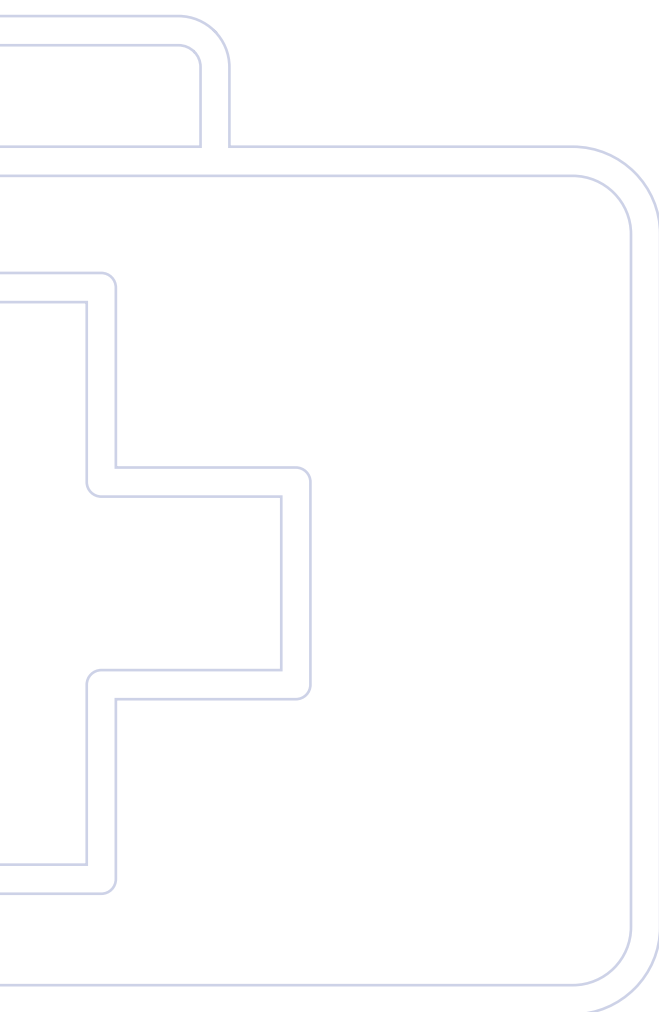


END POVERTY IN ALL ITS FORMS EVERYWHERE (SDG GOAL 1)



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END POVERTY

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Context and Background

Poverty goes beyond sustainable livelihoods. According to the UN, one in ten people in developing regions are still living with their families on less than the international poverty line of US\$1.90 a day. 783 million people are living below the international poverty line of US\$1.90 a day.

In the UAE, the government has made significant strides to end poverty in all its forms. The UAE government has a future vision to change the culture of social support from the social welfare model to sustainable social development that encourages independence and growth of families across the UAE.

Need

Poverty is one of the significant problems that countries around the world face. There are 1.2 billion people in the world living in extreme poverty (less than one dollar per day). Poverty is hampering the progress towards achieving development and advancement; that is why the government has taken the initiative to end poverty in all its forms inside and outside the UAE.

Idea

To achieve the End Poverty Goal, the UAE has focused on education, economic growth, attracting investments, creating jobs, focus on the labor market, provide social support, and develop the tourism sector, finance businesses, and start-ups.

Projects and Stories

The UAE has made persistence efforts to address poverty challenges. It has made significant initiatives and projects inside and outside the UAE to achieve this goal.

These initiatives and projects include:

- 1) [Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives \(MBRGI\)](#) - Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives comprises four sectors that are essential for improving human life: combating poverty and disease, spreading knowledge, empowering communities, and entrepreneurship and innovation for the future. It was inaugurated in October 2015. It encompasses 28 institutions and initiatives that operate more than 1,400 development programs.
- 2) [Emirates Red Crescent](#) (ERC): It is the UAE's principal arm for humanitarian work. Since its establishment in 1983, it has presented in 14 countries and has been playing a leading role in promoting different aspects of humanitarian work on both domestic and international levels, regardless of ethnic, cultural, geographic or religious considerations. In 2001, ERC was selected as the second best humanitarian authority in Asia.
- 3) [Abu Dhabi Fund for Development \(ADFD\)](#) - It was established in 1971 with a capital of 16 billion AED to help developing countries achieve sustainable economic growth and reduce poverty. 88 countries have benefited from the fund till date.
- 4) [Sheikh Khalifa Foundation](#) - The foundation focuses on health and education on national, regional and global scales. The educational strategy of the Foundation includes supporting vocational educational projects in countries of the region, health

needs related to malnutrition, child protection and care and the provision of safe water on a global level. Since its inception in 2007, its contribution to health, education and infrastructure has reached more than 87 countries worldwide.

