



اللجنة الوطنية  
لأهداف التنمية المستدامة  
National Committee  
on Sustainable Development Goals

# PATHWAYS OF IMPACT UAE's Sustainability Journey



2024  
ANNUAL REPORT





Our commitment to 2030  
remains unwavering. But  
our responsibility extends  
beyond. The time to  
imagine and build the world  
we want for 2045 is now.



**H.E. Abdulla Nasser Lootah**

Assistant Minister of Cabinet Affairs for Competitiveness  
and Knowledge Exchange  
Chair of the UAE National Committee on the SDGs



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The 2024 annual report reflects the collective commitment of UAE federal and local government organizations, the private sector, academia, youth, and civil society in advancing sustainable development through local action. Their insights, efforts, and innovations are the driving force behind the UAE's pathways of impact for sustainable development. This year's report features 76 submissions by 13 entities offering a glimpse into the robust and impactful efforts driving the UAE's progress toward the SDGs and beyond.

To our readers, we thank you for engaging with this report. May it inspire renewed action toward the SDGs and strengthen our collective efforts as we shape the future of global development together.

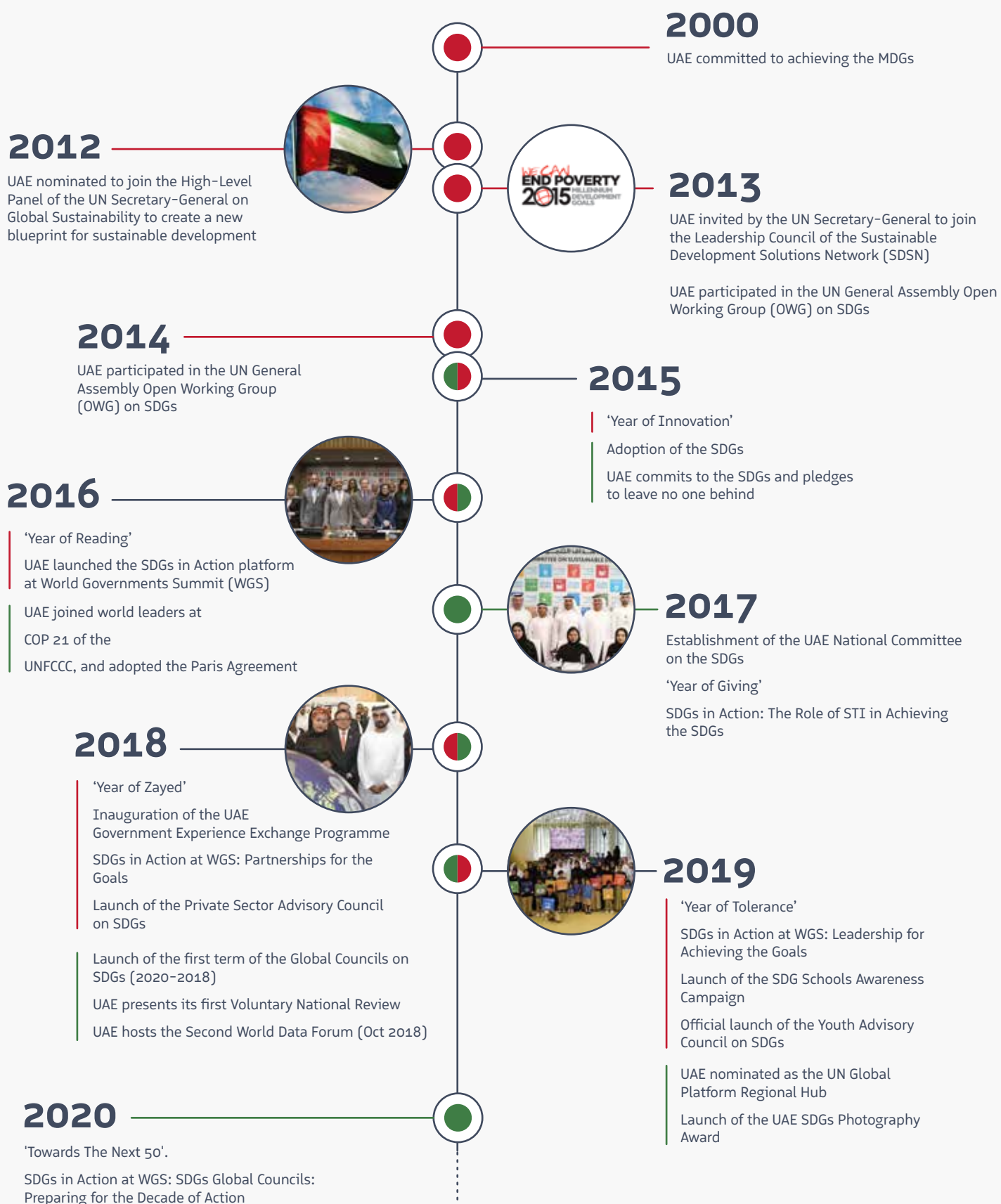


# Abbreviations

<b>COP28</b>	28th Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC
<b>CSW</b>	Commission on the Status of Women
<b>ESCWA</b>	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
<b>FCSC</b>	Federal Competitiveness and Statistics Centre
<b>GBC</b>	Gender Balance Council
<b>GEEO</b>	Government Experience Exchange Office
<b>HLPF</b>	High-Level Political Forum
<b>ILO</b>	International Labour Organization
<b>IMF</b>	International Monetary Fund
<b>MBRSG</b>	Mohammed bin Rashid School of Government
<b>MOCCAE</b>	Ministry of Climate Change and Environment
<b>MOCE</b>	Ministry of Community Empowerment
<b>MOE</b>	Ministry of Education
<b>MOEI</b>	Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure
<b>MOFA</b>	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
<b>MOHAP</b>	Ministry of Health and Prevention
<b>MOHR</b>	Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratization
<b>NDCs</b>	Nationally Determined Contributions
<b>OWG</b>	Open Working Group
<b>SDGs</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>SDSN</b>	Sustainable Development Solutions Network
<b>STI</b>	Science, Technology, and Innovation
<b>UAE</b>	United Arab Emirates
<b>UAEU</b>	United Arab Emirates University
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>UNDESA</b>	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>UNGA</b>	United Nations General Assembly
<b>UNU</b>	United Nations University
<b>VNR</b>	Voluntary National Review
<b>xDGs</b>	Next Global Development Agenda

# The UAE's Sustainable Development Journey

— National — International — XDGs





# 2021

'Year of the 50th'

UAE hosts Expo 2020

SDGs in Action at WGS: Galvanizing the Global Acceleration of the SDGs

UN Youth Hackathon 2021 for SDGs

## The UAE's Sustainable Development Journey

— National — International — XDGs

# 2023

'Year of Sustainability: Today for Tomorrow'

Launch of the 'Road to Sustainability' Campaign in the UAE

SDGs in Action at COP 28 Special Edition: Future Forward: Empowering Youth for Sustainable Change

SDGs in Action at WGS: Redesigning the Future of Our World: 2030 Principles and Beyond

28th United Nations Climate Change conference (COP28)

Global Faith Leaders COP28 Summit

Launch of the XDGs 2045 initiative

### Planting the Seeds

The concept of XDGs 2045 was first introduced at the World Governments Summit 2023

The UAE hosted global leaders and changemakers to reflect on SDG progress and imagine what lies beyond

# 2022

'Year of the 50th' – a celebration of the UAE's Golden Jubilee

SDGs in Action at WGS: Scaling New Heights for the Future of Humanity

Youth for SDGs at WGS: Compassion, Passion, and Action for a better future

Launch of the SDG Young Leaders Program

Mobilizing Action for the Global Goals at Expo 2020 Dubai

Launch of second term of the Global Councils on SDGs (2023–2021)

Expo 2020 Dubai hosted the first-ever Women's Pavilion at a World Expo

UAE presents its second Voluntary National Review

# 2025

'Year of Community'

SDGs in Action at WGS: Envisioning 2045: Inclusive Pathways to Sustainable Development

Launch of the third term of the Global Council on SDGs (2026 – 2025)

IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025 to take place in the UAE

### Framing Shared Pathways

In January 2025, the UAE hosted the High-Level XDGs Roundtable at Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week, focusing on energy futures and innovation

In February 2025, the Ministerial Roundtable at the SDGs in Action Forum (WGS) brought together 40+ ministers, CEOs, and global experts

# 2024

'Year of Sustainability: Plan to Action'

SDGs in Action at WGS: xDGs 2045: Navigating the Future of Our World

### Bridging Perspectives

The discussions continued during the World Governments Summit's SDGs in Action platform to deepen the discussions of a post 2030 Agenda

The Summit of the Future (UN, 2024) reinforced the global appetite for long-term thinking, complementing the XDGs pathway

The UAE continued to serve as a neutral platform to amplify diverse perspectives and shared concerns

# 2026

UAE to host the UN Water Conference

### From Vision to Action

The next phase begins by recognising the urgent need for change and advancing collective efforts to shape the future, together

# 2030

The next Global Development Agenda: XDGs 2045

### Enabling Platforms for Global Co-Creation

From 2026, the UAE will continue to use its platforms to promote a whole-of-society approach, supporting the development of a future-oriented global agenda

# 2031

'We the UAE 2031' Vision

# 2050

UAE Net-Zero 2050

# 2071

UAE Centennial 2071



## CHAPTER 1

# Introduction

A Commitment in Action



## 1.1 The UAE's Role in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Foundations of Leadership

The global journey towards the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) formally began at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) in June 2012. The conceptual groundwork can be traced back to 2011, when Colombia and Guatemala first proposed the creation of a new, universally applicable development framework. In the lead-up to Rio+20, the proposal gained widespread support, with countries including Peru and the UAE actively championing the idea. The negotiation process for the SDGs was carried out through the Open Working Group (OWG) of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), which organized 13 sessions between 2013 and 2014. The UAE held a seat in the OWG, representing the Asia-Pacific region jointly with Cyprus and Singapore and representing the Arab Group. The UAE provided input on priority areas including energy, education, global partnerships, health, water, and women's empowerment. The final set of SDGs was adopted in August 2015. The UAE also pledged to "leave no one behind" and to help "shift the world onto a sustainable and resilient path."

Demonstrating global leadership in sustainability, the UAE actively participated in the lead-up to the 2030 Agenda. H.H. Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, served as a member of the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Global Sustainability (GSP), which produced the landmark report *Resilient People, Resilient Planet*. H.E. Dr. Sultan bin Ahmed Al Jaber, Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology, and H.E. Reem bint Ebrahim Al Hashimy, Minister of State for International Cooperation, serve on the Leadership Council of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN).



## 1.2 UAE's National Committee on SDGs: Turning Global Goals into Local Momentum

The UAE National Committee on SDGs was established in 2017 by decree of the UAE Cabinet to lead and coordinate the nation's implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Chaired by H.E. Abdulla Nasser Lootah, Deputy Minister of Cabinet Affairs for Competitiveness and Knowledge Exchange, the Committee comprises nine key federal entities, each representing a vital pillar of sustainable development. The Committee is mandated to oversee the integration of the SDGs into national strategies, monitor, and report progress on targets, and ensure cohesive stakeholder engagement across sectors. It serves as a central platform for knowledge exchange, cross-sectoral coordination, and policy alignment, enabling an integrated, whole-of-government approach to advancing sustainable development in the UAE. The committee is composed of nine federal entities, each playing a pivotal role in advancing national policies that align with the 2030 Agenda.





The Prime Minister's Office provides technical and strategic support to ensure the alignment of federal initiatives and targets with the SDGs. The Government Experience Exchange Office (GEEEO) serves as the General Secretariat of the committee, providing administrative and technical support to the committee, and the Federal Competitiveness and Statistics Centre (FCSC) leads on monitoring progress and data. The committee members include the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Health and Prevention, Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure, Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratisation, Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, and the Ministry of Community Empowerment. Members of the committee on SDGs play both sector-specific and cross-cutting roles in advancing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Portfolio ministries take lead in coordinating SDGs efforts that align directly with their mandates. In addition to their primary responsibilities, these entities also collaborate with other lead agencies to support the broader achievement of the nexus of the goals.

Beyond the formal structure of the committee, SDG targets are also mapped to other federal entities that play a critical role in implementation. For example, the Ministry of Justice advances SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) in close coordination with the Ministry of Interior. This inclusive, whole-of-government model promotes broad national ownership of the SDGs and fosters proactive coordination across institutions. In addition, observer institutions are invited to participate in committee proceedings aligned thematically. These include federal entities, local government representatives, national policy think tanks, experts, and members of the community. Their engagement strengthens intergovernmental collaboration, enhances policy coherence, and supports the translation of global goals into actionable outcomes at the local level. The committee's Action Plan sets a clear ambition to amplify collective impact and create pathways for sustainable progress at both the local and global levels.

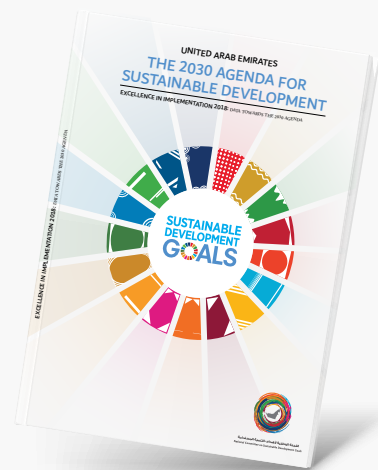




## 1.3 UAE's Participation in Global Sustainable Development Dialogues

Since the inception of the SDGs, the UAE has prioritized national and international engagement in regional and global platforms. The UAE National Committee actively engages in high-level dialogues, participates in strategic forums, and multilateral platforms including the UN High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), UNGA, SDGs Summit, CSW, and STI.

The HLPF's Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) serve as a follow-up and reviewing mechanism for the SDGs where countries share best practices, lessons learned, and challenges to implement the SDGs. VNRs strengthen international cooperation and knowledge exchange for sustainable development. The General Secretariat of the National Committee on SDGs presented the UAE's first Voluntary National Review in 2018, followed by the second in 2022, and is preparing to present its third in 2026. Rooted in a commitment to knowledge exchange for sustainable development, the UAE through different avenues shares best practices, learns from global experiences, and strengthens partnerships to advance the 2030 Agenda.





In 2024, the UAE National Committee on SDGs led a multi-entity delegation to the UN-HLPF held in New York from 10–25 July. The UAE's participation included 40+ engagements through a coordinated national effort to share best practices, engage in policy dialogue, and contribute to the global acceleration of the 2030 Agenda. During the forum, the UAE delegation delivered 5 official interventions in the main sessions, including thematic reviews of SDGs 16 and 17, and a ministerial meeting focused on SDGs progress in the Arab region. The delegation also participated in 4 technical sessions and workshops that addressed key themes such as digital transformation, financing for development, behavioral insights, and SDG localization. These sessions allowed national representatives to engage in deep technical discussions and share country-level experiences with international peers. In support of multilateral cooperation, the UAE delegation held 20+ meetings with international organizations, including UNDP, UNDESA, UNESCO, UNU, John Hopkins Academics, NYC Commissioner for International Affairs, the Water Conference 2026 team, and Watch & Jewelry Initiative 2030. These meetings focused on identifying opportunities for collaboration, strengthening partnerships, and aligning priorities for accelerating the 2030 Agenda globally. The UAE also participated in 12 bilateral meetings with countries including Uzbekistan, Serbia, Egypt, Tajikistan, Zimbabwe, Rwanda, Azerbaijan, and Romania.

On the sidelines of the forum, the UAE delegation organized 4 official side events, which included the Ministerial Roundtable on the xDGs 2045, a youth-focused event, a private sector roundtable in collaboration with UN Global Compact, and a session co-hosted by New York University and the Emirates Red Crescent. UAE co-hosted five global sessions with international partners and launched three key reports: UAE SDGs Annual Report 2023, the Private Sector Executive Report, and XDGs 2045: Navigating the Future of our World.



**Delegation Members:** Federal Competitiveness and Statistics Centre, Government Experience Exchange Office, Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, Ministry of Interior, Masdar, Abu Dhabi Fund for Development, and Emirates Red Crescent



## 1.4 National Data Action Plan for the SDGs: UAE's Framework for Monitoring, Coordination, and National Reporting on the SDGs

Since its establishment, the UAE National Committee on SDGs has prioritized national data capacity, diversified sources, and alignment of SDGs data production with policy cycles. Dedicated working groups and task forces coordinated data collection, monitoring, and reporting. Strategic partnerships and knowledge exchange across sectors (eg. private sector) and borders (UN ESCWA) help generate rich datasets essential for tracking SDG progress.

The Federal Competitiveness and Statistics Center produced a framework to evaluate the progress of the SDGs implementation, which includes data analysis on a national level. In 2024, the committee adopted this National SDG Data Action Plan, designed to enhance data systems, strengthen institutional roles, and accelerate evidence-based progress towards the 2030 Agenda. With 248 SDG indicators mapped to 24 committee members and national entities (non-committee members) This defines clear data custodianship, empowers national institutions, and formalizes mechanisms for monitoring, reporting, and interagency coordination.

The UAE is building a future-ready data ecosystem that delivers timely, inclusive, and policy relevant insights for sustainable development. The UAE's Data Action Plan marks a significant evolution in how SDG progress is monitored nationally. It identifies principal data related challenges and calls for strengthened collaboration with international organizations such as the UNDP, World Bank, IMF, and ILO. Through this Plan, national custodian agencies are empowered to enhance data collection methodologies, integrate global datasets, and adopt innovative tools and technology for SDGs data.

