



UNITED NATIONS  
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES



# RESULTS REPORT

## 2023

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# ACRONYMS

<b>CMS</b>	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals
<b>COP28</b>	28th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC
<b>ECHO</b>	European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization
<b>GCC</b>	Gulf Cooperation Council
<b>IHC</b>	International Humanitarian City
<b>ILO</b>	International Labour Organization
<b>IOM</b>	International Organization for Migration
<b>IRENA</b>	International Renewable Energy Agency
<b>ITC</b>	International Trade Centre
<b>MENA</b>	Middle East and North Africa
<b>MOCCA</b>	Ministry of Climate Change and Environment
<b>MOFAIC</b>	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
<b>MOHRE</b>	Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratisation
<b>NDC</b>	Nationally Determined Contributions
<b>OCHA</b>	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
<b>OHCHR</b>	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
<b>RC</b>	Resident Coordinator
<b>RCO</b>	Resident Coordinator Office
<b>SCMC</b>	Supreme Council for Motherhood & Childhood
<b>SDGs</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>UAE</b>	United Arab Emirates
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>UN DESA</b>	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
<b>UNCT</b>	United Nations Country Team
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>UNDRR</b>	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
<b>UNEP</b>	United Nations Environment Programme
<b>UNESCO</b>	United Nations Education Scientific and Cultural Organisation
<b>UNFCCC</b>	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
<b>UNFPA</b>	United Nations Population Fund
<b>UN-Habitat</b>	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
<b>UNHCR</b>	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children’s Fund
<b>UNICRI</b>	United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research
<b>UNITAR</b>	United Nations Institute for Training and Research
<b>UNODC</b>	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
<b>UNOOSA</b>	United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs
<b>UNWTO</b>	United Nations World Tourism Organization
<b>WFP</b>	World Food Programme
<b>WGEO</b>	World Green Economy Organization
<b>WGES</b>	World Green Economy Summit
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organisation
<b>WMO</b>	World Meteorological Organization

# FOREWORD



The year 2023 marked a significant milestone in the United Nations’ longstanding partnership with the United Arab Emirates with the UAE’s hosting of the 28th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28) and declaring 2023 the “Year of Sustainability”. During this period, the UN Country Team (UNCT) in the UAE closely collaborated with a wide range of UAE partners including government, private sector, academia, youth, and the diplomatic corps in advocating for global climate action and sustainability initiatives aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The normative role and conveying power of the United Nations, combined with the cutting-edge expertise of its numerous entities and its provision of high-level policy advice, have offered new avenues for innovative partnerships with the UAE, strategically positioning the country’s expertise on a global scale.

The dedicated engagement of the UN COP28 Task Team, cultivated diverse avenues for climate action, knowledge sharing, and multi-stakeholder partnerships within the UAE’s environmental community. Our efforts also reflected the UNCT’s commitment to amplifying youth leadership, and to bolstering synergies between climate change and biodiversity conservation.

In a testament to its steadfast commitment to humanitarian aid, the UAE has played a pivotal role in supporting UN relief efforts this year. The UAE has contributed over US\$221 million towards UN-supported relief operations, demonstrating its dedication to mitigating distress and fostering resilience in crisis-affected communities worldwide. These substantial contributions underscore the UAE’s vital role as a facilitator of swift and efficient global aid delivery, bolstering the UN’s capacity for effective and efficient humanitarian responses across the globe.

The UNCT in the UAE remains steadfast in its dedication to promoting innovative approaches in line with the UN 2.0 vision: a modern UN family invigorated by a forward-thinking culture and empowered with cutting-edge skills. Embracing this transformation enables more agile, responsive, and impactful partnerships between the UN Development System and the UAE.

As we reflect on 2023 achievements, this annual report encapsulates the UAE’s multifaceted collaboration with the United Nations – a partnership dedicated to realizing a sustainable, just, and prosperous future through concerted action and shared resolve, upholding our commitments to both the people and the planet for a prosperous and peaceful world for all.

**Bérangère Boëll**

United Nations Resident Coordinator  
for the UAE



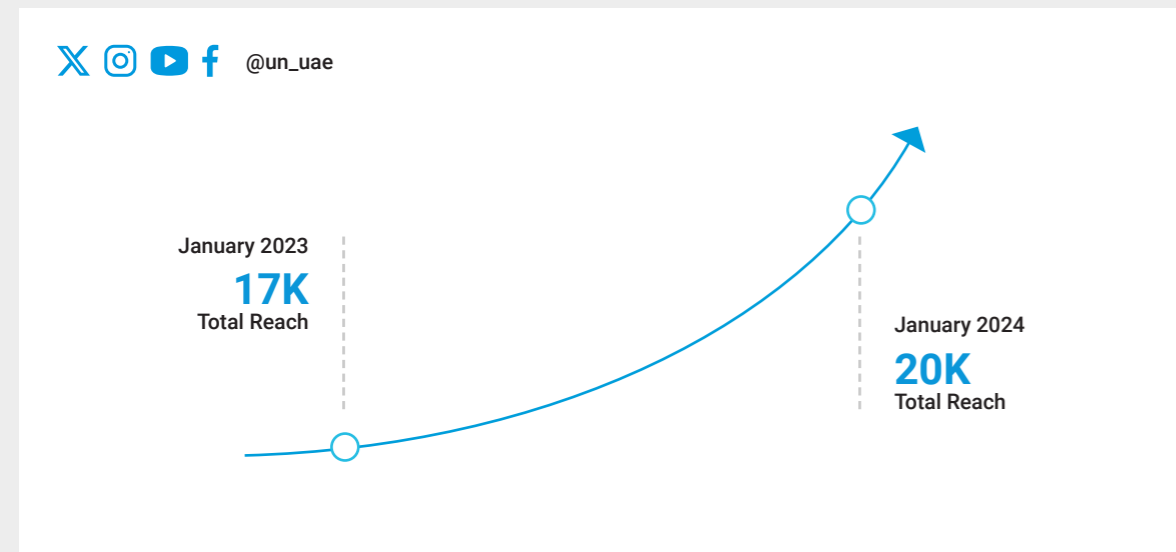
# STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS

The communications efforts of the United Nations in the UAE aim to enhance the visibility and influence of its work at national, regional, and global levels. This involves creating a cohesive UN presence when actively participating in local and global events, campaigns, and storytelling. Additionally, the UN in UAE strives to foster engagement by initiating interactions with diverse stakeholder groups, focusing on the priorities of UN work within the UAE and advocating for broader action on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

