrading enabling factors (e.g. education, technology)
- Free Zones to Value Chains: Free Zones are integrated into domestic value chains by creating transparency between demand and supply (e.g. supplier database) and establishing a 'shared language' (e.g. standards) to achieve knowledge connections and spill overs

Target (9.2.2): 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

Progress towards this SDG target is measured by 'manufacturing employment as a proportion of total employment'.

To achieve this goal, the UAE is implementing a manufacturing 4.0 skills strategy focused on (a) cross-domain competencies (b) vocational training in selected manufacturing sectors and (c) SME-FDI linkage programs. Specifically, the UAE has focused on developing future skills and future jobs definitions at for each ISCO level. This work is now supporting a more comprehensive exercise to fill the skills gap that will support SDG 9.2.

Going forward the UAE will focus on "Next Generation Education" by providing Education 4.0 curriculum throughout all levels, starting with primary education (e.g. STEM), secondary education (e.g. 3D design, coding), tertiary (e.g. autonomous driving law), VET (e.g. cyber-physical production).[2] The curriculum will be developed in cooperation with public and private sectors.

Target (9.3.1): 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

Progress towards this SDG target is measured by 'proportion share of small scale industries in total industry value added'.

To address this, the UAE launched a set of new public incentives for young innovative companies covering industrial companies with higher share of R&D. The young innovative companies concept that aims at supporting both innovative and industrial SMEs. The initiative is impacting more than 18 industrial and innovation based indicators nationally all converging towards the SDG 9.3.

Going forward a number of steps are planned including:

- Comprehensive Start up Support Scheme: Systematic support for green SMEs to explore & advance into export markets: (i) export credit guarantee, (ii) provide latest research & information of overseas markets, and (iii) a consolidated help desk for export market within chamber of commerce
- Environmental Excellence Award: Award for green SMEs and enterprises
- Federal Sustainable Procurement Scheme: 'Greening' the government procurement processes by introducing minimum criteria for economic, social and environmental sustainability can therefore make an immediate difference to the water and electricity efficiency of federal institutions and have an immediate economic impact through kick-starting large-scale uptake of more efficient technologies and efficiency requirements on service providers

Target (9.3.2): 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

Progress towards this SDG target is measured by 'Proportion of small scale industries with a loan or line of credit'.

To-date the UAE has focused on improving bank guarantees for industrial SMEs with access to low interest rates. Specifically, the UAE is emphasizing support for green SME manufacturing in terms of credit and integration into global value chains. This work is the result of the UAE Green strategy and proposed manufacturing strategy.

Future efforts include a credit scheme, loan and export guarantees to enable investments into environmental and energy performance upgrades of manufacturing plants. The scheme would not rely on the creation of a new fund but connecting existing credit and bank guarantees offered supported by new instruments on export guarantee. Specifically, three policies are expected:

- Credit & Guarantees: Low interest loans, redemption grants, loans backed by large public and private institutions
- Green Export Promotion (Guarantee): Provide export guarantee schemes to any UAE based company up to 20% of exports. Leverage the network of existing funds to provide the guarantees
- Green Investment: Covers both global and national existing investments into technology companies and technology funds e.g. clean tech fund of Masdar

2 VET: Vocational Education & Training

Target (9.5.1): 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

Progress towards this SDG target is measured by 'research and development (R&D) expenditure as a proportion of GDP'.

Between 2014 and 2016 UAE increased its R&D expenditure from 0.5 to 0.9% of GDP. This figure is expected to reach 1% by 2018.

Target (9.5.2): 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

Progress towards this SDG target is measured by 'researchers (in full-time equivalent) per million inhabitants'.

Today the UAE has significantly increased the number of researchers working in both the public and private sectors. Going forward the emphasis will be on next generation researchers focusing on R&D for manufacturing. A common platform to target relevant R&D projects identified by the Federation of Industries will be developed and public funding for public and private organizations that work on those projects will be granted.

Target (9.b.1): 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

Progress towards this SDG target is measured by 'proportion of medium and high-tech industry value added in total value added'.

Today the UAE is focused on building capabilities in the high-tech sector by: (a) FDI investment promotion in technology (b) SME-FDI linkage programs focused on high tech companies and (c) a further focus on higher value added industries particularly in logistics. At the sectoral level the following sectors are targeted:

- Metals: The value chain covers sectors ranging from commodities to final goods, including basic metals, fabricated metal products, machinery & equipment, motor vehicles, and airplanes
- Oil & Chemicals: This value chain covers sectors ranging from commodities to final goods, including oil, basic chemicals, polymers, fertilizers, paints, textile chemicals, rubber and plastic, pharma, biotech, agrochemicals and resins
- Non-metallic minerals: This value chain covers sectors ranging from commodity to final goods, including sand, cement ceramics, glass, and windows
- Apparel: This value chain covers sectors ranging from commodity to final goods, including cotton, fibers, textile, apparel and dressing.
- Food & beverages: This value chain covers sectors ranging from commodity to final goods, including unprocessed food, semi-processed food, processed food and packaged foods

In addition, next Generation Logistics are also targeted by providing a conducive regulatory environment, state of the art digital and physical infrastructure to leapfrog on logistics. This is being achieved by adjusting domestic law to international logistics 4.0 standards (e.g. UN Convention on Road Traffic), installation of full coverage broadband infrastructure delivering download speeds of at least 50 Mb/s (today ~15 Mb/s).

10 | REDUCED INEQUALITIES

COORDINATING AGENCY:
MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

REDUCE INEQUALITY WITHIN AND AMONG COUNTRIES

The UAE government is committed to addressing social and economic inequalities both within the country and globally through its generous aid and humanitarian assistance programs.

**UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT**

Within the UAE, the efforts of the Ministry of Community Development are aimed at ensuring income and economic adequacy so that each citizen is guaranteed a decent and fulfilling life. The UAE has also taken concrete steps to address issues of social disparities. The UAE government sees it necessary to promote harmony, understanding and tolerance among cultures, religions and civilizations, and to emphasize the importance of embracing the principle of universal peace.

TOLERANCE

In February 2016 a Cabinet-level position of Minister of State for Tolerance was established to promote tolerance, inclusion and peaceful coexistence and instill its core principles as a fundamental value of the UAE society. Since then, UAE government entities have invested close to US$ 108 million in cultural understanding initiatives. Creating a cohesive society and preserved identity is one of the six pillars of the UAE National Agenda. The UAE aims to create an inclusive society that integrates people from all walks of life while preserving the UAE's unique culture, heritage and traditions and reinforces social and family cohesion (see case study on 'Tolerance' in SDG 16).

UAE Ranked # 2
National Culture is Open to Foreign Ideas - World Competitiveness Yearbook by IMD 2017

UAE Ranked # 3
Having High Social Cohesion - World Competitiveness Yearbook by IMD 2017

SOCIAL INTEGRATION AND EMPOWERMENT

People of Determination

In 2017, H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, launched a national policy in which he gave people with special needs the title 'people of determination' in praise of the spirit of courage and resilience they bring to society. The UAE places tremendous importance on the wellbeing of 'people of determination' of various ages by providing early childhood education, secondary education to vocational training and higher qualifications later in life. The National Policy for People of Determination will consolidate federal and local efforts to support these citizens and implement joint projects. One such example is the establishment of the National Diagnostic Center in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Prevention and the Ministry of Infrastructure Development, which provides standardized measures for the assessment and diagnosis of disability at the national level.

The national policy aims at building an inclusive society that is free from barriers and obstacles for 'people of determination', which empowers them and their families and provides them with a decent life. An advisory council has been established whose role is to implement the policy and pursue its objectives. The policy covers health, education, vocational training, employment, social protection, culture, sports and accessibility. It works on the integration of 'people of determination' into all dimensions of society, most prominently work, education and social aspects of everyday life.

The evaluation and diagnosis process for people of determination is updated regularly to ensure that support aligns with best practices. The UAE has 83 government and private rehabilitation centers for people of determination. There are 4,921 'people of determination' in these centers (3,190 males and 1,731 females).[1] In addition, monthly social assistance is offered and a personalized card that acts as proof of identity and disability extends privileges and exemptions from certain fees in transportation, telecommunications and public spaces.

The government of Dubai's Strategy for Disability 2020 has adopted the "Accessibility Code for the Built Environment", which is one of the most important outputs of Dubai's environmental strategy, its target being to transform the emirate into a city that welcomes and empowers 'people of determination' (see case study on Dubai Disability Strategy).

Elderly

Elderly people represent 4.1% of the total population. The UAE provides comprehensive social welfare to the elderly. The country has developed a policy for the elderly within the scope of its social development strategy adopted by the Ministry of Community Development that aims to empower older people by giving them an active role in society and providing them with opportunities for learning and employment. In addition to providing social, health and psychological care, the Ministry is continuously improving services and preventive programs to protect the elderly population from abuse and exploitation.

Employment for Beneficiaries of Social Assistance

In order to support the government's transition from providing care services to social development to create an empowered society, a policy to encourage those who are able to work has been developed. It aims to train, rehabilitate and empower those who receive social assistance through training and other remedial programs. The initiatives address nearly 9,000 members registered in the social security databases according to specific criteria. The policy is expected to enable the transition from benefit to work for about 70% of the target population by 2021.

As part of efforts to move from a social assistance approach to the social development approach, the government has adopted programs to raise family incomes and living standards by providing the necessary support to encourage families to participate in the workforce through programs such as "work is life" and "my opportunity". By providing families with the necessary training and rehabilitation, financial aid, technical expertise, exhibitions to market their products in commercial centers, the government aims to reduce benefit dependency and ensure that families are empowered to lead satisfying and meaningful lives.

The Ministry of Community Development has launched the 'Workmanship Project', to support and promote the products and services of Emirati families in order to create additional sources of income. The project supports all Emirati families looking to transition into the labor market, as it is instrumental to highlighting their talents and abilities and enhancing their self-confidence as active and productive participants in the economic and social development of the country.

Women's Empowerment

The National Strategy for Empowerment of Emirati Women 2015-2021 is aimed at enabling women to play a major role all aspects of social and economic life.[2] The strategy seeks to empower women across different age demographics and social and economic classes. The strategy also focuses on implementing best practices to integrate the concept of gender in workplaces to ensure equal opportunities for women and men without discrimination.

The Sheikha Fatima bint Mubarak Award for Motherhood and Childhood aims at honoring international figures for their outstanding achievements in addressing women and children's issues. It represents Sheikha Fatima bint Mubarak's dedication to these issues as the head of the General Women's Union, the Supreme President of the Family Development Foundation, and the President of the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood (see also chapter on SDG 5).

National Indicators of Cohesion

The National Agenda aspires to create a cohesive society that is proud of its identity, is inclusive, that preserves UAE's culture, heritage and traditions and enhances social and family cohesion. The Ministry of Community Development is responsible for achieving the following national indicators in UAE's National Agenda.

- Family Cohesion Indicator: A composite index that measures the level of cohesion, societal participation and support between family members and their first-degree relatives across dimensions of understanding, respect and equality.

- Community Cohesion Indicator: A composite index that measures the degree to which principles and values are shared among members of society in particular with respect to national identity, social solidarity and community partnership. It includes measures of family cohesion, education and culture, equality, justice, security, participation, and national belonging.

The Ministry of Community Development cooperates with partners from federal and local agencies such as the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Culture and Knowledge Development, Local Emirates Community Development Authorities, Federal Demographic Council, Family Development Foundation in Abu Dhabi and the Zayed Housing Program to monitor and report on and evaluate these indicators.

1 Source: Ministry of Community Development Statistics

2 National Strategy for Empowerment of Emirati Women - The Official Portal of the UAE Government

MY COMMUNITY..
A CITY FOR EVERYONE.. DUBAI DISABILITY STRATEGY

GLOBAL CONTEXT

SDGs & Disability

One cannot have inclusive societies when a segment of the world population remains marginalized, under-represented and underserved, in other words, left behind. In many countries, the reality is that people with disabilities remain the most excluded and hardest to reach of all groups in their community. They are less likely to have access to healthcare and education, and in turn find earning a living and lifting themselves out of poverty that much more difficult, nearing impossible.