In 2024, the UAE strengthened national efforts to Align SDG Methodologies across stakeholders. More than 350 participants took part in over 100 hours of technical discussions and capacity-building engagements. These were conducted through 24 workshops and 27 technical meetings, involving 34 international agencies and 37 local and federal entities. These engagements were instrumental in alignment, advancing statistical readiness, and fostering a culture of collaboration across the national SDGs ecosystem. Through this integrated approach, the UAE is turning data into a strategic asset for sustainable development and actively sharing this model to strengthen regional efforts and collective impact.





The National Committee, in collaboration with ESCWA, utilizes the MARS Platform to automate and strengthen national SDG indicator reporting. MARS is a digital platform developed by ESCWA in 2023 to monitor and manage SDG indicators at the national and global levels. It is designed to streamline data validation, indicator calculation, and reporting. The platform automates the calculation of SDG indicators using standardized methodologies, provides quality assurance tools for data validation before publication, and enables countries to track progress and ensure accuracy prior to international submission.

The adoption of MARS enhances national coordination between experts, statistical agencies, and sponsoring entities in the UAE. It facilitates transparent data sharing with ESCWA and international organizations and supports long-term SDG planning through improved data quality and availability. Currently, the platform supports reporting on 93 indicators, engages 42 data providers and 18 entities, and has been supported by 6 workshops..





## CHAPTER 2

# Advancing the SDGs

## Thematic Clusters of National Action



## 2.1 Social Well-being and Inclusion



### Health and Nutrition Programs:

National Health Survey and National Nutrition Survey

Guidelines for Tobacco-Free Workplaces

National Newborn Screening Guidelines

Nabdak: National System for Periodic Cardiovascular Screenings

The UAE's national health and nutrition efforts take a preventive, evidence-based approach, focusing on early detection, service quality, and standardized data collection. Key initiatives include national screening guidelines, lifestyle promotion, and alignment with WHO protocols to tackle noncommunicable diseases and improve maternal and child health.





## The National Newborn Screening Guidelines<sup>1</sup>

Published by MOHAP, the National Newborn Screening Guidelines aims to standardize and enhance medical examinations for newborns across the UAE, in line with international best practices. The guidelines contribute to preventing early health complications through uniform laboratory and clinical tests, with designated reference laboratories established nationwide. They outline consistent screening procedures for the early detection, diagnosis, and intervention of conditions that could affect a newborn's health or survival. This includes identifying genetic, metabolic, and endocrine disorders, as well as screening for hearing loss, heart defects, and other critical congenital anomalies. The guidelines also promote the development of a national genetic disease database and emphasize parental guidance and health education.



**100% - Births  
attended by skilled  
health personnel**

## Guidelines for Tobacco-Free Workplaces<sup>2</sup>

Another guide introduced by MOHAP promotes tobacco-free workplaces across the country. Developed by the National Tobacco Control Program, this initiative provides practical instructions for both managers and employees on establishing a smoke-free environment. The guide outlines procedures for handling violations and offers steps to assist employees in quitting smoking. This initiative aligns with the UAE's commitment to the WHO's Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC), which the country ratified in 2005. It also builds upon Federal Law No. 15 of 2009 on Combating Tobacco, which bans smoking in enclosed public spaces and prohibits tobacco use in various public areas, including government buildings, healthcare and educational institutions, and public transportation.



**Did you Know?  
The UAE is promoting  
a tobacco-free  
workplaces across  
the UAE**

<sup>1</sup> MOHAP (2024). MoHAP launches National Newborn Screening Guidelines. Retrieved from: <https://mohap.gov.ae/en/w/mohap-launches-national-newborn-screening-guidelines?plbackurl=%2Fen%2Fsearch%3Fq%3DNational%2BNewborn%2BScreening%2BGuidelines%2Bto%2Bstandardise%2Band%2Benhance%2Bthe%2Bmedical%2Bexamination%2Bprocedures&plbackurl=title=Search+results>

<sup>2</sup> MOHAP (2023). Guidelines for Tobacco-Free Workplaces. Retrieved from: <https://mohap.gov.ae/en/assets/c892d33c/guidelines-for-tobacco-free-workplaces.aspx>



### Nabdak: National System for Periodic Cardiovascular Screenings<sup>3</sup>

The MOHAP launched the Nabdak initiative to reduce cardiovascular disease (CVD) deaths in the UAE by 30% by 2030. This national effort, developed in collaboration with DoH – Abu Dhabi, DHA, EHS, and TDRA, introduces standardized screening protocols using the Framingham Risk Score and integrates CVD checks into the preventive care model for individuals aged 40 and above. The initiative targets 80% population coverage and full protocol adoption across healthcare providers.



**Did you know? The UAE is aiming to cut cardiovascular deaths by 30% by 2030!**

So far, 63 government health centres have screened over 60,000 people, identifying 11,220 high-risk cases, with 92% referred for timely intervention. Despite this progress, challenges such as limited public awareness, high lifestyle-related risk factors, and the lack of a previous unified system remain. Nabdak highlights the value of coordinated national action and paves the way for expanded preventive services and stronger public-private partnerships.




<sup>3</sup> WAM (2024). Emirates Health Services launches 'Your Heart is Your Life' campaign to combat cardiovascular diseases. Retrieved from: <https://www.wam.ae/en/article/b6boica-emirates-health-services-launches-your-heart-your>



## National Health Survey and National Nutrition Survey<sup>4</sup>

Another guide introduced by MOHAP promotes tobacco-free workplaces across the country. Developed by the National Tobacco Control Program, this initiative provides practical instructions for both managers and employees on establishing a smoke-free environment. The guide outlines procedures for handling violations and offers steps to assist employees in quitting smoking. This initiative aligns with the UAE's commitment to the WHO's Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC), which the country ratified in 2005. It also builds upon Federal Law No. 15 of 2009 on Combating Tobacco, which bans smoking in enclosed public spaces and prohibits tobacco use in various public areas, including government buildings, healthcare and educational institutions, and public transportation.



**76% of the 2024–2025 Survey has been completed, covering over 12,000 households and labour accommodations**

**By reducing exposure to harmful tobacco smoke, and encouraging smoking cessation to promote healthier workplaces, the guidelines contribute directly to SDG 3.**

The National Health Survey and National Nutrition Survey was launched by MOHAP to address the critical need for accurate, up-to-date, and comprehensive data on health and nutrition across the UAE. Set for completion in 2025, this project represents a major step in aligning national statistics with global data quality standards and international best practices. Key stakeholders include the WHO, FCSC, DHA, DoH – Abu Dhabi, and local statistics centres across the Emirates. The initiative utilises internationally harmonised field survey methodologies to assess the health and nutritional status of both citizens and residents.

The surveys aim to establish a unified methodology for national indicators, enhance existing health databases, and support evidence-based policymaking at all government levels. Notably, for the first time, data on key indicators such as micronutrient deficiencies will be collected, addressing long-standing gaps in national metrics. While still underway, the effort—particularly the National Nutrition Survey—is a landmark in linking nutrition data with public health outcomes. It also contributes to broader national priorities related to food security, sustainability, and improved quality of life.

<sup>4</sup> MOHAP (2024). National Survey for Health and Nutrition 2024. Retrieved from: <https://mohap.gov.ae/en/w/national-survey-for-health-and-nutrition-2024#:~:text=Aligned%20with%20the%20UAE's%20vision,country's%20health%20and%20nutritional%20status>





## Inclusive and Green Education:

National Inclusive Education System for People of Determination

Arab Reading Challenge (تحدي القراءة العربي)

Green Education – COP28

National Licensing System for Education Sector Workforce

Future School Leaders Program

The UAE's educational initiatives take a holistic approach to creating an inclusive, high-quality, and future-ready learning system. Efforts have focused on inclusive education for People of Determination, improving literacy and teacher qualifications, and embedding sustainability in curricula. Key programmes address systemic barriers, enhance Arabic literacy, and support educator development to meet national standards. Cross-sector partnerships have expanded sustainability education, aligning with global climate goals. Together, these actions support **SDG 4 (Quality Education)** and related targets by advancing equity, quality, and lifelong learning.





## National Inclusive Education System for People of Determination<sup>5</sup>

Led by the MOE, the National Inclusive Education System (2023 – 2026) aims to establish a unified, sustainable framework ensuring equitable access to quality education for People of Determination. It focuses on removing learning barriers by developing a national policy framework, coordinating stakeholder efforts, building capacity through specialised training, and implementing a monitoring system based on global best practices. The initiative serves students with disabilities across general, technical, and higher education.

Through national standards and regulations, fostered strategic partnerships, and created pathways for the responsible privatisation of inclusive education services. A comprehensive evaluation system was launched to track outcomes, supported by the training and certification of inclusive education professionals. Early outcomes indicate improved institutional coordination, enhanced professional readiness, and strengthened gender parity, with consistent equality reflected in educational indicators such as school enrolment from 2020 to 2023.

## Arab Reading Challenge<sup>6</sup>

The MOE participated in the Arab Reading Challenge, a regional initiative spearheaded by H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum and organised under the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives (MBRGI). The challenge aims to enhance reading culture among Arab youth by fostering lifelong learning, critical thinking, and Arabic language proficiency.



**Over 1 million students  
across the Arab world  
take on the Arab Reading  
Challenge each year**

Each year, the initiative mobilises millions of students from Grade 1 to Grade 12 to read and summarise 50 books, with over one million participants collectively reading more than fifty million books annually. This large-scale effort engages ministries of education, schools, teachers, and parents to support reading as a core educational pillar. The challenge has led to improved literacy, cognitive development, and educational outcomes, with notable gains in comprehension and public awareness. It aligns with ongoing educational reforms and contributes to the region's sustained high youth literacy rates.

<sup>5</sup> MOE (2023). Inclusive Education. Retrieved from: <https://www.moe.gov.ae/Ar/ImportantLinks/Pages/DeterminationInclusiveEducation.aspx>

<sup>6</sup> MBRGI (2024). Arab Reading Challenge. Retrieved from: <https://arabreadingchallenge.com/>





## Green Education Initiative (COP28)<sup>7</sup>

The MOE led the Green Education Initiative (2019 – 2023) supporting the UAE's commitment to the Greening Education Partnership and COP28 priorities. It aimed to integrate climate education across national curricula, fostering environmental awareness and sustainability literacy at all educational levels.

Developed in collaboration with partners such as the MoEI, Abu Dhabi DoE, IRENA, ECSSR, National Geographic, and the Emirates Literature Foundation, the initiative provided structured resources including the Environmental Sustainability Framework, sustainability kits, and “The Great Green Lesson.” Each resource is designed for quick use, taking only 5 to 10 minutes, making it a valuable addition to ongoing lessons aligned with the school's commitment to promoting environmental awareness. Participating students gained skills to address environmental challenges and promote climate-related SDGs. The initiative engaged over 62,700 students and incorporated climate literacy into 28 curricula nationwide. Strategic partnerships ensured cross-sector collaboration across education, energy, infrastructure, and research.



<sup>7</sup> MOE (2023). Green Education Initiative. Retrieved from: <https://www.moe.gov.ae/ar/importantlinks/pages/greeningeducationhub.aspx>



## National Licensing System for Education Sector Workforce<sup>8</sup>

The MOE launched the National Licensing System (2023 – 2026) to establish a unified, standards-based framework for licensing education professionals across the UAE's public and private sectors to institutionalise quality assurance. The policy ensures that teachers, school staff, and educational leaders meet nationally recognised competencies aligned with qualification frameworks and regulatory standards. The system covers pre-primary to secondary education and extends to higher education institutions.

Key achievements include the issuance of professional licences, launch of subject-specific competency assessments, and implementation of a national registration and licensing process. Notably, between 2020 and 2023, 100% of teachers met minimum training requirements, and over 98% received in-service training, with improved student-to-qualified teacher ratios across all education levels. The initiative supports national workforce planning and reinforces accountability and excellence in teaching.

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## Future School Leaders Program<sup>9</sup>

Launched by the Ministry of Education, the Future School Leaders Program to establish a competitive educational system by developing a highly qualified teaching workforce in the public education sector. It focuses on empowering educators and meeting the requirements of "teaching as a profession" by ensuring school staff obtain professional licenses. This is achieved through collaboration with local and international universities and educational institutions to provide accredited training programs, diplomas, and high-quality self-learning resources. Key components include regular data analysis to identify target groups and track exam progress, the development of an online training platform, the design of specialized training programs in partnership with universities, the creation of documented self-learning materials across various disciplines, and the implementation of peer-mentorship programs for outstanding educators. UAE University is a key partner in the initiative.

<sup>8</sup> MOE (2023). National Licensing System for Education Sector Workforce. Retrieved from: <https://tls.moe.gov.ae/home#!/home>

<sup>9</sup> MOE (2024). Future Leadership Programme Retrieved from: <https://www.moe.gov.ae/Ar/ImportantLinks/Pages/FutureLeaders.aspx>



## Gender Equity and Women's Leadership:

UAE Gender Balance Centre for Excellence and Knowledge Exchange
Gender Equality Acceleration Pledge by the UAE's Private Sector
Equal Pay Tool
Women on Board – Ministerial Resolution No. 137 of 2024
Empowering Emirati Women in Leadership Roles – MoU between Nafis and UAE Gender Balance Council
Policy Guidelines on Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence
UAE Corporate Governance Reform for Gender Diversity, 2021

The UAE continues to advance gender equality through a series of coordinated initiatives that promote women's leadership, equal pay, and inclusive participation in both public and private sectors. These efforts are driven by strategic partnerships, data-informed policymaking, and legislative reforms that embed gender balance into national development frameworks. From institutional mechanisms like the UAE Gender Balance Centre for Excellence to private sector commitments and regulatory mandates, the country is fostering systemic change. Collectively, these initiatives contribute directly to **SDG 5 (Gender Equality)** by creating enabling environments that support women's empowerment and equitable representation across all levels of society.





## The UAE Gender Balance Centre for Excellence and Knowledge Exchange<sup>10</sup>

Established in 2022, this joint initiative by the GBC and the World Bank is a gender-focused centre promoting women's economic participation and leadership by enabling cross-sector collaboration and policy reform. It emphasizes gender-disaggregated data, legislative support, and capacity-building.

During Phase 1 (2022–2024), it produced key reports, developed a national Equal Pay Tool, and organized technical events like workshops and peer-learning events—such as a session with the Government of Iraq on gender-responsive budgeting—to address data gaps and inform policy. Launched at the Global Women's Forum 2024, Phase 2 (2024–2025) prioritizes legislative frameworks, leadership advancement, and skill development. The Centre fosters inclusive economic growth by uniting regional and international actors to institutionalize gender equality.

## The Gender Equality Acceleration Pledge by the UAE's Private Sector<sup>11</sup>

The GBC launched the Gender Equality Acceleration Pledge to promote gender parity in private sector leadership by aiming for 30% female representation in middle and senior management by 2028. As of November 2024, 71 companies have committed to the Pledge, agreeing to integrate gender equality into corporate policies, ensure equal pay, foster fair recruitment and promotion practices, and maintain transparency through annual progress reports. The initiative also encourages regular review of hiring practices, mentorship programs, and gender-sensitive corporate policies. Next steps involve knowledge-sharing and collaboration among stakeholders to foster sustainable progress.



**Aiming for 30% female representation in middle and senior management by 2028**

<sup>10</sup> Aurora50 (2024). UAE gets new Gender Balance Centre for Excellence. Retrieved from: <https://aurora50.com/uae-gets-new-gender-balance-centre-for-excellence/>

<sup>11</sup> WAM (2024). Private sector leaders unite to pledge commitment to gender equality, leadership. Retrieved from: <https://www.wam.ae/en/article/b6e28v4-private-sector-leaders-unite-pledge-commitment>



## The Equal Pay Tool

Developed by the GBC and the World Bank, under the Centre of Excellence initiative, the Equal Pay Tool addresses wage disparities through structured processes that promote equal pay for equal work. It supports implementation of UAE equal pay legislation (2018–2020) by guiding organizations in forming equity committees, training staff, analysing pay data, and enacting corrective actions. The Tool encourages transparency, employee motivation, and compliance with legal standards. As a key outcome of the Gender Balance Centre’s work, it has been the subject of workshops at the Global Women’s Forum Dubai 2024 to gather feedback and prepare for nationwide rollout.

## Women on Board, Ministerial Resolution No. 137 of 2024<sup>12</sup>

Effective from January 2025, the Ministerial Resolution No. 137 of 2024 extends mandatory female board representation to private joint-stock companies in the UAE. It builds on the 2021 mandate for publicly listed companies, reinforcing consistent gender representation across the corporate sector. The policy is enforced by the MOEC, with involvement from the Securities and Commodities Authority (SCA) and business stakeholders. It aims to foster gender diversity in leadership, improve corporate governance, and promote equality in decision-making processes.



**Mandatory female board representation in both private joint-stock and publicly listed companies in the UAE**

## Empowering Female UAE Nationals in Leadership Roles MoU Between Nafis and UAE Gender Balance Council<sup>13</sup>

Signed during the 2024 UAE Government Annual Meetings, this MoU between Nafis and the GBC seeks to boost Emirati women’s leadership in the private sector. It sets ambitious goals like 50% female Emirati participation in key leadership programs and publicizes 30 success stories through “Nafis Your Way” awareness campaign. The initiative aligns with economic diversification efforts, builds leadership capacity, and encourages female role models. Progress is tracked annually to ensure accountability and data-driven policymaking. This initiative lays the foundation for collaboration with private sector companies to boost gender balance efforts.

