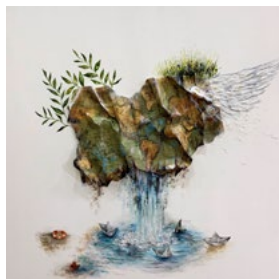
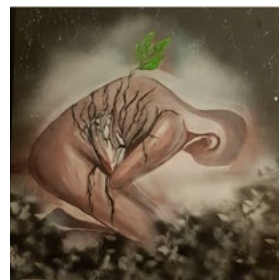
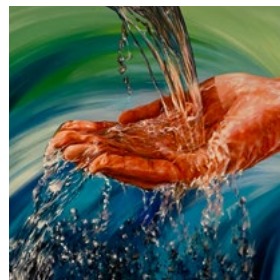




UNITED NATIONS
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES



ANNUAL REPORT 2022

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United Nations - United Arab Emirates Country Annual Results Report 2022

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Cover photo: SDGs Through the Arts Exhibit, United Nations UAE in collaboration with ZeeArts, 2020.

Artist credits from left to right:

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- Anastasie Akibode, Cabo Verde | SDG3 - Majo Portilla, The Netherlands

2nd Row: SDG 4 - Valia Abou Alfadel, Syria | SDG 5 - Abeer Al Edani, Iraq | SDG 6 - Jivan

Hovhannisian, Armenia | SDG 7 -Seren Alkhalaf, Syria

3rd Row: SDG 8 - Sadie Sulaiman, Malaysia | SDG 9 - Samia Saleh, Egypt | SDG 10

- Masarrat Fatima Sulaimani, India | SDG 11 - Rihab Ahmed Issa Saidam, Jordan

4th Row: SDG 12 - Masooma Rizvi, Pakistan | SDG13 - Madeleine Kurtsdotter, Sweden

| SDG 14 - Stephanie Neville, South Africa | SDG 15 - Asareh Ebrahimpour, Iran

5th Row: SDG 16 - Noura Al Ali, UAE | SDG 17 - Sonja Cillié, South Africa | 17 Goals,

17 Days - Zaahira Muthy, Mauritius | UN - Ahmed Al Awadhi (Rukni), UAE

ACRONYMS

ADAFSA	Abu Dhabi Agriculture and Food Safety Authority
AYAMI	Arab Region Youth Arts and Music Initiative
CMS	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals
COP28	28th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FCSC	Federal Competitiveness and Statistics Centre
GCC	Gulf Cooperation Council
IFRC	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
IHC	International Humanitarian City
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
MENA	Middle East and North Africa
MOCCAEC	Ministry of Climate Change and Environment
MOFAIC	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
MOHAP	Ministry of Health and Prevention
OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
RC	Resident Coordinator
RCO	Resident Coordinator's Office
SCMC	Supreme Council for Motherhood & Childhood
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UAE	United Arab Emirates

UN	United Nations
UNCDF	United Nations Capital Development Fund
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDRR	United Nations office for Disaster Risk Reduction
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICRI	United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNOCT	United Nations Office of Counter Terrorism
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
UNOOSA	United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs
UN DPPA	United Nations Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organisation
WPS	Women, Peace and Security

FOREWORD

The road ahead will be challenging and unpredictable. But, by using the tools of our trade – diplomacy, negotiation & compromise – we can continue supporting people & communities around the world.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres



While leveraging a broad scope of mandates from the United Nations entities working in and with the UAE, the year 2022 presented new opportunities for the UN Country Team to strengthen its long-standing partnership and engagements in the country.

This report highlights the achievements and contributions of the United Nations in its joint work with the UAE through its high-level policy advice, technical advisory support, regional and national programmes, and humanitarian outreach. The UN Country Team in the UAE has been able to ensure that the UAE is fully engaged across the UN system mandates thereby ensuring their strategic positioning globally. The UN Country Team provides the UN's technical advisory engagement to support the UAE's national priorities and vision, and positions the UAE to not only share its expertise and know-how regionally, but to also recognize them in that regard. This year's report highlights many of such initiatives which have an impact in the UAE and beyond.

We also saw a significant resurgence of diplomatic engagements in the UAE in 2022, capitalizing on Expo2020 at the beginning of the year, and the global reopening following the COVID-19 pandemic. The UAE received well over 100 high-level United Nations official missions, taking part in various UN, UAE, and other international engagements. This intensity of engagement cements the UAE's role in international diplomacy and multilateral dialogue on key issues facing the international community, and our presence on the ground plays a central role in this regard.

The second half of Expo2020 was at the beginning of the year, and this afforded the UN Country Team with

the opportunity to further disseminate and advocate for global issues including the SDGs. Global Goals week was also held at Expo2020 for the first time outside of UN Headquarters in New York. And our social media and outreach expanded exponentially, significantly increasing our visibility, and ensuring impact even beyond the UAE. This was further exemplified by the SDG through the Arts advocacy campaign we piloted in the UAE (see cover art), and is now being replicated in countries around the world. The UAE with its diversity of population provides a unique platform for advocacy and outreach that goes well beyond UAE borders. What is messaged in the UAE, will be shared in countries around the world.

We also expanded our policy dialogue with counterparts and stakeholders on addressing the looming climate crisis, and ways to invest in preparedness and anticipatory action systems that allow us to pre-position ourselves, and also ensure the UAE itself is well-prepared. We also see opportunities to shorten the current first response cycle, benefiting from the capabilities that the UAE's logistical infrastructure makes available.

The need for humanitarian assistance has increased by 40% over the past year alone in 63 countries around the world, with climate change threatening to compound that number in upcoming years, as witnessed by the humanitarian crises of Ukraine and Pakistan for example. This represents a unique responsibility on the United Nations system in the UAE, as the country hosts the United Nations' largest humanitarian response operation, servicing an increasing load and more complex humanitarian needs across the planet. All these challenges



The UNCT and RCO team welcomed HE Yaqoub Al Hosani, Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation for International Organisations Affairs - MOFAIC, to the UN Hub at Expo2020.

transcend borders and can be solved only with forceful collective action, and the United Nations in the UAE plays a central role in this regard. We therefore continue to expand our operational presence and capacity in response to this new reality in service of the world's most vulnerable.

In 2021, UAE was designated as the host of COP28, which provided the UN Country Team with the opportunity to begin engagements and coordination on climate action in support of the UAE's national priorities and vision, including through participation at COP27. We see the opportunity of strengthening global action to combat climate change on the road to COP28 to be held in the UAE in late 2023. This is expected to be the largest United Nations gathering to date and will be dedicated to accelerating global cooperation in climate action, with an expected legacy that will further reinforce the UAE's role as an instrumental global partner working to address humanity's most central challenges, in 2023 and beyond.

I take pride in the achievements of the UAE UN Country Team, and know we will continue to further strengthen our partnerships in the UAE for the benefit of those

who live in the UAE and those we support with the help of the UAE. As this will be my last forward as UN Resident Coordinator in the UAE, I want to thank the UN Country Team for their cooperation, collaboration, and determination, and I also give thanks to my great team in the UN Resident Coordinator's Office who have ensured that the United Nations is well-positioned, the UN Country Team is supported, and what we do is known in the UAE and beyond.

DR DENA ASSAF
United Nations Resident Coordinator for the UAE



THE UNITED NATIONS IN THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

The United Nations Country Team (UNCT) is made up of agencies, funds, and programmes with physical presence in the UAE, as well as by entities whose mandate includes the UAE, but operate from regional or subregional headquarters. This configuration aligns with the United Nations Reform principles of providing countries with the most appropriate resources and cooperation to support their national priorities.

With over 30 agencies, the United Nations has a significant presence in the UAE, working closely with public and private sectors. Its partnership with the UAE reflects a shared commitment to global cooperation through multilateral initiatives related to sustainable development, humanitarian action, and peace and security.

The work of the UNCT is facilitated by several inter-agency working groups and task forces, which contribute to more effective collaborations among agencies and reinforces our joint presence vis-à-vis government partners.

With the UAE scheduled to host COP28 in 2023, and to mobilize the United Nations system and ensure continuation between COP27 and COP28, the United Nations in the UAE also established the UN in UAE COP28 Task Team to shape a strategic vision and fruitful participation throughout.

@UN_UAE | #UNinUAE | uae.un.org



STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS



The communication efforts for the United Nations in UAE are aligned with the overall strategic objectives of the UNCT and focuses on strengthening the visibility and impact of the United Nations in UAE on a national, regional and global level. This is achieved by: 1. Communicating a unified UN presence through outreach activities in the UAE, including local and global events, campaigns, and storytelling. 2. Implementing engagement initiatives with a variety of stakeholder groups on priorities of the work of the UN in and with the UAE, as well as broader SDG advocacy.

OVERVIEW: ORGANIC GROWTH IN REACH ACROSS THE @UN_UAE COMMUNICATION CHANNELS IN 2022.