Unlike the previous Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the inclusion of disability in the SDGs is a cause for real hope that people with disabilities will this time be included and feel the impact of development progress. Disability is referenced in various parts of the SDGs related to education, growth and employment, inequality, accessibility of human settlements, as well as data collection and monitoring of the SDGs. Specifically, There are 11 explicit references to persons with disabilities in the 2030 Agenda, and disaggregation of data by disability is a core principle.

Goal 4: Inclusive and equitable quality education and promotion of life-long learning opportunities for all focuses on eliminating gender disparities in education and ensuring equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities. In addition, the proposal calls for building and upgrading education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and also provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all.

Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all, with the aim to achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value.

Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries by empowering and promoting the social, economic and political inclusion of all, including persons with disabilities.

Goal 11: Transform cities and human settlements to be inclusive, safe and sustainable by (1) providing access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, (2) improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, such as persons with disabilities. In addition, providing universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, particularly for persons with disabilities.

Goal 17: Enhance capacity-building support to increase the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data that is also disaggregated by disability, given the increased emphasis on the collection of data, monitoring and accountability of the SDGs.

DISABILITY- INCLUSIVE
2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
Disablity is included in the following GOALS:

4 Guaranteeing equal and accessible education by building inclusive learning environments and providing the needed assistance for persons with disabilities.

8 Promoting inclusive economic growth, full and productive employment allowing persons with disabilities to fully access the job market.

10 Emphasizing the social, economic and political inclusion of persons with disabilities.

11 Creating accessible cities and water resources, affordable accessible and sustainable transport system, providing universal access to safe, inclusive, accessible and green public spaces.

17 Underlining the importance of data collection and monitoring of the SDGs, emphasis on disability disaggregated data.

ALL GOALS ARE UNIVERSAL

11x "Persons with disabilities" or "disability" are specifically mentioned in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable development.

6x Persons in vulnerable situations are specifically mentioned in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Disability - Inclusive 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

PEOPLE End poverty and hunger in all forms and ensure dignity and equality

PLANET Protect our planet's natural resources and climate for future generations

PARTNERSHIP Implement the agenda through a solid global partnership

PEACE Foster peaceful, just and inclusive societies.

PROSPERITY Ensure Prosperous and fulfilling lives in harmony with nature

UNITED NATIONS enable
www.un.org/disabilities

UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities and the Sustainable Development Goals

In 2006 the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) came into force. The UNCRPD is one of nine core international human rights treaties and it includes 33 core articles covering all areas of life. To date, 175 out of 193 United Nations Member States have ratified the UNCRPD, including the UAE ratification in 2008, making the countries legally bound to implement the articles and to report on their progress in writing to the United Nations on a periodic basis.

According to the 2011 World Report on Disability by the World Health Organization and World Bank, there are an estimated 1 billion persons with disabilities worldwide. The same report states that 1 in 5 of the world's poorest people have disabilities. Disability is both a cause and consequence of poverty, yet international policy-makers and stakeholders have not historically recognized or prioritized this issue within international development efforts, until now.

The 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will undoubtedly influence the direction of the broader global and national policies on sustainable development plans, in addition to the extent to which the said plans mainstream disability in the implementation and monitoring at policy and practice levels

LOCAL CONTEXT

Dubai in the United Arab Emirates has made concerted efforts to align its strategic objectives with the global agenda. In fact, the leadership in Dubai has a vision and commitment to ensure that Dubai is transformed into a disability-friendly city by 2020. The inspired vision is to make Dubai an inclusive, barrier-free, rights-based society that promotes, protects, and ensures the self-determination of people with disabilities, or, as aptly coined in October 2017 by H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and ruler of Dubai, "People of Determination".

In line with Dubai's commitment to promoting inclusion, H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, issued Dubai Law No. 2 of 2014 for the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities in the Emirate of Dubai. The law ensures that persons with disabilities are entitled to all the rights prescribed to them, that they are respected and treated with dignity, and that their potential as empowered and productive members of society is recognized. The law calls on all concerned parties in Dubai to provide essential and basic services to all persons with disabilities, such as: affordable healthcare and rehabilitation services; inclusive quality education at all stages; public services, which include the use of roads and public transportation; facilitated access to public amenities; and ensuring that their surrounding environment is easily accessible. The Dubai law is also aligned and in accordance with the UN Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006), ratified by the UAE in February 2008.

'My Community.. A City for Everyone'

To establish the Emirate of Dubai as a leading example, H.H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Chairman of The Executive Council, launched the "My Community...A City for Everyone" initiative in November 2013, which aims to transform Dubai into a disability-friendly city by 2020. Several communication campaigns, projects and activities were designed to maximize the participation and integration of persons with disabilities, and eliminate the various attitudinal barriers which currently prevent persons with disabilities from achieving their full potential as participating and contributing members of society. The initiative gained support and attention from members of society, which is further proof of the importance of social awareness about the role of persons with disabilities as able members, capable of achieving positive change in society.

According to the new law and to the "My Community" initiative, H.H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Chairman of The Executive Council, issued The Executive Council's decision No.3 of 2014. The decision stipulates the establishment of the Higher Committee for the Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities under his supervision and to be leaded by H.H. Sheikh Mansoor bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum. The aim of this committee is to implement the articles of the local law and supervise the implementation of the initiatives and the work plan aimed at protecting the rights of persons with disabilities. All government entities, committees, and offices in Dubai have combined their efforts to help develop successful, tangible, and practical steps to support the related legislations and laws.
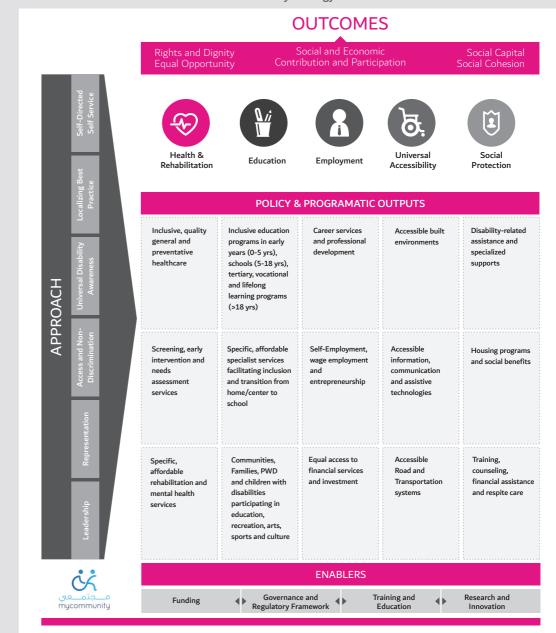
Dubai Disability Strategy 2020

In order to provide a clear roadmap for the My Community initiative and the law, persons with disabilities and their allies, along with stakeholders; local and global experts, developed a comprehensive strategy in 2015 defining the pathway to achieving the vision that reinforces the articles of the federal and local laws, in addition to the UNCRPD and development agenda priorities as outlined in the SDGs. H.H. Sheikh Mansoor bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Chairman of the Higher Committee for the Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, announced the launch of the "Dubai Disability Strategy (DDS) 2020" that outlines the role of private and public sectors and civil society institutions in supporting and implementing this strategy along with its requisite objectives, goals, and strategic direction in transforming Dubai into a disability-friendly city by 2020.

The DDS mission is to implement policy and best-practices that empower persons with disabilities to make choices in an environment that is inclusive and ensures access to opportunities on an equal basis with others as guided by the Framework (see infographic that follows).

"MY COMMUNITY... A CITY FOR EVERYONE"
A FRAMEWORK FOR AN INCLUSIVE, RIGHTS-BASED, BARRIER-FREE DUBAI

The Dubai Disability Strategy Framework

The strategy outlines plans to implement related policies, legislative frameworks and initiatives, contributing to ensuring disability mainstreaming thereby enhancing the policy and service infrastructure providing access to quality health, education, employment and social protection systems. In line with the UNCRPD and the SDGs, the DDS 2020 seeks to empower persons with disabilities to enjoy their basic rights by ensuring social justice, equity, and protection via five main pillars: Inclusive Health & Rehabilitation, Inclusive Education, Inclusive Employment, Social Protection and Universal Accessibility.
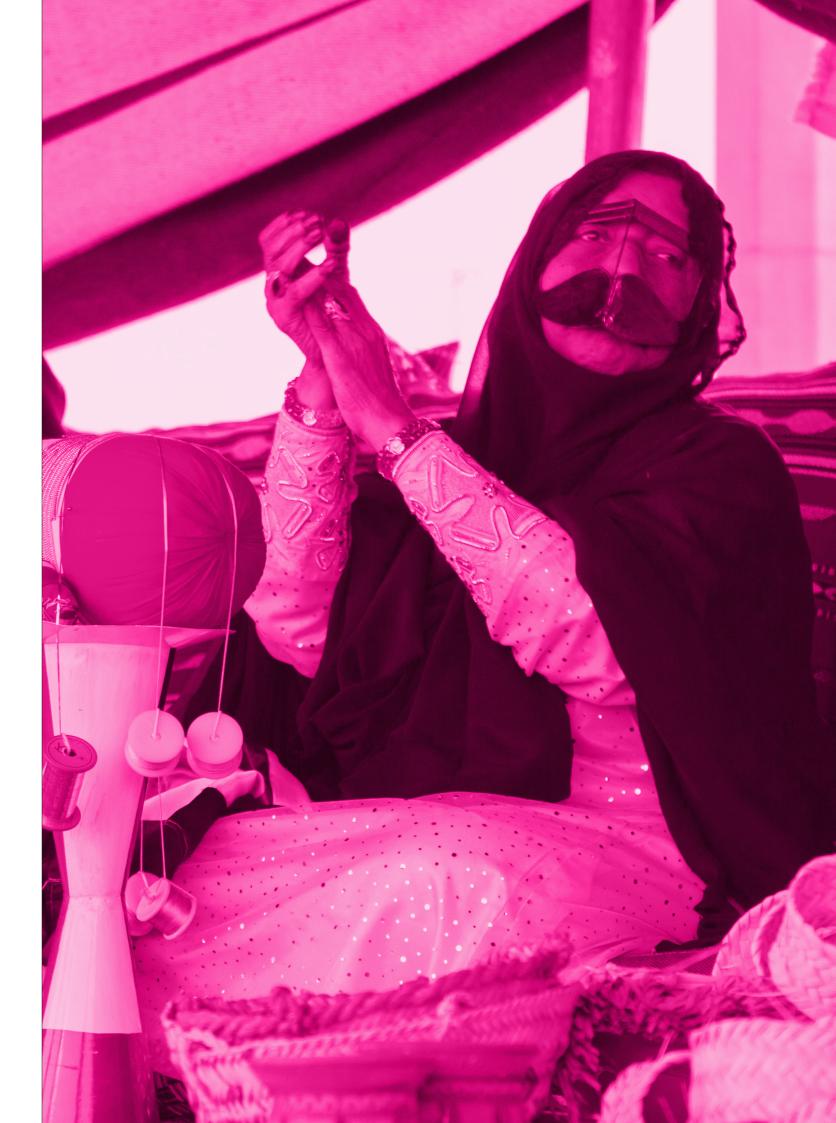
Mainstreaming & Monitoring Disability

The leadership in the Government of Dubai recognizes that mainstreaming disability across government policies and programs is vital in the effort towards planning for an inclusive society. As such, the Dubai Disability Strategy is not a stand-alone strategy; instead, it is fully mainstreamed across the strategic aims and the monitoring framework of the 2021 Dubai Strategic Plan (DP2021). Concerted efforts of late have attempted to align the DDS with the global agenda on the one hand (SDGs and UNCRPD) and the local national agenda on the other (DP2021) by becoming an integrated part of the larger Dubai Plan's programmatic and policy choices, organizational values and working practices, and monitoring framework.

The DDS is based on a rights-based approach that is reflected in its emphasis on universal design, inclusive education for all, and access to health and rehabilitation services. This means that the methodology used to gather baseline information for planning and monitoring must be also rooted in the same principles. For this reason, the WHO's Model Disability Survey (MDS) was adopted and customized as the data collection strategy for establishing empirically sound baseline information that will enable the monitoring of the DDS and Dubai's progress on achieving the SDGs, now entitled the Dubai Survey on Community Inclusion.

