UAE

AND THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

2020

EXCELLENCE IN IMPLEMENTATION

Fast Forwarding a Decade of Action

اللجنة الوطنية لأهداف التنمية المستدامة
National Committee on Sustainable Development Goals

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

> The devastating impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated beyond doubt that, to rebuild and accelerate the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), we must work together as a global community. Our National Development Plan is well-aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals which provide a road map for global prosperity. Our whole-of-society approach to implementing the SDGs is embedded into our DNA. We will continue, at our highest capacity, to support the global community in the journey towards a sustainable 2030.

> The SDGs are at the heart of Expo 2020 Dubai. In accordance with the theme *"Connecting Minds, Creating the Future"*, Expo2020 will serve as the global platform to drive positive change and support initiatives from across the world that our communities need right now.

Her Excellency
Reem bint Ebrahim Al Hashimy
Minister of State for International Cooperation
Director General, Expo 2020 Dubai
Chairwoman of the UAE National Committee on SDGs

Since its formation in 2017, the UAE National Committee on SDGs has actively driven innovative and inspirational initiatives across various sectors, which further strengthen the UAE's role as a global leader and supporter of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

The Committee has addressed the global goals through national and international partnerships, policies, knowledge exchanges, and whole-of-society participative programs. In 2020, the Committee dealt with COVID-19 head on, ensuring that our nation had access to required healthcare, education, safety, and security, while also supporting the global community in curbing the spread of the novel Coronavirus.

His Excellency
Abdulla Nasser Lootah

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

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Acknowledgments

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

List of contributors to the SDG Annual Report:

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
MINISTRY OF HEALTH & PREVENTION

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
MINISTRY OF CABINET AFFAIRS

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
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مجلس الإمارات للتوازن بين الجنسين
UAE GENDER BALANCE COUNCIL

مصرف الإمارات العربية المتحدة المركزي
CENTRAL BANK OF THE U.A.E.
United Arab Emirates

الأمن الغذائي
FOOD SECURITY
United Arab Emirates

Government entities:

EXPO 2020 DUBAI UAE

List of Abbreviations

AgTech	Agricultural Technology
AI	Artificial Intelligence
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species
DESA	Department of Economic and Social Affairs
DEWA	Dubai Electricity and Water Authority
DP	Dubai Ports World
ESRI	Environmental Systems Research Institute
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FCSC	Federal Competitiveness and Statistics Centre
FNC	Federal National Council
GCC	Gulf Cooperation Council
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GHG	Greenhouse Gases
HLPF	High Level Political Forum
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IDI	INTOSAI Development Initiative
IHC	International Humanitarian City
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMD	International Institute for Management Development
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IPU	Inter-Parliamentary Union
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
IWT	Illegal Wildlife Trade
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
KM	Kilometer
KU	Khalifa University
KUSTAR	Khalifa University of Science, Technology and Researchr
LDCs	Least Developed Countries
MAF	Majid Al Futtaim
MENA	Middle East and North Africa
MEWAR	Middle East Waste and Recycling
MOCCAE	Ministry of Climate Change and Environment
MOCD	Ministry of Community Development
MOE	Ministry of Education
MOEI	Ministry of Energy & Industry
MOFAIC	Ministry of Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation
MOHAP	Ministry of Health & Prevention
MOHRE	Ministry of Human Resources & Emiratisation
MOI	Ministry of Interior
MOID	Ministry of Infrastructure Development
MW	Megawatt
NSO	National Statistics Offices
ODA	Official Development Assistance
ODIN	Open Data Inventory
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
PPP	Public Private Partnerships
PSAC	Private Sector Advisory Council
PV	Photovoltaic
R&D	Research and Development
SCP	Sustainable Consumption and Production
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SDSN	Sustainable Development Solutions Network
SEAS	Seawater Energy and Agriculture System
SMEs	Small and Medium Enterprises
TDRA	Telecommunications and Digital Government Regulatory Authority
UAE	United Arab Emirates
UAE GBC	United Arab Emirates Gender Balance Council
UAE NC on SDGs	UAE National Committee on SDGs
UIS	UNESCO Institute for Statistics
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNEP	United Nations Environment Program

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List of Abbreviations

UNEPFI	United Nations Environment Program Finance Initiative
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNGC	United Nations Global Compact
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNHRD	United Nations Humanitarian Response Depot
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNOSDP	United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace
UNSD	United Nations Statistics Division
USA	United States of America
USD	United States Dollar
WCMC	World Conservation Monitoring Centre
WDF	World Data Forum
WEF	World Economic Forum
WFP	World Food Program
WHO	World Health Organization
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature

PART 1

UAE and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
National Stakeholders, Accelerators and Strategic Partners

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Introduction

The UAE is committing to the successful implementation of the global goals by aligning and integrating them within its national policy plans. It also appreciates the importance of adopting a multi-stakeholder community approach to ensure no one is left behind. This is being accomplished by establishing an institutional governance mechanism that ensures cross-sectoral stakeholder engagement.

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

The importance of multilateralism has never been more paramount. Therefore, the UAE strongly supports the urgent call for worldwide action to meet people's basic needs in order to save the planet and build a just and more secure world for future generations. Given this significance, the SDGs have become inseparable from the country's vision and agenda.

National stakeholders play a critical role in accelerating and mobilizing efforts towards the achievement of the SDGs. This is why the theme of Expo 2020 Dubai 'Connecting Minds, Creating the Future' recognizes the collaborative and proactive approach across cultures and regions to generate sustainable solutions, while the subthemes of Opportunity, Mobility and Sustainability have the essence of sustainability advancement and innovation at their core. The exhibition will pave the way for visitors and participants to engage in regional and global discussions about sustainable development, as well as to inspire one another to shape action in the decades ahead.

The United Arab Emirates places strong emphasis on the betterment of people's lives as part of its core policies and global responsibility. Over the last five decades, the nation has established itself as a powerful voice in global dialogues on sustainable development, and as a valued ally in enabling shared and long-term progress. The UAE's long history of philanthropic and humanitarian action gained further momentum with the 2030 Agenda, being one of the first nations to align its domestic and international policies with the SDGs.

Honouring its global commitment, the UAE continued to support the 17 Sustainable Development Goals by distributing a total of AED 29.4 billion (USD 8.0 billion) in foreign assistance in 2019. With more than half of the UAE's foreign assistance in 2019 directly supported three SDGs; SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth (46.5%), SDG 17: Partnership for the Goals (22.3%), and SDG 2: No Poverty (7.7%).

The UAE's pledge to the global agenda has been validated once again in the context of the challenges the pandemic has presented both nationally and internationally. The pandemic has re-iterated that we are all confronting similar problems that can be solved by working together.

The Coronavirus outbreak has put a greater emphasis on the SDGs than ever before, urging all countries to take action to accelerate its implementation. During this global pandemic, the UAE maintained its commitment toward the implementation of the

SDGs nationally and internationally. Through an agile and proactive approach, and in efforts to contain and mitigate the impact of the pandemic, the UAE government allocated flexible budgets and undertook various initiatives to protect the health of citizens and residents and in support of the economic, social, labour, and environmental sectors. While keeping pace with the global changes, the UAE has expanded its priorities, focusing on specific sectors including sustainable and smart agriculture, virtual education, and the usage of smart technology by the working force.

The roadmap to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals is embedded in the innovative and transformative policies, institutions, and regulatory frameworks of governments, private sector, communities, and individuals of any country. Now more than ever, there is a pressing need to highlight creative expansive solutions and smart ideas, as well as to come together for the main purpose of making this world a better place for future generations, full of potential and opportunity while preserving natural resources.

The UAE's Response during COVID
The UAE government exerted unwavering efforts to curb the spread of this virus and mitigate its impact on individuals and society in general. Through the implementation of special emergency measures, the spread of awareness campaigns, and stimulus packages, the UAE endeavoured to support all areas of life to ensure people's safety and wellbeing despite the challenging circumstances.

Several exceptional measures were taken to promote the economy and business sector during the pandemic. In April 2020, the UAE Central Bank injected an amount of AED 7.9 billion in the form of new loans, and AED 15 billion in the private sector during the first quarter of 2020. Such efforts were aimed to support private sector companies, SMEs and individuals to overcome the repercussions of COVID-19 pandemic, due to their vital role in driving the economic growth in the country. National Disinfection Program and Safe Distancing Rules were implemented in all facilities and entities across all Emirates. The UAE government also launched remote work and learning, mental wellness programs, in-kind donations and food support packages for vulnerable people including senior citizens, people of determination, kids and struggling families. In efforts to limit the spread of COVID-19, up to the time of writing, the UAE federal government, carried out more than 50,000,000 million tests through hospitals and specialized healthcare centres and drive-through testing centres to ensure the safety and convenience for individuals across the country, and the continuation of daily life as normally as possible under the circumstances.

The UAE government also highlighted the importance of promoting food security and formed a taskforce to develop the modern agriculture sector and apply technology to meet market demands in a sustainable and innovative approach. Such efforts also extended to other vital sectors including tourism, health, medical aviation, maritime and universities, which transformed into incubators and research centres developing creative ideas into successful applications. Several policies and initiatives were implemented to support the medical sector such as, special support for medical students, medical staff on the first defence line and their families.

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The UAE Golden Jubilee

UAE Vision 2021 was launched by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, at the closing of a Cabinet meeting in 2010. The Vision aimed to make the UAE among the best countries in the world by the Golden Jubilee of the Union. In order to translate the Vision into reality, its pillars have been mapped into six national priorities, which represent the key focus sectors of government action.

The UAE's Golden Jubilee represents a historic milestone in the journey that commenced after the declaration of the UAE's union in 1971. This milestone comes in recognition of the unwavering will and strong determination of our founding fathers and the wise leadership combined with the sincere efforts to make the United Arab Emirates one of the fastest developing countries in the world.

His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE, has declared 2021 as 'The Year 50', in the UAE, as the nation celebrates its milestone Golden Jubilee. 'The Year 50' officially started on April 6, 2021 and lasts until March 31, 2022.

The declaration is paired with the announcement of yearlong initiatives, events, and celebrations that will be governed by the UAE Golden Jubilee Committee. The celebration includes a series of initiatives to behold the UAE's admired history, honourable values and achievements. These initiatives will help define our future as the nation is heading toward its Centennial 2071. The UAE aspires to uphold its commitment to building its future by investing in future generations, through equipping them with the skills and knowledge needed to face rapid changes and to make the UAE the best country in the world by the next 50 years.

The 50th Year is an opportunity to contemplate and appreciate the achievements made over the past 50 years at a time we are gearing up for the next journey. The Golden Jubilee is only the starting point for the quantum leaps and marvels envisioned for making the UAE the best country in the world by its 100th anniversary, relying on the strong foundations laid down by our founding fathers and the major accomplishments that we have achieved over the past decades.

Institutional Governance to Localize and Implement the SDGs

An effective implementation of the goals requires the active engagement and participation of all stakeholders. Collaborative and collective effort between government, private sector, academia, youth and civil society is necessary to achieve the SDGs by 2030.

The United Arab Emirates is dedicated to strengthening its commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by continuously achieving ambitious milestones in its journey towards 2030 and all the way to the centennial in 2071.

The successful implementation of the 17 goals depends on various aspects. Two of which are how well governments can reconcile the goals to their own national priorities and more importantly, how governments and society can work in partnership with their local and international stakeholders in their journey towards sustainable development. The UAE's efforts to successfully implement the 17 goals, reflect these factors.

In order to translate the SDG's into quantifiable action and to circumvent constraints, the UAE recognizes the importance of formulating an ongoing framework that encompasses policy, partnerships, initiatives, and engagement.

This chapter will highlight key national stakeholders, partners and accelerators that support relentlessly the UAE's journey towards achieving and implementing the 17 SDGs.
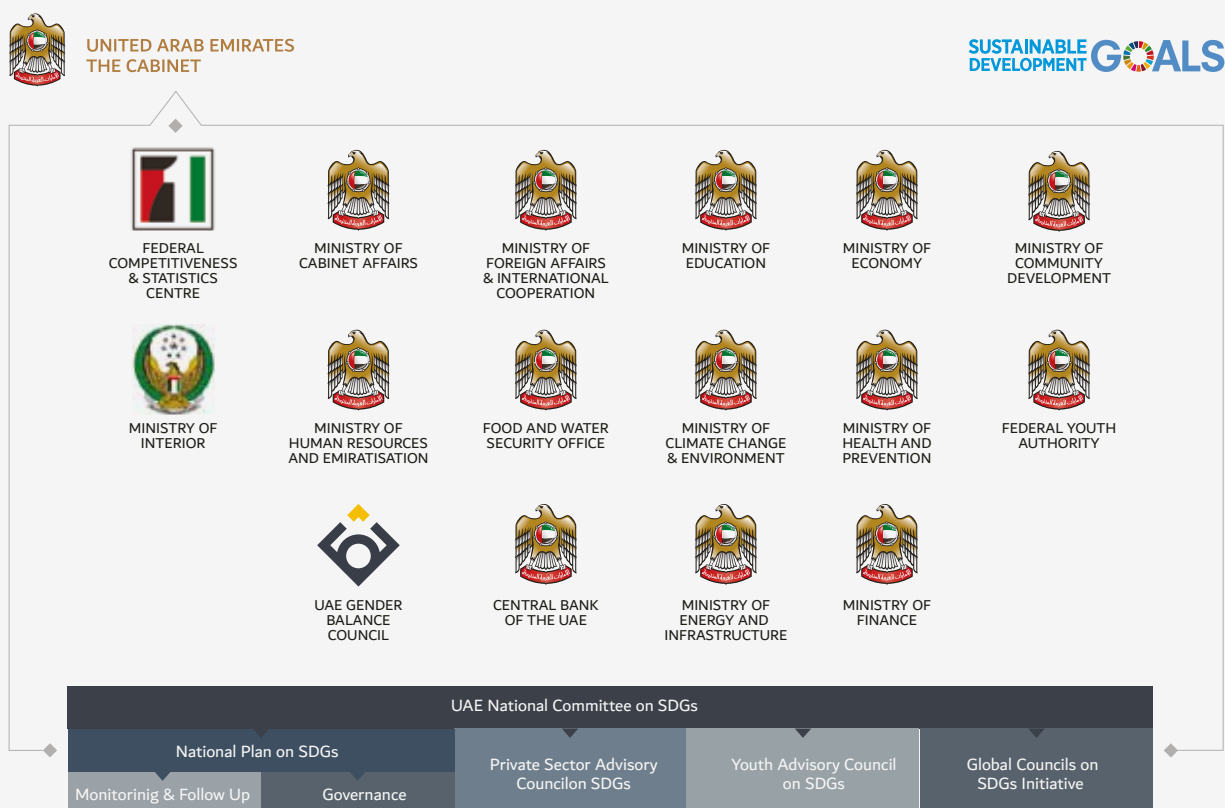

Figure 1: UAE National Committee on SDGs and a snapshot of its mandate

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Foreign Aid: The UAE - a Global Contributor to the SDGs

UAE foreign assistance

in 2019

amounted to

AED **29.4** billion

(6.77 billion USD)

Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

The largest portion of aid was distributed towards the following goals

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH **47%**

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS **22%**

2 ZERO HUNGER **8%**

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE **6%**

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES **4%**

The remaining foreign aid was directed towards supporting the other SDGs

Figure 2: UAE Foreign Assistance in 2019

Over the past six years, the UAE established itself as a powerful global player in the implementation of the SDGs. In 2019, the UAE foreign assistance reached 29.4 billion AED with 47% of the aid dedicated to the global implementation of SDG 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth, 22% dedicated to SDG17 Partnership for the Goals.

Moreover, to ensure platforms that foster global dialogue for the implementation of the SDGs exist, the UAE government gathers global leaders and policy makers annually at the SDGs in Action event launched at the World Government Summit (WGS). The side event established in 2016 addresses the various hurdles faced by countries working towards the global goals to capture possible solutions. In 2018, the Global Councils on SDGs initiative was launched to foster new partnerships between countries, organizations, and sustainable development advocates to form a unique interdisciplinary network of decision makers to work on implementing global sustainability projects during the Council's two-year term.

The UAE Foreign assistance during the Global Pandemic

During the global pandemic, the UAE was recognized by the World Health Organization (WHO) as a country that goes beyond expectation in supporting the global society. During 2020, more than 1,736 tonnes of food and medical supplies were sent to 128 countries worldwide to support other nations during the pandemic.

128 COUNTRIES
BENEFITED FROM UAE AID.

181
NUMBER OF
MEDICAL FLIGHTS.

1,736 TONS OF
MEDICAL SUPPLIES
INCLUDING:
• 4.03 MILLION POLYMERASE CHAIN
  REACTION (PCR) TESTING KITS.
• 1,960 VENTILATORS.

2 WFP FIELD
HOSPITALS
TRANSPORTED BY THE UAE
FROM NORWAY AND BELGIUM
TO GHANA AND ETHIOPIA.

USD **10** MILLION IN-KIND
AID TO THE WHO.

1.74 MILLION
DIRECT BENEFICIARIES
OF HEALTH WORKERS.

100+ COUNTRIES
RECEIVED AID
FROM THE INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS' WAREHOUSES IN
DUBAI'S INTERNATIONAL
HUMANITARIAN CITY (IHC).

80%
OF THE PROVIDED
INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE
TO THE AFFECTED COUNTRIES
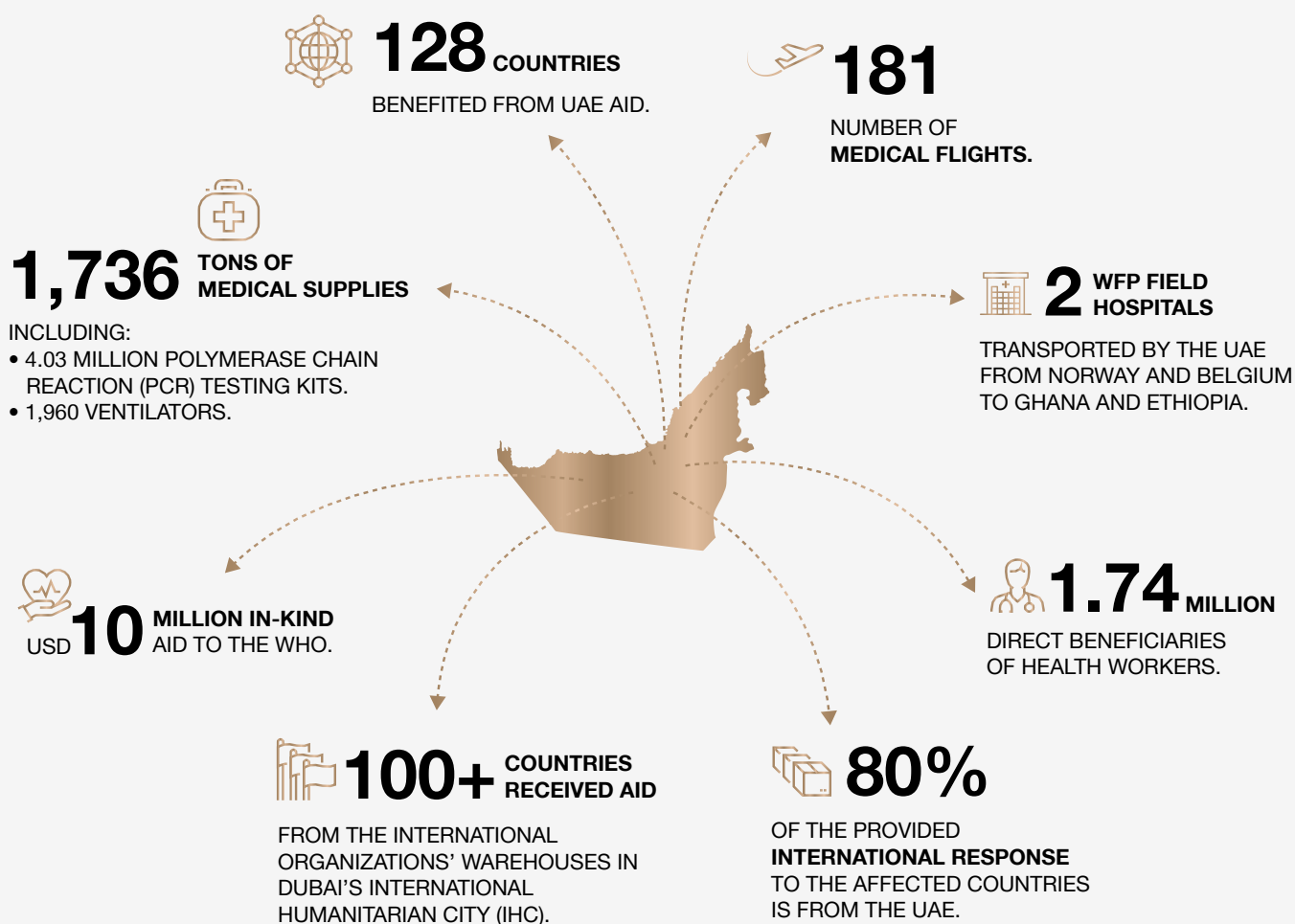IS FROM THE UAE.

Figure 3 UAE COVID-19 Pandemic Global Contribution as of 30th Dec 2020

The UAE National Committee on SDGs

Meeting of the UAE National Committee on SDGs and their representatives launching the SDG annual report

On a federal level, the UAE National Committee on SDGs was established in 2017 with the membership of 16 federal entities chaired by her Excellency Reem bint Ebrahim Al Hashimy, Minister of State for International Cooperation. The committee facilitates the alignment of the SDGs with government plans and undertakes regular follow-ups and progress reviews on implementation. Since the adoption of the SDGs in 2015, the international community has repeatedly iterated that enhancing the statistical capabilities of National Statistics Offices (NSOs) worldwide should be a top priority in order to support the achievement of the SDGs. Ultimately, it is only what 'gets measured, that can be managed'.

The National Committee has a mandate to engage with relevant local and international stakeholders to promote the SDGs, align the SDGs with UAE's national development priorities, UAE Vision 2021. The Committee should also monitor and report on the indicators in accordance with the UAE's statistical capacity, and undertake regular follow up and review on implementation. In 2017, the Committee focused on creating the strategies necessary for the implementation of the 17 goals as well as engaging local and international stakeholders. Examples of strategies developed during 2017 include a national SDG operational strategy to kick start reporting and monitoring of data related to the SDGs, and a communication strategy to engage local stakeholders and raise awareness on the SDGs in the UAE. Members of the Committee worked together to prepare for the annual SDG Excellence in Implementation event which brought together local and international stakeholders to learn about the main initiatives that support the 17 goals.

The UAE's Private Sector Advisory Council on SDGs

Members of the Private Sector Advisory Council on SDGs and the participants in the SDG workshop focused on SDG 5

With trillions of dollars a year required over the next decade, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development requires a significant scaling in resource mobilization and collective efforts to materialize the promises of Heads of States on sustainability. The 2030 Agenda acknowledges the role of the private sector in the implementation of the agenda and calls for businesses to apply their creativity and innovation to solve sustainable development challenges. As such, the SDGs symbolize an important change in thinking by calling for an unparalleled level of collaboration and partnership among societal actors for their achievement, especially with the private sector.

For that reason, in 2018, SDGs NC launched the Private Sector Advisory Council on SDGs (PSAC) as the National Committee on SDGs' official platform to engage with UAE's biggest companies across different industries on the implementation of the SDGs. On an annual basis, the council advises the National Committee on different policy areas affecting business within the UAE.

In 2019, The National Committee on SDGs in collaboration of FCSC and the UAE Gender Balance Council organized a first of its kind workshop with the objective to identify ways to strengthen the private sector engagement and drive forward the implementation of SDG 5 (Gender Equality) in the UAE. The businesses' recommendations served as the basis for smaller discussions on different policy priority areas to support the creation of an enabling environment for women to thrive professionally and personally in the UAE. In 2020, following the policy recommendations, the UAE's federal labour law was amended. The UAE became the first Arab country to introduce parental leave and subsequently increased paternity leave to five (5) days.

