



UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
& INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION



Promoting Global Peace and Prosperity

The United Arab Emirates Policy for Foreign Assistance
2022 Update



The Late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan “may he rest in peace”

The Founder of the United Arab Emirates

“Foreign aid and assistance is one of the basic pillars of our foreign policy. For we believe there is no true benefit for us from the wealth we have unless it also reaches those in need, wherever they maybe, and regardless of their nationality or belief.”

Introduction

Since its foundation in 1971, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) embarked in a long journey of unconditional support and giving of foreign aid to people in need all over the world, with a view to enabling the economic growth, and providing the basic services to the underprivileged and developing communities, in order to improve their livelihoods and standard of living. This vision wouldn't have been achieved without the concerted efforts of the UAE's donors, humanitarian and charitable foundations, in addition to the efficient collaboration with the regional and international partners, such as the United Nations and other organisations working in the humanitarian and development arena.

This support was provided through a great number of development, humanitarian and charitable projects for the benefit of the most people in need who live in underprivileged or developing countries, or as a direct and primary response to crises and emergencies that occur around the world, or to mitigate the severe implications resulted from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Throughout the past five decades i.e. since its foundation, the UAE a total amount of around AED 323.113 billion (US\$ 87.97 billion) in foreign assistance, which benefited one billion people worldwide.

On September 2021, marking the 50th anniversary, the UAE Government announced the «**10 Principles for the Next 50 Years**»; in which the 9th Principle emphasized the UAE's commitment to giving the foreign assistance based on the UAE's lofty values and moralities, stressing that **“The UAE's foreign humanitarian aid is an essential part of its own vision and moral duty towards the less fortunate nations”**. Our foreign humanitarian aid is not tied to religion, race, colour or culture. **Political disagreement with any country should not stop us from providing swift relief for those in need.**

The aim of the UAE's Foreign Aid Policy is to show the frameworks of the support to be provided to the partner governments or vulnerable communities for boosting their economic growth and sustainability, in addition to achieving the priority goals of these countries in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030. In addition, this policy will offer a guided and coherent planning for all stakeholders of the UAE foreign aid sector, expand the range of the UAE's multilateral partnerships and improve the economic cooperation and trade activities with the partner countries as well, taking into consideration the overarching aim of eliminating poverty and its implications, and promoting the Global Peace and Prosperity.

The UAE government is determined to provide every possible support to achieve the desired goals of the national development, humanitarian and charitable associations, that complement the work of the UAE government and foreign aid institutions. Moreover, the UAE will expand the scale of its partnerships with the active competent multilateral organisations and explore opportunities to engage with the private sector, as key factors to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

Recently, the whole world has been through a critical time, where COVID-19 pandemic has not just affected the health systems, but also significant economic and social consequences. However, we can say that despite all what we have been through, the UAE reached its 50th anniversary with full confidence in its national systems, plans and endeavours to provide the best not only to its people, but to join the

global response to the pandemic during one of the hardest times and scarcity of supplies. The UAE has successfully managed to lend a helping hand to the friendly and brotherly nations and international organisations with medical supplies, personal protection equipment, testing kits, field hospitals and vaccines, along with the constant ground and air logistic support, via over 200 successful flights carrying aid shipments, despite the challenges and hardships.

The UAE puts a keen eye on the developing countries, since we realise that we will be more safe and prosperous if peace and welfare prevailed in our region and the whole world. The UAE is a central hub for various fields including financial, commercial and logistic services in the Middle East, Africa and South Asia. If these developing countries capitalizes on the UAE's capacity and potential, then their economy will grow to be a driving force for the global growth over the coming few decades. Following the UAE's model as a developing nation illustrates the potential progress that could be made under a patriotic leadership with a wise vision devoted to the best interest of the nation and the happiness of its people, through a well-planned investment and dedication.

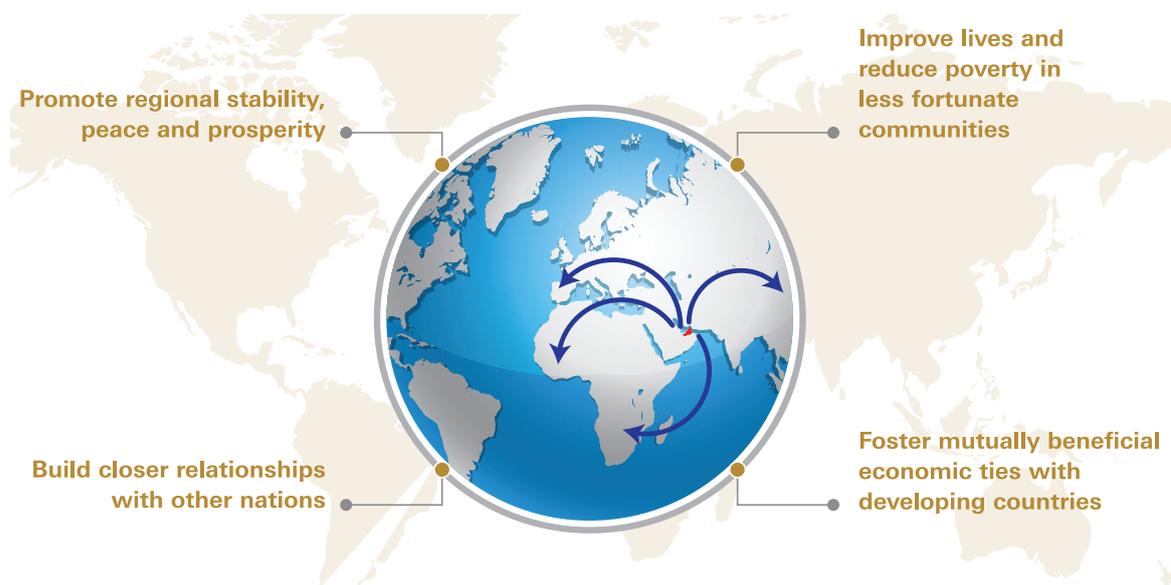
Launched by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, UAE's Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai, the UAE Centennial 2071 initiative, is a long term work-plan for the government, where His Highness set the road-map for the future United Arab Emirates and preparing the country for the generations to come. This vision emphasised the importance of promoting the UAE's reputation and its soft power, assuring diverse governmental income resources, investing in education with focus on advanced technologies, building a coherent value system, increasing the productivity of the national economy, and strengthening the social cohesion.

In alignment with these foundations, we hereby updating the UAE's Foreign Assistance Policy to reflect the national efforts and to achieve our philanthropic goals in line with our foreign policy and its overall vision for global sustainable development, stability and prosperity.

Build strong relationships with other countries, both those to which the UAE gives assistance and other donor countries with which we collaborate. The UAE's society and economy have grown and flourished thanks to a welcoming stance towards all nations. The UAE continues to expand its network of diplomatic, economic and other ties to all parts of the world. Our foreign assistance can support this effort, and can also enhance the UAE's standing in the international community as a contributor to solving global challenges by hosting international events which have development and humanitarian themes, such as the World Humanitarian Forum and Expo 2020.

Foster expanded trade and investment ties with developing countries, thereby promoting economic growth in the developing world. Economic growth lifts people out of poverty, and UAE investment and trade can help developing countries to grow. As a major business, financial, logistics and trade hub for the Middle East, Africa and South Asia, the UAE's own economy will benefit if economic and social development in these regions is accelerated.

In summary, UAE foreign assistance will help communities to reduce poverty, enhance peace and stability, and protect the planet. At the same time, foreign aid will contribute to UAE foreign and economic policies: our lives get better when we help others, because the UAE is closely tied to the developing world.





The Guiding Principles

Support partner governments and communities to achieve their own development plans and their priority Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As a country which has developed itself over the past four decades, the UAE knows well that real improvements can only come through the efforts of a country's leadership and people; they cannot be imposed from outside. Our foreign aid has always been "demand-driven", and this will continue to be a defining characteristic of our assistance.

Collaborate with other donors and development organizations. We are part of the global effort to address the world's most vital problems, and to realise human rights and dignity for all. As such we will work with others on joint initiatives and will always ensure that our activities are complementary.

Address neglected issues and under-supported communities. Not all issues, and not all countries, receive the same attention. The UAE will direct activities towards countries that receive little aid from other donors, towards sectors and SDGs that get less attention, and towards neglected humanitarian emergencies.

Build on the UAE's unique characteristics and capabilities. The UAE has recent experience in developing and diversifying its economy. Our geographical location places us within a few hours of most of the

developing world. Unlike most donors, the UAE is Arab and Islamic. We are global leaders in trade and logistics, finance, tourism, renewable energy, infrastructure, and public sector effectiveness.