<sup>12</sup> MOEC (2024). Ministerial Decision No. 137/2024 On the Regulation of the Registrar’s Work, Controls of Private Joint Stock Companies and the Rules of Governance. Retrieved from: <https://www.moec.gov.ae/documents/20121/0/MD+No+1372024.pdf/545bb4be-cd84-f3ea-a6e9-68742c443b69?t=1733371262115>

<sup>13</sup> WAM (2024). Mansour bin Zayed witnesses signing of cooperation agreement between Nafis, UAE Gender Balance Council. Retrieved from: <https://www.wam.ae/en/article/b625klf-mansour-bin-zayed-witnesses-signing-cooperation>



## Policy Guidelines on Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence

In partnership with the Global Council for SDG 5 and Kearney, the UAE Gender Balance Council introduced comprehensive guidelines to counter TFGBV. These guidelines offer preventive measures for tech firms, outline types of digital abuse, and recommend user reporting mechanisms and victim support systems. They also encourage community engagement, digital literacy, and systematic monitoring. Launched at the 2024 Global Women's Forum, the guidelines aim to create safer digital environments, especially for women, by embedding anti-violence strategies into technology development.

## UAE Corporate Governance Reform for Gender Diversity, 2021

Implemented in 2021, this reform mandates at least one female board member in all publicly listed UAE companies. The policy significantly boosted women's board representation from 3.25% in 2020 to 15.90% in 2024. It reflects the UAE's commitment to global corporate governance standards and inclusive leadership, helping diversify decision-making processes. The reform not only accelerates gender equality in top corporate roles but also strengthens organizational governance and long-term economic resilience.



**Women's board representation in the UAE reached 15.90% in 2024, up from just 3.25% in 2020.**





## Social Welfare and Support Platforms:

Social Welfare Platform
Inflation Allowance Program
Federal Decree-Law No. (50) of 2023 on the Regulation of Public Welfare Activities
National Registry Platform for Public Welfare Institutions
UAE Early Intervention Program

The year 2024 saw further strengthening of the UAE's welfare system through innovative, digitally enabled initiatives that prioritize inclusion, efficiency, and equitable access to support services. Led by the MOCE, these efforts target vulnerable populations with tailored programs that enhance financial stability, early childhood development, and the regulatory environment for public welfare institutions. By leveraging inter-agency collaboration, advanced technologies, and evidence-based approaches, the UAE is fostering a more resilient and responsive social welfare system.

Collectively, these initiatives advance key SDGs, primarily **SDG 1 (No Poverty)** and **SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities)**, while also contributing to **SDG 2 (Zero Hunger)**, **SDG 3 (Good Health and Wellbeing)**, **SDG 4 (Quality Education)**, and **SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals)** by tackling poverty, promoting inclusion, and strengthening systems for health, education, and governance.





## Social Welfare Platform<sup>14</sup>

Launched in 2023, the MOCE's Social Welfare Platform redefines the UAE's approach to social support by integrating digital innovation with equitable service delivery. Designed for vulnerable populations—including persons with disabilities, orphans, and low-income families—the platform automates aid allocation, reduces processing time to four working days, and requires minimal documentation, with some groups benefiting from full exemption. A cross-sectoral coalition of stakeholders contributed to the project, including federal and local government entities spanning justice, education, workforce development, identity and security, utilities, economy, health, urban planning, and social services.

The outcomes included the development of a smart engine determines entitlements using just three data points, while the platform's robust verification system ensures accuracy.



**100 personalized digital service journeys developed**

**75% increase in operational efficiency 75%.**

**20 federal and local entities integration allowing real-time data exchange and bi-monthly updates**

## Inflation Allowance Program<sup>15</sup>

The Inflation Allowance Program is a monthly support initiative led by MOCE to shield low-income Emirati families from the financial effects of global inflation. The fully digital system automatically disburses funds to existing social support beneficiaries, ensuring timely, needs-based assistance. Designed to stabilise living standards and ease cost-of-living pressures, the program collaborates with over 50 partners, including utility providers like DEWA and SEWA, major retailers, and federal and local community development entities. Real-time integration with these stakeholders enables dynamic eligibility checks and allowance calculations through national ID systems.

The initiative achieved 100% coverage of eligible applicants, a 70% reduction in procedural steps, and complete digital transformation. Annual budget allocation doubled from AED 14 to AED 28 billion, reflecting the program's expanding scale and impact. While occasional documentation-related delays and fund misuse present ongoing challenges, system automation and inter-agency coordination have significantly improved efficiency and accountability.



**AED 28 billion allocated annually, delivered through a nationwide collaboration of 50+ partners to ensure 100% coverage for eligible families.**

<sup>14</sup> UAE (2024). Social welfare programmes. Retrieved from: <https://u.ae/en/information-and-services/social-affairs/social-welfare/social-welfare-programmes>

<sup>15</sup> MOCE (2024). Inflation Allowance Programme. Retrieved from: <https://smartservices.mocd.gov.ae/smart-services/inflation-service>





## Federal Decree-Law No. (50) of 2023 on the Regulation of Public Welfare Activities<sup>16</sup>

This landmark law, enacted in 2023, modernises the UAE’s public welfare sector by introducing unified licensing, inclusive institutional participation, and enhanced oversight mechanisms. The legislation authorises residents to establish and manage public welfare activities and mandates automation, transparency, and alignment with international regulatory practices. Key achievements in 2024 include the registration of 293 institutions, AED 239 million in donations, 600,000+ volunteers mobilised, and the operationalisation of 4 directorates and 13 technical divisions. With 88% institutional compliance and 46,000 volunteer hours in crisis response, the law strengthens inter-agency collaboration and sector-wide performance.

## National Registry Platform for Public Welfare Institutions<sup>17</sup>

Introduced in 2024 by the MOCE, this platform creates a unified digital registry for Public Welfare Institutions (PBIs) to enhance institutional effectiveness, accountability, and national data governance. It enables regulatory bodies, researchers, and institutional members to access reliable, structured data for better oversight and decision-making. The platform—built with input from federal and local stakeholders, including community development and economic departments—features interactive dashboards, AI-enhanced data analytics, and fully digital operations including electronic archiving. In 2024, 830 PBIs were registered, with 55% of platform development completed. Challenges remain around data preservation and digital readiness, yet the platform lays the groundwork for scalable regulatory reform.



<sup>16</sup> UAE Legislation (2023). Federal Decree by Law No. (50) of 2023 Concerning the Regulations of Public Welfare Association. Retrieved from: <https://uaelegislation.gov.ae/en/legislations/2181/download>

<sup>17</sup> AlBayan (2024). The Ministry of Community Development showcases its latest digital platforms. Retrieved from: <https://www.albayan.ae/economy/business/uae-economy/2604>



## UAE Early Intervention Program<sup>18</sup>

The UAE Early Intervention Program, led by MOCE since 2015, aims to identify and address developmental delays and disabilities in children aged 0–6 through tailored therapeutic, rehabilitative, and educational services. The programme promotes early detection, enhances children’s developmental outcomes, and supports integration into schools and communities. Key stakeholders include federal and local health and education authorities, with contributions from entities such as Dubai Police in providing therapeutic services. Family involvement is central, with training provided to caregivers for applying intervention strategies at home.



**In 2024, developmental screenings more than tripled from 1,370 to 4,500, empowering earlier detection and stronger developmental support for children across the UAE.**

The programme saw a rise in developmental screenings from 1,370 in 2023 to 4,500 in 2024 and increased educational integration rates from 74.5% to 77%. Over 14,000 therapy sessions and 2,000 family consultations were delivered in 2023. The initiative expanded geographically, improved digital outreach via the “Growth” application, and maintained a 93.28% compliance rate with quality standards. Challenges include staff shortages and service access in remote areas, highlighting the need for continued partnerships and investment.



<sup>18</sup> WAM (2024). Ministry of Community Development completes objectives of ‘Emirates Early Intervention Program’ Retrieved from: <https://www.wam.ae/article/b4is9ka-ministry-community-development-completes>



## Disability Inclusion and Family-Centered Policy:

Updating Federal Decree Law Regulating Nurseries

Establishing the Ministry of Family

Proportion of population with appropriate public transport, by age and sex and persons with disabilities

Empowering Women Working in MoI


The UAE is committed to advancing inclusive and family-centred development through a series of integrated policy reforms and institutional innovations. By prioritizing the needs of children, women, families, and People of Determination, the UAE promotes social cohesion, equity, and long-term wellbeing. Efforts span across early childhood education, gender equality in the workforce, accessible public transport, and the establishment of a dedicated Ministry of Family. These initiatives reflect a sustainable, inclusive approach to social policy, strengthening the UAE's social fabric and ensuring no one is left behind, contributing directly to **SDGs 3 (Good Health and Well-being), 4 (Quality Education), 5 (Gender Equality), 10 (Reduced Inequalities), and 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities)**.





## Updating Federal Decree Law Regulating Nurseries<sup>19</sup>

In 2023, the MOE enacted a revised Federal Decree Law No. (51) to regulate nurseries, establishing a comprehensive legal and regulatory framework for early childhood care and education. The legislation sets national standards for safety, health, and developmentally appropriate practices for children aged 0–8. Key stakeholders include early childhood institutions and regulatory bodies.




**National standards established for safety, health, and developmentally appropriate practices for children aged 0–8.**

The law enhances service quality, ensures consistent monitoring, and aligns with international benchmarks. From 2020 to 2023, enrolment in early childhood education increased from 78.31% to 84.84%, with 99.82% of children accessing organised learning in 2022/2023. This reform underscores the UAE's commitment to institutional accountability and inclusive early learning, contributing to educational equity and long-term human capital development.

## Establishing the Ministry of Family<sup>20</sup>

In 2024, the UAE Cabinet announced the establishment of the Ministry of Family as part of a broader federal government restructuring aimed at enhancing social well-being and cohesion. The ministry's creation underscores the state's commitment to strengthening family values, supporting childhood development, empowering women, and ensuring inclusive care for all segments of society. Positioned to develop and implement policies that protect and support the family unit, the ministry serves as a central coordinating body across sectors impacting social stability, including education, health, social services, and labour. The appointment of a dedicated Minister of Family marks a significant institutional step toward addressing evolving demographic and societal needs. By placing family well-being at the heart of national policy, the initiative enhances social protection frameworks and promotes inclusive, equitable development.



**Placing family well-being at the heart of national policy**

<sup>19</sup> UAE Legislation (2022). Federal Decree Law No. (51) of 2022 Regulating Nurseries. Retrieved from: [https://uaelegislation.gov.ae/en/legislations/1616/download#:~:text=Article%20\(2\)%20Law%20by%20Decree,of%20nurseries%20in%20the%20State.](https://uaelegislation.gov.ae/en/legislations/1616/download#:~:text=Article%20(2)%20Law%20by%20Decree,of%20nurseries%20in%20the%20State.)

<sup>20</sup> UAE Cabinet (2024). Mohammed Bin Rashid Announces Government reshuffle. Retrieved from: <https://uacabinet.ae/en/news/mohammed-bin-rashid-announces-government-reshuffle#:~:text=His%20Highness%20Sheikh%20Mohammed%20bin%20Rashid%20Al%20Maktoum%20announced%20the,Mazrui%20appointed%20as%20its%20minister.>



## Proportion of population with appropriate public transport, by age and sex and persons with disabilities

The MOEI led a project on measuring the proportion of the population with appropriate access to public transport seeks to promote inclusive, safe, and sustainable urban mobility across the UAE. Running from 2022 to 2030, the initiative tracks accessibility by age, sex, and persons with disabilities using proximity-based indicators, aligned with SDG 11.2. The indicator measures the proportion of the population that has convenient access to public transport, within a range of 500 meters from low-capacity public transport stops/stations and within 1,000 meters from high-capacity public transport stations. The project is based on strategic collaboration between MOEI, Integrated Transport Centre, transport authorities in Dubai, Sharjah, RAK, Ajman, and Fujairah.

Notably, Abu Dhabi recorded a 71.4% access rate in 2023, above the national average of 65%.

Contributing to enhanced mobility efforts across different emirates are multiple mobility projects, including the RAK Ride service and a 2030 mobility plan featuring expanded routes, solar-powered bus stops, and micro mobility hubs. Dubai is advancing a 30 km Blue Line with 14 stations due by 2029, while Ajman is improving public transport mapping and services, with plans to reach underserved areas. Despite data-sharing challenges—especially the absence of GIS data—inter-emirate collaboration and enhanced data management remain key enablers.

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## Empowering Working Women

The MOI worked on empowering women working at the ministry across multiple fronts. The project aims to strengthen gender equality and promote women's leadership within the security and administrative sectors. In alignment with national priorities, the initiative seeks to provide institutional support for women, ensuring equitable access to professional development and advancement opportunities. The project is implemented in partnership with key national and international stakeholders, including the GBC, General Women's Union, and several academic and leadership institutions. It focuses on cultivating a high-performance, inclusive work culture by enhancing leadership capabilities, fostering gender balance in specialised roles, and supporting work-life continuity. Additionally, it promotes women's engagement in sports within the Ministry as part of holistic empowerment.





## 2.2 Environmental Resilience and Sustainability



### National Climate Commitments:

1<sup>st</sup> Biennial Update Report (BUR) Addendum

Third Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC 3.0)

5th National Communications Report (NCR)

The UAE Consensus on Climate Action

The UAE continues to demonstrate global leadership in climate action through a series of ambitious national commitments aligned with the Paris Agreement. These efforts reflect an integrated approach to reducing GHG emissions, enhancing transparency, and advancing sustainable development. By embedding climate objectives into national strategies and fostering international cooperation, the UAE is transitioning from setting goals to implementing tangible solutions. From submitting its Third NDCs (NDC 3.0) to spearheading the UAE Consensus at COP28, the UAE is affirming its pivotal role in advancing **SDG 13 (Climate Action)** and global climate resilience.





### Third Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC 3.0)<sup>21</sup>

In 2024, MOCCA submitted the UAE's Third Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC 3.0) to the UNFCCC, marking a significant elevation in national climate ambition. The updated commitment sets a target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 47% by 2035 compared to 2019 levels, aligning with the global goal of limiting temperature rise to 1.5°C. Developed with the involvement of MOEI, MOIAT, MOEC, MOF, municipalities, environmental authorities, and the private sector, the report reflects integrated national planning across key sectors. The NDC reinforces the UAE's leadership role in climate diplomacy, particularly following its hosting of COP28, and affirms its solidarity within the COP Troika framework. By embedding climate objectives into national policy frameworks, NDC 3.0 underlines a shift from ambition to implementation.



**Did you know?**  
Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) are climate action plans submitted by countries under the Paris Agreement. They outline each country's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change.<sup>22</sup>

### 1st Biennial Update Report (BUR) Addendum<sup>23</sup>

The 1st Biennial Update Report (BUR) Addendum submitted to the UNFCCC, reflects the UAE's enhanced commitment to the Paris Agreement and climate transparency. The Addendum strengthens the national Monitor, Reporting and Verification (MRV) framework in alignment with the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF), providing more accurate and comprehensive data on GHG emissions and mitigation actions.

It documents progress across several SDGs, including increased renewable energy capacity (2.3 GW), industrial retrofitting for sustainability, integration of emissions control in urban waste systems, and improved classification of carbon sinks through mangrove restoration. The report also highlights the development of the Net Zero by 2050 Strategy and underscores the UAE's leadership in climate governance. Key challenges include the need for robust data integration across sectors and upgrading digital tools for emissions tracking.

<sup>21</sup> UNFCCC (2024). The United Arab Emirates' Third Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC 3.0) Accelerating Action Towards Mission 1.5C. Retrieved from: <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/2024-11/UAE-NDC3.0.pdf>

<sup>22</sup> <https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/all-about-ndcs#:~:text=Nationally%20Determined%20Contributions%2C%20or%20NDCs,the%20impacts%20of%20climate%20change.>

<sup>23</sup> UNFCCC (2024). Biennial Update Report (BUR). BUR 1. Addendum. Retrieved from: <https://unfccc.int/documents/639903>



## 5th National Communications Report (NCR)<sup>24</sup>

The 5th National Communication Report (NCR), submitted by MOEI in coordination with MOCCA and other national stakeholders, reflects the UAE's commitment to the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement. The report outlines national progress in greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions, climate adaptation, mitigation strategies, and climate finance. It documents a 10% GHG emissions reduction from 2019 levels and a 19% share of renewable energy in the national mix as of 2021. The report highlights the launch of the UAE Energy Strategy 2050 and the country's pioneering Net Zero by 2050 pledge—the first in the MENA region. It also underscores enhanced international cooperation, particularly on climate finance and technical capacity. While challenges remain in improving GHG data accuracy and scaling clean energy due to upfront costs, the report affirms the UAE's role in advancing global climate dialogue.



The UAE aims to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050 under its Net Zero by 2050 Strategic initiative

## The UAE Consensus on Climate Action<sup>25</sup>

The UAE Consensus on Climate Action, launched under the COP28 UAE Presidency, represents a transformative multilateral effort to realign global climate ambition with tangible financing, inclusive policymaking, and sector-wide collaboration. Framed within the objectives of the Paris Agreement, the initiative mobilised \$30 billion through the ALTERRA Fund to unlock \$250 billion in clean energy investments and pledged \$3.5 billion to the Green Climate Fund along with \$792 million to activate the Loss and Damage Fund. It also advanced nature-based solutions with \$4 billion in support for mangrove restoration across 15 million hectares. Gender inclusion was promoted through the COP28 Declaration on Gender, endorsed by 77 countries, while \$150 million was dedicated to water security and climate-smart agriculture. Despite challenges in ensuring financing commitments and scaling decarbonisation, the initiative underscored the UAE's leadership in climate diplomacy.