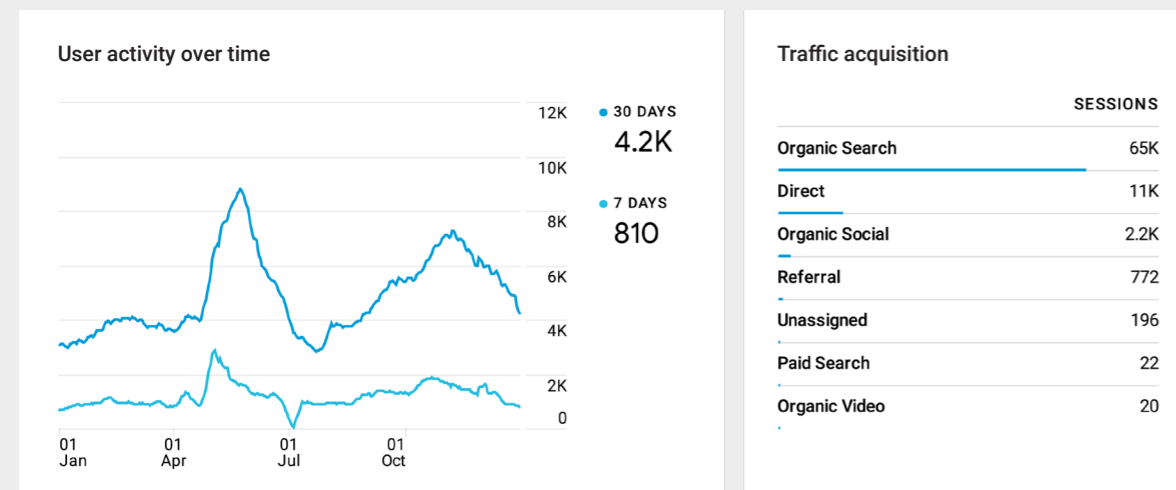
## MEDIA ENGAGEMENTS



## GROWTH & OUTREACH



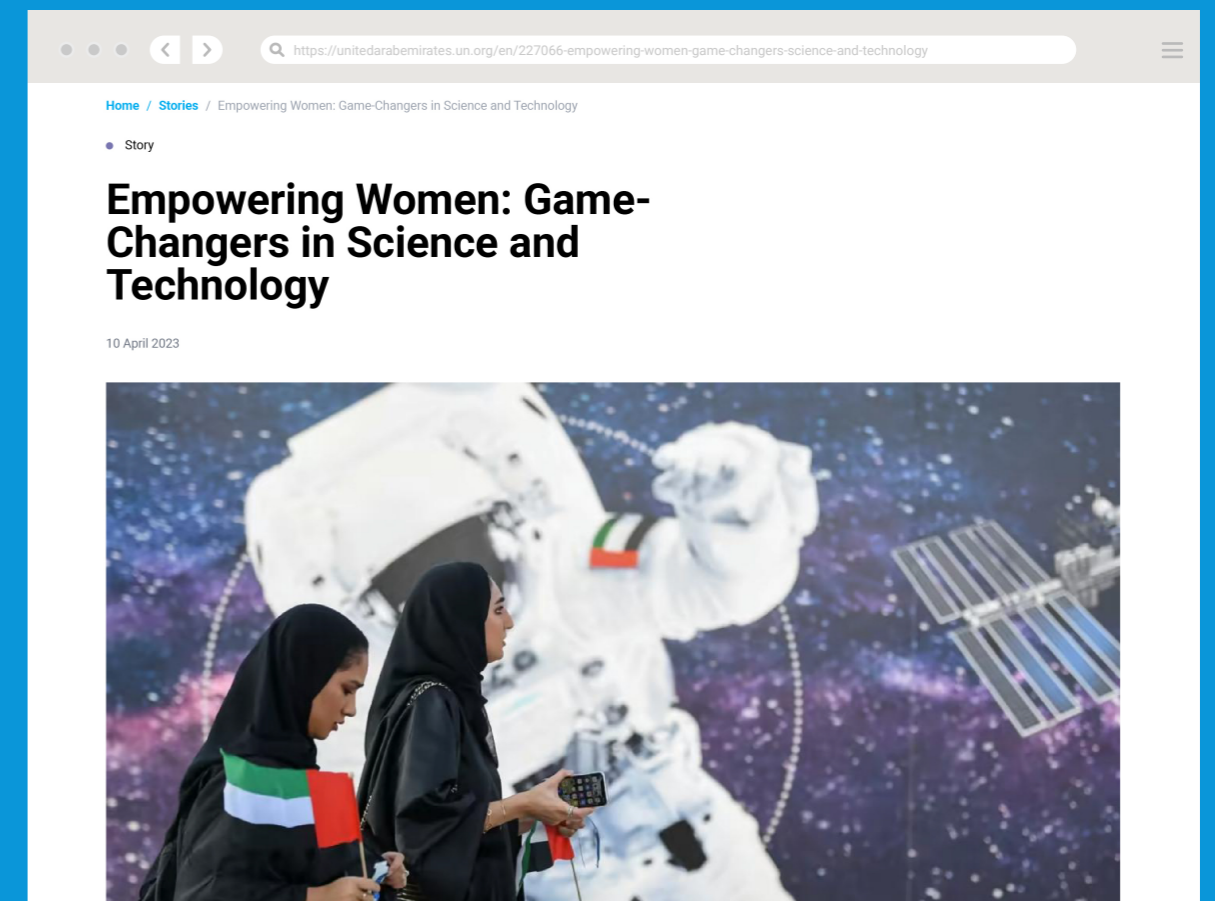
Organic growth in reach across the UN UAE social media channels



UN UAE Website Analytics

## STORYTELLING

The UNCT's collective work on key thematic areas has been amplified through bilingual stories published across various UN digital channels, including UN News, UN SDG website and UN UAE website. For example, the role of women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) was highlighted through an impactful story. It featured regional initiatives from UNESCO, UNOOSA and UNWTO that further support the UAE's commitment to gender equality in science and technology, which is crucial for the achievement of the SDGs.





## PARTNERSHIPS

The United Nations system engages with a variety of partners in the UAE, including governmental entities, 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.

## IN FOCUS: CHAMPIONING PRIVATE SECTOR CLIMATE ACTION AT COP28

With over 220 companies in its membership, the Global Compact Network UAE was uniquely positioned to create an interactive, informative, and inspiring multi stakeholder program for COP28. This highlighted the transformative efforts of industry leaders and local businesses towards achieving the SDGs and scaling up ambitious yet credible corporate climate action in line with the Paris Agreement and in support of the UAE Net-Zero Strategy and its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC).

In the lead-up to COP28, the Network initiated engagements that paved the way for more meaningful contributions and a well-informed private sector. Some notable examples include the launch of the Climate Action Taskforce, comprising over 30 companies from various sectors, providing a platform for businesses to engage in industry-specific dialogues, share knowledge and solutions, and identify challenges and opportunities for climate mitigation, adaptation, just transition, and climate action in the value chain. Additionally, they leveraged the Middle East Regional Info Circles Climate Series to provide a solid understanding of climate concepts, explore opportunities for action, and delve into innovative approaches to address climate challenges specific to the region. The Business Climate Lab was another series of six action-oriented sessions spanning a period of six months aiming at transforming climate discussions into effective strategies.



During COP28, the Network hosted a variety of events, in both the Blue and Green Zones. They convened government officials, United Nations representatives, industry leaders, and civil society organizations across multi-stakeholder dialogues addressing SME engagement with climate action, youth empowerment, climate change mitigation and adaptation, sustainable finance, nature-based solutions, and just transition.

*The Global Compact Network UAE is the official UAE Local Network for the United Nations Global Compact, a special initiative of the UN Secretary-General, and the largest corporate sustainability initiative in the world. It is a call to companies everywhere to align their operations and strategies with the ten universal principles on human rights, labor, environment, and anti-corruption, and to act in support of the UN goals.*



Maimunah Sharif, former UN Habitat Executive Director and HE Dawoud AbdulRahman Al Hajri, Dubai Municipality Director General, during the 13th cycle of the Dubai Awards. Photo credit: UN Habitat

## TECHNICAL COOPERATION

- UN Habitat renewed its collaboration with Dubai Municipality in the 13th Dubai Awards for Sustainable Urban Innovation, highlighting the UN's commitment to fostering innovation and partnerships for sustainable practices. This 27-year partnership showcases the UN's strategic approach to enhancing sustainability through knowledge exchange and best practices, aligning with its broader goals for a sustainable future.
- During a meeting with Director General Mohamed Ebrahim Al Mansoori of the Sheikh Zayed National Housing Programme, UN Habitat reaffirmed its commitment to collaborative development by which their robust technical portfolio and expertise can be linked to the UAE's housing sector.
- In his capacity as Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, HE Omran Sharaf, Assistant Minister for Advanced Science and Technology, highlighted the vital role of the UN Office of Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) in promoting global cooperation. He emphasized the Office's efforts in advancing space law, science, and sustainable development, including capacity building and support for regional centers to achieve the goals of the "Space 2030" plan.



The UAE's Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratization signed an agreement with the International Labour Organization to promote workers' rights and enhance the country's labour market attractiveness. Photo credit: MOHRE

- The ILO collaborated with the Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratization (MOHRE) to strengthen capacities in labor inspection and compliance with national legislation, aligning with relevant international labor standards and the ILO Strategic Compliance Model. Additionally, the ILO focused on enhancing capacities in occupational safety and health, along with relevant international standards and best practices, through the training of officials on occupational safety and health and relevant international labor standards, as well as inspectors on risk assessment. In total, 30 MOHRE labor inspectors received training.
- The WFP Regional Director for Arab States engaged in a discussion with students from the Anwar Gargash Diplomatic Academy (AGDA), alongside the Deputy Director General of ECHO, focusing on the impact of climate change on fragile countries. The conversation also highlighted ways of addressing the ongoing crises in the Middle East and Africa through partnerships.
- The UAE's commitment to global security is exemplified by its role as a donor to the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR). This support enables innovative solutions to global security challenges in the pursuit of peace and stability worldwide.
- During the CubaG77 Science, Technology, and Innovation Conference in Havana the UN Office for South-South Cooperation Director and UAE's Climate Change Minister, HE Mariam Almheiri, engaged in discussions, aiming to harness shared knowledge and

resources to combat climate challenges effectively.