Utilize sustainable approaches. Our programs and investments will be designed to create positive, and avoid negative, effects on communities and on the environment. We will apply the Equator Principles and similar standards.

Make aid transparent, accountable and focused on results. As in all aspects of government, the UAE will set targets and measure results from its foreign assistance. The UAE government will rigorously monitor and evaluate its own programs, and their impact on beneficiaries, and will support other UAE organizations to improve their own systems.

Overview on the UAE's Foreign Assistance Sector

The UAE plans to use a portfolio of different types of programs to provide foreign assistance. Through this approach, which is consistent with best international practice, the UAE will allocate resources in six major categories: Country Partnerships, global thematic programs, humanitarian aid, private sector engagement, technical cooperation, and grants for UAE and international organizations.

The largest share of the UAE's foreign aid will be allocated to the Bilateral Country Partnerships for Development, and will be specially designed in line with the SDGs of each partner developing country, in close collaboration with their respective governments and in coordination with the concerned donor foundations.

The UAE will deliver aid through multi-year programmes, especially in priority countries and regions. While other special strategies will be adopted in partnerships with fragile and conflict-affected states, and build "trade and investment bridges.

Furthermore, the UAE will create "seven global thematic programmes in: women and girls' empowerment and protection, education, health, climate change, food security, infrastructure development and in science, technology and innovation. These programs, through which the UAE will provide assistance around the world, will build upon existing UAE foreign assistance priorities. All seven areas are vital international development issues, and will contribute to the achievement of the SDGs.

Humanitarian aid will form an important part of the UAE's overall foreign assistance, and the UAE will expand on its role as a hub for humanitarian aid. The UAE contributes generously to responses to humanitarian emergencies; we plan to expand these efforts and to pay particular attention to neglected or "forgotten" crises. Our humanitarian aid will capitalize on the International Humanitarian City (IHC) in Dubai, which is the world's largest humanitarian hub.

The stabilisation efforts of the UAE help the conflict-afflicted countries in addressing their emergency situation and to contain the widespread violence, to enable more stable conditions. The UAE's stabilisation efforts include civil works to provide the basic livelihood needs and to restore the basic services. This includes the implemented efforts during the transitional periods in the post-conflict situations, as a preliminary step for the long-term recovery. Taking into consideration that re-stabilisation processes in conflict countries are comprised from an inter-governmental local and international approach, that requires close cooperation between the relevant development, diplomatic, security and judicial parties.

UAE foreign assistance will seek opportunities to work with the private sector and to encourage them to trade with and invest in developing nations. We will help companies to overcome barriers to specific commercial opportunities – sometimes through financing or guarantees for trade or investment, sometimes by helping to improve public infrastructure or services in a developing country to make business success more likely and impact positively communities in developing countries. The UAE will also seek constructive partnerships with relevant and effective international multilateral organisations.

Technical cooperation will share UAE knowledge and experiences with other countries. In the past four decades, the UAE has accumulated a wealth of knowledge and expertise that could be valuable to our partner countries. The United Arab Emirates Technical Assistance Program (UAETAP) will, therefore, will form a core part of our foreign assistance and international cooperation, helping partners through a combination of expert missions, training courses, customized programs and study visits.

The UAE’s Foreign Assistance and the SDGs

In September 2015, world leaders at the United Nations established the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), an agenda for reducing poverty, improving lives and putting the world on a sustainable path, to be achieved by 2030. UAE leaders made significant contributions to the deliberations that led to the SDGs. His Highness Sheikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, served on the UN Secretary-General’s High-Level Panel on Global Sustainability. The UAE was a member of the UN Open Working Group which developed the SDGs.

The UAE’s foreign assistance policy will contribute to global efforts to achieve the SDGs. Our assistance will likely contribute to most of the goals, and will be particularly directed towards eleven of them, shown below.

	Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere.		Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.
	Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.		Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.
	Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.		Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.
	Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.		
	Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.		Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.
	Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.		

International principles and best practices will guide our assistance. The UAE subscribes to the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation and its targets for aid effectiveness. The “New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States” will guide our work with fragile or conflict-affected states. Our humanitarian assistance will adhere to the Principles and Good Practices of Humanitarian Donorship.

Partnerships for Development

Approach to country partnership

Country Partnerships for Development will be full-scale foreign assistance programs between the UAE and selected partner countries, guided by country strategies that contribute to national development priorities and are delivered in collaboration with the government and other relevant partners. Focussing efforts in selected countries will allow for larger-scale programs with increased funding, as well as dedicated staff and expertise, for each country. This approach also helps the governments of developing countries, which have limited capacity to coordinate donor activities and hence usually prefer to have fewer, deeper relationships with donors. The UAE is already providing assistance to several countries through multi-year assistance efforts, and our future Country Partnerships for Development will build upon these experiences.

The UAE will provide sustained and predictable support to partner countries. We will create multi-year country strategies, and will be guided by the principles articulated in the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and promoted by the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation.

Country strategies will be tailored to each partner country according to its national development priorities, identifying themes for UAE assistance, types of assistance to offer, key partners and performance indicators. Each country strategy will be shaped by several factors, including the priority issues identified in national development plans and external analyses of obstacles to development, where UAE capacities seem most relevant to country needs, the level of fragility of the country, and the effectiveness of government. Country strategies will be co-developed with the partner-country government, will incorporate views from civil society and other donors, and will be discussed and approved by the parliament or other appropriate national decision-making mechanisms. They will include roadmaps to success, and lay out systems for evaluating progress and adjusting programs as necessary so that the UAE's foreign assistance can become increasingly effective.

Foreign assistance will take the form of aid in all of the partner countries; the UAE will also create "trade & investment bridges" to promote trade and investment for partner countries with high potential for economic engagement to contribute to the country's development. Almost all countries which have achieved significant increases in GDP per capita in the past 50 years have done so through trade and/or foreign investment. At the same time, UAE-based companies can benefit from new export markets, new sources for imports, and investment opportunities. Therefore, for relevant partner countries, the Partnership for Development will include building a "trade & investment bridge" between the UAE and the partner country, through packages of measures including trade, double taxation and investment protection agreements, capacity-building to help partner countries apply World Trade Organization agreements, support for reform of business and customs rules and processes, and organization of trade and investment missions.

Many of the UAE's partner countries will be fragile and conflict-affected states, and we will incorporate specific practices in those countries. Ineffective governance, economic collapse, breakdown of legal systems, corruption and violence can reverse past development progress, and undermine the success of current and future assistance. Development programming in fragile states must take account of the country context, analyzed through fragility assessments. Furthermore, activities in all sectors should be designed in such a way that they strengthen institutions and alleviate conflict, and vetted to ensure that they don't inadvertently make fragile situations worse.

The Implementation of the Country Partnerships

The country partnerships will be implemented through work teams, mostly in the partner developing countries. It is essential for the UAE to have a specialised field team in the concerned partner developing country to coordinate and execute the country strategy, and to ensure the sustainability of the cooperation between the government, communities and other donors.

The UAE will work closely with the local government, and also with other donors and local actors whenever such partnerships can contribute to the efficiency and effectiveness of the UAE's development programming. Potential implementing partners will include regional and municipal governments, NGOs, relevant UN agencies and multilateral development banks and funds. We will join donor coordination mechanisms where they exist, and will seek to complement the efforts of other donors.

Selection of Partner Countries

As an the active international donors, the UAE's foreign assistance will expand to cover a wide geographical spectrum through its global themes programmes, humanitarian assistance, support to the multilateral organisation, in addition to the private sector's engagement. Furthermore, as part of its efforts to reduce aid fragmentation, the UAE set the priority of its country programmes according to the following groups:

Most of the country programmes will be implemented in the Middle East and Arab states, considering that the welfare of these regional countries and their people is one of the top priorities of the UAE's foreign policy. The Middle East and the Arab states are relatively neglected by other donors, while the UAE has common cultural and language ties with most of these countries. In addition, as the UAE is a regional economic hub, the more welfare and prosperous the neighbouring countries are, the more benefit will return to the UAE. Development and prosperity will improve the situation of the fragile and unstable countries in the region, which in return will enhance the security of the UAE. Accordingly, the UAE will allocate a big share of its regional efforts to those countries and communities in desperate need for development aid, while under-supported by other donors.

As a global donor, the UAE will partner with a selected group of non-MENA countries, in particular from Asia and Africa. Both continents have been among the UAE's foreign aid focus regions and received more than 80 percent of its total foreign aid throughout the previous cycle of the UAE's Foreign Aid Policy (2017-2021). The UAE's foreign assistance also paid a great attention to the island states in the Caribbean Sea and Pacific Ocean. These states include a group of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and neglected by other donors, in addition to those who have diplomatic or economic ties with the UAE. The order of priority of these countries will include geographically diverse countries from all over Asia and Africa, and according to level of poverty, their human resources' development needs, government effectiveness, the relevance to the UAE in addition to the economic cooperation potential.

