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COVID-19  
RESPONSE  
VACCINES

# 2020 UN COUNTRY ANNUAL RESULTS REPORT

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

April 2021



UNITED NATIONS  
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES  
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# Foreword

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COVID-19 has changed the face of international cooperation around the world, testing both global solidarity in the face of the public health crisis, and the ability of the multilateral system to organize a coordinated response to contain, mitigate, and facilitate a recovery post-pandemic. On the one hand, we've seen borders erected and supply lines of essential life-saving materials disrupted, while on the other we saw countries stepping up to demonstrate global leadership and capability in response to the pandemic. The UAE belongs to the latter group, as it moved with impressive speed to contain the COVID-19 virus and provided a host of measures to ease the health, economic, and social impact of the virus. These measures range from providing grants to independent artists to introducing legal reforms that facilitated mobility of expatriate workers between employers and geographies.

Internationally, the UAE also moved to source personal protective equipment and vaccines for all its residents through UAE AID, as well as deliver medical supplies to some 135 Countries around the world in a show of global solidarity, sometimes working with and through the United Nations system. The UAE has met and exceeded its Official Development Assistance Target of 0.7% of GNI since 2015, and made numerous commitments to international cooperation across various domains. The pandemic has elevated the UAE's role as a reliable and commendable partner in international cooperation, opening further opportunities for further engagement in this regard.

Indeed, building a more sustainable future for all by 2030 through advancing the SDGs remains the focus of the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in the UAE, with emphasis on leveraging capacities and expertise, to introducing innovative solutions to persistent development challenges in the UAE, and around the world. This role has become more pressing given the impact of the pandemic in reversing hard-won development gains around the

world, and redoubling efforts to countering climate change, conflict and instability, and inequitable economic growth.

Our experience in partnering with the UAE is a reason for optimism, with overwhelming generosity and interest in the well-being of all, particularly those most affected by the crisis. As the results of the UNCT's engagements in 2020 demonstrate, the UN system maintains working relationships with UAE policymakers at different levels, working closely to devise policy and programmatic solutions across various domains for the UAE, the region, and beyond. These results were achieved despite the lockdowns and impact of the pandemic on working methods.

We also take away many lessons from our 2020 experiences, which will be instrumental as we move forward toward institutionalizing our engagements with the UAE and developing medium-term goals that look beyond the immediate impact of the pandemic. This effort is critical to laying the foundations for a new era of cooperation toward accelerated sustainable development, reinforcing the foundations of peace and security, and expanding the quality and depth of cooperation across the board.

My optimism is backed by first-hand experience of our engagements with counterparts in the UAE, and I am confident that 2021 will bring in significant promise and opportunity, capitalizing on the momentum of the global recovery, Expo2020, and a cooperation framework between the United Nations system and the UAE government.



**Dr. Dena Assaf**  
UN Resident Coordinator  
for the UAE

# UN Country Team

The United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in the UAE is Chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator with the UN Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO) as its Secretariat.

**30 UNITED NATIONS ENTITIES**  
Are members of the United Nations Country Team for the UAE

The UNCT members in the UAE include FAO, UN Women, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNODC, UNRWA, WFP, WHO, ICCROM, ILO, IOM, ITU, OHCHR, UN Habitat, UNDP, UNDRR, UNEP, UNESCO, UNESCWA, UNV, UN Global Compact, UNFCCC, UNICRI, UNOOSA, UNWTO, UNDSS, and CMS, in addition to IFC and the World Bank Group.

## UNCT Substructures

- Operations Management Team
- Partnerships Inter-Agency Working Group
- Migration Inter-Agency Working Group
- Common Country Analysis Inter-Agency Working Group
- Communications Task Team
- Gender Equality Task Team

The United Nations has 14 offices across the UAE, including 6 in Abu Dhabi, 7 in Dubai, and one in Sharjah. Over 350 UN staff are present in the country, with some 600 accompanying dependents.



The 10<sup>th</sup> Edition of the World Urban Forum was hosted in Abu Dhabi under the theme “Cities of Opportunities: Connecting Culture and Innovation”  
Photo: UNHABITAT 2020

## Key Development Partners

The UN works with a variety of government partners and national counterparts across the UAE, with programming taking place with several Ministries such as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and UAE AID; The Food and Water Security Office, Ministry of Climate Change and the Environment, Ministry of Interior, and Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Youth. Other active engagements include with the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood, the General Women’s Union, the Municipality of Dubai, as well as several Universities and research centers as well as the Private Sector through the Global Compact Local Network for the UAE.

**US\$ 840 million** Total UN procurement in the UAE in 2019

# 2020: The Year That Was

By all measures, 2020 was unprecedented in the history of the United Nations, this is equally applicable to the UNCT in the UAE, not only having to veer to virtual offices and reliance on connectivity, but also to focus the UN's engagement based on the profound changes due to the crisis and its impact.

Understanding and responding to the **COVID-19 crisis** was a key focus for the UNCT in 2020, which has undertaken a comprehensive **socioeconomic analysis with a dedicated response offer** in support of national containment, coping, and recovery efforts. The response offer was well received, and several government entities expressed interest in partnering with the UNCT in several initiatives, particularly recovery proposals.

**COVID-19 Diplomacy** was also a hallmark for UN cooperation with the UAE, in terms of **expressing global solidarity** through supporting the supply and delivery of personal protective equipment and resources required for containment, and in terms of supporting the efforts of the multilateral system broadly through supporting the UN and providing logistical support for UN entities engaged in the global COVID-19 response through the International Humanitarian City in Dubai.