2.2K FOLLOWERS

1.5K FOLLOWERS

35 SUBSCRIBERS

9.8K FOLLOWERS

12K

CUMULATIVE REACH ON SM

AS OF DECEMBER 2021

4.4K FOLLOWERS
435 tweets, 4.3K mentions

2.6K FOLLOWERS
52 video reels, 80 posts

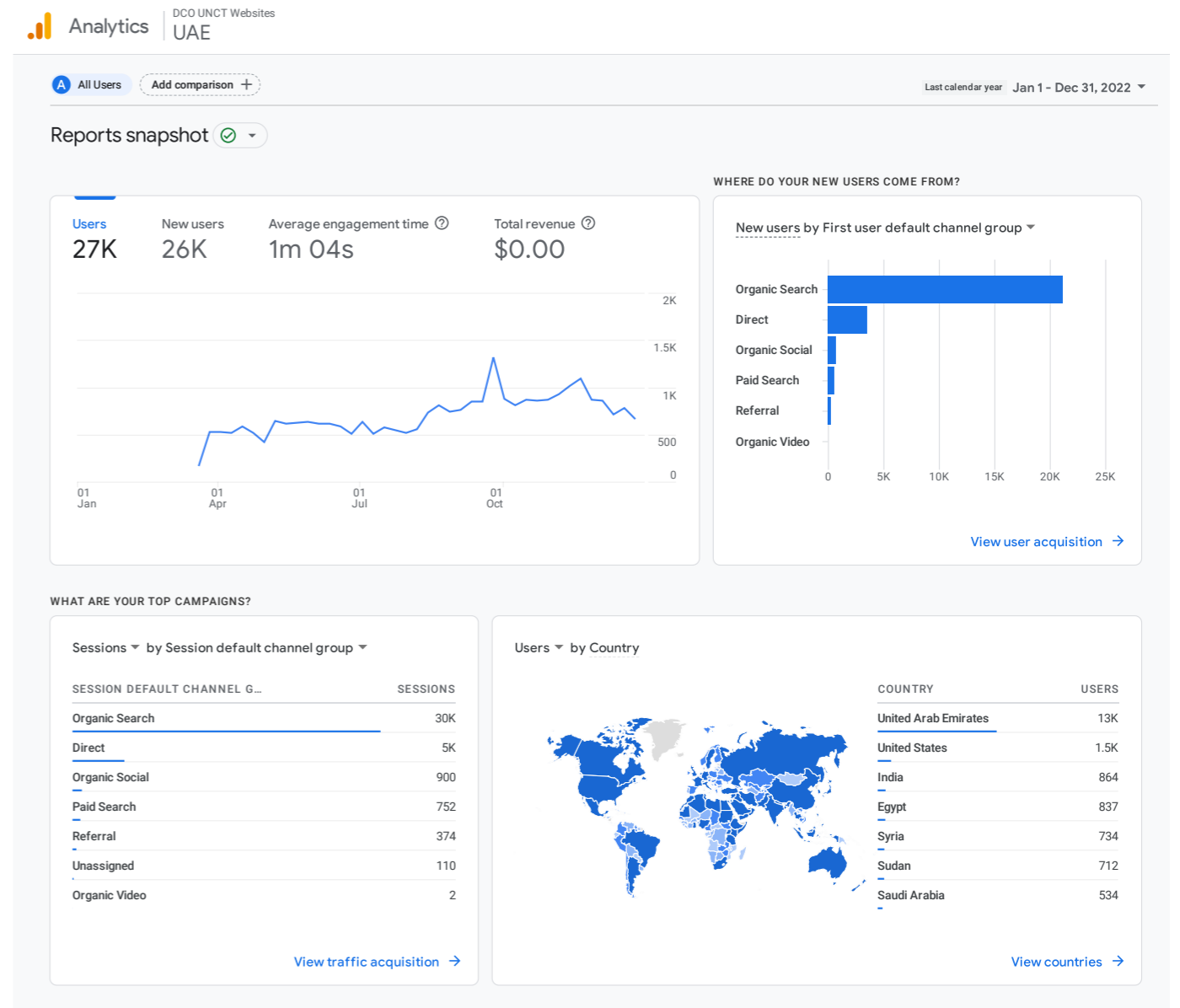
175 SUBSCRIBERS
5K total views and 78 videos

10.2K FOLLOWERS

17.4K

CUMULATIVE REACH ON SM

AS OF DECEMBER 2022



MEDIA ENGAGEMENTS: Published English & Arabic content on the United Nations Country Team website (uae.un.org).

83

STORIES / PHOTOS / VIDEO



9

PRESS RELEASES



10

PUBLICATIONS



Newspaper cover features and full article interviews with the United Nations Resident Coordinator for the UAE in print and digital. The UN RCO also arranged multiple media interviews for the United Nations Country Team representatives and special high-level missions.



UN DAY MEDIA EVENT: The United Nations in UAE marked the UN Day with a media event hosted in partnership with Dubai Media City on the 24th of October, followed by UN projections on UAE landmark buildings (Burj Khalifa and ADNOC) later that evening. A total of **31 media placements of press coverage** (online and offline), resulted from the UN Day engagements. The event was mentioned in 13 local news articles and 9 international news articles. Estimated views of +700K and audience of +900M for all media placements.

DIGITAL CAMPAIGNS: One UN in UAE: Marking 51 years of strategic partnership with the UAE, the United Nations in UAE launched a digital campaign to highlight the collective role of the United Nations, working together to achieve common goals in and with the UAE. The campaign includes a short introduction video of the United Nations in UAE and a series of spotlight videos featuring 7 staff members from various United Nations agencies and offices with a focus on their efforts and impactful work in and with the UAE.

The Burj Khalifa displayed the UN flag to commemorate United Nations Day 2022.





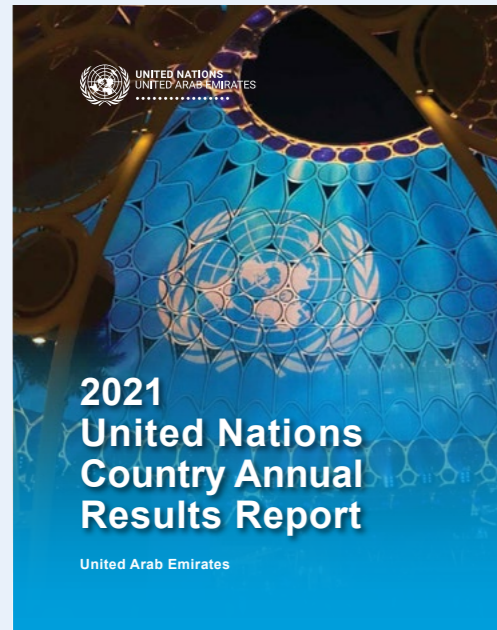
PARTNERSHIPS

PARTNERSHIPS

IN FOCUS:

EXPO2020 DUBAI LEGACY

The United Nations engagement at Expo2020 Dubai was multifaceted, and included high-profile engagements, collaborations with UAE and other partners on flagship events, as well as operationalizing the UN Hub. For six months, the UN Hub served as a conduit for multilateral diplomacy and showcased the role of international cooperation and joint actions to overcome global challenges, such as the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The first-ever Global Goals Week held outside the UN Headquarters in New York also took place at Expo2020. The UN system builds on the investments made in participating at Expo2020 with a renewed commitment of engaging with UAE counterparts towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as humanity's collective goals.



Expo2020 took place from October 2021 to March 2022. For more details on the United Nations engagement, please refer to the UN in UAE 2021 Annual Results Report.


100,000
VISITORS



45
UN ENTITIES



69
EVENTS



19
EXHIBITS



300
VOLUNTEERS



UN Resident Coordinators for the Arab States visiting the UN Hub at EXPO2020 Dubai, UAE



Under Expo2020's theme of "Connecting Minds, Creating the Future", the UN presence focused on highlighting the importance of multilateralism, sustainable development, and solidarity in dealing with global challenges.

PARTNERSHIPS

PRIVATE SECTOR ENGAGEMENT

- In March, UN Women organized a dialogue with the private sector in the UAE at the “SDG 5 Summit” on their role to remove barriers for women’s advancing opportunities and economic empowerment. The event involved senior officials from public and private sectors, academia, media and civil society and women’s organizations including signatories of the Women’s Empowerment Principles (WEPs), members of the UnstereotypeAlliance, and other UN Women partners.
- DP World became the first HeForShe champion for gender equality from the Middle East in March. HeForShe is a solidarity movement for gender equality that brings together ambitious leaders to address patriarchal masculinities in society and stress allyship in advancing gender equality.
- The Global Compact Network UAE provides engagement opportunities for companies of all sizes and industries, aligned with government priorities and business challenges. Its three flagship accelerator programs - Target Gender Equality, SDG Ambition, and Climate Ambition - have seen increased participation. The Network has worked with over 60 companies to set ambitious emission targets aligned with the 1.5 pathway, promote women’s leadership, and integrate the 17 SDGs into core business management.



UN Women Deputy Executive Director, Ms. Anita Bhatia, and DP World Group Chairman and CEO, Sultan Ahmed Bin Sulayem, at the DP World Pavilion at EXPO2020 Dubai Photo Credit: HeForShe & DP World

- UNEP organized a 2-day virtual workshop in September on Eco-Innovation and Sustainable Textiles. The training targeted small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the fashion and textile industry in the UAE and the region. The workshop invited participants to explore the world of natural colors and learn how to produce biodegradable printed textiles.
- In August, UN Women organized a series of workshops on Women’s Enterprise Principles. The workshops are aimed at advancing progress on Gender Equality in the workplace, marketplace, and communities across the UAE. The workshops were attended by 20 women leaders and private sector representatives.
- Emirates Global Aluminium has signed on to the Women’s Empowerment Principles in September, in a move to demonstrate the company’s commitment to increasing the percentage of women to 15% in its workforce and to 25% in supervisory roles by 2026. This is a praiseworthy target noting that heavy industry is traditionally male dominated.