Furthermore, the UAE will select a number of "neglected countries" to make Partnerships for Development with them. Those "neglected countries" are some of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) who don't receive a fair share of the bilateral assistance, according to the standards of comparing the needs and performance indicators with assistance utilisation. The two High-Level forums on Aid effectiveness convened in Acra (2008) and Bussan (2011) with the international donor announcing their commitments to address the under-aid funded countries. By prioritizing neglected countries, the UAE will play a leading role for assisting the international community in fulfilling its commitments.

The Triangular and the Multilateral Partnerships

In addition to the bilateral partnerships, practical experience proved the efficiency of the triangular partnerships approach, where the UAE partners with another donor country to design, support and implement programmes for development, stabilisation or humanitarian assistance in one of the selected countries.

The same thing applies to the multilateral partnerships, through which a specific country, or a specific issue in a large number of countries, will be supported. Through these partnerships, the UAE provided earmarked contributions in support of stability programmes in Syria and Iraq, the Global Partnership for Education (GPE), Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative (We-Fi), Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI), the Global Fund...etc. In most of these partnerships, the UAE wasn't only a financier, but also an active member in the governing bodies of these initiatives, boards of directors or working groups.

We will continue considering the triangular and multilateral partnerships options to support selected countries or priority themes, whenever these approaches prove in coordination, efficiency and the optimal use of resources in aid provision.

Global Themes

Seven Global Thematic Program

The UAE will provide a global-level assistance that is not limited to the priority partner developing countries, in seven fields: Infrastructure, Women and Girls’ Empowerment and Protection, Health, Education, Climate Change Combat, Food Security, and in Science, Technology and Innovation. These seven fields were selected due to the UAE’s unique and extensive experience, based upon which the UAE can fulfill the substantial needs of the developing countries, or support the implementation of the SDGs, particularly in the post-Covid-19 world.

While these fields are of great importance to some countries, the bilateral partnerships may also help in addressing other issues, such as: access to water, government efficiency, reducing unemployment and so on, according to the specific needs of each partner country.



Infrastructure

In terms of infrastructure, the UAE has local and international expertise in developing high quality infrastructure. Over only five decades, the UAE has been able to build modern transport infrastructure systems; Such as the national highway network and global connectivity hubs that include world-class airports and sea ports. At the same time, the UAE is also working to ensure sustainable development, protect the environment, and achieve a balanced socio-economic development.

According to the Global Competitiveness Report 2019 issued by the World Economic Forum (Davos) in Switzerland, the UAE has achieved competitive positions in several indicators and axes in its infrastructure. The UAE ranked 7th globally in the road quality index and in the air transport services efficiency index, and 12th place in the infrastructure axis. According to the report, it achieved first place regionally, and 25th place globally, thus maintaining its lead place among the top 25 competitive economies in the world. Therefore, according to its extensive experience in infrastructure, the programs developed in this regard will be compatible with the sustainable development goals, and will mainly include the following elements:

- **Expansion of transport and urban infrastructure projects:** We will focus in particular on infrastructure projects that contribute to accelerating sustainable economic growth and renewable energy projects in developing countries.
- **Participation in international development funds and banks:** such as the World Bank, the Islamic Development Bank, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and the African Development Bank, and implement joint investments with them in priority basic infrastructure projects.
- **Technical assistance:** sharing the experiences and expertise of the UAE and providing technical assistance.

Women's and Girls' Empowerment and Protection

The UAE strongly believes that women and girls are the key change agents; with their ability to make fundamental transforms at their households, community and its economy. We also believe that this is the optimal way to eradicate poverty and build more peaceful, inclusive and prosperous world that leaves no one behind. The UAE doesn't perceive development assistance, poverty eradication or women's and girls' empowerment themes as only a debate between professional technicians and engineers, nor a financial controversy. Rather, it considers them as a political imperative that must be championed and advocated at the highest level.

Over the past fifty years, the Emirati woman was able to accomplish spectacular successes, thanks to the wise leadership of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the founder of the United Arab Emirates, and Her Highness Sheikha Fatima bint Mubarak (Mother of UAE), who founded the General Women's Union in 1975 to be the official representative of the Emirati woman. The UAE was also the first Arab country to bridge the gender gap in education. Where the Emirati woman today has an equal opportunity to have quality education, enabling her to become a valuable asset in the national labour force.

In 2015, the UAE founded the UAE Gender Balance Council with the aim of bridging the gender gap in all national sectors, in order to achieve equality of opportunity between men and women and actively participate in the sustainable development process along with realising the UAE's vision of making local, regional and international influence in the Gender Balance file.

An International Monetary Fund study, conducted in 2018 on women's participation in labour market, underscored the significant positive impact of women's access to education and labour market on the economic growth, suggesting that women empowerment and gender equality are crucial factors to increase production and productivity, and are auxiliary catalysts in reducing uneven income distribution, and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. At the global level, eliminating gender inequality would help increasing the international Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by US\$ 12 trillion to US\$ 28 trillion, and by 2025 this impact will expand to all developing and developed states alike. Women's economic empowerment is regarded as a fundamental key to enable the developed countries alleviating the impact of ageing population on the labour market.

According to the OIC's work program, the current women's share of labour force in the member states is nearly 45%, while the global rate is up to 60%, thereby the OIC's member states should work to reach the global rate, by 2025, and raise women's participation rate by 15%. Increasing women's participation in labour market in line with men's participation rates increased the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by 5% in the USA, and by 9% in Japan, along with some other Arab countries such as the UAE and Egypt, at 12% and 34%, respectively.

Violence against women and girls, particularly gender-based violence, is the most aggressive form of women's rights violations, and unfortunately still prevailing, especially in conflict settings. In his speech before the UN General Assembly 2013 session, His Highness Sheikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, UAE Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, said that "We no longer can accept that such heinous crimes to be the inevitable result of conflicts in the 21th century." In addition, Her Highness Sheikha Jawaher Bint Mohamed Al Qasimi, wife of His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan Bin Mohammed Al Qasimi, Ruler of Sharjah, launched The Big Heart Campaign and "Investing in the Future" Conference, both of which raise awareness on violence against refugee women and children. Also the "Orange the World" campaign, an awareness-raising campaign to end violence against women and girls, aims to create a better world, with no place for violence, through reinforcing the underlying pillars of Education, Justice, Health, other social and police sectors, and of course the sufficient financial resources.

In 2018, the UAE launched the "100% Women" Policy, according to which the UAE will commit up to 100% of its foreign assistance programs to targeting or mainstreaming gender equality issues and women's and girls' empowerment in its activities, in cooperation with partner countries, bilateral and multilateral international organisations.

From 2017 to 2020, the UAE disbursed AED 2.61 billion in foreign assistance to women and girls' empowerment and protection programs and projects, accounted for 6.8 percent of the total foreign aid disbursements.

The UAE will ensure women's inclusion in the priority themes of the Foreign Aid Policy, in addition to the alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), by mainstreaming gender balance, women empowerment and protection at the core of the UAE's foreign aid programming and projects. In particular, women's views, interests and needs will further assist in shaping the UAE's perspective in its quest to achieve its goals of:

- **Equality:** Eliminating all the barriers that hold women and girls back and reinforce gender balance, including facilitating access to education, healthcare and social services.
- **Empowerment:** Empowering women and girls at various economic, political and social levels.
- **Protection:** Ensuring women and girls' protection from all forms of violence, including sexual violence in conflict settings, providing social, medical and psychological support for victims of violence.
- **Technical Assistance:** Sharing the UAE's expertise and experiences, and provide technical assistance.

One of the UAE's major tools to support prosperity and economic sustainable development is Women Entrepreneurs Finance initiative (We-Fi), a collaborative partnership among governments, multilateral development banks (MDBs) and other public and private sector stakeholders hosted by the World Bank Group.

We-Fi provides female entrepreneurs with support by scaling up their access to financial products and services, building their capacity, expanding their networks, offering guidance, and providing them with communication opportunities to link with domestic and global markets. It is also assisting governments in creating enabling environments for women in business. We-Fi seeks also to address the financial and non-financial constraints faced by women-owned/led small and medium enterprises in the developing countries.

In respect of women's and girls' protection, the UAE co-hosted the **International Conference on Ending Sexual and Gender-based Violence in Humanitarian Crises**, which was held in Oslo, Norway, 2019. After which, the UAE continued supporting women's and girls' protection in various countries, via partnerships with international organisations.

In early 2022, the UAE has become a member in the United Nations Security Council, for two consecutive years. Through this significant membership, the UAE will work on achieving many priorities including supporting the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security agenda.