The UAE also celebrated the **75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the United Nations**, with the country's leadership expressing support for the organization's work and contributions to internationally agreed goals. The UNCT also organized 12 thematic consultations on UN75 with wide participation from senior officials, partners, and subject matter experts.

Despite the challenges, the UNCT was able to deliver on most of its intended targets in 2020, exploring innovative mechanisms for **business continuity** and ensuring that additional capacity was available to respond to emerging challenges. Key among these activities were **establishing an inter-agency working group on Migration** and



initiating the Common Country Analysis to inform system-wide development cooperation in 2021.

The UNCT also responded to **emerging priorities** at the national level, such as providing additional capacity to detect spread of inter-species infectious diseases and strengthening data for online security focusing on primary education instruction. This enabled revisiting potential areas for strengthening systems resilience in the face of shocks, while taking stock of **lessons learnt from 2020**.

Finally, 2020 witnessed the launch of several planning exercises to **strengthen coherence** of UN engagements and contributions to medium-term development priorities of the UAE. This includes preparations to roll-out a **United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework** for the UAE, to enable the UN to engage and make available the needed expertise to support the UAE's progress toward achieving Agenda 2030.

# Key Cooperation Results

The United Nations' Development System engages with UAE counterparts in two capacities: as a key donor supporting the work of the UN across the world, particularly in the humanitarian domain, and as a development partner to the UAE.

The UN in the UAE has yet to have a strategic partnership framework with the Government of the UAE. However, efforts are ongoing in 2021 to develop such a framework. Pending its finalization, this report presents highlights of the UN's cooperation with the UAE in 2020 under the 5Ps of Agenda 2030.

## Peace



The UAE is an important regional and global partner with active initiatives to promote peace and stability, respond to emerging crises, and support life-saving humanitarian operations around the world. In this context, below are some examples of relevant UN initiatives in the UAE.

### International Peace and Security

- The Sheikha Fatima Bint Mubarak initiative on Women, Peace, and Security is a partnership between the UAE and the UN to build and develop the capabilities of women peacekeepers around the world. By April 2020, this initiative had already trained 223 women peacekeepers from 11 African, Asian, and Arab countries, with additional arrangements to further expand the number of participating countries and women peacekeepers and women affiliated to the military, defence, and security sectors. The UAE has also allocated US\$ 15 million over the period 2020-2023 in support of the organization's work on WPS.



Major General Abdulla Al Hashmi, Assistant Under-Secretary for Support Services at the Ministry of Defense; Noura Al Suwaidi, Director-General of the General Women's Union; and Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director of UN Women. Photo: Permanent Mission of the UAE to the UN, 2018

- UNOCT, UNOHCHR, UN-ESCWA, UNESCO, UNAOC, and UNDP, engaged closely with the UAE in matters relating to counterterrorism and preventing violent extremism. For example, the UAE supported several policy dialogues and associated endeavours on preventing and countering violent extremism conducive to terrorism with UNOCT and UN-ESCWA.

# Peace



- UNESCO and UNAOC held several engagements for the promotion of Tolerance and Humanitarian Fraternity, with an emphasis on promoting intercultural and interfaith dialogue among peoples. For example, in March 2020, UNESCO signed a funds-in-trust US\$ 7.5 million project agreement to implement a five-year project on UAE-UNESCO Tolerance Leadership Programme to Foster Tolerance, Inclusion, and Interculture dialogue.
- As it progressively expands its role as the logistical backbone for the UN system, WFP in the UAE has procured US\$ 86.5 million worth of Food, Goods & Services and Shipping and Logistics' services from UAE-based suppliers. This increases the total local procurement to a total of US\$ 616 million since 2011, enabled by the storage facilities available and associated services at the International Humanitarian City in support of special humanitarian operations.

## Humanitarian Action

- The UAE contributed just under US\$ one billion in 2019 and 2020 to support UN-coordinated humanitarian operations in 17 countries around the world as per the OCHA's Financial Tracking Service. These contributions are in addition to in-kind material support provided directly to various humanitarian operations, as well as the UAE AID's COVID-19 global response.
- The UN Humanitarian Response Depot in Dubai is the United Nation's biggest humanitarian depot in the world managed by WFP, spanning over 26 square kms and serving over 90 partners across 84 countries. Recent additions included setting up the global vehicles and spare parts hub (for 800+ vehicles) and the Regional Aviation Safety Office (RASO). Efforts are ongoing to expand the depot's vaccine supply capacity as a part of the global response to COVID-19.
- UNHCR provided services for its Persons of Concern (PoCs), whose countries were affected by wars, and who reside in the UAE. Services included cash assistance, resettlement, advocacy and strategic interventions with host government authorities.

## COVID-19 International Response

- UN entities in the UAE played active roles in the delivery of COVID-19 testing kits, Personal Protective Equipment, and other medical care supplies in support of the global COVID-19 response operations. WFP alone delivered 700 tonnes of health-related supplies valued at US\$42 million, to 72 countries in the first few months of the pandemic, in addition to leveraging supply chain partners and other contributions, such as the UAE's generous support in providing 7 air freight flights valued at US\$ 4 million to transport life-saving medical equipment.