- Dr. Abdulla Al Mandous's election as President of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) in June 2023 marks a significant milestone in strengthening global meteorological governance and cooperation. With his esteemed position at the UAE National Center of Meteorology, Dr. Al Mandous reflects the UN's commitment to leveraging expert leadership to address complex global challenges related to weather, climate, and water.
- The UNFPA Sub-regional office for the GCC countries (GCCO) initiated a strategic partnership with the Sharjah Department of Statistics and Community Development (DSCD). This collaboration aims to improve the lives of vulnerable populations in Sharjah through enhanced and coordinated service delivery, inclusive policymaking, and robust monitoring systems. Following consultations and assessments, UNFPA will spearhead a comprehensive needs assessment in 2024. It will provide the foundation for a new, evidence-based policy designed to empower and protect Sharjah's vulnerable groups.
- In June, OCHA UAE co-organized a successful mission to Jordan for the Anwar Gargash Diplomatic Academy (AGDA) MA students in Humanitarian Action and Development. The delegation visited refugee camps in Amman, hosted by the OCHA MENA Regional Office. They participated in workshops and discussions with representatives from UN agencies, donors, and INGOs.



AGDA Students during visit to Jordan. Photo credit: UN OCHA UAE



## PRIVATE SECTOR ENGAGEMENT

- The UNFCCC RCC MENA and SA, in collaboration with the World Green Economy Organization (WGEO), co-organized a capacity-building workshop focused workshop for private sector readiness for article 6 participation at the World Green Economy Summit (WGES) 2023 in Dubai. It aimed to enhance the capabilities of the private sector in engaging with and contributing to the Article 6 mechanisms of the Paris Agreement, facilitating their active participation in carbon markets.
- UNITAR and PwC Middle East collaborated to brief private sector entities on the significance of COP28 in the UAE for engaging businesses globally in climate talks. The interactive training session aimed to enhance attendees' understanding of COP processes, empowering them to participate effectively and seize opportunities in the dynamic climate change arena.



UNITAR-PwC interactive training session for private sector in the lead up to COP28. Photo credit: UNITAR

- Throughout 2023, partners from the private sector in the UAE have continued to play a critical role in supporting forcibly displaced persons in Asia, Africa, and the Middle East. Most notably, UNHCR's partnership with The Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives (MBRGI) has enabled UNHCR to provide direct food assistance to more than 800,000 vulnerable persons and empower them through sustainable livelihoods projects.
- 2023 also marked the 11th anniversary of HH Sheikha Jawaher Al Qasimi, Wife of the Ruler of Sharjah, as a UNHCR Eminent Advocate. Through Her Highness' foundation, The Big Heart Foundation, UNHCR continued to provide essential assistance to vulnerable communities in the sectors of education, shelter, healthcare, and emergency response. So far, Her Highness and The Big Heart Foundation has supported more than 1 million refugees and internally displaced people around the world.

- At the Arabia CSR Forum, the UN Resident Coordinator Dr. Dena Assaf, emphasized the importance of inclusivity and partnerships in the global sustainability agenda. She highlighted the UN's commitment to fostering dialogues and international cooperation for a more inclusive and sustainable future, aligning with the "Space 2030" agenda.



Former UN Resident Coordinator, Dena Assaf, at the 2023 Arabia CSR Forum. Photo credit: Arabia CSR Network

## CULTURAL DIPLOMACY

- UNDRR Arab States participated in the 4th Arab Forum for Cultural Heritage in Sharjah, emphasizing the UN's commitment to safeguarding cultural heritage through international cooperation. The forum highlighted the role of culture in building community resilience, aligning with the UN's goals for sustainable development and disaster risk reduction.
- UNWTO collaborated with the University of Sharjah to develop a short course on strategic communication for tourism. The course covers stakeholder management to branding and aims to provide practical insights for immediate application in tourism communications.



Photo credit: UNWTO Academy

- Building on past collaborations, the United Nations in the UAE participated in "Art Connects Women," a conference held under the patronage of UNESCO, which brought together 122 women artists from around the world in celebration of International Women's Day. This event highlighted the important role of art in promoting the SDGs and how it can be harnessed to drive positive change in communities.



## PLANET

A significant part of the United Nations' engagement in the UAE focuses on both local and global commitments for climate action, strengthening food and water security, and biodiversity, ensuring a sustainable future for all.



ADSW Session on climate financing. Photo credit: UN

## CLIMATE ACTION

- During a session at the Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week (ADSW) focusing on a new global financial architecture for climate change, the Secretary-General's Special Advisor on Climate Action and Just Transition, Selwin Hart, highlighted the urgent need for an upgrade, emphasizing that countries must implement their decisions from COP27 and reform Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) to effectively address the climate crisis.
- In January ILO, ITC, and UNFCCC convened the MENA Leadership Programme on the Just Transition. The program aimed to strengthen the capacities of government, worker, and employer representatives in the MENA region for the follow-up discussions and implementation of COP27 outcomes and to shape discussions ahead of COP28. Participants from 14 countries gained insights on integrating labor market impacts and social justice into climate change policy.
- In March, UNDRR organized a national workshop on the Sendai Framework Monitor and Disaster Loss accounting system, to strengthen the capacity of participants around Disaster Risk Reduction governance, monitoring the implementation of the Sendai Framework, and leveraging data for risk reduction.
- The UNFCCC RCC MENA and SA, the UAE Independent Climate Change Accelerators (UICCA), and WGeo co-organized a pivotal webinar and supported a series of systemic innovation workshops aimed at catalyzing transformative solutions across the MENA and South Asia regions. This work collectively focused on leveraging networks to address climate challenges, promoting co-creation and systems thinking, and encouraging meaningful partnerships for impactful change.

- In June, UNDRR organized a journalist and media training workshop in the context of engaging them on disaster risk reduction on the road to COP28. The workshop, co-organized with the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union among other partners, aimed to improve the journalists' role in disseminating information before, during, and after disasters of all types, ranging from disasters triggered by natural hazards to human-initiated ones.



UNDRR's journalist training workshop empowers media's role in disaster risk reduction reporting ahead of COP28. Photo credit: UNDRR

- The MENA Ocean Summit, the first dedicated forum in the region focused on accelerating the pace of comprehensive clean ocean action, saw the participation of speakers from the RCO, FAO and CMS throughout their programme and discussions. Efforts were further consolidated with the establishment of the MENA Oceans Network, of which the UN in UAE is a strategic partner.
- The UNFCCC secretariat and its RCC MENA and SA supported the UAE's COP28 Presidency and the International Energy Agency (IEA) in hosting a series of High-Level Dialogues on Building a 1.5°C-aligned Energy Transition, from July to December, across diverse global platforms including the G20 Clean Energy Ministerial, the Africa Climate Summit, the UNGA, a dedicated virtual session, and culminating at the COP28 World Climate Action Summit. These dialogues navigated the complexities of accelerating the energy transition, fast-tracking renewable energy and clean access in Africa, advocating for a just and orderly transition, emphasizing the critical role of finance in supporting clean energy, and ultimately rallying a unified call to action to meet the 1.5°C target.

- In August, a workshop on “Early Warnings for All – COP28” was jointly organized in Abu Dhabi by UNDRR, WMO, the UAE National Center of Meteorology (NCM), and the National Emergency and Crisis Management Authority (NCEMA). This workshop aimed to foster collaboration and knowledge-sharing among key stakeholders to expedite the implementation of early warning systems worldwide, highlighting the United Nations and UAE’s commitment to working together on global disaster risk reduction initiatives.



Early Warnings for All – COP28 Workshop - jointly organized in Abu Dhabi by UNDRR, UAE NCM, NCEMA, and WMO. Photo credit: UNDRR ROAS

- In September, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres convened the Climate Ambition Summit, aiming to showcase first mover and doer leaders in government, business, and civil society who have credible actions, policies, and plans – and not just pledges – to accelerate the decarbonization of the global economy and deliver climate justice. The UAE participated actively in this summit.
- The Global Urban Resilience Forum, hosted by Dubai Police and organized by UNDRR in October, convened leaders and experts to address the urgent need for urban resilience in the face of climate change. Over 150 high-level delegates, 500 attendees, and 35 speakers participated, highlighting the forum’s role as a platform for collaborative discussions and strategies to address climate challenges in urban areas. The event showcased the importance of local leadership and collaboration in building resilient cities capable of withstanding climate-related shocks.
- In collaboration with the German Embassy and SCMC, UNICEF supported the capacity building of over 50 children on climate change. UNICEF and SCMC in partnership with the Emirates Environmental Group (EEG) conducted a capacity building of the Emirati Children’s Parliament on climate change. Over 30 children parliament were introduced to key concepts on climate change and processes around COP28.

