

Ending Poverty

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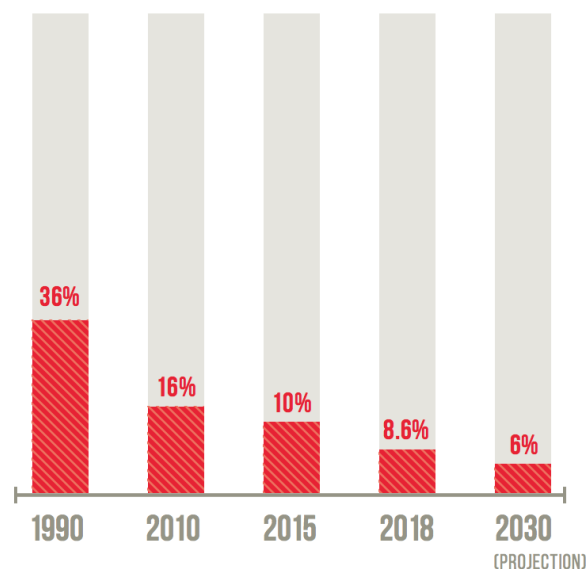
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Overview

The [United Nations](#) states that poverty entails more than the lack of income and productive resources to ensure sustainable livelihoods. Its manifestations include hunger and malnutrition, limited access to education and other basic services, social discrimination and exclusion, as well as the lack of participation in decision-making.

The [Sustainable Development Goal 1](#) of the UN is to end poverty in all its forms by 2030. With the share of the world population living in extreme poverty declining to 10 per cent in 2015, down from 16 per cent in 2010 and 36 per cent in 1990 it can be noted that the pace of poverty reduction is decelerating. The rate of poverty reduction was 8.6 per cent in 2018. At this rate it is projected that 6% of the world population will still be living in extreme poverty in 2030, missing the target of ending poverty.

THE WORLD IS NOT ON TRACK TO END POVERTY BY 2030



Source: [UN Infographic](#)

“The fastest way to end poverty is to eliminate ignorance. We plan to move from feeding the hungry to nurturing minds.”

*- Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum
Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE*

UAE has been working towards eliminating poverty in all its forms by providing high quality education leading to job opportunities thereby increasing the standard of living and social support to citizens who are unable to earn sufficient income to provide a decent life for their families.

Quality Education

It is an important factor to provide quality education for all which will create decent jobs enabling people to uplift themselves from poverty.

“The greatest use that can be made of wealth is to invest it in creating generations of educated and trained people.”

*~His Highness Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan
Founding President of the UAE*

In the [Federal Budget of 2019](#), AED 25.4 billion was allotted to social development and social benefits of which AED 10.8 million has been allotted to general, higher and university education programmes. The [Education 2020 strategy](#) by the [Ministry of Education](#) focuses on creating an educated Emirati population on par with international standards that will help them create good careers for themselves. The government has laid several laws especially Article 17 of the UAE's Constitution and Article 1 of Federal Law No. 11 of 1972 that mandates compulsory education for Emirati children at the age of 6 and remain in school till they have completed Grade 12 or age of 18 whichever occurs first.

By making education compulsory, UAE has been able to achieve more than 95% literacy rate in the country among both women and men which is a sharp contrast to the literacy rate in 1975 which was around 54% among men and 31% among women.

Social Support

In the [Federal Budget of 2019](#), AED 25.4 billion was allotted to social development and social benefits of which AED 10,233 million was allotted to social protection and 1,147.2 million was allotted to the housing programme.

The [Ministry of Community Development](#) (MOCD) seeks to monitor and improve social development in UAE. The programs and initiatives of the ministry focuses on creating a social security policy that empowers all individuals and helps them to merge into a society with world standards in quality, efficiency and transparency. Some of the initiatives of the MOCD in community development are:

- [Tayseer Initiative](#) - it creates easy ways of transactions for social security beneficiaries
- [Masraa Card](#) - a card issued to Emiratis over the age of 60 offering them special privileges and access in the community
- [Qelada Project](#) – it supports people of determination and empowers them by providing skills that facilitate their integration in the job market
- [Form an Emirati Family](#) - it provides assistance to low-income Emirati families to help them get married and create their own family
- [Masaai Al Khair](#) - it identifies social security beneficiaries and low-income families in UAE and helps them with refurbishment of homes worth AED 10 million through a public-private partnership
- [Basma Package](#) – it is a special privilege package allowing concessions to senior citizens when they travel
- [Volunteers.ae](#) - a portal that showcases volunteer organization and volunteer opportunities across UAE encouraging citizens to give back to their communities.

Apart from this, the [Federal Law No. 2 of 2001](#) provides monthly assistance to the [following people](#):

- Widows
- Divorced women
- Disabled or those with special needs
- Elderly
- Orphans
- Children from unknown parents
- Medically unfit persons
- Married student
- Families of prisoners
- Financially unfit
- Abandoned women
- UAE national women married to expatriate men who cannot earn a living for reasons beyond their control.