- The Refugee Zakat Fund enabled UNHCR to impact the lives of more than 1.5 million beneficiaries in 21 countries, with Zakat and Sadaqah funds. In addition, UNHCR has maintained a strong partnership with the UAE foundations particularly with the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives and The Big Heart Foundation where they have supported various UNHCR’s projects in Africa, Asia and the Middle East.
- Central Hotels joined UNICEF NextGen community of committed business leaders and philanthropists dedicated to supporting children in less developed parts of the world. The financial donation to UNICEF will support of increased access of vulnerable children in Mongolia to the Early Childhood Development programme and preschool services.
- WFP established partnerships with Choithrams supermarket chain, Talabat Food Delivery, and Dubai Cares to raise funds in support of feeding programmes and humanitarian assistance in various locations including in Pakistan following the devastating summer floods.

- The Real Estate Resilience Tool was introduced, led by UNDRR, the International Real Estate Federation (FIABCI), and members of the UNDRR Private Sector Alliance for Disaster Resilient Societies (ARISE)-UAE. The tool provides guidance to owners, investors, and developers to facilitate the shift from disaster risk management to disaster risk reduction. The tool will assist with strategic decision-making that drives greater resilience in business operations and assets.
- In collaboration with the UNDRR Regional Office for Arab States, UCLG Learning, and Arab Towns Organization, the United Cities and Local Governments Middle East and West Asia (UCLG MEWA) organized a 2-day training in Dibba, Fujairah. Over 80 participants from 40 Arab cities joined the training, aimed at increasing the awareness level of municipalities and local administrations on disaster risk reduction strategies and helping cities integrate disaster risk reduction and resilience building into development policies and strategies.
- NYU Abu Dhabi’s methodology to assess water resource in fragile contexts was used by the UN system in Samoa to guide future action in this regard. The methodology produced a comprehensive study that covered ocean, mangrove swamps, rivers, creeks, rainwater, bottled water etc. using three lenses: mineral concentration, microbiology and microplastic.
- In October, UN Women organized an awareness seminar with private sector representatives on women economic empowerment principles, and how they can advance gender equality in the workplace, marketplace, and community. This seminar was attended by representatives of 20 private sector entities in the UAE.

PARTNERSHIPS

CULTURAL DIPLOMACY

- In September, UNESCO has announced the Emirate of Sharjah as a new member of the Global Network of Learning Cities. The network aims to support and accelerate the practice of lifelong learning, and member cities work actively to promote SDG 4 and SDG 11, as well as engage with other members of the network in a variety of activities to develop, implement, and monitor learning cities strategies.
- In collaboration with the UNDRR Regional Office for Arab States, UCLG Learning, and Arab Towns Organization, the United Cities and Local Governments Middle East and West Asia (UCLG MEWA) organized a 2-day training in Dibba, Fujairah on disaster risk reduction and urban resilience for Arab Cities. Over 80 participants from 40 Arab cities joined the training, aimed at increasing the awareness level of municipalities and local administrations on disaster risk reduction strategies and helping cities integrate disaster risk reduction and resilience building into development policies and strategies.
- UNFPA held a high-level conversation on anti-racism led by UNFPA Executive Director Ms. Natalia Kanem in March. The session discussed how to promote and protect the rights of people of African descent and included a provoking conversation on racism and prejudice in modern societies.



(Left to right) Dr. Luay Shabaneh, UNFPA Director for the Arab region, Ms. Shireen Lillian Dodson, United Nations Ombudsman, Mr. Lunga Kupiso, Broadcaster & Youth Activist, Ms. Natalia Kanem, UNFPA Executive Director, Mr. Maher Nasser, Commissioner-General of the UN at EXPO2020 & UN Director of Global Outreach

SDGS THROUGH THE ARTS

The “SDGs Through the Arts” initiative that was launched in 2021 by the United Nations in UAE and art incubator ZeeArts has now been replicated in five more countries: Bangladesh, Iraq, Seychelles, Mauritius, and Comoros, with plans to expand to more countries.

The UN in UAE proudly continues to support this impactful SDG advocacy work beyond the UAE. The initiative continues to raise awareness on the importance of the SDGs and inspire people to act towards achieving them. By involving local artists and young people, a sense of ownership and empowerment has been created around sustainability.

The original curation brought together UAE-based artists to interpret each SDG, and was prominently exhibited at the UN Hub in Expo2020. It is also featured on the cover of this report.



Members of the Emirates Youth Symphony Orchestra in a special performance during the UN Day Event in Dubai, UAE.

- The United Nations in the UAE celebrated UN Day on 24 October with a special performance by the Emirates Youth Symphony Orchestra, led by Maestro Riad Kudsi. The celebration also included UN staff members from UNICEF and WFP, sharing life stories and experiences in humanitarian field operations in various locations.



The pearl industry was once the cornerstone of the United Arab Emirates' economy. Now FAO is supporting the national government to strengthen this sector and introduce sustainable aquaculture to create new jobs, protect the environment and provide livelihoods. Photo Credit: ©FAO/FAME MEDIA



- FAO's programme to revive the UAE's pearl industry in partnership with Environment Abu Dhabi has achieved a milestone of 20,000 cultured pearls produced annually at the site of Abu Dhabi Pearls Projects in Al-Dhafra. This project is touted as exemplary providing not only aquatic benefits but also carried an important symbolic value for the Emirati identity.

- In November, UNESCO has recognized Al-Talli as a traditional handicraft practised in various parts of the UAE among Humanity's intangible heritage. Al-Talli is usually created with a combination of six cotton threads separated by a silver thread in the middle and requires significant skill that is handed down from one generation to the next.

UAE women embrace their heritage and culture through the Al Talli traditional embroidery skills. Photo Credit: © Dubai Culture & Art Authority, UAE, 2020



Abu Dhabi is surrounded by mangrove forests, which are home to a wealth of wildlife.



PLANET

IN FOCUS:

PARTICIPATION AT THE CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE (COP27)

The UN in UAE COP28 Task Team coordinated by the United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office for the UAE organized a series of events at COP27 in Egypt, focusing on key priority issues for COP28 to be hosted by the UAE in 2023. The goal behind this participation was to enrich the quality of programming at the UAE pavilion and to elevate the level of substantive engagement with UAE counterparts and with the global climate community ahead of COP28. This included organizing flagship events at the UAE pavilion, contributing UN speakers to events organized by UAE partners, and linking UAE speakers to events organized by the UN system across COP27.

In total, the UN RCO organized eight events at the UAE pavilion, provided 11 UN speakers and resource persons to 9 events organized by UAE partners, and facilitating speaking roles for five UAE resource persons in other UN events. The UN RCO and COP28 Task Team which is represented by various UN entities and agencies, also engaged heavily UAE and UN partners including organizing two technical level briefings between the COP28 presidency team and representatives from across the UN system. Beyond this work, the UN RCO also organized tens of bilateral meetings, outreach activities, and coordination sessions between UAE counterparts, UN entities, member States, observer organizations, youth groups, and other stakeholders participating at COP27.



(Left to right) Mr. Majid AlSuwaidi Director General for COP28, Eng. Waleed Salman, EVP Business Development & Excellence DEWA & Chairman of UN Global Compact Network UAE (UN GCN UAE), H.E Eng. Essa AlHashmi, Assistant Undersecretary (MOCCA), and Ms. Karolina Batcho, Climate Change & Partnerships Specialist UN UAE RCO during a panel discussion organized by UN GCN UAE and World Green Economy Organization (WGEO) on November 16, at the UAE Pavilion during COP27 Egypt.

Photo Credit: Office of the UAE Special Envoy for Climate Change

Key highlights include high profile events organized by the UN RCO at the UAE pavilion. The first event was on Loss and Damage in Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and was opened by H.E. Gaston Browne, Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda and Chair of AOSIS with interventions at the Ministerial level from Germany, Palau and Samoa. This event highlighted the centrality of coming out with a negotiated outcome that prioritises the needs of SIDS on Loss and Damage. Similarly, the last event held at the UAE pavilion was also organized by the UN RCO on the Global Stocktake included a briefing by Dr Farhan Akhtar, Co-facilitator for the Technical Dialogue and is chief scientist for climate change at the U.S. Department of State. This session also included remarks by the Kingdom of Tonga's permanent representative to NY, The UK's Foreign Secretary's Special Representative for Climate Change, as well as senior representatives from IRENA, the COP27 Climate Champions team, and the UN system.

This engagement was fruitful and highly appreciated by both UAE and UN counterparts, as it sets the preparatory groundwork for COP28 and future collaborations toward accelerating progress toward realizing climate change targets.

UN RCO EVENTS ORGANIZED AT THE UAE PAVILION

- **8 Nov:** Less Division, More Ambition: High-Level Dialogue on Loss and Damage in Small Islands Developing States
- **10 Nov:** Bystanders No More: Youth Activism for the Planet
- **10 Nov:** Science-Policy Interface for Climate Action
- **12 Nov:** Turning Ambition into Action through the Power of Partnerships: Scaling Up Anticipatory Action
- **12 Nov:** Urban Resilience and Climate Change Roadmap: Making Cities Resilient
- **15 Nov:** Climate Change Education for Social Transformation: On the Road to COP28
- **16 Nov:** Nature-based Solutions in Climate Action
- **17 Nov:** Global Stocktake: Climate Action Beyond COP28

SELECT UN RCO EVENTS AT OTHER VENUES:

- **12 Nov:** Science-Policy-Implementation Interface for Food Systems, SDG Pavilion
- **14 Nov:** COY17 to COP27 – Do the Youth really have a voice? SDG Pavilion
- **17 Nov:** UN COP27 and COP28 Joint Meeting: Building on the Outcomes of COP27, UNFCCC Pavilion

Panel discussion by the UN UAE RCO on 'Nature-based Solutions in Climate Action' at the UAE Pavilion during COP27 in Egypt. Photo credit: Raidan Al Saqqaf



PLANET

FOOD SYSTEMS

- FAO co-hosted the MENA Agrifood Innovation Days, organized in the framework of Food for the Future Summit during the EXPO2020 Food, Agriculture and Livelihood Week in February. The event also helped foster engagements between the public, private sector, cities, municipalities, academic and civil society to act in transforming agri-food systems for the MENA region.
- FAO hosted a high-level virtual meeting with representatives from the GCC and Yemen to discuss the Blue Transformation for Food Security and Climate Change aimed to enhance underwater food systems. This is part of the Summit spotlighting the state of the global fishing industry and sustainable aquaculture practices considering the growing global demand for fish and other aquatic foods.
- FAO supported the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment (MOCCA) in a multi-partner awareness generation campaign on “Healthy Diets from Sustainable Food Systems” (known as Food for Life Campaign) which brought health, nutrition, and planetary well-being together. FAO provided technical assistance and knowledge sharing and produced a video on healthy diets, good nutrition, and sustainable food systems. In addition, FAO actively engaged with the Dubai Municipality for the celebration of the 4th World Food Safety Day (7 June 2022) and the participation in the 16th Dubai International Food Safety Conference (1-3 November 2022).