**50+**  
Children received capacity building

**30+**  
Members of the Emirati Children’s Parliament participated in a capacity building program

## BIODIVERSITY

- In February, the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) Dugong MOU launched a small grant scheme to support community-led dugong and seagrass conservation projects. Thanks to the financial support from the Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi (EAD), the grants provide up to USD 40,000 for activities throughout 2023.
- In May, the CMS Dugong MOU hosted a three-day workshop in Abu Dhabi on Arabian Gulf dugong science and management. Attended by regional Range States and international experts, it focused on the current status of the Arabian Gulf dugong population, strategies for regional collaboration, and new technology and research methodologies. Key outcomes included the establishment of an Arabian Gulf Regional Working Group for coordinated monitoring surveys.



Thriving seagrass beds set the scene as CMS’s Dugong MOU, backed by EAD, launches grants for community-driven dugong and seagrass conservation. Photo credit: Ben Jones / Ocean Image Bank

- In July, the third meeting of signatories of the Raptors MoU took place in Dubai, to take stock of actions for the conservation of migratory birds of prey in Africa and Eurasia and improve coordination among signatories. This meeting developed a new Action Plan, endorsed the list of Internationally Important Raptor Sites and launched the First Conservation Status Assessment of the 94 species of Raptors in Africa Eurasia covered by the MoU.
- In August, the CMS Office – Abu Dhabi collaborated in the UAE National Workshop for the Mapping of Ecosystem Accounts project, organized by the UAE Ministry of Climate Change and Environment (MOCCAEE) and 4 Earth Intelligence (4EI). The project aims to quantify the UAE’s natural capital by mapping the ecosystem accounts to support the understanding of the numerous ecosystem services.



**94**  
Raptor species assessed in Africa Eurasia

- CMS Office – Abu Dhabi actively contributed to the consultation process for the development of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) in the UAE.
- In December, UNEP ROWA, CMS Office - Abu Dhabi and the UAE Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, organized a Regional Dialogue on Biodiversity Beyond Borders in West Asia at the Natural History Museum in Abu Dhabi. The dialogue included a workshop by the Raptors MOU aimed at establishing the basis for a West Asia Raptor Monitoring Strategy. Participants shared examples of regional cooperation in biodiversity conservation, identified priorities, and discussed policy measures.
- Additionally, the 2030 Seagrass Breakthrough was presented, garnering significant interest. It aims to establish a collective framework of action for seagrass conservation worldwide, aligning with global agendas, such as the Sharm-El Sheikh Adaptation Agenda, Race to Resilience, and Race to Zero.
- In September, the RCO organized a webinar to present preliminary findings from a primer discussing the linkages of the biodiversity and climate change agendas. The primer was developed in the lead up to COP28 in partnership with Durham University, Utrecht University, Radboud University, IDDRI, the Nature-Based Solutions Initiative at University of Oxford, and the PBL Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency. Its purpose was to advocate for dual policy action that advances both the climate change and biodiversity agendas in tandem.



## WATER AND FOOD SYSTEMS

- In January, the RCO collaborated with the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) in an event on the water-food-energy nexus at Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week. The event, entitled Renewables for Survival, highlighted the synergy opportunities across the nexus to marshal the benefits of renewable energy with emphasis on mitigating emissions from food systems and achieving collective climate ambition.
- In March and for the holy month of Ramadan, UNEP launched the Sustainable Ramadan campaign "Recipes of Change" to reduce food waste, and the adverse impacts of food waste on the environment, on food security notably in a region that relies heavily on imports, and on climate change. The campaign included the announcement of UAE-based Chef Leyla Fathallah as UNEP advocate on Food Waste for West Asia.



Recipe for Change 2023 Ramadan campaign.  
Photo credit: UNEP West Asia

- In October, the RCO supported the UAE's Local Conference on Youth (LCoY) in the lead up to COP28 and delivered an informative session. The LCoY was organized by the International Center for Bio-saline Agriculture (ICBA) and Zayed University and included interactive discussions on key issues including food systems and Food and Nutritional Security in the UAE. A visit to the Emirates Soil Museum and a Ghaf tree planting events were among the interactive sessions with young people.





## PEACE

The United Nations works with the UAE to reinforce peace and security foundations around the world, through a series of initiatives that intend to address root causes of insecurity, provide life-saving humanitarian needs, and promote international cooperation on rule of law and strong institutions.

## IN FOCUS: RESPONDING TO HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCIES

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has been a steadfast supporter of humanitarian efforts globally, ranking as the region's second largest donor and 14th globally in 2023. This year alone, the UAE provided over US\$221 million towards UN-supported relief operations, with a focus on health (39%) and food security (31%). A significant portion (US\$106 million) went towards relief efforts following the devastating earthquakes in Syria and Türkiye. The UAE's contribution played a vital role in helping countless families rebuild their lives.

In response to the earthquakes, the United Nations operation in the UAE facilitated vital support, including the airlifting of thermal blankets, family tents, medical kits, food, and shelter items. This assistance was carried out in partnership with Dubai's International Humanitarian City (IHC) and Emirates Airlines, ensuring swift and effective delivery to affected areas.

Furthermore, the UAE provided a generous contribution of US\$ 50 million toward the Syria humanitarian response following the earthquake, including \$20 million toward the UN-Coordinated appeal. WHO's regional trauma initiative deployed to provide direct assistance to communities affected by the earthquakes in Syria and Türkiye, with critical support from the WHO Logistics Hub in Dubai, providing a lifeline of medical supplies.



# \$221M

towards UN-supported relief operations

# \$106M

to Earthquake Relief in Syria and Türkiye

The UAE's humanitarian efforts extended to Libya, where an airlift carrying fifty-three metric tons of humanitarian supplies from UNHCR's stockpiles in Dubai was sent to respond to the needs of those affected by the devastating floods caused by Storm Daniel in September. Additionally, an airbridge organized by the United Nations in the UAE, in partnership with the IHC, provided emergency humanitarian support in response to the flash floods in Derna, in October. This airbridge delivered over 136 tons of relief, including shelter items, food, medical items, and telecommunications equipment, benefiting over 250,000 persons.

In Sudan, the WHO hub responded to the needs arising from the conflict by immediately delivering essential medicines, trauma, and surgical supplies through multiple airlifts, in collaboration with IHC.

In the wake of the Gaza conflict, the UAE swiftly responded with substantial donations. Abu Dhabi pledged US\$20 million to Palestinians via UNRWA, while Dubai contributed Dh50 million (approx. US\$13.6 million) through MBRGI. To address the overwhelming needs, the UN in the UAE mobilized significant aid and established remote infrastructure in Rafah, Egypt, for efficient distribution. The UAE further bolstered relief efforts by contributing to the "Tarahum for Gaza" campaign, which included over 100 metric tons of WFP food supplies airlifted from Abu Dhabi.



## INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY

- The UAE concluded its 2022-2023 term on the UN Security Council, with a respectable record of advancing peace and security across multiple fronts. The UAE made key contributions to advancing international cooperation around the agendas of Women, Peace, and Security; Climate, Peace, and Security; promotion of tolerance, as well as regional and global security issues.
- The UAE was appointed as chair for the UN's Counter-Terrorism Committee in 2023. The Committee is a UN body tasked with facilitating international cooperation in counterterrorism. Under the UAE's leadership, the Committee adopted the Abu Dhabi Guiding Principles on the threats posed as a result of using unmanned aircraft systems for terrorist Purposes. These Principles are intended to enhance the capabilities of Member States and stakeholders to facilitate the detection, identification, deterrence, and response to such threats.
- To enhance Chemical, Biological, Radio- logical, and Nuclear (CBRN) incident preparedness in the GCC countries, UNICRI supported the European Union CBRN Centers of Excellence (EU CBRN CoE), and the UAE Ministry of Interior for Project 82. This initiative aimed to improve medical readiness and response capabilities. One key outcome was the "Train-the-Trainers Regional Conference on Medical Preparedness and Response to CBRN Incidents," held at the Civil Defense Academy in Abu Dhabi in March. The conference gathered participants from the GCC, focusing on first- and second-line responders from health and civil defense ministries. The training equipped trainers with specialized skills for managing casualties during CBRN incidents, enabling them to train response teams in their respective countries.