FCSC: The Role of Data in the SDGs Journey

The Open Data Race: Open data for a better World

His Excellency Omar bin Sultan Al Olama Minister of State for Artificial Intelligence, Digital Economy and Remote Working Applications during the awarding ceremony of the Open Data Race.

A data ecosystem is fundamental in the successful realization of the SDGs. To foster transparency, economic growth and improve efficiency and effectiveness, an unprecedented amount of data is necessary to monitor and incentivize the advancement of these goals.

With the aim to achieve data transparency and efficiency, FCSC encouraged action through interactive and engaging workshops on open data for the statistical community. With the support of the Open Data watch team, FCSC hosted a nationwide competition to engage 13 government entities and 60+ experts of data management in the government. This tailored federal government race called 'Open Data Race', which was aligned with the Open Data Inventory Report (ODIN)

methodology. The race encouraged these entities to publish more data and share their open data with FCSC.

This initiative led to the quantum improvement of the UAE's performance in the ODIN report ranking with more than 51 jumps to reach 16th globally. The goal delivered a well-rounded supporting ecosystem, and adoption of best practices in metadata and disaggregation. The race supported the UAE government by connecting stakeholders on a different playing field through streamlining collaborations and knowledge sharing. Focus areas included health, education, national accounts, finance, economy, labour, crime, and environment.

Federal Youth Authority: The role of youth in the fulfilment of the SDGs

المؤسسـة الاتحاديـة للشبـاب
FEDERAL YOUTH AUTHORITY

Youth under the age of 35 make up 59% of the world's population, 65% of the MENA region, and 48% in the UAE. As the largest segment of the population inheriting our world and the SDGs, the UAE is committed to involving youth in its strategy and ongoing efforts in achieving the 2030 Agenda. The Federal Youth Authority (FYA) recognizes that young people are the true drivers of change, it is important to allow youth to steer us towards a more sustainable world. Youth represent the richest resource any country can have with great potential to accelerate the progress toward the goals.

The modus operandi of FYA is founded on three strategic pillars on which all policies, programs and platforms are built:

1. Shaping and nurturing youth character, through instilling strong values, raising awareness and equipping them with skills, capabilities and competencies.
2. Creating a productive world-class ecosystem that enables and accelerates positive youth outcomes, with physical spaces and platforms, and through policies.
3. Activating and maximizing the youth's meaningful participation and contribution in local, national, regional and international platforms.

Moreover, to ensure the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, the FYA aligns its strategic objectives with the sustainable development goals. Among the successful initiatives and policies launched by the FYA recently, are the Emirates Youth Professional School, Emirates Youth Mental Health Initiative, and Youth Board of Directors Policy.

Emirates Youth Professional School
The Emirates Youth Professional School provides professional courses and full-length programs in various sectors through crowdsourcing instructors, teachers, experts and professionals in the UAE in an uber-like model.

The School is also an avenue for youth to

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> Our path towards achieving the SDGs will only be possible through a true and meaningful partnership with youth.

Her Excellency
Shamma bint Suhail bin Faris Al Mazrui
Minister of State for Youth

continuously invest in their professional and personal development and hone their skills to remain competitive in today's evolving, global job market. Such programs contribute to the achievement of SDG 4 (Quality Education) and SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth).

Emirates Youth Mental Health Initiative
The Emirates Youth Mental Health Initiative is aimed at understanding the customs and practices in the UAE's culture and heritage that promote mental wellbeing, and educating young people about the importance of caring for their mental health. This initiative is also an important part of SDG 3 (Good Health and Wellbeing), and integral to motivating the UAE youth to contribute to the fulfilment of this goal.

As part of the initiative, the FYA published the Youth Mental Health Practices Guide, which was developed following a campaign launched on World Mental Health Day inviting all youth in the UAE to share their daily habits and practices

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
MINISTRY OF CULTURE & YOUTH

الإمارات العربية المتحدة
وزارة الثقافة والشباب

المؤسسة الاتحادية للشباب
FEDERAL YOUTH AUTHORITY

Youth Mental Health Practices Guide

to enhance their mental health. The guide, aims at encouraging all youth to prioritize their mental wellbeing and embed it in their daily routines.

Youth Board of Directors Policy
In June 2019, the UAE Cabinet adopted a decision to ensure the voice and views of youth shape government work by making it mandatory for federal government entities to reserve a chair for at least one Emirati under the age of 30 in their respective boards. This initiative supports the implementation of SDG 17 Partnerships for the Goals by allowing the UAE youth to be part of the decision-making process, hearing their voice and collaborating successfully with them.

An E-portal was launched for those interested to become a board member, and in February 2020, the Cabinet selected 33 young Emiratis as board members in key federal entities. The policy aims to engage youth in government work and key decision-making, while bringing new perspectives and ideas to these boards.

Arab Youth Strategy
The Federal Youth Authority in the United Arab Emirates follows a unique strategy in managing the Arab Youth file that distinguishes it from the rest of the countries in the region. According to independent studies, the UAE has topped the list of "Favourite Destination" for youth in general, and for Arab youth in particular. This status is further solidified by the advanced model of coexistence and tolerance the UAE offers, especially by welcoming more than 200 nationalities.

Additionally, the Authority works on exporting and spreading its framework. It focuses on capacity building, skills development, talent exploration, engagement and youth empowerment with the help of the Arab Youth Centre – the sister institute of the Authority headed by His Highness Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Presidential Affairs. The Authority works alongside the centre on multiple programs directed towards investing in Arab youth in the fields of development and empowerment in order to achieve prosperity and progress in the Arab region in general.

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World Government Summit (WGS)
SDGs in Action event

Her Excellency Amina J. Mohammed, the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations during the opening of WGS SDGs in Action event 2019.

The WGS is an annual platform dedicated to exploring the future of government driven by technological advances and evolving citizen expectations, held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Its 'SDGs in Action' track - organized in partnership with UNESCO, UNDP, UNEP, UN DESA, the World Bank, OECD and the UN Foundation, among others - focuses on government actions to achieve the SDGs.

About the Global Councils on SDGs

The Chairs of the Global Councils on SDGs initiative with the president of the Global Councils on SDGs initiative her Excellency Reem bint Ebrahim Al Hashimy.

The Global Councils on Sustainable Development Goals is a unique interdisciplinary network of decision makers from governments, international organizations, academia and the private sector. The councils convened over the last two years to share innovative practices and discuss the creative implementation of the SDGs at the national and global level. The Councils were launched at the SDGs in Action at the World Government Summit (WGS) in February 2018 as a cross collaborative project between the FCSC and the UAE Prime Minister's Office (PMO) to further integrate their findings into the United Nations and other global fora on SDGs.

The mission of the Councils are as follows:
a) Identify factors, which are inhibiting progress towards particular SDG.

b) Find solutions to issues identified and develop a plan for the implementation of successful policies, programs, technologies and/or innovative mechanisms to resolve the issues;
c) Build a framework for knowledge sharing amongst multiple stakeholders, within and between countries, that will catalyse the Councils' vision of sustainability well into the future.

The end of the first term of the Global Councils on SDGs was celebrated at the World Government Summit - SDGs in Action virtual event under the theme 'SDGs Global Councils: Preparing for the Decade of Action' reffarning to the footnote below.

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[3] Watch the full closing ceremony "SDGs Global Councils: Preparing for the Decade of Action": https://bit.ly/SDGsinAction2020

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Global Councils on the SDGs:
Success Stories 2018-2020 Term

1 NO POVERTY

Global Council on SDG 1

About the initiative:

Under the topic of 'End Extreme Poverty', the Global Council on SDG 1 initiative aimed to support the global efforts to achieve the UN's SDG 1 by 2030

Why is the initiative important?

This initiative offered an innovative global platform conducive to exchanging ideas and experiences to help identify best practices and policies that could provide a menu of pragmatic options for countries to implement within their local contexts.

Outcomes:

The Council provided updates on the state of poverty and extreme poverty globally, regionally, and the national level. The Council further worked on proposing policies and measures for government and development partners to deal with extreme poverty, whilst determining the interlinkages between SDG 1 and the rest of the goals.

Dr Mahmoud Mohieldin, UN Special Envoy on Financing 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, has chaired the Global Council on SDG 1.

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3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Global Council on SDG 3

About the initiative:

'Health In Your Hands' (HIYH)[2] is a multi-stakeholder initiative dedicated to enabling the delivery of accessible, affordable and sustainable health solutions to 'those left furthest behind' through a platform which showcases health outcomes-focused innovations world-wide, and which places health technologies, tools and access to finance directly in the hands of individuals working at the frontlines and to communities in remote settings. The HIYH initiative follows the WHO definition of holistic health which includes both physical and mental health.

Why is the Global Council on SDG 3 (GC SDG 3) initiative important?

The main aim of the HIYH initiative is to assist in strengthening countries' health ecosystems to promote good health and well-being outcomes, consistent with achieving the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the United Nations Political Declaration on Universal Health Coverage, the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and the Astana Declaration on Primary Health Care.

In the GC SDG 3 first term, HIYH vetted 1,500 solutions and selected fifty (50) game-changing innovations and service delivery models across geographies and environments, meeting criteria to deliver needed health prevention and treatment services to underserved, at-risk, and marginalized communities, with potential for replicability, scalability, capacity-building, and sustainability.

The initiative is particularly highly relevant in these current times of the COVID-19 pandemic when the fragile health systems and health infrastructure of many countries have been exposed. Importantly, HIYH is a unique platform for accelerating partnerships across sectors by leveraging innovative approaches and supporting financing mechanisms through a nexus model for creating impact.

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[4] Health In Your Hands: https://www.healthinyourhands.co/

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Outcomes:

Visibility: The HIYH initiative was adopted as the signature project of the GC SDG 3. The initiative has been visible in important global fora, including at events during the UN Science Technology and Innovation Forum 2017 after winning an 'SDGs in Action' award, the UN General Assembly 2019, the Health Innovations Exchange launch at the World Health Assembly 2019, a blog post for the World Economic Forum during the UHC High Level Meeting 2019, the High-level Political Forum 2020, as well as a webinar hosted by the United African Congress in 2020.

Thought Leadership: As of now, and going forward, HIYH significantly contributes to achieving SDG 3 and interconnected SDGs by supporting health innovations and SDG-targeted interventions on the platform. The initiative and the innovations on the platform serve as a model for other innovations about achieving Universal Health Coverage and SDG 3, and showcasing the nexus model for the Global Councils on SDGs.

Partnerships: Multistakeholder partnerships are encouraged through collaborations with government, civil society, academia and others in the spirit of SDG 17, and the model through which SDG 3 and the entire SDG Agenda can be advanced and achieved. HIYH innovations promote localisation by allowing countries to adapt and contextualise efforts to meet local needs and cultural contexts.

Sustainability: The initiative actively explores pathways to harness innovative financing approaches and instruments to unlock new markets and resources for access to quality health solutions and achieve UHC, such as through collaboration with the Global Council on SDGs Finance Cluster in the Sustainability Phase of the next Global Council term, to increase access to capital and funds required to implement and scale the solutions.

Solutions Repository: The innovations convey a body of knowledge about how to bring about successful outcomes in health, particularly for those left furthest behind in low resource and conflict settings, and highlights the critical role of community health workers. Also, HIYH complements other existing collaborative platforms such as the Health Innovation Exchange and UHC 2030.

Dr Judy Kuriansky, Main NGO Representative to the United Nations, International Association of Applied Psychology and Professor, Columbia University Teachers College, has chaired the Global Council on SDG 3 (photo).

Dr Shariha Khalid Erichsen, Founding Partner at Mission & Co, served as Council Co-Chair. The Council's innovative initiative was to ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages, through the 'Health in Your Hands' platform.

4 QUALITY EDUCATION

Global Council
on SDG 4

About the initiative:

Dubai Cares established a solid connection with the Government of Paraguay during the World Government Summit upon which it was agreed that Dubai Cares would provide funding to support the country's ongoing investment in the development of its digital learning platform infrastructure. However, Dubai Cares, recognizing the central role of teacher training, emphasized the need for an e-platform for teacher training to be built into the system in alignment with the objectives of the Global Council on SDG4. After one year and a half of program design, the program was officially launched in November 2020 as an e-platform for teacher training called META (Medio Educativo Tecnologico para el Aprendizaje, Technology-based Educational Medium for Learning) as part of the Educate, Learn and Innovate through an E-platform (ELITE) Program: Pilot Project in Paraguay.

The objective of the project is to foster learning among children from primary and secondary schools, and support teachers' professional development through the access to an educational portal, META, designed to provide resources and methodologies for teachers and students, and create online communities to support the teaching-learning process. META offers equitable and free access to its digital content which is culturally responsive, inclusive of the indigenous community, children with disabilities and Guaraní speakers with the goal of reaching 50,000 children, 9000 teachers and 118,000 indirect beneficiaries. It aims to be an important support for the Ministry of Education and Sciences and the whole educational community with its cutting-edge educational content in a variety of formats, such as: texts, animations, videos, games, workshops and courses. META will contribute to lifelong learning by promoting the development of self-directed learners who are inspired to learn through the content, workshop, courses and mostly through the community and networks. The content will be enriched through strategic alliances with existent portals and platforms and contents from other local NGOs that work in the education sector.

Why is the initiative important?

1. **Relevance and alignment with Paraguay´s educational and technological policies** such as the National Educational Plan 2024 or the Digital Agenda, led by the Ministry of Information and Communication Technologies (MITIC).

2. **Alignment with SDG4** especially with regards to an inclusive and equitable education, quality education, lifelong learning.

3. **Digital citizenship and 21st century skills** for its users to become thoughtful, empathetic digital citizens who can wrestle with the important ethical questions at the intersection of technology and humanity.

4. **Response to the COVID-19 implications** by offering a unique opportunity for a large population to access educational resources, teaching and online courses for teachers and children.

Outcomes:

In spite of the challenges of the global pandemic the portal remained accessible with a virtual library offering 1500 books and a developing online community. Several teacher preparation workshops are being held in the lead to the official launch of META in February 2021. The first workshops were held in Caacupé city with 46 teachers and the second in Yuty with 95 teachers - at the time of writing, approximately 300 teachers are participating in ongoing workshops across various cities.

Irina Bokova, former Director General of UNESCO, has chaired the Global Council on SDG 4 (photo).

His Excellency **Dr Tariq Al Gurg**, Chief Executive Officer and Vice-Chairman of Dubai Cares and Member of its Board of Directors, co-chaired the council.

5 GENDER EQUALITY

Global Council
on SDG 5

Global Best Practices for Gender Balance Toolkit

About the initiative:

The 'Global Best Practices for Gender Balance Toolkit' is a global, web-based, and open-access tool profiling successful gender balance policy, legislation, and initiatives in core areas. Upon launch, the Toolkit will a) spread best practices developed by countries and organizations that have successfully advanced gender balance and, b) support additional entities to make sustainable change to strengthen gender balance. The UAE Gender Balance Council and the Global Council for Sustainable Development Goal 5 (Gender Equality) are producing the Toolkit in collaboration with the OECD (also an SDG 5 Global Council member).

The Toolkit aims to:

1. Increase knowledge on how to strengthen a multi-dimensional empowerment of women combining legal, political and economic empowerment to ensure access to decision-making;
2. Serve as a practical resource, which is implementable across a variety of contexts and will be a 'living' document (i.e. leverage technology);
3. Leverage the expertise of SDG 5 Global Council members and spread knowledge across nations to advance gender balance;
4. Provide flexible solutions to facilitate increasing gender balance, depending on country need;
5. Facilitate cross-country and cross-organizational knowledge sharing and best practices in gender balance.

Why is the initiative important?

Gender equality continues to be a key area of focus for governments, private sector organizations, and international organizations. Efforts have been taken to ensure women are supported, motivated, and empowered to enter and govern spaces that have historically not been accessible to them. However, creating this environment requires concerted effort and investment, and long-term support in implementation and monitoring. Many countries and organizations do not have the full breadth of supports needed to advance gender equality in a meaningful way. This resource provides tested policy ideas that can rapidly implement to strengthen meaningful gender balance within various jurisdictions.

5 GENDER EQUALITY

Outcomes:

Global & Knowledge Impact
The Toolkit will be a definitive policy resource on gender balance for countries, organizations, and researchers.

Gender Balance Impact
The Toolkit will support entities to implement new policies which will ensure increased security for women, and an increase in women's participation, retention, and leadership in the economic and political spheres.

Implementing Nation(s) Impact
Can use policies from Toolkit to initiate gender balance, and then through monitoring/ evaluation can adapt and design further policies to suit their unique context; leveraging this Toolkit will serve as a stepping stone to more robust gender balance.

The Toolkit will be available in Summer 2021, and will be hosted on the UAE Gender Balance Council website. Do you want a reminder to download the Toolkit? Send an email to info@gbc.gov.ae and for more information please visit www.gbc.gov.ae

Her Excellency Mona Al Marri, Vice President, UAE Gender Balance Council, chairs the Global Council on SDG 5. This Council has developed a Global Best Practices in Gender Balance Toolkit.

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

Global Council
on SDG 7

About the initiative:

The SDG 7 Global Council worked on an initiative to support critical dimensions of the ongoing energy transformation to advance sustainable livelihoods, self-reliance and equitable access for all by empowering relevant stakeholders to achieve tangible progress.

Why is the initiative important?

Ensuring access to affordable, reliable and modern energy for all has come one-step closer due to recent progress in electrification, particularly in Least Developed Countries', and improvements in industrial energy efficiency. However, the share of renewables in final energy consumption increased modestly, from 17.3% in 2014 to 17.5% in 2015.

Outcomes:

The Global Council sought to be a catalyst for mobilizing action among key decision makers and highlighted the case for renewable energy solutions through case studies and best practices.

Dr Adnan Amin Senior Fellow, Harvard Kennedy School of Government, Director General Emeritus of IRENA, has chaired the Global Council on SDG 7. The council initiative was to support the critical dimension of energy.

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

Global Council on SDG 8

About the initiative:

The work of the Council focused on the opportunities of job creation that could be provided for young people through the technological transformation and the rise of new tech-based solutions. With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Council shifted its focus towards the impact of COVID-19 on young people and jobs, as well as on the use of technological solutions that can be applied to overcome the constraints imposed by the pandemic.

Why is the initiative important?

There are approximately 1.3 billion young people between the ages of 15 and 24. Their transition into the labour market has long-term impacts on their lives as well as the socio-economic development of their countries. It is, thus, essential to understand their pathways into the world of work and how they are engaging – or not, as the case may be – in employment.

The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted every aspect of our lives and the impact of the pandemic on young people to be systematic, deep and disproportionate. Even before the onset of the crisis, the social and economic integration of young people was an ongoing challenge. Now, unless urgent and well-designed action is taken, young people are likely to suffer severe and long-lasting negative effects.

Outcomes:

The Council's work laid out foundations for concrete technology-based solutions that can play an important role in the design of response policies that are urgently needed to protect a whole generation of young people from having their employment prospects permanently scarred by the crisis. This includes focus on re-integrating into the labour market those who have lost their jobs or who have experienced a reduction in working hours, ensuring youth access to unemployment insurance benefits, and measures to boost their mental health.

Moussa Oumarou, Deputy Director General at the International Labour Organization, has chaired the Global Council on SDG 8. The council initiative was to focus on opportunities of job creation for the young, however, the council has shifted its focus towards the impact of COVID-19 on young people and jobs.

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

Global Council
on SDG 11

About the initiative:

The SDG11 Global Council's mission was to formulate pragmatic multi-stakeholder, widely applicable SDG11 solutions for cities, and to implement a selection of pilot initiatives. The council strived to find innovative solutions for SDG11 implementation. The aim was to provide actionable insights, propose policies, develop technological solutions, and mobilize resources to drive progress towards the goal.

Why is the initiative important?

Many cities around the world are facing acute challenges in managing rapid urbanization— from ensuring adequate housing and infrastructure to support growing populations, to confronting the environmental impact of urban sprawl, to reducing vulnerability to disasters. Source: The SDG Report 2018, UN Statistics Division.

Outcomes:

- SDG11 High Level Implementation Framework.
- SDG11 City Twinning Program - A program launched with the United For Smart Sustainable Cities (U4SSC), to twin cities from across the globe to share best practices on a specific SDG11 related topic.
- SDG11 Solutions Repository - Public platform, launched in partnership with the New Urban Agenda of UN Habitat, to share best practices for implementing solutions specific to indicators under SDG 11.
- SDG11 City Insights Report (working progress) - report bringing experiences of cities with COVID-19, and the role of urban development, sustainable cities and communities, and digitization in mitigating the impact of such a pandemic.
- SDG11 Financelerator (Working Progress) - An accelerator program matching demand and supply for financing of SDG 11 projects.

For more information, please visit http://sdg11gc.com

Dr Aisha Bin Bishr, Former Founding Director General of Smart Dubai have chaired the Global Council on SDG 11. The council worked towards formulating a pragmatic multi-stakeholder engagement platform to enable smart- and sustainable cities, globally.

13 CLIMATE ACTION

Global Council on SDG 13

About the initiative:

The SDG 13 Global Council worked on to developing innovative solutions, forge new partnerships to support greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction efforts around the world and enhance climate resilience, and promote adaptation efforts, especially in countries that are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

The below pledges has been identified to roll out the initiative;
a) Government leaders pledging to involve their local youth constituency in the decision-making and climate action, and to include them in the SDG Global Council discussions.
b) Private sector and academia representatives jointly organizing series of masterclasses dedicated to build capacity of youth around the world.
c) Providing mentorship opportunities and a platform for international youth to learn from each other.
d) In addition, to continuously raise awareness.

Why is the initiative important?

The year 2017 was one of the three warmest on record and was 1.1 degrees Celsius above the pre-industrial period. An analysis by the World Meteorological Organization shows that the five-year average global temperature from 2013 to 2017 was also the highest on record. The world continues to experience rising sea levels, extreme weather conditions and increasing concentrations of greenhouse gases. Source: The SDG Report 2018, UN Statistics Division.

Youth constitute the majority of the population in many countries and have an increasingly strong social and environmental awareness, which has the power to transform our societies towards a sustainable and climate resilient future. To this end, the members of the SDG13 GC pledged to engage youth in their decision-making.

Outcomes:

Engagement of youth in climate related initiatives, meetings, and policy and strategy development.

His Excellency Dr Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, Minister of State for Foreign Trade (in his capacity as former Minister of Climate Change and Environment, UAE), chaired the Global Council on SDG 13. The council worked on developing innovate solutions in support to Greenhouse Gas emissions.

Global Council on SDG 16

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

Peace First

About the initiative

Two year ago (2018), the Global Council on SDG 16 posed an interesting, yet powerful question. What ideas do young people (ages 13 to 25) have to build a more peaceful world and the accompanying institutions to support it? The council had Peace First, a digital youth engagement platform with 3,000 on-the-ground partners spanning the global. Peace First empowers young people ages 13-25 to create a just and peaceful world by providing digital tools, community support, start-up funding, and stories that celebrate their journeys and impact.

Why is the initiative important?

While the innovation and ingenuity of the youth have been extraordinary, they need more investment and more people need to hear about their work.

Global conferences continue to feature adult 'experts' missing the wisdom and lived experience these young innovators bring. Youth report real struggles to be taken seriously by adult gatekeepers. Even more report a lack of resources and access to mentorship and funding.

The initiative support youth to develop, and support the implementation of the global goals, globally.

Outcomes

The initiative had over 17,000 youth from over 150 countries involved. These young people have launched over 7,000 projects, tackling everything from social inclusion in Kenya, to improved birth records in Tanzania, to political participation in Scotland, to combating sex trafficking in South America.