<sup>24</sup> UNFCCC (2023). 5th Communications Report (NCR). Retrieved from: <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/ncr%20report%20%20.pdf>

<sup>25</sup> COP28 (2023). The UAE Consensus Foreword. Retrieved from: <https://www.cop28.com/en/the-uae-consensus-foreword#:~:text=The%20UAE%20Consensus%20includes%20an,in%20keeping%20with%20the%20science>.





## Air Quality and Climate Resilience:

National Air Quality Agenda 2031

Air Quality Index Initiative

Coastal Protection for the UAE Shoreline Against the Effect of Sea Level Rise

Early Warning System for All

The UAE is strengthening its environmental governance and climate resilience through integrated, forward-looking policies that enhance air quality, protect coastal ecosystems, and improve national preparedness for environmental risks. These efforts reflect a holistic commitment to public health, ecological sustainability, and adaptive infrastructure in the face of climate change. By leveraging data-driven technologies, cross-sector collaboration, and community engagement, the UAE is building a more resilient and liveable environment for future generations.

These initiatives contribute directly to **SDG 3 (Good Health and Wellbeing)**, **SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities)**, and **SDG 13 (Climate Action)**.





## National Air Quality Agenda 2031<sup>26</sup>

Launched in 2022, MOCCA's National Air Quality Agenda 2031 outlines a strategic policy framework aimed at improving air quality across the UAE while advancing public health, environmental integrity, and economic sustainability. Aligned with national development plans, including UAE Centennial 2071, the agenda addresses both outdoor and indoor air pollutants, ambient odours, and noise pollution. Developed in collaboration with national and international stakeholders—such as GGGI, the Climate and Clean Air Coalition, and multiple federal and local entities—the agenda seeks to reduce levels of nitrogen dioxide, sulphur dioxide, coarse particle matter (PM<sub>10</sub>), and fine particle matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>), while enhancing governance, public engagement, and technological adoption. Key achievements include reductions in particulate matter despite natural dust events, adoption of health-impact indicators, and improved urban liveability. Ongoing challenges involve managing dust storms, cross-sector coordination, and transboundary pollution.

## Air Quality Index<sup>27</sup>

The Air Quality Index Initiative, spearheaded by MOCCA, leverages advanced monitoring technologies to provide real-time data on air quality across the UAE. Aimed at safeguarding public health and promoting environmental sustainability, the initiative integrates a network of sensors and data platforms to track key pollutants and atmospheric conditions. This enables timely decision-making and informed public awareness regarding environmental risks. By improving data accuracy and transparency, the initiative supports evidence-based policy and encourages behavioural change among residents and industries. Ongoing challenges include maintaining coverage across diverse geographic areas and integrating findings into cross-sector strategies. However, the initiative opens opportunities for innovation in environmental monitoring and collaboration with international air quality frameworks.

<sup>26</sup> MOCCA (2022). National Air Quality Agenda 2031. Retrieved from: <https://www.moccae.gov.ae/assets/download/2fd1e934/%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AC%D9%86%D8%AF%D8%A9%20%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%88%D8%B7%D9%86%D9%8A%D8%A9%20%D9%84%D8%AC%D9%88%D8%AF%D8%A9%20%D9%84%D9%87%D9%88%D8%A7%D8%A1%202031.pdf.aspx?view=true>

<sup>27</sup> MOCCA (2023). UAE Air Quality Index Manual. Retrieved from: <https://www.moccae.gov.ae/assets/91c95f18/uae-air-quality-index-manual.aspx>



## Coastal Protection for the UAE Shoreline Against the Effect of Sea Level Rise

The “Study of Coastal Protection for the UAE Shoreline Against the Effect of Sea Level Rise” is an ongoing initiative led by MOEI to enhance national resilience to climate-related hazards. Launched in 2023, the project employs hydrodynamic modelling and advanced simulation to identify flood-prone zones and propose infrastructure solutions aimed at safeguarding coastal areas from rising sea levels. The study integrates disaster risk reduction strategies with energy optimisation, contributing to a 10% decrease in energy consumption in buildings and an 18% reduction in related emissions. It also identified opportunities to increase renewable energy reliance by 15%, aligning with national sustainability and climate neutrality strategies. In addition, digital tools and smart technologies have been applied to improve energy efficiency and bolster infrastructure defences.

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## Early Warning System for All<sup>28</sup>

In 2024, MOFA and the National Centre of Meteorology (NCM) launched the “Early Warning System for All,” a digital platform designed to monitor weather conditions and natural disasters. This initiative aims to enhance the safety and security of UAE nationals abroad by providing timely alerts and facilitating proactive measures during severe natural and climatic events. The platform enables seamless information exchange and rapid response coordination, thereby strengthening the country’s crisis management and disaster response capabilities.

<sup>28</sup> MOFA (2024). MoFA and NCM launch the “Early Warning System for All” digital platform. Retrieved from: <https://www.mofa.gov.ae/en/mediahub/news/2024/8/30/30-8-2024-uae-mofa>



## Biodiversity, Blue Carbon, and Nature Conservation:

Our Nation's Protected Areas

The National Carbon Sequestration Project

The National Plan to Enhance the Regulation of International Trade in Endangered Wild Animal and Plant Species

Guidelines for Mangrove Restoration in the UAE

The National Program for Defining High-Value Ecosystem Services


The UAE is advancing an integrated approach to biodiversity protection, blue carbon enhancement, and ecosystem-based climate action. By leveraging science, policy, and cross-sector collaboration, these efforts support the conservation of marine and terrestrial ecosystems, promote sustainable natural resource management, and embed the value of nature into national planning. From protected areas to mangrove restoration and wildlife trade regulation, the initiatives reflect a commitment to nature-based solutions, climate resilience, and ecological integrity. These efforts directly contribute to **SDG 13 (Climate Action)**, **SDG 14 (Life Below Water)**, and **SDG 15 (Life on Land)**.





## Our Nation's Protected Areas


The Our Nation's Protected Areas project, led by MOCCA, advances the UAE's commitment to biodiversity conservation by expanding the national network of protected areas and enhancing governance frameworks. The initiative aims to increase terrestrial protected area coverage to 17.5% by 2026, building on the 2024 achievement of 18.4%, while also protecting 12.01% of marine territory. With a Red List Index score of 0.63, the project focuses on legal reform, the refinement of definitions for Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs), and the adoption of international best practices. Strategic partnerships with local authorities, Emirates Nature-WWF, and private sector actors underpin the implementation. Notable innovations include AI-powered ecosystem monitoring using drones, developed by Abu Dhabi's Environment Agency.



Targeting 17.5% terrestrial protected area coverage by 2026, building on the 2024 achievement of 18.4%

## The National Carbon Sequestration Project: Planting 100 million mangrove trees by 2030

The National Carbon Sequestration Project, led by MOCCA and launched at COP26, seeks to plant 100 million mangrove trees by 2030 as part of the UAE's broader strategy for climate neutrality and marine conservation. The initiative leverages mangrove ecosystems as a nature-based solution for carbon capture, coastal resilience, and biodiversity recovery. It aligns with the UAE's NDCs and promotes ecosystem-based management of marine areas. The project involves extensive collaboration with local environmental authorities across all emirates, as well as private sector partners such as Al Rostamani Group and Emirates Nature-WWF.



45 million mangrove seedlings planted, UAE aims to plant 100 million mangrove trees by 2030

By 2024, 45 million mangrove seedlings had been planted, supported by large-scale community engagement and the establishment of the Mangrove Alliance for Climate with Indonesia. The initiative strengthens the UAE's Environmental Performance Index (EPI) and positions the country as a global contributor to nature-based climate solutions.



## The National Plan to Enhance the Regulation of International Trade in Endangered Wild Animal and Plant Species<sup>29</sup>

MOCCAE launched the National Plan to Enhance the Regulation of International Trade in Endangered Wild Animal and Plant Species (2021–2023) to safeguard biodiversity and combat illegal wildlife trade. The plan integrates legislative reform, enforcement measures, capacity building, and international cooperation to regulate the trade in CITES-listed species. Implemented in collaboration with federal and local authorities across all emirates, and supported by various NGOs, the initiative seeks to reduce illicit trafficking and promote sustainable trade practices. Achievements include the establishment of a national action plan, increased public engagement, and a reported illicit trade rate of only 0.041% of total wildlife trade. The effort supports regional and global environmental agreements while contributing to national sustainability objectives. The strategy continues under broader biodiversity goals to 2030.

## Guidelines for Mangrove Restoration in the UAE<sup>30</sup>

MOCCAE, in partnership with EAD and Emirates Nature-WWF, launched the Guidelines for Mangrove Restoration in the UAE to strengthen the country's climate and biodiversity resilience through evidence-based conservation practices. The publication provides a comprehensive framework for the planning, implementation, and monitoring of mangrove restoration projects, ensuring alignment with international best practices and local ecological conditions. It supports national targets to expand mangrove cover, enhance carbon sequestration, and safeguard coastal ecosystems from erosion and sea-level rise. By standardising methodologies across sectors and emirates, the guidelines promote scientific integrity, stakeholder coordination, and long-term sustainability of restoration efforts. The initiative contributes to the UAE's Net Zero 2050 ambition and reaffirms its commitment to nature-based solutions.



**Targeting 17.5% terrestrial protected area coverage by 2026, building on the 2024 achievement of 18.4%**

<sup>29</sup> MOCCAE (2023). The National Plan to Enhance the Regulation of International Trade in Endangered Wild Animal and Plant Species. Retrieved from: <https://www.moccae.gov.ae/assets/download/20806098/%D8%AE%D8%B7%D8%A9%20%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B3%D8%A7%D9%8A%D8%AA%D8%B3%202023-2030.pdf.aspx>

<sup>30</sup> Emirates Nature-WWF (2024). Guidelines for Mangrove Restoration in the UAE. Retrieved from: [https://emiratesnaturewwf.ae/sites/default/files/doc-2024-9/EAD6735\\_MANGROVE%20INITIATIVE%20GUIDELINES\\_v10b.pdf](https://emiratesnaturewwf.ae/sites/default/files/doc-2024-9/EAD6735_MANGROVE%20INITIATIVE%20GUIDELINES_v10b.pdf)





## The National Program for Defining High-Value Ecosystem Services

The National Programme for Defining High-Value Ecosystem Services, led by MOCCA from 2023 to 2025, is a pioneering initiative to establish national ecosystem accounts using environmental-economic accounting frameworks. It employs spatial modelling and remote sensing technologies to assess critical ecosystem services such as carbon sequestration in mangroves, biodiversity conservation, and the economic potential of ecotourism. The programme aims to integrate ecosystem value into national policies, enhance coastal and terrestrial ecosystem management, and improve climate-related decision-making. Key stakeholders include federal and local government entities, private sector actors, academic institutions, and international partners such as the IDEEA Group and ICBA. Notable achievements include improved biodiversity data, expanded protected area coverage, and the creation of a national spatial database for ecosystem services. Challenges remain in data availability and ensuring multi-stakeholder coordination.





## Sustainable Marine Resource Management and Ocean Governance

The UAE National Framework Statement for Sustainable Fisheries (2019–2030)

The National Strategy for the Sustainability of the Marine Environment and Living Aquatic Resources (2025–2031)

Development and Stimulation of the Aquaculture Sector / National Plan for Stimulating and Developing the Aquaculture Sector

Laws and Regulations to Manage Fisheries Activities and Strengthen Governance of Marine Environmental Management

Recognising the vital role of healthy oceans in national resilience and economic prosperity, the UAE is implementing a comprehensive approach to marine resource management and ocean governance. Through the sustainable development of fisheries, expansion of aquaculture, restoration of coastal ecosystems, and robust legal reform, the country is safeguarding its marine biodiversity while supporting livelihoods and food security. These efforts are grounded in scientific research, international cooperation, and inclusive stakeholder engagement. Collectively, these initiatives contribute directly to **SDG 14 (Life Below Water)** by ensuring the conservation and sustainable use of marine ecosystems.





## The UAE National Framework Statement for Sustainable Fisheries (2019–2030)<sup>31</sup>

The UAE National Framework Statement for Sustainable Fisheries (2019–2030), led by MOCCA, outlines a long-term strategy to restore and sustainably manage the country's marine resources. It focuses on reversing overfishing, enhancing fish stock resilience, and rehabilitating marine habitats such as coral reefs. The policy incorporates scientific stock assessments, stringent fishing regulations, and the development of aquaculture as a sustainable alternative to wild catch. Implementation involves federal coordination with local environmental and fisheries authorities across all emirates. Community participation and stakeholder engagement are central to fostering compliance and promoting conservation values. The framework has supported the publication of national fisheries statistics, providing a baseline for progress. However, data limitations and enforcement challenges remain. Opportunities lie in advancing aquaculture and strengthening marine research. The policy supports the UAE's commitment to safeguarding marine biodiversity and securing long-term economic benefits from sustainable fisheries.



**500+ Fish Species in UAE Waters**

**Dynamic currents of the Strait of Hormuz influence the distribution of marine life, supporting a diverse array of fish species across the Arabian Gulf**

## Workshop for Developing 'The National Strategy for the Sustainability of the Marine Environment and Living Aquatic Resources (2025–2031)<sup>32</sup>

The National Strategy for the Sustainability of the Marine Environment and Living Aquatic Resources (2025–2031), developed by MOCCA, establishes a comprehensive national framework to safeguard and enhance the UAE's marine and coastal ecosystems. The strategy aims to advance both environmental protection and economic sustainability through strengthened marine governance, the conservation of living aquatic resources, and targeted pollution reduction measures. Its implementation is supported by a broad coalition of stakeholders, including local authorities, academic institutions, federal entities, and private sector partners such as ADNOC and Abu Dhabi Ports. Notable progress to date includes the planting of 45 million mangrove seedlings, systematic seawater quality monitoring, and nationwide beach and seabed clean-up initiatives. The strategy also promotes scientific research, informed policy development, and the sustainable management of small-scale fisheries, earning the UAE a 4 out of 5 rating from the FAO in this domain. Continued efforts are required to ensure full alignment with international legal frameworks, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

<sup>31</sup> MOCCA (2019). The UAE National Framework Statement for Sustainable Fisheries (2019–2030). Retrieved from: [https://www.moccae.gov.ae/assets/download/749e9268/UAE%20National%20Framework%20Statement%20for%20Sustainable%20Fisheries%20\(2019-2030\)%20English.pdf.aspx](https://www.moccae.gov.ae/assets/download/749e9268/UAE%20National%20Framework%20Statement%20for%20Sustainable%20Fisheries%20(2019-2030)%20English.pdf.aspx)

<sup>32</sup> MOCCA (2024). MOCCA organises workshop on national strategy for sustainability of marine environment and fisheries. Retrieved from: <https://www.moccae.gov.ae/en/media-center/news/2/8/2023/moccae-organises-workshop-on-national-strategy-for-sustainability-of-marine-environment-and-fisheries.aspx#page=1>



## Development and Stimulation of the Aquaculture Sector / National Plan for Stimulating and Developing the Aquaculture Sector

MOCCA's National Plan for Stimulating and Developing the Aquaculture Sector was launched in 2024 to establish a resilient and environmentally sustainable aquaculture industry in the UAE. Designed in line with UAE Vision 2031 and the National Food Security Strategy 2051, the plan aims to enhance food security, boost economic returns, and protect marine resources. It engages a wide network of stakeholders, including local authorities and environmental agencies across all emirates. The initiative focuses on expanding the number and output of aquaculture farms, promoting sectoral organisation, and improving regulatory and investment environments. Notable achievements include increased farm numbers and production, alongside the development of enabling initiatives such as support services, streamlined procedures, and regulatory frameworks. The strategy also promotes market diversification, including the export of surplus or under-consumed species.

## Laws and Regulations to Manage Fisheries Activities and Strengthen Governance of Marine Environmental Management

MOCCA has led the enactment of a robust legislative framework to manage fisheries activities and strengthen marine environmental governance in the UAE. The initiative includes laws and regulations aimed at regulating fishing during breeding seasons, protecting endangered species, and aligning national governance with international legal instruments such as the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. It promotes sustainable practices, combats IUU fishing, and supports traditional artisanal fishing. Coordination among federal and local authorities has enabled the issuance and enforcement of key legislation, including Federal Laws Nos. 23 and 24 (1999), and Cabinet Resolution No. 120 of 2023 on the schedule of violations and administrative penalties related to aquatic living resources legislation and their settlement. The adoption of AI tools for marine pollution monitoring underscores the commitment to innovative governance.



## Waste Reduction, Food Systems, and Circular Economy

The National Agenda for Integrated Waste Management (2023–2026)

Municipal Solid Waste Treatment Plant and RDF Project

National Initiative “Ne’ma” to Reduce Food Loss and Waste

Assessing National Food Control Systems

Annual Statistical Survey of Traditional Holdings, Commercial Cattle Farms, and Broiler and Layer Poultry Farms

Driven by the urgent need to reduce waste, enhance food security, and optimize resource use, the UAE is implementing an integrated approach to waste reduction and circular economy transformation. Through coordinated action on sustainable waste management, food system resilience, and data-informed agricultural planning, the UAE is promoting environmental leadership and economic efficiency. These efforts span from reducing municipal and food waste to strengthening food safety systems and improving livestock data for better sustainability outcomes. Together, they reflect a shift toward more regenerative practices that protect resources while supporting long-term development goals. These initiatives directly contribute to **SDG 2 (Zero Hunger)**, **SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities)**, and **SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production)**.