The World Food Programme has partnered with the UAE AID COVID-19 global response operations and the UAE Air Force to support the transport of medical facilities. Photo: Permanent Mission of the UAE to the UN

# Peace



- During the first few weeks since declaring the pandemic, the WHO Dubai Hub provided nearly 80% of all Personal Protective Equipment dispatched by WHO to support health authorities worldwide, including 26 million masks, 9.5 million gloves, 2.5 million respirator masks, 1.1 million face shields, and 1.2 million screening tests, and 500,000 RT-PCR reactions to support surveillance and detection activities.
- In 2020, the WHO/Dubai Logistics Hub dispatched health commodities worth US\$ 58.9 million to 116 countries through over 400 shipments from the Dubai Hub. The volume, value, number of shipments, number of countries, and number of regions supported in 2020 exceeded the outputs of the previous 5 years combined. The hub simultaneously responded to other health emergencies around the world, including the blast in Lebanon and outbreaks of infectious diseases

such as Cholera, Diphtheria, Yellow Fever, Dengue, and Ebola.

- IOM has repatriated 43 Sierra Leonean migrants, 30 males and 13 females, stranded as a result of the closing of borders due to

COVID-19 back to their country of origin in two repatriation flights, taking place in February and September 2020. IOM in the UAE is partnering with both Sri Lanka and the Philippines to focus on mobility and repatriation of workers in the hospitality sector given the impact of the pandemic on livelihoods.

- Preparations for the global COVID-19 vaccine rollout are centerstage within COVAX's global operations. UNICEF has concluded negotiations with DP World, Emirates, and other UAE-based partners to support the distribution and storage of up to 2 billion vaccines intended for the developing world.



The WHO Dubai Hub acted as the global first responder for the international medical community, playing a most central and life-saving role in facilitating access to necessary medical equipment and ensuring their timely and distribution across six continents, capitalizing on the UAE's logistics infrastructure, geographic proximity, and access to international markets. Photo: WHO Dubai 2020

# People



Advancing the wellbeing of people remains the cornerstone of the UN's programming in the UAE. Different UN agencies have a series of policy-level engagements as well as technical assistance projects focusing on several socio-demographic groups, such as women, children and youth, and migrant workers. Examples of the UNCT engagements in this area during 2020 included:



Virtual signing ceremony of MOU between UNFPA and the UAE Friends of Cancer Patients on Nov 10, 2020.

## Health and Wellbeing

- WHO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UN Women, and other entities spearheaded initiatives promoting health and wellbeing on several issues, including supporting the advocacy work for Cancer detection and treatment, use of HPV vaccine, promoting access to reproductive healthcare services, among other areas. UNODC, for instance, organized two workshops on prevention and control of infections among prison populations targeting officers at the UAE Ministry of Interior and other officials engaged on this issue.
- WHO undertook studies on national health accounts and supported the development of a non-communicable diseases investment case to inform budgetary proposals and allocations for future healthcare infrastructure investments. This included a particular

emphasis on mental health response and treatment capacity in the UAE.

- Through adopting a lifecycle approach to health, UNICEF is working with the Ministry of Health and Prevention to develop a mobile application targeting new parents that provides critical information on the first 1000 days of a newborn life. The content is designed to be anchored in local cultural, comprehensive with a simplified structure, including information on nurturing care, stimulation, health and nutrition, protection, responsiveness and other resources.
- UNODC provided support for rule-of-law authorities in relation to drug-users and persons suffering from drug use disorders within the broader context of drugs and crime. This support is intended to provide a holistic response for rehabilitation and wellbeing that also considers prevention, treatment, and care support for drug users while in custody.

## Gender Equality & Women's Empowerment

- UN Women led UN efforts including coordinating advocacy campaigns to address discrimination against women and eradicating negative gender-based stereotypes. For instance, through marking Emirati Women's Day, International Women's Day, and the 16 Days Campaign to Eliminate Violence against Women, among other initiatives.
- ESCWA supported the General Women's Union in the development of technical materials to strengthen women's participation in managing crises and emergencies, as well as promoting women's leadership in public life. This builds on previous work with the UAE on Women, Peace, and Security, and broader gender equality endeavours.

# People



- The UAE is a strong supporter of combatting gender-based violence in the UAE and around the world. For instance, UNFPA provided technical assistance to the Women Council at Dubai Police on gender-based violence and advocated through the International Day to End Violence against Women in November. Furthermore, the UAE provided a US\$25 million grant to UNFPA in support of

reproductive health and protection services to women in Yemen. This grant helped scale up assistance to 2.5 million vulnerable women and girls.

- UNFCCC Dubai supported capacity development activities for gender integration into national climate actions in 2020 as a part of efforts under the Global Climate Action framework and commitments in the CoP.



Dedicated sessions during the UN75 consultations on Youth in Action and Women Leadership in Multilateralism organized with MBC Hope.

## Children and Youth

- Early childhood development, child protection, girl child wellbeing, detecting and preventing violence against children are among the key issues for UN entities in the UAE. For instance, UNICEF and UN-Habitat collaborated to undertake a city-wide assessment for Sharjah intended to help create child-friendly spaces in the city. As a part of lifecycle approach to child development.
- The World Urban Forum, held in Abu Dhabi in February 2020, included several sessions on the role of youth in shaping urban culture and the design and implementation of urbanization policies.

The Forum included a range of recommendations on inter-generational interactions, youth culture, and youth leadership for sustainable urbanization.

- UNICEF supported a diagnostic survey on the data landscape and data availability by age to inform policymaking on children, adolescents, and youth following a lifecycle approach. This will facilitate reporting on the situation of children and youth and feed into the development of an Education Information Management System from pre-school to post-university education.