Not only have these projects had real, tangible impacts on their community, participation has had an impact on the youth involved. Through a Harvard-designed impact evaluation, the council have found youth participants:
a) More likely to see themselves as community problems-solvers;
b) More likely to build relationships across lines of difference (sectarian, political, geographic);
c) Over five times more likely to be involved in their community in a meaningful way.
For more information, please visit https://www.peacefirst.org/
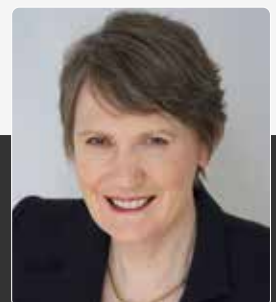
Rt Honourable Helen Clark, Former Prime Minister of New Zealand, and Former Administrator of UNDP, has chaired the Global Council on SDG 16. The Council had a two-fold approach;

Global Council on SDG 16

Leadership4SDGs

About the initiative

The SDGs can only be realised by impact driven leadership. The Leadership4SDGs work helps governments around the world improve the delivery of their Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) using unique, peer-led leadership development programs.

Why is the initiative important?

In-depth transformation to achieve the SDGs requires systemic change. Systemic change requires able and committed leadership and institutions that have the capacities to implement policies.

Outcomes

COVID-19 only reinforced and underlined the importance of leadership and good governance and targeting groups, disproportionately affected, like women. The pandemic hampered progress because governments are distracted and focused on meeting COVID-19 related challenges. High-level stakeholders agree though on vital importance of taking on systemic problems for success on the SDGs agenda. Networking continues, visibility grows, promising potential 'clients', understanding of importance broadly shared among (former) top leaders, start-up funding not yet secured although commitment secured from PwC to finance a first pilot. Without start-up funding any time soon it will be impossible for Simone to elaborate some key elements and set up a basic organization able to grow the approach and secure a successful pilot.

Leadership4SDGs made progress and supported governments across the world by organizing the United Nations SDGs in Action workshop under the auspices 'Let's build the Job Profile of a 21st Century Leader', led high-level discussions in the presence of Presidents and Vice-Presidents, to participating in global events such as the Annual Investment Meeting Dubai.

Additionally, Leadership4SDGs are in talks with the OECD and its global hub on Governance of the SDGs, to explore potential countries to establish and link peer-led leadership development programs.

For more information, please visit https://www.leadership4sdgs.org/

1) **Peace First**, under the supervision of Eric Dawson, Managing Director Peace First, and
2) **Leadership4SDGs**, under the supervision of Simone Filippini, Former Dutch Ambassador to Macedonia, President of Leadership4SDGs, and President of the United Nations Associations for Kingdom of The Netherlands.

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

Global Council on SDG 17

About the initiative:

The SDG 17 Global Council aimed at advancing innovative approaches to implement the SDGs, with a focus on partnerships, SDG governance and policy coherence. This includes governance mechanisms for long-term planning and visioning, coordination mechanisms to account for policy interactions between sectors and levels of government, and the consideration of policy impacts beyond borders.

Why is the initiative important?

With only nine years left until 2030, progress in SDG implementation remains uneven both within and between countries. Goal 17 seeks to strengthen global partnerships to implement all seventeen SDGs by bringing together national governments, the international community, civil society, the private sector and other actors. Intensified collaboration and efforts by all stakeholders is critical for accelerating progress in all areas.

Outcomes:

Greater awareness of the need for strengthened governance practices to enhance countries' capacity to achieve the SDGs, in particular as it relates to partnerships, policy coherence and institutional set-ups.

This has been highlighted by Council members at a number of HLPF Side Events throughout the first term, as well as in the 2019 report Governance as an SDG Accelerator: Country Experiences and Tools. More recently, in light of the ongoing pandemic and in its role as chair of the SDG 17 Council, the OECD prepared and published a policy brief on the role of Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development (PCSD), SDG target 17.14, for ensuring a sustainable recovery. The policy brief Building a coherent response for a sustainable post-19 recovery underlines that responding to the COVID-19 crisis requires mutually supportive and integrated policies across economic, social and environmental objectives to address the deeper nature of the crisis. It suggests that the SDGs can be used as a framework to guide the recovery from the COVID-19 crisis: they were designed precisely to address the underlying causes of vulnerabilities in our society, which the crisis has further exposed. The proposed roadmap can inform and support the work of all Councils at a time when international co-operation is needed more than ever.

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) chaired the Global Council on SDG 17 during its first term.
The Council worked on fostering multi-stakeholder partnerships to advance the implementation of the SDGs, underpinned by evidence and peer-learning across countries and regions of the world.

)))OECD
BETTER POLICIES FOR BETTER LIVES

FINANCING

Global Council on SDGs Finance Cluster

About the initiative:

The council has identified the need for a technology enabled platform of experts mobilizing their knowledge, network and access to public and private financial resources to curate the development, growth and scale-up of impactful projects for global citizens so that they are investable by the private sector and result in reducing the SDG investment gap.

Why is the initiative important?

One of the key issues in achieving the SDGs is project preparation, i.e. making projects investable and bankable.
This means providing expertise that goes beyond financing and adopting a holistic approach:
- For any given project, increasing impacts and creating additional revenue generation, mutualizing costs and creating partnerships in order to deliver a profitable and sustainable business model.
- Tapping into a network of technical, legal, organizational and financial experts for advice, early enough in the development phase so as to optimize business models to maximize bankability and impact.
- Providing financial advisory services to companies' management teams to help them access the appropriate financial tools at each development stage.
- Relying on blended finance mechanisms to optimize the use of public and philanthropic money and unlock access to private funding.

Outcomes:

The council has developed a partnership approach with the SDG3 Council's initiative 'Health in Your Hands (HIYH)' and is building a team of experts to create a 'proof of concept' platform that will support HIYH as well as other initiatives from the other SDG Councils

Marie-Aimee Boury, Head of Impact Based Finance at Societe Generale chaired the Global Council on SDGs Finance Cluster. The council's vision was to identify a technology-enabled platform that mobilizes resources needed to support the development and financing of sustainable investments.

WELLBEING & SDG'S

Global Council on SDGs Wellbeing Cluster

About the initiative:

The council promoted wellbeing as a cross-cutting theme that links all of the SDGs and sustainability in general. The council worked toward educating policy makers on the importance of wellbeing, research on this topic, and applications for implementing it at all levels of policy.

Why is the initiative important?

Wellbeing adds a unique lens to the SDG discussion: it provides a human standard for success in achieving the SDGs, a method for cross-SDG cooperation, and a tool to appeal to those who want to motivate behavioural change

Outcomes:

The Council authored a white paper in which they argue that wellbeing is a theme that provides common ground and cooperation for each of the other SDGs. After discussing wellbeing measurement, the Council present three case studies in which wellbeing is used as a driver of public policy. The first of these is the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act, legislation passed in Wales to create a legal imperative to promote cultural, social, environmental, and economic development in Wales. The next case study focuses on a private-sector example: Illycaffé. This Italian company operates 259 coffee shops and works with more than 1000 points of sale in 140 nations. Notably, they use the SDGs to guide company policy and highlight employee wellbeing. Third, the Council present an education-sector case in Universidad Tecmelenio, a non-profit university with 29 campuses in México. The university encourages students to engage in positive action projects ranging from tree planting to fundraising for disaster relief to assisting indigenous communities. Finally, the Council highlight the regional government of South Australia and its program to educate 14 thousand citizens in wellbeing.

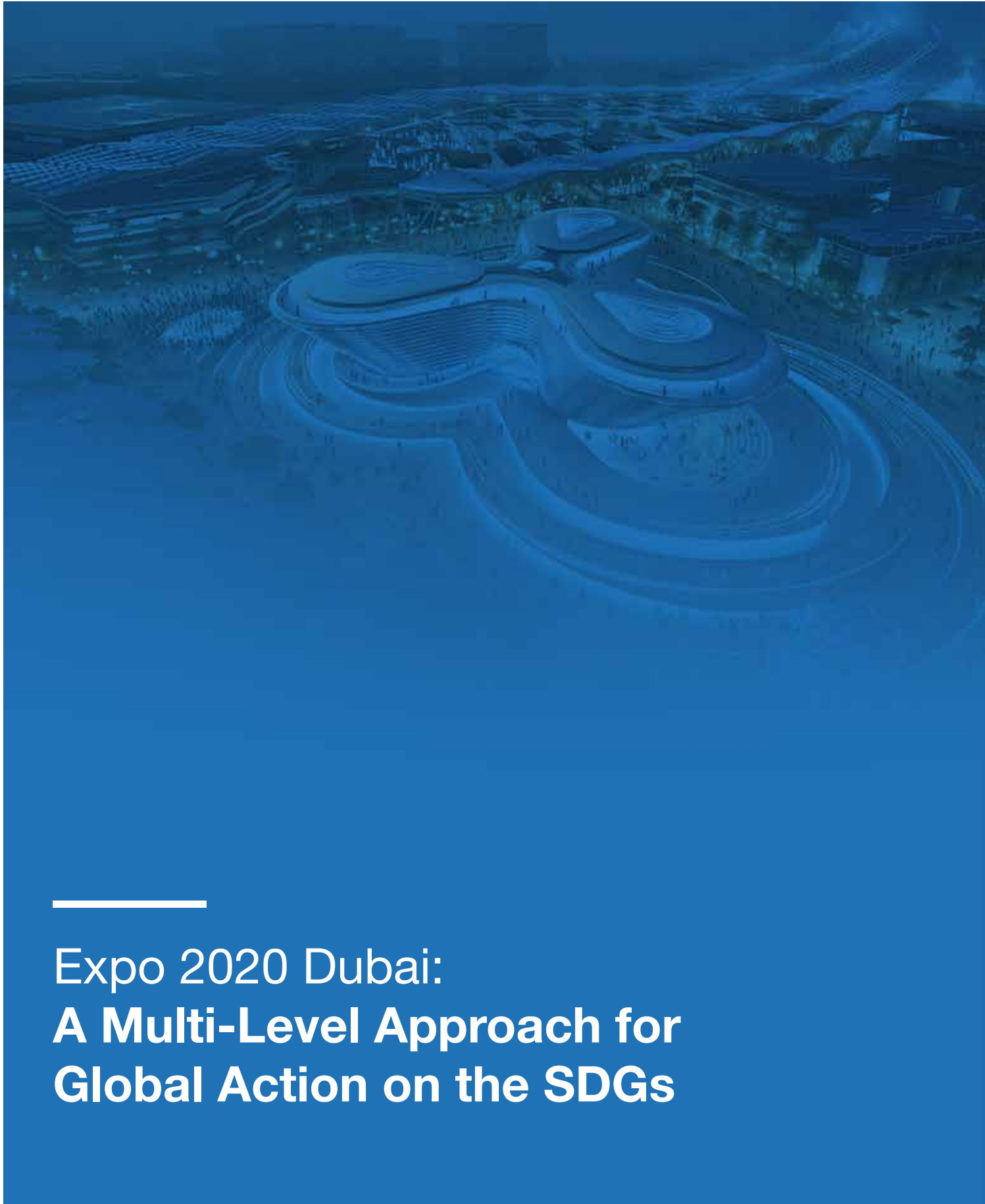For more information, please visit:
https://robertdiener.com/policy/

Dr Robert Biswas-Diener, Managing Director, Positive Acorn, Portland, chaired the Global Council on SDGs Wellbeing Cluster. The council has worked on a white paper to promote wellbeing and link SDGs and sustainability in general.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2020

Expo 2020 Dubai:
A Multi-Level Approach for Global Action on the SDGs

Expo 2020 Dubai: A Multi-Level Approach for Global Action on the SDGs

Expo 2020 Dubai, a six-month event that will converge the most diverse and comprehensive group of stakeholders of any World Expo, has placed the Sustainable Development Goals at the heart of its purpose and activities. Expo 2020 Dubai contributes to the SDGs in three distinct ways: (1) at the operational level, through its infrastructure and business operations; (2) at the programmatic level, through collaborative initiatives that spotlight and fund solutions to global challenges; and (3) at the experiential level, through exhibitions and events designed to empower millions of visitors with the knowledge and inspiration to make small but powerful contributions to the SDGs in their own communities.

As part of its broader efforts to advance the SDGs, Expo 2020 Dubai has woven thirteen out of the seventeen SDG goals directly into its operational DNA. Such examples include, hiring and contracting practices that promote gender equality (SDG 5: Gender Equality) and local development (SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth). The adoption of, waste management policies resulted in recycling or re-using 80% of Expo-generated waste in 2019 and a cumulative diversion rate of 92% since the start of the programme (SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production). Additionally a sustainable construction strategy is expected to lower Expo 2020 Dubai total carbon impact by 7% from the business-as-usual scenario (SDG 13: Climate Action). Expo 2020 Dubai has built an inclusive environment for employees and visitors of determination by designing accessible infrastructure and offering a range of tailored services (SDG 10: Reduced Inequality).

To enhance transparency and improve performance, Expo 2020 Dubai adheres to the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) standards, the most widely used internationally recognized standards for sustainability reporting. (A full list of Expo 2020

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2020

Dubai initiatives aligned with the SDGs, as identified through Expo's GRI disclosures, is available in the 2019 Sustainability Report). Ultimately, Expo 2020 Dubai robust operational standards, from sustainable building materials to the systematization of waste management, sourcing, and inclusion policies, are designed to endure well beyond the event itself, contributing a lasting legacy to the SDGs.

Under its 'Programme for People and Planet,' Expo 2020 Dubai has a number of ongoing initiatives to galvanise stakeholders, from governments to businesses to active citizens. The aim is to work together on the Global Goals, highlight solutions to the world's shared challenges, and spotlight progress made toward implementing Agenda 2030. One example is the Global Best Practice Programme (BPP), a platform designed to showcase tangible solutions to the world's toughest challenges. Thus far the BPP's international jury has selected forty-five projects (out of more than one thousand submissions from 141 countries) that can be adapted or replicated at scale for sustainable impact.

The third and current phase, which focuses on projects that build forward better as the world emerges from the pandemic, concluded in April 2021 with the selection of five additional projects, bringing the total to fifty. Each project relates to a set of interconnected SDGs. For example, Alef Education, a technology company selected by the BPP, formed a partnership with Microsoft, Google, and the UAE Ministry of Education (SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals) to create an AI-powered platform (SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure) that personalizes education (SDG 4: Quality Education), thus helping to improve skills and work opportunities (SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth). Expo's BPP platform encompasses a range of projects with

> Just as 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is framed in a spirit of optimism for the future, we share this hope and will do everything in our power to realise it. This multilevel approach, motivating individuals to make the everyday changes that can make a generational impact, while also harnessing international cooperation for productive ends - this is the philosophy of the UAE in action. And this is the breadth and power of a World Exposition.

Her Excellency
Reem bint Ebrahim Al Hashimy
Minister of State for International Cooperation
Director General, Expo 2020 Dubai
Chairwoman of the UAE National Committee on SDGs

similar potential for localising the SDGs - from inclusive service delivery to resilient habitats and social development, enabling a global audience to study, adapt, and scale workable solutions.

Lastly, Expo 2020 Dubai has curated an array of interactive experiences to show visitors how they can contribute to the SDGs through their everyday choices. For example, the Opportunity Pavilion's exhibition 'Mission Possible' takes visitors on an immersive journey that reveals how one small act can create a big ripple effect, leading to wide-spread change when added up. Divided into the three tracks of water, energy, and food, the exhibition underscores the vital importance of these resources to human progress. Without all three, humans cannot move beyond basic subsistence, let alone consider other opportunities. To facilitate the visitor journey, a guide for each track (based on a real-life individual) shares how they helped their communities gain access to these basic resources. For example, in the food track, an Emirati farmer educates visitors how she grew her own organic produce in a small, balcony-less apartment to improve food security in her country. The exhibition not only raises general awareness of the SDGs, particularly goals 2, 6, and 7, but

> We are showcasing our innovative, AI-driven educational system, which will help shape the future of education across the UAE and the world.

Aishah Al Yammahi
Board Advisor, Alef Education

also draws attention to their interdependency with one another, including SDGs 4, 5, 8, 10, and 11. At the end, visitors have the opportunity to make a pledge to generate their own outward ripple as active citizens, whether at home, work, or school, emanating from the Expo in support of global, participatory action on the SDGs.

[3]True to its subtheme, the Sustainability Pavilion is targeting a LEED-Platinum certification during its construction phase and zero net energy consumption in its Legacy phase. Sustainable features include 9,300 sqm of PV panels on the steel canopy, 4,100 sqm of PV panels across 18 'Energy Trees', and a system that filters and reuses water collected through the canopy.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2020

Examples of Expo 2020 Dubai initiatives aligned to the UN SDGs and their targets[4]

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

In 2019, Expo launched its mental health and wellbeing strategy which initiated various events and campaigns to raise awareness and provide support for mental health amongst Expo employees and workers.

4 QUALITY EDUCATION

Students and the wider school community play an integral role in creating Expo's social legacy. Through various initiatives under the Expo School Programme, Expo has engaged with students and incorporated its legacy into the school curriculum.

5 GENDER EQUALITY

52% of Expo's new hires in 2019 were women, contributing to an overall gender-balanced workforce at Expo.

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

Expo's effective water management system has set initiatives to reduce water consumption, minimize water loss, re-use treated water, and protect natural water resources.

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

Renewable energy systems with a combined total capacity of 5.5 Megawatts have been installed on all permanent building projects on the Expo site. Additionally, the ENOC Service Station of the Future, launched in 2019, also incorporates Solar PVs and first-of-its-kind, on-grid wind turbines.

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

With the majority of procurement contracts awarded to locally registered suppliers and almost a quarter of the total workforce comprising UAE nationals, we are ensuring that the economic stimulus created by Expo is equitable, inclusive, and localized. Expo is also backing the crucial small- and medium-sized enterprise (SME) sector, which accounts for around half of all businesses registered with Expo, and is supporting creative solutions from around the world through the Expo Live Innovation Impact Grant Programme.

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Through technological activations and innovative building technologies, such as Siemens Mindsphere, our innovation and Future Technology department is working to create a futuristic visitor experience and a sustainable infrastructure for Expo's legacy.

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

Through our Worker Welfare policy framework and initiatives, we ensure free and fair recruitment, a non-discriminatory and tolerant work culture, and a safe and healthy work environment for all our employees and contractors. We are also working to create an inclusive and accessible event for Expo employees and visitors of determination (people with disabilities) by incorporating accessible designs into the infrastructure and engagement programmes.

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

Expo is well on its way to meeting its targets to divert 85% of its waste away from landfill. In 2019, 80% of Expo-generated was recycled or re-used, 17% was disposed at landfill, and 3% was stored for future use at Al Bayada waste facility centre, all of which allowed Expo to effectively achieve a cumulative diversion rate of 92% since the start of the programme. In 2019, Expo also launched the RISE Guidelines for Sustainable Operations before and during the event, and for incorporating sustainability into products and services that are supplied for the Expo.

13 CLIMATE ACTION

As climate change continues to be a major global risk, Expo 2020 Dubai has developed an emissions methodology to assess the event's total carbon impact and has predicted a 7% reduction from the business-as-usual scenario.

14 LIFE BELOW WATER

A dedicated Spill Response Procedure, with extensive processes to deal with hazardous chemicals to mitigate water contaminations, and preserve the UAE's scarce water resources.

15 LIFE ON LAND

A dedicated ecosystems management process to conserve and protect biodiversity and ecology within the Expo construction site. Expo's ecosystem conservation targets mandate no harm to any fauna or flora.

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

Expo 2020 Dubai serves as a global platform for partnerships and collaboration, bringing together more than 190 participating countries, plus businesses, multilateral organisations, educational institutions and visitors from across the world.

[4] Note: SDGs referred to in this text are illustrative, not exhaustive – through the broad scope of its activities and programmes Expo 2020 Dubai seeks to drive meaningful progress on all 17 SDGs.

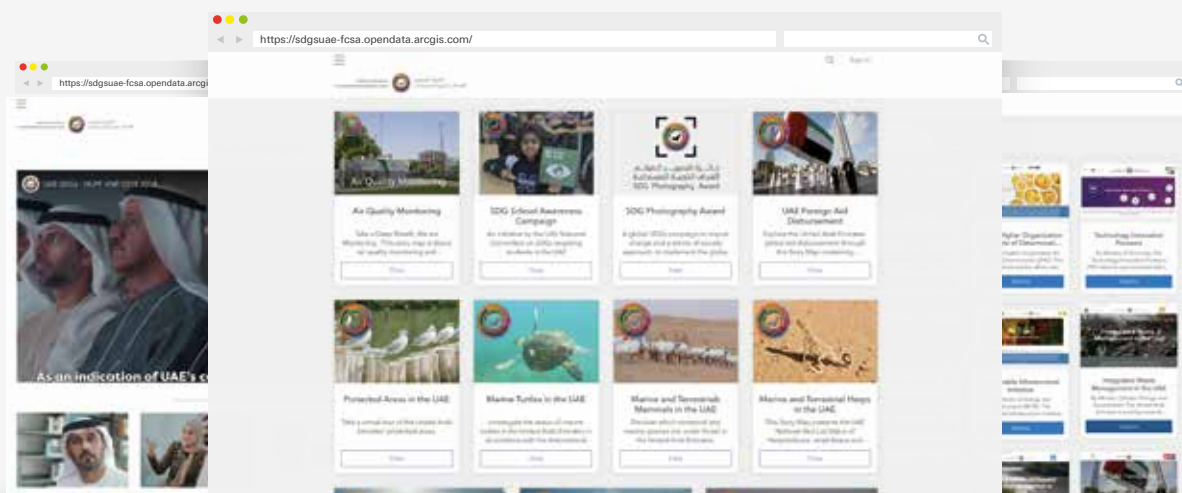## UAE SDG Data Hub: Innovative ways the UAE is joining hands for a better world

Figure 4: A snapshot of the UAE SDG Data Hub

Partnerships for the Goals, is at the core of success for SDG's. Therefore, establishing global and local partnerships is a key pillar to achieving SDGs. However, SDGs will not succeed without significant public awareness. To address this challenge, SDGs NC in collaboration with FCSC established a multi-partnership engagement with the public and private sector, and the UAE society.

A partnership with Esri Global Inc., the world leader in developing geographic information systems (GIS) solutions, addresses SDGs through the UAE SDGs Data Hub (the HUB) that connects the multiple partners across the public and private sector, and the UAE society. The HUB, integrated with the United Nations (UN) Open SDG Data Hub, promotes open data, sustainable partnerships, and serves as an educational tool that addresses the lack of public awareness on SDGs through open data, SDG-related data stories, and initiatives.

- Open data – Geospatially referenced indicator data. In other words, data mapped at emirate level.
- Data stories – SDG stories consisting of a great amount of data, displayed through interactive story maps.

- Initiatives –Highlight mainstream initiatives in a visually easy manner, whilst engaging the whole-of-society with SDGs.

The integration of the HUB feeds the UN Open SDG Data Hub, previously known as the Federated System for the SDGs (FIS4SDGs), with SDG indicators data, stories and mainstream initiatives. The UN Open SDG Data Hub promotes the exploration, analysis, and use of authoritative SDG data sources for evidence-based decision-making and advocacy. The HUB encourages numerous partnerships between the public and private sector whilst taking advantage of the web GIS principles, allowing data connections from multiple sources and organisations.

Boosting open data between the government, private sector and the society supports policy makers and decision makers as well as helps in reaching the SDGs. Additionally, SDG implementation demands proactive engagement across all sectors, including the society. FCSC introduced a global pioneering initiative element to the HUB, which encourages all sectors to actively engage and share initiatives directly to the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD).

The initiatives module of the HUB serves as a tool to translate aspirations into initiatives whilst creating awareness about SDGs. Each initiative reflects how the UAE is addressing a specific SDG through a set initiative, in a manner that is easy to visualise and ready to adopt by any country or organisation worldwide. Moreover, the HUB reinforces public participation through calls for action, public surveys, and other data interaction tools. One initiative that resonates well with public participation is the Integrated Waste Management (IWM), initiated by the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment (MOCCAE). IWM aims to increase the whole of society's awareness about policies and initiatives that supports SDG 12, Responsible Consumption and Production. The initiative encourages the society to adopt sustainable

practices by recycling products in the nearest 'Manjam' centres. 'Manjam' centres are dedicated waste collection centres in residential areas. These centres can be found on an interactive map via an app by MOCCAE, or via the SDG Data Hub.