Effective policy-making derived from the DDS requires reliable, detailed data on all aspects of disability - impairments, activity limitations, participation restrictions, related health conditions, environmental factors - information that is currently limited as there is no standardized instrument for data collection on disability that provides comprehensive and systematic documentation of all aspects of functioning in a population. The customized WHO survey will now aid in overcoming one of the challenges in attaining essential baseline information for monitoring progress and providing a basis from which policy decisions can be made and concrete actions planned, all in line with the SDGs. The MDS implemented as a population based survey with an estimated sample of 2,500 will produce comparable, benchmarked, longitudinal evidence on disability adopted for the monitoring of the DDS/SDG indicators and designed in accordance with the UNCRPD articles.

Only with such evidence in hand, we can know whether we are achieving the vision of building an inclusive community.. a city for everyone.

11 | SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

COORDINATING AGENCY:
MINISTRY OF INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

MAKE CITIES AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS INCLUSIVE, SAFE, RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE

The Sustainable Cities Index 2016 ranked Abu Dhabi and Dubai as the most sustainable cities in the Middle East. The development agendas for both cities, Vision 2030 Abu Dhabi and Vision 2030 Dubai, as well as those of the other Emirates, incorporate inclusivity, social cohesion and sustainability as central themes.

**UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
MINISTRY OF INFRASTRUCTURE
DEVELOPMENT**

The UAE has been at the forefront of experimenting with sustainable neighborhood development for more than a decade, one example being the Masdar City initiative in Abu Dhabi, which applies both traditional and cutting edge technologies to enhance the sustainability of the built environment, including solar power generation, water recycling, passive solar design and automated mobility. Dubai recently opened The Sustainable City, the first net-zero energy city in the country that aims to provide amenities of modern life without compromising the ability to meet the needs of future generations. The first "autonomous house" based on passive solar technologies was built by the Mohammed bin Rashid Space Centre in 2016.[1]

1 See Case Studies on Masdar City and Dubai Municipality

Abu Dhabi introduced Estidama, a sustainable building framework in 2010, including the Pearl Rating System for the design, construction and operation of buildings, dwellings and communities. All new buildings are required to obtain at least a one-pearl rating out of five, whereas all government buildings and dwellings must obtain a minimum of a two-pearl rating. Dubai also introduced Al Sa'fat green building evaluation system in 2016, while targeting the retrofitting of 30,000 old buildings. The UAE is among the top ten countries with the most LEED certified buildings outside the United States; 180 projects were certified by the year 2016.

The expansion of efficient public transportation systems is a key priority to improve mobility, air quality and public health. The UAE has been active in introducing and experimenting with cutting-edge technologies. Dubai Electricity & Water Authority (DEWA) is introducing over 100 electric vehicle charging stations across the city, while Dubai Road and Transport Authority (RTA) is working on the deployment of autonomous vehicles, Hyperloop bullet trains and flying taxis. The share of public transport in the mobility of people in Dubai reached 15% by 2015, rising from less than 6% in 2006. RTA aims to increase this share to 20% by 2020 and 30% by 2030.

Improving air quality is one of the leading priorities under the UAE Agenda 2021. The UAE is conducting regular monitoring of ambient air quality through the UAE Air Quality Network, while developing a National Air Emissions Inventory and a project to utilize advanced satellite data for remote monitoring and modeling. The national target is set to achieve 90% of green days by 2021, while the rate has already reached 76% in 2016.

Case Study

MASDAR CITY[2]

Integrating traditional Arabic architectural techniques with modern building technologies, Masdar City is designed to capture prevailing winds and offer naturally cooler outdoor public spaces than those found elsewhere in Abu Dhabi, while the buildings consume 40% less energy and water. Masdar City is in part powered by clean energy generated from a 10 MW solar power plant on site and 1MW solar rooftop system. Harnessing the sun's rays, the plant produces 17,500MWh of clean electricity annually and diverts 7,350 tonnes of carbon emissions per year. The total site area is approximately 6,000,000m².

At the City's core is the Masdar Institute of Science and Technology, an institution integral to the growth of the UAE's knowledge based economy. The Institute, which is dedicated to discovering cutting-edge solutions in the fields of energy and sustainability, offers partnerships to companies to further inspire a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship, drive economic growth, and accelerate the commercialization of breakthrough technologies for global markets.

Today, with people already living and working at Masdar City, the development has emerged as a full-fledged innovation ecosystem. Masdar City continues to add new businesses, schools, restaurants, apartments and much more, creating the diverse mixed-use community characteristic of major, modern cities around the world.

Around 35% of Masdar City's planned development will be completed within the next five years, and nearly 30% has already been committed to, including private homes, schools, hotels and more office space. When complete, up to 50,000 people will live in Masdar City, with up to 40,000 working and studying there every day.

Examples of research and development projects being done at Masdar City include:

- Masdar Solar Hub: Photovoltaic Test Centre, CPV Testing Facility and Masdar Institute Solar Platform
- Seawater Energy and Agriculture System (SEAS) / Food and Biofuel
- Electric Energy Storage Solutions Hub
- Masdar City Eco-Villa Prototype

2 For further information about Masdar City see: http://masdar.ae/en/masdar-city/detail/About-Masdar-City

- Smart Home Energy Management System (SHEMS)
- Personal Rapid Transit (PRT) System
- Masdar City Construction Waste Management
- Masdar Institute for Science and Technology Field Station
- Feasibility of District Cooling powered by Geothermal Energy for Masdar City

DUBAI MUNICIPALITY'S APPLIED SUSTAINABILITY & RENEWABLE ENERGY DEPARTMENT

Dubai Municipality (DM) is one of the largest public sector service providers in the UAE and plays a significant role in the growth and evolution of the city of Dubai. DM's five-year strategic plan (2016-2021) serves both, UAE Vision 2021 and the Dubai Plan 2021 and consists of 5 strategic pillars and 20 strategic objectives.

APPLIED SUSTAINABILITY & RENEWABLE ENERGY DEPARTMENT (ASRED)

ASRED was formed in 2016 to cater to the high demand for sustainability-focused projects in Dubai. The department's role is to:

- Formulate, implement, monitor, and review sustainability-related projects to serve the strategic objectives of DM while benchmarking to global best practices.
- Manage the complete lifecycle of sustainability and renewable energy projects including domestic and international stakeholder engagement in these areas for the Emirate of Dubai
- Raise awareness on sustainability and renewable energy issues through advertising campaigns, surveys, and active stakeholder outreach
- Adopt innovative, future-focused strategies, objectives, programs, and initiatives to ensure that DM remains a pioneer in the implementation of sustainable practices

SAMPLE PROJECTS
Solar power generation for sewage treatment plant

The build-operate-transfer type investment solar installation addresses several strategic goals in the transformation towards clean energy generation. Electrical power produced will supply energy to Dubai's main sewage treatment plants of Jabal Ali sewerage treatment plant (26MW) and sewerage treatment plant (5MW). Surplus electricity will be fed into the local energy grid.

Sewage Treatment Plant Bio-Gas to Energy

With an expected capacity of 4-6MW, the project seeks to utilize bio-gas captured from the sewerage treatment plant. 35,000 cubic meters of gas are processed daily produced in two locations in Dubai, al-Warsan and Jabal Ali.

Landfill Gas to Energy

In 2011, a gas-flaring UNFCCC-certified carbon reduction project was established in the existing Al Qusais Landfill. The 15-year project aims to utilize methane gas produced from landfills for efficient power generation. The project achieved 1.2 million tons of carbon reduction, for which it obtained carbon credits that were sold to Norway under UNFCCC's CDM scheme. Phase 2 of the project involves generating 12 MW of clean energy and transmitting it to the local electricity grid.

Municipal Solid Waste to Energy

The project aims to unlock an alternative source of energy by incinerating 4,000 tons of waste per day to produce 137 MW of energy. The residues and bi-products of the incineration will also be recycled or used as an input to other industrial processes.

Organic Waste to Energy

The aim of the 'organic waste to energy' project is to recover and reuse energy by treating 500 tons of organic waste per day to produce power for a plant with a capacity of 5MW. The organic material includes but is not limited to biodegradable materials such as food, fruits and vegetables, meat, green wastes among others. The project is of strategic significance as it contributes to sustainable solutions and provides benefits such as the diversion of waste from disposal sites, lowering the production of greenhouse gases and increasing the contribution of alternative energy sources.

HIGHLIGHTS OF UNITED ARAB EMIRATES GREEN INNOVATIONS

Flight fuel made from salt-tolerant plants

Water desalination with renewable energy

Sustainable fishing by remote monitoring

Spatial planning by satellite images

Artificial coves

Sustainable cities:
- Masdar City
- Dubai Sustainable City
- Desert Rose City
- Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park

Zero gas flaming policy

Preparing infrastructure for electric cars

Blue Carbon ecosystem preservation

12 | RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION
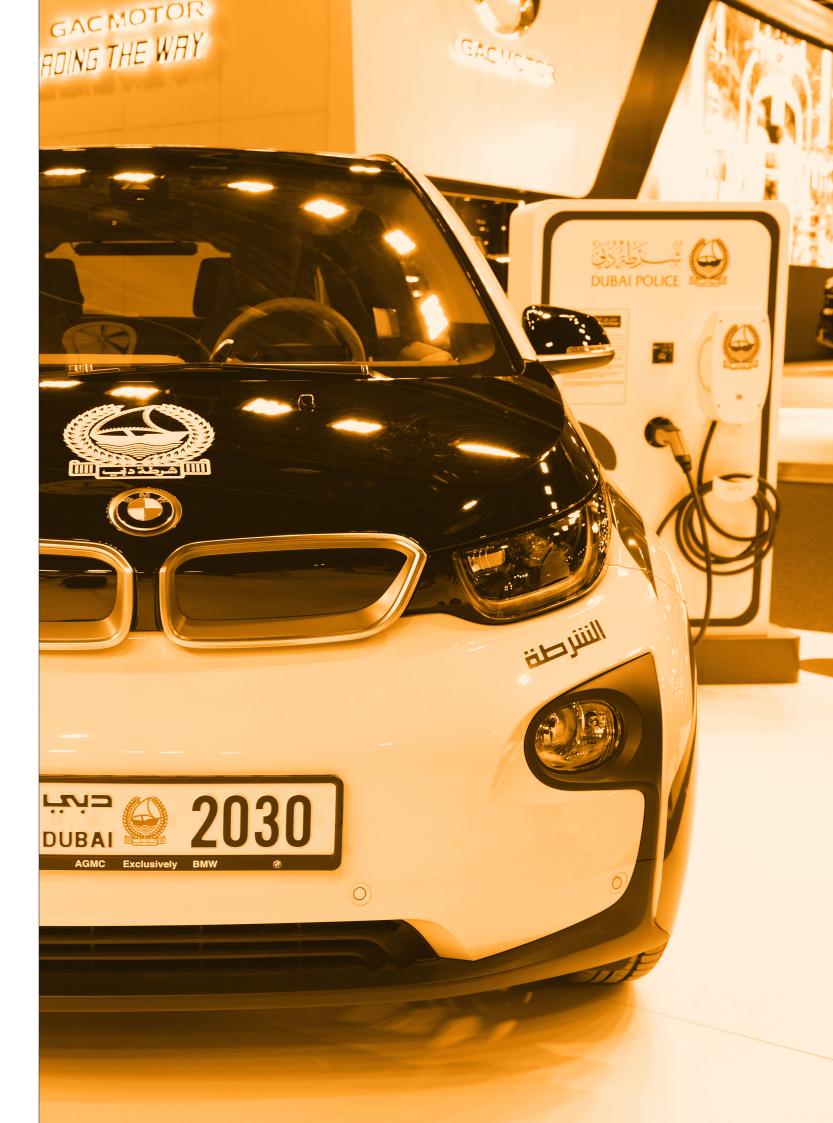
COORDINATING AGENCY:
MINISTRY OF CLIMATE CHANGE & ENVIRONMENT

ENSURE SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION PATTERNS

Conventional approaches to dealing with environmental issues have focused on controlling or remedying the downstream effects of the production/consumption process. This is not however necessarily the best approach to addressing the overall reduction of adverse climate change and environmental impacts.