# People



- UNICRI partnered with the UAE Ministry of Interior to Combat Online Child Sexual Abuse Material using Artificial Intelligence to detect abusive materials and mitigate risks of sexual exploitation of children and other forms of online violence.
- UNFCCC launched its Academy for Global Youth Leadership in the UAE to raise awareness about the role of youth in climate action and expand their involvement particularly in the context of the Paris Agreement for Climate Change.



Leaving no one behind was a common focus for the UN75 Dialogues. The session with the Zayed Higher Organization for People with Determination touched on measures to guarantee that inclusive social development is made available and accessible to all members of society.

## Migrant Workers

- IOM piloted the Comprehensive Information and Orientation Programme (CIOP) in the UAE, which included eight country-to-country and industry-specific information support for pre-employment orientation, pre-departure orientation and post-arrival orientation. The CIOP intends to prevent exploitation and abuse and protect migrant workers' rights as agreed by the relevant government entities in all concerned countries.
- IOM and ILO supported the Secretariat for the Abu Dhabi Dialogue at the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratization with substantive content which fed into ministerial

consultations and other processes, including the 2019 World Government Summit, the Global Compact on Migration Regional Review, and Government Forum against Trafficking in Persons in the Middle East, and the 2020 Global Forum on Migration and Development chaired by the UAE.

- UN entities expanded their engagement in response to the COVID-19 pandemic in areas such as delivery of services in response to migrants' needs, social protection and wage safeguards, and mobility. This engagement led to several policy briefs being drafted on the impact of COVID-19 on foreign temporary contractual workers in the UAE; the dignified return of migrants; addressing wage withholding; and ensuring that migrants have access to justice mechanisms and can be adequately compensated among other issues.

## Support to Persons of Concern

- UNHCR provided support to the most vulnerable individuals from countries affected by war. UNHCR's package of support includes, cash assistance, resettlement, advocacy and strategic and operational interventions with the host government authorities.
- UNODC and OHCHR worked with government and non-government partners to mitigate the risks of trafficking in persons caused by the pandemic and engaged with policy makers to facilitate a safe and dignified return and sustainable integration of PoCs.



The dialogue on "Equal opportunities for refugees: leaving no one behind" discussed the relationship between equality and refugees the challenges imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic



A key element of UN engagement with the UAE involves a wide range of interventions in relation to the natural sciences, biodiversity, and climate change. Below is a summary highlighting select interventions in these areas during 2020:

## Water and Food Security

- FAO led on a cluster of activities in support of expanding food security in the UAE. These include emphasis on food production including through management of aquaculture, farm and livestock, planning of sustainable agriculture, research, technology and innovations in food security and nutrition, among others.
- A second area of FAO’s work focused on biosecurity, including assessment and monitoring of food systems, farm surveys and early detection of transboundary animal and plant diseases and pests, zoonotic diseases, as well as support to research in animal-human-ecosystems interface to prevent future pandemics, inter-species transmissible diseases.
- In December 2020, FAO signed a collaboration project agreement with ADAFSA to develop a master plan for sustainable agriculture in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, laying the groundwork

in the strategically important area of agriculture master planning for ensuring well organized and science-based horizon planning of a sustainable and secure agriculture sector to further strengthen the food security of the UAE.



HE Mariam Al Mheiri, UAE Minister of Food and Water Security [right] participating in a virtual convening with FAO subregional coordinator for GCC states and Yemen, and FAO Representative in the UAE, Mr. Dino Francescutti [left], on strengthening Research, Technology & Innovation (RTI) to Enable Food Security. The convening was organized under the umbrella of the Saudi-Emirati Coordination Council.  
Photo: FAO 2020

- UN-ESCWA undertook an analysis of UAE progress toward the water-related SDG targets. The study highlighted ways to deal with present and projected water scarcity at the regional and national levels by developing a set of scenarios and considering how SDGs targets and goals link with regional and national water strategies and action plans.



Aquaculture is one the UAE’s priorities to improve food security, build resilience to import disruptions, create employment and generate economic opportunities  
Photo: FAO 2020



## Climate Action

- UNEP, UNFCCC, UN-ESCWA, UN-Habitat, WHO, among other agencies engaged heavily in policy-level engagements with a variety of policymakers and stakeholders to strengthen policy coherence on climate change. Policy-level initiatives focused on climate change mitigation, adaptation, and resilience for the UAE and the broader region.
- Specific initiatives on climate change included UNEP’s Green Gulf Initiative on Dredging, Air Quality, and Chemicals; UNFCCC’s Dubai partnership with the World Green Economy Organization; and the Dialogue on Action for Climate Change, among others.
- UNFCCC, UNEP, UNDP, and other partners conducted a series of capacity development for policy makers across the UAE at the federal and emirate level, intended to facilitate understanding on the process and provisions for national commitments under the Paris Agreement, including measurement, reporting, and verification of nationally determined contributions.

## Climate Change Adaptation & Biodiversity

- UNFCCC, UN-ESCWA, UN Global Compact, and UNCDF engaged in a range of initiatives for climate change adaptation, including the development of the Arab States Climate Finance Mobilization and Access Strategy; the role of the private sector in mobilizing sustainable finance and environmental, social, and governance (ESG) standards, as well as supporting proof-of-concept projects in support of climate change adaptation in different parts of the world.

