



UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
& INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Summary of the UAE Policy for Foreign Assistance (2017 – 2021)



Main Objectives

- Improve lives and reduce poverty in less fortunate.
- Promoting stability, peace, and prosperity in the region.
- Build strong relationships with other countries, both those to which the UAE gives assistance and other donor countries with which we collaborate.
- Foster expanded trade and investment ties with developing countries, thereby promoting economic growth in the developing world.

Guiding Principles

- Support partner governments and communities to achieve *their* development plans and *their* priority Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Collaborate with other donors and development organizations.
- Address neglected issues and under-supported communities.
- Build on the UAE's unique characteristics and capabilities.
- Utilize sustainable approaches.
- Make aid transparent, accountable and focused on results.

International Cooperation

The UAE's agenda for international cooperation, directed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, includes four main elements.

- Effective foreign assistance that reflects UAE values and enhances the UAE's reputation.
- Technical cooperation to enhance the impact of foreign assistance
- The Active participation in the work of multilateral organizations.
- International initiatives and events based in the UAE.



Areas of Focus

- The largest share of UAE aid will be allocated to Country Partnerships for Development that are tailored to contribute to each country's development plan and implemented in close collaboration with those countries' governments.
- The UAE will create three global thematic programs in transport and urban infrastructure, government effectiveness, and empowerment and protection of women.
- 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.
- UAE foreign assistance will seek opportunities to work with the private sector, in particular, UAE-based companies, and to encourage them to trade with and invest in developing nations.
- Technical cooperation will share UAE knowledge and experiences with other countries.
- The UAE will support to UAE organizations and charities, whose work in international aid complements that of UAE governmental donor organizations.
- Partner with relevant and effective international multilateral organizations.

Supporting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The UAE's foreign assistance policy will contribute to global efforts to achieve the SDGs. Its assistance will likely contribute to most of the goals and particularly directed towards eight of them. The eight goals are, SDG 1 End poverty in all its forms everywhere, SDG 4 Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all, SDG 5 Achieve gender balance and empower all women and girls, SDG 8 Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all, SDG 9 Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation, SDG 10 Reduce inequality within and among countries, SDG 16 Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels and SDG 17 Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.



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Humanitarian Assistance

The United Arab Emirates provides humanitarian assistance to save lives, alleviate suffering and protect human dignity in crisis situations. Humanitarian challenges have grown to unprecedented proportions in recent years. The UAE will increase our humanitarian relief efforts in the years ahead, to help people both close to home and across the world. In its humanitarian actions, the UAE will respect the internationally accepted Principles and Best Practices for Humanitarian Donor ship. The UAE humanitarian strategy will include both direct responses to emergencies, as well as contributions to strengthening the global humanitarian system.

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. 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 the UAE's bilateral response to emergencies. Government and humanitarian organizations will coordinate their activities through the UAE Committee for the Coordination of Humanitarian Aid, and establish joint mechanisms to increase their effectiveness. Multilateral organizations and pooled funding mechanisms will also become increasingly important channels for the UAE's humanitarian aid. The UAE will seek opportunities for international and UAE organizations to work closely together. "Forgotten emergencies" are situations which receive less international attention. The UAE will pay special attention to those affected by forgotten emergencies. Allocation of funding for forgotten emergencies to different channels (i.e., CERF, pooled funds, and direct contributions) will adjust over time based on the performance of each.



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Multilateral Institutions and International Partnerships

The multilateral system is an essential instrument for coordinating international action in the face of global challenges; consequently, the UAE is an active participant in, and contributor to, the multilateral system. As part of its foreign assistance strategy, the UAE will expand engagement with relevant and effective multilateral organizations. In addition to the larger-scale partnerships, the UAE will maintain its current memberships of regional and international organizations.

The UAE will actively seek to deliver its foreign assistance in concert with other government donors (including OECD countries, other GCC countries, and non-OECD donors). The UAE will also work with selected non-governmental organizations (NGOs), both international and local, where they can enhance the effectiveness of its development and humanitarian assistance. The UAE will host international initiatives and events which have development or humanitarian themes.

Technical Cooperation

Knowledge sharing and building human and institutional capacity are essential in addressing global challenges. Technical assistance activities will be organized and coordinated through the United Arab Emirates' Technical Assistance Program (UAETAP). The UAETAP aims to share the UAE experience with partner countries by connecting them with experts in their respective fields through several types of programs: Expert missions to countries where technical assistance is required in particular area, focusing on the partner country's needs and priorities. Training courses and workshops in the fields of the UAETAP's partner entities. Customized courses and training programs to meet the needs of partner countries.

Private Sector Engagement and Strengthening Economic Ties to Developing Countries

Economic growth generated by the private sector is essential to truly sustainable development. No country has escaped poverty through development assistance alone. Development depends in large part on the success of businesses, including international companies: they provide jobs, train workers, introduce new technologies and stimulate the creation of other businesses. From its own development as a nation: over the past thirty years, foreign trade and investment have helped transform the UAE into a prosperous and diversified economy.



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Promoting economic development through the private sector, and harnessing innovative finance that goes beyond traditional aid, are core pillars of the Sustainable Development Goals. SDG 8 aims to promote “sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth” including through “aid for trade programs in developing countries”. SDG 10 calls for “financial flows, including foreign direct investment, to states where the need is greatest, in particular least developed countries, African countries, small island developing states and landlocked developing countries”.

UAE Organizations and Charities in Foreign Assistance

UAE organizations, foundations, and charities have led the way in foreign assistance. They represent the UAE’s culture of generosity and serve as ambassadors for the UAE’s vision of a peaceful and prosperous world through foreign assistance. There are now more than 45 such foundations and charities, and they have capabilities and experience in many sectors and are working on vital issues as varied as emergency response, blindness, disability services, children’s education and sponsorship of orphans. The UAE government will support UAE organizations in their development, humanitarian, and charity work abroad, in multiple ways including engaging organizations in planning and delivering the UAE’s official assistance, in countries and sectors where they are well-positioned to contribute effectively.