- 5) Masaei Al Khair: It is a community initiative to provide home maintenance worth AED 10 million for social security beneficiaries and low-income families in Dubai. 'Masaei Al Khair' is a prime example of a public-private partnership that promotes social responsibility and solidarity as core values in the UAE society.
- 6) Zakat Fund: The Fund is a public body and an independent legal person having the legal capacity to undertake all procedures and actions to achieve its objectives. It was established in 2003. It works under the Council of Ministers. The main objective of the fund is disbursing the [zakat amongst the poor](#).
- 7) Social Assistance: It provides community assistance, which aims to achieve social welfare policy and raise the categories of citizens who are unable to provide adequate income for a decent life for them and their family members.
- 8) Marriage Fund: Marriage Fund has charitable objectives towards strengthening the pillars of social structure and cementing its texture, as well as developing and activating it on all aspects. It offers marriage grants to deserving Emiratis. Marriage Fund also organizes mass weddings and offers marriage counseling to to-be-wed couples
- 9) [Sheikh Zayed Housing Program](#): Providing housing or plot of land to deserving Emiratis; Emiratis can [apply online for housing aids](#).
- 10) [Ministry of Presidential Affairs](#) by providing a range of benefits to deserving Emiratis; Emiratis can [apply online for social assistance and land and housing](#).

- 11) [Education 2020 Strategy: Ministry of Education](#) (MoE) has developed the [Education 2020 strategy](#), which is a series of five-year plans designed to develop a first-rate education system post a transformation of the current education system and teaching methods.
- 12) [National Literacy Strategy](#): the Cabinet has issued directives to prepare an integrated [National Literacy Strategy](#) and a framework to ensure a generation that is literate as well as establishing the UAE as the fulcrum of cultural and knowledge content.
- 13) [Khalifa Fund for Enterprise Development](#): The fund was launched in 2007 to help develop local investment Khalifa Fund provides [funding solutions](#) for a variety of feasible projects that serve the interests of the national economy in different sectors and project categories such as farming, fishing, agriculture and even home-based businesses. These programs include microfinance, Khutwa, Bedaya, Zeyada, Tasnea, Zaarie and Al Hasela.

Impact

At the international level, the UAE is a key contributor to many international humanitarian initiatives, especially in providing relief to victims of natural disasters and socio-conflicts. Between 2011 and 2014, the UAE donated up to AED 8.9 billion to eradicate poverty worldwide. It has also maintained its ranking as one of the 10 largest donor states as per the Official Development Aid (ODA) in 2015. In 2016, the UAE disbursed up to AED15.23 billion for development assistance.

[Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives](#) has supported more than 130 million people in 116 countries through 1400 programs around the world.

[Abu Dhabi Fund for Development](#) has given 80 billion as loans and grants to 88 countries.

[Emirates Red Crescent](#) has contributed a total of AED 889 to mobilize the power of humanity to help the weak and needy. ERC has sponsored more than 86000 orphans all over the world until the end of 2018. The cost of their care reached more than AED 1 billion. In 2016, their designated programs in 16 countries supported and encouraged nearly 65000 children who have lost one or both of their parents.

[Sheikh Khalifa Foundation](#) contribution has reached more than 87 countries worldwide.

At the local level, more than 42,268 of the population was covered by social protection systems in 2017. The total worth of social assistance that will be provided in the UAE in 2018-2021 AED 11 billion.

Also, 61,844 recipients have received grants amounting to AED 4.3 billion as of 2014 from the Marriage Fund.

Masaei Al Khair initiative provided home maintenance worth AED 10 million for social security beneficiaries and low-income families.

The UAE has jumped 21 ranks in 7 years in the World Competitiveness Yearbook. The UAE came first in the MENA region in 2018 according to the same report. The ease of hiring, public-private partnerships, low inflation and preservation efforts lead to a decrease in the poverty rate. The UAE came first in the Arab world in the UN World Happiness Report and ranked 20th among 156 countries globally. All these efforts, initiatives and projects have paved the way to reach sustainable development goal number 1: End poverty in all its forms.

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