- UNEP, FAO, and UN-ESCWA engaged with national counterparts on the Water-Energy-Food nexus in the UAE as a key driver for climate change mitigation and adaptation, and promoted integrated strategies, plans and policies on the water energy food nexus.
- The UN’s Convention of Migratory Species (CMS) promoted international cooperation to conserve migratory species, in partnership with the UAE Environment Agency in Abu Dhabi. CMS built capacity toward achieving SDG 14 (Life Below Water) and SDG 15 (Life on Land) and produced technical materials such as the Dugong and Seagrass research toolkit. CMS also coordinated two international agreements in the region applying to Dugongs and their seagrass habitats, as well as 93 species of birds of prey.

### The Global Maker Challenge

Twelve UN entities (FAO, WFP, IFAD, ITU, UNGC, UN-Habitat, UNIDO, UNCTAD, UN-WTO, UNODC, UNECA, and UNHCR) have partnered with the Mohammed bin Rashid Initiative for Global Prosperity in the #GlobalMakerChallenge to identify innovative technological solutions for key sustainable development challenges, awarding US\$1 million to winning solutions. Over 3,400 entries were received from 148 Countries. The winners were announced in a virtual ceremony held in September 2020, four winners received the award with another eight as runner-up entries. The winners were in the categories of Climate Change, Sustainable and Healthy Food for All, Innovation for Inclusive Trade, and Innovation for Peace and Justice. More information is available at [www.makingprosperity.com](http://www.makingprosperity.com)





In response to national priorities relating to economic growth and prosperity, UN entities engage with government counterparts in a range of initiatives intended to advise policymakers and strengthen engagements in related SDG targets. Examples of these initiatives in 2020 included:

## Economic Policy

- UN-ESCWA undertook a review of fiscal policies for the decade since the global economic crisis of 2008. This review revealed important insights about overall domestic public resources, fiscal policy reforms and taxation, public and external debt assessment, foreign direct investments, and overseas development assistance. The review highlighted the degree of integration with international financial flows as well as scope for containment of shocks.
- UNDP and the UN Global Compact coordinated on SDG financing with a number of partners, including the Dubai Islamic Economy Development Centre, and the Dubai Sustainable Finance Working Group.
- UN-ESCWA developed the SDG Gateway, which tracks progress against the SDGs to provide key insights and data for policymakers and partners in the UAE to target their policies and programmes. This data also feeds into the annual Arab Sustainable Development Report and efforts associated with the Voluntary National Reviews of the SDGs.

## Science and Technology

- ITU, FAO, UN-ESCWA, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNCTAD, UNODC, UNFCCC, ILO, and other entities engaged on an array of programmes to facilitate partnerships in technical and scientific areas between UAE and a variety of international partners. For example, UNICRI facilitated a partnership between the EU's Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Centers of Excellence (CBRN) with UAE counterparts to launch the UAE's CBRN Hub and promote peer-based exchanges and scientific cooperation.
- ITU partnered with the UAE Telecommunications Regulatory Authority to establish a Centre of Digital Innovation (CODI) in Dubai. CODI will bring together partners from business, academia, non-profit along with government to create networks of expertise, based on experimentation and solution mapping.
- UNDP, UNEP, and UNFCCC supported the Dubai Carbon Centre of Excellence (DCCE) to pilot the digitized methodologies platform, intended to promote energy efficiency, green growth, and sustainable business practices to reduce emissions and waste toward a net-zero economy.
- UNESCWA supported e-government development efforts through providing technical assistance on options to use artificial intelligence in support of government service delivery, such as data for service-needs foresight.



## Economic diversification

- As a flagship initiative, the Future Possibilities Report, co-authored by the UN Secretariat and the UAE Ministry of Cabinet Affairs, presented a global vision for post-COVID economic recovery and growth. Other related initiatives include the 2020 Global Manufacturing and Industrialization Summit co-organized with UNIDO, and the ongoing partnerships on the Creative Economy between UNCTAD, UNESCO, and a number of governments and business entities around the world.
- As a part of efforts to strengthen the Tourism policy framework, UNWTO supported the formulation of a tourism law for the UAE, and provided technical support including active policy measures to support tourism resilience and revival, Tourism Satellite Accounts, and the tourism acceleration programme in partnership with Google.
- UNCTAD engaged with UAE counterparts to strengthen the fundamentals for the digital economy and inclusive e-commerce. This included hosting the first Asian e-commerce week initially planned for 2020 but postponed due to the Pandemic. This builds on other efforts to support diversification and capitalizing on technological advances.



Co-launched with the UAE Minister for the Future H.E. Mohammed Al Gergawi as part of the UN75 campaign, the Future Possibilities Report identified six economic transformations that would propel the world economy forward. It also discusses core capacities required to capitalize on the proposed possibilities for building back better beyond COVID-19.



## Labour Market

- UN Women conducted its Flagship Programme Initiative on Stimulating Equal Opportunities for Women Entrepreneurs in Sharjah, with 1,000 women participating in the programme's first iteration. The programme intends to unlock opportunities for women-owned businesses particularly in public procurement.

# Partnerships



The United Nations system engages with a variety of partners in the UAE, including governmental agencies, private sector representatives, research organizations and think tanks, media partners, and social-cause organizations, all of which are vital to UN programming in the country.