To achieve better outcomes for both the environment and the economy, the concept of Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) focuses on the entire life of materials and products and advocates innovative approaches to minimize pollution from across the value chain, covering both production and consumption processes.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
MINISTRY OF CLIMATE CHANGE
& ENVIRONMENT

In the UAE, SCP was selected as the theme of National Environment Day from 2017 until 2019, and was also integrated into the UAE Green Agenda 2030.[1] The Ministry of Climate Change and Environment (MOCCAE) is working to develop a National SCP Plan. Sectors such as materials and construction, transport and mobility, and food and agriculture have been identified as key priorities for implementing SCP, and the ministry is conducting a series of stakeholder workshops to identify projects in those areas.

One example of SCP in the UAE is a partnership between Emirates Global Aluminum (EGA) and cement companies across the country. EGA successfully utilized spent pot lining - waste generated from aluminum production processes - in cement factories as an alternative energy source. This resulted in not only saving conventional fuels such as coal, but also reduced emissions of nitrogen oxides. Furthermore, this partnership has led to addressing global climate challenges - by managing to reduce emissions by nearly 10% per ton of cement produced.[2]

1 Ministry of Climate Change & Environment online news, November 8, 2016
2 Zawya, 2017. "UAE turns aluminum waste into alternative energy - minister", wire report, 13 December, https://www.zawya.com/uae/en/business/technology/story/UAE_turns_aluminum_waste_into_alternative_energy_minister-ZAWYA20171213102919/

Food waste is also a serious concern. The UAE relies heavily on food imports due to limited domestic food production, yet as much as a third is estimated to end up in landfill, which emits methane, a GHG 25 times more damaging than CO_2.

Public awareness campaigns have been conducted to reduce food waste, for example, to promote the purchase and utilization of locally produced "imperfect" fruits and vegetables, as an estimated 15-20% of produce do not fit the aesthetic standards of supermarkets and are wasted.[3] In January 2017, H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, launched the UAE Food Bank, as part of an effort to achieve zero food waste as well as to contribute to the Year of Giving. The Food Bank collects surplus food from retailers and food establishments and distributes it to people in need through charity associations. Five such banks are set to open across Dubai by the end of 2017 and 15 by 2018. The Ministry of Climate Change and Environment organized an awareness raising event prior to Ramadan in May 2017, in cooperation with Winnow, a food waste solutions company, as food waste tends to increase during Ramadan. Food waste issues are also addressed in the National Food Diversification Policy and Strategy.

The UAE also raises awareness of, and integrates, sustainability concepts into school curricula to promote sustainable lifestyles. The National Environmental Education and Awareness Strategy was developed in 2015, and the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment is conducting a regular survey among different stakeholder groups since 2014 to monitor its progress. The 2016 results showed positive trends; the rate of overall environmental awareness moved up to 71% from 63% in 2014, and the rate of environmentally friendly behavior among the general public also improved to 64% in 2016 from 55% in 2014.[4]

Eco-labels and related environmental standards that are based on rigorous science, and are widely recognized and trusted, can become powerful tools to guide consumers toward sustainable choices of products, services and contractors. Improving availability, accessibility and quality of consumer information can enhance communication with UAE consumers to modify behavior and therefore, encourage industry to better respond to consumers' greener demands and invest in providing and sourcing sustainable products and services.

The Emirates Authority for Standardization and Metrology (ESMA) has set national standards and labels for water and energy efficiency of appliances and organic food. In addition, the Emirates Environmental Label scheme, recently approved by the Cabinet, certifies the environmental superiority of a wide range of products similar to other national eco-labels such as the German Blue Angel. The new label is to be introduced in interior systems and products, exterior building products, indoor furniture, electrical and mechanical tools, packaging products, household cleaning, construction steel products, cement, and office supplies.
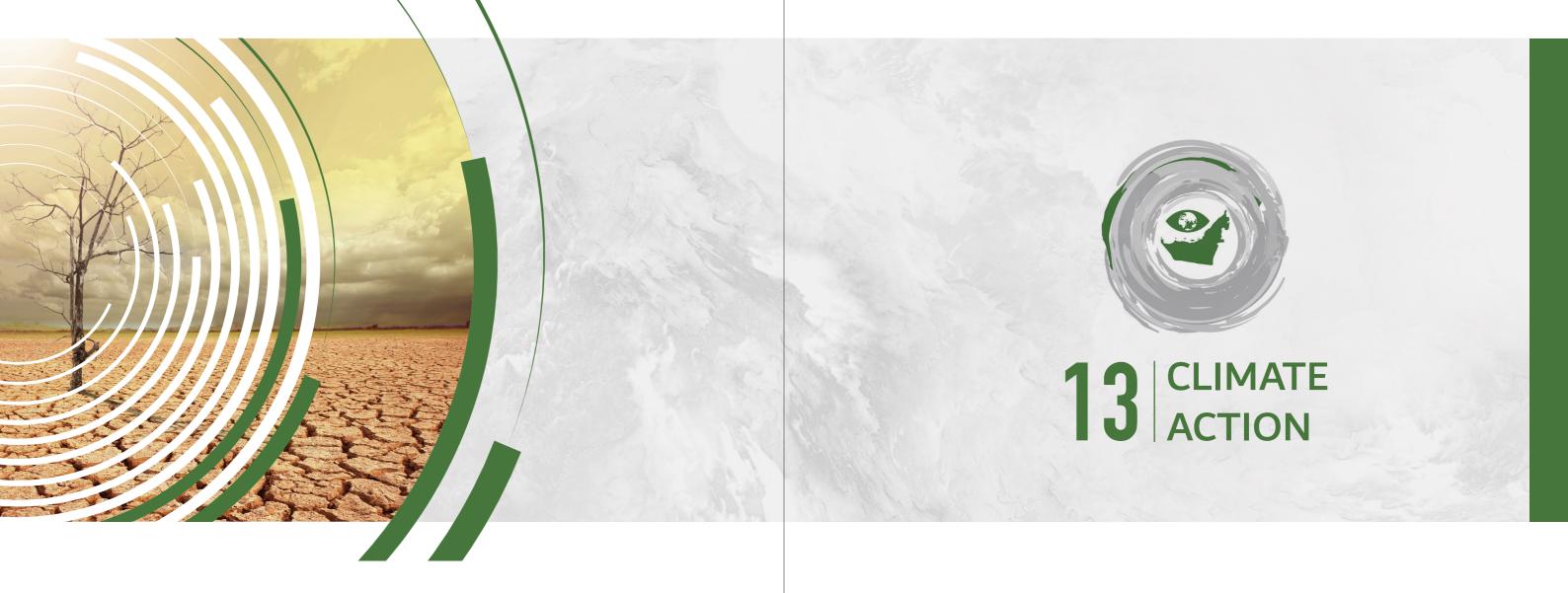
MOCCAE is working with the Ministry of Finance to introduce sustainable procurement among federal authorities to leverage their influence on the market as the largest consumers in the country. Through this practice, the government can help reduce the climate impacts and ecological footprint of its own operations, while also guiding local authorities, the industry and the public towards more sustainable consumption and production. The Dubai Supreme Council of Energy (DSCE) introduced a green public procurement program in 2013 as part of the Dubai Demand Side Management Strategy. Focusing on electricity and water efficiency, DSCE established general guidelines and criteria for indoor lighting that are being introduced in all local public entities. Criteria for other procurement categories will be gradually added.

3 Gulf News, 2015. "'Ugly' fruits and veggies should not be binned", newspaper article, 19 October, http://gulfnews.com/news/uae/environment/ugly-fruits-
    and-veggies-should-not-be-binned-1.1603186
4 Source: Ministry of Climate Change and Environment MOCCAE, 2017. "Chapter 5: UAE's Performance toward a Green Economy", p.70, UAE State of Green
    Economy Report 2017, www.moccae.gov.ae

13 | CLIMATE ACTION

COORDINATING AGENCY:
MINISTRY OF CLIMATE CHANGE & ENVIRONMENT

**TAKE URGENT ACTION TO COMBAT CLIMATE
CHANGE AND ITS IMPACTS**

A number of extreme events largely attributed to human induced climate change hit the world in 2017 including Hurricanes Irma, Harvey and Maria that devastated the Caribbean islands. With 2016 being the hottest year on record and reaching the highest atmospheric concentration of greenhouse gases in 800,000 years, it is clear that urgent action is required.

That is why, in 2017, the UAE launched the National Climate Change Plan 2017-2050, a first of its kind in the region. The Plan is a comprehensive framework to transition into a climate resilient green economy, while managing greenhouse gas emissions, minimizing climate risks and increasing climate adaptation capabilities. It places a strong emphasis on engaging the private sector and other stakeholders in developing innovative solutions, based on the belief that while challenging, climate change is not only a threat, but an opportunity for growth through partnerships and innovation.

**UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
MINISTRY OF CLIMATE CHANGE
& ENVIRONMENT**

At the heart of the Plan is the national clean energy target of 27% to 2021[1] and 50% by 2050,[2] to be achieved through the deployment of large-scale nuclear and renewable energy projects. Furthermore, various cross-sectoral efforts are underway to increase energy and water efficiencies in order to reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions, including the introduction of tariff reforms, building codes, district cooling, appliance efficiency standards, demand side management programs and mass public transport systems. On climate adaptation, a National Adaptation Program was launched in September 2017 at the Annual Meeting of the UAE Government to develop awareness and adaptive measures for key sectors such as health, infrastructure, energy and water. The UAE Council of Climate Change and Environment established in 2016, will oversee the implementation of the Plan moving forward.

1 UAE Vision 2021
2 UAE Energy Strategy 2050

On a technical level, the Abu Dhabi Global Environmental Data Initiative (AGEDI) in partnership with the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment organized a Regional Symposium on Climate Change in March 2017. It was a cumulation of multi-year studies conducted to increase scientific understandings of the impacts of climate change in the UAE and in the region, in order to assist with better policy-making. The studies looked at the impacts of climate change at the local, national and regional levels, including on terrestrial and marine ecosystems, coastal zones, food security and water resources.

Engaging and educating youth on climate change matters continued to be a major focus in 2017, given the important role of the future generation on climate change. Progress was made on the "Our Generation" initiative of the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment and the Ministry of Education in collaboration with the Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi, to develop school curricula to raise environmental and natural conservation awareness in schools and encourage taking measures to reduce environmental footprints. The implementation of the National Strategy for Awareness and Education 2015-2021 is also progressing, to build environmental awareness including climate change, among all segments of the society.

The UAE's delegation to the COP 23 Bonn Climate Change Conference in November 2017 included around 30 youth delegates, to gain first-hand experience in international climate change negotiations and to be exposed to a range of climate action undertaken globally. At the Conference, a new initiative, the Youth Climate Mentorship Program was launched, which is intended to increase the capacity of youth in national climate change related policy development processes. The program partners include the Government of Seychelles, International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI).

The UAE continues to be committed to the Paris Agreement on climate change adopted in 2015, and works closely with regional and international partners. In January 2017, the second annual Global Action Day during Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week was held, and in February 2017, the inaugural Climate in Action program during the annual World Government Summit was held, focusing on the theme of food security and climate change. Both of these events attracted participants at the highest level. At the One Planet Summit convened by President Emmanuel Macron of France, United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres, and World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim to mark the two-year anniversary of the adoption of the Paris Agreement in December 2017, the UAE Space Agency announced the launch of the Climate Observatory in Space, which will provide governments and the scientific community with all the space data necessary for monitoring the health of the planet.

Case Study

NATIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE PLAN

The Objectives Of The National Climate Change Plan:

❶ Manage greenhouse emissions while sustaining economic growth
❷ Build climate resilience by minimizing risks and increasing capacity for climate adaptation
❸ Advance the UAE's economic diversification agenda through:

1st Key Climate Priorities

National Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Managment System

National Adaptation Planning and Implementation

Private Sector-Driven Innovative Diversification Program

2nd Foundation: UAE Green Agenda 2015 - 2030

Sectoral Climate Actions

UAE Green Agenda continues	with short-term goals to be achieved by 2020	....to align with the UAE Vision 2021	....to align with the UAE Green Agenda	The timeline extends as far as 2050....
2017	2020	2021	2030	2050

3rd Enablers: Means of Implementation

Innovative Green Finance
In the UAE, stronger policies and regulations is required to link bankable projects and financiers in order to further stimulate investment flows into sustainable projects.