## RULE OF LAW

- UNODC and UAE Ministry of Interior co-launched the International Initiative of Law Enforcement for Climate (I2LEC) at the 2023 World Government Summit. This initiative intends to support the efforts of law enforcement in protecting biodiversity and combating environmental crime. It also facilitated dialogue among the global law enforcement community to discuss and promote the transition to green law enforcement as well. The I2LEC joint steering committee held its first meeting in July in Abu Dhabi, where it approved five strategic initiatives over 2023 – 2025.

**140**  
Representatives  
from **36**  
countries

- The 7th Wildlife Inter-Regional Enforcement meeting (WIRE) took place in Abu Dhabi in November, bringing together 140 representatives from 36 countries joining to foster cooperation to combat wildlife and forest crime. WIRE is an initiative by UNODC, aimed to strengthen cooperation in investigating transnational criminal networks investigators, bringing together police, prosecutors, and other practitioners to combat wildlife crimes through the tools of criminal justice.



The 7th WIRE meeting was hosted in Abu Dhabi. Photo credit: UNODC

## HUMAN RIGHTS

- The UAE presented its 4th Universal Period Review to the Human Rights Council in May. A national report submitted by the government, as well as a United Nations report and a compilation of stakeholder inputs informed the ensuing dialogue on the state of human rights in the UAE. A total of 117 country delegations made statements during the dialogue and 323 recommendations were presented to the UAE's delegation for potential action.

## HUMANITARIAN ACTION

- Commemorating 20 years since the establishment of the International Humanitarian City in Dubai, the United Nations system in the UAE participated in a celebration marking the important contributions of the IHC to the region and the world, saving the lives of millions and providing humanitarian relief to over a billion people since its establishment.
- WHO logistics hub in Dubai has broken previous records in both capacity and efficiency, delivering over 2,000 shipments of items valued at over US\$ 185 million. It also saved US\$ 14 million through innovative stock-rotation and expiry avoidance programs, as well as mobilizing additional in-kind support worth over \$40 million.

**2K** WHO  
Shipments  
valued at  
**US\$185 million**





- The 19th edition of the pre-DIHAD UNOCHA workshop, held in March, focused on scaling up anticipatory humanitarian action in the context of climate change. The workshop brought together professionals working on climate action to exchange experiences on anticipatory action strategy and programming, and further advance their work in this area.

9 UN Entities  
1 UN Pavilion  
12K DIHAD attendees from 110 countries

- The 19th edition of DIHAD witnessed a record attendance, exceeding 12,000 visitors from 110 countries, with 50 speakers, including some of the world's most prominent humanitarian professionals. The UN UAE participated through a joint space in the exhibition and through OCHA's annual Pre-DIHAD Workshop under the title "Climate Change: Time to Scale up Anticipatory Humanitarian Action".



UNOCHA's pre-DIHAD workshop united climate professionals. Photo credit: UN OCHA



- In March, UNHCR launched its annual Islamic Philanthropy Report for the first time in partnership with the Abdulaziz Al-Ghurair Refugee Education Fund at a joint event in Dubai. The report details the importance of engaging Islamic philanthropy tools and their increased role in attending to the needs of displaced people globally, citing that over US\$21.4 million were mobilized through UAE-based Islamic philanthropy in 2022 in support of UNHCR's refugee relief efforts in 20 countries.



HE Abdul Aziz Al Ghurair, Founder of the Abdul Aziz Al Ghurair Refugee Education Fund, during his keynote speech at the report launch. Photo credit: UNHCR



## PEOPLE

The United Nations works to advance inclusive social development and wellbeing for all, leaving no one behind. In the UAE, the United Nations works with a variety of partners to address specific population and development challenges in health, education, gender equality, migration, and people of determination.

## IN FOCUS: CHILDREN AND YOUTH VOICES FOR CLIMATE ACTION

As COP28 approached, the UNCT in the UAE actively engaged young people in climate action initiatives. Collaborating with the COP28 Presidency, the Federal Youth Authority, and other partners, the RCO facilitated two youth circles to ensure youth perspectives were part of the process.

On Emirati Children's Day in March, UNICEF launched its Youth Advocates for Climate Change initiative, supported by the UAE Supreme Council on Motherhood and Childhood. This platform empowered young voices to advocate for a healthier planet while contributing to policy dialogues on child well-being and climate change. Seven new youth advocates from the UAE joined three existing advocates, serving as champions for children's rights and agents of change.

The Net Zero Heroes initiative, a collaboration between the Ministry of Education, UNICEF Gulf Area Office, and the Greening Education Partnership, spotlighted the inspiring actions of 35 Emirati children aged 9 to 15, who led efforts to protect the climate and preserve the planet.

Furthermore, the ILO supported the green jobs and just transition working group within YOUNGO, the UNFCCC youth constituency, in preparation for the COP28 negotiations on the just transition work program.

Through these initiatives, the UNCT ensured that children and youth voices were amplified and their concerns addressed, as they played a crucial role in shaping a sustainable future for all.

**35**  
Net Zero Heroes

**10**  
Youth Advocates



## HEALTH

- In March, UNODC accredited the UAE's National Rehabilitation Center's Clinical Toxicology Laboratory in recognition for its work in the discovery and analysis of traditional, manufactured, and modern narcotics drugs. The accreditation acknowledges the Center's work in developing accurate and sensitive methods to identify chemical changes in modern drugs composition after fulfilling all the requirements for participation in the 'Drug and Substance Use Testing Laboratories' programme.
- In February, UNICEF conducted a training of trainers for school personnel on mental health and psychosocial support to pupils. This falls under efforts by the UAE Ministry of Education in strengthen prevention and support to how mental health concerns are addressed in the public school system. UNICEF also provided training to a new batch of child protection specialists within the Ministry of Education. The newly recruited Child Protection Specialists were trained on child protection, mental health, and case management.
- The UAE Ministry of Health and Prevention conducted a 3-day national workshop in collaboration with WHO and UNICEF, with the objective to formulate an action plan that would reinforce the role of the health system within a comprehensive, multi-sectoral national response to violence.



MOHAP-WHO-UNICEF Workshop. Photo credit: WHO



Greening Education Partnership launch. Photo credit: UNICEF

## EDUCATION

- The COP28 Greening Education Partnership was launched in May, which includes an integrated whole-of-system to training for educators and school administrators on sustainability, as well as structural efforts to reduce the environmental footprint of educational spaces working closely with communities. The UAE Ministry of Education signed an MoU with UNESCO and an MoU with UNICEF to advance these efforts in the lead-up, at and after COP28. The partnership will also establish the United Nations Multi-Partner Trust Fund for Greening Education with the goal of mobilizing \$50 million during the first year.

## CHILDREN AND YOUTH

- The RCO partnered with Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week to organize a youth outreach campaign around the work of the United Nations in the UAE through a dedicated stand at the Youth 4 Sustainability Pavilion. The campaign presented the UN-UAE partnerships and provided guidance to young people on careers in the UN system. The UNCT also contributed to various key discussions and panels with UAE partners throughout the week, including UNICEF's U-Report in collaboration with the UAE Ministry of Education, and Youth4Sustainability initiative of Masdar. The U-Report is a UNICEF flagship platform intended to strengthen the meaningful engagement of young people in informing UNICEF's programme priorities, emergency response and advocacy actions globally.
- The Situational Analysis of Children in the UAE was finalized in 2023 with the support of UNICEF. It is intended to inform policymaking in support of children and adolescent development in the UAE as well as the legislative framework governing children rights. The analysis updates a prior analysis undertaken in 2010 that was also supported by UNICEF.