Education

Quality Education is the fourth Goal of the Sustainable Development Goals for 2030, to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

From 2017 to 2020, the UAE disbursed AED 2.61 billion in foreign assistance to education sector, accounted for three percent of the total foreign aid disbursements for the same period.

In addition, the UAE worked on strengthening the education sector through various partnerships and multilateral relationships with international bodies and organisations, such as the engagement with the Global Partnership for Education (GPE), a multi-stakeholder fund with the World Bank hosting it and serving as the Trustee, where major UAE institutions, such as Dubai Cares, play a significant role in these partnerships.

Over the past years, the UAE supported Education in Emergencies programs including through humanitarian assistance and post-disaster reconstruction programs in partnership with many international organisations such as the UNICEF and UNRWA.

Through its support, the UAE is aiming to provide a quality, inclusive and accessible education for girls and boys, children of determination, displaced, refugees, and other marginalised children due to race, religion, colour or economic stature, and other grounds.

The UAE also ensures to integrate health, nutrition, protection and WASH in its supported education programs, in order to maximise the benefit of the target children and youth.

The UAE's support to Education includes:

- Public formal primary and secondary education.
- Technical and vocational education for youth.
- Higher education and scholarships.
- Sharing the UAE's expertise and experiences, and provide technical assistance.

Health

Health is one of the priority topics of the UAE's Foreign Assistance Policy, also "Health and Well-being" are the third goal of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals for 2030 agenda. According to a UNDP report on the Arab countries, the global children mortality rate has fallen by 50% since 1990. Similarly, the maternal mortality rate decreased by 45% worldwide. Between 2000 - 2013, more than 6.2 million people survived Malaria infection, and the new AIDS cases also decreased by 30%. In 1988, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution with the aim of eradicating polio worldwide. Since then, the polio cases have decreased by over 99 percent. However, and according to the WHO, 20 percent of world's population still live in polio-endemic regions, such as Pakistan and Afghanistan.

At the same time, and as per the same report, more than six million children die every year before turning five. In addition, thousands of children who die every day due to preventable diseases, such as measles and TB (tuberculosis). Hundreds of women also die every day during pregnancy or due to postpartum complications in rural areas, which lack basic needs, and where only 56% of births are performed by trained legal midwives. AIDS is the leading cause of death among adolescent in the Sub-Sahara African countries that are still severely affected by the spread of the HIV/AIDS. All these deaths would've been mitigated through prevention, treatment, education, immunisation campaigns, sexual and reproductive healthcare.

In the Arab region, the average life expectancy at birth has increased from 58.5 years in 1980 to 70.6 years in 2015 and children's mortality rate has dropped significantly from 131 deaths per 1000 live births in 1980 to 36.8 in 2015. This is partly due to the progress made by many Arab countries in increasing access to healthcare services and improved medical facilities in general.

Accordingly, the UAE provided valued healthcare assistance included supporting polio vaccines administration, building hospitals and fighting the Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) through constructive partnerships with the multilateral organisations such as the World Health Organisation, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Global Fund, and the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI), under the auspice of His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and the Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces. As an example, the UAE Pakistan Assistance Programme (UAE PAP) provided 508 million poliovirus vaccine doses between 2014-2020, benefiting over 86 million children.

The Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has huge impact not on people's lives and the health systems, but also global socio-economic consequences. So far, despite the commencement of vaccination campaigns, large-scale COVID-19 tests and efforts to support the healthcare systems, the world hasn't yet recovered from the pandemic's effects, this adds up to the great disparities in access to vaccines among communities, countries and continents.

The UAE has been at the forefront of the global response to the COVID-19 pandemic; providing assistance to more than 135 countries worldwide, including personal protection equipment (PPP), vaccines, medicines and medical equipment, in addition to setting up field hospitals in a number of countries. Logistics support was also an integral part of the UAE's global response efforts, where hubs were established in Dubai and Abu Dhabi through strategic partnerships between aviation, ports and other sectors to capitalise on the services of the International Humanitarian City, in addition to starting the production of the COVID-19 vaccines here in the UAE.

The SDGs commit to eliminating epidemics of TB, Malaria, AIDS and other communicable diseases, by 2030. Efforts to achieve these goals include providing a comprehensive healthcare coverage and safe access to affordable medicines and vaccines for all. Vaccines' research & development (R&D) are also an essential part of these efforts.

During the period 2017 - 2020, the UAE disbursed a total foreign aid of AED 6.03 billion in support of the health sector, accounted for 6.8 percent of the UAE's total foreign assistance for the same period.

In its support to the health sector, the UAE will focus on:

- Supporting the prevention of the diseases and pandemics, in addition to providing vaccines.
- Providing medicines and medical supplies.
- Fighting the Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs).
- Supporting the global health systems.
- Supporting the psychological and mental health.
- Sharing the UAE's expertise and experiences, and provide technical assistance.

Addressing the Climate Change

Climate Change is perceived as a serious threat to humanity, biodiversity and to the whole planet due to its economic, social and environmental impacts at the local, regional and international levels. Climate change not only affects health, food and human security, it affects the sustainable development and poverty elimination efforts as well. Climate change has increasingly been a serious global concern, as it is an inevitable result of the world's population growth and the subsequent increasing demand on energy and food, in addition to the encroachment onto forests, green landscapes and farmlands.

The rising temperature is also one of the adverse effects of the climate change, resulting in wildfires, increase/decrease in the temperature of the Pacific Ocean, known as El Nino and La Nina phenomenon, with climate fluctuations, causing floods and droughts in several areas of the world.

The Climate change issue drew an early and great attention of the UAE and its local policies, where tremendous efforts were exerted to address the problem and its implications, and to cope with its potential effects. Accordingly, the UAE adopted a set of policies covering the economic diversity, focus on green economy, in addition to the diversification of energy sources with special focus on the renewable and clean energy, enhancing the power efficiency, the sustainable transport policy and the sustainable urban planning, among others. The UAE Ministry of Climate Change & Environment is also working currently with its public/private sector partners to strengthen and align their climate change efforts with the National Climate Change Plan 2050, adopted by the UAE Cabinet in June 2017, and the National Climate Adaptation Program, adopted in 2017, along with other relevant policies and programmes.

The UAE has a firm commitment towards the environment, climate protection and the SDGs and has constructively and effectively participated in different climate change discussions and international fora. Furthermore, the UAE announced in 2021 its goal to be carbon neutral, reaching Net-Zero Carbon Emissions by 2050, in addition to hosting the 28th Climate Summit (COP 28), in 2023.

The UAE's contribution to the global dialogue on the renewable energy, climate change and sustainable development issues include hosting Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week (ADSW), Zayed Sustainability Prize (previously Zayed Future Energy Prize) and the establishment of Abu Dhabi Future Energy Company (MASDAR). Furthermore, the UAE is hosting the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) in Abu Dhabi city and working through a strategic partnership with the agency.

A strategic partnership has also been established between the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFAIC) and International Cooperation, Abu Dhabi Fund for Development (ADFD) and Abu Dhabi Future Energy Company (Masdar) to support the implementation of USD 100 million renewable energy projects in Pacific and Caribbean states, which are severely affected by the climate change.

The UAE also supported the recovery efforts exerted in response to the humanitarian emergencies caused by climate change, such as floods, drought, hurricanes and others. Over the period 2017-2020, the UAE provided AED 1.223 billion in foreign assistance to support addressing the climate change, accounts for 1.4 percent of the UAE's total foreign aid for this period.

The UAE is aiming to extend a helping hand to the world to address the climate change issue, through a number of development programs and projects in the beneficiary countries and communities, including:

- Supporting the data analysis, early warning and information systems to avoid the impacts of the climate change, particularly in agriculture and livestock production.
- Supporting renewable energy projects to reduce the impacts of the climate change, and help other countries to build resilience for the quick recovery.
- Supporting adaptation to climate change programs that allow a continuous economic, social and environmental development.
- Sharing the UAE's expertise and experiences, and provide technical assistance.

Food Security

World population is expected to increase by one third by 2050, with the highest growth rates in the developing countries. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) estimates that if the current trends of income and consumption growth rates persist, the agriculture production will have to achieve a 60 percent increase in order to fulfill the expected increase in demand for food and fodders. In order to feed the world's population and establish a base for the economic growth and eliminate poverty, the agricultural sector must achieve rapid and substantial transformations. This mission will be more difficult with the climate change.

Climate change is posing a major threat to the global food security, the Sustainable Development Goals and to the efforts to eliminate poverty as a result of the decrease in the green areas, drought and floods, in addition to the irregular rain falls and the increasing weather unpredictability, which will all lead to decrease in the production and productivity.