Capacity Building
Building the capacity of the nation's workforce and shifting to fast-growing green sectors such as clean energy, green manufacturing, and environmental goods and services.

Governance, Monitoring and Evaluation
The implementation will be overseen by the UAE Council on Climate Change and the Environment (CCCE) as an inter-ministerial, inter-emirate governance body.

Awareness Raising and Communications
Effective awareness raising and communications on climate change with all relevant stakeholders from the government, business, and civil society in the course of implementing the Climate Plan.

International Cooperation
Creating an integrated framework thus serving its effective role in international climate action and enhance its technical capabilities through technology transfer and financing mechanisms.

HIGHLIGHTS OF UNITED ARAB EMIRATES GREEN INNOVATIONS

The UAE awards for innovation, sustainable environment and energy:

- UAE Research Program for Rain Enhancement Science grant
- Zayed International Prize for the Environment
- Zayed Future Energy Prize
- Khalifa International Award for Date Palm and Agricultural Innovation

UAE Research Program for Rain Enhancement Science addresses water security challenges

Sustainable transport:
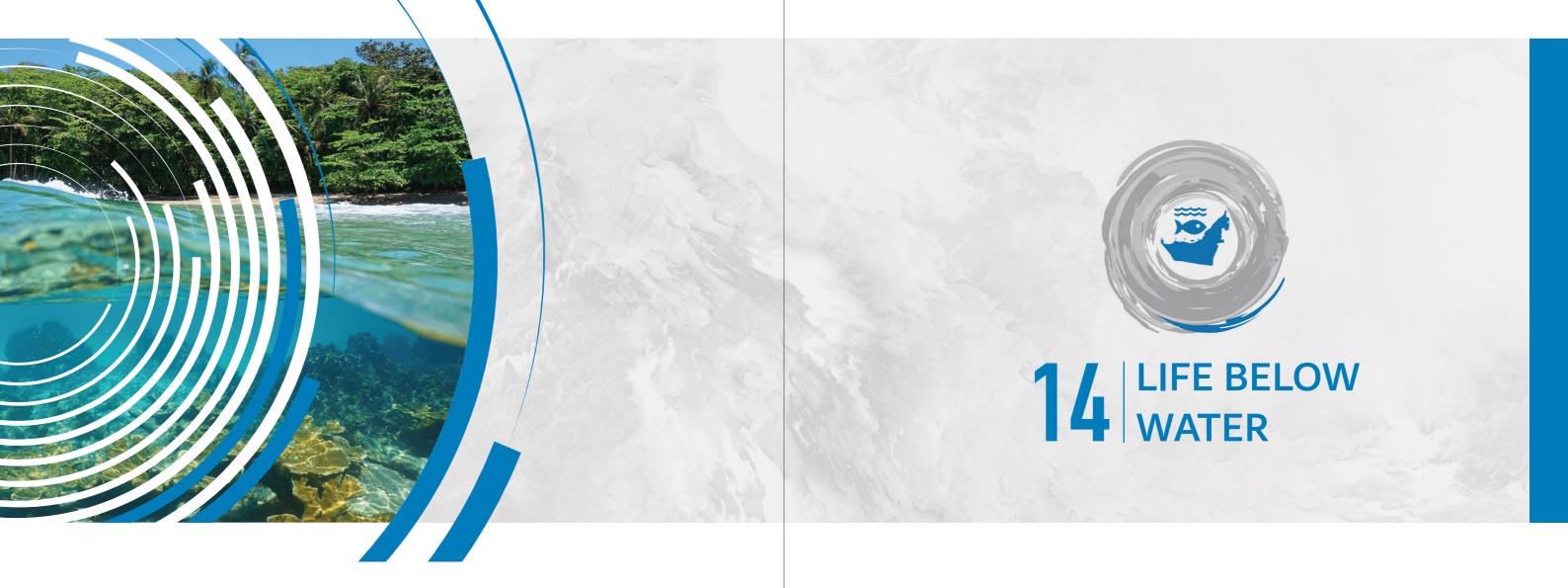- Dubai Metro
- Dubai Tram
- Dubai Trolley

International Center for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA) working toward sustainable agricultural production in saline and marginal environments

ADNOC / Masdar carbon capture and storage for enhanced oil recovery

Turning air into water

UAE Carbon Ambassadors

14 | LIFE BELOW WATER

COORDINATING AGENCY:
MINISTRY OF CLIMATE CHANGE & ENVIRONMENT

CONSERVE AND SUSTAINABLY USE THE OCEANS, SEAS AND MARINE RESOURCES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The fisheries sector constitutes only a small part of the UAE's economy, however, overfishing over the years has led to decline in stocks. Some studies have shown that there has been a decline of 88% in the period 1976 to 2011,[1] mainly due to high demands for fish accompanying increase in population which resulted in overfishing. Other factors include coastal development projects and construction in fishing waters, using recreational boats for commercial fishing purposes, and high-levels of pollution and degradation of natural habitats in coastal areas.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES MINISTRY OF CLIMATE CHANGE & ENVIRONMENT

The UAE has been taking proactive measures to address overfishing and protection of the marine environment through policies, legislations and regulations as well as investments in research and development. The main legislation regulating fisheries (Federal Law No. 23) dates back to 1999, and is concerned with the exploitation, protection, and development of living aquatic resources. Steps were taken in 2016 to strengthen the legislation in order to respond to current challenges, resulting in an amendment (Federal Law No. 7) which covers a range of issues including licensing duration, processes and procedures, regulating fishing tools and equipment, and harmonization with local authorities.

1 Figure 3.6 - Page 86 "Fish biomass density estimates in UAE's territorial water, 1975-2011", UAE State of Green Economy Report 2014,
   https://www.moccae.gov.ae/assets/e3bd136a/uae-state-of-green-economy-report-2014.aspx

Furthermore, the number of fishing vessels are capped (Ministerial Decree No. 372 of 2013) and a decree regulating recreational fishing was issued in 2017, specifying licensing procedure, as well as gears permitted for use. The UAE also implements fishing bans during the spawning season of certain fish species to rebuild overexploited fish stocks. Seasonal fishing bans on 5 species are currently in force with plans to place seasonal fishing bans on additional species in the future. To further enhance the stocks, several initiatives have been undertaken to rehabilitate coral reefs and habitats through the cultivation of natural coral reefs and the cultivation of mangroves.

Additionally, several UAE-based research entities conduct research and studies focused on the marine environment and fisheries. A notable example is the Marine Environment Research Center of the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment which conducts studies in coordination local and international academic and research institutions. Their research projects include investigating super coral reefs which can survive the local harsh conditions as well as the effects of climate change, specifying spawning and nursery areas, stock assessment surveys of certain local species, and monitoring red tide and water quality.

It is noteworthy that the UAE established the world's first research facility in 2016 to explore the commercial viability and scale-up potential of an integrated, sustainable bioenergy system that produces food and fuel, without using arable land or fresh water in a desert environment. This facility is managed by the Masdar Institute of Science and Technology and funded by the Sustainable Bioenergy Research Consortium formed of leading aviation sector companies such as Etihad Airways and Boeing. Successful development of this technology could support global food security, mitigate carbon emissions and reduce water pollution from industrial fish and shrimp aquaculture operations.

Most importantly, an ambitious and comprehensive UAE Sustainable Fisheries Programme (UAESFP) was launched in 2016, consisting of several projects on research, data management, fisheries management and enforcement, with the overall aim to promote sustainable fisheries in the UAE. One of the major projects under the umbrella of the UAESFP, is the Fisheries Resources Assessment Survey (FRAS) which has demonstrated that depletion levels have not increased due to the measures taken by the UAE.
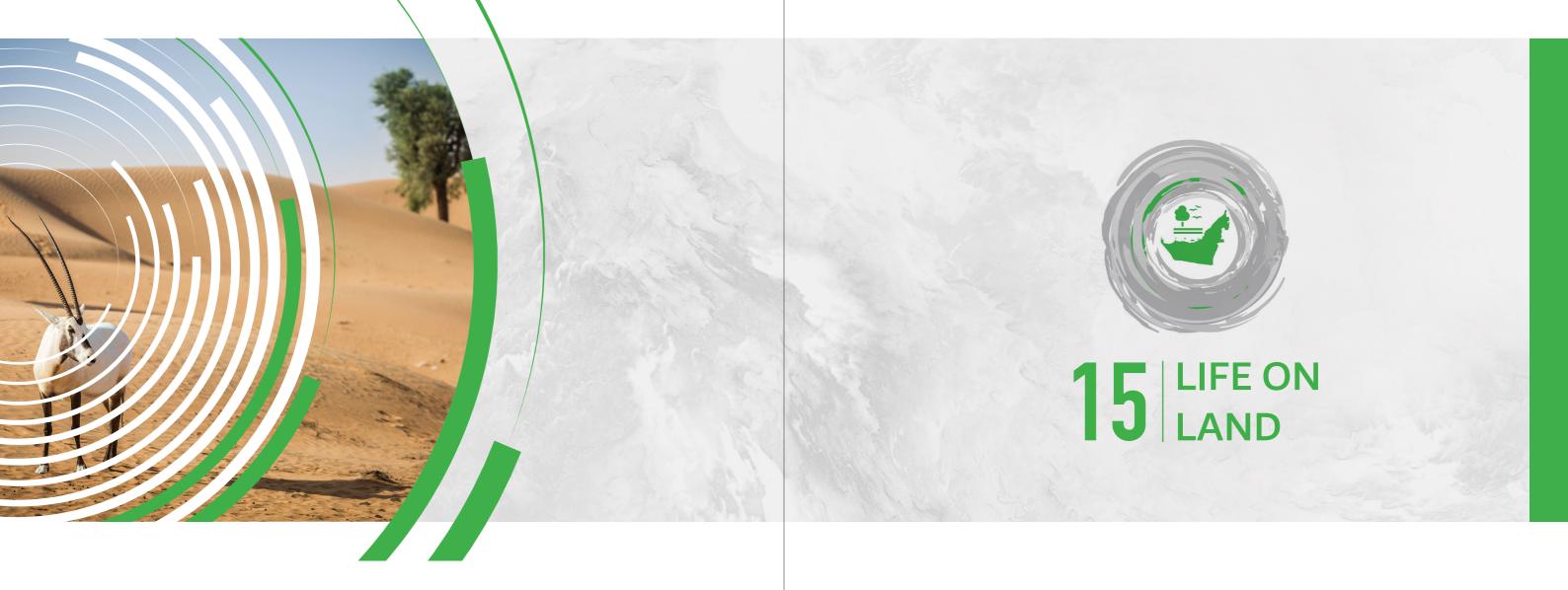
Also acknowledging the importance of the well-being of the marine and coastal environment, the UAE launched the National Marine and Coastal Environment Monitoring Programme in 2016, in line with the National Strategy of Marine and Coastal Sustainability and SDG 14. It aims to align and unify efforts, mechanisms, and capacities as pertaining to monitoring the marine and coastal environments.

A Coastal Oil Spill Cleanup Guide was developed in 2017, which aims to help decision makers, field teams and volunteers to respond quickly to beach pollution and make the right decisions. In addition, this guide will help them choose methods for cleaning operations in line with the type and nature of beaches and identify the equipment and scope of its uses. Similarly, an Oiled Shoreline Assessment Guide was also developed in 2017, which explains why an oiled shoreline assessment programme is an important element of a response, and outlines the benefits of systematic surveys. In addition, the guide explains why and how an effective shoreline assessment programme supports the planning, decision maker and implementation process for a shoreline response. Moreover, a National Contingency Plan is currently being developed to combat oil spills.