Mariam bint Mohammed Almheiri
@mariamalmheiri

What a great turnout at today's consultation on 'Food Systems and Agriculture Priorities and Potential'! I enjoyed our discussion on driving climate action in the food systems and agriculture space. I thank @uaeclimateenvoy, @FAA_Alliance & @UN_UAE #UNGA

Tweet from HE Mariam Almheiri, UAE Minister of Climate Change and Environment.

- On the International Day of Food Loss and Waste in September, UNEP convened 21 hospitality industry leaders in UAE in partnership with Goumbook to make commitments to reduce food waste and promote resilient-ready and sustainable consumption patterns. This event was a part of UNEP's Recipe of Change campaign, that intends to raise awareness about the detrimental effect of food waste on the environment.
- FAO in cooperation with ADAFSA and MOCCA organized a series of training workshops to develop the national capacities of veterinarians in monitoring animal diseases and investigating disease outbreaks. The training workshops strengthened the capacity of veterinary authorities and national experts in surveillance of animal diseases and zoonoses, risk assessment, early warning systems and eradication of transboundary animal diseases.
- FAO and ADAFSA held workshops to showcase analytical models for evidence-based decision making, including Farm Typology Classification, Productivity Frontier Analysis, Cost Benefit Optimization, Market Structure Analysis, and Market Competitiveness Gap. The resulting analyses will inform the Master Plan for Sustainable Agriculture in Abu Dhabi and help identify ways to maximize returns for farmers while promoting sustainability.
- In August, WFP and MOCCA co-organized a media roundtable around the crisis facing the world as a result of climate change and conflict. The roundtable also discussed the direct impact food availability and supply chain resilience has on vulnerable communities around the world as food prices increase across the globe. WFP assistance is a lifeline for millions of refugees and other vulnerable persons around the world now more than ever.

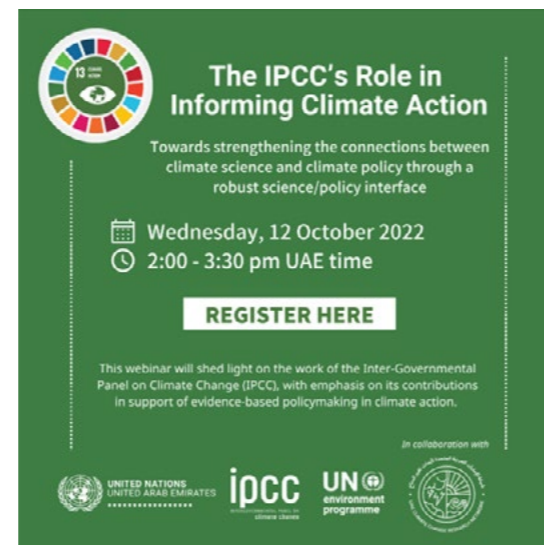
A pledge is signed as part of UNEP's Recipe of Change campaign in Dubai. Mr. Sami Dimassi, UNEP Representative & Regional director for West Asia with a group of hotels representatives in the UAE



PLANET

CLIMATE ACTION

- The UAE hosted the first-ever MENA Climate Week in March, supported by the UNFCCC and its Regional Collaboration Centre for MENA and SA, in close collaboration with core partners: UNDP, UNEP, and the World Bank Group. Partners based in MENA include the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), the League of Arab States (LAS) Secretariat, and UNESCWA. The event intended to accelerate collaboration and integrate climate action into global pandemic recovery. It included over 160 events organized over 3 tracks, focusing on national climate change actions, climate-resilient development, and seizing transformative opportunities. The conference's proceedings marshalled efforts towards addressing social inequalities and investing in economic development that is good for humanity and nature, capitalizing on COP27 and COP28 that will both take place in the MENA region.
- UNEP awarded the Environment Agency Abu Dhabi with the World Restoration Flagship Award for 2022 in recognition for the agency's efforts to restore coral, mangrove, and seagrasses along Abu Dhabi coast. During the ceremony, UNEP's Executive Director Inger Andersen stated that: "Abu Dhabi's efforts to restore coastal habitats are a clear sign that it's not too late reverse course and give nature a second chance."
- On World Environment Day in June, the UN in UAE called for collective action on climate change, nature, and biodiversity loss. UNEP in partnership with the Swedish Government, shared the #OnlyOneEarth practical guide to living sustainably in harmony with nature. #OnlyOneEarth calls for collective, transformative action on a global scale to celebrate, protect and restore our planet.
- The UN RCO participated in The Arab Green Summit in June. The Resident Coordinator addressed the conference on transformative changes in the economy to enable achievement of the SDGs. And to promote a generation of economic growth that is inclusive, green, and sustainable.



On the Road to COP28, the UN RCO launched a series of 28 webinars on topical issues relating to COP28, with wide UN and non-UN participation to engage UAE audiences on related matters.



The Dugong MOU aims to promote internationally coordinated actions to ensure the long-term survival of dugongs and their seagrass habitats throughout their extensive range.

- The UN RCO participated in the Convention on Biodiversity's COP15 – part 2 in December in Montreal. The RCO organized an event between the UN biodiversity focal points and the UAE COP28 presidency-delegate team to explore engagements at COP28 in relation to biodiversity preservation, nature-positive climate action, among other relevant issues.
- Also, at COP15 in Montreal, the UN UAE RCO's Technical lead for COP28 Dr. Raidan AlSaqqaf participated in a session on "Interconnecting UN action to achieve biodiversity goals", linking the post-2020 Biodiversity Framework with other overlapping multilateral frameworks. This session was organized by the UN University Institute for Environment and Human Security, with the participation of UNDP, UNEP, and FAO in addition to the UN RCO.
- The Abu Dhabi Office for the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS) has onboarded four new staff members to expand its work. This includes promoting the use of the Dugong and Seagrass Research Toolkit to support researchers and scientists in adopting best practices in monitoring and managing dugongs and the seagrass, ecosystems within their distribution range. The CMS Office Abu Dhabi plans additional steps to promote and implement conservation activities for dugongs, African-Eurasian raptors, and other migratory species of regional importance in the months to come.



PEACE

PEACE

IN FOCUS:

SHE BUILDS PEACE UN-UAE COOPERATION IN WOMEN, PEACE, AND SECURITY

The UAE is the United Nations' key strategic partner in the region in advancing the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) agenda, working with the dual long-term goals of strengthening the role of women in peace processes as well as expanding the opportunities for women leadership in peace and security matters.

This partnership includes three elements: providing training and capacity building for women peacebuilders in both civilian and military capacities; working to strengthen international frameworks advancing WPS work, including through the security council; as well as technical-level engagements with UN entities including UN Women, UN-DPPA, and UN-DPO.

The UAE also contributes financially to UN programming in WPS-related areas globally, provided training for 600 women from 22 countries in peacekeeping and related matters, and continues to host a variety of international meetings to advance this agenda.

In September 2022, the UAE hosted an International WPS conference that discussed the implementation of Security Council Resolutions related to WPS, emphasizing equal participation of women and their full involvement in peace and security in conflict and post-conflict setting. The conference also presented UAE's National Action Plan for implementation.

HE Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation emphasized the UAE's support to the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda within the frameworks of the United Nations, especially in light of the UAE's current membership in the UN Security Council.

USG Jean-Pierre Lacroix (Center), Head of UN Department of Peace Operations, during a visit to the Khawla bint AlAzwar Military Academy in October. ©UN Women UAE



Images from the International Women Peace and Security Conference in Abu Dhabi. Below: Ms Paivi Kannisto, UN Women Chief of Peace and Security and Dr Mouza Al Shehhi, UN Women Gulf Liaison Office Director with cadets from the Sheikhha Fatima bint Mubarak Women Peace and Security Initiative.



PEACE

DIPLOMACY

- On the passing of His Highness, the late Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE, the UN General Assembly gathered to pay tribute to his memory on 20 May 2022, and the United Nations lowered its flag to half-mast on this sombre occasion at headquarters and across its 14 premises in the UAE. United Nations General Assembly President Csaba Kőrösi said that HH Sheikh Khalifa's larger than life legacy demonstrated sheer political will and astute politico-economic acumen. Adding that he showed genuine compassion for his people, broke barriers, and gave a clear vision for the UAE's future.
- Following a closed meeting, the UN Security Council issued a statement condemning in the strongest terms the heinous terrorist attacks in Abu Dhabi in January, as well as in other sites in Saudi Arabia. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres separately condemned the attacks. The attacks were committed and claimed by the Houthi militia and involved a combination of ballistic and cruise missiles and drones that struck an industrial zone in Abu Dhabi and a construction site at Abu Dhabi International Airport, killing three civilians and injuring six others.
- The UAE assumed the presidency of the UN Security Council for March 2022. It announced three priorities for its presidency: The Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) agenda; climate security; and cooperation between the Council and the League of Arab States during the month. Under the UAE's Presidency, the UN Security Council adopted four resolutions and issued two presidential statements and four press statements.



UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres pays tribute to the late President of the UAE, His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, at the UN General Assembly. Photo credit: UAE Mission to UN

- The UAE Presidency organized a ministerial-level Security Council open debate on the International Women's Day that was chaired by HE Mariam Almheiri, Minister of Climate Change and Environment. It also convened three signature events on women's economic inclusion, cooperation between the UN and the League of Arab States, and on climate finance and conflict prevention strategies. The latter was chaired by HE Dr Sultan Al Jaber, UAE Special Envoy for Climate Change.
- The UAE co-sponsored a General Assembly Resolution (A/RES/76/269) proclaiming 24 June to be International Day of Women in Diplomacy. The day is intended to promote the full and equal participation of women in all levels of diplomacy, and the UAE marked the first day of Women in Diplomacy at the UN General Assembly.
- The UAE was elected to serve on the UN Women Executive Board for the 2023-2025 term. The UAE Permanent Mission to the United Nations reiterated the country's commitment to continue advancing gender equality and empowerment of women and girls around the world.
- The UN's Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space elected the representative of the UAE, Mr. Omran Sharaf, to serve as the Committee Chair for the years 2023-2024. The committee meets annually in Vienna and is tasked with reviewing international cooperation in peaceful uses of outer space and related activities, and reports to the Fourth Committee of the UN General Assembly.
- In October, UAE Minister of State for Financial Affairs, HE Mohamed Al Hussaini, was elected as chairman of the World Bank - IMF Joint Development Committee, comprising of the boards of governors of both entities. This committee is tasked with facilitating cooperation between the two entities and achieve consensus on policies and priorities vis-à-vis support provided to developing countries.

INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY

- In September, the UNOCT launched its targeted capacity-building Action Plan for the UAE on Countering the Financing of Terrorism. The first capacity development workshop focused on applying risk-based approach and strengthening compliance with preventive measures. The workshop was co-organized with the Executive Office for Control and Non-Proliferation (EOCN), with over 200 officials participating in the event.
- In November, the third cohort of women peacekeepers graduated from the Sheikha Fatima bint Mubarak Women, Peace, and Security Initiative. This cohort included 159 trainees in both civilian and military capacities from 14 Arab, African and Asian countries to ensure diversity and inclusion.
- UNODC and the UAE Government further strengthened their collaboration in the field of combating money laundering and the financing of terrorism, as illustrated by the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on 13 October between the Executive Director of UNODC and the Director General of the UAE Executive Office of Anti Money Laundering and Counter Terrorism Financing. UNODC continues to support UAE authorities towards enhancing the effectiveness of the national anti-money laundering regime, by providing investigative agencies with strategic advice and capacity-building as well as by facilitating the exchange of experiences and good practices with other countries across the region.
- In February, UNODC and Dubai Police announced the creation of a Diploma Programme on Combating Money Laundering – the third of its kind after the ones successfully launched on Combating Trafficking in Persons and on Drug Control Strategies. The first two phases of the new diploma programme were completed in 2022 with over 100 participants from multiple agencies working against money laundering in the UAE. Moreover, 20 officials successfully completed a training-of-trainers session delivered by UNODC to establish the diploma programme's core team of instructors. UNODC conducted further training for multi-sector officials on countering proliferation financing.
- The UAE's efforts in combating money laundering were showcased during an online side event organized in May on the margins of the 31st session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Vienna.
- In July and October, UNODC facilitated experience-sharing between national authorities combating money laundering and terrorism financing between Egypt and the UAE and discussed strategies for enhancing bilateral and regional cooperation in this regard.
- UNODC also implemented a joint programme with the Training Centre of Dubai Customs to enhance its curriculum and capacity to deliver effective and sustainable training for customs officers in the areas of criminal intelligence as well as risk management.



Joint UN Pavilion at the Dubai International Humanitarian Aid and Development Conference and Exhibition (DIHAD)

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

- The United Nations in the UAE has upgraded its international humanitarian response capabilities in 2022, in response to growing humanitarian needs around the world and to benefit from the expanded space made available from the International Humanitarian City (IHC) in Dubai. This is an ongoing and necessary investment to respond to more complex, demanding, protracted and sudden crises around the world.
- The UN system in the UAE marked the World Humanitarian Day in August through the “It Takes a Village” campaign, raising awareness on the role of collective action and solidarity to support most vulnerable members of society at times of crisis.
- Several UN agencies contributed to the 18th DIHAD conference under the theme “SDG17, Partnership and Cooperation for Sustainable Development”, which took place in March. Eight UN entities also participated, through a joint UN pavilion, at the DIHAD exhibit which accompanied the conference. The pavilion included an exhibit showcasing the long and strategic partnership of the UN in the UAE over 50 years. The UN UAE also contributed to OCHA's pre-DIHAD workshop under the theme of programming across the humanitarian-development nexus.



- The UN in UAE was the first responder to the crisis in Ukraine in February 2022. WHO Dubai dispatched trauma and emergency surgery kits, as well as essential medicines and supplies in less than 48 hours of the Russian invasion.
- In December, WHO held the first strategic meeting to upgrade WHO's logistics hub in Dubai to become its global health emergencies hub. This entails significant expansions to enable the hub to respond to future emergencies. With 20 warehouses, it is already WHO's largest depot by space, but it will require further investments to become an integrated response facility that can lead the international community's fight against future global crises, particularly those with health concerns at their core such as pandemics.
- The WFP Global Fleet Centre in the UAE dispatched 425 trailers to support the humanitarian operation inside Ukraine since the start of the conflict. They were delivered through Constanta Port in Romania through DP World.
- In August, WFP and IFRC signed an MoU to cooperate in support of joint advocacy, capacity development, and resource mobilization for coordinated national-level anticipatory action in response to climate shocks in the Middle East and North Africa. The signing took place at an event discussing anticipatory action as critical in mitigating the impact of predictable climate risks.

PEACE

- The UAE provided over US\$380 million in humanitarian aid in 2022, over half of which focused on the health sector. Ethiopia was the largest recipient of UAE humanitarian aid in 2022, receiving US\$171 million in 2022 (45.7 per cent of all UAE aid).
- WFP's Fast Information Technology and Telecommunications Emergency and Support Team (FITTEST), headquartered in Dubai, is expanding the roll-out of uniquely designed mobile telecommunications units that will be deployed to humanitarian operations. This includes pre-positioning comprehensive fail-proof connectivity systems, such as the deployment of a security operations centre in Rzeszow, Poland in March, which will be further instalment in Lviv, Ukraine.
- The Emergency Telecommunications Cluster has expanded its training support to humanitarian missions around the world to build the infrastructure for servicing larger and more complex humanitarian operations. In October, the cluster delivered a technical training workshop in Dubai to boost the capacity of 15 Syrian ICT specialists from six UN agencies, with the goal of strengthening the response infrastructure and speed of the humanitarian response operation ahead of an expected difficult winter in Syria.
- In October, WHO and UAE signed an agreement in support of Al Makassed Hospital in East Jerusalem. The grant will promote the delivery of quality health services for over 130,000 people. The agreement was signed in coordination with the Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process (UNSCO), as a part of the UAE's broader support for the Palestinian people.
- In March, the UAE has airlifted 88 metric tonnes of UNHCR relief items to Warsaw in support of the emergency response in Ukraine and neighbouring countries. This airlift is part of the UN's humanitarian response airbridge between the UN operation in the UAE and countries hosting refugees from Ukraine.
- Following a UNICEF appeal, the UAE provided a significant contribution to the Ethiopia Famine Relief Fund in July. This contribution was used to procure much-needed ready-to-use therapeutic foods (RUTF) targeting the most vulnerable children.
- In partnership with the IHC, 90 tons of aid from the WHO and IFRC were dispatched to Khartoum, Sudan as part of the emergency relief operation in September 2022. The floods affected 200,000 persons in six states in Sudan.
- Emirates Airlines offered ten flight rotations to deliver humanitarian aid to survivors of the floods in Pakistan in July. UNHCR, WHO, and WFP availed of this generous offer through the IHC targeting 13,600 persons to shore-up existing response capacity on the ground.
- UNHCR sent core relief items in 22 airlifts through IHC for the people affected by the floods in Pakistan. The airlifts departed UAE in September 2022 and enabled providing life-saving relief assistance to over 113,000 refugees, internally displaced persons, and locals.

- Following a UNICEF appeal, the UAE provided contribution of US\$6 million to the Ethiopia Famine Relief Fund in July. This contribution was used to procure much-needed ready-to-use therapeutic foods (RUTF) targeting the most vulnerable children.
- UNHCR and the Embassy of Canada partnered to host a panel discussion on "Refugees of the Future – protection through mobility, opportunity for growth" in March. The hybrid event hosted at the UN Hub at EXPO2020 highlighted the challenges of refugees accessing the labour market including participation in private sector and civil society.
- UNHCR co-organized a two-day conference on the Promotion of the Values of Tolerance and Coexistence in cooperation with UAE University in March, on the side-lines of EXPO2020.
- In September, UNHCR organized a panel discussion at the International Government Communication Forum in collaboration with Sharjah Media Bureau. The session was titled "Shaping a new world for refugees" in participation of refugee youth from Jordan, Representatives of Accenture UAE and Middle East, and UNHCR's Chief of Private Sector Partnerships.
- IOM jointly with the United States Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP) and Canadian resettlement entities resettled over 4,417 refugees from Afghanistan in coordination with UAE NCEMA and MOFAIC throughout the year.