3.5M  
People  
reached

- UNICEF supported the evaluation of a pilot anti-bullying program in schools, aiming to develop a national scale-up plan. The program, launched in 2014 by UNICEF Gulf Area Office and the Supreme Council for Motherhood & Childhood (SCMC), focused on preventing bullying. The evaluation assessed the pilot's effectiveness and its potential for national expansion, aligning with SCMC and UNICEF's child protection efforts in the UAE. Additionally, a series of campaigns were developed with mobile service provider Du by sending out SMS messages on mental health, acknowledging the partnership with UNICEF and the SCMC. As part of this campaign, UNICEF's mental health resource webpage was promoted, reaching 3.5 million people.
- UNICEF Gulf Area office hosted the "The Gulf Countries' Policy Dialogues on Child Wellbeing" dialogue, in partnership with Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood, the General Secretariat of the GCC, and the Abu Dhabi Early Childhood Authority, which aimed to draw attention to the importance of child protection systems and to mobilize action towards the strengthening of social workforces and coordination mechanisms. It also included discussions on child-friendly cities, challenges in the digital era, and strategies to ensure the safety and well-being of children in the region.
- Sharjah Child Friendly Office (SCFO), in partnership with UNICEF and the Sharjah Private Education Authority (SPEA), developed a set of standards for Child-friendly schools and nurseries (CFSN) in the Emirate. These were guided by the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and UNICEF's global experience implementing rights-based approaches to education.

## GENDER

- UN Women, in partnership with the General Women's Union (GWU), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MoFAIC), launched a series of awareness-raising sessions on gender and climate change. These sessions, aligned with the UAE's preparations for COP28, aimed to increase understanding of the intersection of gender and climate change, featuring speakers from various sectors covering topics such as the disproportionate impacts of climate change on women and girls, vulnerability to natural disasters and food insecurity, women's leadership in climate action, and other related topics.



UN Women and UAE partners raised awareness on gender-climate intersections, empowering women's leadership for COP28.

- In March, UN Women and the General Women's Union have co-organized a side event at the 67th meeting of the committee on the Status of Women, entitled: DigitAll: Innovation and Technology for Gender Equality. This side event highlighted efforts towards bridging the gender digital divide for women in the UAE.
- In March, the UNCT provided support to UNDP/Afghanistan in empowering Afghani women entrepreneurs by showcasing and marketing their handmade products to UAE-based markets.
- In April, UNICEF appointed Yemeni-Emirati singer and actress Balqees Fathi as a UNICEF Ambassador to help raise awareness and advocate for children's rights and well-being. In her new role, Balqees will use her voice to promote the importance of investing in children's health, education, and protection, particularly for those who are most vulnerable and marginalized.



Balqees Fathi, UNICEF Ambassador. Photo credit: UNICEF



UAE researchers recognized by the L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science Middle East Young Talents Program: Hessa Ebrahim Ali Alfalahi, Dr. Raefa Abou Khouzam, Ayesha Abdulla Alkhoori. Photo credit: L'Oréal-UNESCO

- The L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science Middle East Regional Young Talents Program recognizes annually groundbreaking women researchers in the fields of Life and Physical Sciences. Previous honorees include three UAE nationals: PhD student Hessa Ebrahim Ali Alfalahi, for her research on early detection and diagnosis of depression and Parkinson's disease using data collected through novel Artificial Intelligence (AI) algorithms; Dr. Raefa Abou Khouzam for her research on investigating new treatment strategies for pancreatic cancer to lead to its elimination; and Ayesha Abdulla Alkhoori for her research on converting Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) into clean fuel to alleviate global warming and provide a solution for the energy depletion crisis.



## PROSPERITY

The United Nations system works with the UAE government and other partners to accelerate inclusive social development as a key premise for development policy, while expanding collaboration on technology and innovation as key strategic enablers for sustainable development.

## IN FOCUS: WORLD INVESTMENT FORUM 2023, A CATALYST FOR GLOBAL INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP AND POLICYMAKING

The 8th edition of the UNCTAD World Investment Forum was hosted by the UAE in Abu Dhabi, underscoring the country's role as a global hub for dialogue and cooperation and highlighting its commitment to fostering partnerships and driving progress on the international stage. The forum featured 157 insightful and impactful events, addressing key investment challenges exacerbated by global crises. It explored the need for investment in food security, energy, health, supply chain resilience, and productive capacity growth in the poorest countries, aligning with its theme of Investing in Sustainable Development.

Furthermore, the 2023 edition featured a dedicated track on promoting climate finance and investment. Taking place ahead of global climate change talks at COP28, the forum provided a platform for policymakers and stakeholders to discuss and find consensus on climate finance and investment priorities. The outcomes of this track fed into the COP28 negotiations, highlighting the forum's role as a critical platform for shaping global investment policies and strategies.

Several major global initiatives and deliverables were launched during the Forum, including the Global 50 SDG Model Special Economic Zones, a Multi-Stakeholder Platform on International Investment Agreements Reform, and joint initiatives with the UN World Tourism Organization, among others, to promote sustainable investments and address the SDG investment gap.



## DEVELOPMENT POLICY

- During the Industry and Advanced Technology Forum, held on the side-lines of the World Government Summit, a renewed commitment declaration was signed between UNIDO and the UAE, which draws on the organization's industrial development expertise, particularly in capacity building, resource efficiency, affordable clean energy, quality infrastructure and industrial policy.
- In a second joint declaration signed during the World Government Summit, UNIDO, in partnership with the Ministry of Industry and Advance Technology, the Department of Health Abu Dhabi (DoH), and the Global Manufacturing and Industrialisation Summit (GMIS) agreed to launch International Centre for Industry Readiness in Abu Dhabi. The centre is designed to support the capacity of the industrial sector to react to shocks and emergencies, primarily focusing on providing its expertise and services to the MENA region initially, with the aim of expanding its support to the African region and beyond.

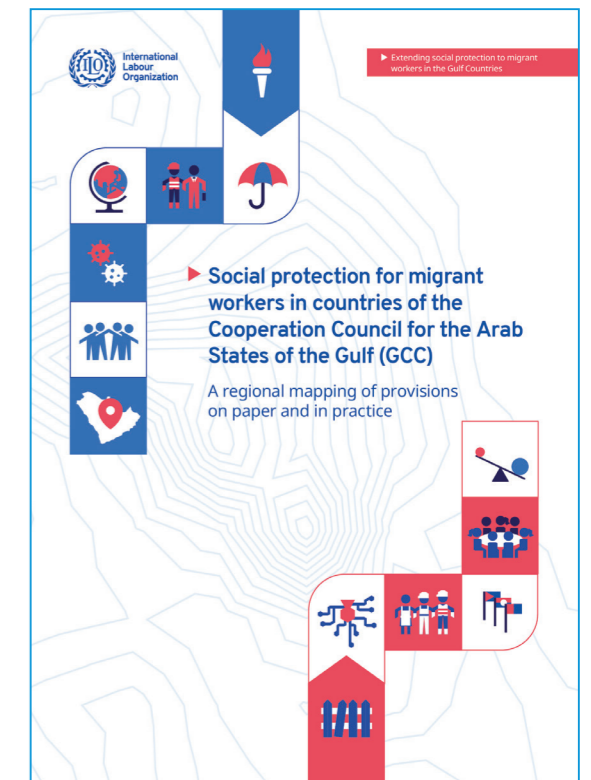


UNIDO to launch International Centre for Industry Readiness in Abu Dhabi. Photo credit: UNIDO

- Director General Ahmed Mahmoud Fikri of Abu Dhabi Statistics and Abu Dhabi DMT Chief Mr. Mohamed Ali Al Shorafa shed light on Abu Dhabi's Voluntary Local Review (VLR) process during a visit by Maimunah Mohd Sharif. Abu Dhabi has also welcomed peer-exchanges with the cities of Madrid, La Paz and Greater Amman Municipality to share their experiences on reporting on the SDGs.