Ghadan 21

A three-year AED 50 billion development accelerator program called [Ghadan 21](#) was launched by His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces in 2018. The main aim of Ghadan 21 is to work for the development of the UAE community with social welfare development initiatives that ensure employment to citizens, launch and develop housing projects, provide reasonably priced quality education and ensure the UAE citizens are well provided for.

Community Development Authority

The [Community Development Authority](#) (CDA) of Dubai leads the social sector in the emirate by building effective public-private partnerships and collaborating with the non-profit sector to create sustainable community development. They implement programs and services that benefit the community at large. They allocate land for investment projects that serve the social sector and the [Community Shield Initiative](#) by the CDA Youth Council, honors 100 members of the community in Dubai who have distinguished themselves by providing services to the social sector.

One-time benefits to low-income families in which financial assistance is provided to fulfill their basic needs is one of the highlights of the work of the CDA. These benefits include furnishing of the house, rehabilitation support and tuition fees paid to people of determination and electricity supply benefits. An emergency benefit is also provided to the families to ensure that they are ready to face unfortunate unforeseen circumstances.

Zakat Fund

Launched in November 2003, the [Zakat Fund](#) works for development of community throughout the UAE. It aims to increase the awareness about Zakat and the positive impact it will have in the development of the community.



November, 2003



Zakat Fund is a federal entity specialized to serve Zakat and raise zakat awareness, accept and sustain zakat and other resources to disburse it for its deserved people through excellent and efficient services that enhance happiness and social cohesion in UAE.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES OF THE FUND

- Reinforce community awareness of Zakat, increase & sustain the financial resources.
- Contribute to stabilizing deserving people
- Ensure the provision of all the administrative services in accordance to transparency, efficiency and quality standards
- Establishing an innovation culture at the work environment.

Source: [Zakat Fund](#)

Khalifa Fund for Enterprise Development

Launched in 2007 by the government of Abu Dhabi, the [Khalifa Fund for Enterprise Development](#) (KFED) is a socio-economic non-profit initiative focusing on the development of local enterprises. It aims to fuel the Emirati Small and Medium Establishments (SMEs) by facilitating an entrepreneurial friendly environment.

The KFED is on a mission to create awareness about the benefits of entrepreneurship in community development. It has conducted more than 800 awareness campaigns catering to university and school students along with various other targeted categories of the society.

By providing a wide range of social assistance programs to proactively tackle the underlying causes of poverty, UAE government has ensured to sufficiently equip disadvantaged people to attain the necessary income required to maintain a decent life for themselves and their families. Increasing the literacy rate among Emiratis has helped create a generation that is well-educated and can look for opportunities even globally to enhance their lives.