In addition, the of COVID-19 pandemic has a severe impact not only on the health sector, but it has serious economic and social repercussions as well, such as the interruption of food chains and instability of markets and transportation.

The agricultural sector needs to shift to more productive systems, to use the inputs more efficiently, be characterized with more stability and less fluctuation, as well as to be more resilient against shocks, hazards and climate change on the long run. Keeping in mind that these requirements have to be attained without depletion of the natural resources base.

Technology, especially that is affordable, user-friendly and accessible to the small farmers, plays an important role in increasing the efficiency of the agricultural processes and maximising production and productivity. Technology has to be environmentally friendly.

Using modern technologies and recent techniques include: introducing the appropriate energy sources and water harvesting methods, and increasing the efficiency of the use of power, water and other agricultural inputs. Technology is also useful in monitoring, following up and analysing the information of Meteorology, the markets, population movements, and developing the Information and Early Warning Systems, in addition to the appropriate selection from the crops options.

During the period from 2017 to 2020, the UAE disbursed foreign assistance amounted to AED 4.37 billion in support of the food security sector, which accounts for five percent of the total UAE's foreign aid disbursements for the same period.

The UAE is aiming to contributing to the world's food security through a number of development programs and projects in the beneficiary countries and communities, including:

- Introducing the modern technologies and recent techniques to the food security sector, including energy options and water usage.
- Promoting the UAE's private sector's engagement in the international development, by working with their counterparts in the beneficiary countries.

- Supporting the data analysis, early warning and information systems to avoid the impacts of the climate change, particularly in agriculture and livestock production.
- Supporting the small producers, including women.
- Giving attention to the supply chains and markets.
- Sharing the UAE's expertise and experiences, and provide technical assistance.

Sciences, Technology and Innovation (STI)

Technology and modern techniques reinforcement plays a significant role in the realization of the SDGs, taking into consideration the need to accelerate the progress to achieve the goals by 2030.

The 2030 Sustainable Development plan acknowledges the importance of technology, not only in the SDG17 on Partnerships for the Goals, which indicates that "improving access to technology and knowledge is essential for exchanging ideas and enhancing innovation", but it considers technology an implementation vehicle to progress and accelerate the optimal implementation of other Goals as well. Technology will also help in:

- Facilitating access to knowledge, learning and exchange of ideas;
- Improving the development performance indicators, in addition to supporting the banking and the economic sectors.
- Increasing the production and productivity across the food security, water and renewable energy sectors.
- Enhancing health through the development of equipment, vaccines and medicines.

For instance, in order to "Eradicate Poverty", the electronic and digital services would secure the access for low-income families to the necessary tools to facilitate their work, establish their projects and economic growth. In addition, linking the digital financial services with the livelihoods, safety-nets and guidance would help improve the standards of living on the long run.

On the other hand, supporting affordable communications would promote and enhance the development opportunities for the poor and for the empowerment of women and the marginalised communities.

The UAE emphasized the importance of science, technology and innovation by launching its high-level Science, Technology and Innovation Policy, about which H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, UAE Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai, said: "The Science, Technology and Innovation Policy is our roadmap to building a better future for the generations to come. We have the human capital, effective governance and financial resources in order to accomplish a true transformation of science and knowledge in the UAE."

The domestic Policy includes, for instance, establishing funds to finance science, research and innovation in the UAE, in addition to reconsidering all of the investment legislations in order to promote technology transfer, supporting the innovation and creating international contractual manufacturing partnerships. The Policy also supports the government's efforts for adopting innovation, science and technology

across all work fields, enabling a competitive knowledge-based economy, and achieving the overarching goals of the UAE's vision.

The UAE realised at an early stage the importance of providing an appropriate technology infrastructure, due to its great impact on advancing the UAE's development. For this aim, the UAE adopted the elements of leadership and competitiveness in communication and Information Technology in particular, through supporting the pillars of competitiveness, digital empowerment and creating a digital government.

The UAE has achieved substantial progress and maintained a great interest in STI to achieve its domestic renaissance. Through its Foreign Assistance Policy for 2022-2026, the UAE will work to support the international development through these critical sectors.

The UAE's support for STI programmes will include:

- Providing simple, affordable and easy to maintain technology;
- Supporting the development of technology applications in the governmental systems, to make them more efficient and effective.
- Supporting technology application in sectors of education, health, financial & banking systems and other sectors that promote a sustainable economic development;
- Supporting women and youth in STI to develop their small and medium enterprises;
- Sharing the UAE's expertise and experiences, and provide technical assistance.

Humanitarian Assistance

Overview

The UAE provides humanitarian assistance to save people's lives, alleviate suffering and protect human dignity in crises situations. Therefore, the UAE took part in responding to a large number of humanitarian crises, either through a multilateral system or direct assistance. More than 40 UAE humanitarian, charitable, government and private sector donors have provided humanitarian assistance to those in need. In addition, Dubai's International Humanitarian City is considered the largest UN's relief hubs for responding to humanitarian emergencies.

The Emirate of Dubai has established the International Humanitarian City (IHC) as a free zone with a strategic geographic location hosting humanitarian organisations and commercial businesses, to make the world's largest hub for humanitarian operations.

Additionally, the UAE established the largest two logistics operation centres in Abu Dhabi and Dubai dedicated for the global response to the COVID-19 pandemic, through partnerships between authorities of the ports, airlines and other private sector firms.

The humanitarian emergencies has recently witnessed an unprecedented increase. Where about 20 major emergencies occur every year, in addition to hundreds of minor crises and emergencies that many of which still facing lack of funding or inadequate response efforts. Our region, in particular, endured a

large tranche of the implications of these emergencies. Throughout the recent years, the world's largest number of refugees and displaced people were located in our region, in addition to natural disasters, such as earthquakes and floods, that occurred in a higher-than-normal frequency.

Therefore, we are committed to increase our humanitarian relief efforts over the coming years to assist other people, within the region or worldwide. The UAE aims to allocate at least 15 percent of its total foreign aid as humanitarian assistance, which would position it among the world's most generous humanitarian donors.

Our humanitarian aid strategy will combine the direct response to emergencies and the support to the multilateral organisations with a view to strengthen the global humanitarian system.

The UAE also aims to be a central destination for research, dialogue and exchange knowledge on the humanitarian issues. Through holding forums and conferences, such as the Dubai International Humanitarian Aid & Development (DIHAD), that gathers the humanitarian community actors to exchange their expertise, networking and discussing the updates on the current challenges and solutions. In addition, the UAE will support research and innovation in the humanitarian assistance sphere, including the most recent technologies, identifying the trends and emergency needs and the best practices in managing the humanitarian organisations.

Saving lives, alleviating suffering and protecting human dignity



Principles and Good Practices for Humanitarian Donorship

Our humanitarian work will be guided by the UAE's "10 Principles of the Next 50 Years" particularly, the ninth principle along with the International Humanitarian Principles. The UAE will:

- Deliver aid in conformity with the fundamental humanitarian principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence.
- Allocate funding in proportion to needs, responding to crises anywhere in the world based on where we can have greatest impact.
- Link our humanitarian assistance to our own development assistance in countries where we have existing partnerships, and to the development work of others in places where we are not present. For example, the UAE humanitarian assistance to the affected Caribbean states by hurricane Irma during the implementation of the UAE Caribbean Renewable Energy Fund (CREF). In addition, support governments and communities in responding to crises, and help them to be more resilient when emergencies happen.
- Coordinate its efforts with other active humanitarian actors through the UAE Committee for Coordination of Humanitarian Aid, through the United Nations System and the humanitarian cluster system, and through activities and initiatives of the General Secretariat of the Gulf Cooperation Council and the Arabic League.
- Ensure accountability for its aid, and involve beneficiaries in the design and evaluation of humanitarian responses.

Response to Emergencies through UAE Humanitarian Organizations and Support for Multilateral Efforts

Responding to emergencies as they happen, will form the largest component of the UAE's humanitarian response – and indeed is a major pillar of the nation's dedication to helping those most in need. Since 1971, the UAE has reached millions of people by providing humanitarian assistance.

UAE official humanitarian aid will increase, and will be deployed both through UAE humanitarian organizations and through international organizations, depending on the circumstances of each situation.

UAE humanitarian organizations will be principally responsible for our bilateral response to emergencies. Humanitarian organizations such as the Emirates Red Crescent, the Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan Foundation and the Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Humanitarian and Charity Establishment have been at the forefront of UAE assistance to people threatened by crises and natural disasters, and we will continue to rely on UAE humanitarian organizations to be the primary implementers of assistance provided by the UAE government on a bilateral basis.