## Advocacy and mobilization

- The UN Office of the Resident Coordinator established an SDG Working Group with member states in the UAE. The working group works in coordination with the UN to advocate for the SDGs in the UAE, promote knowledge exchange within the diplomatic community, and share innovative solutions in the UAE and globally. The Working Group is chaired by the Resident Coordinator, and its membership includes the United States, United Kingdom, Switzerland, Sweden, the Netherlands, the European Commission, and ICRC.
- UNHCR, UNICEF, UNRWA and other UN entities also engaged in fundraising activities in support of relief and development operations across the world. This included resource mobilizing for awareness raising, provision of social services, poverty-eradication programmes, as well as empowerment for vulnerable persons.



H.E. Sultan Al Shamsi, Assistant Minister for International Development Affairs, participated in the UN's social media campaign to mark UN75.

- UNDP signed a strategic partnership with the UAE to advance happiness and the SDGs globally with a particular emphasis on Africa, and the role of new technologies to deliver transformative change, boost government effectiveness, and promote peace, security, and good governance.
- Under a UNDP - Arab Youth Center agreement, 11 youth delegates from the Arab region commenced their roles as Youth Development Delegates to support countries across the region to achieve the SDGs.
- FAO partnered with the University of the UAE to undertake research and analysis on the role of diets and food systems in the prevention of obesity and non-communicable diseases and promote healthy nutrition practices.
- The Office of the Resident Coordinator has engaged with an Arts House in the UAE to commission 17 Emirati and international artists to draw artistic expressions of the SDGs as they view them. The exhibition will be used for advocacy purposes to mobilize support for the SDGs in the UAE.

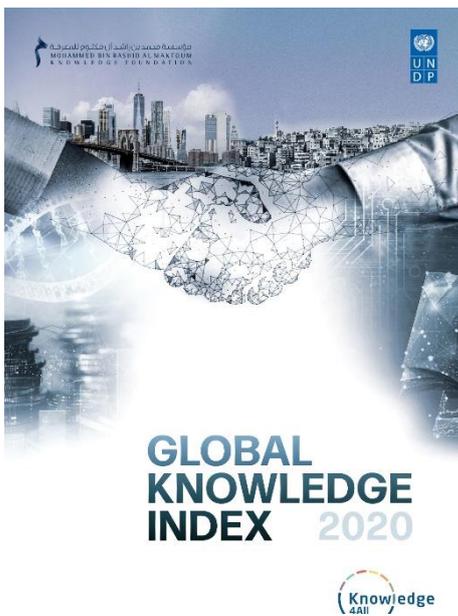


The UN Resident Coordinator participates in the Arab Youth Priorities Conference, hosted by the Arab Youth Center.

# Partnerships



- UNDP's regional Knowledge Project, in partnership with the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Knowledge Foundation (MBRF), launched the 2020 edition of the Global Knowledge Index. This annual ranking tracks knowledge performance of countries through seven areas: pre-university education, technical and vocational education and training, higher education, research, development and innovation, information and communications technology, economy and the general enabling environment.

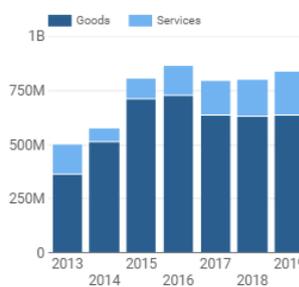


## UAE Business: A Top UN Supplier

- Since 2013, the UAE has become the third largest supplier to the United Nations System, with procurement contracts totalling around US\$ 5.2 billion by the end of 2019. There are 2,867 UAE-based suppliers working with the UN system, including 3 suppliers among the top ten UN suppliers around the world. The UN system is looking to expand presence in the UAE to further expand logistical services to UN entities around the world particularly in COVID-related operations. This is a testimony to the UAE strategic location, infrastructure and facilities, and political support to the UN's mission and mandates.

### Procurement overview

Procurement by type (USD)



Procurement classification



Supplier country economic status



Procurement by category

Category (UNSPSC Segment)	Procurement value (USD)
Fuels and Lubricants etc.	1.9B
Food and Beverage Products	1.4B
Building and Maintenance Services	219.6M
Management and Admin Services	191.6M
Motor Vehicles and Parts	158.5M
Transportation, Storage, Mail Services	154.8M

# Partnerships



## Private sector

- The United Nations engaged a wide range of private sector partners in the UAE, including through the UN Global Compact Local Network in the UAE, which has 182 members. The network has five priorities, namely: Contributing to the SDGs, Youth Empowerment, Health and wellbeing, Diversity and Inclusion, and Sustainable Financing.
- UN entities also engaged with private sector partners to support and expand their respective corporate social responsibility activities and philanthropic arms. For instance, UNV signed an MoU with the Emirates Foundation to support their volunteer infrastructure, organize joint events, and deploy UAE nationals as UN volunteers inside and outside the country

UN Women and its private sector partners recently launched the UN Women-convened "UAE National Chapter of the Unstereotype Alliance", a thought and action platform to eradicate harmful gender-based stereotypes in media and advertising content. Founding private sector members included: Advertising Business Group, Dubai Lynx, Etihad Aviation Group, Facebook, Google, LinkedIn, Omnicom Media Group MENA, Snap Inc., and Unilever.



UN entities have extensive cooperation frameworks and MoU with a variety of private sector organizations, influencing their community engagements, production processes and carbon footprint, as well as their philanthropic and social responsibility endeavours.

# 2021: The Year Ahead

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The UNCT will continue its system-wide planning, by rolling out the UAE’s first Common Country Analysis (CCA), and working towards aligning its work with the UAE’s national priorities as it builds its vision for the next 50 years. This is a critical effort to ensure that the UN is strategically positioned to support the UAE in country and in global endeavors particularly as the international community continues the post-COVID recovery.