The UAE has also been working towards increasing its Blue Flag sites - an eco-label for marinas and beaches operated under the auspices of the Foundation for Environmental Education - resulting in an increase in certified sites from 21 in 2016 to 28 in 2017

15 | LIFE ON LAND

COORDINATING AGENCY:
MINISTRY OF CLIMATE CHANGE & ENVIRONMENT

PROTECT, RESTORE AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE USE OF TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS, SUSTAINABLY MANAGE FORESTS, COMBAT DESERTIFICATION, AND HALT AND REVERSE

The UAE is home to a diverse range of marine and terrestrial ecosystems such as coral reefs, mangrove forests and sand dunes, with a wide range of flora and fauna including vulnerable or endangered species such as, Arabian Leopard, Arabian Oryx, Green Turtle, and Dugongs. The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan adopted in 2014, is based on the Aichi Biodiversity Targets of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and guides the UAE's efforts in conserving biodiversity during the coming decade and contribute to the achievement of relevant SDGs, mainly SDG 14 (Life Below Water) and SDG 15 (Life on Land).

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES MINISTRY OF CLIMATE CHANGE & ENVIRONMENT

To date, the UAE has designated a total of 43 federal protected areas of which seven have officially been designated as Ramsar Sites (Wetlands sites recognized under the Ramsar Convention). The UAE has also achieved Aichi Target 11; a total of 12% of marine and coastal areas as well as 17% of terrestrial areas of the UAE are protected areas, and there are plans to increase their coverage. The management effectiveness of the UAE protected areas is evaluated annually to ensure sustainable management of species and ecosystems in close cooperation with relevant entities. Furthermore, five areas in the UAE have been identified as "Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas" (EBSAs) under CBD, in recognition of their contribution to healthy marine ecosystems.

The UAE has launched a number of programs and initiatives for biodiversity conservation. For example, in order to better factor in environmental and economic benefits offered by ecosystems and to facilitate their sustainable utilization, the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment (MOCCAE) launched the "UAE Smart Map of Natural Capital" in 2014. This initiative enables users to identify available natural resources and value ecosystem services at the national level in monetary terms.

With the aim to protect the marine environment, a long-term research program for marine turtles has been developed, which involves monitoring of the number of nesting turtles, habitats and migratory patterns in order to develop a suitable conservation plan. Furthermore, MOCCAE has issued a number of regulations concerning the conservation and management of sharks and rays.

The UAE is collaborating with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) to identify the invasive species within the country, along with their pathways, to prevent, address and eradicate their negative presence in the UAE, which has been published on the IUCN website. Future work will consist of updating, developing and implementing regulations relating to invasive species. The UAE is also working towards updating the National Red List with IUCN which will aid in identifying the endangered and most threatened species in the UAE by classifying the species according to the IUCN Criteria.

Recognizing the significance of the Blue Carbon ecosystems (mangroves, salt marshes and seagrasses) that sequester and store significantly more carbon than terrestrial ecosystems in addition to protecting shorelines and providing nursery grounds, the UAE has joined the International Partnership for Blue Carbon (IPBC) launched at the COP 21 Paris Climate Change Conference. The UAE hosted the IPBC's second annual workshop in July 2017 to facilitate best practice sharing and collective action in protecting them across the globe.

Aside from policies and regulations, public awareness raising and capacity building through specialized trainings and workshops are important in ensuring the achievement of the SDGs.

The UAE celebrates biodiversity through a number of international and regional environmental days such the "World Day to Combat Desertification", "World Wildlife Day" "International Day for Biological Diversity" "World Shark Day", "GCC Biodiversity Day" and "World Animal Day".

In particular, the UAE is working to ensure that relevant entities and the general public are aware of the issue of illegal wildlife trade, and a number of campaigns have taken place in the recent years. The "Beautiful in The Wild" campaign was kicked-off in 2015, to raise the awareness of the importance of keeping wild animals in their natural habitats and the effects of invasive species on local biodiversity using visual simulation technologies. Recent campaigns have targeted Abu Dhabi and Dubai airports in cooperation with partner organizations to raise awareness among UAE visitors and residents.

Furthermore, the Al Ain Zoo in corporation with MOCCAE launched the second Nature Conservation Festival in 2016, under the theme "Illicit Trafficking in Endangered Species". The festival helped to raise awareness on the different endangered species and roles and responsibilities for the community in addressing illegal wildlife trade.

16 | PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

COORDINATING AGENCY:
MINISTRY OF INTERIOR

PROMOTE PEACEFUL AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, PROVIDE ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ALL AND BUILD EFFECTIVE, ACCOUNTABLE AND INCLUSIVE INSTITUTIONS AT ALL LEVELS

The National Agenda aims for the UAE to be among the safest countries in the world by becoming a world-leader security and justice, emergency preparedness, reliability of police services and road safety.

Furthermore, the National Agenda reinforces the importance of making the UAE's judicial system among the most efficient in the world.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
MINISTRY OF INTERIOR

Over the years, the UAE has proven to be a role model for multiculturalism and social harmony. It is a model for an inclusive society with guiding principles of tolerance and justice. UAE's Vision 2021 and National Agenda strives to preserve a cohesive society that is proud of its identity and sense of belonging. UAE aims to be a pluralistic country that integrates all segments of society while preserving the UAE's unique culture, heritage and traditions and reinforces social and family cohesion.

In 2016, UAE became the first country in the world to appoint a federal Minister for Tolerance (see Box that follows).

TOLERANCE AND SOCIAL COHESION[1]

With more than 200 nationalities living peacefully and successfully in the UAE, the UAE society has been an undisputed example of being a tolerant and inclusive country. Now, the Federal Government is keen to promote acceptance and understanding as core values of the society.

The post of the Minister of State for Tolerance was first introduced in 2016 when H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Prime Minister and Vice-President of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, announced structural changes to the Cabinet, reinforcing the UAE's commitment to eradicate ideological, cultural and religious bigotry in the society.[2] Sheikha Lubna Al Qasimi was the first Minister of State for Tolerance. In 2017, His Excellency Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan was appointed as Cabinet member and the Minister of State for Tolerance in the UAE.

National Tolerance Program

UAE's National Tolerance Program was launched in collaboration with federal and local government entities. The program has five main themes: 1) Strengthen government's role as an incubator of tolerance, 2) Consolidate the role of family in nation building, 3) Promote tolerance among young people and prevent them from fanaticism and extremism, 4) Enrich scientific and cultural content, 5) Integrate international efforts to promote tolerance and highlight the leading role of UAE in this area.

Anti-discrimination/Anti-hatred law

In July 2015, H.H. Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE, has issued a Federal Decree (Law No. 2 of 2015) on combating discrimination and hatred. The law is intended to provide a legislative basis for the values of tolerance, co-existence and acceptance. It aims to fight discrimination against individuals or groups based on religion, caste, doctrine, race, color or ethnic origin.

UPDATES ON SELECTED SDG TARGETS:

DEATH RATE DUE TO ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS

Road death per 100,000 population at UAE level.[3]

TARGET AND OBJECTIVE OF INDICATOR:

To promote safe driving and travelling on UAE roads and to reduce the death rate due to road traffic injuries to 3 per 100,000 by 2021.

Guidelines from the World Health Organization's (WHO) Global Status Report on Road Safety are used to calculate this indicator. Specific guidelines entail calculating the deaths per 100,000 of population and a 30-day period to monitor the possible casualties. UAE participated in the WHO Status Report.

The effectiveness of traffic awareness campaigns is monitored across all Emirates on a quarterly basis by the Directorate of Traffic Coordination to ensure that the most pressing and current traffic issues are addressed and that policy interventions are carefully targeted.

POLICY INITIATIVES:

- **Develop a comprehensive traffic reports mechanism (templates/statistics/monitoring systems)** Deliver training to enable employees to prepare accurate traffic reports including a coverage of the circumstances of each accident and the effective enforcement of the Federal traffic law. Unifying the terms and classifications in the traffic report for consistency and accurate statistics is also part of this endeavor.
- **Review and update traffic regulations** Launching awareness campaigns to define new procedures and rules of traffic control according to Ministerial decrees and the regulations of the traffic laws.

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1 Further information see entry on 'Tolerance': https://government.ae/en/about-the-uae/the-uae-government/government-of-future/tolerance-in-the-uae
2 See also: Gulf News, Mohammed bin Rashid: Why UAE ministers for happiness, tolerance, youth and the future?, February 2016, http://gulfnews.com/opinion/thinkers/mohammed-bin-rashid-why-uae-ministers-for-happiness-tolerance-youth-and-the-future-1.1680133
3 In case of life threatening injuries due to traffic accidents, persons are monitored for a period of one month. If deaths occur during this period, they are included in the data. Deaths of UAE nationals and residents that occur outside the UAE are not included

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- **Develop an effective partnership model with clearly specified roles and responsibilities to ensure road safety** Ensure cooperation among different partners - police, transport organization, municipalities and health organizations - to decrease road traffic accidents.
- **Review and update vehicle specifications and standards according to local and international guidelines** Implementation is undertaken by mandating an annual check of safety mechanisms such as brakes, air bags, fire extinguishers and tires. Continuous reviewing of standards is necessary to align with technological enhancements new model vehicles. This will be achieved in collaboration with car companies and the Ministry of Economy's standardization unit.
- **Promote traffic culture standards in the community through traffic awareness programs** Programs will be developed in schools, relayed through the mass media leveraging key partners.
- **Implementation of safety standards on 5 roads annually** Roads with high rates of accidents in each of the seven emirates of Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sharjah, Ajman, Umm Al Quwain, Ras Al Khaimah and Fujairah will be selected for the implementation of safety standards.
- **Improve road infrastructure and design** Continual assessment of and investments to enhance the quality and design of road infrastructure to meet the objectives of the UAE Government.
- **Develop and approve drivers' training school standards** Efforts focus on implementing a standard curriculum for training across all driving schools which will harmonize drivers' training and retraining programs across all Emirates.
- **Control drivers' behavior through necessary training programs** Drivers have to undertake mandatory training programs before getting or renewing a license to raise awareness of the right behavior on the roads. The framework of penalties - fines, demerit points etc. - will be instituted to address dangerous driving.

NUMBER OF VICTIMS OF INTENTIONAL HOMICIDE PER 100,000 POPULATION

DEFINITION

Willful murder refers to killing another person deliberately and illegally. Data includes serious attack that causes death and death caused by terrorist attacks.[4]

POLICY INITIATIVES:

- **Implement national intelligence model** To ensure seamless information exchange, integration with partner agencies, and enhancing efficiency of operations, risk management etc.
- **Launch programs for witness and victims protection** To encourage the public to cooperate with authorities a program has been launched to protect witnesses before, during and after trial.
- **Develop methods of investigation in dealing with criminal issues** Seventeen specialized crime scene units have been activated equipped with the most modern crime scene technology that will enhance the effectiveness efficiency and ultimately impact of tasks related to crime scene investigation. A Federal unit with specialist expertise and equipment, modelled along the lines of UK MIT (Major Investigation Team), model has been created. This will serve as a headquarters for investigations of serious crimes such as murder, kidnap or blackmail among others.
- **Develop a security awareness program** A media campaign is being developed that aims to raise awareness about the importance of being vigilant to ensure personal security and suggesting ways in which the public can cooperate with law enforcement agencies to fight crime by reporting suspicious events or criminal activities in their neighborhoods. Awareness-raising initiatives will also be developed in cooperation with other ministries. A recent example is the implementation of a Homicide Prevention Program that focuses on incidents known to represent a future risk to life. It takes into account the fact that threats to kill another person and instances of serious domestic abuse and disturbance are the most common causes of homicides globally and therefore preventative measures by law enforcements authorities are essential.
- **Promote integrity of security databases and optimally utilize smart systems** Efforts are being undertaken to develop warning and control systems to respond to emergencies related to public safety through public-private partnerships. These projects aim to support UAE's Vision 2021 in making the UAE one of the safest countries in the world by remotely connecting 150,000 buildings and public facilities to ensure the highest levels of protection of life and property.
- **Promote the use of technology in law enforcement** Technology and policing go hand and hand in creating secure societies and in ensuring the safety of both officers and those whom they serve.

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4 Guidelines from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) publications were used as references for Department's Drug strategies, NIM Level 3 Strategic Assessment and to define other serious attacks (including terrorist attacks)

DUBAI POLICE: A FORCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
SMART. SECURE. TOGETHER.

