

UAE's humanitarian approach

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Overview

The [Sustainable Development Goals](#) set by the United Nations, provide a holistic blueprint to help countries focus on strategies and initiatives to help end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that all people enjoy lasting peace and prosperity.

As of 2016, around [130 million people in the world](#) required immediate humanitarian assistance. The UN says that this need, though seem great, are not insurmountable if countries unite to invest in humanity.

Countries worldwide provide humanitarian efforts and relief to vulnerable and underdeveloped communities with an intention to elevate their standard of living. UAE has been at the forefront of such efforts and relief provided to countries worldwide.

The forward-thinking vision of the leaders has enabled UAE to stand among the top countries of the world in humanitarian efforts. This document will outline UAE's efforts in providing humanitarian aid through:

- A 5-year Foreign Aid Strategy launched in 2017
- Development of the International Humanitarian City
- Aid to foreign countries.

“Foreign aid and assistance is one of the basic pillars of our foreign policy. For we believe that there is no true benefit for us from the wealth that we have unless it does not also reach those in need, wherever they may be, and regardless of their nationality or beliefs.”

*H. H. Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan
Founding President of the United Arab Emirates*

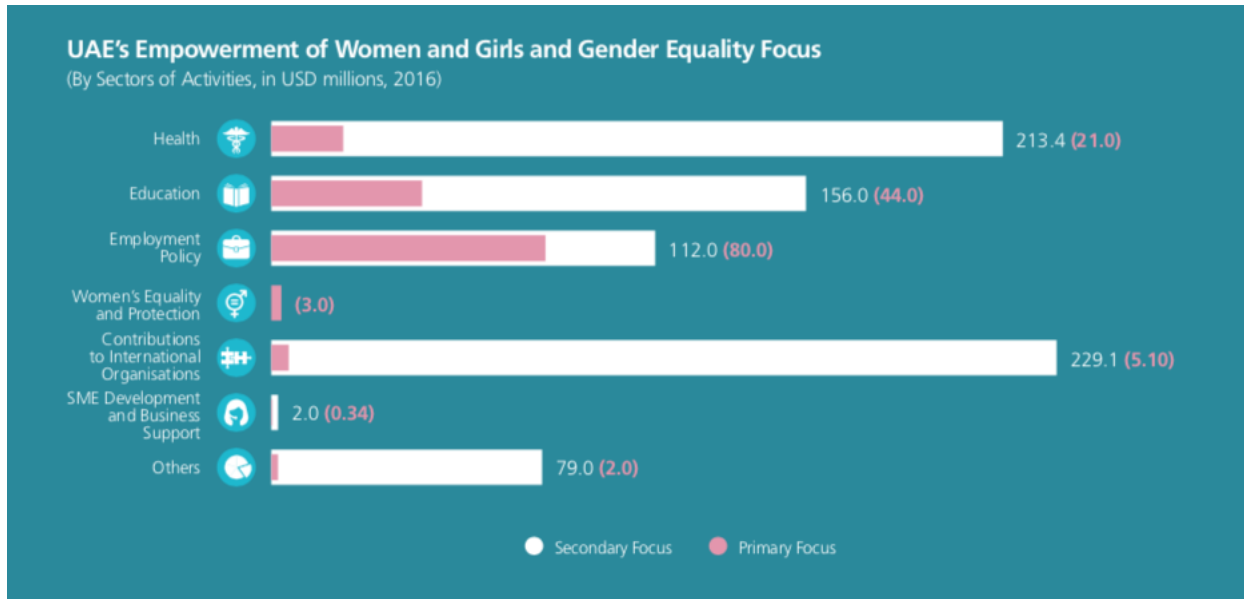
Source: [UAE Embassy USA](#)

5-year Foreign Aid Strategy 2017-2021

The [Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation](#) (MOFAIC) launched a five-year plan that will guide the country's foreign aid strategy. Under this strategy, UAE will focus on three key pillars such as:

- Women's empowerment and protection
- Transport and urban infrastructure
- Technical co-operation.

The UAE contributes to the work of several multilateral organizations focusing on advancing gender equality and women’s empowerment. This includes financial contributions to the core budget of the UN Women and support to the ‘[Every Woman, Every Child, Everywhere](#)’ initiative.