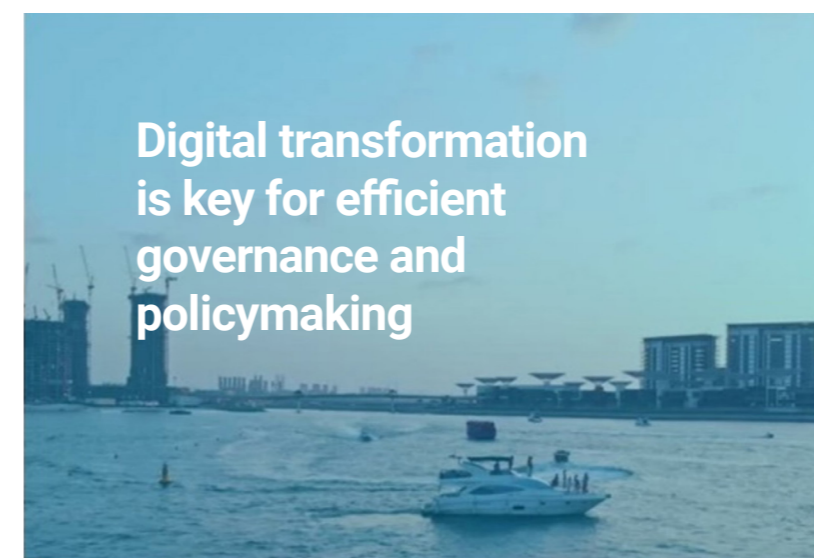
- On the sidelines of the World Government Summit, UNIDO Director-General, Gerd Müller, and Mohamed Saif Al Suwaidi, Director-General of Abu Dhabi Fund for Development (ADFD), discussed their joint efforts in driving industrial and economic growth in developing nations, highlighting their shared commitment to improving the lives of those in need through projects aimed at promoting industrial development in developing countries.
- In June, UNICEF and the UAE Ministry of Education signed a MOU on the empowerment of children and guaranteeing a safe educational environment for them, through developing a robust and progressive policy framework on this issue. The MoU also includes particular emphasis on developing the capacities of early childhood development educators and specialists.
- In October, the ILO, IOM, UN Women, OHCHR, and the GCC Executive Bureau co-hosted a workshop with representatives from the six GCC governments. The workshop discussed workplace legislation, policies, reforms, good practices, and remaining challenges in the region.
- UN Women and the General Women's Union organized a roundtable to introduce the Second Chance Education (SCE) Programme to UAE and GCC stakeholders. The programme operates in 6 countries and offers a lifeline for women and girls who faced barriers to education, helping them acquire essential skills, knowledge, and qualifications. The session brought together representatives from various sectors to support scaling and expanding the programme, emphasizing its impact in addressing educational disparities for marginalized women. The event underscored the UAE's commitment to women's education and empowerment, highlighting the importance of collaboration among sectors to address societal challenges.

- ILO launched a pioneering report on the social protection of migrant workers in the GCC countries. Titled "Social Protection for Migrant Workers in the Gulf Cooperation Council Countries: A Regional Mapping of Provisions on Paper and in Practice," the report assesses migrant workers' legal and effective access to nine areas of social protection. It identifies enablers and barriers to access, shedding light on factors that have facilitated or hindered the extension of such coverage. The report is the result of collaboration between the ILO, ODI, and IOM, providing a comprehensive review of the legal framework, existing literature, and key informant interviews across the region.



## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

- At the World Government Summit, during a session titled A Digital Divide: Actions Toward the 2030 Agenda, Li Junhua, UN Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, underscored the role of digitalization in achieving the SDGs, and pointed to the Global Digital Compact, expected to be adopted by Member States at the Summit of the Future in 2024, to ensure that the digital transformation works to the benefit of all people. He highlighted the role of the Joint SDG Fund in propelling these efforts.



**Second Chance**

Dr. Mouza Al Shehhi

The UAE is a global champion and pioneer in the field of education having bridged its gender gap in education and through its commitments to advancing education for women and girls in the UAE and globally. The Second Chance Education Program is a testament to the power of collaboration.

**SecondChance**  
@SCEprogram

Dr Mouza Al Shehhi highlighted UAE's efforts in the field of education in her remarks at the Supporting Second Chance Education Roundtable & encouraged the public & private sector to join us in advancing access to education for women and girls globally.  
#SCEAbuDhabi #SecondChance

**Second Chance**

UN WOMEN

**UN WOMEN**

**"Supporting Second Chances in Education"**  
roundtable meeting

UN Women and GWU

GWU theater, Al Mushrif area- Abu Dhabi

Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Timing 9:30 AM -2:00 PM





# COP28 UAE

The 28th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28) was a pivotal moment in the global effort to address climate change. Almost eight years after the Paris Agreement and half-way through the 2030 Agenda, COP28 was a timely opportunity to embark upon a new path towards effective climate action.

## UN COORDINATION IN ACTION AT COP28

Having anticipated COP28 since November 2021, when both COP27 Egypt and COP28 UAE presidencies received their respective mandates at COP26 in Glasgow, the UN in UAE played an important role in facilitating and coordinating UN engagement at COP28, focusing on operational support, communications, public outreach, and event coordination.

To support COP28, the RCO formulated a COP28 Task Team, comprising UAE-based colleagues and agency global focal points on climate action. This Task Team became a primary conduit for information sharing and coordination, ensuring that no opportunity for meaningful climate action at COP28 was left untapped. The UAE UNCT's membership, which includes the UNFCCC Regional Collaboration Center for MENA and South Asia facilitated early engagement with various UNFCCC colleagues, leading to deep and long-lasting relationships that proved instrumental in deepening UN-UAE relationships on climate action toward COP28 and beyond.

On the road to COP28, the RCO has championed numerous initiatives in support of the task team's strategy. This included the 28-For-28 Event Series and servicing an informal information network for the UAE-based diplomatic community on COP28 logistics and operations. Other outputs include a joint UNEP-RCO weekly media update, social media campaigns and a dedicated Trello board with key resources and UNCT's updates on their own work for COP28.



"Climate Action for the Next Generation" discussion with youth representatives, hosted by the UN in UAE.



The UN Environment Management Group's High-Level Dialogues brought together over 20 UN principals to discuss enhancing system-wide climate action in support of countries party to the UNFCCC.

The conference itself was marked by a robust United Nations presence throughout, including the participation of 50 UN Principals and 1,500 UN staff, and the operationalization of 18 UN Pavilions. The RCO facilitated this participation by coordinating daily updates on key outcomes and organizing 35 events across both the Blue and Green Zones. This multifaceted effort ensured broad dissemination of information and fostered engagement on critical climate issues.

 **50**  
UN Principals

 **1500**  
UN staff

 **18**  
UN Pavilions

## 28-FOR-28 EVENT SERIES

The 28-For-28 event series from the UN in UAE was a webinar series consisting of 28 webinars leading up to COP28. Each webinar focused on topics relevant to the COP process and climate action, ranging from climate finance to technology and disaster risks. These sessions aimed to engage the wider UAE climate change community on the importance of the upcoming negotiations. The series provided a platform for discussions, knowledge sharing, and capacity building, highlighting the role of various stakeholders, from the United Nations as well as regional and local entities in advancing climate action and sustainable development. These webinars helped publicize a variety of United Nations expertise and lay the groundwork for post-COP collaborations among United Nations entities as well as with UAE counterparts.

Speakers from  
**42 UN Entities**  
**4000+**  
Attendees



The Humanitarian Hub at the COP28 Green Zone, managed in partnership with OCHA, hosted insightful discussions highlighting the crucial interconnection between climate action and humanitarian response efforts.

## HIGHLIGHTS

**UNEP** - Focused on climate finance, adaptation, loss and damage, climate technology, and a just transition. The UNEP Pavilion showcased climate action solutions with emphasis on science and transparency.

**WHO** - Organized the first-ever Health Day at a COP, highlighting the role of health in resilient societies. They also supported the development of the COP28 UAE Declaration on Climate and Health, aiming to prioritize health in climate action.

**UNICEF** - Advocated for integrating climate action into education and launched initiatives supporting children and youth-led climate action.

**UNDP** - Had a prominent role in connecting the discussions in the negotiating rooms with action on the ground while providing in-depth technical support to developing country delegations. Through their Climate Promise initiative, it mobilized sectors to act decisively on climate change, supporting developing countries in enhancing their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

**FAO** - Emphasized the role of agriculture and food systems in climate change, supporting the Emirates Declaration on Sustainable Agriculture and co-hosting the Food and Agriculture Pavilion.

**DESA** – As in previous years, they hosted the SDG Pavilion which hosted multi-stakeholder dialogues with over 120 organizing partners representing 90+ countries.

**UNDRR** - Called for accelerated action in reducing climate-related disaster risks and advocated for comprehensive disaster and climate risk management.

**OCHA** – Together with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, established the first-ever Humanitarian Hub to spotlight how climate-related disasters affect people in crises and solutions, especially at the local level. The pavilion, located in the Green Zone, served as a dedicated platform for 60 global humanitarian partners to showcase their efforts. It also provided a vital platform for NGOs from the Global South to host events independently.

**CMS** - The 2030 Seagrass Breakthrough was announced at COP28, marking a significant milestone for seagrass conservation efforts. Led by the CMS Office – Abu Dhabi in collaboration with the UN High-Level Climate Change Champions, this initiative aims to establish a global framework for seagrass conservation, aligning with global agendas.