A data story featured on the HUB touched upon the SDG School Awareness Campaign by FCSC in collaboration with the UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network (ASPNet Schools), under the Ministry of Education. The campaign aims to raise awareness about SDGs across students and build their talents to prepare the next generation of change makers by engaging them through gamification. The HUB is a global best practice that has attained three international awards, which includes:
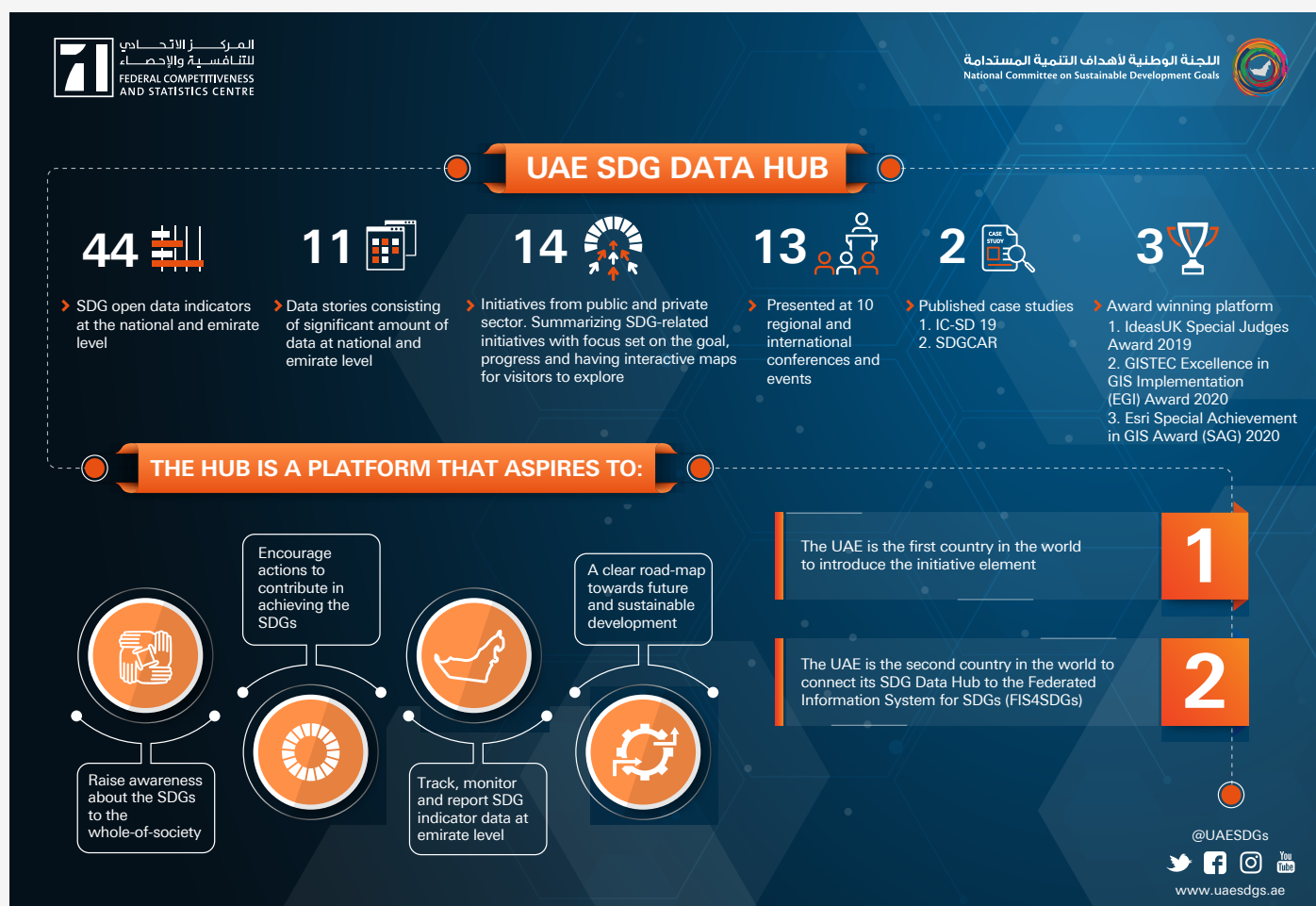

Figure 5: The objectives and progress of the UAE SDG Data Hub up to the time of writing

State Audit on Implementation of the SDGs: Leveraging digital or big data to achieve the SDGs

Background on the UAE State Audit Institutions (SAI)

SAI UAE (Supreme Audit Institution United Arab Emirates) is an independent federal entity established by the federal law no.7 of the year 1976 (was later superseded by federal law no.9 of 2011) in fulfilment to article No.136 of the UAE Constitution. Its mandate includes fighting corruption, auditing allocated federal funds, programmes, public procurement, consolidated financial accounts as well as integrity and effectiveness of electronic systems that are run by federal entities. In short, SAI UAE plays the role of the public sector 'external auditor'. It ensures that public money is used by the responsible entities in an efficient, effective and economic manner and in accordance with the relevant laws and regulations that govern expenditure, revenues, asset management and long-term investments.

To assist SAI in achieving this objective the mandate identified three types of audits: Financial and Compliance Audit, Performance Audit, and IT Audit.

Consequently, depending on the type and scale of the damage caused to public money, SAI UAE can then impose sanctions when required.

SAIs and SDGs
More recently, and with the advent of the SDGs in 2016, the role of SAIs globally expanded to encompass review of SDG implementation. In December 2016, the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI) held a conference in Abu Dhabi in which announced SAIs role in the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda. The contribution of SAIs focuses on four main factors:
1. Examining the readiness of governments to implement the SDGs.
2. Conducting performance audits on SDGs programmes.
3. Encouraging improvements to government's public financial management (PFM) to make it SDG-driven.
4. Performance of SAIs.

Briefing about 12th ASOSAI Research Project

October 2020

In late 2018, SAI UAE along with other 14 Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs)[5] signed up for a research project on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The project was launched by the Asian Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions (ASOSAI) of which SAI UAE and the other 14 participants are members. The two and a half year research project aims to explore ways in which SAIs can leverage digital or big data to achieve the SDGs.

The project team under the leadership of SAI UAE developed a model for leveraging big data based on ISSAI-100 Fundamental Principles of Public Sector Auditing and developed in conformity with INTOSAI's guidelines. The countries' experiences revealed that leveraging big data is possible with the enabling environment consisting of:

- Policy coherence
- Management of information (ensuring production of meaningful information that is derived from running the SDG programme to enable effective monitoring of the progress).
- Clear accountability lines (ensuring accountability enforcement factors are in place so that the responsibilities are clearly identified and thus stimulating continuous oversight over the

SDG programme)

In line with INTOSAI Development Initiative (IDI's) SDGs Audit Model (ISAM), policy coherence prevents policy trade-offs as well as overlaps between the different departments on both horizontal (within the central government) and vertical (national, regional and local governments) levels.

The team is now preparing to embark on drafting the research paper for submission to the 56th ASOSAI Governing Board meeting and the 15th ASOSAI Assembly.

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[5] The other 14 SAIs include: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, China, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Kuwait, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, Turkey and Vietnam.

PART 2

Review of the

SDGs in the UAE

1 NO POVERTY

Custodian Agency

Ministry of Community Development

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Supporting agencies:

- Ministry of Health & Prevention
- Ministry of Cabinet Affairs
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation
- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of Interior
- Ministry of Human Resources & Emiratisation
- Food and Water Security Office

- Ministry of Climate Change & Environment
- Ministry of Health & Prevention
- Federal Youth Authority
- UAE Gender Balance Council
- Central Bank of the UAE
- Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure
- Ministry of Finance
- Federal Competitiveness & Statistics Centre

"

The UAE's government and leadership vision for the social sector focuses on 'Development and Empowerment'. Through designing and implementing initiatives and programs, policies and strategies, law and legislations for different categories of society in relation to the activation of children and women rights, enabling of the entrepreneurial family and merging the people of determination in the society.

Her Excellency
Hessa bint Essa Buhumaid
Minister of Community Development

1 NO POVERTY

Policy

Family Protection Policy

This policy was developed in collaboration with federal and local entities in the United Arab Emirates that deal with children. The UAE prioritises the protection and development of families in order to foster a healthy cohesive society, based on the principles of Islam that promote tolerance, kindness, and compassion. This policy protects women, men, children, elderly, and people of determination against all forms of violence and harm, and it encompasses the following dimensions:

- Protection and intervention mechanisms
- Legislation and laws
- Prevention and community awareness initiatives
- Qualitative training for workers and raising job competencies
- Studies, research, and statistics

Initiative

1. The Ministry launched an initiative to encourage those of working age who are recipients and/or applicants of social aid to facilitate communication with employers, especially the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratization to equip them with adequate work skills and provide training courses to qualify them for employment. Within this initiative 26,500 beneficiaries of social aid enrolled in the MOHRE programmes.

2. The Productive Families Programme is based on improving the economic level of productive families by diversifying their sources of income, investing the efforts of the members, and expanding their skills and capacities, all of which will eventually benefit the nation. In the years 2018-2020, the following was accomplished:

- The programme witnessed a 28% increase in the number of participating families.
- The programme organized 129 training courses and 192 marketing exhibitions for productive families, with an increase of 11% in the number of exhibitions, and the participation of 2,472 productive families, an increase by 24% in the number of participants.

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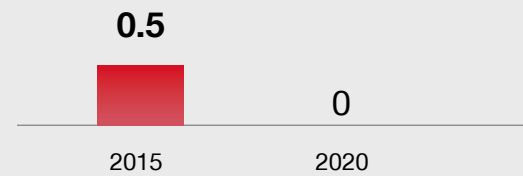
Source: FCSC

Indicator 1.3.1: Proportion of population covered by social protection floors/systems, by sex, distinguishing children, unemployed persons, older persons, persons with disabilities, pregnant women, newborns, work-injury victims and the poor and vulnerable.

Year	Value
2015	42,004
2016	42,112
2017	42,268
2018	41,886
2019	41,875
2020	41,730
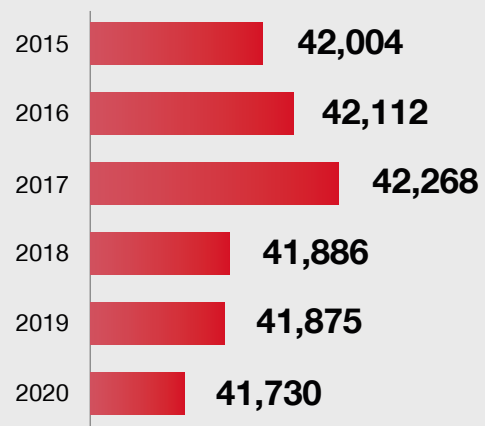
Source: MOCD

- Since its inception, the financial returns of families reached AED 28,841,243, which is 34% of AED 56,955,725, the total income of productive families.

1 NO POVERTY

Covid-19 Action

1. The Ministry of Community Development adopted the Emergency Economic Support Initiative during the COVID-19 pandemic, which provided financial assistance to members of society who were affected by the pandemic, including those who had lost their jobs or required to meet urgent needs.

2. During the COVID-19 crisis, food assistance was provided to nearly 42,000 families of social security beneficiaries by the Ministry of Community Development during Ramadan, in collaboration with the Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan Foundation for Humanitarian Works.

SDG Challenge and Solution

There lies a challenge in integration of beneficiaries data across entities that are involved in community development. The need for the integration is crucial and it was demonstrated during the COVID-19 period. The Ministry of Community Development has joined the government acceleration programme in regards to technological integration with federal entities in 2020. The purpose of the integration was to save customers and employees time and effort while providing accurate and concise data. The waiting time for requesting social assistance was noticeably reduced, and the automatic data updates resulted in reducing physical visitation to customer happiness centres. The main objective was to integrate with 50 entities, and so far, direct integration has been made with 28 entities, and the collaboration with the other authorities is under process. was achieved, in addition to automatic updates of data which resulted in reducing physical visitation to customer happiness centres by customers. The main objective was to integrate with 50 entities, and thus far, direct integration has been made with 28 entities, and the collaboration with the other authorities is under process.

2 ZERO HUNGER

Custodian Agency

Emirates Food Security Council

الأمن الغذائي
FOOD SECURITY

United Arab Emirates

Supporting agencies:

- Ministry of Health and Prevention
- Ministry of Climate Change & Environment
- Ministry of Economy
- Ministry of Energy and Industry
- Minister of State for Food & Water Security
- National Emergency and Crisis and Disasters Management Authority
- United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organisation

"

With the world's population expected to reach 8.5 billion people by 2030, we are committed to delivering on the Sustainable Development Agenda and are working to ensure safe, sufficient, and nutritious food for all.

Her Excellency
Mariam bint Mohammed Saeed Hareb Almheiri
Minister of State for Food and Water Security

Policy

In June 2020, the UAE Cabinet approved the National System for Sustainable Agriculture (NSSA) to augment the National Food Security Strategy's goals and objectives. The NSSA aims to:

- Enhance agriculture yield by fostering the adoption of modern and advanced technology-enabled production systems while effectively addressing all three pillars of sustainability (economic, social, and environmental)
- Drive sustainable agriculture in the UAE, and increase confidence in food products that adhere to international good practices, sustainability frameworks, and quality standards
- Act as a catalyst to foster local food production to achieve the 15% food production increment target by 2021
- Create a platform for the agriculture and food sector to share best practices and information

Initiative

The FoodTech Challenge

- Launched in September 2019 by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, the FoodTech Challenge was established as a grassroot competition and a global initiative to identify sustainable and technology-driven solutions that could be applied to the UAE's food value chain.
- Taking place over the course of 14 months, the initiative was conceived and developed in partnership with Tamkeen, an Abu Dhabi-based company mandated to deliver projects to meet the UAE's vision of knowledge-based development.
- The FoodTech Challenge is unique in that it is focused on creating food security at the community and household level, with the goal of promoting a degree of self-sufficiency through the incorporation of innovation and technology within the UAE's food ecosystem.
- Focusing on creating food security at the community level, the challenge offered a shared

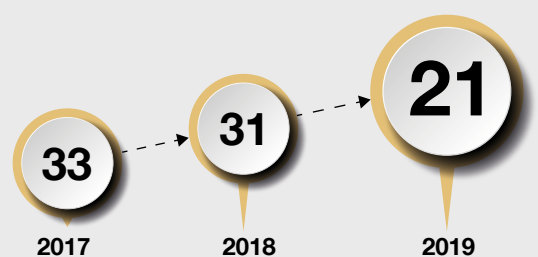**Target 2.3: Double the productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers**

UAE Food Trade Values for Imports & Exports (AED)
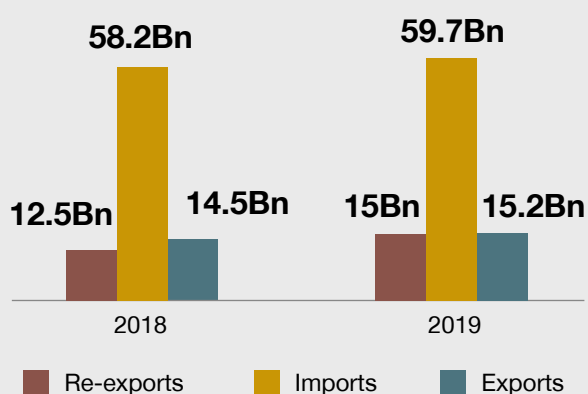
Source: Food and Water Security Office

Target 2.1: Universal access to safe and nutritious food, indicator 2.1.2 Prevalence of food insecurity

UAE's rank in the Global Food Security Index, by the Economist Intelligence Unit

Source: Food and Water Security Office

prize pool of USD 1 million for four winners, along with networking opportunities with international investors and the opportunity to participate in a six-month business incubation programme.

- The 14-month challenge attracted 437 submissions from 68 countries, with the four winners revealed on November 17, 2020 at a

2 ZERO HUNGER

virtual awarding ceremony. The winning teams covered a wide spectrum of food ideas across the value chain including alternative food, food traceability, food production, and sustainable fishing.

- The FoodTech challenge successfully encouraged individuals and groups to develop innovative solutions to identify challenges in the food value chain, laying the foundation for an important new AgTech sub-sector – one centered on community-focused food security and utilizing technology at its core.

COVID-19 Action Taken

In March 2020, The Emirates Food Security Council convened to establish a national plan to ensure food security during the pandemic. Under the umbrella of the Council's Evaluation and Monitoring Team, mechanisms and procedures were devised to track food products along the supply chain, diversify food import sources, stimulate local production, and enhance market access for these products. Moreover, various enabling initiatives were launched to improve national food availability; including temporary deactivation of non-food safety-related mandatory standards.

The extraordinary session concluded with the council conducting a national food stocktaking exercise, with its findings reported to the Cabinet.

SDG Challenge and Solution

The UAE faces perennial challenges to crop growing, notably having less than 5% arable land, its low annual levels of rainfall and its diminishing groundwater levels – all of which act on each other and exponentiate each one's effects. To address this issue, the UAE formed the AgTech development team early in 2020 to mitigate these challenges. The team comprises of public and private sector stakeholders from the UAE's AgTech sector. They examined ways of applying the latest scientific methods and policy developments to enhance more sustainable food systems by up-taking technology-enabled agricultural methods. The team developed a comprehensive national plan to foster the adoption of ag-tech applications in all sectors of agriculture.

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Custodian Agency

Ministry of Health and Prevention

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
MINISTRY OF HEALTH & PREVENTION

Supporting agencies:

- Ministry of Interior
- Ministry of Education
- Federal Competitivness and Statistics Centre
- Dubai Health Authority
- Abu Dhabi Department of Health

- Insurance Authority UAE
- Statistics Centre Abu Dhabi
- Dubai Statistics Center
- Dubai Healthcare City

"

The UAE is undertaking all possible efforts to achieve sustainable development in accordance with the 50-year development plan launched by the country's wise leadership to upgrade the government work system, foresee future challenges, and build a knowledge-based economy.

His Excellency
AbdulRahman bin Mohamed Al Owais
Minister of Health and Prevention

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Policy

The UAE Ministry of Health and Prevention has developed a national policy on mental health as part of the country's ongoing efforts to update health policies and legislation, aligned with the national vision. In the United Arab Emirates, the policy seeks to establish a multi-sectoral national framework and foster joint efforts from the public and private sector for promoting mental health.

Initiative

1. National Initiative to Enhance the Attractiveness of the Nursing Profession

The nursing profession is one of the most important pillars of the health system, with its employees helping to improve people's health and quality of life.

The Ministry of Health and Prevention launched the 'National Initiative to Enhance the Attractiveness of the Nursing Profession' based on three strategic axes; academic education, motivation and promotion. The initiative aims to:
- Attract national cadres of both genders
- Encourage the achievement of national goals
- Respond to the health needs of the community
- Provide distinct health care that is suited to the environment and culture of the country
- Achieve the national KPI related to the numbers of nursing cadres as one of the strategic directions towards achieving universal health coverage.

Since its inception in 2015, this initiative has led to a 28% increase in demand for the study of nursing, along with an increase in the number of male citizens enrolling in nursing courses and joining the Emirati nursing workforce.

2. Scan Today, Not Tomorrow

The Ministry of Health and Prevention launched its first breast cancer awareness and prevention campaign targeting all women over 40, especially those who have not been screened for at least two years, under the slogan 'Scan Today, Not Tomorrow'.

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

Year	Measles	DTP 3
2014	94%	94%
2015	100%	100%
2016	100%	100%
2017	99%	97%
2018	99%	99%
2019	99%	97%
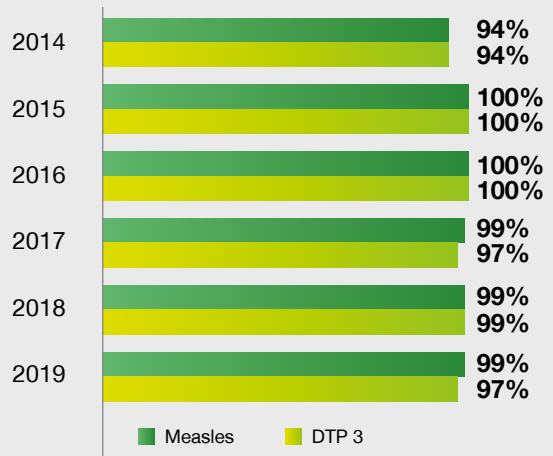
Source: MOHAP

- The launch of the campaign was based on fulfilling an important component of the Ministry's strategy, which aims to provide the UAE community with integrated, comprehensive, distinct and innovative health services to ensure community protection from diseases, in line with 'UAE Vision 2021'.
- The initiative aims to promote early detection of breast cancer as a priority of the national agenda.
- In accordance with best practices, the campaign includes clinical examinations and mammograms supervised by specialists.
- The early screening initiative has improved early cancer screening coverage among the target age groups and has contributed to the UAE achieving first place worldwide for the presence of national early detection programs.
- In addition to improving cancer patients' experiences during the diagnosis and treatment process and shortening the waiting time and avoiding any unnecessary delays, this initiative aims to increase community participation in early cancer screenings.

COVID-19 Action Taken

First Line of Defense Supporters

As part of the 'First Line of Defense Supporters' initiative, 129 volunteers with medical knowledge were trained in basic patient care skills. As part of the training, skills such as measuring vital signs and operating personal protective equipment were learned in order to assist the nursing staff in providing quality, specialized nursing care to the patients and help them perform their vital role. During the pandemic, the following milestones were achieved:

- By March 2021, 52% of the targeted population was successfully vaccinated
- The UAE sent more than 1,736 tons of food and medical aid to 128 countries
- The UAE ranked first in the world on the number of COVID-19 tests performed as compared to the population
- By May 2021, the UAE ranked with 122.39 doses per 100 people for the COVID-19 vaccine, the highest rate in the world.
- Ministry of Health and Prevention (MoHaP) launched a chat-bot service titled Virtual Doctor for COVID-19. Through this service, people can determine whether their symptom could be related to the novel coronavirus, COVID-19 and to take action accordingly
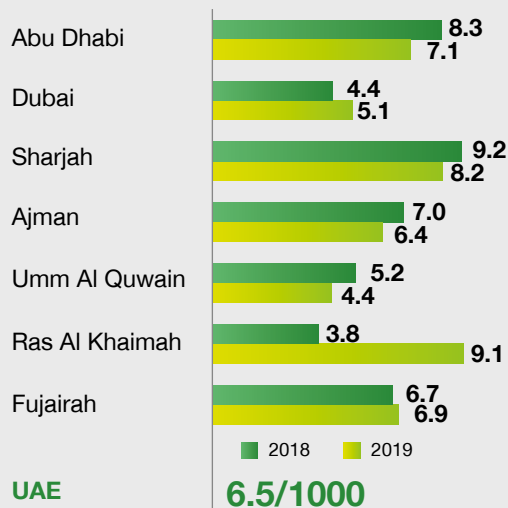
SDG Challenge and Solution

Despite the many initiatives launched by federal and local regulatory agencies to combat obesity, statistics indicate that the issue is an alarming one, as the percentage of overweight persons was 67.9% in the 2018 National Health Survey.