## The National Agenda for Integrated Waste Management (2023–2026)<sup>33</sup>

Launched by the MOCCAЕ, the National Agenda for Integrated Waste Management (2023–2026) provides a unified framework to enhance sustainable waste management across the UAE. The agenda features 19 projects categorized into three strategic directions: waste reduction and responsible consumption, circular economy acceleration (via sorting, reuse, recycling, and treatment), and environmentally sound landfill management using advanced technology and AI. A key focus is placed on R&D and innovation to drive technological adoption. Developed in collaboration with federal ministries and local entities like EAD, Tadweer, Bee'ah, and various municipalities, the agenda seeks to boost recycling rates, decrease hazardous waste, and cut food waste through initiatives such as “Ne'ma” and the development of an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) framework. Current challenges include inconsistent data from some municipalities and the necessity for standardized capacity building.



**The National Agenda for Integrated Waste Management (2023–2026) encompasses 19 projects categorized into three strategic directions, aiming to revolutionize sustainable waste management across the UAE.**

## Municipal Solid Waste Treatment Plant and Alternative Fuel (RDF) Production Project<sup>34</sup>

Launched by the MOCCAЕ, the Municipal Solid Waste Treatment Plant and Alternative Fuel (RDF) Production Project aims to advance sustainable waste management by converting municipal solid waste (MSW) into Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF) for cement manufacturing. Serving Ajman and Umm Al Quwain, the project helps reduce landfill reliance, conserve land resources, and limit methane emissions. In collaboration with local municipalities, it supports a shift towards circular economy practices by supplying RDF as a low-emission substitute for coal in industrial processes. The laying of the foundation stone marks a critical step in integrating waste treatment with industrial fuel supply chains. By transforming waste into energy and reducing the environmental footprint of urban waste, this initiative contributes to long-term sustainability and aligns with the national agenda for resilient urban infrastructure.

<sup>33</sup> UAE Cabinet (2023). Mohammed Bin Rashid Chairs UAE Cabinet Meeting in Expo City Dubai, Reviews Outcomes of National Climate Action Efforts. Retrieved from: <https://uaecabinet.ae/en/news/mohammed-bin-rashid-chairs-uae-cabinet-meeting-in-expo-city-dubai-reviews-outcomes-of-national-climate-action-efforts>

<sup>34</sup> MOCCAЕ (2019). UAE Breaks Ground on State-of-the-art Waste-to-Energy Treatment Plant in Umm Al Quwain. Retrieved from: <https://www.moccae.gov.ae/en/media-center/news/7/10/2019/uae-breaks-ground-on-state-of-the-art-waste-to-energy-treatment-plant-in-umm-al-quwain.aspx#page=1>





## National Initiative “Ne’ma” to Reduce Food Loss and Waste<sup>35</sup>

Launched in 2022, the Ne’ma National Initiative aims to significantly reduce food loss and waste across the UAE by 2030. This initiative establishes a unified framework for nationwide action, fostering collaboration among federal entities, private sector organizations, community groups, and academic institutions to advance sustainable consumption and production practices. Ne’ma addresses food waste comprehensively across the entire supply chain, from production to consumption. Its core strategies include establishing a national indicator for baseline measurement, promoting behavioural change through targeted awareness campaigns, and encouraging technological innovation in waste monitoring. The initiative also highlights and supports successful community-led efforts to inspire broader action. With the support of waste management authorities across all Emirates, Ne’ma reflects the UAE’s commitment to environmental stewardship and social responsibility.

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## Assessing National Food Control Systems<sup>36</sup>

Launched by MOCCAE in 2024, the project Assessing National Food Control Systems aims to evaluate and enhance the effectiveness of the UAE’s food safety regulatory framework. This initiative utilizes a globally recognized assessment tool developed by FAO and WHO, aligned with Codex Alimentarius guidelines, to strengthen food control systems through an integrated approach across four core dimensions: resources, control functions, stakeholder coordination, and knowledge-based improvement. The project involves extensive collaboration with national and local stakeholders, including key municipal authorities, federal ministries, and advisory support from FAO. A baseline gap analysis has been completed, and efforts are underway to update policy and legislative frameworks to address identified deficiencies. This comprehensive assessment promotes institutional efficiency and public health resilience.

<sup>35</sup> Ne’ma (2024). Ne’ma National Food Loss and Waste Initiative. <https://nema.ae/en/>

<sup>36</sup> MOCCAE (2025). MOCCAE and FAO launch UAE Food Control System Assessment with over 50 federal and local participants. Retrieved from: <https://www.zawya.com/en/press-release/government-news/moccae-and-fao-launch-uae-food-control-system-assessment-with-over-50-federal-and-local-participants-twux9icx>



### Annual Statistical Survey of Traditional Holdings, Commercial Cattle Farms, and Broiler and Layer Poultry Farms<sup>37</sup>

In 2024, MOCCAE launched the Annual Statistical Survey of Traditional Holdings, Commercial Cattle Farms, and Broiler and Layer Poultry Farms to enhance national food security planning through comprehensive livestock data collection. Conducted in collaboration with FCSC, ADFSA, and local municipalities, the initiative targets all commercial and small to medium livestock farms across the UAE. The survey provides vital information on animal populations, production rates, mortality, biosecurity, and the use of renewable energy, contributing to informed policymaking and strategic investment in sustainable agriculture. GIS technology is employed to map farm distribution, supporting the integration of agricultural planning with environmental goals. The data will aid in assessing the risk levels of local animal breeds, supporting conservation efforts and contributing to food system resilience.



<sup>37</sup> AlKhaleej (2024). Launch of the National Survey Plan for Commercial Animal Production Farms 2024. Retrieved from: <https://www.alkhaleej.ae/2024-07-24/>



## Water and Clean Energy

UAE Sustainable Desalination Program

Regulating the Connection of Distributed Solar Photovoltaic Energy

The UAE Centre for Renewable and Advanced Fuel Technologies for Aviation (Air-CRAFT Alliance)

Implementation of the UAE National Hydrogen Strategy 2050

Sustainable Oasis

As part of its transition to a low-carbon, climate-resilient economy, the UAE is scaling up innovation and investment in clean energy and sustainable water solutions. From expanding energy-efficient desalination and distributed solar power to pioneering green hydrogen and sustainable aviation fuels, these efforts demonstrate a systems-level commitment to reducing emissions, diversifying the energy mix, and securing long-term resource resilience. The initiatives reflect strong public-private collaboration and international engagement to accelerate decarbonisation and sustainable infrastructure. Collectively, these efforts contribute directly to **SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation)**, **SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy)**, **SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure)**, **SDG 13 (Climate Action)**, and **SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals)**.





## UAE Sustainable Desalination Programme<sup>38</sup>

The UAE Sustainable Desalination Programme, coordinated by MOEI and key utility stakeholders such as EWEC, DEWA, SEWA, and EtihadWE, addresses the critical challenge of freshwater scarcity in a desert environment. The initiative prioritises energy-efficient technologies, particularly membrane-based Reverse Osmosis (RO), to reduce the environmental impact of desalination and ensure long-term water security. From 2020 to 2024, three major desalination plants were completed in Abu Dhabi, Dubai, and Umm Al Quwain, collectively adding 390 million gallons per day in capacity. Currently, over 35% of desalinated water is produced using RO, with projections to surpass 75% by 2036 under the UAE Water Security Strategy. The programme has enabled universal access to safely managed drinking water and improved water-use efficiency. It also supports the integration of sustainable water resource management practices.



**From 2020 to 2024, the UAE added 390 million gallons per day in desalination capacity through three major plant completions in Abu Dhabi, Dubai, and Umm Al Quwain.**

## The UAE Centre for Renewable and Advanced Fuel Technologies for Aviation (Air-CRAFT Alliance)<sup>39</sup>

In 2023, MOEI established the UAE Centre for Renewable and Advanced Fuel Technologies for Aviation (Air-CRAFT Alliance) to accelerate the decarbonisation of the aviation sector in line with national net-zero targets. The initiative aims to industrialise Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) production, guided by a National SAF Roadmap grounded in ambition, innovation, regulation, capacity-building, and international collaboration. The Alliance brings together key stakeholders, including MOEI, GCAA, ADNOC, Etihad, Emirates, Boeing, ENOC, Masdar, Honeywell, and Khalifa University, to build a national SAF ecosystem. Key achievements include the launch of the Air-CRAFT consortium, publication of the SAF Roadmap, and Emirates' successful demonstration of a 100% SAF-powered A380 flight. Despite facing technological and financial barriers, the project presents significant opportunities for R&D and public-private cooperation.



**Emirates operates the world's first A380 demonstration flight powered entirely by 100% Sustainable Aviation Fuel in 2023**

<sup>38</sup> WAM (2024). Mansour bin Zayed inaugurates first seawater desalination plant using reverse osmosis technology in Umm Al Quwain. Retrieved from: <https://www.wam.ae/en/article/43sy4ez-mansour-bin-zayed-inaugurates-first-seawater>

<sup>39</sup> Masdar (2023). UAE entities launch first-of-its-kind research consortium for renewable and advanced aviation fuels. Retrieved from: <https://masdar.ae/en/news/newsroom/uae-entities-launch-first-of-its-kind-research-consortium>



## Implementation of the UAE National Hydrogen Strategy 2050<sup>40</sup>

The implementation of the UAE National Hydrogen Strategy 2050, launched by MOEI in 2023, aims to position the UAE as a global hub for clean hydrogen production, use, and export. This strategy targets hard-to-abate sectors, supporting energy transition, industrial decarbonization, and economic diversification in alignment with Net Zero 2050 goals. Key national stakeholders include ADNOC, TA'ZIZ, ENOC, DEWA, and the RAK Petroleum Authority, alongside international partners such as Japan, Germany, and India. Major developments under this strategy encompass the construction of hydrogen oases, a low-carbon ammonia plant, and the region's first high-speed hydrogen refuelling and integrated green hydrogen stations. Additionally, the UAE has commenced natural hydrogen exploration and achieved top global rankings in market readiness and production competitiveness. Challenges to implementation include high infrastructure costs and the necessity for robust regulatory frameworks.

### Sustainable Oasis

The MOEI launched the Sustainable Oasis project to accelerate the UAE's clean energy transition in alignment with the UAE Energy Strategy 2050, the National Hydrogen Strategy 2050, and the Strategy for Climate Neutrality 2050. The initiative focuses on expanding solar power, increasing the share of renewable electricity to 35-50%, and producing 0.4 million tonnes of hydrogen, including through the development of a hydrogen oasis in Abu Dhabi. Collaboration with ADNOC, Masdar, academic institutions, and international partners has enabled the export of low-emission hydrogen to four countries, with further expansion planned. In 2023, the project achieved a 76% renewable energy contribution to the national mix and a 69.43% growth in the solar market. While challenges persist in land allocation and inter-strategy coordination, the project underscores the importance of integrated planning and public-private cooperation.



**The Sustainable Oasis project achieved a 76% renewable energy contribution to the national mix and a 69.43% growth in the solar market in 2023**

<sup>40</sup> UAE Website (2024). National Hydrogen Strategy. Retrieved from: <https://u.ae/en/about-the-uae/strategies-initiatives-and-awards/strategies-plans-and-visions/environment-and-energy/national-hydrogen-strategy#:~:text=The%20National%20Hydrogen%20Strategy%202050,development%20centre%20for%20hydrogen%20technologies>.





## Regulating the Connection of Distributed Solar Photovoltaic Energy to the Etihad Water and Electricity Grid

In alignment with Federal Decree-Law No. (17) of 2022, MOEI launched a regulatory project in 2024 to govern the connection of distributed solar photovoltaic (PV) systems to the Etihad Water and Electricity grid in the northern Emirates. The initiative aims to establish a comprehensive regulatory framework that enables consumers to generate renewable electricity, contributing to environmental sustainability and energy diversification. The project includes the development of interconnection agreements, technical specifications, and compensation mechanisms, alongside a pilot study to assess grid integration impacts. By facilitating distributed solar production, the initiative reduces dependency on conventional energy sources, lowers carbon emissions, and helps manage peak electricity demand. It also empowers consumers to participate in the energy transition while supporting the efficient use of natural resources.







## Sustainable and Liveable Urban Futures

The UAE 3D Digital Twin to Improve Liveability and Sustainability in the Cities

Open and Green Spaces Guide

Preserving Emirati Cultural Heritage: UAE's Nomination to UNESCO

The UAE is reimagining urban development through integrated approaches that enhance liveability, promote cultural identity, and support environmental sustainability. By combining smart technologies, inclusive planning standards, and heritage preservation, the country aims to create resilient, people-centred cities that reflect both modern innovation and deep-rooted cultural values. These initiatives strengthen urban ecosystems, improve quality of life, and ensure that growth is inclusive, green, and culturally grounded. Together, they contribute directly to **SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy)**, **SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities)**, **SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions)**, and **SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals)**.





## UAE 3D Digital Twin for Sustainable Cities<sup>41</sup>

The MOEI launched the UAE 3D Digital Twin project in 2024 to support liveability and sustainability in urban environments through advanced digital modelling. The platform enables data-driven urban planning and infrastructure optimisation, with a focus on improving energy efficiency and integrating renewable energy sources. Targeted impacts include a 10% reduction in building energy use, a 15% increase in renewable energy reliance, and an 18% cut in related emissions. Additional goals involve reducing traffic congestion by 25%, increasing green spaces by 10%, and improving water resource efficiency by 15%. Achievements to date include the creation of integrated digital models for urban systems, enhanced collaboration between public and private stakeholders, and smarter energy use in public buildings. Key challenges lie in standardising data frameworks and ensuring cross-sector cooperation.



The UAE 3D Digital Twin project is aiming for a 10% reduction in building energy use, a 15% increase in renewable energy reliance, an 18% cut in emissions, and a 25% reduction in traffic congestion.

## Open and Green Spaces Guide

In 2023, MOEI finalised the Open and Green Spaces Guide to establish unified national standards for classifying public open and green areas across the UAE. Developed in line with global best practices, the guide aims to ensure inclusive, accessible, and safe green spaces, contributing to enhanced quality of life and sustainable urban development. It supports the UAE Vision 2021 and National Agenda by promoting equitable access to open spaces within 400–500 metres of residential areas and increasing the per capita share of green spaces. Local urban planning entities are responsible for implementation, while statistical bodies such as the Federal Competitiveness and Statistics Centre support data collection and reporting.

<sup>41</sup> MOEI (2024). Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure Launches Big Data Ecosystem and Digital Twin Platform at World Governments Summit. Retrieved from: <https://www.moei.gov.ae/en/media-center/news/14/2/2024/ministry-of-energy-and-infrastructure-launches-big-data-ecosystem-and-digital-twin-platform-at>



## Preserving Emirati Cultural Heritage: UAE's Nomination to UNESCO

In 2024, MoCY led the UAE's successful nomination to UNESCO's Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage for the 2024–2028 term. The project aimed to preserve and promote Emirati intangible cultural heritage while enhancing the country's role in international cultural cooperation. Key stakeholders included MoFA, the Department of Culture and Tourism – Abu Dhabi, and UNESCO. A reception held at UNESCO headquarters and the publication of a booklet showcasing Emirati traditions served to raise global awareness and support documentation efforts. The UAE's election to the committee marked a milestone in its contribution to safeguarding cultural heritage and promoting intercultural dialogue. Through strengthened partnerships, the initiative reinforced institutional transparency and international engagement in the cultural domain.





## 2.3 Economic Transformation and Future Readiness



### Employment Insurance and Workforce Mobility:

Unemployment Insurance Policy

Workers Insurance Policy

UAE Labour Market Observatory

Jahez (جاهز) National Talent Development Initiative

National Youth Agenda

Intilaqaa

The UAE is fostering a dynamic, inclusive, and future-ready workforce through integrated policies that enhance social protection, promote youth empowerment, and strengthen labour market resilience. By combining unemployment and worker insurance, data-driven labour market analysis, and targeted upskilling initiatives, the country is creating a more adaptive and equitable employment ecosystem. These efforts ensure job security, support talent development, and prepare citizens and residents for evolving economic demands. Together, they reinforce the UAE's commitment to inclusive growth, sustainable employment, and human capital excellence. These initiatives directly support **SDG 4 (Quality Education)**, **SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth)**, **SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure)**, **SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions)**, and **SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals)**.





## Unemployment Insurance Policy<sup>42</sup>

Launched in 2023, the Unemployment Insurance Policy is a national safety net designed to protect workers' rights and enhance job market resilience. Led by MOHRE and supported by FAHR, the Central Bank, and an Insurance Pool, the policy offers temporary income support—up to 60% of the basic salary for three months—to eligible workers who involuntarily lose their jobs. As of October 2024, nearly 9 million individuals had subscribed to the scheme, which applies to both citizens and residents in the public and private sectors. Subscription is mandatory and accessible, with low monthly fees. A dedicated electronic platform ensures seamless registration and claims processing. This pioneering initiative enhances social protection, strengthens labour market stability, and supports economic competitiveness.