Furthermore, the UNCT is gearing up its efforts for the UN’s presence at EXPO2020 ,which will include a series of events and engagements organized to strengthen SDG advocacy and outreach, leveraging this world exposition throughout its 6 month duration (October 2021-March 2022).



‘Projecting Change’ will be a cinematic visualization developed by the UN to premier at Al-Wasl dome in EXPO2020 as an advocacy tool on the intended vision behind Agenda 2030.



# UNITED NATIONS UNITED ARAB EMIRATES



# Agency Profiles



## Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator (UNRCO)

Head of Office: Dr Dena Assaf

Thematic focus: Coordination of UN development system activities at the country level.

UAE Programming: Implementation of UNSDG SOPs, Common Country Analysis, UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks, Business Operations Strategy.



## Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Head of Office: Dino Francescutti

Thematic focus: Food security and poverty reduction

UAE Programming: Collaboration with the Abu Dhabi Food Safety Authority (ADAFSA) / MoU with UAE University - analysis on the role of diets and food systems / Prevention of potential pandemics (Inter-regional) / CVRL / SARS



## United Nations World Food Programme

Head of office: Mageed Yahia

Thematic focus: Supply chain capacity, emergency food relief and food security

UAE-based RASO (Regional Aviation Safety Office) / HRD (Humanitarian Response Depot)

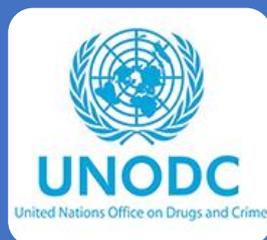


## United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

Head of Office: ElTayeb Adam

Thematic focus: Maternal and Child health and wellbeing

UAE Programming: Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children; Early childhood health (first 1000 days); Child and Adolescent educational policy.



## United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

Head of Office: Hatem Aly

Thematic focus: Drug control and related health issues, combating illicit trafficking and transnational organized crime.

UAE Programming: Provision of technical support, capacity-building and policy advice



### United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Head of office: Nadia Jbour

Thematic focus: Refugee protection, Human rights and advocacy

UAE Programming: Emergency supply support / Bridging community representatives and charitable organizations in response to COVID-19 / Resource mobilization



### UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)

Head of Office: Mouza Al Shehhi

Thematic focus: Women Empowerment and Gender Equality

UAE Programming: Women, Peace and Security Initiative (WPS) / Flagship Programme Initiative on Stimulating Equal Opportunities for Women Entrepreneurs / Expo 2020



### United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

Head of Office: Muktar Farah

Thematic focus: Humanitarian response and policy development



### World Health Organization (WHO)

UAE Focal Point: Rayana Bou Haka

Thematic Focus: National Health accounts studies, health capacity development, lead partners in global health responses

UAE Programming: National Health accounts studies / NCD investment case / National Human resources for health planning / Mental health capacity development / ICD 11 classification and civil registries strengthening / Outbreak response



### United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

Head of Office: Karl Kulessa

Thematic Focus: Resource mobilization, reproductive rights advocacy and female empowerment, Prevention of gender-based violence

UAE Programming: UNFPA@50 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD)25 / Girls Impact Bonds High-Level Consultation Meeting / MoU Signature between UNFPA ASRO and Friends of Cancer Patients



Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.

### United Nations Development Programme

UAE Focal Point: Hany Torky

Thematic focus: Promotion of technical and investment cooperation among nations, poverty eradication and reduced inequality

UAE Programming: Research and outreach / Resource mobilization / Multilateral engagement



### United Nations Global Compact

UAE Focal Point: Alexandra Tarazi

Thematic focus: Global adoption of sustainable business practices

UAE Programming: Webinars featuring the private sector's response to COVID-19



### Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) (Abu Dhabi Office)

UAE Focal Point: Lyle Glowka

Thematic focus: Conservation of migratory species, their habitats and migration routes

UAE Programming: Secretariats of CMS Dugong MoU / CMS Raptors MoU



### UNFCCC-WGEO Regional Collaboration Centre for MENA and South Asia (RCC Dubai)

UAE Focal Point: Muhammad Taimur Ali Khan Gandapur

Thematic Focus: Adaptation, Climate Finance, Mitigation, Youth Engagement, Global Climate Action, NDC Support, Mainstreaming Gender in Climate Action

UAE Programming: 'Arab States Climate Finance Mobilization and Access Strategy' project / Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) support / The Lima Adaptation Knowledge Initiative/ Academy for Global Youth Leadership Empowerment / Global Climate Action / Support to Methodologies for Climate Action/ MENA Regional Climate Week



### United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

UAE Focal Point: Rania Hammad

Thematic focus: Supporting the implementation of the Sendai Framework, monitoring and sharing what works in reducing existing risk and preventing the creation of new risk.



### **Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN-ESCWA)**

UAE Focal Point: Mounir Tabet

Thematic focus: Economic and social development, promotion of cooperation

UAE Programming: SDG Gateway / Regional study towards the water-related SDGs / Arab Digital Development Report / Review of Fiscal Policy of the Region / Assessment of Arab National Reporting Platforms for the SDGs



### **United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA)**

UAE Focal Point: Nadia El Shadir

Thematic focus: Support of relief and human development of Palestinian refugees

UAE Programming: Fundraising for UNRWA services / Raising awareness through advocacy and events / Resource mobilization



### **International Organization for Migration (IOM)**

Head of Office: Mohamed El Zarkani

Thematic focus: management of migration, international cooperation on migration concerning refugees and internally displaced

UAE Programming: the Comprehensive Information and Orientation Programme (CIOP) / Development of training material to capacitate a total of 50 Master Trainers for CIOP / Launch of Inter-Agency Working Group (IAWG)



### **International Labour Organization (ILO)**

UAE Focal Point: Ryzsard Cholewinski

Thematic focus: Productive employment and decent work, human and labour rights advocacy, labour migration governance, elimination of forced or compulsory labour.