The history of Dubai Police dates back to 1956 when it was mandated to ensure the safety and security of the Emirate of Dubai. Today, Dubai Police Force consists of over 22,000 employees committed to making Dubai one of the safest cities in the world.

The strategic objectives of Dubai Police align with a number of federal and local government plans including, the UAE Vision 2021, the Dubai Plan 2021, the UAE Green Economy for Sustainable Development 2030 among others.

Contributing to the sustainable development of the UAE is a particularly important aspect of the operational model of Dubai Police. Recent contributions were outlined in the Dubai Police Sustainability Report that was prepared in accordance with the standards of the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI). Dubai Police is also committed to helping the UAE implement and achieve the UN SDGs and various aspects of the SDGs are reflected in recent initiatives. These range from building the capabilities of the workforce, leading the transition to SMART technologies, ensuring that people - especially women, children and vulnerable populations - live in safety and security and taking action on climate issues by targeting a zero-carbon police force by the year 2020.

1. QUALITY EDUCATION & CAPACITY BUILDING

Continuously evaluating and enhancing the competencies and capabilities of the workforce is essential to managing and reducing crime in its various forms, be these social, financial or environmental. There is a particular emphasis on maintaining road safety, ensuring the security of neighborhoods and public areas and dealing with emergencies and Dubai Police strives to ensure workforce readiness to achieve these objectives in an efficient and timely manner.

Dubai Police also aims to mobilize community support by interacting with the public to exchange knowledge and information. Interaction with the public is conducted via platforms such as Emirate-wide media campaigns and awareness workshops.

Dubai Police also contributes to building capacity and capability for law enforcement agencies across the GCC. To date, the police academy has received over 15,500 students from across the GCC in higher education programs. The academy's core curriculum and course offerings are continuously evaluated and upgraded both to serve the changing needs of the law enforcement sector but also to help the UAE achieve its desired education outcomes. A recent example is a new program on 'law and the environment' that is aimed at educating law enforcement officials to assist in meeting Dubai ambitions to become the city with the world's lowest carbon footprint by 2050.

2. SMART TRANSFORMATION FOR A SMART CITY

Dubai Police's smart transformation program has five dimensions: customer happiness, confidence and participation of the public, technological transformation of policing operations, integration of smart services and ensuring the well-being and efficiency of the workforce.

The Dubai Police smart app offers over 75 e-services each adapted to different categories of users; the public, institutions, visitors and staff. The application provides round-the-clock services for people with disabilities and offers texting and live chatting services with the call center in six languages. The mobile app guarantees that communication and transactions and conducted seamlessly and confidentially according to the standards of Dubai Smart Government.

Taking smart transformation a step further, Dubai Police recently launched the world's first smart police station (SPS) that operates round the clock without human intervention. The SPS offers 27 key services and 33 sub-services, including reporting of crimes and traffic incidents and community services. Future plans include transforming all police stations in Dubai to smart police stations.

3. THE RIGHT TO A SAFE LIFE: YOUR PROTECTION...OUR HAPPINESS

Challenges in securing fundamental human rights are being overcome through numerous initiatives. One example is an initiative called "Your Protection...Our Happiness" to identify, protect and assist victims of trafficking and rights abuses. The three pillars of Dubai Police's approach to combatting human trafficking are: crime prevention, training and capacity-building and support services for victims of trafficking.

a. Commitment to Training and Capacity-Building
- Strengthen systems and procedures for identifying victims of trafficking. Invest in training for law enforcement officials to enhance their capabilities to identify and mobilize support for victims.
- Provide training for criminal justice officials through continuing legal education to raise awareness of emerging trends to and ensure effective prosecution and legal action.
- Publish regulatory procedures for partner agencies that deal with victims of human trafficking.

b. Commitment to Provide Support Services to Victims of Trafficking
- Protect and assist victims of trafficking and use a human-rights based approach in the investigation of cases.
- Support authorities to provide services such as psychological and counselling support, training and rehabilitation, resource recovery for victims and translation and interpretation assistance.

c. Commitments to Crime Prevention
- Raise awareness across UAE's population of human trafficking issues.
- Constantly monitor and evaluate the crime prevention work program to ensure that it is effective, non-stigmatizing and does not contribute to an unhelpful stereotyping of victims and their communities.

4. CLIMATE ACTION: THE ZERO CARBON POLICE FORCE

When Dubai Police was established in 1956, only one building was dedicated to its operations. Today, Dubai Police owns over 400 buildings and manages a fleet of over 3,000 vehicles. With the growing demands of the Emirate of Dubai and the expected increase in population size over the years, Dubai Police Force's growth will continue.

Dubai Police aims to be the world's first carbon neutral police force by 2020. A recent initiative called Zero Carbon Police Force focuses on promoting environmental education and awareness, addressing the limited resources encountered, combating environmental crimes and building strong personal and community engagement practices to reduce carbon emissions through clean and efficient energy and environmental practices. The Zero Carbon initiative intends to maximize long-term benefits at both organizational and community levels by facilitating knowledge sharing augmented by a culture of participation as a tool for fulfilling the strategic goals and objectives. The objectives include promoting sustainable practices and providing smart solutions that can be implemented by the police force and the community to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through financially viable and social inclusive solutions. The Zero Carbon Police Force initiative serves SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) and SDG 13 (Climate Action). It also supports other SDGs particularly SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), SDG 15 (Life on Land) among others.

The initiative relates to every aspect of Dubai Police's work and creates a strong link between the core business of the organization and activities needed to achieve carbon neutrality. Dubai Police has created an internal culture of energy conservation by appointing 'carbon champions', a group of individuals within the police who are responsible for spreading awareness and leading implementation across the workforce. Training programs, developed in conjunction with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and Dubai Carbon Centre of Excellence, allow the carbon champions to initiate ideas to achieve energy efficiency and low-carbon emissions and follow through with the technical support needed to implement the ideas. This enhances the internal technical capacity of employees and benefits the organization by increasing the operational efficiency of the day-to-day business without jeopardizing the quality of the organization's core services.

MEASURABLE ACHIEVEMENTS IN COMBATING HUMAN TRAFFICKING CRIME

- 80% reduction of human trafficking cases from 2010 to 2016
- Refunding over AED 128 million (US$ 33.7 million) to unpaid workers in 2015 - 2016
- Providing support services to over 105 community cases in 2015 - 2016

UAE Ranked # 1

(Best) Government Decisions - World Competitiveness Yearbook by IMD 2017

UAE Ranked #2

(Highest) Public Trust in Politicians - Global Competitiveness Report by the World Economic Forum 2017/18

(Least) Bureaucracy - World Competitiveness Yearbook by IMD 2017

(Absence of) Favoritism in decisions of government officials - Global Competitiveness Report by the World Economic Forum 2017/18

UAE Ranked #4

(Absence of) Business Costs of Crime and Violence - Global Competitiveness Report by the World Economic Forum 2017/18

(Highest) Transparency - World Competitiveness Yearbook by IMD 2017

UAE Ranked # 7

(Absence of) Organized Crime - Global Competitiveness Report by the World Economic Forum 2017/18

Reliability of Police Services - Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Report by the World Economic Forum 2017

17 | PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

COORDINATING AGENCY:
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS & INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

STRENGTHEN THE MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION AND REVITALIZE THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

In 2015, the UAE was one of the first countries to have adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development including the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Leading up the adoption of the new global framework on sustainability, the UAE played a key role in the transition from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to the SDGs through its participation on various high-level discussions on the new set of global goals and targets for the next 15 years. The UAE remains committed to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda both nationally and internationally, and has various domestic and international policy instruments in place to ensure the country meets its obligations and ambitions by 2030 and beyond.

The UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MOFAIC) leads the nation's international development cooperation agenda and is guided by the UAE Foreign Assistance Policy - the nation's long-term development cooperation plan

**UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
& INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

towards eradicating poverty and promoting global peace and prosperity. Launched in 2016, the policy is aligned with the UAE Vision 2021 and lays out the country's foreign assistance priorities and how it supports the 2030 Agenda. To this end, MOFAIC supports the realization of the global goals through implementation of this policy and its schemes, and reports on UAE foreign assistance contributions toward the 2030 Agenda.

Through the UAE Foreign Assistance Policy, the 2030 Agenda, and other key international instruments including the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development, and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, MOFAIC and its partners remain committed to supporting development priorities of its partner countries and the achievement of the SDGs.

UAE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE POLICY

Launched in 2016, the UAE Foreign Assistance Policy aspires to improve the lives of the world's 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 own 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 recognizing 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, multi-lateral institutions and international organizations, 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 realization of the 2030 Agenda.

The SDGs continue to be an important factor in shaping and reporting on UAE foreign assistance. The policy emphasizes the following eight goals as UAE foreign assistance having the most contribution towards; however, given the demand-driven nature of the policy, UAE foreign assistance is not limited to these SDGs alone. The UAE 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 revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

UAE SUPPORT TOWARDS THE 2030 AGENDA AND SDGs

Under the UAE Foreign Assistance Policy, MoFAIC leads the planning and coordination of UAE foreign assistance. This entails developing strategies, coordinating implementation of the policy and strategy, conducting evaluations, and reporting on UAE assistance. In these areas, MoFAIC works closely with UAE donor entities who fund and implement development and humanitarian projects. UAE donor entities include UAE federal and local government entities, semi-government entities, as well as non-profits, philanthropic organizations, foundations, and UAE-based private sector entities.

To document and report on UAE foreign assistance activities, MOFAIC collects data from UAE donor entities on UAE foreign assistance provided in the previous year. The results of UAE foreign assistance are published in the annual "UAE Foreign Aid Report," which document and analyze all categories and types of foreign assistance provided by UAE donor entities. Information collected is reported to different international bodies that monitor development and humanitarian aid, including the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's Development Assistance Committee (OECD - DAC) and United Nations' Financial Tracking System.[1]

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1 **The OECD is a unique forum where the governments of 34 democracies with market economies work with each other, as well as with more than 70 non-member economies to promote economic growth, prosperity, and sustainable development. MOFAIC prepares a submission of its foreign assistance activities that are eligible to be defined as UAE Official Development Assistance (ODA) to the DAC using the Creditor Reporting System of the DAC. UAE's response to humanitarian emergencies is reported to the UN - FTS in real time**

The "2016 UAE Foreign Aid Report" is the first report that measures UAE foreign assistance contributions through the lens of the 2030 Agenda and the 17 SDGs. To undertake this task, a SDG Mapping Matrix Tool, and later, the UAE SDG Framework on International Development Cooperation were developed. The methodology entailed reviewing 3,700 aid records from 40 participating UAE entities and retroactively mapping each UAE foreign assistance activity to an SDG target and its corresponding indicator. The UAE foreign assistance activity was mapped to the indicator level to further distinguish its purpose. If there was more than one indicator, the most relevant indicator was selected. In instances where a foreign assistance activity could support more than one SDG, the overarching purpose of the activity was the final deciding factor. Through this exercise, the Ministry was able to establish a baseline on how UAE contributions were supporting the 2030 Agenda, which has supported with future planning of UAE foreign assistance.

2016 RESULTS

The 2016 results revealed total UAE foreign assistance, including official development assistance (ODA) and non-ODA disbursements, amounted to approximately AED 22.23 billion (US$ 6.1 bn), while ODA eligible contributions amounted to approximately AED 15.4 bn (US$ 4.2 bn).[2] Over half of total UAE contributions supported initiatives in Africa, and more than a third was spent in Asia. Globally, UAE assistance supported 44 Least Developed Countries (LCDs), accounting for 32 percent of total aid received, which was a 47 percent increase from the previous year. Another significant increase was in regular core budget support of multilaterals, which rose by 83 percent. The sectors that received most support included general budget support, followed by infrastructure and urban development, contributions to international organizations, and emergency multi-sector aid.

With regards to the SDGs, the results also show that 75 percent of total UAE foreign assistance supported the 8 SDGs most closely aligned with the UAE Foreign Assistance Policy. The three most funded SDGs included SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) and SDG 1 (No Poverty), accounting for nearly 70 percent of total UAE assistance.