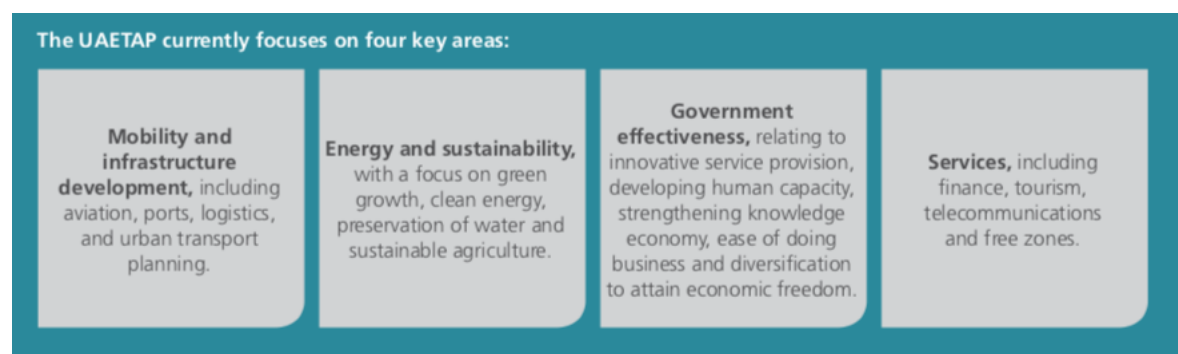
Source: [UAE Foreign Aid Report 2016](#)

UAE has contributed to combat infrastructure deficit in developing and under-developed countries. It is to be noted that among the multi-year programs of the UAE, the road transport infrastructure sector received [AED 295.2 million \(USD 80.4 million\) in 2016](#). Around 70% of that went to support developing countries experiencing significant funding gaps to improve infrastructure.

In Jordan, the Amman Development Corridor Project which is a part of the AED 4.60 billion (USD 1.25 billion) worth of grants committed by the UAE Government in 2013 aims to boost the competitiveness of the national economy. This project includes the construction of a main road from Queen Alia International Airport, a number of service roads, and seven intersections with upper bridges.

In Egypt, UAE has provided grants for the procurement of 600 passenger buses to boost public transport services. In Benin, the Ouidah Allada and Pahou Tori Road project which began in 2012 has since received AED 24.3 million (USD 6.6 million) in disbursements.

The UAE Technical Assistance Programme, facilitated by the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MOFAIC), sent a [pilot expert mission to the Caribbean in 2016](#). This mission comprised experts from a number of the UAE's leading entities in the ports, aviation and renewable energy sectors such as [DP World](#), [Emirates Airlines](#) and [Masdar](#). They delivered assistance on how to effectively implement cost-effective facility operations, safety standards and tourism promotion, among others. The efforts of this inaugural expert mission helped UAE to reiterate its global development value, not only by transferring working knowledge, but also because it provided opportunities for UAE experts to explore new contexts and learn from them – underscoring the principle that two-way knowledge transfer is a vital component of technical assistance efforts.



Source: [UAE Foreign Aid Report 2016](#)

[International Humanitarian City](#)

H. H. Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai founded the [Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives](#) (MBRGI) with the aim of improving the Arab world through humanitarian, developmental and community work.

The [International Humanitarian City](#) (IHC) is one of the member entities under the umbrella of MBRGI. It is the largest humanitarian hub in the world and the one and only non-profit, independent, humanitarian free-zone authority hosting a community of members comprising UN, international non-governmental and inter-governmental organizations and commercial companies. Based in Dubai, IHC plays a pivotal role in facilitating first responses to crises at a global level efficiently and facilitating rapid relief to be within reach from all corners of the world.

IHC, in 2018, processed 74 fundraising applications which benefited 17 humanitarian organizations. A Memorandum of Understanding between Dubai Customs, Dubai

Islamic Affairs and Charitable Activities Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and Pepsi Inc. was signed and more than 20 events, conferences and workshops were held with the participation of more than 350 students and guests.

In 2018, the UAE launched a [Humanitarian Logistics Databank](#) with the aim to provide the humanitarian community with a common database platform showcasing humanitarian aid stocks and flows which can help them to prepare for emergency and provide immediate response.

By employing means that automatically track movements of relief and aid based on customs data from ports, airports, and other entry points, the databank has the ability to provide the global humanitarian community with information on the exact positioning of critical relief items such as food, medicine, and shelter. It also helps to make this information accessible to all parties cooperating. Improved collaboration and avoiding bottlenecks in ports and airports helps save critical time in emergency response situations.



Source: [IHC Annual Report 2018](#)

Aid to Foreign Countries

In 2018, the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development announced that the [UAE was the world's largest donor](#) of official development aid for the 5th consecutive year.

Up to 54 percent of the value of the aid was nonrefundable grants aimed at supporting developmental plans of 147 countries, 40 of which were among the least developed. More than 94 percent of the support was development aid worth AED 18.3 billion, 68 percent of which was channeled to public aid programs to help the beneficiaries maintain financial stability and strong infrastructure enterprises, in areas of transportation, health, education and renewable energy.

Conclusion

The UAE's aid has only objectives that is humanitarian in nature crossing boundaries of politics, geography, race, colour or religion of the beneficiary. This is a practical application of the principle of tolerance that is deeply embedded in the culture of UAE. It is also one of the basic pillars of UAE foreign policy.