Through the “UAE Committee for the Coordination of Humanitarian Aid”, government and humanitarian organisations will coordinate their activities and create joint mechanisms to increase their effectiveness. These mechanisms include the Committee’s Operational Guidelines and the UAE Unified Relief Team, which incorporates members from multiple humanitarian organisations that can contribute to the response to emergencies. Over the coming years, the Team will take further steps that may include forming an Emirati Unified Field Assessment and Support Team (UAE FAST) to swiftly work on identifying the needs in emergencies.

Working with multilateral organisations and pooled funding mechanisms are expected to be increasingly important as one of the UAE’s humanitarian assistance implementation means. Meanwhile, the UAE supports the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), in addition to partnerships with the UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, WHO and OCHA. The UAE also contributes to the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) in addition to other OCHA-managed Country-based Pooled Funds (CBPF) and Emergency Response Funds, formed for specific emergencies.

Multilateral organizations and pooled funding mechanisms will also become increasingly important channels for the UAE’s humanitarian aid. We will seek opportunities for international and UAE organizations to work closely together. Such interventions can build the capacity of UAE humanitarian actors and their familiarity with international norms and good practices; they may also help international partners in contexts, especially within the region, where UAE actors might be afforded greater access or have deeper local knowledge.

Forgotten Emergencies

“Forgotten emergencies” are situations which receive less international attention. This can happen because an emergency isn’t large enough to be noticed abroad, or because a protracted crisis has fallen off the headlines. These emergencies usually fail to attract funding from donors or the general public, and consequently humanitarian actors are often unable to meet even the most basic human needs of the affected populations.

From this point, the UAE will pay special attention to those affected by orphan emergencies through the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), which has a dedicated funding mechanism to support the under-funded emergencies, along with other pooled funding mechanisms pertaining to neglected emergencies. In addition, the UAE will support the local and international humanitarian foundations in providing assistance to the victims of the orphan emergencies, as appropriate.

The UAE will pay special attention to those affected by forgotten emergencies. Allocation of funding for forgotten emergencies to different channels will be adjusted over time based on performance of each. Current evaluation of humanitarian assistance tends to focus on funds raised or volume of relief goods sent – but we hope also measure actual impacts, such as number of lives saved or economic damage diverted. In doing so, we will encourage recipients of our funding to be more rigorous and impact-focused in their own performance measurement.

Protection of Children

Children are among the most vulnerable and affected categories in refuge and displacement situations during conflicts and natural disasters, especially when separated from their primary caregivers. In this case, children become a target for violent attacks, military forced recruitment, human trafficking or negligence. Unfortunately, more than half of the world's refugees and internally displaced people are children.

Therefore, the UAE will ensure supporting the programmes that provide help and protection from potential risks during humanitarian emergencies, including protection from violence, abuse, exploitation or negligence. We will also work in close cooperation with families, civil society organisations, government bodies and the international community to support health, nutrition, children protection and education in emergencies, including providing psychological support, rehabilitation of education facilities in emergencies and protracted crises. The UAE works to make the world a safer and a better place for children to live in.

Local Capacity-Building for Emergency Response

Crisis-affected developing country governments are frequently left outside the international humanitarian architecture, for lack of confidence in their capacities. Less than 5% of humanitarian aid from international donors goes to crisis-affected governments. However, more and more countries are building disaster management capabilities to respond to crises within their borders, and increasing their role was an important theme of the World Humanitarian Summit in 2016.

The UAE will support governments and other local actors in building their capacity to respond to emergencies, and work with other donors to enable more international humanitarian aid to flow through national emergency response agencies. This work requires three elements: (1) capacity-building programs for national and local emergency response agencies; (2) creating a rating scheme for local response capabilities, which will help governments to identify their capability gaps and encourage donors to channel humanitarian aid to capable national response agencies; and (3) channelling some of the UAE's humanitarian aid through local governments and actors who have demonstrated capabilities and accountability.

The UAE will also develop academic programmes in the humanitarian and international development spheres. This will be in cooperation with UAE universities and academic institutions, such as the UAE University, which launched the «Professional Diploma in Philanthropy Leadership» and Anwar Gargash Diplomatic Academy (AGDA), which launched a Master of Arts programme in Humanitarian Action and Development, both of which were in cooperation with the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MOFAIC).

Stabilization

The stabilisation efforts of the UAE help the conflict-afflicted and economic-stricken countries to find a way out of their critical emergency and widespread violence situations, to a more settled and stable condition. Stabilisation efforts are deemed as a primary response to the acts of violence, in the cases where the local political authorities are unable to function or perform their duties in managing the crises.

The UAE's efforts include executing civil works that provide people with the basic livelihoods, such as demining, restoring the basic services, help during the transitional period in the post-conflict settings, to set the stage for the long-term recovery measures. Stabilisation processes usually comprises joint efforts at the local government and international levels, with close coordination among the diplomatic, humanitarian, development, security and judicial parties. The UAE's stabilisation efforts will also include reconstruction and development activities in the countries that suffer relative instability or economic challenges.

The UAE's activities will be performed in line with the internationally adopted principles on stabilisation:

- **Protecting livelihoods and means of survivals:** The UAE's stability efforts will seek to immediately address the weaknesses in the security aspects, in order to enable the implementation of peaceful political operations. In addition to supporting a long-term security stability, rule-of-law and enabling the enforcement of justice, since the direct enforcement of security by external parties will not help, per se, in achieving stability. The stabilization activities should focus on addressing the main obstacles to fulfilling the urgent need to reach a political agreement that supports stability. Delivering the basic services is an essential part of protecting the livelihoods and means of survival as well. Such interventions should be performed in coordination with other stakeholders, including the actors in the humanitarian field.
- **Supporting and reinforcing the political process in order to reduce violence:** Stability efforts should help in supporting and implementing the political agreements between the conflict parties and active actors on the ground. This is the key to reduce violent conflicts, mobilise support to reach more official peace agreements and to facilitate the transitional periods to break the conflict cycle. Stability efforts must always be initiated by the local parties, in order to assure the achievement of stability. On the other hand, selecting which party to support may involve some risk, because it can grant power to some parties-of-concern and give them the ability to gain control over the state, which may result in excluding other parties from the political, social and economic participation in the post-conflict phase.
- **Laying the basis for a long-term stability:** There is no specific window of time to achieve stability; this process can take from few months up to many years. Stabilisation efforts were always sort of transitional activities, which aim to achieve the overarching goal of creating the conducive environment for sustainable stability. Often, short-term stability efforts are implemented together with activities that help in building the long-term stability, in addition to other approaches such as providing humanitarian assistance or implementing sustainable development plans as well.

The UAE's stability activities will adopt approaches that take into account the circumstances of the conflict to guarantee that such activities will not unintentionally fuel or exacerbate the conflict, or set the seeds for other conflicts in the future. Furthermore, it will follow gender-sensitive approach and how the social roles and norms contribute to the causes, impacts and drivers of conflicts.

The UAE will also support global alliances and joint funds that aim to restore stabilisation in the conflict-stricken countries, in order to achieve domestic and external stability and help them recover from war impacts and destruction. This can be achieved by supporting the affected countries during the transitional period up to the reconstruction and development phases. The UAE is part of the Global Coalition Against Daesh, and co-chairing the Working Group on Stabilisation, along with Germany and the USA. The three countries also partnered to establish "Syria Recovery Trust Fund", which is one of the key instruments in achieving stability and supporting the reconstruction projects in Syria. The UAE is also a partner in the Funding Facility for Stabilization (FFS) in Iraq, which is managed by UNDP.

Counter Extremism

The foreign assistance plays a critical role in supporting the UAE's counter extremism efforts, by targeting the underlying causes that allow extremism to grow deep roots in societies. Through the bilateral partnerships, people's lives in the vulnerable countries would change for the better and will have hope for the future through the efforts aiming at reducing poverty, promoting the economic growth, providing protection and education opportunities, along with improving the standards of the public service, justice and strengthen the national authorities, in partnership with the UN agencies and other donors.

These efforts will complement our other counter extremism initiatives, including the establishment of the UAE Ministry of Tolerance and Coexistence, signing the «Human Fraternity Document» in Abu Dhabi to enhance the coexistence of different religions and the establishment of Hedayah Center, the first international centre for training, cooperation and research to prevent violence and combat terrorism. This is in addition to establishing "Sawab Centre", in partnership with the USA, with the aim of producing media countering extremism propaganda using technology, internet and social communication networks, to restrict the means of misinformation and extremists' attraction of youth.