**The Unemployment Insurance Policy provides a vital social safety net for nearly 9 million subscribed individuals (as of October 2024), offering temporary income support—up to 60% of basic salary for three months**

## Workers Insurance Policy<sup>43</sup>

The Workers Insurance Policy was introduced by MOHRE to replace traditional bank guarantees with a comprehensive insurance-based system that protects employees' financial rights. The policy covers end-of-service benefits, wage delays, repatriation costs, work injuries, and death-related expenses. By transferring risk management to an insurance pool, the initiative strengthens labour protections and enhances fairness in the workplace. Over 99% of workers are now covered under the Workers' Protection Programme, with more than 27,000 having benefited in the last five years. This approach contributes to social stability, increases confidence among global talent, and supports a competitive, inclusive labour market.



**Over 99% of workers covered under the Workers' Protection Programme**

<sup>42</sup> MOHRE (2024). Unemployment Insurance Scheme. Retrieved from: <https://www.mohre.gov.ae/en/media-center/awareness-and-guidance/unemployment-insurance-scheme.aspx>

<sup>43</sup> UAE Website (2024). Insurance against defaulting employers. Retrieved from: <https://u.ae/en/information-and-services/jobs/insurance/insurance-system-for-employees-in-the-private-sector>



## UAE Labour Market Observatory<sup>44</sup>

The UAE Labour Market Observatory was launched by MOHRE as a strategic platform to enhance the transparency and competitiveness of the national labour market. Designed to serve as a centralised source of labour market intelligence, the platform systematically collects, analyses, and disseminates key data on employment trends, sectoral shifts, and workforce demographics. By delivering accurate, real-time insights, it supports evidence-based policymaking and facilitates informed decision-making among government entities, private sector stakeholders, and academic researchers. The initiative underpins the UAE's broader vision of labour market modernisation and adaptability in response to global economic dynamics. It also plays a pivotal role in identifying policy gaps and forecasting future workforce needs.

## The “Jahiz” Platform Initiative – Preparing Government Talent for the Future<sup>45</sup>

Launched in 2022 by FAHR, the Jahiz platform enhances future skills readiness among Federal Government employees. The digital initiative supports capacity-building in 20 future-focused skills. Over 53,000 employees have enrolled, completing 1M+ training hours. Jahiz is structured around four clusters: Digital Skills, 10X Productivity, Data & AI, and New Economy. It offers 90+ programmes and digital portfolios linking skills to job performance. Training is delivered in Arabic and English via leadership and general employee tracks. Digital badges certify progress.



Over 53,000 enrolled employees completing 1M+ training hours across 20 future-focused skills and 90+ programs.

The platform strengthens institutional agility, supports digital transformation, and promotes inclusive service delivery. Partnerships with AI Office, CSC, MOCCA, Microsoft, and Accenture—enhance content quality and relevance. Aligned with UAE's digital and sustainability agendas, Jahiz contributes to public sector innovation and human capital development in line with long-term government strategies.

<sup>44</sup> Labour Market Observatory (2024). <https://observatory.mohre.gov.ae/en>

<sup>45</sup> Jahiz (2024). <https://jahiz.gov.ae/>





## National Youth Agenda 2031<sup>46</sup>

The National Youth Agenda 2031, endorsed by the UAE Cabinet, represents a strategic commitment to empowering the country's youth as key drivers of future development and resilience. Structured around six transformative priorities—including identity and belonging, education and lifelong learning, employment and entrepreneurship, engagement and empowerment, health and well-being, and security and safety—the Agenda sets forth 24 national targets to advance youth participation across all sectors. Developed in alignment with the principles of human capital investment, the Agenda promotes innovative policy mechanisms and intersectoral collaboration to address the evolving needs of Emirati youth in a rapidly changing socio-economic context. It also emphasizes values-based citizenship and international competitiveness by preparing youth for leadership in green, digital, and knowledge economies. The adoption of long-term residency schemes, such as the Blue Residency for sustainability experts, reinforces this vision by integrating youth into the UAE's global sustainability and innovation agenda.

## University Students' Training Program "Intilaaqah"<sup>47</sup>

Launched by the MOEI, Intilaaqah is a youth-focused training program designed to equip university students with practical skills and knowledge in energy and sustainability. It supports the UAE's strategic priorities by promoting sustainable development awareness, enhancing employability, and encouraging innovation among young people. The program engages academic institutions and partners like ADNOC and Etihad Rail, fostering public-private collaboration. It aims to develop future-ready talent, promote sustainable development education, and facilitate youth participation in national energy projects. Key achievements include over 30 workshops, more than 190 hours of virtual training, the engagement of 20+ students in energy initiatives, and the showcasing of over 50 youth-led innovative ideas. Strategic partnerships have strengthened inter-sectoral cooperation, though challenges persist in data availability and coordination. The program blends virtual and in-person formats to maximize reach and impact, positioning students to contribute meaningfully to national sustainability goals.

<sup>46</sup> National Youth Agenda 2031 (2024). <https://agenda.youth.gov.ae/en>

<sup>47</sup> MOEI (2022). Honoring the participants in the Intilaaqah 5 Program. Retrieved from: <https://www.moei.gov.ae/en/media-center/photo-gallery/honoring-the-participants-in-the-intilaaqah-5-program>



## Industrial Innovation and Economic Diversification

Operation 300bn

Make it in the Emirates

The Digital Dirham

Emirates Entrepreneurship Council

The UAE is accelerating industrial innovation and economic diversification through targeted strategies that foster advanced manufacturing, financial transformation, and entrepreneurship. By enabling an ecosystem of innovation, local value creation, and youth-led enterprise, the country is transitioning toward a resilient, knowledge-based economy. These efforts promote sustainable industrial growth, attract investment, and enhance global competitiveness while ensuring inclusive participation in economic development.

Together, these initiatives directly contribute to **SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth)**, **SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure)**, and **SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions)**.





## Operation 300bn<sup>48</sup>

Led by MOIAT, Operation 300bn is the UAE's long-term strategy to elevate the industrial sector's contribution to GDP from AED 133 billion to AED 300 billion by 2031. The initiative targets industrial diversification, advanced manufacturing, and local value chain development through policy support, investment incentives, and technology adoption. It supports the establishment of a resilient, knowledge-based economy by fostering innovation, enhancing industrial self-sufficiency, and boosting exports. Public-private partnerships are central to its execution, as is integration with national strategic goals in science and sustainability. The strategy aims to empower Emirati talent and attract global investors by promoting the UAE as a regional industrial hub.



**Operation 300bn aims to elevate the UAE's industrial sector contribution to AED 300 billion by 2031**

## Make it in the Emirates<sup>49</sup>

"Make it in the Emirates" is a national campaign launched by MOIAT to encourage local and international investors, entrepreneurs, and manufacturers to establish and expand industrial operations in the UAE. The initiative complements Operation 300bn by promoting domestic production, supporting supply chain localisation, and enhancing the competitiveness of UAE-made products. It provides a platform to showcase investment opportunities and fosters collaboration between industrial stakeholders and government entities. The campaign strengthens national industrial resilience and supports technology-driven manufacturing across priority sectors, including energy, healthcare, and food security. It also contributes to employment generation and skills development among Emiratis.

<sup>48</sup> UAE Website (2024). Operation 300bn, the UAE's industrial strategy. Retrieved from: <https://u.ae/about-the-uae/strategies-initiatives-and-awards/strategies-plans-and-vision/industry-science-and-technology/the-uae-industrial-strategy>

<sup>49</sup> Make it in the Emirates (2024). <https://www.mite.ae/>



## The Digital Dirham<sup>50</sup>

The Digital Dirham project, led by UAE CB, marks a pivotal step in the UAE's financial transformation through the implementation of a central bank digital currency (CBDC). It aims to enhance payment efficiency, strengthen monetary policy transmission, and foster financial inclusion by offering a secure and technologically advanced alternative to traditional cash. Developed as part of the national digital economy strategy, the initiative addresses evolving consumer needs and aligns with international financial innovation trends. The project is designed to support cross-border transactions, improve payment infrastructure, and mitigate financial risks. Through pilot phases and collaborative frameworks with local and international stakeholders, the initiative is poised to modernise the financial system while ensuring regulatory compliance and cyber resilience.

## Emirates Entrepreneurship Council<sup>51</sup>

The Emirates Entrepreneurship Council, established by the UAE Cabinet, serves as a national platform to foster entrepreneurship and youth-led enterprise development. It aims to support the growth of start-ups and small businesses, with a particular focus on youth participation in economic activities. By facilitating coordination between public and private sector stakeholders, the Council works to improve the entrepreneurial ecosystem, streamline regulatory frameworks, and expand access to funding. A notable achievement includes the allocation of AED 300 million to support youth projects, reinforcing the government's commitment to empowering young entrepreneurs. The Council also promotes innovation, competitiveness, and sustainable job creation in line with national economic diversification goals.



**AED 300 million  
allocated through  
the Emirates  
Entrepreneurship Council  
to support youth projects**

<sup>50</sup> UAE CB (2023). CBUAE launches the Central Bank Digital Currency Strategy "The Digital Dirham" Retrieved from: <https://www.centralbank.ae/media/q5nldmrv/cbuae-launches-the-central-bank-digital-currency-strategy-the-digital-dirham-en.pdf>

<sup>51</sup> MOEC (2024). UAE Council for Entrepreneurship holds second meeting highlighting its plans to enhance the UAE's business environment and support SME growth. <https://www.moec.gov.ae/en/-/uae-council-for-entrepreneurship-holds-second-meeting-highlighting-its-plans-to-enhance-the-uae-s-business-environment-and-support-sme-growth>



## Energy Transition and Sustainable Aviation

Free Route Airspace

Implementation of the UAE Energy Strategy

Improving Energy and Water Efficiency in Federal Government Buildings

National Energy and Water Demand Management Programme 2050

National Green Certificates Program

Building on its commitment to climate neutrality and sustainable development, the UAE is implementing a transformative energy transition that prioritizes efficiency, innovation, and decarbonization across key sectors. Through initiatives that modernize aviation, improve water and energy use in public infrastructure, and expand clean energy access, the country is creating a more resilient, low-emission economy. These efforts are anchored in long-term national strategies, supported by regulatory reform, digital tools, and multi-stakeholder collaboration. By embedding sustainability into energy systems and infrastructure, the UAE is reinforcing its leadership in global climate action. Collectively, these initiatives contribute directly to **SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation)**, **SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy)**, **SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth)**, **SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure)**, **SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities)**, **SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production)**, and **SDG 13 (Climate Action)**.





## Free Route Airspace

The GCAA implemented the Free Route Airspace (FRA) project to modernise air traffic management and reduce environmental impact by allowing aircraft to fly unrestricted routes above 36,000 feet. Developed in partnership with air navigation service providers, ICAO, regional states, and major airlines, the initiative enhances flight efficiency, reduces fuel consumption, and contributes to climate mitigation efforts. As the first FRA implementation in the region, the UAE has demonstrated leadership by achieving a 2.5% reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and a 3% cut in annual fuel usage. Despite the absence of international standards, the UAE addressed this gap by developing customised simulations, conducting training, and submitting a working paper to ICAO, which has since been adopted. The FRA model is now used as a benchmark by other states and international partners.



**UAE achieved a 2.5% reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and a 3% cut in annual fuel usage through its pioneering Free Route Airspace (FRA) implementation**

## Improving Energy and Water Efficiency in Federal Government Buildings

The Improving Energy and Water Efficiency in Federal Government Buildings project, led by MOEI since 2023, supports the UAE's transition towards sustainable resource use in the public sector. The initiative targets the reduction of water and energy consumption in federal buildings through the deployment of modern efficiency technologies. It also aims to extend building lifespan and enhance infrastructure performance via innovative upgrades, reinforcing long-term operational sustainability. Implemented in collaboration with federal entities and private sector partners, the project contributes to multiple SDGs by reducing environmental impact while strengthening public sector resilience. Early outcomes include measurable reductions in water and energy usage, and improved building durability. The initiative faces opportunities for broader application through knowledge-sharing and public-private collaboration.





## Implementation of the UAE Energy Strategy

The implementation of the UAE Energy Strategy 2050, led by MOEI, marks the nation's first unified approach to balancing energy demand and supply while advancing sustainability and economic diversification. With clean energy targeted to comprise 30% of the total mix by 2030, the strategy encompasses major stakeholders including EWEC, DEWA, ENEC, and Masdar, as well as private and local partners across all Emirates. Achievements include a projected increase in clean energy capacity from 14.2 GW to 19.8 GW, the creation of 50,000 green jobs, and AED 150–200 billion mobilised in clean energy investments. Flagship projects such as the Barakah Nuclear Plant, Al Dhafra Solar Plant, and the MBR Solar Park reinforce national ambitions. The strategy also promotes hydrogen and waste-to-energy solutions, while enhancing energy efficiency by up to 45%, generating AED 100 billion in savings.

## National Energy and Water Demand Management Programme 2050

The National Energy and Water Demand Management Programme 2050, led by MOEI, is a long-term initiative aimed at improving the sustainability and efficiency of resource consumption across the UAE. The programme adopts an integrated approach to demand-side management, targeting buildings, industry, and transportation. It combines regulatory frameworks, infrastructure upgrades, technological innovation, and behavioural change to reduce energy and water usage. Key achievements include the launch of solar energy projects for government buildings, retrofitting initiatives, the issuance of the National Green Building Code, and new regulations for industrial demand-side energy management. A national awareness campaign was rolled out to foster conservation habits, alongside the development of EV charging infrastructure and regulation of the local energy services market. In 2023, the UAE recorded an 8% improvement in energy intensity compared to 2022.

## National Green Certificates Program<sup>52</sup>

The National Green Certificates Program, launched by the MOEI, is a strategic mechanism to accelerate the transition to a low-carbon economy through a certified renewable energy trading system. The program establishes a transparent framework for tracking and verifying clean energy generation, enabling organizations and entities to demonstrate their environmental commitments and reduce their carbon footprints. By aligning with international best practices for renewable energy certificates (RECs), the initiative supports voluntary and compliance-based decarbonization efforts, fosters investor confidence, and enhances market readiness for green financing instruments. It also plays a key role in reinforcing the UAE's national energy transition strategies, while encouraging private sector participation in climate action.

<sup>52</sup> MOEI (2024). Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure Launches National Green Certificates Program. Retrieved from: <https://www.moei.gov.ae/en/media-center/news/10/7/2024/ministry-of-energy-and-infrastructure-launches-national-green-certificates-program>



## Digital Transformation for Sustainable Development

Digital Urban Map Platform for the UAE

Emirates Monitoring Centre

UAE BLUE PASS: unified electronic platform (Blue Pass) for maritime service facilitation.

Earth Platform

Harnessing the power of digital innovation, the UAE is accelerating sustainable development through smart platforms that enhance infrastructure planning, energy efficiency, environmental monitoring, and maritime logistics. These initiatives reflect a data-driven approach to national progress, enabling better decision-making, integrated service delivery, and increased transparency across key sectors. From real-time monitoring and AI-based oversight to unified digital systems for urban and maritime operations, the country is embedding digital transformation at the heart of its sustainable growth strategy.

Collectively, these efforts contribute directly to **SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy)**, **SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth)**, **SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure)**, **SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities)**, **SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production)**, **SDG 13 (Climate Action)**, **SDG 14 (Life Below Water)**, and **SDG 15 (Life on Land)**.





### Digital Urban Map Platform for the UAE<sup>53</sup>

In 2022, MOEI launched the Digital Urban Map Platform for the UAE to serve as a unified spatial tool for integrating national and local urban development strategies. This digital platform enables real-time monitoring of infrastructure projects and urban indicators, supporting sustainable urban growth and investment attraction. Developed in collaboration with municipalities, planning departments, Etihad Rail, and private sector partners, the platform consolidates national urban policies, maps over 60 urban studies, and spatially reflects SDG 11 indicators. It also integrates five geographic layers and AI-driven planning tools. A National Urban Observatory was established to track 16 core urban axes. Despite challenges in data harmonisation and technical capacity across emirates, the initiative promotes a coherent national approach to urban development and enhances transparency and public participation.

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### Emirates Monitoring Centre to the Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure

The Emirates Monitoring Centre, established by MOEI in 2023, is a strategic initiative to enhance oversight and operational efficiency in the UAE's electricity and water sectors. Designed as a centralised platform, the centre enables real-time data collection and system monitoring, utilising advanced technologies such as artificial intelligence to identify issues and implement preventative solutions. It plays a critical role in overseeing the national electricity grid and will assume responsibility for monitoring the electricity market once it is formally established. Furthermore, it functions as a federal-level control room during emergencies, facilitating rapid response and ensuring continuity of service. The initiative also enhances energy efficiency, reduces electricity waste, and strengthens coordination with international energy bodies.

<sup>53</sup> MOEI (2024). Digital Urban Map to the UAE. Retrieved from: <https://urbandigitalmap.moei.gov.ae/MasterPlan>



## EARTH Platform<sup>54</sup>

The MOEI implemented the EARTH Platform in 2023 to support the UAE's transition toward a low-carbon, sustainable economy. The initiative integrates clean energy expansion, green investment, and ecosystem restoration under a unified national framework. The platform contributed to increasing renewable energy capacity from 14.2 GW to 19.8 GW, targeting 32% clean energy generation by 2030 and attracting AED 150–200 billion in investments. It promotes green growth by generating 50,000 jobs and allocating AED 55 billion to decarbonisation. Infrastructure improvements include a 10% expansion in EV charging networks and enhanced efficiency in federal buildings, aligning them with net-zero goals. The platform also led to a 21% reduction in water demand and 95% reuse of treated water, alongside mangrove restoration efforts to boost biodiversity and coastal resilience.