**ILO** – Together with the European Commission, IOE, ITUC and the UNFCCC – hosted the Just Transition Pavilion. The Pavilion provided a platform for governments, workers’ and employers’ organisations, United Nations organisations, academia, and civil society to host events around the social dimension of climate change and climate action. More than 50 events were held in the Just Transition Pavilion, convening ILO, UNFCCC, UN Global Compact, UNDP, UN Women, UNEP-FI, FAO, UNICEF, UNESCO, UNIDO. Furthermore, ILO hosted the mandated UNFCCC Gender and Just Transition workshop and supported the ILO tripartite constituents throughout the climate change negotiations.



Launch of the 2030 Seagrass Breakthrough which will pioneer efforts to restore and protect vital marine ecosystems. Photo credit: CMS

# UN UAE ENGAGEMENTS AT COP28

 UNITED NATIONS UNITED ARAB EMIRATES		
Blue Zone Events		
Date	Event Title	Partner/s with UN UAE
December 2	High-Level Dialogue on Strengthening UN System Climate Action	UN-EMG, UNEP, UNFCCC
December 3	Risk Knowledge to Achieve Early Warnings for All	UNDRR
December 3	Daily Briefing for Youth	UNFCC YOUNGO, Climate Tracker and The International Climate Politics
December 4	Daily Briefing for Youth	UNFCC YOUNGO, Climate Tracker and The International Climate Politics
December 5	Preserving the World's Biodiversity Heritage	CMS
December 5	Daily Briefing for Youth	UNFCC YOUNGO, Climate Tracker and The International Climate Politics
December 6	Daily Briefing for Youth	UNFCC YOUNGO, Climate Tracker and The International Climate Politics
December 8	Fostering Intersectional Action: Youth, Peace, and Climate Security with YOUNGO UNFCCC and UNFPA	UNFCC YOUNGO and UNFPA
December 8	Inspiring Climate Change Adaptation from Saida City to COP28 and Beyond with UNEP	UNEP
December 8	Daily Briefing for Youth	UNFCC YOUNGO, Climate Tracker and The International Climate Politics
December 9	Integrating Actions for Climate and Biodiversity: Opportunities and Potential with the UN RCO in the UAE	UNEP and Nature-based Solutions Initiative, University of Oxford
December 9	Press Conference: Launch of the Primer on Biodiversity and Climate	Nature-based Solutions Initiative, University of Oxford
December 9	Adaptation to Climate Change in Iraq: National and Subnational Priorities	UNEP
December 9	Daily Briefing for Youth	UNFCC YOUNGO, Climate Tracker and The International Climate Politics
December 10	Report Launch Press Conference on Climate Change & Migratory Species	UNFCCC
December 10	Food is Never Waste: Tackling Food Waste as an Essential Climate Action	UNEP
December 10	A Guide to Implementing the One Health Joint Plan of Action at National Level	FAO and WHO
December 10	Daily Briefing for Youth	UNFCC YOUNGO, Climate Tracker and The International Climate Politics

Action Builds Trust.

 UNITED NATIONS UNITED ARAB EMIRATES			
Green Zone Events			
Date	Event Title	Speaker	Partner/s with UN UAE
December 3	"3@3" Conversation on Climate, Peace, and Security	Abdallah Al Dardari, Assistant Secretary-General, UNDP	UNDP and Emirates Center for Strategic Studies & Research (ECSSR)
December 4	"3@3" Conversation on Climate Change and Gender Inequality of Risk	Sarah Hendriks, Deputy Executive Director, UN Women	UN Women and ECSSR
December 4	Gender Inequality of Risk: Key considerations for Anticipatory Humanitarian Action		UN OCHA
December 5	"3@3" Conversation on the Role of Nuclear Sciences in Climate Adaptation	Najat Mokhtar, Deputy Director General and Head of Department of Nuclear Sciences and Applications, IAEA	IAEA and ECSSR
December 5	Costal Urban Design in the face of Climate Change		UNEP, Blue Ventures, GRID Arendal
December 6	Advocacy Walk for Disability Inclusive Climate Action		UNDP
December 6	Strengthening Urban Resilience for a Changing Climate		UNDRR
December 6	"3@3" Conversation on Sustainable Urbanization	Ibrahim Thiaw, Executive Secretary, UNCCD	UNCCD and ECSSR
December 6	Climate Change and Ways to Mitigate Gender-Based Violence		UN OCHA and UN Women
December 8	Climate Action for the Next Generation		
December 8	UNLocked Futures: Exploring Opportunities in the UN System		UNESCO, UNFCCC, UNEP, ITU (OneUN Talent Outreach Group)
December 8	Intergenerational Justice and Today's Youth		UN Egypt, UN Iraq, UNFPA
December 8	"3@3" Conversation on Climate Education	Paloma Escudero, UNICEF Global Special Adviser to Advocate for Children and Climate Action	UNICEF and ECSSR
December 8	COP28 and Climate Justice: Steps in the Right Direction		WFP and Trends Research and Advisory
December 9	"3@3" Conversation on Biodiversity and Planetary Boundaries	Amy Fraenkel, Executive Secretary, CMS	CMS and ECSSR
December 9	The Role of Multilateral Agreements in Ocean Governance		
December 10	3@3" Conversation on Climate Action Beyond on COP28	Dena Assaf, UN Resident Coordinator for the UAE	ECSSR

Learn, Engage, Inspire.

## COP28 OUTCOMES

COP28 marked the culmination of the Global Stocktake, through which parties assessed progress towards the goals of the Paris Agreement. Since the adoption of the Paris Agreement in 2015, subsequent COPs have focused on implementing its key goal: limiting global temperature rise to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels, with efforts to limit it to 1.5°C.



The conference culminated with the “UAE Consensus,” a landmark agreement representing the most ambitious set of negotiated outcomes since the Paris Agreement. This groundbreaking consensus calls for a fundamental shift in energy production, urging nations to transition away from fossil fuels and triple their reliance on renewable energy sources by 2030. The UAE Consensus signifies a critical turning point, recognizing the urgency of a rapid energy transition and the need for significantly increased adaptation finance. This comprehensive approach paves the way for achieving the ambitious 1.5°C climate target and fostering a more sustainable future for all.

In addition to the formal negotiated items, COP28 featured the launch of the ambitious Presidential Action Agenda, a total of 11 non-negotiated pledges and declarations. These commitments, including the first-ever declarations on food system transformation and health, aim to significantly boost climate action beyond the existing UNFCCC framework.

Looking beyond COP28, the UNCT’s priorities for UN-UAE cooperation include Anticipatory Humanitarian Action, Biodiversity-Climate Change linkages, and Youth Engagement. These priorities build on ongoing work with the UAE and anchor future action to deepen collaboration, such as advancing ecosystem-based adaptation and nature-based solutions for mitigating emissions. As we move toward COP29 in Azerbaijan and beyond, coordination of efforts in response to the climate change challenge remains imperative, with RCOs uniquely positioned to fully leverage United Nations system expertise.





## LOOKING AHEAD TO 2024

As we turn our focus towards 2024, the United Nations in the UAE is poised to capitalize on the momentum generated by the outcomes of COP28 and the UAE's resolute commitment to sustainable development. Positioned uniquely, we aim to galvanize broader support within the UN system towards building a future that leaves no one behind.

In the coming year, our priority will be to deepen partnerships with the UAE government, civil society, and the private sector to foster tangible global progress on the SDGs and collaboratively address pressing environmental challenges. Emphasizing collaboration on humanitarian action, we recognize the critical urgency of such endeavours. Guided by the UAE's ambitious vision, we will continue to explore innovative solutions, harnessing digital technologies, artificial intelligence, and other cutting-edge tools to augment our impact and efficiency in realizing our objectives.

A pivotal focus for 2024 lies in our close collaboration with the UAE government to build momentum towards the landmark Summit of the Future. Drawing upon the UAE's forward-thinking vision and global convening power, our joint efforts aim to pioneer new models of international cooperation, mobilize multi-stakeholder coalitions, and harness the full potential of digital transformation for the betterment of people and planet.

In this pursuit, we are committed to reimagining global cooperation and multilateralism to accelerate progress towards a more sustainable, just, and prosperous world for all. Together, as partners united by shared aspirations, we stand ready to embrace the challenges of tomorrow and forge a path towards greater global sustainability and inclusivity.



UNITED NATIONS  
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