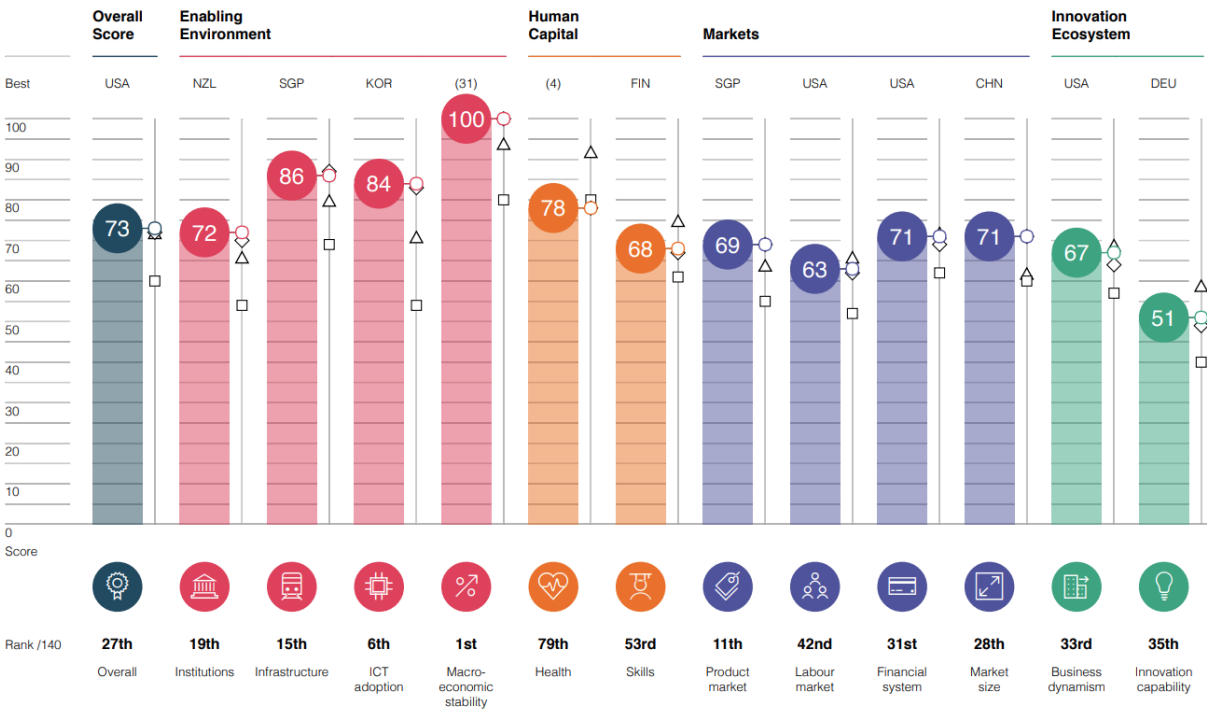
Global Initiatives and Impact

At the international level, UAE is a key contributor to many international humanitarian initiatives, especially in providing relief to victims of natural disasters and social conflicts. In line with its aim to eradicate poverty worldwide, [UAE donated up to AED 8.9 billion](#) between 2011 and 2014.

UAE has been consistently listed as one of the 10 largest donor states as per the [Official Development Aid](#) (ODA) in 2015. In 2016, UAE disbursed up to AED15.23 billion for development assistance. United Arab Emirates provided 1.10% of its Gross National Income (GNI) in development aid.

The Global Competitiveness Report, 2018 placed UAE at the 27th position in the world among 140 countries. UAE ranked at the first position in macroeconomic stability indicating that the initiatives taken to ensure that the country as whole remains economically stable with constant focus being provided to the community development as a whole. UAE has the most enabling environment for citizens to gain confidence that with their government's support, their social standing can be improved no matter what their circumstances.

Performance Overview Key ◇ Previous edition △ High income group average □ Middle East and North Africa average
2018



Selected contextual indicators

Population millions	10.1	GDP (PPP) % world GDP	0.54
GDP per capita US\$	37,225.8	Unemployment rate %	1.7
10-year average annual GDP growth %	2.7	5-year average FDI inward flow % GDP	2.6

Social and environmental performance

Environmental footprint gha/capita	9.8	Global Gender Gap Index 0-1 (gender parity)	0.7
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Source: [World Economic Forum Reports](#)

Al Maktoum Initiatives

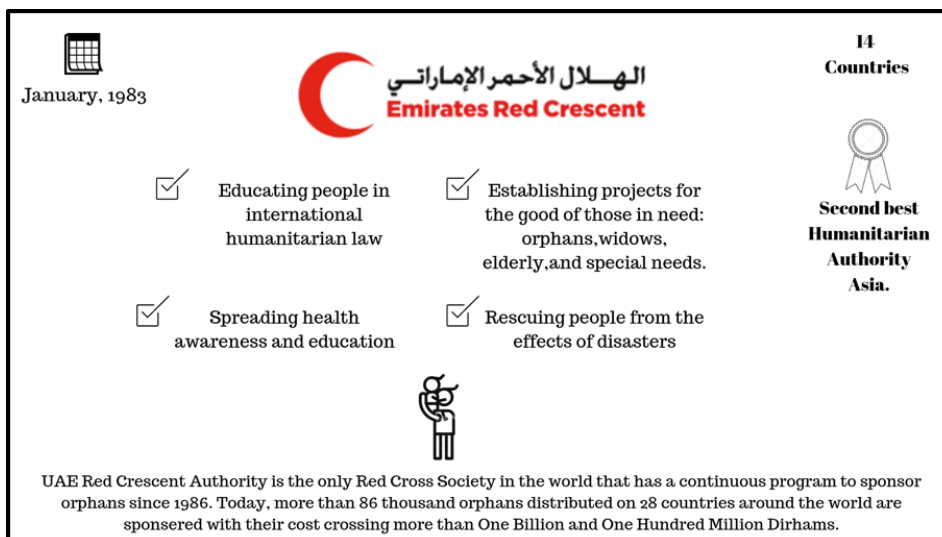
The [Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives](#) (MBRGI) is a foundation launched in 2015 that provides humanitarian relief and efforts all over the world impacting more than 70 million people in the world. With the collaboration of 28 institutions, they have conducted around 1400 development programs around the world.



Source: [Al Maktoum Initiatives](#)

Emirates Red Crescent

Launched in 1983, the Emirates Red Crescent has been contributing to the world's humanitarian needs for decades now. It has been encompassing the UAE's philosophy to world contribution in combating poverty and disease.



Source: [Emirates Red Crescent](#)

Conclusion

The ease of hiring, public-private partnerships, low inflation and preservation efforts lead to a decrease in the poverty rate. The UAE came first in the Arab world in the UN World Happiness Report and ranked 20th among 156 countries globally. All these efforts, initiatives and projects have paved the way to reach sustainable development goal number 1 to end poverty in all its forms.