**Earth Platform:**  
Contributing to increasing  
renewable energy capacity  
from 14.2 GW to 19.8  
GW, targeting 32% clean  
energy generation by 2030

## UAE Blue Pass

The UAE Blue Pass initiative, launched by MOEI in collaboration with Neonautica and national port authorities, marks a significant step towards modernising maritime logistics infrastructure. Introduced in 2022, the initiative established a unified electronic platform to facilitate efficient ship passage and service delivery at UAE seaports. It directly addresses longstanding challenges such as service delays and the absence of an integrated database for maritime operators. By streamlining port operations and improving data accessibility, the Blue Pass has enhanced the competitiveness of UAE's maritime sector, contributing to a notable increase in sea shipment handling volume by 20.3 million TEU in 2023. This digital transformation aligns with the country's broader agenda to advance infrastructure quality and innovation, reinforcing UAE's position as a leading logistics hub.



**Modernized maritime  
logistics and contributing  
to a notable increase in  
sea shipment handling  
volume by 20.3 million  
TEU in 2023**

<sup>54</sup> MOEI (2023). Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure Launches EARTH Platform at COP28. Retrieved from: <https://www.moei.gov.ae/en/media-center/news/11/12/2023/ministry-of-energy-and-infrastructure-launches-earth-platform-at-cop28>



## Sustainable and Resilient Business and Innovation Ecosystem

New System for Protecting IP Rights, InstaBlock

Launch of IP Hub

National Economic Registry (NER) – Growth

Financial Sustainability Guideline for the UAE Federal Government



### National Economic Registry (NER) – Growth

The MoEC launched the Growth edition of the National Economic Registry (NER) to streamline access to economic data and enhance service delivery across government and business sectors. The platform functions as a comprehensive repository of licensed economic activities within the UAE, offering real-time, verified information for over 40,000 entities. NER-Growth aims to promote data transparency, strengthen governance, and support economic planning by providing stakeholders with accurate and integrated economic insights. The platform's expansion aligns with the UAE's transition towards proactive digital government services, enhancing the ease of doing business and enabling informed decision-making.



## New System for Protecting IP Rights, InstaBlock

MoE, in partnership with TDRA, introduced InstaBlock, an advanced system designed to enhance the protection of intellectual property (IP) rights for creative works. This AI-powered mechanism facilitates the swift detection and removal of unauthorised online content, significantly reducing infringement rates. The initiative supports creators and rights holders by automating the takedown of pirated content and streamlining IP enforcement procedures. InstaBlock strengthens the legal environment for innovation, particularly in the digital economy, and encourages investment in creative industries. The system aligns with international IP protection standards and reflects the UAE's strategic focus on fostering knowledge-based economic growth.

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## Financial Sustainability Guideline for the UAE Federal Government

The Financial Sustainability Guideline for the UAE Federal Government, launched by MoF in 2024, aims to advance sustainable financial governance across federal institutions. This new policy focuses on establishing a unified framework aligned with national strategies, international standards, and ISO certifications. Through a structured gap assessment and benchmarking process, the initiative identifies areas for improvement in current financial practices and seeks to integrate energy efficiency and sustainable procurement into federal operations. Key stakeholders include multiple MoF departments as well as MOE, MOCCA, MOIAT, MOEI, TDRA, and FTA, demonstrating a whole-of-government approach. As the guideline remains in its developmental phase, future work will likely expand its alignment with additional SDG targets, offering further integration opportunities.





## Driving Innovation: AI, Robotics, and Talent Development

### 1 Million AI Talents

Dubai Universal Blueprint for Artificial Intelligence

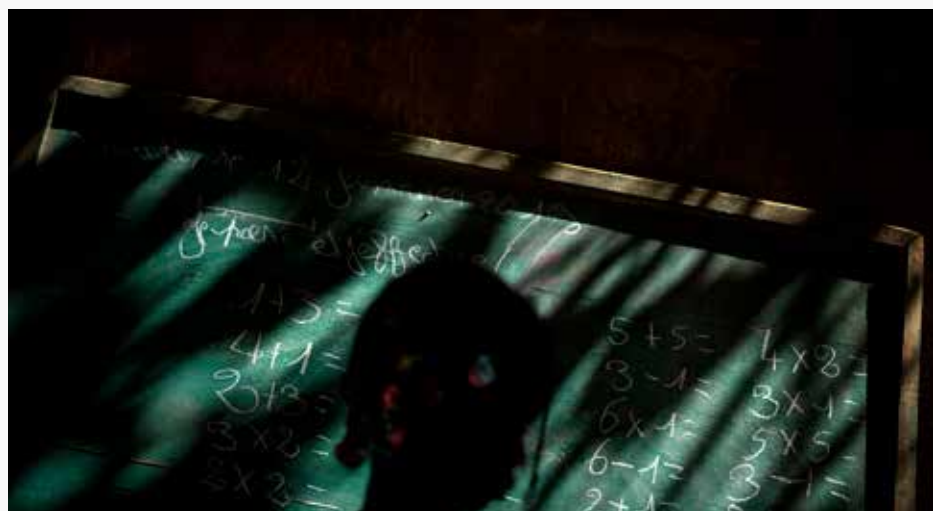
UAE AI Award

Enhancing Students' Skills in Robotics and AI

Launch of UAE Charter for the Development and Use of AI

SpaceTech Educational Campaign for UAE Students

The UAE is cultivating a resilient and future-ready economic ecosystem by embedding sustainability, innovation, and digital governance into business and institutional frameworks. Through initiatives that enhance intellectual property protection, economic data transparency, and sustainable financial management, the country is reinforcing a knowledge-based, competitive economy. These efforts strengthen investor confidence, support creative industries, and promote responsible consumption and production practices. Together, they reflect a strategic shift toward long-term economic resilience and innovation-driven growth. Collectively, these initiatives contribute directly to **SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth)**, **SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure)**, and **SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production)**.





## One Million AI Talents<sup>55</sup>

The 1 Million AI Talents initiative, launched by the Ministry of State for Artificial Intelligence, Digital Economy and Remote Work Applications, aims to establish the UAE as a global hub for artificial intelligence by developing national capabilities and fostering a future-ready digital economy. Through training programmes, mentorship, strategic partnerships, and open access to educational resources, the initiative seeks to equip one million individuals with AI competencies. Target audiences include students, professionals, entrepreneurs, and researchers across the UAE and the wider region. The effort reflects a long-term commitment to innovation, economic transformation, and digital upskilling. While scalability and inclusive participation remain ongoing challenges, the initiative opens significant opportunities for talent localisation and job creation in emerging tech sectors.

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## UAE AI Award<sup>56</sup>

The UAE Artificial Intelligence (AI) Award for the Public Sector is a flagship initiative designed to accelerate the integration of artificial intelligence across federal and local government entities, enhancing efficiency, innovation, and service delivery. Anchored in the UAE's National AI Strategy 2031, the Award recognizes excellence in AI adoption across three domains: AI enablers, AI solutions, and AI-driven government services. It fosters a culture of evidence-based decision-making and proactive digital transformation by encouraging public institutions to implement high-impact AI applications that improve the quality of life and streamline government functions. Through structured evaluation criteria, capacity-building initiatives, and knowledge exchange platforms, the AI Award promotes responsible AI governance, strengthens institutional readiness, and incentivizes cross-sectoral partnerships between government, academia, and the private sector.

<sup>55</sup> Ministry of State for Artificial Intelligence, Digital Economy and Remote Work Applications (2024). 1 Million AI Talents. Retrieved from: <https://ai.gov.ae/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/1-M-Talents-in-AI-Guide.pdf>

<sup>56</sup> Ministry of State for Artificial Intelligence, Digital Economy and Remote Work Applications (2024). UAE AI Award. Retrieved from: <https://ai.gov.ae/aiaward/>



## Launch of UAE Charter for the Development and Use of AI

The UAE Charter for the Development and Use of AI, launched by the Ministry of State for Artificial Intelligence, Digital Economy and Remote Work Applications<sup>57</sup>, provides a national framework for ethical, inclusive, and sustainable AI deployment. The Charter sets out guiding principles to ensure transparency, accountability, and human-centric development in AI systems across sectors. It encourages innovation while mitigating risks related to bias, misuse, and privacy breaches. Developed in consultation with public and private stakeholders, the Charter supports regulatory harmonisation and international collaboration in AI governance. It is a key component of the UAE's digital transformation agenda and future economy strategies.

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## Dubai Universal Blueprint for Artificial Intelligence<sup>58</sup>

The Dubai Universal Blueprint for Artificial Intelligence is a pioneering strategic framework launched by the Government of Dubai to integrate artificial intelligence across all sectors of society, economy, and governance. Developed through a collaborative, government-wide process, the Blueprint sets forth an integrated roadmap for harnessing AI to enhance the quality of life, future-proof the economy, and streamline public services. The framework outlines key priority areas, including AI governance, capacity-building, data infrastructure, and sector-specific applications such as healthcare, education, mobility, and energy. It also promotes ethical AI principles, public-private partnerships, and agile policy experimentation to drive responsible AI innovation. Through this initiative, Dubai aspires to be a global testbed for human-centric and trustworthy AI, ensuring sustainable digital transformation that benefits all segments of society.

<sup>57</sup> Ministry of State for Artificial Intelligence, Digital Economy and Remote Work Applications (2024). The UAE Charter for the Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence. Retrieved from: <https://uaelegislation.gov.ae/en/policy/details/the-uae-charter-for-the-development-and-use-of-artificial-intelligence>

<sup>58</sup> Government of Dubai Media Office (2024). Dubai Municipality launches 'Artificial Intelligence Roadmap' to boost efficiency in strategic projects within different sectors. Retrieved from: <https://mediaoffice.ae/en/news/2024/june/11-06/dm-ai-map>



## Enhancing Students' Skills and Capabilities in Robotics, Technology, and Artificial Intelligence

The MOE is implementing a national project to equip students with advanced skills in robotics, technology, and AI. This initiative prepares youth for the demands of the 21st-century economy. Targeting primary and secondary students, the project enhances digital competencies, encourages innovation, and develops critical thinking and problem-solving skills. It also supports educators by improving teaching quality and digital integration in classrooms. By promoting technological literacy, scientific research, and entrepreneurship, the initiative aligns student skills with future labour market needs, aiming to develop learners capable of applying knowledge in a dynamic global environment. Key outcomes include increased ICT proficiency between 2020 and 2021, particularly in spreadsheet use and email communication, along with improved academic performance and narrowed gender gaps in digital skills. This project supports national efforts toward digital transformation and a knowledge-based economy, building a generation ready to lead in AI and innovation.

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## SpaceTech Educational Campaign<sup>59</sup>

The SpaceTech Educational Campaign for UAE Students, initiated by MOE in partnership with Space42, aims to inspire a new generation of learners by integrating space sciences and emerging technologies into the national education agenda. Designed for students across all educational levels, the campaign promotes interest in space exploration, AI, and advanced technologies through workshops, interactive learning experiences, and project-based activities. The initiative seeks to enhance scientific literacy, cultivate technical skills, and prepare students for future careers in the space and innovation sectors. By linking academic learning with practical applications, the campaign also encourages critical thinking and innovation among youth.

<sup>59</sup> Space42 (2014). Space42 and the Ministry of Education launch SpaceTech educational campaign for UAE students. Retrieved from: <https://space42.ai/en/press-release/2024/space42-and-the-ministry-of-education-launch-spacetechn-educational-campaign-for-uae-students>



## Smart Public Safety and Justice Platforms

AI FOR SAFER CHILDREN

E-Crime Platform

Smart Integration of Police and Judicial Operations

One-Day Justice

As part of its commitment to justice, safety, and institutional excellence, the UAE is leveraging advanced technologies to modernise public safety and judicial systems. Through AI-powered tools, integrated platforms, and streamlined legal processes, these initiatives enhance the protection of vulnerable groups, improve access to justice, and strengthen digital trust. By fostering inter-agency coordination and accelerating case resolution, the UAE is building a more responsive, transparent, and efficient legal ecosystem.

Collectively, these efforts contribute directly to **SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions)**.





## AI for Safer Children

Launched in 2020, the “AI for Safer Children” initiative by MOI aims to position the UAE as a global leader in combating online child sexual exploitation. Developed in collaboration with UNICRI, the project provides an AI-powered platform that enables law enforcement agencies to access global databases and AI tools to detect, prevent, and prosecute crimes against children. It has engaged 580 agencies across 106 countries and deployed 80 AI applications dedicated to child protection. The initiative has notably reduced the time required to identify victims. Key components include the training of 550 investigators worldwide, the establishment of a 26-member advisory board including OSCE representatives, and the creation of an ethics committee of 22 experts to guide AI use. This effort enhances international cooperation and operational capacity to counter online threats against children.

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## E-Crime Platform

MOI introduced the E-Crime Platform in 2022 to modernise the reporting and handling of cybercrimes through a unified digital system. Recognising the growing threat of online criminal activity, the platform allows victims to report cyber incidents irrespective of location and ensures rapid coordination among relevant authorities. The system integrates with existing smart services, enhancing law enforcement response times and improving digital safety. The platform reduces procedural delays, saves time for both users and authorities, and improves the overall quality of digital life. By offering a reliable and responsive mechanism for cybercrime reporting and investigation, the initiative strengthens digital trust and user protection.





## One-Day Justice

The “One-Day Justice” project, launched by MOI in partnership with the Ministry of Justice in 2022, addresses the need for faster and more efficient judicial processes. By consolidating government services into a single visit for handling select criminal offences, the initiative has drastically reduced case resolution time from 29 days to one. It has achieved a 95% resolution rate, enhanced public satisfaction, and eased court backlogs through quick settlements. The user journey was streamlined from seven visits across three entities to just one, improving access and trust in justice services. Transparent reporting mechanisms were also introduced to monitor progress. This model of integrated service delivery strengthens institutional responsiveness and promotes a more efficient legal framework.



**Reducing case resolution time from 29 days to one.**

## Smart Integration of Police and Judicial Operations

The MOI launched the Smart Integration of Police and Judicial Operations project to modernise coordination between police services and judicial authorities. The project leverages advanced ICT to automate shared procedures, eliminate manual processes, and reduce duplication of official data. By transitioning to paperless and interoperable systems, it enhances data quality, shortens procedural timeframes, and lowers administrative costs. The platform enables secure communication and seamless data exchange across agencies, while significantly improving user experience in accessing legal services. Outcomes include reduced processing times, increased data accuracy, and elevated international rankings in governance efficiency.



## Legislative Innovation and Green Penalties

Green (Alternative) Sentencing

Federal Decree-Law No. (14) of 2024 on the Regulation of Traffic

Launch of UAE Legislation Platform

Federal Government Human Resources Law

The UAE is reshaping its legislative landscape to promote justice, sustainability, and inclusive governance through forward-looking reforms that integrate digital access, green penalties, and institutional agility. These initiatives modernize the legal system to reflect societal and technological changes while reinforcing public trust, transparency, and accountability. By introducing rehabilitative justice models, smart traffic laws, and participatory digital platforms, the UAE is making its legal and institutional frameworks more adaptive, inclusive, and sustainable. These efforts contribute directly to **SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities)**, **SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities)**, and **SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions)**.





## Green (Alternative) Sentencing

The Green Sentencing project, launched by MOI in collaboration with judicial entities, represents a transformative step in the UAE's justice system. The initiative aims to replace traditional custodial penalties with alternative sanctions such as electronic monitoring and mandatory community service, particularly those aligned with environmental goals. These measures aim to reduce prison overcrowding, lower recidivism, and support social cohesion. AI-based surveillance tools are used to ensure effective monitoring in line with legal standards. Public awareness campaigns have bolstered institutional understanding and community engagement. The initiative demonstrates tangible benefits across security, social welfare, economic efficiency, and strategic competitiveness.

## Federal Decree-Law No. (14) of 2024 on the Regulation of Traffic and Road Safety

Federal Decree Law No. (14) of 2024, enacted under the leadership of MOI and with input from RTA, police commands, and the Federal Traffic Council, addresses technological shifts in the transport sector. The law modernises traffic regulations by updating classifications to include electric vehicles, autonomous systems, and personal mobility devices. It also introduces clear procedures for testing and licensing self-driving technology. The Law supports youth mobility by enabling 17-year-olds to obtain driving licences. It saw the updating of safety regulations for pedestrians and achieved a 15% reduction in emissions by 2024. Additionally, a 20% increase in registered electric vehicles has been recorded.



**20% increase in registered electric vehicles has been recorded**



## Launch of UAE Legislation Platform

The UAE Legislation Platform, launched by the UAE Cabinet, is a digital initiative designed to enhance legal transparency, accessibility, and civic engagement. The platform consolidates federal legislation in both Arabic and English, offering an interactive interface that allows users to browse, search, and provide feedback on existing laws. Within five months of its launch, the platform recorded over one million visits, reflecting its role in fostering public participation and institutional accountability. By streamlining legal information and enabling two-way communication between citizens and lawmakers, the initiative strengthens the rule of law and promotes inclusive governance. Challenges include maintaining the platform's accuracy in real time and encouraging ongoing public interaction. Nonetheless, the platform sets a precedent for participatory legal reform and open government.