Shipment to Poland for Ukraine's emergency response in March 2022. Photo credit: ©UNHCR/ Ola Anan





PEOPLE

PEOPLE

IN FOCUS:

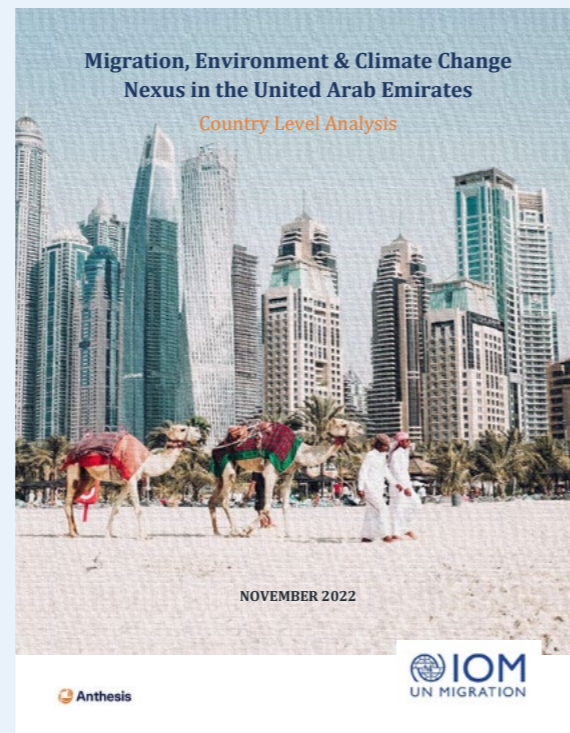
MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

The UAE has well established institutional frameworks relating to the protection and well-being of migrants in the country and continues to play a leadership role, including in regional and global processes such as the Abu Dhabi Dialogue on Migration. In 2022, the UAE submitted its first review of the implementation of the Global Compact on Migration, detailing the actions the country is taking in response to its international commitments in this regard.

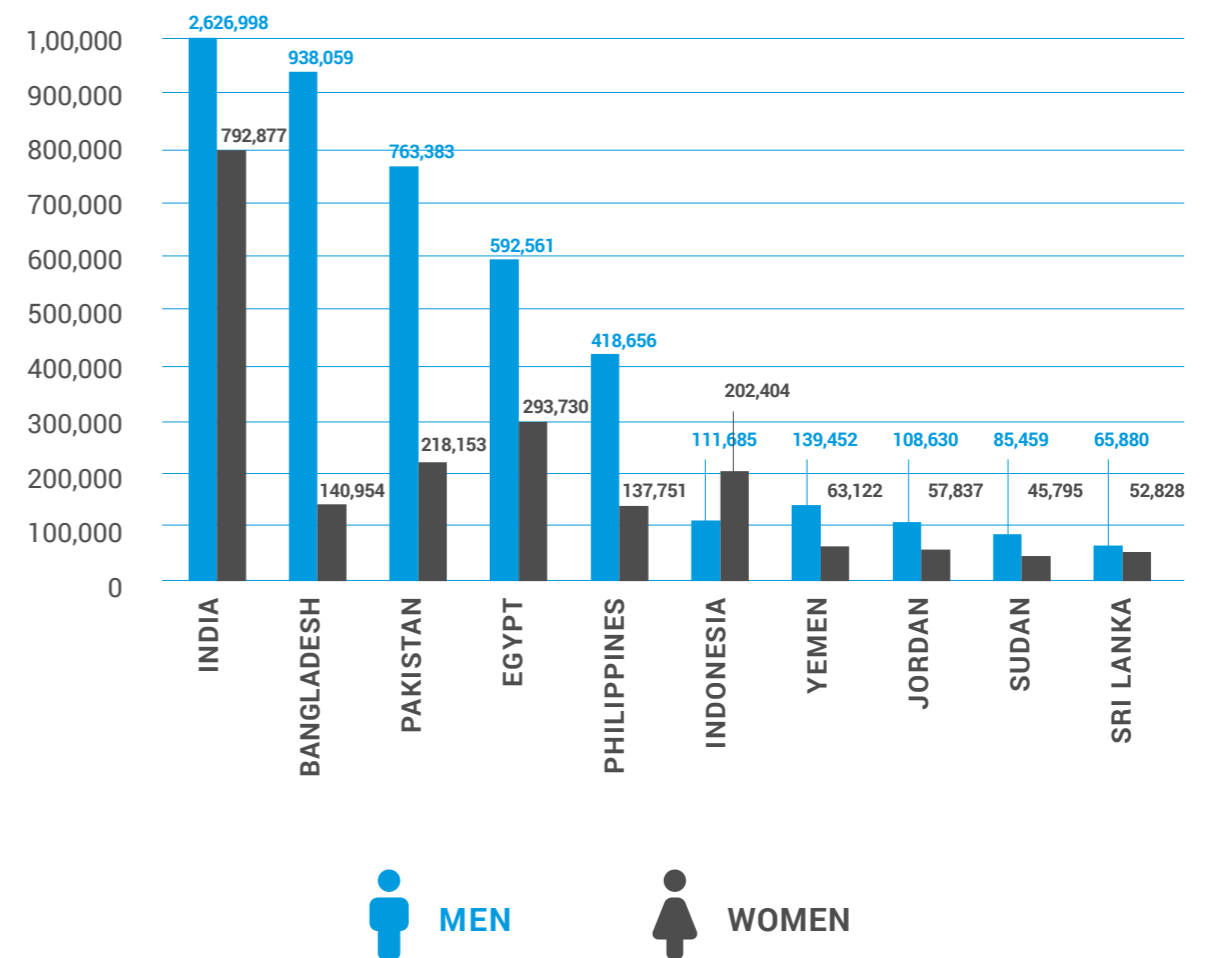
In late 2021, the UN established a UAE-specific Migration Working Group tasked with deepening the UN's work on migration and development in the context of the UAE. The working group produced two research documents in 2022, the first on healthcare provisions for migrant workers in the context of COVID-19, and the second one examining the Migration, Environment and Climate Change Nexus in the UAE. A forthcoming output focuses on the contributions of migrants in the UAE to the country's development, and the efforts in place to attract and retain human capital in the country.

In support of the most vulnerable migrant populations in the UAE, the UN system has a series of programmes to facilitate their access to protection, opportunity, and improve their quality of life. For instance, UNCDF partnered with RAKBANK and Edenred to support and improve access and usage of the digital remittance channel through C3Pay—Edenred's solution that enables migrants to receive their wages digitally. The ILO also updated its factsheet on the regulatory framework in September. The updated brief captures recent reforms in this area for both private sector workers and for domestic workers, covered by the labour law (Decree 33/2021) and Cabinet resolution 22/2019 respectively.

UNODC also spearheads technical support to UAE authorities to counter trafficking in persons as a part of trans-regional action against migrant smuggling and broader human trafficking. Examples of this support include training 74 UAE officers to investigate human trafficking criminal activity, and engaging with various entities holding responsibilities for prevention, detection, and prosecution of human trafficking.



KEY MIGRATION STOCK IN THE UAE



Source: UN DESA, International Migrant Stock 2020

PEOPLE

POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

- In January, the WHO executive board has approved the UAE's proposal to create a global framework for well-being and health promotion, toward improving quality of life for all. The proposal asked WHO to develop a global strategy for achieving well-being spanning physical, mental, and social well-being among other areas of relevance.
- In March, UAE officials participated in a transregional meeting facilitated by UNODC, on combatting migrant smuggling with the participation of 14 countries including Gulf, Asian, and African countries. The meeting discussed trends, patterns, and challenges in addressing migrant smuggling, and facilitated the exchange of operational successes and good practices. Participants committed to maintaining channels of direct communication and information exchange to strengthen cooperation against transregional migrant smuggling.
- UNODC collaborated with the UAE National Rehabilitation Centre (NRC) on the annual conference of the International Society of Substance Use Professionals (ISSUP) in Abu Dhabi in May. In this context, UNODC presented scientific contents relating to drug use prevention and co-facilitated training focused on the UNODC-WHO International Standards on Drug Use Prevention and the nature/etiological response to drug problem and the international drug control system for around 20 policy makers from South-East Europe, South-East Asia, Middle East and North Africa and South Asia. UNODC further facilitated consultations between the UAE NRC and the African Union Commission on the prospects of NRC supporting African countries in building solid treatment and rehabilitation programmes in line with international standards as well as the UNODC's Strategic Vision for Africa 2030.
- In September, WHO and the Ministry of Health and Prevention co-organized a training workshop with teachers and educational support staff to spot psychological and behavioural issues in students at earlier stages to tailor the support needed. The workshop also discussed methods and options to provide the support needed as well as referral, counselling, and other avenues to provide the children the support they need.
- The UAE took part in the first International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) in May in New York and submitted its first Voluntary National Report on the implementation of the GCM in April, which highlighted the country's progress in implementing the Compact's 23 objectives and the numerous changes in policy and legislative frameworks that the UAE has enacted in line with the GCM. UAE also supported the adoption of the Progress Declaration at the IMRF outlining priority areas of work.
- In February, IOM launched its strategy for the Gulf Countries (2021 - 2024). This strategy adheres to the IOM framework focusing on the interlinks between Migration and Sustainable Development, the 2030 Agenda and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

- The UN's Inter-Agency Working Group on Migration, which is the UN Network on Migration in the UAE, has concluded research to analyse the links between human mobility and climate change in the UAE. The analysis highlighted water scarcity, increased temperatures and sand and dust storms as some of the main climate-change related challenges and their impact on human mobility – i.e. that the UAE has faced more climate-related risks compared to other countries, causing 850 new disaster-induced cases of displacements recorded in 2017 alone. It also noted the adaptation measures the country enacted and efforts to mitigate future impacts of climate change, highlighting the need for these measures to be inclusive.
- The Inter-Agency Working Group on Migration also started a second analysis on the human capital stock and the contributions of migrants to the UAE economy, as well as the extent of support provided for more vulnerable segments of society drawing on the lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- IOM continues to pilot the Comprehensive Information and Orientation Programme (CIOP), an innovative project that aims to strengthen the labour market integration and protection of migrant workers in Abu Dhabi Dialogue (ADD) Member States. IOM provides technical support through the development of tools and mechanisms to operationalize a management system for tailored and coordinated orientation services that caters to the needs of migrant workers in Asian and Gulf countries.