Private Sector Engagement and Strengthening Economic Ties to Developing Countries

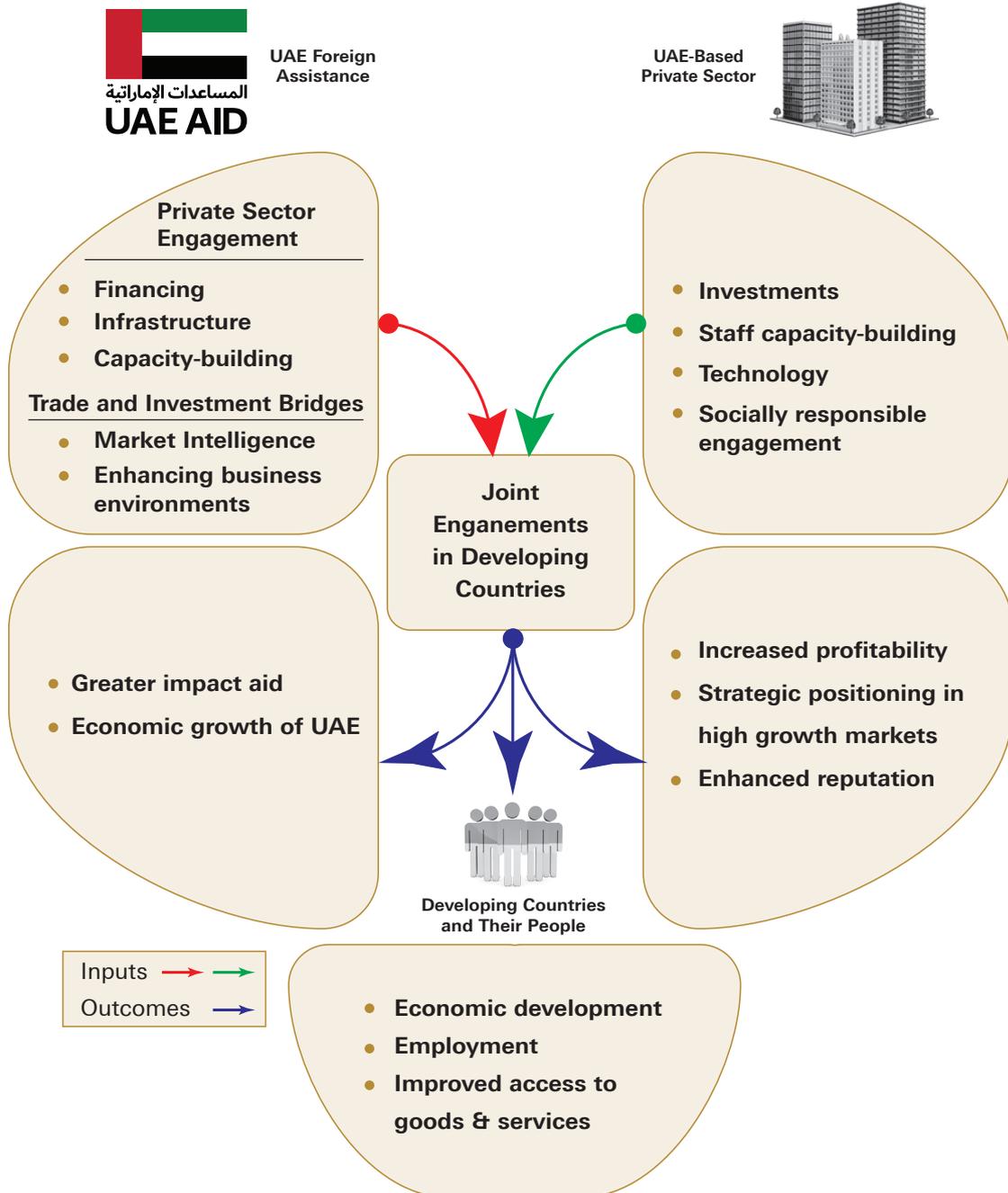
Barriers to Private Sector Engagement

Economic growth generated by the private sector is essential to truly sustainable development.

No country has escaped poverty with development aid alone. Businesses, including foreign companies, provide jobs, training and knowledge transfer; develop and introduce new technologies; and create wealth in a community through purchases and greater tax revenues. In recognition, the Sustainable Development Goals include objectives to increase foreign direct investment to, and expand aid for trade programs in, developing countries.

UAE foreign assistance will encourage trade and investment in the developing world, by addressing the barriers cited by businesses:

- Political and operational risks – both actual risks and perceptions which often over-estimate the actual likelihood of the risk.
- Lack of access to financing for investments in emerging markets.
- Absence of local knowledge about market demands and good partners.
- Inadequate infrastructure – e.g., reliable electricity supply, good roads, efficient ports and airports, etc. – to enable the business to succeed.
- Unavailability of sufficient numbers of trained or educated workers.
- National regulatory regimes that make it hard to operate efficiently.



Trade and Investment Bridges

In relevant partner countries, the UAE will strengthen bilateral business ties and work to overcome systems-level barriers to trade and investment. The main mechanisms will fall into two categories:

1. Enhancing the environment for business, trade and investment, through supporting the reform of business regulations, negotiating trade agreements (through the GCC) and double taxation and investment protection treaties, helping to improve the partner country's customs processes and capacity to implement World Trade Organization agreements, and supporting adoption of import/export specifications for commonly traded items.
2. Exchanging information between businesses and the partner country, through trade and investment missions (including funding missions from the partner country to the UAE) and forming joint economic committees involving the national governments and relevant companies. Some of these missions can be organized through the UAETAP.

Trade and investment bridges will be designed in close consultation with the private sector. Companies will be asked to list the most important barriers to investment and trade in each country, and also to identify future developing countries with which to create trade and investment bridges.

Small and Medium Enterprises

The UAE intends to work on enhancing innovation and entrepreneurship among local businesses, particularly the small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). In addition to strengthening the efforts of the partner governments that aim to create a stable and balanced economy and job opportunities for the youth, empowering women and girls, and building the capacities of the local companies and entrepreneurs. The UAE will also establish Regional Innovation Centres that include business incubators concentrate their efforts on accelerating the technological advances. Furthermore, these Centres will provide training and consultation on various topics, such as hosting companies, finding the required funding, among others. These UAE's initiated Regional Innovation Centres will help to achieve prosperity in the developing countries, by enhancing confidence, innovation and entrepreneurship in the developing world countries. In 2019, Khalifa Fund for Enterprise Development announced the establishment of the first regional innovation centre; Mohammed bin Zayed Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Dakar, Senegal, which will serve Western Africa.

Partners of the UAE Foreign Aid Sector

UAE's Donors, Humanitarian and Charitable Organizations

UAE donors, humanitarian and charitable organizations combined their concerted efforts to pave the way for developing the UAE's foreign aid sector. This was certainly a reflection of the Emirati culture of giving and generosity, whereas their foreign aid has always been an ambassador for the UAE's vision for a peaceful and prosperous world. Meanwhile, there are more than 45 donor organisations who have vast experience and capacities in various sectors covering different issues, including responding to emergencies, women empowerment, infrastructure building and rehabilitation, fighting blindness, supporting orphans and people of determination, children education and dissemination of the true moderate teachings of Islam.

We are committed to providing every possible support to the UAE donors who are engaged in development, humanitarian and charitable works in the other countries.

In addition, the UAE will engage these entities in planning and delivering the UAE's official foreign aid in the sectors that these entities have vast experience and knowledge.

For their part, the UAE donor entities are committed to using the UAE's unified Foreign Aid brand and logo, along with their own logo.

In addition to preparing an annual report on the total work of the UAE donors, including reporting their activities in an on-line electronic database.

Multilateral Organizations and International Partnerships

The multilateral system is a fundamental instrument for coordinating the global actions taken to address global challenges. Therefore, the UAE supports and actively involved in this system. On that ground, the UAE provides contributions to support the UN agencies, the non-government organisations (NGOs) and regional organisations as well. In addition, the UAE is a key partner in a number of development banks and regional financial institutions.

As part of our Foreign Aid Policy, we will work on broadening the scale of our partnerships with the relevant multilateral organisation. Furthermore, the UAE will form strategic partnerships with selected organisations whose assistance to the developing countries is proved efficient and related to the UAE's foreign aid priorities.

In order to operationalise these partnerships, the UAE will:

- Set a strategy with defined clear goals for what should be achieved through each partnership;
- Affiliate to the boards of those organisations in order to strengthen the UAE's positive influence on setting the strategic plans of these organisations.
- Provide those organisations with funding, including core voluntary contributions and earmarked funding for the implementation of specific projects or activities.
- These partnerships will not be limited to funding only, rather it will go beyond this to other aspects, such as appointing and mandating Emirati employees in these organisations and make joint ventures.
- In addition to the large-scale partnerships, the UAE will maintain its current membership in the international and regional organisations.