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## Federal Government Human Resources Law

Introduced through Federal Decree Law No. 49 of 2022, the Federal Government Human Resources Law represents a strategic shift in the UAE's public sector governance. Led by FAHR, with support from the MOF, the law aims to build high-performing HR departments and align public service employment with the evolving nature of work. The Law introduced modern and flexible employment structures, enhanced performance-based HR systems, and improved governance mechanisms. It supports agile workforce planning and enables the adoption of future-ready work models. This reform enhances employee engagement and talent development, reinforcing public sector competitiveness in line with "We the UAE 2031."



## Multilateral Financing and International Cooperation

UAE Foreign Aid Policy for SDGs

UAE's Contribution to the IMF's PRGT and RST

International Law Enforcement Initiative for Climate (I2LEC)

As part of its global development vision, the UAE is advancing multilateral cooperation and financial solidarity to support sustainable growth worldwide. Through strategic foreign aid, concessional financing, and cross-border climate-security initiatives, the UAE is helping countries—particularly vulnerable and low-income nations—address poverty, resilience, and environmental crime. These efforts are rooted in shared responsibility, global partnership, and a commitment to the 2030 Agenda, enabling coordinated responses to transnational challenges. These efforts contribute directly to **SDG 13 (Climate Action)**, **SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions)**, and **17 (Partnerships for the Goals)**.





## UAE Foreign Aid Policy for SDGs

The UAE Foreign Aid Policy for SDGs, led by MOFA and spanning from 2016 to 2026, underscores the country's commitment to advancing global sustainable development through targeted foreign assistance. Centred on poverty reduction, humanitarian relief, and international cooperation, the policy aligns aid efforts with the 2030 Agenda using a 1:1 mapping approach between projects and SDG indicators. UAE aid is delivered via bilateral and multilateral channels, with a strong focus on LDCs and fragile contexts, particularly in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2023, the UAE disbursed USD 3.18 billion in aid, of which USD 2.07 billion qualified as Official Development Aid ODA (0.40% of GNI). Nearly 80% of this aid supported SDGs 1, 2, 3, 11, and 17, reaching 34 countries. Despite challenges in mapping and external disruptions, the policy fosters transparency, institutional partnerships, and resilience.



**UAE disbursed USD 3.18 billion in aid in 2023**

## UAE's Contribution to the IMF's Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust (PRGT) and Resilience and Sustainability Trust (RST)

In 2023, MoF launched the UAE's financial contribution programme to the IMF's Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust (PRGT) and Resilience and Sustainability Trust (RST), reinforcing the country's commitment to inclusive global development. The initiative entails a USD 400 million contribution over a 10-year period (2024-2033), supporting low-income countries through the PRGT in addressing inflation, food insecurity, and debt vulnerability, while the RST targets long-term macroeconomic resilience against climate and health-related shocks in both low- and middle-income countries. Key stakeholders include the UAE Central Bank, the IMF, and the recipient states. The UAE's first disbursement to the PRGT was made in November 2024, marking a concrete step in promoting concessional lending and enabling access to sustainable finance.



**UAE's Contribution to IMF Trusts (PRGT & RST): USD 400 million (2024-2033)**





## International Law Enforcement Initiative for Climate (I2LEC)

Launched by MoI during COP28 in 2023, the International Law Enforcement Initiative for Climate (I2LEC) addresses the growing nexus between environmental crimes and climate change. Targeting activities such as illegal logging, waste and wildlife trafficking, the initiative underscores the role of law enforcement as frontline responders in mitigating environmental harm. I2LEC is supported by national entities including MOCCA, police leadership, and the Federal Authority for Identity, Citizenship, Customs & Port Security, alongside global partners such as INTERPOL, UNODC, EUROPOL, and others. It aims to build law enforcement capacity, enhance international cooperation, and integrate security operations into climate strategies. Achievements include endorsement of the Abu Dhabi Call for Action by over 60 countries, creation of the first environmental crime heat map, and training of 1,200 officers from over 95 nations. Challenges include underrepresentation in climate forums and funding constraints.



**I2LEC: Endorsement of the Abu Dhabi Call for Action by over 60 countries, creation of the first environmental crime heat map, and training of 1,200 officers from over 95 nations**





## SDG Platforms and National Reporting Alignment

### Institutional Policies Aligned with SDGs

Data Bridge

Union Atlas

Zero Government Bureaucracy

The UAE is strengthening institutional alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals through integrated platforms, policy frameworks, and digital governance tools. By embedding SDG principles into institutional policies, enhancing data interoperability, and streamlining government operations, these initiatives support evidence-based decision-making, transparency, and public sector innovation. They reflect a whole-of-government approach to sustainability, ensuring that planning, reporting, and service delivery are efficient, inclusive, and future-ready. Collectively, these efforts contribute directly to **SDG 4 (Quality Education)**, **SDG 5 (Gender Equality)**, **SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth)**, **SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure)**, and **SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions)**.





## MoI – Institutional Policies Aligned with SDGs

The MoI has implemented a comprehensive policy framework to align its internal governance and human resources practices with the SDGs. These institutional policies focus on upholding human rights, improving workplace equality, and fostering staff development. They promote non-discrimination, gender balance, and lifelong learning, embedding sustainability into strategic planning and daily operations. Initiatives under this policy umbrella include dedicated charters to improve work-life quality, enhance legal governance, and integrate SDG principles into operational culture.

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## Data Bridge

The Data Bridge project, launched by MOEI, aims to enhance data integration and institutional collaboration across the UAE's infrastructure, energy, and technology sectors. Positioned as a centralised digital platform, the initiative streamlines real-time data sharing between federal and local entities, private sector partners, and academia to support evidence-based policymaking and strategic planning. The platform enables predictive analysis and informed investment decisions by unifying fragmented data sources into a secure and accessible system. Stakeholders include national authorities and various industry actors, with MOEI playing a coordinating role. The project contributes to increased transparency, improved service delivery, and innovation in infrastructure governance. By fostering inter-agency coordination and data-driven decision-making, Data Bridge strengthens institutional accountability and supports industrial innovation.



## Union Atlas

Union Atlas is a geospatial platform launched by the Federal Geographic Information Centre to consolidate and integrate national geographic data for improved planning, governance, and service delivery. The platform unifies spatial information from various government entities, enabling evidence-based decision-making across economic, environmental, and security domains. It supports national development priorities by facilitating data sharing, enhancing emergency response capabilities, and improving infrastructure planning. Through advanced visualisation and mapping tools, Union Atlas empowers federal and local authorities to anticipate challenges, optimise resource use, and coordinate inter-agency operations. The initiative also fosters public-private collaboration by making strategic data accessible to stakeholders for research and development purposes.

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## Zero Government Bureaucracy

The Zero Government Bureaucracy programme, led by MoF, seeks to transform public sector operations by eliminating unnecessary administrative procedures and enhancing efficiency. The initiative focuses on simplifying services, reducing transactional burdens, and improving responsiveness across government entities. By streamlining internal processes, it fosters a more agile and citizen-centric government model. The programme aligns with broader digital transformation strategies and aims to raise user satisfaction, cut operational costs, and strengthen institutional trust. Through increased efficiency and improved service delivery, the programme supports the UAE's goal of global competitiveness in governance and public administration.



**CHAPTER 3**

**A Legacy of Sustainability**  
Year of Sustainability (2023–2024)



## A Legacy of Sustainability Year of Sustainability (2023–2024)

Under the visionary leadership of His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE, the declaration of 2023 as the "Year of Sustainability" marked a bold reaffirmation of sustainable development and collective action. The theme, Today for Tomorrow, established the foundation for a year dedicated to transformative action and global solidarity. Building on this momentum, it was extended to 2024 under the theme Plan to Action. 2023 to 2024 witnessed the development of awareness into implementation and commitment into measurable impact.

The two-year campaign, from 2023 to 2024, successfully mobilized collective action across all sectors of society including government entities, the private sector, and individuals. It drew upon the UAE's deep-rooted sustainability values and the legacy of its founding father, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, uniting everyone in the UAE towards a shared vision for a more sustainable future. Efforts and initiatives launched under the umbrella of the "Year of Sustainability" were amplified by the widespread engagement of various stakeholders and the entire community.







## 2023 Year of Sustainability: Today for Tomorrow

The UAE marked 2023 as the "Year of Sustainability," launched in February under the overarching theme "Today for Tomorrow." This foundational year focused on fostering awareness and a collective sense of responsibility towards sustainability. Four priority areas: environmental conservation, renewable energy, sustainable development, and public engagement.

During this period, significant efforts were made in environmental conservation and biodiversity protection, including Abu Dhabi being recognized as the Arab Environment Capital 2023 for its leadership in climate mitigation, mangrove afforestation, and innovative green transport solutions.

A central core of the 'Year of Sustainability' was to galvanize community involvement. A prominent example was the Global Faith Leaders COP28 Summit, which successfully convened 28 faith leaders aligning climate and religious advocacy for global sustainability. The UAE significantly accelerated its renewable energy agenda with several groundbreaking projects. Masdar's 1-gigawatt (GW) Renewable Energy Facility designed to provide uninterrupted clean energy generation. Furthermore, the establishment of the Italy-Albania-UAE Clean Energy Partnership signifies a proactive approach to advancing renewable energy projects on an international scale. National efforts were amplified through initiatives like UAE Innovates 2024. This nationwide program was designed to cultivate and support sustainability-driven innovation across various sectors, ensuring that the momentum in 2023 continues to drive future advancements and solutions for a sustainable future.



## 2024 Year of Sustainability: Plan to Action

Building on the momentum of 2023, the "Year of Sustainability" campaign was extended into 2024 with the theme "Plan to Action," shifting focus from awareness to practical implementation and systems-level transformation. The campaign emphasized behavior change, sustainable infrastructure, and responsible consumption, with pillars including green transportation, waste and energy reduction, responsible consumption, and sustainable agriculture.

Initiatives like 'Our Green Emirates' served as a national platform to promote sustainability through public engagement. Chapter Zero UAE was launched as a governance framework to help corporations integrate climate-conscious policies. Green transportation saw advancements, including Careem's deployment of Dubai's first electric motorbike fleet and Etihad Rail's introduction of a Sustainable Finance Framework, a strategic investment plan supporting green transport infrastructure. Efforts in water and energy efficiency included the Dubai Demand Side Management Strategy 2030, which aims to reduce energy and water consumption by 30%, and the UAE Water Security Strategy 2036, a national plan to enhance desalination and water recycling capabilities. Additionally, carbon capture and afforestation efforts were advanced through the 100 million Mangroves Initiative, and the establishment of a National Carbon Credit System, a framework designed to facilitate emissions trading and reductions.



## CHAPTER 4

# Forging Pathways Beyond 2030

SDGs in Action Platform and  
the xDGs 2045 Paradigm



## Journey of SDGs in Action Platform

The UAE activated the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with a first of its kind and dedicated 'SDGs in Action' platform at the World Governments Summit in 2016. The platform focuses on the importance of multilateral efforts in implementing the 17 SDGs. Positioned outside the traditional venues of the UNGA and HLPF, the 'SDGs in Action' platform serves as a catalyst, and innovative hub for sharing best practices, laying future-oriented foundations, and forging bilateral and multilateral partnerships for global prosperity.

The platform over the years has gained momentum in the dialogue of sustainable development and has become integral to the WGS agenda. The SDGs in Action platform has continuously evolved to engage dialogues and action reflecting shifting global priorities, emerging challenges, and innovative approaches to sustainable development.





## Forum Themes and Milestones over the Years

### 2016

The UAE launched the SDGs in Action platform at WGS to drive global SDG implementation through innovation and partnerships. It became a core feature of the Summit's programming in the years that followed.

### 2017

Under the theme "The Role of Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) in Achieving the SDGs", the forum convened scientists, innovators, and policy leaders to identify STI-driven solutions for accelerating sustainable development.

### 2018

The vision expanded through the launch of the Global Councils on SDGs, a unique interdisciplinary network dedicated to promoting innovative thinking, co-creation, and collaborative action in support of the 2030 Agenda. The 12 Global Councils on SDGs commenced on a 2-year journey, driving global impact and acceleration of the SDGs.

### 2019

The forum in 2019 reinforced the importance of global collaboration under the theme "Leadership for Achieving the Goals." It brought together international experts and stakeholders to deepen cooperation and transform global commitments into actionable results.

### 2020

Adapting to the pandemic, the SDGs in Action forum transitioned to a virtual format. The first term of the Global Councils on SDGs concluded under the theme "Preparing for the Decade of Action."

### 2021

A soft launch of the second term of the Global Councils on SDGs, under the theme "Galvanizing the Global Acceleration of the SDGs," marked the beginning of a new phase of action. Eighteen councils initiated a diverse range of projects and whitepapers, leveraging a nexus model to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

### 2022

During Expo2020 Dubai, the forum returned with global momentum. Under the theme "Scaling New Heights for the Future of Humanity," the forum reaffirmed commitments to interdisciplinary collaboration. A special session during the Global Goals week witnessed the official launch of the second cohort of the Global Councils on SDGs.

### 2023

Reflecting the UAE's visionary leadership and forward-thinking approach, the forum introduced the xDGs 2045 initiative under the theme "Redesigning the Future of Our World: 2030 Principles and Beyond." This pivotal session laid foundational work for the next generation of global development goals. A dedicated youth edition during COP28, "Future Forward: Empowering Youth for Sustainable Change," specifically engaged and empowered youth, emphasizing their critical role in sustainable development beyond 2030.

### 2024

Building on this trajectory, the 2024 edition carried the theme "xDGs 2045: Navigating the Future of Our World." The forum continued to strengthen global cooperation and advance strategies for inclusive, forward-looking development beyond 2030. This edition continued to convene global leaders, including the First Lady of Turkey, ministers from the UAE, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Seychelles, and Rwanda, alongside directors from international organizations, experts from the private sector, youth members, and members of civil society. Subsequently in 2024, the UAE National Committee on SDGs launched the landmark xDGs 2045: Navigating the Future of Our World report, translating the high-level roundtable discussions at the forum into actionable frameworks.



## The XDGs 2045 Initiative: Shaping the Post-2030 Agenda

As the 2030 deadline approaches, with only less than 5 years remaining to realize the current agenda, it becomes evident that while some countries are making strides toward the SDGs, others are falling behind. This divergent progress highlights an urgent need to begin shaping the future of global development beyond 2030. While acknowledging the global efforts toward implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and countries' continued commitment to accelerating global prosperity and leaving no one behind, the world must commence developing the next global development agenda.

Launched by the General Secretariat of the UAE National Committee on SDGs at the World Governments Summit 2023, the XDGs 2045 paradigm represents a forward-thinking framework designed to shape the post-2030 global development agenda, building on the legacy of the MDGs and the SDGs. This initiative emerged from a critical question raised at WGS 2023: What comes after the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development?

The SDGs in Action platform at the World Governments Summit 2023 brought together global leaders in a roundtable format session, "XDGs 2045: Shaping the Future of Our World," marking the first formal gathering igniting discussions around the question What comes after the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development? Building on the foundation established in 2023, the 11th edition of the WGS SDGs in Action in 2024 convened the second edition of the XDGs 2045 Ministerial Roundtable titled "XDGs: Navigating the Future of Our World." This session brought together an expanded cohort of global leaders to advance the conversation and resulted in the publication of the report "XDGs 2045: Navigating the Future of Our World."

Through the XDGs 2045 initiative, the UAE is demonstrating its commitment to not only achieving the current SDGs but also proactively shaping the next generation of global development goals. Emphasizing an inclusive, multi-stakeholder approach that moves beyond one-size-fits-all solutions, reflecting the UAE's vision for a future development agenda that is ambitious, sustainable, and adaptable to the complexities of our rapidly changing world.



## UAE SDGs Secretariate Publications

In line with its commitment to knowledge exchange and international collaboration, the General Secretariat of the UAE National Committee on the SDGs published a series of reports, reflecting the UAE's integrated approach to advancing the SDGs. The publications highlight progress, emerging trends, and propose a forward-looking framework to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs while shaping the post-2030 development paradigm.



### **2023 Annual Report of the UAE National Committee on SDGs:**

A comprehensive overview of national progress, initiatives, and partnerships aligned with the SDGs, reflecting data-driven outcomes and institutional alignment across sectors.



### **Shaping the Future of Our World: xDGs 2045:**

A visionary framework exploring future development pathways beyond 2030, informed by foresight, scenario planning, and multi-stakeholder consultations.



### **Navigating the Future of Our World – Global Councils on SDGs Report (2021–2023):**

A synthesis of insights and outcomes from the second term of the Global Councils on SDGs, reflecting international collaboration and policy innovation.



### **xDGs 2045 – Envisioning Sustainable Development Futures:**

A foundational report that outlines ministerial insights and future-oriented dialogues focused on long-term sustainability.



### **Accelerating Private Sector Engagement:**

Developed in collaboration with the UN Global Compact, this report presents a consolidated summary of key recommendations and insights, highlighting the private sector's pivotal role in advancing SDG-aligned innovation, investment, and sustainable business practices.





## Contributing Entities

- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of Health and Prevention
- Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure
- Ministry of Climate Change and Environment
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratization
- Ministry of Community Empowerment
- Ministry of Economy
- Ministry of Interior
- Ministry of Culture
- Ministry of Finance
- Mohammed bin Rashid School of Government
- General Civil Aviation Authority
- Federal Authority for Human Resources
- Gender Balance Council





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