The Ministry of Health and Prevention developed solutions to reduce obesity, including:
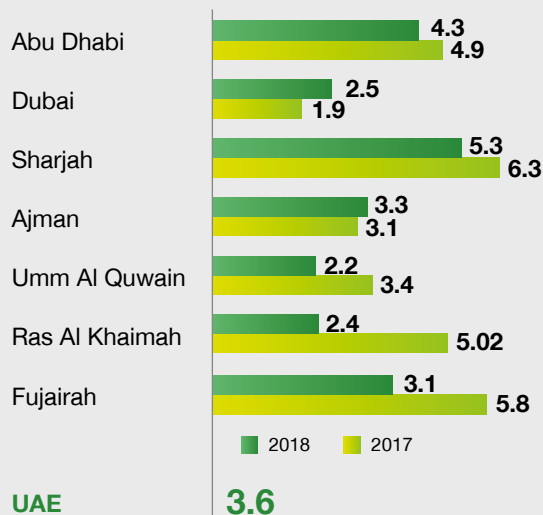
- Encouraging the adoption of a healthy lifestyle that involves physical activity and healthy eating.
- Establishing a unified policy to combine efforts and review initiatives to reduce obesity, especially in children.

Indicator 3.2.1: Under-5 mortality rate per 1,000 births by Emirates

Emirate	2018	2019
Abu Dhabi	8.3	7.1
Dubai	4.4	5.1
Sharjah	9.2	8.2
Ajman	7.0	6.4
Umm Al Quwain	5.2	4.4
Ras Al Khaimah	3.8	9.1
Fujairah	6.7	6.9

UAE 6.5/1000

Source: FCSC

Indicator 3.2.2: Neonatal mortality rate per 1,000 births by Emirate

Emirate	2018	2017
Abu Dhabi	4.3	4.9
Dubai	2.5	1.9
Sharjah	5.3	6.3
Ajman	3.3	3.1
Umm Al Quwain	2.2	3.4
Ras Al Khaimah	2.4	5.02
Fujairah	3.1	5.8

UAE 3.6

Source: FCSC

- Improving education curricula in the field of health and sports through the enforcement of a healthy diet for school students, creating community health programs, and providing rehabilitation and therapeutic support services to combat and treat obesity.
- Assessing urban planning efforts that promote activity and movement, and developing infrastructure recommendations for creating active, healthy, and vibrant communities.
- Monitoring food products in food factories, controlling imported food, and developing a legislation for a "selective tax" on unhealthy foods.
- Raising community awareness of the dangers of obesity surgery and the need for prevention.

3.6.1 Death rate due to road traffic injuries

2016	2017	2018
6.1	6.1	3.83
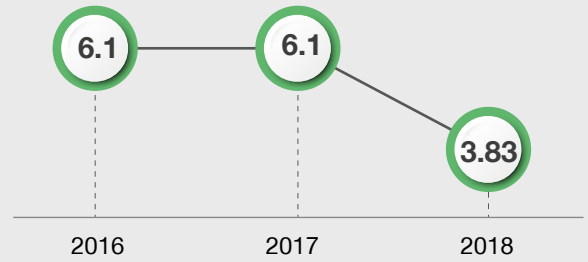
Source: MOHAP and MOI

4 QUALITY EDUCATION

Custodian Agency

Ministry of Education

**UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION**

Supporting agencies:

- Ministry of Community Development
- Ministry of Health and Prevention
- Ministry of Culture and Youth
- Ministry of Interior
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation
- Federal Competitiveness and Statistics Centre
- Abu Dhabi Vocational Education and Training Institute
- Abu Dhabi Department of Education and Knowledge

- Knowledge and Human Development Authority Dubai
- Sharjah Private Education Authority
- United Arab Emirates University
- Zayed University
- Higher Colleges of Technology
- Hamdan Bin Mohammed Smart University
- University of Sharjah
- Abu Dhabi University

"

Ministry of Education is working at a rapid pace to implement a radical, comprehensive change in the framework and practices of education to reflect a modern educational philosophy, in an effort to shape a generation equipped with the skills required for the future and proud of their national identity.

His Excellency
Hussain bin Ibrahim Al Hammadi
Minister of Education

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2020

4 QUALITY EDUCATION

Policy

- While striving towards both the National Agenda Vision 2021 and the Centennial Vision of 2071, the Ministry has worked diligently to build an innovative education system that equips learners to live in a global knowledge-based and society and to meet demands of the future labour requirements.
- As part of its commitment to achieve SDG 4, the Ministry has built an organizational structure that caters to life-long learning. An emphasis has been placed on Indicator 4.6, which aims to ensure that all youth, and a sustainable portion of adults reach literacy and numeracy by 2030. To ensure that all learners are equipped with fundamental literacy skills essential to economic development and social well-being, a robust bilingual literacy strategy was implemented.
- In order to achieve SDG 4, the Ministry incorporated moral education to all levels of education by integrating the basic principles of global citizenship, centered around the themes of personal ethics, the role of the individual and society, and cultural education in the school curricula.
- The aim of the admission policies and enrolment criteria is to ensure that all male and female students are given equal access to learnign opportunities through providing technical, vocational, and higher education. Youth are also enabled to get degrees and professional support in order to achieve high-quality professional experience.
- The Ministry of Education's response to the global pandemic allowed the UAE to become one of the leading countries in the transition to digital education while maintaining stability and quality for all stakeholders.
- A variety of academic topics, classroom and non-classroom activities have been added with the aim of encouraging students to develop skills such as empathy, tolerance, critical thinking, communication, ethical behavior, respect, cultural diversity, and environmental issues. The social and economic principles of

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

100% ----• (2019)   100% ----• (2020)

Source: MOE

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

100% ----• (2019)   100% ----• (2020)

Source: MOE

global citizenship have also been integrated into youth community activities.

Initiative

1. Smart Learning

To ensure the continuity of education during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ministry of Education heavily invested in the smart learning system that was developed in 2012, according to a forward-looking vision that intended to provide continuity of education during crises, and to create an advanced learning system that mimics the pace of rapid technological development in the world. The initial purpose of the system was to ensure that students unable to attend school due to illness could continue their studies free of charge and with continued flexibly, regardless of the student's location.

In addition to the expansion of the use of the system during the pandemic crisis, there was a positive impact through:

- Using interactive educational models such as using recorded lessons instead of traditional teaching and learning strategies.
- Smart learning platforms improved student-learning skills by empowering them to learn on their own, and enabled teachers to design lessons to meet the individual needs of each student.
- Implementing centralized, nationally standardized tests on the smart learning platforms. This sustainable model of assessment has many advantages, such as the rapid automatic correction of the tests, which provides more time for the teacher to focus on improving students' performance levels; a decrease in costs for teachers to mark the assessment and a reduction in the use of paper.
- Providing a safe browser feature to prevent the student from leaving the test page and adhering to the specified time for the test. A framework is currently under development to address any risks associated with online testing.
- Developing a range of resources and manuals to deliver trainings across multiple platforms. A total number of 620 schools took part in remote learning, including 8,000,000 digital educational classes targeting 168,056 students. The Ministry trained more than 23,158 teachers, 150,568 students, and 52,020 parents. A range of resources and manuals were developed to deliver the training across multiple platforms.

2. Distance Learning

Amidst COVID-19, the UAE implemented distance learning for all students in the UAE. Diverse elements were supported by distance learning, including:

- Training 25,000 school teachers and administrators remotely.

- Launching an educational support program for the children of the healthcare staff at Sheikh Khalifa Medical City.
- Providing more than 600 computers to orphans to allow them to access distance learning.
- Launching 'Hematak' initiative for school students, involving a number of remote interactive activities.
- Providing 1,191 computers for the Ministry of Education to support remote learning.

COVID-19 Action Taken

In response to COVID-19, the UAE Ministry of Education conducted a comprehensive evaluation of the process of implementing a distance learning system to develop eLearning in the next phase.

SDG Challenge and Solution

It is a challenge that many countries around the world have faced and are still facing to ensure that all students have equal access to education during the COVID-19 pandemic. As a solution, the Ministry developed and implemented an integrated plan to ensure equal access to education is achieved by providing students with tablets and laptops.

The Ministry also coordinated with the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority to enable free mobile internet data to families without home Internet service and to allow Microsoft Systems to operate through the 4G network. Teachers have been trained to prepare and deliver e-lessons remotely in collaboration with Hamdan Bin Mohammed Electronic University. Teachers have received specialized training from the training department on how to apply smart learning and activate educational platforms.

5 GENDER EQUALITY

Custodian Agency

UAE Gender Balance Council

مجلس الإمارات للتوازن بين الجنسين
UAE GENDER BALANCE COUNCIL

Supporting agencies:

- UAE Ministry of Economy
- Federal Competitivness and Statistics Centre
- Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
- AllAfrica Global Media
- Mahmood Hussain Advocates & Legal Consultancy
- Inter-Parliamentary Union
- International Trade Centre

> The UAE Gender Balance Council is committed to unlocking the world-changing potential of the 2030 Agenda. We work in partnership across government to create innovative solutions to complex challenges, and to make gender equality, peace, and prosperity a global reality.

Her Excellency
Mona Ghanem Al Marri
Vice President of UAE Gender Balance Council

Policy

- In 2019, the UAE introduced a directive stating women must occupy 50% of the Federal National Council's (parliament) seats. This action responds to indicator 5.5.1 (Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments and local governments), under Goal 5 (Gender Equality).
- This law has had a direct positive impact on UAE sustainable development by ensuring women's full and effective participation in leadership and decision-making at the highest levels of government.
- A gender-balanced parliament serves as a positive model and encourages efforts in the advancement of gender equality in the government, the private sector, and society.

Initiative

1. Gender Balance

UAE policies strive to be gender-responsive continuously. Recent reforms for the public and private sectors aim to safeguard the rights of women: discrimination between male and female employees is prohibited; sexual harassment is criminalized; termination of pregnant women

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

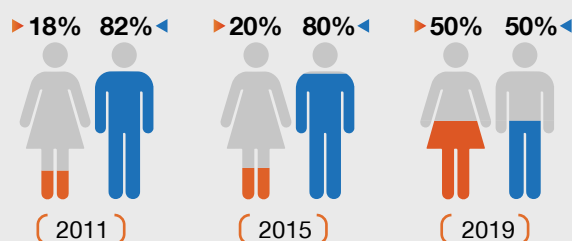| 99.4% | 99.4% | 100% | 99.75% | 100% | 99.80% |
| 2017 | | 2018 | | 2019 | |
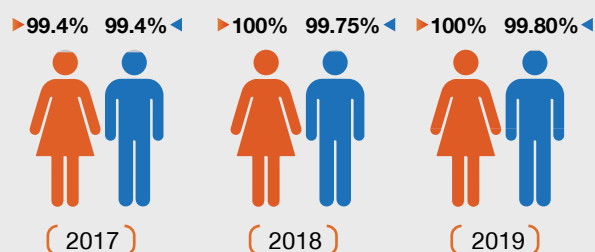
Source: TDRA

is prohibited; family protection laws have been introduced; and a new parental leave (including
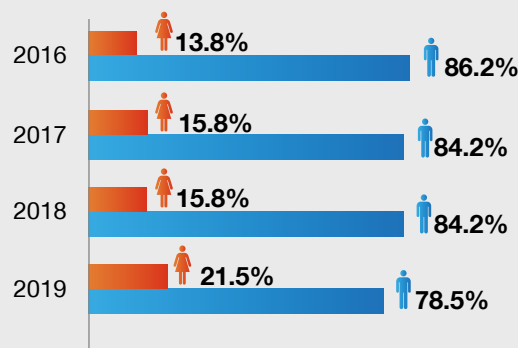
Indicator 5.5.1: Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments and local governments.

Proportion of women in the Federal National Council

| 18% | 82% | 20% | 80% | 50% | 50% |
| 2011 | | 2015 | | 2019 | |

Source: UAE GBC

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

Year	Women	Men
2016	13.8%	86.2%
2017	15.8%	84.2%
2018	15.8%	84.2%
2019	21.5%	78.5%

Source: FCSC

paternity leave) has been introduced. Protection laws address discrimination (Target 5.1), parental leaves promote shared responsibility within the household (Target 5.4), and other laws ensure women's participation and leadership in economic life (Target 5.5). In addition to enhancing women's rights, these complementary laws support gender equality.

2. Women on Boards Programme and Guide

In addition to supporting sustainable development and growth of businesses and economies, having women on Boards of Directors is beneficial to

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2020

5 GENDER EQUALITY

countries and regions as a whole. Women on board position is now mandatory in the UAE, making this the first requirement of its kind in the Arab world.

- This initiative was launched to advance female participation in decision-making and to contribute towards achieving UAE's target of 20% female presence in corporate boardrooms of listed companies by 2020.
- The Women on Boards Programme and Guide contributes to the advancement of women in leadership, and the full and effective participation of women in the economy. Furthermore, it advances multiple SDGs, including: SDG 5 Gender Equality, SDG 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth, and SDG 10 Reduced Inequalities.
- As a result of this framework, women are increasingly represented in C-suites and corporate boards in the United Arab Emirates.
- The 'Women on Boards Guide' is a reference for women seeking to join the boards of directors of public joint-stock companies or public institutions. This comprehensive resource supports prospective women board members to both understand the board environment, and to thrive after being elected to a board, by providing them with specific board members information, such as types of boards, governance frameworks, nomination and remuneration approaches, etc.
- This important government initiative identifies and works to overcome policy barriers that restrict the participation of women at executive levels. It also seeks to develop a communication strategy to raise awareness on gender diversity in local and regional boardrooms, train women investors, directors, managers, and other stakeholders on the fundamentals of good corporate governance, and mentor the next generation of women leaders.
- Women's representation in boards of directors increased to 17% in 2018 in government institutions, while it increased to 5% in 2017 in public joint-stock companies listed in the Dubai financial market, as compared to 2.49% in 2016 and 1.2% in 2008.

COVID-19 Action Taken

Al Manal Humanitarian Initiative launched 'ReacHer', a campaign in partnership with Dubai Healthcare City Authority aiming to provide women with mental health support during the COVID-19 pandemic. Psychiatrists, psychologists, and therapists provided mental health consultations by phone, chat line, and video. The program also included 7 sessions of life coaching by certified life coaches. 5,060 messages were exchanged between women in need of support and the campaign's first responders. Approximately 372 hours were spent responding to requests, resulting in 315 sessions held with mental health practitioners. Five Dubai Healthcare City clinics also contributed to the campaign.

The UAE provides remote work opportunities to working mothers whose children are in grade six and below, or whose children are of determination, so they can supervise and care for their children during the e-learning classes.

In line with UAE Cabinet Resolution No.27 of 2020, this decision has been issued to balance meeting business requirements and helping families fulfil the requirements of distance education needs for children due to the COVID-19 pandemic, in a manner that supports the UAE leadership's vision and guidelines on education.

SDG Challenge and Solution

The year 2019-2020 brought unique challenges, particularly around sustaining gender balance. Including the lack of accessible resources and references that highlighted gender equality best practices from across a range of diverse jurisdictions. GBC, the OECD, and the Global Council for SDG 5 developed a solution: the 'Global Best Practices in Gender Balance Toolkit', a comprehensive resource compiling global policies, legislation, and initiatives that supported in the advancement of gender balance in the economy, society, law, and in government. The open access web-based tool was developed by non-partisan international organizations to advance multiple Sustainable Development Goals and support the global implementation of gender balance.

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

Custodian Agency

Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure

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

Supporting agencies:

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

"

The UAE Water Security Strategy 2036 aims to reduce the average residential water consumption by 20% while promoting sustainable practices under various circumstances to meet the needs of the UAE while achieving and maintaining economic prosperity.

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

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2020

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

Policy

- The strategy was prepared from a national perspective to cover all elements of the country's water supply chain over a period of 20 years with the participation of all water resources authorities involved in its development and adoption.
- The UAE's strategy aims to promote sustainable and continuous access to potable water in accordance with enforced regulations and WHO guidelines, both during normal operations and during large-scale emergencies, affecting the entire country and the UAE's vision for prosperity and sustainability.
- The strategy addresses long-term challenges of the future water security. The most immediate challenges include the scarcity of fresh natural water resources, the depletion of groundwater, the high per capita consumption of water, the water losses from water distribution networks, the low irrigation efficiency and limited utilization of available treated wastewater.
- The strategy also addresses challenges related to the resilience of the water system to deal with extreme emergencies, the water energy nexus as well as the high carbon footprint of desalination plants.

Initiative

1. The Emirates Rain Enhancement Program
According to a recent study of the National Centre of Meteorology, rainfall enhancement activity increases the amount of rain by an average of 15% to 30%, which increase the amount of surface water and sustains the strategic groundwater reserves.

The Emirates Rain Enhancement Program is a global research initiative launched in 2015 by the National Centre of Meteorology (NCM). The Program aims to:
- Support innovative scientific research and findings.

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

Year	Value
2015	100%
2016	100%
2017	100%
2018	100%
2019	100%
2020	100%

Source: FCSC
* Values was measured by accessibility and availability

Indicator 6.2.1: Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services

Year	Value
2015	99.5%
2016	99.5%
2017	99.5%
2018	99.5%
2019	100%
2020	100%
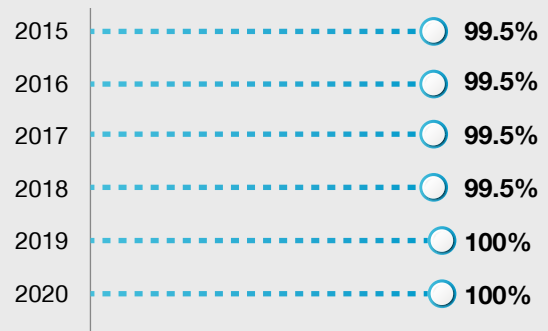
Source: FCSC

- Utilize new technologies to improve the weather when temperatures are high.
- Expand global water security options by stimulating and supporting best international scientific practices and research in the field of cloud seeding.
- Develop rainwater science and solutions to the problem of water scarcity, especially

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

since the natural water resources in the UAE relies on groundwater replenished by rainfall and resulting in surface water flow, which encourages exploring the possibility of increasing the rates of rainfall.

- Advocate for an effective and low-cost method for improving natural water reserves and supporting the country's water and food security strategy.

2. A Sustainable and Reliable Water Supply by Dubai Electricity and Water Authority

- The United Arab Emirates produced a total of 442,319 million gallons of desalinated seawater in 2018. Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA) produced about 27% of that amount.
- According to DEWA's water strategy, 100% of its desalinated water production in 2030 will come from a mixture of clean energy and waste heat, making Dubai the first country in the world to surpass the global target set for using clean energy for desalination.
- In addition to reducing carbon emissions, increasing operational efficiency to separate the desalination process from electricity production will save approximately 13 billion dirhams by 2030, while reducing 43 million tons of carbon emissions.
- The production capacity of using reverse osmosis technology will reach 305 million gallons of desalinated water per day by the year 2030, which increases the total production capacity to 750 million gallons per day.

The following is a summary of DEWA's plans and projects to provide a sustainable and reliable water supply which account for preserving the environment and Dubai's futuristic vision:

- **Losses in Water Transmission Networks**
  DEWA has achieved world-leading rates in terms of reducing water losses, reducing water losses to about 6.6% as compared to 15% in North America.

- **Seawater Desalination**
  The authority started implementing a seawater desalination plant with reverse osmosis technology in the Jebel Ali power plant and water desalination plant complex.

- **Solar water desalination**
  DEWA is increasing the efficiency of its water production plants using photovoltaic panels and other solar energy technologies.

- **The Hydroelectric Station in Hatta**
  To generate electricity, the hydroelectric power station will use the water in the Hatta Dam, stored in an upper reservoir that is to be built in the mountain.

- **Aquifer Storage and Recovery of Desalinated Water**
  DEWA plans to launch an Aquifer Storage & Recovery Scheme (ASR), in which excess desalinated seawater is stored in aquifers and pumped back into the water network as required. DEWA is building a subterranean water basin to store 6,000 million gallons of water that can be retrieved when necessary. In an emergency, Dubai will have a strategic reserve of more than 50 million gallons of water per day, while maintaining the quality of the stored water.

- **Smart Response Service for Electricity and Water**
  By providing value-added services via notifications when water consumption increases, DEWA enhances customer experience and service efficiency enabling customers to self-diagnosis service interruptions, and get familiar with the necessary precautions to ensure continuity and quality of water supply.

- **High Water Usage Alert Initiative**
  The Smart Response Initiative enables customers to discover leaks in their water connections after the meter is installed.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2020

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

COVID-19 Action Taken

Tracking COVID-19 with wastewater

The Centre for Membranes and Advanced Water Technology at Khalifa University (UAE) worked on a project for monitoring the SARS-CoV-2 virus in municipal wastewater, as a method for the early detection and to track the spread of COVID-19 among the general population.

The study indicated that people infected with SARS-CoV-2, including asymptomatic individuals, shed the virus through human waste. Since the levels of SARS-CoV-2 in wastewater are expected to mirror the number of detected infections among the population, testing a municipal wastewater sample will be tantamount to essentially testing everyone who has contributed to that sample.

Currently, the protocol is being used to monitor and predict the location of the outbreak and the extent of the virus spread.

SDG Challenge and Solution

Groundwater is a strategic water resource in UAE. Compared to surface water, changes in ground-water quantity and quality are often a very slow process that occurs under large areas of land. The Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure, in collaboration with Abu Dhabi Environment Agency, is conducting a project to develop a comprehensive hydrogeological mapping of the UAE.

The water information system and the developed maps will be employed in groundwater, surface water, and dams construction and operation studies. This project will support the achievement of the SDG 6, which includes collection, management, and analysis of data and information related to water resources.

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

Custodian Agency

Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure

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

Supporting agencies:

- Federal Competitiveness and Statistics Centre
- Federal Electricity & Water Authority
- Abu Dhabi Department of Energy
- Dubai Electricity & Water Authority
- Sharjah Electricity, Water and Gas Authority

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The goals that our founding fathers have set since the establishment of the UAE include clean and sustainable energy to all citizens and residents of our nation. We have a responsibility to advance efforts towards sustainability and preserve resources while maintaining technical progress in conjunction with our national stakeholders and international partners.

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

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

Policy

The UAE launched its Energy Strategy 2050 in 2017, which is the first unified energy plan in the country to balance production and consumption, global environmental obligations, and to provide a comfortable economic environment growth across all sectors. The plan aims to raise efficiency by 40%, raise the contribution of clean energy in the electricity generation capacity to 50%, and achieve savings equivalent to 700 billion dirhams until 2050. In the next three decades, the strategy will reduce carbon emissions from the power generation sector by 70% compared to business as usual. A combination of renewable, nuclear, and clean fossil energy is included in the energy strategy to achieve a balance between economic needs and environmental goals.

In April 2008, the UAE announced its policy on developing a peaceful nuclear energy program. In addition, nuclear energy will diversify the energy sources becoming available in the country and ensure energy security in the future, as it will lead to the development of a high-tech industry in the country, which will create jobs for decades to come.

Initiative

1. Nuclear Energy Program

The UAE announced in 2008its commitment to developing a peaceful nuclear energy program based on achieving the highest standards of safety, security, and complete transparency. In order to meet the objectives outlined in the UAE's nuclear energy policy, the Emirates Nuclear Energy Corporation was established in 2009 in order to provide safe, environmentally friendly, and economically efficient nuclear energy for the UAE while developing the competencies of human cadres and building a sustainable nuclear operating capacity.
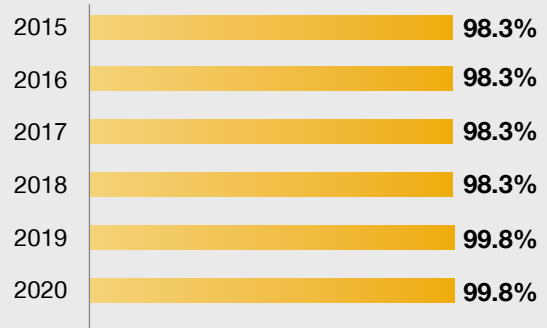
Indicator 7.1.1: Proportion of population with access to electricity

Year	Value
2015	99.8%
2016	99.8%
2017	99.8%
2018	99.8%
2019	100%
2020	100%
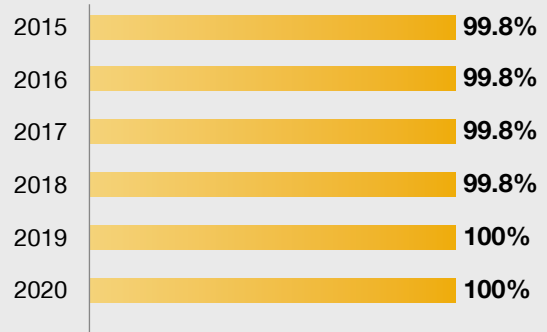
Source: FCSC
* Values was measured by accessibility and availability

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

Year	Value
2015	98.3%
2016	98.3%
2017	98.3%
2018	98.3%
2019	99.8%
2020	99.8%

Source: FCSC

2. Barakah Plant

The International Atomic Energy Agency will supervise the construction of four nuclear plants in Barakah in Abu Dhabi, each with an operational capacity of 1,400 megawatts. The construction of the first nuclear power plant was launched in 2013 and today, the Barakha plant uses advanced nuclear power reactor technology that meets the highest international standards for safety, performance, and environmental impact.