UAE Programming: Future of Work at the World Government Summit / High-Level Symposium on the Future of Work / "Preparing for a brighter future of work" report for the Abu Dhabi Dialogue 5th Ministerial Consultation



### **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**

UAE Focal Point: Sabine Sakr

Thematic Focus: Environmental activity coordination, Partnership for environment

UAE Programming: Green Gulf Initiative Project / COVID-19 Socio-Economic response under the UNCT



### **United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN HABITAT)**

UAE Focal Point: Ameera Al Hassan

Thematic focus: Transformative change in cities and human settlements, sustainable urban development

UAE Programming: Global Public Space Programme to host EGM with Sharjah Planning Council / Urban Observatory



### **United Nations Volunteers (UNV)**

UAE Focal Point: Inas Hamad

Thematic focus: Support volunteer infrastructure, Volunteerism advocacy.

UAE Programming: MOU with Emirates foundation to support their volunteers infrastructure / The joint IVD celebration with Emirates Foundation, UAE Government, and UN RC



### **Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)**

UAE Focal Point: Ansam Al-Abayechi

Thematic focus: Human rights protection, UN human rights education and public information programmes coordination

UAE Programming: Input relating to international human rights standards / International human rights mechanisms



### **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization**

Head of Office: Anna Paolini

Thematic focus: Promotion of world peace and security through international cooperation in education, the sciences, and culture.



### **UN Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI)**

UAE Focal Point: Adil Radoni

Thematic focus: capability building activities in relation to CBRN, crime prevention and criminal justice

UAE Programming: Coordination of EU Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Centres of Excellence Initiative (CBRN CoE) / Development of methodologies to assess CBRN risks and capabilities for the GCC countries



### United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA)

UAE Focal Point: Ian Freeman

Thematic focus: Promotion of peaceful use and exploration of space through international cooperation.

UAE Programming: Multilateral engagement / Partnering on regional/global conferences and meetings



### UN Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI)

UAE Focal Point: Adil Radoni

Thematic focus: capability building activities in relation to CBRN, crime prevention and criminal justice

UAE Programming: Coordination of EU Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Centres of Excellence Initiative (CBRN CoE) / Development of methodologies to assess CBRN risks and capabilities for the GCC countries



### International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM)

UAE Focal Point: Zaki Aslan

Thematic focus: Promote conservation of cultural heritage

UAE Programming: Policy-oriented technical cooperation; Capacity development engagements; Multilateral engagement, partnering on regional/global conferences and meetings; Research and outreach.



### United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)

UAE Focal Point: Mirane Fattah

**Thematic** focus: Formulation of a tourism law, inclusive development, partnership building and knowledge creation

UAE Programming: Formulation of a tourism law. Provision of platform for public sectors and businesses to share ideas for the restart of tourism



### International Telecommunications Union (ITU)

UAE Focal Point: Karim Abdelghani

Thematic focus: Facilitate international connectivity in communications networks, develop technical standards, and improve access to ICTs

UAE Programming: Cooperation agreement to strengthen ITU member countries' capabilities and enhance public-private partnership for ICT development, establishment of ITU Center of Digital Innovation.

# Acronyms

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<b>CCA</b>	Common Country Analysis
<b>CMS</b>	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>FAO</b>	United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization
<b>ICCROM</b>	International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property
<b>IFAD</b>	International Fund for Agricultural Development
<b>IFC</b>	International Finance Corporation
<b>ILO</b>	International Labour Organization
<b>IOM</b>	International Organization for Migration
<b>ITU</b>	International Telecommunications Union
<b>OCHA</b>	United Nations Office of the Coordinator of Humanitarian Affairs
<b>PoC</b>	Person of Concern
<b>RCO</b>	United Nations Resident Coordinator Office
<b>SDGs</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>UN Women</b>	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Advancement of Women
<b>UNAoC</b>	United Nations Alliance of Civilizations
<b>UNCT</b>	United Nations Country Team
<b>UNCTAD</b>	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>UNDPHA</b>	United Nations Department for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs
<b>UNDRR</b>	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
<b>UNDSS</b>	United Nations Department for Safety and Security
<b>UNECA</b>	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
<b>UNEP</b>	United Nations Environmental Programme
<b>UNESCO</b>	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
<b>UNESCWA</b>	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
<b>UNFCCC</b>	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
<b>UNFPA</b>	United Nations Population Fund
<b>UNGC</b>	United Nations Global Compact
<b>UN-Habitat</b>	United Nations Human Settlement Programme
<b>UNHCR</b>	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
<b>UNICRI</b>	United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute
<b>UNIDO</b>	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
<b>UNOCT</b>	United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism
<b>UNODC</b>	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
<b>UNOOSA</b>	United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs
<b>UNRWA</b>	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
<b>UNSDCF</b>	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
<b>UNV</b>	United Nations Volunteers
<b>UNWTO</b>	United Nations World Tourism Organization
<b>WHO</b>	United Nations World Health Organization



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