- Commemorating the International Day for Social Justice in February, the ILO organized a special screening of Oscar-nominated film CODA at the UN Hub at Expo2020. CODA is short for Child of Deaf Adults, depicting a powerful story about disability inclusion and family relationships.



- With contributions from UNICEF and UNESCO, the UAE's Ministry of Education organized a two-phase national consultation in June and August involving more than 100 officials, partners, and stakeholders representing 30 entities to feed into the Transforming Education Summit. The consultations touched on key issues such as learning processes, life-long education, transition from school to work, gender in education, impact of COVID on education, among other topics.
- On 26 September, UNODC together with the Dubai Police and the Dubai Judicial Institute, under the auspices of the National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking, launched the 8th edition of the Diploma Programme on Combating Trafficking in Persons. This year, 122 participants – from government and non-government sectors across the UAE, the other GCC countries as well as Egypt, Jordan and Morocco – enrolled in the programme.

PEOPLE



Young people signing the Outcome Declaration from the UAE's first Local Conference of the Youth (LCOY) ahead of COP27 Egypt.

YOUTH

- Ahead of COP27 in Egypt, the UN in UAE supported the undertaking of a Local Conference of Youth (LCOY) as well as a Regional Conference of Youth (R-COY) to feed into the COY17 conference and the COP27 conference. More than 200 young people and 30 speakers contributed to both events in September and October.
- The UN RCO addressed youth in the UAE on how the UN in UAE can better engage youth in the global discussions and decision-making process. The UN Resident Coordinator delivered her address during the ECOSOC Youth Forum, emphasizing her support to youth on climate action in advent of COP28. Additionally, the UN RC offered a mentorship programme to engage UAE youth with various UN agencies working in the country on programmatic areas, which is under development with MOFAIC
- Marking International Youth Day in August, under the theme “Intergenerational Solidarity”, the UN in UAE launched a series of media dialogues with leading youth change makers calling to action for youth engagement on the SDGs. The dialogues included UN Secretary General’s Youth Climate Advisor Vladamir Kaim and Emirati filmmaker Al Dana Al Hashimi, among others and were featured on the UN UAE digital platforms.



Group photo with Emirati youth participants and the UN UAE RCO team during the UN Youth Cafe, held at IHC in Dubai.

- On the side-lines of UN Day in October, the UN RCO launched the UN Youth Café, inviting Emirati youth to learn about the UN’s work globally as well as the UN-UAE relationship and engage them on the SDGs. The series of consultations aim to provide insights on the UAE’s youth priorities and interests. The first consultation event was organized in collaboration with IHC Dubai and provided the 20 participants with a unique tour into the showroom and warehouse facilities of multiple UN agencies to learn more about the humanitarian response operations from the UAE. The workshops aim to improve awareness of the UN’s work in the UAE as well as national progress towards the SDGs. Emirati youth also learned about the global UN System and various agencies that constitute the UN Country Team for the UAE, as well as their roles and mandates in international development and humanitarian response operations. Through heightened awareness about the UN, the UN Youth Café will also encourage interest of Emirati youth in careers with the UN.
- UNDP’s AYAMI, in commemoration of International Youth Day, promoted the SDGs through art, music, and photography through a photo competition. “Share a photo that represents your favourite SDG” is an initiative aimed at youth to enhance visibility and representation of the SDGs in a creative manner.
- UNESCO and UNFCCC held a session with UAE Youth on climate education ahead of COP27 in Egypt. The webinar included the UAE’s Nature Ambassador, Ms Hoor Ahli, who discussed the importance of climate change education through curriculums and beyond, as well as Ayshka Najib who is a youth climate advocate and co-organizer of the UAE’s first LCOY.
- The UN RCO held a series of discussions with youth climate change advisors on their messages for action on the “Act4SDGs campaign” and featured the short video series on the UN UAE digital platforms. The social media series are part of the “Flip the Script” campaign, which seeks ways in which youth can commit to international efforts on the SDGs.
- The UN RCO conducted an online Youth Dialogue on Peace and Security in September. The dialogue targeted young women and men within 18-29 age group living in the Arab region on what peace means to them. This dialogue falls under a global initiative by the Executive Office of the Secretary-General to advance the Youth, Peace, and Security Agenda.
- In December, UNDP and the Arab Youth Centre hosted the 8th Regional Youth Leadership Forum in Abu Dhabi, which included the graduation of the first cohort of Arab Youth Development Delegates. Over three days, the forum discussed access to quality education (SDG4) as a means of transforming the future of the young men and women in the Arab region, as quality, comprehensive, inclusive, and adequate education is key to socio-economic mobility, escaping poverty and having access to decent employment. The forum is a flagship outcome from UNDP’s Shababeek Programme.



Hoor Ahli, Emirati Climate Activist featured in the UN UAE social media campaign as part of the “Flip the Script” global campaign, highlighting youth action for the SDGs.

PEOPLE

- UNDP and the UAE's The Big Heart Foundation (TBHF) partnered to provide transformative entrepreneurship support to youth who are most at risk of falling into extreme poverty in Palestine and Lebanon. The joint project addresses the challenges that youth-led micro, small & medium enterprises (MSMEs) face in accessing new markets, and incubates viable, innovative, impactful and sustainable development solutions.
- UNICEF continued its collaboration in the country, especially with a focus on child rights and child protection issues. In partnership with the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood (SCMC), a series of campaigns on mental health and online safety was launched that had a combined reach of over 5 million. A partnership with telecommunications company Du contributed to these efforts.
- Strategic efforts were supported by and for the involvement of children and youth. In the UAE, UNICEF appointed three youth advocates, with links to the national children council. UNICEF was involved in the capacity building of the Children's Advisory Council. The Community Development Authority, Dubai launched the Child Rights Education toolkit in Dubai, and it is being implemented in nearly 40 private and public schools in Dubai, benefiting potentially over 16,000 children.
- A platform and content for early childhood development (ECD), focussed on the First 1,000 days, has been created in collaboration with Ministry of Health, with a campaign to follow.



H.E Shamma AlMazrui, UAE Minister of Youth Affairs at the 8th Regional Youth Leadership Forum in Abu Dhabi

- UNICEF continued to promote improved governance at local level as part of the child-friendly city initiative (CFCI). In 2022, UNICEF and the Sharjah Emirate developed child-friendly guidelines for nurseries and schools that will be implemented locally in 2023. Sharjah's Child-friendly Office is also contributing – both financially and programmatically - to pilot UNICEF's new monitoring tools for Child-friendly Cities globally.
- The ongoing successful collaboration between UNDP and the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Knowledge Foundation (MBRF) resulted in the Knowledge Summit 2022 and the Youth Knowledge Forum, both facilitating knowledge sharing and development on themes such as future employment, virtual opportunities, financial literacy, social innovation, industry developments, and health. The Future of Knowledge Foresight Report 2022 – highlighting the need for transformative capacities – and the Global Knowledge Index 2022 – measuring knowledge performance across 232 indicators – were launched at the event. The strong partnership between UNDP and MBRF, set to continue until 2030, is essential in promoting knowledge sharing and development in the region and beyond.

GENDER EQUALITY

- UN Women organized the SDG5 Summit in March on the International Women's Day. The summit discussed the state of gender equality and status of women across, political, economic, and social domains. The summit called on redoubling investments into women empowerment and in particular young women.
- The 2022 theme for Emirati Women's Day was "Inspiring Reality, Sustainable Future", which highlighted the many great contributions of Emirati women to sustainable development in the UAE and around the world. In this regard, Dr Mouza AlShehhi, Head of the UN Women Gulf Liaison Office, was recognized for her work .
- In December, the UAE hosted the launch of the Arab Declaration to Counter Violence Against Women and the Girl-child, with participation from UN Women, OHCHR, ESCWA, and the League of Arab States among other Emirati, regional, and global actors. The declaration was previously endorsed by the League of Arab States at the ministerial level in March and included new language to support the work of civil society in this regard.
- In August, UN Women and NAMA Women's association co-organized a workshop to create opportunities and programmes for women in procurement. The event aimed to support women-owned businesses to support entrepreneurs gain better access to business-to-business procurement opportunities through market linkages and networking with potential buyers of their products and services.
- UN Women and NAMA also launched the 2nd cohort of women advancement and mentoring programme in May. The programme aims to stimulate equal opportunities for women entrepreneurs and foster collaboration between mentor and mentees.