The UAE will strive to provide its foreign assistance in coordination with other donor governments through 3 mechanisms:

- In case of a large-scale programme for a "Bilateral Partnership for Development", the UAE will plan this partnership to complement, rather than repeating, the work of the other donors, i.e. to provide the assistance in close cooperation with the other donors; in addition, UAE's team in the relevant country will take part in the implementation of the coordination mechanisms amongst the donors on the national level.
- Many of the major initiatives that the UAE is planning to implement through this Policy require creating partnerships with various donor entities, including triangle and multilateral partnerships.
- The UAE is also planning to participate in the multi-donor funds and in the initiatives of other countries whose work is in alignment with the UAE's foreign aid priorities, or where the UAE has relevant experience.

Furthermore, the UAE will work with a number of the non-governmental and civil society organisations, where we can strengthen our development and humanitarian assistance. Given the fact that the international non-governmental and civil society organisations are competent and knowledgeable partner on the socio-economic and political realities on the ground, therefore they are more capable of designing and implementing the projects. Therefore, the UAE will make thorough reviews for the potential partners from the non-governmental organisations, particularly the small local organisations, to select the most efficient and accountable of them.

The UAE will also host initiatives and events relevant to the development and humanitarian issues.

For instance, the UAE hosts the headquarters of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), the International Center for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA) and the Arab Monetary Fund (AMF). In addition to many events and conferences that take place in the UAE. For example, the World Government Summit which attracts annually the world's public sectors leaders to discuss how to make governments more effective and responsive to their citizens' needs. The UAE is also organising events in line with the ongoing debate on creating a sustainable future, e.g. Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week (ADSW), the World Future Energy Summit (WFES), the Global Water Summit, the World Green Economy Summit and Dubai International Humanitarian Aid & Development Conference & Exhibition (DIHAD). In addition to Dubai Expo2020 which is held under the motto "Connecting Minds, Creating the Future", embracing the main pillars of: Sustainability, Mobility and Opportunity, along with a wide range of initiatives and events that created a new reality and new addition to the existing relations amongst the governments, international organisations and donor.

Dubai Expo 2020: Social Innovation Programme Expo Live

Expo Live is an innovation impact grant and partnership programme implemented under Dubai Expo 2020, seeks to accelerate and promote creative solutions that improve lives while preserving our world.

Out of the belief that “Innovation Can Come from Anywhere, To Everyone”, Expo Live allows the opportunity to showcase innovations that have social impact from all over the world, and give voice to the solutions that can contribute in improving peoples’ lives.

Expo Live capitalise on the influence of the global Expo exhibitions in order to enable the Makers of Change from all over the world to enhance innovation, build partnerships and create social impact during and after Dubai Expo2020.

At the outset of the Covid-19 pandemic, precisely in March 2020, Expo Live programme launched the Emergency Relief Fund in response to the impacts of the Coronavirus disease, where innovators were invited to submit their funding requests to receive grants ranging between US\$ 50,000 to US\$ 100,000 for their projects, with a total budget of US\$ 1.0 million, benefited 15 institutions from 13 countries.

Under the motto “The Good Place” Pavilion of Expo Live in Dubai Expo 2020 exhibit success stories of the world’s innovators, in order to inspire other visitors to make A Good Place as well. The design of the pavilion was inspired from the Bedouin tent in which the rulers of Abu Dhabi and Dubai Emirates were gathered before the creation of the Union in order to realise their common vision for the good and benefit of the Emirati people; which is the same principle that Expo Live is promoting: Supporting the innovative solutions presented by innovators from all over the world.

So far, Expo Live programmes is supporting 140 international innovations from 76 countries.



إكسبو 2020 EXPO 2020
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DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Unlocking the potential within individuals
and communities to shape a better future

Creating smarter and more productive
movement of people, goods, and ideas



Living in balance with our planet

Technical Cooperation

Sharing knowledge and building human and institutional capacities are key factors in order to address the global challenges. Therefore, technical assistance constitutes an integral part of the UAE's foreign assistance, and includes building bilateral regional partnerships, focusing on global themes' programmes, providing humanitarian assistance and promoting private sector's engagement.

The technical assistance activities will be arranged and organised through the UAE Technical Assistance Programme (UAE-TAP). The UAETAP aims to carry on the UAE's ongoing efforts, capitalising on the UAE's experiences and learned lessons acquired during its development course over the years. The UAETAP programme includes a wide range of local government entities and companies that have experience in the main priority areas where the UAE has a unique expertise and competitive edge in, with women and girls' empowerment is a cross-cutting theme.

The UAE will work on sharing its expertise in government efficiency through the UAETAP, through the following paths:

- **Experts' consultations and missions:** Sending missions to the countries that need and apply to receive specialised technical assistance in certain fields, according to their needs and priorities. Based upon which, these missions will perform a comprehensive study to ensure applying the most appropriate and best practices of the UAE.
- **Training programs and scholarships:** The UAETAP encourages the partner countries to enrol in the training programs and workshops to learn from the expertise of the UAE. In addition to scholarship programs presented by UAE's colleges and universities.
- **The Customised programs:** designed according to the needs of the partner countries. The UAETAP will design training courses and programs especially customised to meet the needs of the partner countries.
- **Training/research visits:** The UAETAP will work in collaboration with the partner entities to organise training tours in various fields of expertise for the delegations of the partner countries to give them a hands-on experience and update them on the UAE's best practices.

The UAE ensures to align its activities and assistance, through the technical cooperation, with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We will also support the South-South and Triangular Cooperation through the joint work with a number of countries to enhance the mutual learning and transfer the knowledge of the UAE as well. The UAE will also assure to cooperate with the international organisations and other donors who deliver their assistance to improve the quality of the administration techniques and public service.

Governance, Organization and Performance Measurement for UAE Foreign Assistance

Many of the aid-recipient countries around the world witnessed complex changes in the development and humanitarian context, due to a combination of political, security and economic factors posing huge potential risks. Accordingly, a revised aid governance system and structure have been established as per the international best practices, through standardized mechanisms, to supervise the implementation of aid activities at all stages, including planning, funding, evaluation and monitoring, in order to achieve transparency and accountability.

Governance and Regulation

The UAE Cabinet will determine the overall direction of the UAE's Foreign Assistance Policy, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MOFAIC) will be responsible for oversight and coordination, in collaboration with all local and federal authorities. In addition, committees will be formed for this purpose with the other parties.

With a view to advance the humanitarian, development and charitable work, and to expand the scope of the UAE donors' activities, on 11 April 2022, the UAE Cabinet adopted a decree on the regulatory framework and governance of the UAE aid. The Decree aims to ensuring the implementation of the UAE aid interventions in line with the international best practices and standards. Foreign Aid Coordination Offices in the UAE's missions abroad in selected countries will eventually be established to follow-up the implementation and alignment with the Foreign Assistance Policy.

MOFAIC is charged with leading the planning for the UAE foreign aid interventions, coordinating the implementation, evaluating the impact, documenting and reporting on UAE's foreign aid. The UAE donor entities will allocate the resources according to the priorities defined by the UAE's Foreign Assistance Policy and the implementation of the development and humanitarian programmes. MOFAIC and the other UAE donors would gradually increase the number and competence of their specialized staff to match the growth of the foreign assistance programmes.

Performance Measurement

MOFAIC will submit periodic reports to the UAE Cabinet on the foreign aid performance and achievement of goals. The monitoring reports will include a set of indicators for each of the Foreign Aid four objectives:

1. Eliminating poverty and improving the standard of living for the less fortunate communities;
2. Promoting the regional peace, stability and prosperity;
3. Building closer relationships with other countries, and enhancing the UAE's international stand;
4. Strengthening the economic relations with developing countries.

Each major component of the strategy – Country Partnerships, global thematic programs, humanitarian assistance and private sector engagement – will have an associated set of performance indicators. There should be clear logical frameworks linking the outputs of these program components and the overall objectives and goals.

Evaluations of results and impact will be conducted regularly for each component; these will be informed by monitoring key data, and conducting evaluations of, specific projects and activities. All activities will be tracked through standardized monitoring processes and supporting IT systems, so that data can be aggregated across all UAE foreign assistance. Evaluations will be required for all programs or projects above a certain value, and for a sample of smaller programs and project

Abbreviations

CERF	Central Emergency Response Fund
DIHAD	Dubai International Humanitarian Aid & Development Conference & Exhibition
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
ICRC	The International Committee of the Red Cross
INGO	International Non-Government Organisation
IHC	International Humanitarian City
IT	Information Technology
MOFAIC	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
NGOs	Non-government Organizations
OCFA	Office for the Coordination of Foreign Aid
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
OIC	Organisation Of Islamic Cooperation
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UAETAP	UAE Technical Assistance Programme
UNHCR	UN High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNRWA	UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
WFP	World Food Programme
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
WHO	World Health Organization