On August 1, 2020, the Emirates Nuclear Energy Corporation announced that the Nawah Energy Company, which operates and maintains the Barakah peaceful nuclear power plants, successfully completed the start-up of the plant's first reactor. Designed to last over 60 years or more, the power plants will provide future generations with reliable and low-carbon electrical energy. The four Barakah plants will produce the equivalent of 25% of the electricity consumed in the UAE, and they will be able to reduce approximately 21 million tons of carbon emissions when fully operational. This equates to removing 3.2 million cars from the roads in the country.

COVID-19 Action Taken

The energy sector in the UAE applies the best standards, precautions, and preventative measures to ensure efficient supplies and services are intact and uninterrupted.

Given its pioneering role in leading the sector in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi and its full commitment to the security of supplies, the Department of Energy - Abu Dhabi is keen to apply the highest standards of health and safety in its facilities. Policy, legislation, and regulations are being embraced in order to protect workers as well as establish an approach based on the continuity of the sector in order to execute its strategic objectives efficiently. In response to the global pandemic, the Department of Energy has strengthened security and safety procedures for all workers, whose efforts represent the backbone of the sector's work, and in cooperation with all the licensed authorities in the emirate.

SDG Challenge and Solution

In 2007, the UAE government conducted an extensive study regarding nation's growing energy demands and electricity generation capacity. In this study, it was found that the existing and planned electricity supply would not meet future demands. Like many developing economies, the UAE faced an urgent need to develop additional sources of energy to power its growth, whilst addressing the realities of climate change and the need to deploy cleaner, low-carbon technologies.

In the UAE, Nuclear energy emerged as the right choice because it is a safe, clean, and a proven technology. It is commercially viable, and it delivers significant volumes of baseload electricity with nearly zero emissions. The UAE's civil nuclear energy program was launched after a comprehensive assessment of its growing energy needs and energy production capabilities, taking into account the relative costs, environmental challenges, security of supplies, and long-term economic development potential.

The growing energy demand that comes with economic growth across vital sectors necessitates an increased awareness and understanding of the different types of renewable energy in the market. Dubai Electricity and Water Authority is implementing innovative projects for renewable and clean energy, including a 250 megawatt stored hydropower plant in Hatta, the first of its kind in the Arab Gulf region, and the first green hydrogen project in the Middle East and North Africa. Hydrogen will be produced using renewable electricity and will be stored for use in multiple applications.

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

Custodian Agency

Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratisation

**UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCES
& EMIRATISATION**

Supporting agencies:

- Ministry of Economy
- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of Finance
- Central Bank of the UAE
- Telecommunications and Digital Government Regulatory Authority

- UAE General Civil Aviation Authority
- Securities and Commodities Authority
- Local executive councils
- Local economic departments
- Higher Colleges of Technology and other academic institutions

> The Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratisation works in cooperation with its partners to empower societal energies and provide decent work in various economic sectors by promoting a productive and balanced workforce that preserves the rights of all parties and enhances mobility in the labour market in a way that contributes to national efforts to achieve comprehensive sustainable development.

His Excellency
Nasser bin Thani Juma Al Hamli
Minster of Human Resources and Emiratisation

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

Policy

An amendment to the Commercial Companies Law (Federal Decree Law no. 26 of 2020)
In line with the UAE future-foresight vision to develop the Economic Sector, the UAE has introduced significant amendments to the Commercial Companies' Law that grants foreigners 100% full ownership of their companies, which previously required 51% Emirati ownership to do business outside of UAE free zones. This will contribute to motivating foreign investors to invest in the UAE market. The new investments will contribute to generating employment opportunities, raising productivity, transferring of technology, exchanging of experiences, and working to develop a more flexible and sustainable economic model to build the economy of the future.

Initiative

Early Leave Initiative During COVID-19
As part of its humanitarian efforts, the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratisation (MOHRE) launched an "Early Leave Initiative" in 2020 in cooperation with other federal entities. The initiative allowed all employees working in the private sector to temporarily return to their home countries during the time COVID-19 precautionary measures were in effect.

MOHRE set five procedures that private firms need to comply with for early leave requests:
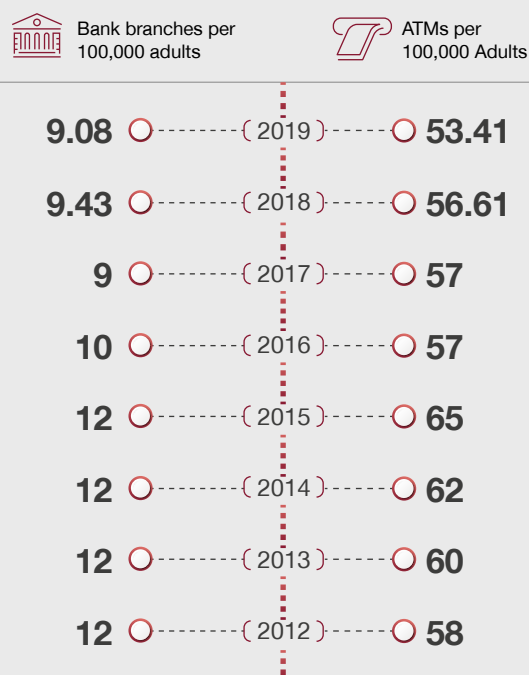1. Both parties must sign the additional temporary form for the job contract and the length of the leave must be specified.
2. Employers must book round-trip tickets for the employees.
3. The contractual relationship between the employee and employer will continue; early leave will be considered unpaid leave, provided that all workers' entitlements are maintained as per the labour law.
4. Leave ends after the precautionary period is over and the employee is back in the UAE.

Indicator 8.2.1: Annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person (%)

Year	Value
2016	13.42%
2017	13.81%
2018	21.460%
2019	20.934%
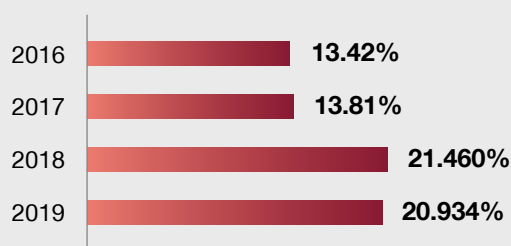
Source: FCSC

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

Bank branches per 100,000 adults | ATMs per 100,000 Adults

Bank branches	Year	ATMs
9.08	2019	53.41
9.43	2018	56.61
9	2017	57
10	2016	57
12	2015	65
12	2014	62
12	2013	60
12	2012	58

Source: FCSC & CBUAE

5. Work permits and residence visas of those who returned to their countries will be automatically renewed if they expire during the leave period.

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

COVID-19 Action Taken

The Virtual Labour Market Platform (VLMP) Initiative

The VLMP initiative - winner of the British Ideas Award 2020 for the category of 'Innovation in Crises' - is one of the initiatives that MOHRE launched under the 'National Program to Support Labour Market Stability' to meet the employment challenge during the period of the COVID-19 pandemic. By registering the data of those workers on the careers.mohre.gov.ae website, the platform intends to reduce operational burdens for establishments that have a surplus of non-national workers. The labour market was thus supported as internal workers are available, and overseas recruitment was been suspended as a precautionary measure to curb the spread of COVID-19. This initiative was praised by the United Nations as one of the best government practices around the world in addressing the pandemic.

Online Support

In an effort to help employers and employees in the UAE adjust to the sudden and drastic disruptions caused by the spread of COVID- 19, the Ministry provided detailed information on their website under "information and services" on the UAE government's ongoing efforts. Special measures were taken to provide easy sustainable solutions for non-locals workers in the UAE, such as "Updates on UAE visas amid COVID 19", "Travelling amid COVID 19", "Supporting the labour market in the private sector in times of COVID 19". By implementing such responses, (MOHRE) addressed immediate challenges brought about by the pandemic, and also built towards SDG commitments in the long term.

SDG Challenge and Solution

One of the challenges that the labour market in the UAE faces is the low participation rate of Emirati women in the private sector. There are particular challenges women face while working in the private sector in comparison to the public sector, such as a lower level of job security and difficulties balancing work and family due to the private sector's longer working hours. In an effort to raise women's employment in the private sector and women's economic empowerment, the Ministry has identified inventive solutions, such as establishing remote work centres that allow women to engage in 'innovative work'. It serves as a model to attract private sector companies to carry out their work from these centres and employ women from remote targeted areas. A self-employment e-platform, providing a collection of tools and services, was also built to enable women to utilize their skills at work independently.

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Custodian Agency

Ministry of Economy

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES MINISTRY OF ECONOMY

Supporting agencies:

- Ministry of Industry & Advanced Technology
- Ministry of Energy & infrastructure
- Ministry of Education

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The Ministry of Economy aspires to support the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by leveraging technology and innovation to build an integrated and sustainable economic model for a better future that serves and meets the aspirations of future generations.

His Excellency
Abdullah bin Touq Al Marri
Minister of Economy

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2020

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Policy

In January 2021, the UAE Cabinet approved the UAE Circular Economy Policy that sets a framework for determining the country's approach to achieving sustainable governance and the ideal use of natural resources, which will ensure the quality of life for current and future generations.

Key objectives of the policy:
- Promoting environmental health.
- Supporting the private sector in adopting clean production methods.
- Reducing natural environmental stress, to achieve the country's vision to be a global pioneer of green development.

Initiative

1. 'Circularity Goes Digital'
In October 2020, the Ministry of Economy launched a global initiative, 'Circularity Goes Digital' in collaboration with Microsoft, Italy's Antisa SanPaolo Group, and Caribloa Factory, to accelerate the transition to a circular economy using digital technology. The circular economy seeks to eliminate waste, conserve resources, and improve productivity. The initiative aims to enable technology-based start-ups in both the UAE and Italy to present their innovations to the world's leading companies, and to provide them with the opportunity to sign trade cooperation agreements with international companies. In turn, this contributes positively to the generation of development opportunities and the enhancement of sustainability requirements.

2. Technology Innovation Pioneers
Launched by the Ministry of Economy of the United Arab Emirates and the Department of Economic Development of Abu Dhabi in 2018, the Technology Innovation Pioneers (TIP), a government innovative initiative, is the first integrated innovation and funding digital platform in the Middle East region. The TIP initiative aligns with the UAE National Strategy for Innovation, UAE Vision 2021 and the Abu Dhabi Economic Vision 2030.

Indicator: 9.1.1 Proportion of the rural population who live within 2 km of an all-season road

95.09 ---- (**2019**)

Source: FCSC

Indicator 9.2.1: Manufacturing value added as a percentage of GDP and per capita

Year	Value
2012	7.7%
2013	7.5%
2014	7.8%
2015	8.8%
2016	9%
2017	9.2%
2018	8.7%
2019	8.7%
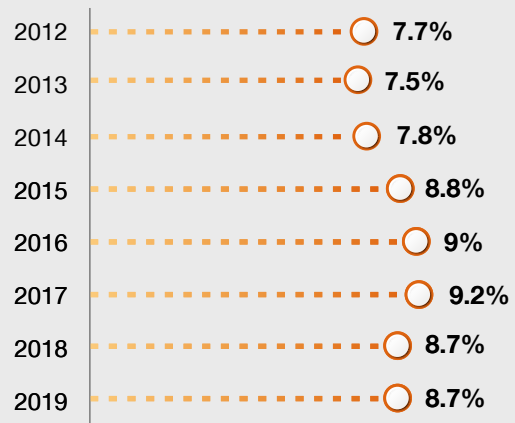
Source: FCSC

TIP aims to attract innovative and pioneering ideas in a single location to accelerate the development of a comprehensive entrepreneurial ecosystem and expand market access around the world. TIP's current focus areas cover Healthcare, Energy and Environment

Through network building, funding platforms, and innovation incubators, TIP connects innovators at national, regional and international levels and enables partnerships between the public and private sectors, contributing at the same time to the achievement of Goal 17 – 'Partnerships For The Goals'.

3. UAE Mission to Mars
The United Arab Emirates is the first Arab country

to develop and launch an interplanetary mission, marking a historic moment in space expeditions. "Hope Probe" is the name behind the space initiative launched by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, UAE's Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai, fuelling hope and inspiration among the Arab youth as well as sharing the message of optimism around the world and the future of knowledge and discovery in the upcoming years.

The Emirates Mars Mission's (EMM) has three major objectives; understanding the climate dynamics of Mars, explaining how the weather on Mars affects the escape of hydrogen and oxygen from its atmosphere, and understanding the structure and variability of hydrogen and oxygen in the upper atmosphere and why mars is letting out those gases into space.
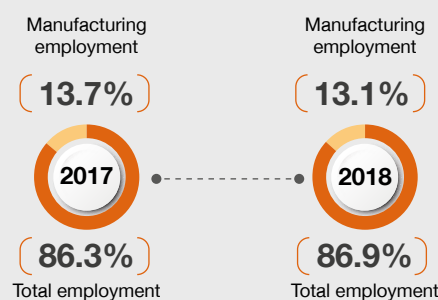
As a result of daily data collected from Martian atmosphere, the Hope Probe mission will provide possible solutions to Earth's climate challenges. The goals and objectives of Emirates Mission to Mars are aligned with the efforts undertaken by the UAE towards achieving the SDGs. With this major investment in space technology and research, the UAE is intently looking forward to transforming the economy, focusing on development, in addition to technological progress.

Indicator 9.2.2: Manufacturing employment as a proportion of total employment

Manufacturing employment **13.7%** 2017 **86.3%** Total employment

Manufacturing employment **13.1%** 2018 **86.9%** Total employment

Source: FCSC

Indicator 9.5.1: Research and development (R&D) expenditure as a proportion of GDP%

0.5 (2015), 0.7 (2016), 0.9 (2017), 1.0 (2018), 1.3 (2019)

Source: Ministry of Economy

in future sectors, as well as leveraging the changes brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic to create new opportunities and practices.
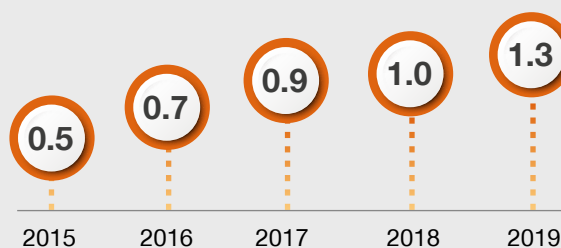
COVID-19 Action Taken

In August 2020, the Ministry of Economy launched a flexible package and an overall plan to support the economic sectors. The plan sets out 33 key initiatives focusing on 8-axis transformation: sector development, labour-market support, trade stimulation, enhanced financing flexibility, increased productivity, and support for digital transformation, accelerated green-economy growth, and enhanced food security. In the plan, a new economic stage is introduced and a path to sustainable growth is embarked upon, indicating that the package included within the plan addresses the various challenges encountered by the business sector. The Ministry is working to revitalize the business environment and develop the country's capabilities
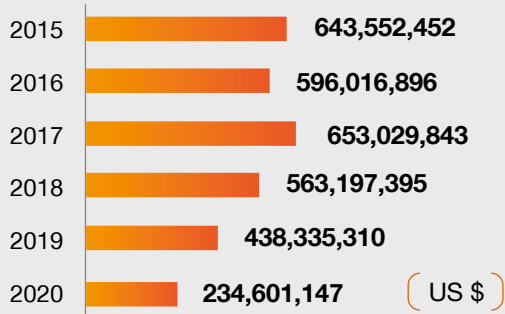
SDG Challenge and Solution

In November 2020, the Ministry of Economy launched a full range of proactive business services on the 'Basher' platform, allowing investors to establish and conduct business electronically in the UAE within minutes and from any location. The smart platform brings together the authorities responsible for economic activities in the country. The platform promotes the adoption of the digital model for business practice and business development, and introduces a new concept of business services. In addition, it implements a comprehensive change of the government services system

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2020
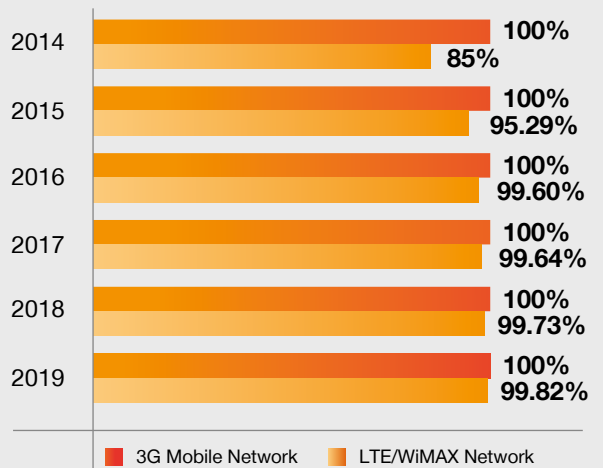
9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

by adopting proactive government procedures and innovative business models to accelerate business processes, save time and effort, and make it easier to conduct business and attract investments. By launching this platform, the UAE reinforces its position as a preferred destination for investors, entrepreneurs, start-ups, innovators, and SMEs activities that will create benefit for its economy.

Indicator: 9.a.1 Total official international support (official development assistance plus other official flows) to infrastructure

Year	US $
2015	643,552,452
2016	596,016,896
2017	653,029,843
2018	563,197,395
2019	438,335,310
2020	234,601,147

Source: MOFAIC

Indicator: 9.c.1 Proportion of population covered by a mobile network, by technology/LTE/WiMAX mobile network. Percentage of the population covered by at least a 3G mobile network

Year	3G Mobile Network	LTE/WiMAX Network
2014	100%	85%
2015	100%	95.29%
2016	100%	99.60%
2017	100%	99.64%
2018	100%	99.73%
2019	100%	99.82%

Source: TDRA

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

Custodian Agency

Ministry of Community Development

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Supporting agencies:

- Ministry of Health & Prevention
- Ministry of Cabinet Affairs
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation
- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of Community Development
- Ministry of Interior
- Ministry of Human Resources & Emiratisation
- Food and Water Security Office

- Ministry of Climate Change & Environment
- Ministry of Health & Prevention
- Federal Youth Authority
- UAE Gender Balance Council
- Central Bank of the UAE
- Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure
- Ministry of Finance
- Federal Competitiveness & Statistics Centre

"

The Ministry of Community Development seeks to provide support and empowerment to all members of the community, especially people of determination who require special programs in education, healthcare and welfare. During COVID-19 pandemic, the UAE's wise leadership was keen to upgrade health and wellbeing services, which are key priorities in our agenda for sustainable development.

Her Excellency
Hessa bint Essa Buhumaid
Minister of Community Development

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

Policy

In accordance with the Cabinet's Decision No. (1/6) for 2017, His Highness Sheikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, UAE Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai, launched the national policy for empowering people of determination. Through an integrated community free of barriers, the policy strives to empower people of determination and their families and ensure their wellbeing, through innovative services that accommodate their needs and requirements.

In addition, the policy aims at achieving social inclusion for people of determination, equal opportunities and active participation in society based on the following pillars: health and rehabilitation, education, vocational rehabilitation and employment, outreach, social protection and family empowerment, public life, culture and sport.

Initiative

1. The People of Determination Advisory Council

The council was formed to include six people of determination as part of the council's 15 members. The advisory council members include representatives of associations, entities, people of determination parents, as well as representatives of federal ministries and government entities that are relevant to the needs of people of determination. The advisory council is an effective step to ensure that people of determination are involved in the development process, and supports the UAE's national policy for the empowerment of people of determination.

2. People of Determination Recruitment in the United Arab Emirates

The UAE government prioritizes welfare laws and regulations that support the inclusion of people of determination in society by ensuring the establishment of the best welfare services and providing them with employment opportunities.

Through the development of an online recruiting platform, the Ministry has been able to empower people of determination by identifying the number of people of determination looking for jobs and employers who are willing to hire them based on available vacancies that are appropriate for their abilities and interests.
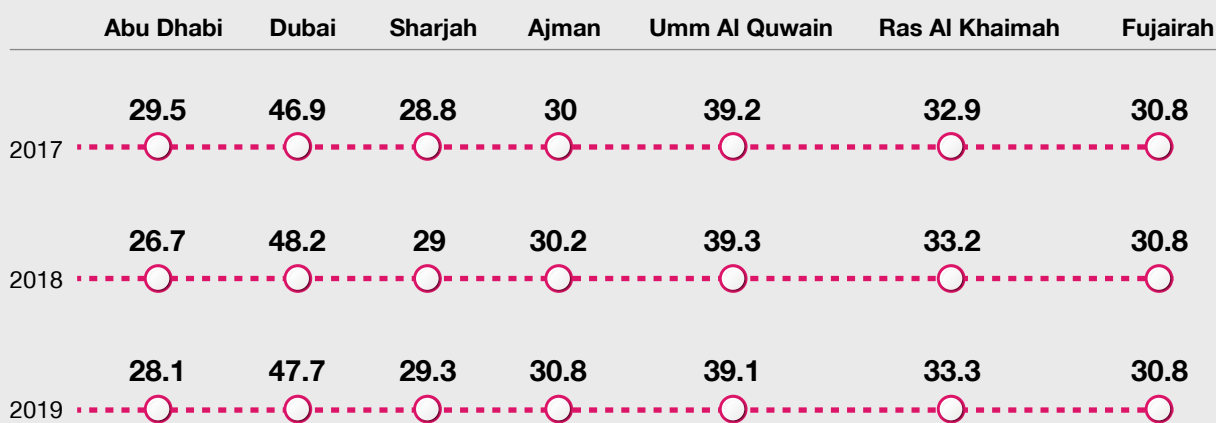
The platform provides full support to the people of determination through availing introductory guidelines about finding jobs, succeeding in interviews and adapting with their colleagues and working environment. It also offers employers information about how to conduct interviews with people of determination and mentor and manage them at work. This step reinforces the concept of comprehensive inclusion for the people of determination, and ensures equal access to opportunities.

COVID-19 Action Taken

A family guide was developed to detect and address any psychological, behavioural and emotional symptoms exhibited by the students of determination during a situation of emergency. In this guide, a range of activities and exercises are outlined so that children can reduce these effects on a short and long-term basis to achieve psychological adaptation to these conditions.

The guide also includes a stress assessment for families, and a counselling intervention program to minimise the stress experienced by mothers of the people of determination during the pandemic. The guide outlines a set of instructions and activities that have been applied by parents with their children of determination during the pandemic to mitigate the psychological and behavioural effects they experienced, and to support their psychological stability and adaptation to the pandemic.

Indicator 10.4.1: Labor share of GDP (per emirate), comprising wages and social protection transfers (%)

	Abu Dhabi	Dubai	Sharjah	Ajman	Umm Al Quwain	Ras Al Khaimah	Fujairah
2017	29.5	46.9	28.8	30	39.2	32.9	30.8
2018	26.7	48.2	29	30.2	39.3	33.2	30.8
2019	28.1	47.7	29.3	30.8	39.1	33.3	30.8

Source: FCSC

SDG Challenge and Solution

The UAE gives great priority to ensuring the well-being of all members of the community. However, different laws and regulations in the federal and local government affect, to a large extent, the achievement of certain sets of indicators listed under the SDGs 1 and 10. To address this challenge, the Ministry of Community Development has adopted the formation of committees and coordinating council members from relevant authorities across the UAE to launch and implement joint policies and initiatives. As such, The Family Coordination Council and People of Determination Higher Services Committee were formed with the membership of representatives of both federal and local government authorities. Together, they propose legislations, policies and initiatives and follow-up on their implementation. They also work on anticipating the future needs of the community and ensuring the comprehensiveness of the services provided.