Under SDG 8, UAE contributions largely supported initiatives in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region supporting government budget support and small-scale income-generating opportunities. On SDG 17, UAE bilateral assistance provided helped to boost government budgets of various LCDs, allowing partner countries to allocate funds according to their plans and priorities. With regards to SDG 1, UAE's contributions supported humanitarian and stabilization efforts, such as on-going crises concerning Syria, Yemen, and Iraq, as well as emergency support for natural disasters. Contributions also supported poverty alleviation initiatives that addressed social and economic needs of countries and communities served.

In 2016, the UAE was also recognised as the world's largest donor by surpassing the UN target of 0.7 percent of gross national income (GNI) as ODA by reaching 1.12 percent ODA/GNI, placing the UAE first in this international ranking. Since 2013, the UAE has attained the number one ranking three times, and reached number two in 2015. The UN target of 0.15-0.20 percent ODA/GNI to LDCs was also surpassed with UAE disbursements reaching 0.36 percent of ODA/GNI, reinforcing its commitment to the 'leave no one behind' agenda. The country was also recognised as the world's third-largest donor of humanitarian aid relative to GNI with nine percent of total foreign assistance spent on humanitarian aid, including emergency relief.

The success of the 2016 foreign assistance results can be attributed to the country's leadership and commitments of the UAE donor entities. In terms of volume of aid, the UAE Government was the largest donor, followed by the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development (ADFD), the Emirates Red Crescent, and the Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan Foundation.

PARTNERSHIPS WITH MULTILATERAL ORGANIZATIONS

An important element of the UAE Foreign Assistance Policy is its focus on building strategic partnerships, including its commitment to increase engagement with multilateral organizations. Recognized as an effective instrument for coordinating and delivering international action in development and humanitarian contexts, multilateral organizations are essential to the successful implementation of the UAE Foreign Assistance Policy and the SDGs. Pursuant to the commitment to support the multilateral system, the UAE pledged to double its non-earmarked multilateral funding by 2020. 2016 results show that UAE

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2 **ODA is the best known target in international aid, which is set to 0.7% of donors' gross national income, which was established in 1970 and is a long-standing United Nations target. Its importance was reaffirmed in the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda**

disbursements toward the core budget of multilateral organizations more than tripled relative to 2015. One example is UAE's support to the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), where the UAE committed to doubling its AED 3.6 million (US$ 1 million) contribution over four years, reaching AED 7.3 million (US$ 2 million) by 2020. Another example includes UAE's pledge to provide AED 18.4 million (US$ 5 million) over three years to the core budget of UN Women.

UAE's earmarked funding for multilateral projects and programmes rose in 2016 by 128 percent. UAE further supported the multilateral system through its advocacy efforts on a number of global issues. These include its participation on intergovernmental processes to build global consensus on standards and policies. Key 2016 engagements include co-leading the UN General Assembly's 'GA Revitalisation' process, which aims to strengthen the work of the UN General Assembly. UAE also served on boards, advisory groups, and advanced agendas in key priority areas, such as the advancement of women and girls in topics concerning gender equality, health in humanitarian and fragile settings, peace and security, amongst others.

"SDGs IN ACTION AT THE WORLD GOVERNMENT SUMMIT"

The World Government Summit (WGS) is the largest global platform dedicated to exploring the future of governments driven by technological advances and evolving citizen expectations, and showcases future trends in government services, leadership, and innovation. The Summit brings together over 4,000 leaders, policy makers, academics, and key representatives from international organizations from over 125 countries, hence creating an exciting opportunity to exchange innovations and experiences, and build strong networks of collaboration.

Following the adoption of the SDGs in 2015 and as part of the UAE's commitment to their implementation, the WGS in its fourth edition, held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, in February 2016, introduced a special track to focus on the SDGs and their implementation.

The "SDGs in Action @ WGS" in collaboration with the United Nations, the World Bank and the UN Foundation, brought together stakeholders from around the world to look at the key challenges to the implementation of the goals and to identify potential solutions to those challenges.

In 2016, implementation issues concerning monitoring and reporting and financing were discussed. The 2017 edition of the SDGs in Action @ WGS considered the role of Science, Technology and Innovation in the implementation of the SDGs. It brought together scientists, experts, government officials and other key stakeholders to identify STI driven solutions to accelerate the implementation of the goals.

SDGs IN ACTION @ WGS 2018:
'PARTNERSHIPS SUPPORTING INNOVATION FOR OUR COMMON FUTURE'

As the WGS attracts participants from many different regions and industries, it is the preeminent platform for people to connect and discuss world challenges. In alignment with SDG 17, the focus of the dialogue at the 2018 SDGs in Action event will be on how partnerships can support innovation for the future of the SDGs, for our common future. The event will focus on creating partnerships among a range of stakeholders - subject-matter experts, international organizations, governments, youth groups, NGOs, academia and private sector - in order to break down silos and find innovative means to progress the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Innovative solutions to issues of global development are found across many domains. These include unique regional or national governance structures, creative awareness-raising campaigns, novel ways of capturing data or deploying cutting-edge analytical tools to provide insight into the synergies and tensions inherent in the SDGs. Innovation can be an inventive use of cutting-edge digital technologies, social networks, SDG ambassadors, media personalities and social influencers to mobilise support for the SDGs. Innovative solutions can be measures that raise efficiency or ideas that break new ground. Innovation can range from fundamental scientific research to the novel use of existing technology that has the potential to address grand challenges of global development. In essence, if it is a creative solution that serves to enhance the well-being of society, it is an innovation worth discussing - SDGs in Action @ WGS 2018 is the ideal platform to have this discussion.

EXPO 2020:
CONNECTING HOST NATIONS AND WORLD EXPOS TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

Expo 2020 Dubai's Vision and the Global Goals

Expo 2020 Dubai's commitment to deliver a memorable experience in an architecturally extraordinary site has always been as important as making a tangible and material contribution to the global development agenda. At the heart of this sits the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, reinforced by a number of other global frameworks.

Since the earliest days of the UAE's bid to host Expo 2020, the definition, rationale and development of its central theme has been consistently informed by the global challenges identified by international organisations such as the UN and its member states.

As stated in the initial bid document of Expo 2020 Dubai: "Connecting Minds, Creating the Future" presents a "wide and inclusive appeal for all participants, all equally engaged in confronting a key conundrum of our times: how to cooperate to achieve efficient, sustainable and equitable development for all. It celebrates the power of minds when people come together to creatively pursue a shared purpose and forge new partnerships to remove barriers to mobility, resource availability and stable economic development".[3]

In 2017, this vision is still intact and embodied in the overarching ambition of Expo 2020 Dubai to be: "a festival of imagination and innovation with a transformational impact on humanity, the planet and the UAE as a nation". With its theme reflecting the nexus of UAE national vision and global goals, Expo 2020 Dubai will be a one-of-a-kind space for sharing ideas, accelerating practices and piloting new solutions supporting the advancement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Expo will take place in 2020-2021, five years after the launch of the SDGs. This will be an opportune moment to reflect on achievements to date and propose a more effective and even more inclusive way forward.

In doing so, Expo 2020 Dubai, builds on the legacy of previous Expos, in their endeavor to make a contribution to the progress of humanity. Building on this important legacy, Expo 2020's aspiration is to go even further and set a new benchmark as a unique and powerful engine for novel partnerships that support the goals of 'Connecting Minds' through novel communications tools and advocacy initiatives, and 'Creating the Future' through inspiring forward-looking policy and breakthrough innovations for the implementation of the global development agenda.

Context and Background

World Expos: Platforms for Advancing Global Dialogue and Goals

Among all the mega-events and global gatherings, World Expos are unique in their ability to convene the global community in the truest sense. They bring together countries, organizations, civil society groups, experts and citizens for six months to celebrate diversity and successes and gain a greater perspective into the future and what it represents for different communities.

Alongside a rich palette of exhibitions and cultural events, World Expos offer many opportunities for dialogue on themes that are central to sustainable development. Through each country's engagement with the theme within their exhibitions, they help share best practices, develop solutions and build new partnerships that will deliver values in advancing the global normative framework well after the World Expo closes.

3 Expo 2020 Dubai, Bid Dossier

The recent, yet very rich, history of expanding and refining the United Nations' development agendas over the past three decades is profoundly intertwined with the development of World Expos.

The focus of Expos' themes as a defining narrative of our era and their ambitions to shape a meaningful legacy have been explicitly inspired and informed by the agendas adopted by the UN as a reflection of a global consensus on shared challenges. Guided by their themes, World Expos have consistently delivered something of significance to the United Nations and developed novel initiatives and recommendations to advance the global development agenda. These have taken different formats, including: declarations summits, conferences and forums, manuals and toolkits, resolutions as well as the creation of UN Agencies.

Expo 2020: A Platform for SDGs

There is a natural overlap between the SDGs and the themes of Expo 2020 Dubai. Each subtheme of Opportunity, Mobility and Sustainability capture the major changes the world is experiencing.

The subtheme of Opportunity focusses on unlocking the potential within individuals and communities to shape the future. It addresses the disparities that exist in our world, the critical need for human capital development and the major transitions we are experiencing in the areas of education, employment and economic development. Under the subtheme of Opportunity, Expo 2020 Dubai has identified key topics: new industries, employment, education, financial capital and governance. Each of these key topics contains specific areas of work that directly relate to the SDGs and provide a linkage to the targets. This allows Expo 2020 Dubai to go beyond a thematic relationship and establish a direct and substantive link to targets within each goal. For example, the areas of work within the topic of education include: access to education (SDG 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.5); quality of education (SDG 4.4, 4,7); mentoring and support networks (SDG 4.8, 4.9); online education and new tools for learning (SDG 4.b); the school of the future (classrooms, tools, programmes) (SDG 4.a). While some areas of work under a certain key topic establish a direct relationship, Expo 2020 Dubai deliberately intends to go a step beyond the agreed targets of the SDGs and re-imagine the goals at their highest potential, free from political constraints, while keeping in mind the importance of delivering these goals to all, in a sustainable, equitable and inclusive manner.

The subtheme of Mobility focusses on creating smarter and more productive movement of goods, people and ideas. Its goal is to explore how physical and digital movement can be a bridge to opportunity. From the transformation of global supply chains, to the critical role of infrastructure and the movement of people through tourism or migration, greater mobility of people and knowledge accelerates progress. This topic is pivotal to many SDGs or offers a novel angle from which we can design solutions. Under the subtheme of Mobility, Expo 2020 Dubai has identified key topics: logistics, transportation, travel and exploration, personal mobility and data connectivity. These key topics relate to many SDG targets across the 17 goals.

The subtheme of Sustainability focusses on respecting and living in balance with the world we inhabit. In the coming years, the imperative of living within the boundaries of our planet will be ever more connected to the opportunities we can generate for our communities and future generations. As our population and our cities continue to grow, there is exceptional room for innovation to ensure that growth is sustainable and within planetary boundaries, disparities are bridged, and that we create physical and social habitats for healthier and happier communities. Under the subtheme of Sustainability, Expo 2020 identified key topics: protecting natural ecosystems and biodiversity, managing natural resources, building sustainable cities and built habitats, and addressing climate change. There are direct linkages between these Expo key topics and the targets within specific SDGs, such as SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) and SDG 13 (Climate Action), among others.

Expo 2020: Partnership to Achieve the Goals

A World Expo is a collaboration between diverse stakeholders. Through its subthemes, Expo 2020 Dubai provides the platform to address different facets of the SDGs, with an emphasis on what the global community should focus its efforts on. Its theme then emphasizes how to achieve this, making Expo 2020 a convening space for partnership towards these goals. Expo 2020 Dubai will seek to tackle the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs in close coordination with various UAE entities, including the UAE National Committee on SDGs, as well as with other local and federal entities. Expo 2020 Dubai is also in the process of developing a strategy for engagement between international organizations and non-official participants. This will help bring together relevant thought leaders and practitioners to deliver a multi-stakeholder approach that will allow for engagement on all levels and across all Expo 2020 Dubai initiatives, using communications and advocacy, policy dialogues and innovative solutions for effective implementation.

UAE AND THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
EXCELLENCE IN IMPLEMENTATION
2017

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