- The Arab Declaration to End All Forms of Violence against Women and Girls was launched on 6 December in Abu Dhabi. The declaration follows joint efforts by the UN system, League of Arab States, and other regional partners highlighting 38 specific actions to combat violence against women in the Arab region, including in the private, public, and virtual domains. UN Women and UNHCR organized a photo exhibition on the side-lines of the event on the detrimental impact of gender-based violence particularly in crisis settings.



Dr. Mouza AlShehhi, Director of UN Women UAE Liaison Office for the GCC, awarded on the occasion of the Emirati Women's Day in UAE. Photo credit: © UN Women UAE



A joint photo exhibition by UN Women and UNHCR in the UAE, during the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence. Photo credit: © UN Women UAE



PROSPERITY

PROSPERITY



"We can no longer **exploit our environment** and expect to live healthy lives moving forward. This is no longer a discussion between just scientists. **This is a global revolution.**"

Dena Assaf
United Nations Resident Coordinator
for the United Arab Emirates



#ISOannualmeeting

Dr. Dena Assaf, UN Resident Coordinator for the UAE, speaking on net-zero and climate action at the ISO Annual Meeting in Abu Dhabi. Photo credit: Twitter @isostandards

DEVELOPMENT POLICY

- Ahead of COP28, the UN Resident Coordinator for the UAE participated in the 7th session on the global platform for the Disaster Risk Reduction in Bali, Indonesia in May, as well as the 11th Session of the World Urban Forum in Katowice, Poland, and the SDG Investment Forum held in Paris in June. These engagements highlighted the intersectionality among the various development agendas relevant to climate change, and how COP28 can potentially contribute to advancing key issues such as adaptation, urbanization, and financing climate resilience.
- The UAE submitted its second Voluntary National Review (VNR) discussing progress in the implementation of the SDGs in July at the UN's High-Level Political Forum for Sustainable Development. The review cited that the UAE occupies the first rank in 152 international indicators among the top 10 countries in another 425 indicators.
- ESCWA organized four capacity development workshops to the Federal Competitiveness and Statistics Centre (FCSC) to estimate purchasing power parity including training on price data collection and validation for the different kinds of price surveys. The workshops took place in February, May, September, and November, and cover calculations of Consumer Price Index, harmonization with GCC, regional, and global indices.
- ESCWA and the Ministry of Economy organized a high-level workshop in August on Computable General Equilibrium (CGE) modelling, to enhance the capabilities of government agencies in formulating and implementing national economic strategies. This model provides a live demonstration of the impact of various economic policy options, including timed and sectoral impacts based on available information. The workshop discussed input and output tables, other countries' experiences, and various applications of the model.
- UNODC operationalized the Abu Dhabi Declaration Programme to prevent and combat corruption through effective implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption following its launch in December 2021. These efforts included the launch of the practical guide on enhancing inter-agency collaboration on preventing corruption, following a pilot workshop held in September.
- The UAE's Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure has developed an SDG7 Energy Compact for the decade of action to advance SDG7 on sustainable energy for all, in line with the goals of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

The compact indicated that 44% of the UAE's energy mix will be from clean sources by the end of the decade, and includes other ambitious plans in decarbonization, efficiency, and other areas toward realizing the NetZero by 2050 ambition.

- In his message to the 12th IRENA General Assembly in January, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called on the agency to advance international cooperation in four areas: tripling renewable capacity this decade; phase out coal by 2030 in OECD and 2040 globally; put a price on carbon and end fossil fuel subsidies; and ensure support for a just energy transition.
- UNDESA, UNCDF, and UNOPS launched the Arabic version of the Guide for Managing Infrastructure Assets for Sustainable Development in Dubai in March. The guide discusses the future of investment in infrastructure assets and managing them in the context of climate change and need to verify resilience adequacy of assets in the face of natural shocks.
- The UN Global Pulse and the Dubai Future Foundation have co-organized a foresight event in October focusing on developing 2050 global scenarios. This event focused on global data governance trends by 2050 and considerations for policymakers relating to data ownership and control, access, culture, security, among other aspects.



Ministerial segment to launch the Global Alliance on Green Economy during the World Green Economy Summit (WGES), with the participation of Dr. Dena Assaf, UN UAE RC and Mr. Ovais Sarmad, Deputy Executive Secretary, UNFCCC.

- The World Green Economy Summit organized by WGEO and DEWA and supported by the UNFCCC RCC for MENA and South Asia took place in September with strong UN participation. The summit had a triple focus on business' decarbonization, financing green growth, and resilience. It also included a dedicated segment for youth empowerment in this area.
- The UN UAE RC participated in the SDG Investment Forum held in France. The conference brought together chief financial officers from leading companies, and the RC emphasized the accelerated progress the UN in UAE has achieved in finance sustainability. The Investment Forum explored the future of corporate finance and investment as a catalyst for growth, value creation and social impact.
- The UN RCO engaged with the Dubai Sustainable Finance Working Group for the development of their ESG Maturity Model, launched in September. This model is a valuable tool in nudging private sector entities to consider their ESG standing and enact measures to improve their position.

PROSPERITY

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

- UNOOSA and the Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC) announced the awardees of their joint opportunity Payload Hosting Initiative (PHI) in September. Through the PHI programme, UNOOSA and MBRSC provide the possibility to host payloads on a satellite platform developed by the MBRSC. The programme also supports capacity-building and promotes space science and technology in developing countries and is an important opportunity for innovation and new technology demonstration. Payloads from the National Space Science Agency of the Kingdom of Bahrain and the Antarikchya Pratisthan Nepal were selected to be on board the PHI-1 mission.
- UNOOSA partnered with UNESCO and EXPO2020 on the International Day for Women and Girls in Science in February. Former UNOOSA Director Simonetta Di Pippo highlighted that space should be a tool for to both support socio-economic development and democracy. Additionally, she emphasized that diversity is an asset in the realization of this.
- In March, UNICRI's centre for Artificial Intelligence in partnership with the UAE Ministry of Interior hosted a virtual meeting with technology providers as part of the AI for Safer Children initiative. More than 40 technology companies attended the event to start conversations in various sectors on AI tools to combat online child sexual exploitation and abuse.
- UAE'S National Committee on SDGs in partnership with United Nations Committee of Big Data Experts, and other partners organized the UN Global Hackathon for Big Data in Yogyakarta, Indonesia in November. Nominees from UAE professional and data experts network as well as youth, students, and data enthusiasts from other countries around the world completed in the event. The



Tweet from HE Sarah Al Amiri, UAE Minister of State for Public Education and Advanced Technology

UAE's "Graph Out Loud" has won the key contributor award in the UN's global Hackathon for Big Data, while the UAE's "Sustainable Youth Hackers" won the best teen award.

- The UAE hosted the UN's International Conference and Workshop on Mobilizing Big Data and Data Science for the Sustainable Development Goals in January. That conference discussed the UN's cloud-service ecosystem dubbed United Nations Global Platform enables collaborations in data innovations, such as estimating the number of domestic tourists at local attractions, the shrinking or expanding sizes of water surfaces in urban infrastructure, or CO2 emissions of maritime transport, among other non-conventional data sources. It also hosted a Youth Circle on the impact of COVID-19 on young peoples' lives.
- In March, UNEP organized an event on digital solutions to address environmental challenges. The event highlighted the potential of blockchain technology to contribute to transparency in climate action, including in carbon markets, climate finance, and energy efficiency.
- FAO participated in and contributed to the International Conference on Water Resources Management and Sustainability: Solutions for Arid Regions, held at the UAE University in March 2022.
- The UN's regional Big Data Hub hosted at FCSC continues to work closely with the Statistics Division in DESA and in the regional commissions to integrate new data sources, facilitating knowledge sharing and providing access to big data sets, such as satellite imagery, sensor data, mobile phone records, scanner data with data science tools to respond to increasing demand for data and indicators.
- The Mohammed bin Rashid School of Government hosted the Consultative Conference on the Arab Digital Agenda and the Arab International Digital Cooperation and Development Forum in October. This is one of a series of events co-organized by ESCWA and the league of Arab States with other partners to develop a roadmap to accelerate digital cooperation among Arab countries feeding into the UN's Global Summit for the Future in September 2024.
- The UNWTO conducted an assessment of tourism statistics for the compilation of a Tourism Satellite Account (TSA) for the UAE, this included a road-map for implementation and a capacity-building workshop hosted in cooperation with the Ministry of Economy, with the participation of all concerned entities.



2023: A YEAR FOR THE PEOPLE AND FOR THE PLANET

As we move towards the year 2023, all eyes are on the United Arab Emirates as host of the 28th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28); and with the UAE announcing the year 2023 to be the “Year of Sustainability”.

The UAE has proven itself to be a reliable international partner working diligently in support of global goals in peace and security, humanitarian action, and now in climate change. The United Nations system in the UAE will work together with UAE partners to maximize the prospects of COP28’s success, eyeing the opportunities for accelerating the SDGs and the serious commitments and outcomes that COP28 will create at the national level and for the region.

Particularly, the UN in UAE’s COP28 Task Team will continue its engagements with UAE counterparts and will focus its efforts towards investing in various processes on the road to COP28. These include continuing the “28-for-28” webinar series, engaging with youth to amplify their voices to take climate action and build their capacities, as well as strengthening linkages between the climate change and biodiversity agendas.

The year 2023 will be a year for the people and for the planet, and the United Nations in the UAE remains committed and capable in carrying this mantle forward as it continues to serve its people and safeguards a healthy planet for all.



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