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

Custodian Agency

Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure

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

Supporting agencies:

- Ministry of Climate Change & Environment
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation
- Planning Departments and Municipalities and Transport Agencies
- The National Emergency Crisis and Disaster Management
- Private Sector
- Academia

The Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure continues its efforts in transforming challenges into opportunities, and in executing projects that target the development of sustainable cities by 2030 in support of the Sustainable Development Goals 2030 established by the United Nations.

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

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

Policy

Launching the 'Establishment of Public/ Private partnership (PPP) National Legal Framework Policy' (2018) with the following objectives:
1. Develop a public-private partnership policy.
2. Finance and implement infrastructure projects.
3. Enhance the competitiveness of the UAE.
4. Meet the needs and future aspirations of infrastructure and housing.
5. Stimulate the economy and the private sector.

Initiative

1. The UAE Infrastructure Geospatial Platform

This platform was designed as a 'one-stop-shop' to deliver trusted, nationally consistent geospatial data and services. This system provides government agencies and citizens with well-managed, highly available, and trusted geospatial data, services, and applications. A spatial data platform for the ministry's projects will be used in strategic decision-making in the country as well as for improving future planning in cooperation with partners. The purpose of the platform is to develop an integrated vision and comprehensive plan that will support the country's infrastructure system.
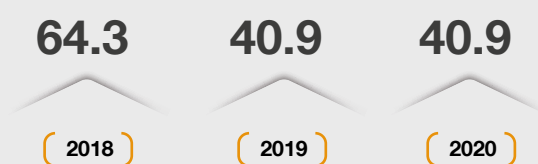
By adopting the geospatial platform for digital connectivity, designed according to the latest technological advancements, the UAE will be able to monitor the geospatially related national goals, understand the synergies and the impact of investments, and secure the exchange of information across all the Emirates.

2. The National Walkways of Happiness

National Happiness Walkways and cycling tracks Initiative is a national initiative that promotes the wellbeing of the community in UAE and aims to promote sustainable planning in residential communities and raise community health. This initiative supports the UAE in achieving the national agenda 2021 and SDG 3 - Good Health and Well-being,

Target 11.6: By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management
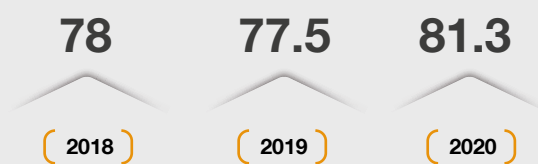
Annual mean concentration of particulate matter of less than 2.5 microns in diameter (PM2.5) (g/m3)

64.3	40.9	40.9
2018	2019	2020

Source: Sustainable Development Report 2020 by SDSN and Bertelsmann Stiftung

Target 11.2: By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons

Satisfaction with public transport (%)

78	77.5	81.3
2018	2019	2020

Source: Sustainable Development Report 2020 by SDSN and Bertelsmann Stiftung

as well as SDG 11 - Sustainable Cities and Communities. It focuses on designing and building walkways and cycle tracks using sustainable and local resources and renewable energy, while offering and promoting investment opportunities for SMEs.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2020

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

The initiative was developed in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Prevention and local authorities to set forward a holistic plan for building walkways and cycle tracks that are pedestrian-friendly and sustainable nationwide, linking public transport centres, workplaces, accommodation, and public utilities.

COVID-19 Action Taken

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure launched a COVID-19 hub to explore emergency buildings operation management through the available data and apps. Its purpose is to engage and communicate internally and externally with other agencies so that they can effectively respond to the challenges and needs of partners and clients existent due the pandemic.

1Map is an initiative of Federal Competitiveness and Statistics Centre to support the development of Geographic Information System (GIS) in the UAE and help decision-makers, researchers and students to get access to detailed statistics and survey outputs on geospatial dashboards. It supports national decision-making and planning through partnership and data integration with relevant partners. It aims to bring transparency by sharing data and enhancing public engagement. One of the locators under 1Map is the UAE Health Facilities Locator, which can be used to locate hospitals, clinics, medical centers and COVID test centres.

SDG Challenge and Solution

As a result of the multiple stakeholders working on SDG 11, it has been challenging to coordinate with responsible authorities to collect quality data in a timely manner and ensure consistency in the indicators results.

In an effort to address this challenge, the Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure formed a national team that included partners from planning departments, municipalities, and transportation sector at the federal level, as well as the private sector, civil society, academia, and other stakeholders to set in place the right governance and infrastructure strategies.

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

Custodian Agency

Ministry of Climate Change and Environment

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES MINISTRY OF CLIMATE CHANGE & ENVIRONMENT

Supporting agencies:

- Ministry of Energy &Infrastructure
- Ministry of Industry & Advanced Technology
- Ministry of Economy
- Office of the Minister of State for Artificial Intelligence, Digital Economy and Remote Work Application
- Local environmental authorities

"

The Ministry of Climate Change and Environment plays a key role in the implementation of the SDGs through its focus on protecting the environment, preserving natural resources, advancing climate change mitigation and adaptation, and promoting the adoption of sustainable economic models.

His Excellency
Dr Abdullah bin Mohammed Belhaif Al Nuaimi
Minister of Climate Change and Environment

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2020

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

Policy

The UAE National Framework Plan for Sustainable Consumption and Production was launched in 2019 as part of the implementation of the UAE Green Agenda 2030. It aims to:

- Achieve sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources by supporting the transition to a circular economy.
- Assist the private sector in its shift to more sustainable and environmentally friendly production methods and technologies.
- Promote sustainable consumption and production patterns that reduce environmental stress and meet basic needs.

Initiative

1. Scale 360° Initiative
In collaboration with the World Economic Forum (WEF), the UAE government launched the Scale 360° initiative, aimed at harnessing the potential of technology innovations to fast-track the circular economy. The initiative is affiliated with the Platform for Accelerating the Circular Economy (PACE), and seeks to create new markets for circular goods and services by supporting and connecting entrepreneurs and innovators through government-led challenges and partnerships. The idea is to help stakeholders scale up solutions in partnership with government entities, impact investors, experts, and companies.

2. Blue, (in collaboration with Al Serkal group)
Founded in 1947, Alserkal Group is one of the largest UAE family businesses operating a diverse portfolio including innovative solutions towards sustainability. Their environmental division Blue LLC entered a joint venture with Dubai Municipality and Envirol was established in 2009 as the first grease trap waste recycling plant in the UAE supporting SDG 12.

Envirol provides food industries and outlets with a sustainable solution to managing FOGs (fat, oil, and grease) created from food waste. At the Envirol facility the waste is separated, treated and reintroduced as water, oil, and biosolid. Following the trend of FOG related waste, Coregreen was

Indicator: 12.4.1 Number of parties to international multilateral environmental agreements on hazardous waste, and other chemicals that meet their commitments and obligations in transmitting information as required by each relevant agreement

85.5% 2015

91% 2020

Source: MOCCAE

established in 2011 as a collection service for used cooking oil. By providing services to outlets with high oil usage, Coregreen removes the used oil rather than letting it drain into sewage pipes and causing similar problems as FOGs.

In 2019 Blue began exploration into optimizing cooling systems in Dubai. As of 2020, an innovative additive titled EndoCool was chosen to increase the efficiency of water-cooled air conditioning. By adding EndoCool, a product that becomes carbon neutral within a day's use, there are significant savings in energy consumption and reduction in CO_2 emissions in every site of installation.

As part of the continued efforts of the Group's core business in developing solutions for clean water and sanitation, Blue's most recent development of 2020 is the introduction of a highly efficient lift station service for sewage holding tanks. Through easy installation, this lift station technology breaks down solid waste build-up and safely pre-treats the wastewater before it is sent to sewage treatment plants. This technology also significantly decreases solid waste being sent to landfills, reduces pipe blockages of untreated tanks and eases truck transportation of the wastewater to sewage treatment plants.

Covid-19 Action

COVID outbreak represented a challenge for the whole world in terms of food production with the borders restriction. Being a country that imports the majority of its food, the UAE Government and in partnership with the different actors such as the private sector came with multiple initiatives and programs to solve this challenge innovatively and to ensure the fulfillment of SDG 12 sustainable consumption and production. One of those initiatives was done in collaboration with Majid Al Futtiam company to support local agriculture and to increase the reliance on local agricultural and food products in order to provide safe food supplies at an affordable price.

SDG Challenge and Solution

There is a need for a unified framework, which is lacking in the UAE, to transition to a circular economy in order to achieve sustainable production and consumption. The Ministry is working with the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers, the Ministry of Economy, and the Office of the Minister of State for Artificial Intelligence, Digital Economy and Remote Applications to develop a national circular economy policy that will guide the UAE's transition to this promising economic model, and support its efforts to implement sustainable solutions.

13 CLIMATE ACTION

Custodian Agency

Ministry of Climate Change and Environment

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

Supporting agencies:

- Federal and Emirate-level government entities including ministries, environment agencies and municipalities, amongst others
- Private sector companies, including heavy emitters, large local firms, SMEs and companies operating in sectors at risk from climate change
- Reseach institutes and universities

"

In strengthening UAE's climate response, MOCCAE is striving to serve UAE's priorities of growth and diversification, public health and welfare, and environment protection. We are determined to continue our efforts, in partnership with stakeholders in the government, private sector, and the wider community.

His Excellency
Dr Abdullah bin Mohammed Belhaif Al Nuaimi
Minister of Climate Change and Environment

13 CLIMATE ACTION

Policy

To strengthen and accelerate UAE's climate mitigation and adaptation efforts, the National Climate Change Plan (2017-2050) was adopted in 2017. The three main priorities of the plan include: National GHG Emissions Management System, Adaptation Planning & Implementation, and Private Sector Driven Innovative Diversification Program. In the plan, capacity building and awareness raising are identified as key enablers of climate action. The implementation of the plan includes preparing UAE's workforce to capitalize on opportunities arising from the development of a green economy; engaging relevant stakeholders in climate action and building their capacity; as well as raising awareness about climate change – its impacts and related solutions.

Target 13.2: Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning

The UAE ranked **1** ---- (**2020**)

Globally in the Environmental Agreements indicator.

Source: The World Competitiveness Yearbook by the International Institute for Management Development

Initiatives

1. The 'Target Climate' initiative
MOCCAE, in collaboration with Emirates Nature-WWF and HSBC Middle East, organized a series of workshops during the year 2020 to increase the private sector capacity for climate action. These workshops, delivered under the 'Target Climate' initiative, were successful in raising awareness about climate science and action, as well as developing capabilities in estimating carbon footprint. A guided toolkit and other resources were provided to corporations to encourage them to adopt emission reduction strategies.

2. National Climate Adaptation Program
In early 2018, the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment began the preparation of the National Climate Adaptation Program with the aim of making the UAE one of the most equipped countries in the world to face the repercussions of climate change. Three main phases were required to ensure the success of the initiative.

In the first phase, a field study was conducted to comprehensively identify existing adaptation measures, identify gaps, and study the risks associated with climate change in various sectors. Four main sectors, the energy sector, the environment sector, the public health sector and the

infrastructure sector, were identified and selected. In addition, a training program for raising awareness and developing capacity in various sectors was developed.

The second phase included identifying risks by their priority and identifying the implications of climate change that need immediate attention for the environmental system, economic sector, and social sector.

In the third phase, all relevant stakeholders were involved in developing and implementing appropriate adaptation plans that addressed six main axes, four technical reports and a summary of the results were prepared.

Results from a comprehensive assessment of risks in the four sectors have identified some of the challenges that need to be addressed, including:
- The lack of an inclusive and comprehensive assessment of the economic and social impacts of climate change at the country level.
- The existing databases should be supplemented with the collection and analysis of additional data and information to ensure effective adaptation planning.
- The lack of awareness about climate change and the importance of adaptation in the public and private sectors.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2020

13 CLIMATE ACTION

- Adaptation to climate change requires intensifying teamwork and increasing coordination between local and federal authorities.

COVID-19 Action

MOCCAE has highlighted the importance of treating 'green economy' as a cornerstone of recovery efforts. Even though the COVID-19 crisis has revealed vulnerability of global food supply chains, food security remains a critical aspect of UAE's climate strategy, given the need to reduce emissions from agriculture as well as building resilience of food systems. By adopting cutting-edge technology and climate-smart agricultural practices to improve local agricultural yield, MOCCAE addresses the UAE's critical development and risk management priorities. Whlie sustainable food consumption is a priority, one of the building blocks of a crisis-proof food system is building capacity among stakeholders, including communities, farmers, and research institutes.

SDG Challenge and Solution

Since MOCCAE's initiatives and projects depend on multi-stakeholder dialogue and capacity enhancement, the COVID-19 crisis meant that creative solutions were needed to keep stakeholders involved. It was particularly relevant for two key initiatives that MOCCAE launched in 2020 namely, the 'Target Climate workshops' and the 'Climate Adaptation initiative' targeted towards the UAE's insurance sector.

Through a partnership with Emirates Nature- WWF and HSBC Middle East, MOCCAE delivered a series of virtual workshops for the private sector during 2020, with the aim of developing their capacity on climate change, particularly on emissions measurement and reporting. A total of 110 participants from 84 corporations joined the workshops. In September 2020, as part of ongoing efforts with the insurance sector, MOCCAE organized a virtual workshop on climate-related opportunities and risks for the insurance sector, which brought together 50 insurance companies and relevant stakeholders to discuss the sector's impact on the SDGs and climate action.

14 LIFE BELOW WATER

Custodian Agency

Ministry of Climate Change and Environment

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

Supporting agencies:

- Local emirates environmental authorities and municipalities
- Critical Infrastructure and Coastal Protection Authority
- Private sector entities

"

A number of initiatives have been undertaken by the UAE to preserve life below water and to ensure sustainable fisheries by 2030, including the launch of the National Framework for Sustainable Fisheries, and the development of integrated, robust, and science-based legislations, while working closely with our fishing communities.

His Excellency
Dr Abdullah bin Mohammed Belhaif Al Nuaimi
Minister of Climate Change and Environment

14 LIFE BELOW WATER

Policy

With the success of the 'Safi' and 'Sheri' fishing regulation during the spawning season, the Ministry has approved a legislative plan implemented in 2021 and to be extended to 2035 to regulate fishing of several species during the spawning season. During the next 15 years, two species will be banned for a month in three consecutive years, reaching ten species banned in total.

Initiative

1. Rehabilitation Programs
The UAE has embarked on an ambitious rehabilitation program, which includes planting over 30 million mangrove seedlings by 2030, deploying more than 4400 artificial reefs so far, and transplanting coral fragments using micro-fragment technique. Additionally, researchers have been working diligently to develop super coral species capable of adapting to the UAE's extreme environment conditions. An estimated 300,000 square meters will be devoted to the establishment of one of the world's largest coral nurseries.

2. Single Use Plastic Policy
An estimated 13 million tons enter the ocean every year affecting biodiversity, economic sectors, and human health. Single-use plastics and marine litter have adversely affected more than 600 marine species, and 15% of these species have an endangered status since 2019.

With this matter in mind, the Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi (EAD) developed the Abu Dhabi Emirate Single Use Plastic Policy, to reduce consumption of single-use plastics in the emirate. By 2022, the policy will ban single-use plastic bags, encourage using reusable bags, and introduce a levy on plastics with sustainable alternatives. It aims to eliminate single-use plastic bags and non-plastics from the Abu Dhabi Government by the end of 2021, and to eradicate single-use plastic bags from the emirate by 2022, which will reduce the UAE's consumption of plastic.
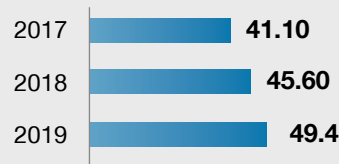
The Environmental Outreach Division (EOD) at EAD aims to support awareness and educate the

Indicator: 14.3.1 Average marine acidity (pH) measured at agreed suite of representative sampling stations

Year	pH
2015	8.11
2016	8.01
2017	7.82
2018	7.72
2019	7.91
2020	8.00

Source: MOCCAE

Indicator: 14.4.1 Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels

Year	Value
2017	41.10
2018	45.60
2019	49.4
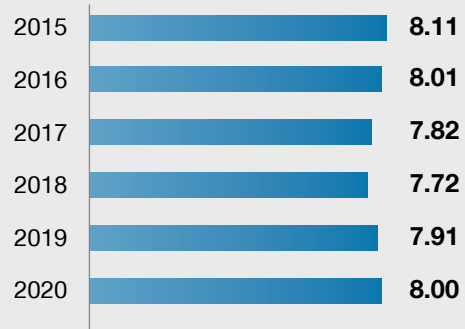
(SEI) based on sustainable exploitation index

Source: MOCCAE

community on preventing, reducing, reusing, and recycling single-use plastics, and to encourage businesses to adopt sustainable procurement practices among businesses aligned with national policies and priorities.

3. Actions Towards a Greener Abu Dhabi
A number of outreach initiatives have been launched to bring the concerns of single-use plastics to the public's attention. The EOD team conceptualized the issue from an artistic standpoint in 2020. As part of the Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week 2020, 'The Art of Story Telling - Single Use Plastic' featured 12 artworks that told the story of single use plastics.

14 LIFE BELOW WATER

EOD organised 'Al Sidr Environmental Film Festival' where six internationally acclaimed feature films were screened, and a workshop titled 'Old is Gold' was conducted by EN-WWF, focusing on the importance of up-cycling (using plastic waste to create something new).

On the occasion of the 23rd National Environment Day, EOD held an Environmental Youth Talk 'Our Marine, Our Responsibility' that focused on marine litter and the effects on ecosystems, as well as finding innovative and appropriate solutions to help mitigate the negative impacts of marine litter on the ecosystem.

In collaboration with Emirates Nature - WWF, EOD team organized two clean-ups that raised community awareness about the amount of single-use plastic that enters the beaches and affects marine life. Over 500 kilos of waste was collected in the clean-ups.

COVID-19 Action

The ministry and its partners have devised and supported implementing various measures to curb the spread of COVID-19. Among the main measures taken was the transitions to e-services for the provision of all fishing-related government transactions and services. Temporarily, a grace period and auto-renewals were offered to fishermen as a means of accommodating their transition to e-services.

SDG Challenge and Solution

The impacts of climate change and extreme weather events on the marine environment (marine water quality and biodiversity) pose a formidable challenge, which the UAE has been monitoring closely through the use of advanced technologies and an artificial intelligence monitoring program based on satellite images and modelling systems. In addition to this, the UAE has launched the Super Coral Project, which involves bringing various species of corals from their natural habitats and exposing them to extreme conditions, in order to activate formerly idle genes that can help the corals cope with climate change.

15 LIFE ON LAND

Custodian Agency

Ministry of Climate Change and Environment

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

Supporting agencies:

- Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi
- Environment and protected areas Authority- Sharjah
- Local Emirates Municipalities
- Environment Protection and Development Authority - Ras Al Khaimah
- Emirates University

- Zayed University
- Khalifa University of Science and Technology
- New York University
- American University of Sharjah
- American University Dubai
- Emirates Airlines
- Etihad Airways
- Al Ain Zoo

- Dubai Safari
- DP world, Al Barari
- Emirates Nature -WWF
- International Fund for Animal Welfare
- International Fund for Houbara Conservation
- The Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund

"

The Ministry of Climate Change and Environment works within an integrated legislative system to ensure the protection of the environment, and to employ modern technologies in order to find innovative solutions to achieve the sustainable development goals.

His Excellency
Dr Abdullah bin Mohammed Belhaif Al Nuaimi
Minister of Climate Change and Environment

15 LIFE ON LAND

Policy

Federal Law No. 9 of 2020 was enacted regarding the bio-safety of genetically modified organisms and their products. Under this law, human health and safety are protected from the risks of genetically modified organisms and their products, and the environment is protected during the manufacture, development, production, transfer, or circulation of these organisms and products. Aside from preventing the release or introduction of genetically modified organisms or their products into the local environment, efforts such as controlling and eliminating their potential damages, and conducting advanced scientific research in this area are undertaken.

Initiative

1. Red List of Endangered Species
The national project for the Red List of Endangered Species focuses on assessing the status of living species of land and marine mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles and a selection of marine species (sharks, corals and cartilaginous fish) and plants. Furthermore, the project will measure the red list index for these categories by 2020, according to the methodology of the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

The project is considered one of the most important in the realm of biological diversity, since it aims to determine the status of species, define priorities, and monitor the effectiveness of conservation measures related to the protection of species that The Ministry has partnered with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and other environmental authorities in the country to implement this project in phases, which helped in assisting the initial National Endangered Species Database. Additionally, the national red list project contributes to the achievement of the sustainable development goals by determining trends in the preservation of local species.

2. DP World's Contribution to Global Wildlife Conservation Efforts in Partnership with United for Wildlife

Indicator 15.1.2: Proportion of important sites for terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity that are covered by protected areas, by ecosystem type

(This is a proxy indicator for the UAE: Percentage of Terrestrial Protected Areas in the UAE)

Year	Value
2015	16%
2016	16%
2017	17.05%
2018	17.05%
2019	17.05%
2020	18.4%

Source: MOCCAE

Indicator: 15.7.1 Proportion of traded wildlife that was poached or illicitly trafficked

Year	Value
2015	0.43%
2016	0.34%
2017	0.48%
2018	0.21%
2019	0.19%
2020	0.24%
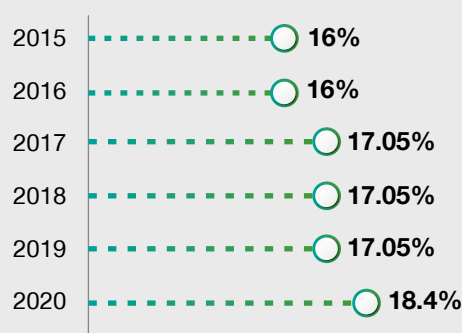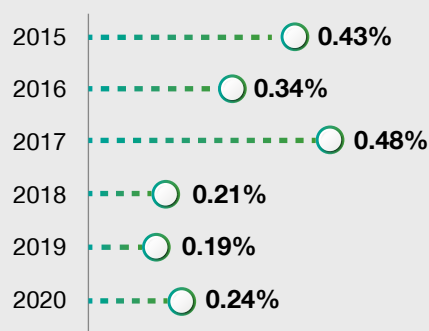
Source: MOCCAE

In 2018, DP World invited visitors to its 'Innovation Sandbox' initiative in Dubai, a temporary installation that consisted of 10 cargo containers showcasing some of the technological solutions that illustrate how DP World will shape the future of world trade. DP World refurbished and donated these cargo containers to four wildlife charities (partners of United for Wildlife) to be used in wildlife conservation programs dedicated to combating the illegal wildlife trade (IWT).

15 LIFE ON LAND

As a global trade enabler, DP World is committed to identifying and disrupting trade flows linked to IWT. DP World is The Principal Partner of the Royal Foundation's United for Wildlife (UFW) initiative, which aims to break the chain in IWT between suppliers and consumers by disrupting and restricting criminal networks.

A major focus of this project is target 15.7 - Take urgent action to end the poaching and trafficking of protected flora and fauna, and address both the demand and supply of illegal wildlife products, which are directly related to SDG 15.

SDG Challenge and Solution

The UAE Natural Capital Smart Map project is a map that includes a set of biological and geographical surveys and environmental and economic assessments of terrestrial and marine environments and habitats at the national level. The project aims to provide information and data related to the country's ecosystems in the form of a smart and interactive map that is taken into consideration in the process of policy development and decisions related to land use and investment opportunities. Ecological services provided by natural systems are often excluded from economic calculations, exacerbating the unsustainable exploitation of these systems that are already facing increasing human and natural pressures and challenges. The project bridges this gap through these smart maps that display natural systems of land, marine and coasts and the services they provide, economic and social evaluation, and the development of models for future visions regarding urban development and climate change.

Custodian Agency

Ministry of Interior

**UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
MINISTRY OF INTERIOR**

16 PEACE, JUSTICE
AND STRONG
INSTITUTIONS

Supporting agencies:

- Ministry of Finance
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation
- Ministry of Human Resources & Emiratization
- Federal Authority for Identity and Citizenship
- Central Bank of the UAE
- Roads and Transport Authority (RTA)- Dubai

The UAE, with the vision of its wise leadership, is one of the first countries to keep pace with changes and to be alert proactively to challenges. It also has a flexible and comprehensive legislative and legal structure and that strengthens the state's efforts in achieving a more secure and stable society. Through developing sustainable and modernized systems and through the enhancement of community participation in the detection of crime in a safe and lawful manner, we are able to protect society, reinforce security and ensure peace and stability for all people in UAE.

**Lt. General His Highness Sheikh Saif
Bin Zayed Al Nahyan**
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2020

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

Policy

Rapid Response Policy is designed with the objective of managing the emergency response process. It organizes and specifies the responsibilities, scope of work and authority for operations rooms, employees, and drivers of response vehicles in order to enhance rapid response and provide assistance to those experiencing emergency situations and in need of Police support.

Expected Outcome:
- The policy contributed to uniting efforts towards achieving the National Agenda Index, in order to achieve global leadership positions.
- Achieving an improvement rate of 55.97%, where the response average was 5.27 minutes at the beginning of the fourth quarter of 2020, compared to a result of 11.97 minutes at the end of 2017.

Initiatives

Sheikha Fatima bint Mubarak Women, Peace and Security Training Initiative

Under the patronage of Her Highness Sheikha Fatima bint Mubarak, Chairwoman of the General Women's Union, (GWU), President of the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood, and Supreme Chairwoman of the Family Development Foundation, the program was established in 2018 by the UAE's Ministry of Defence and General Women's Union. With an aim to build and develop the capabilities of women in the military and peace-keeping sectors, they implemented a partnership with the UN Women UAE Liaison Office in Abu Dhabi, the UAE Ministry of Defence and the GWU. The programme is a true testament to the UAE's support of the United Nations Women's programs and initiatives that builds a better future for women in the UAE and around the world.

The program itself is a revolutionary plan for the region since the UAE is the first GCC country to

Indicator: 16.6.1 Primary government expenditures as a proportion of original approved budget, by sector (or by budget codes or similar)

Year	Percentage
2015	94%
2016	96%
2017	97%
2018	96%
2019	87%
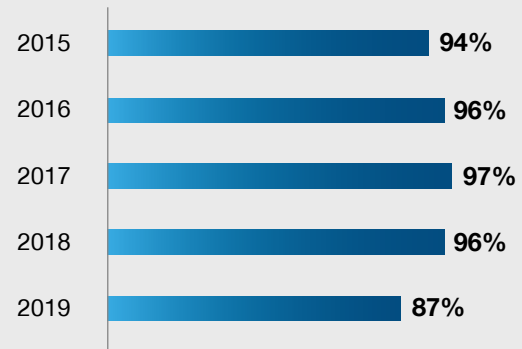
Source: MOF

Indicator 16.9.1: Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority, by age

2020 — 100%
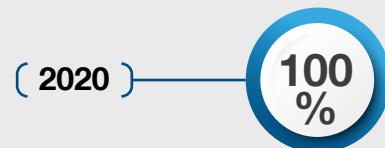
Source: FCSC

highlight its pledge to progress the role of women in the fields of Peace and Security against the backdrop of rising conflict globally. It focuses on building women's capacity and work skills in the military and peacekeeping field, while also promoting support networks for women working in the military around the world.

The initiative also advances the strategic objectives of UN Security Council Resolution 1325, which recognized for the first time the complex link between gender equality and women's participation in international peace and security. It further highlighted the critical role of women's

full and equal participation in conflict resolution, peacebuilding, and peacekeeping.

Safety and General Public Initiatives

The Ministry of Interior is constantly seeking the most efficient and innovative initiatives to ensure safety and peace for all in the UAE. Most recent initiatives include:

- Adoption of Facebook's Missing Child Alert system (2018) to declare alerts when investigating abductions.
- Implementation of the Smart Tower initiative (2017) to monitor traffic screens, wanted vehicles, and provide traffic information to motorists with the aim to reduce deaths by half (from 6 to 3 per 100,000) by 2021.
- Creation of a Joint Framework for Drug Control (2017) to prevent and detect drug smuggling.
- Adoption of a Crime Scene Management Policy (2017) to promote cooperation and coordination between partners in scene management (fingerprints and samples).
- Unification of criminal systems in 2017 to standardize criminal records and databases related to relevant sectors.
- Launch of the National Intelligence Model (2017), a unified approach for the collection, coordination and dissemination of intelligence across all forces and law enforcement agencies.
- Launch of Hassantuk initiative (2017), the largest integrated system in the region to monitor emergencies related to fire and public safety using smart techniques in artificial intelligence.

COVID-19 Action Taken

The Ministry of Interior contributed to supporting the UAE government in curbing the spread of COVID-19 through a number of practices and initiatives:

- Civil defence participation in the National Sterilisation Programme.
- The establishment of inspection gates to verify the access of those tested to the emirate of Abu Dhabi.
- The early detection for COVID-19 through using dogs.
- SmartPass and Smartwatch project.
- Supply Smart helmets to detect suspected people who could be infected with the virus and allocate them to various police headquarters.

SDG Challenge and Solution

- Maintain information confidentiality.
- Difficulty in gathering data on sustainable practices from external entities.
- The tremendous technological developments to achieve security require modifications in legislation and policies to deal with the fast-changing work environment.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2020

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

Partnerships for the Goals

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are an effective mechanism to elevate global development and prosperity through robust partnerships across all developed as well as developing countries. The SDGs recognize that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth – all while tackling climate change and working to preserve our oceans and forests.

The SDGs aims to foster key strategies that develop health and education, reduce inequality, and drive economic growth, which ultimately tackles poverty and other deprivations. Meanwhile it simultaneously focuses on taking urgent action to battle climate change and conserve oceans and forests for the future generations.

This is why the SDGs are very closely interlinked, interconnected, and interdependent. SDG 17, Partnership for the Goals, focuses on various targets and indicators that promote the concept of cross sector collaboration to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In the UAE, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation is the custodian agency for the international implementation of the SDGs (visit www.mofaic.gov.ae for more information on foreign assistance towards the SDGs). At the national level, the UAE National Committee is responsible for the implementation of the global goals (see 'The Institutional Governance Mechanism to localize and Implement the SDGs'). This chapter focuses on a selection of policies, initiatives, and solutions to challenges from both national and international perspectives.

Policy

UAE Foreign Aid Strategy 2017 -2021
The main objective of the UAE's foreign aid is to reduce poverty, improve the lives of less fortunate

societies, alleviate poverty in them and spread stability, peace and prosperity in the region. Moreover, it seeks to develop the UAE's relations with other countries, whether those that receive aid from the UAE or other donor countries that cooperate with it.

The UAE's approach towards foreign aid focuses on providing assistance through the implementation of development projects that are in favor of the beneficiary countries. It also steers away from linking humanitarian aid with the political agenda or orientation; and rather takes into account the humanitarian aspect that is represented in the needs of the people, which has made the UAE highly respected and appreciated in all international forums.

The UAE's international development policies focus on three basic areas in which the UAE has the strengths and abilities to benefit partner countries. These areas include: protection and empowerment of women, transportation and urban infrastructure, and technical cooperation to enhance the effectiveness of government performance.
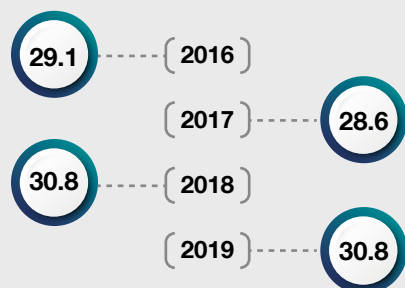
Initiatives

SDG Photography Award
The Secretariat of the UAE National Committee on Sustainable Development Goals, in collaboration with Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum International Photography Award (HIPA), launched the inaugural SDG Photography Award in May 2019. The award aimed to raise global awareness around the SDGs through the lenses of photographers. The award invited amateurs, enthusiasts, semi-professionals and professional photographers to participate in 5 categories; People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnerships. It had a global reach of more than 3.8 million people around the world.

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

Indicator 17.1.1: Total revenue as a proportion of GDP (%)

29.1 ---- 2016

2017 ---- 28.6

30.8 ---- 2018

2019 ---- 30.8

Source: MOF

COVID-19 Action

The novel Coronavirus has had an impact across all sectors of society worldwide. The UAE Government has contributed to curbing the spread of COVID-19 through various means that included comprehensive support to the global community. Despite that fact that it takes aggressive action in our home country to fight the spread of the COVID-19 virus, the UAE is still assisting other countries to respond to the pandemic. Subsequently, the UAE has delivered critical medical supplies, made UAE owned facilities located abroad available to local governments, supplied donations to local initiatives, and assisted in the repatriation of foreign nationals.

The category winners, announced in October 2019, were from five countries; Philippines (Prosperity), India (Planet), Egypt (Partnerships), China (Peace), and Turkey (People). The outcome of the competition is a traveling exhibition and a publication of a selection of photographs submitted.

In 2020, the UAE has responded to the COVID-19 crisis by providing over 1,736 metric tons of aid to 128 countries in need, supporting other nations during the pandemic.

Download your copy of the publication at www.fcsa.gov.ae

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[8] Humanitarian Assistance: https://www.uae-embassy.org/sites/default/files/uae_humanitarian_and_coronavirus_assistance_jan_6_compressed.pdf
[9] 1 million medical professionals: https://www.uae-embassy.org/news-media/uae-affirms-commitment-strengthening-international-cooperation-provision-COVID-19-aid-and

Special Contribution

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES MINISTRY OF FINANCE

"

The Ministry of Finance has taken several steps to support the transition to a digital economy, of which the eDirham is one of its biggest achievements. We will continue to improve the system and enhance digital payment options in a manner that increases the satisfaction of customers and enables them to transact easily and securely.

His Excellency
Obaid bin Humaid Al Tayer
Minister of State for Financial Affairs

Policy

Federal Law No (4) of 2020 on Securing Interest with Movable Property enables companies operating in various business sectors, especially SMEs, to benefit from their movable properties and financially support their operations, especially during exceptional circumstances such as the current global pandemic. This law improves the ability of financial institutions to manage their current practices, address associated risks, and regulate the relationship between banks, institutions and companies to ensure the rights of all parties. This law conveys a significant positive impact on the nation's economy, as it can help enterprises, such as agricultural and industrial businesses and projects, to grow through easier access to financing and banking facilities.

Initiative

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

COVID-19 Action

CBUAE support to MSMEs
As part of its efforts in supporting micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in facing the repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic, the UAE Central Bank was committed to ensure that the comprehensive economic support plan provides reinforcement to this vital sector through:

- Provision of temporary relief by banks to all affected private sector corporates, especially payment deferrals for MSMEs (extended to June 2021).
- Reduction of risk weights applicable to rated SMEs to 75%, and to 85% for unrated SMEs, in line with Basel standards.
- Expanding the definition of SMEs with the aim that a larger segment will be in a position to qualify for SME classification and benefit from preferential risk weights.
- Issuance of SME Market Conduct Regulation to promote best practices among licensed financial institutions when engaging with SMEs, including specific requirements for lending SMEs.

Targeted Economic Support Scheme
The stimulus and relief measures under the Central Bank of the UAE (CBUAE) Targeted Economic Support Scheme (TESS) reached AED 256 billion since its launch on March 14th of 2020. The scheme consists of zero cost funding facility, capital buffer relief and reduced liquidity requirements. Additional TESS measures were introduced by the CBUAE in August 2020, in relation to stable funding relief, which has further enhanced the banking sector's lending capacity to support the UAE economy.

During 2020, the TESS loan deferral program benefited more than 320,000 bank customers. The CBUAE has also introduced initiatives taken by banks to support their impacted customers through their own programs and initiatives undertaken in parallel with the TESS program.

In November 2020, CBUAE extended the applicability period of the TESS Zero Cost Facility and the TESS loan deferral programme until 30 June 2021. In addition, starting from 1 January 2021, participating financial institutions may also grant other types of new financing as part of the scheme to provide relief to their retail and corporate customers that have been negatively affected by the pandemic.

Appendix

The following table lists the 2030 Agenda indicators included in this report

SDG 1: No Poverty
End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Indicator	Tier	Latest Year	Value	Unit	Source	Custodian Agancy(ies)
Target 1.1: By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than $1.25 a day						
Indicator 1.1.1: Proportion of population below the international poverty line, by sex, age, employment status and geographical location (urban/rural)	1	2020	0	Percentage	FCSC	World Bank
Target 1.3: Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable						
Indicator 1.3.1: Proportion of population covered by social protection floors/systems, by sex, distinguishing children, unemployed persons, older persons, persons with disabilities, pregnant women, newborns, work-injury victims and the poor and vulnerable	2	2020	41,730	Percentage	MOCD	ILO

Appendix

SDG 2: Zero Hunger
End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

Indicator	Tier	Latest Year	Value	Unit	Source	Custodian Agancy(ies)
Target 2.3: Double the productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers						
Indicator 2.c.1: UAE Food Trade Values for Imports & Exports (AED)		2019	Exports: 15.2 Imports: 59.7 Re Exports: 15	Billion AED	Food and Water Security Office	
Target 2.1: Target 2.1: Universal access to safe and nutritious food, indicator 2.1.2 Prevalence of food insecurity						
UAE's rank in the Global Food Security Index, by the Economist Intelligence Unit		2019	21	Rank	Food and Water Security Office	

Appendix

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

SDG 1: Good Health and Wellbeing
Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Indicator	Tier	Latest Year	Value	Unit	Source	Custodian Agancy(ies)
Target 3.2: By 2030, end preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age, with all countries aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births and under-5 mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1,000 live births						
Indicator 3.2.1: Under-5 mortality rate per 1,000 births by Emirates (2018)	1	2018	Abu Dhabi: 7.1 Dubai: 5.1 Sharjah: 8.2 Ajman: 6.4 Umm Al Quwain: 4.4 Ras Al Khaimah: 9.1 Fujairah: 6.9	Death per 1,000 live births	FCSC	UNICEF
Indicator 3.2.2: Neonatal mortality rate per 1,000 births by Emirate (2018)	1	2018	Abu Dhabi: 4.3 Dubai: 2.5 Sharjah: 5.3 Ajman: 3.3 Umm Al Quwain: 2.2 Ras Al Khaimah: 2.4 Fujairah: 3.1	Death per 1,000 live births	FCSC	UNICEF
Target 3.6: By 2020, halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents						
Indicator 3.6.1: Death rate due to road traffic injuries	1	2018	3.83	Number of road traffic fatal injury deaths per	MOHAP & MOI	WHO
Target 3.b: Support the research and development of vaccines and medicines for the communicable and non-communicable diseases that primarily affect developing countries, provide access to affordable essential medicines and vaccines, in accordance with the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health, which affirms the right of developing countries to use to the full the provisions in the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights regarding flexibilities to protect public health, and, in particular, provide access to medicines for all						
Indicator 3.b.1: Proportion of the target population covered by all vaccines included in their national programme	1	2019	Measles: 99% DIP 3: 97%	Percentage	MOHAP	WHO, UNICEF

Appendix

SDG 4: Quality Education
Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

Indicator	Tier	Latest Year	Value	Unit	Source	Custodian Agancy(ies)
Target 4.a: Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all						
Indicator 4.a.1: Proportion of schools offering basic services, by type of service	1	2020	100%	Percentage	MOE	UNESCO-UIS
Target 4.c: By 2030, substantially increase the supply of qualified teachers, including through international cooperation for teacher training in developing countries, especially least developed countries and small island developing States						
Indicator 4.c.1: Proportion of teachers with the minimum required qualifications, by education level	2	2020	100%	Percentage	MOE	UNESCO-UIS

SDG 5: Gender Equality
Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Indicator	Tier	Latest Year	Value	Unit	Source	Custodian Agancy(ies)
Target 5.5: Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life						
Indicator 5.5.1: Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments and local governments. Proportion of women in the Federal National Council	1	2019	Females: 50% Males: 50%	Percentage	GBC	IPU, UN Women
Indicator 5.5.2: Proportion of women in managerial positions (%)	1	2019	Females: 21.5% Males: 78.5%	Percentage	FCSC	ILO
Target 5.b: Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women						
Indicator 5.b.1: Proportion of individuals who own a mobile telephone, by sex in 2017 (%)	2	2019	Females: 100% Males: 99.80%	Percentage	TDRA	ITU

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2020

Appendix

SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation
Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

Indicator	Tier	Latest Year	Value	Unit	Source	Custodian Agancy(ies)
Target 6.1: By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all						
Indicator 6.1.1: Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services	2	2020	100%	Percentage	FCSC	WHO, UNICEF
Target 6.2: By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations						
Indicator 6.2.1: Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services	2	2020	100%	Percentage	FCSC	WHO, UNICEF

SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy
Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

Indicator	Tier	Latest Year	Value	Unit	Source	Custodian Agancy(ies)
Target 7.1: By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy service						
Indicator 7.1.1: Proportion of population with access to electricity	1	2020	100%	Percentage	FCSC	World Bank
Indicator 7.1.2: Proportion of population with primary reliance on clean fuels and technology (2015)	1	2020	99.8%	Percentage	FCSC	WHO

Appendix

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

SDG 8: Decant Work and Economic Growth
Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

Indicator	Tier	Latest Year	Value	Unit	Source	Custodian Agancy(ies)
Target 8.2: Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high-value added and labour-intensive sectors						
Indicator 8.2.1: Annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person (%)	1	2019	20.934%	Percentage	FCSC	ILO
Target 8.10: Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and expand access to banking, insurance and financial services for all						
Indicator 8.10.1: Number of commercial bank branches and automated teller machines (ATMs) per 100,000 adults	1	2019	Bank branches per 100,000 adults: 9.08 ATMs per 100,000 Adults: 53.41	Per 100,000 habitant	FCSC & CBUAE	IMF

Appendix

SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

Indicator	Tier	Latest Year	Value	Unit	Source	Custodian Agancy(ies)
Target 9.1: Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and transborder infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all						
Indicator 9.1.1: Proportion of the rural population who live within 2 km of an all-season road	2	2019	95.09	Percentage	FCSC	World Bank
Target 9.2: Promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and, by 2030, significantly raise industry's share of employment and gross domestic product, in line with national circumstances, and double its share in least developed countries						
Indicator 9.2.1: Manufacturing value added as a percentage of GDP and per capita	1	2019	8.7%	Percentage	FCSC	UNIDO
Indicator 9.2.2: Manufacturing employment as a proportion of total employment	1	2018	Manufacturing Employment: 13.1% Total employment: 86.9%	Percentage	FCSC	UNIDO
Target 9.5: Enhance scientific research, upgrade the technological capabilities of industrial sectors in all countries, in particular developing countries, including, by 2030, encouraging innovation and substantially increasing the number of research and development workers per 1 million people and public and private research and development spending						
Indicator 9.5.1: Research and development (R&D) expenditure as a proportion of GDP%	1	2019	1.3%	Percentage	Ministry of Economy	UNESCO-UIS
Target 9.a: Facilitate sustainable and resilient infrastructure development in developing countries through enhanced financial, technological and technical support to African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States						
Indicator 9.a.1: Total official international support (official development assistance plus other official flows) to infrastructure	1	2020	234,601,147	In USD	MOFAIC	OECD

Appendix

Target 9.c: Significantly increase access to information and communications technology and strive to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet in least developed countries by 2020

Indicator	Tier	Latest Year	Value	Unit	Source	Custodian Agency(ies)
Indicator 9.c.1: Proportion of population covered by a mobile network, by technology/ LTE/WiMAX mobile network. Percentage of the population covered by at least a 3G mobile network	1	2019	LTE/WiMAX Network: 99.82% 3G Mobile Network: 100%	Percentage	TDRA	ITU

SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities
Reduce inequality within and among countries

Indicator	Tier	Latest Year	Value	Unit	Source	Custodian Agency(ies)
Target 10.4: Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality						
Indicator 10.4.1: Labor share of GDP, comprising wages and social protection transfers (%)	1	2019	Abu Dhabi: 28.1 Dubai: 47.7 Sharjah: 29.3 Ajman: 30.8 Umm Al Quwain: 39.1 Ras Al Khaimah: 33.3 Fujairah: 30.8	Percentage	FCSC	ILO

Appendix

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities
Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

Indicator	Tier	Latest Year	Value	Unit	Source	Custodian Agancy(ies)
Target 11.6: By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management						
Annual mean concentration of particulate matter of less than 2.5 microns in diameter (PM2.5) (g/m3)		2020	40.9	Percentage	Sustainable Development Report 2020 by SDSN and Bertelsmann Stiftung	
Target 11.2: By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons						
Satisfaction with public transport		2020	81.3	Percentage	Sustainable Development Report 2020 by SDSN and Bertelsmann Stiftung	

Appendix

SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production
Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Indicator	Tier	Latest Year	Value	Unit	Source	Custodian Agancy(ies)
Target 12.4: By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment						
Indicator 12.4.1: Number of parties to international multilateral environmental agreements on hazardous waste, and other chemicals that meet their commitments and obligations in transmitting information as required by each relevant agreement	1	2020	91%	Percentage	MOCCAE	UNEP

SDG 13: Climate Action
Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Indicator	Tier	Latest Year	Value	Unit	Source	Custodian Agancy(ies)
Target 13.2: Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning						
Environmental Agreements indicator		2020	1	Rank	The World Competitiveness Yearbook by the International Institute for Management Development	UNEP

Appendix

14 LIFE BELOW WATER

SDG 14: Life Below Water
Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

Indicator	Tier	Latest Year	Value	Unit	Source	Custodian Agancy(ies)
Target 14.3: Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels						
Indicator 14.3.1: Average marine acidity (pH) measured at agreed suite of representative sampling stations	2	2020	8.00	pH on total scale	MOCCAE	IOC-UNESCO
Target 14.4: By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics						
Indicator 14.4.1: Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels	1	2019	49.4	Percentage	MOCCAE	FAO

Appendix

SDG 15: Life on Land
Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

Indicator	Tier	Latest Year	Value	Unit	Source	Custodian Agancy(ies)
Target 15.1: By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements						
Indicator 15.1.2: Proportion of important sites for terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity that are covered by protected areas, by ecosystem type (This is a proxy indicator for the UAE: Percentage of Terrestrial Protected Areas in the UAE)	1	2020	18.4%	Percentage	MOCCAE	UNEP-WCMC, UNEP, IUCN
Target 15.7: Take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products						
Indicator 15.7.1: Proportion of traded wildlife that was poached or illicitly trafficked	2	2020	0.24%	Percentage	MOCCAE	UNODC, CITES

Appendix

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions
Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

Indicator	Tier	Latest Year	Value	Unit	Source	Custodian Agancy(ies)
Target 16.6: Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels						
Indicator 16.6.1: Primary government expenditures as a proportion of original approved budget, by sector (or by budget codes or similar)	2	2019	87%	Percentage	MOF	World Bank
Target 16.9: By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration						
Indicator 16.9.1: Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority, by age	1	2020	100%	Percentage	FCSC	UNSD, UNICEF

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals
Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

Indicator	Tier	Latest Year	Value	Unit	Source	Custodian Agancy(ies)
Target 17.1: Strengthen domestic resource mobilization, including through international support to developing countries, to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection						
Indicator 17.1.1: Total revenue as a proportion of GDP (%)	1	2019	30.8	Percentage	MOF	IMF

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