



مبادرات محمد بن راشد آل مكتوم العالمية
Mohammed Bin Rashid
Al Maktoum Global Initiatives

YEAR IN REVIEW 2023

AED

1.8

Billion

spent in 2023

111

Million

beneficiaries
in 2023

105

Countries

reached in 2023



YEAR IN REVIEW **2023**

Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives
A comprehensive vision for the business of creating hope and building the future

Year in Review 2023

8th Volume



مبادرات محمد بن راشد آل مكتوم العالمية
Mohammed bin Rashid
Al Maktoum Global Initiatives

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**When talk of conflict, desperation
and negativity prevails across the region,
we talk about hope, charity and positive
change in our communities.**

Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum





Perpetual Giving & Generosity

Since its launch in 2015, the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives** has served as an umbrella encompassing numerous humanitarian, relief and development initiatives and campaigns, operating within a cohesive regulatory framework. Throughout our journey, there has been one consistent question: how can we reach more people?

In 2023, our initiatives reached more than 111 million people from 105 countries, playing a crucial role in crafting inspirational narratives and nurturing seeds of hope that empower individuals to strive for a brighter future, uplifting both them and their communities.

Each day, we support people in need worldwide, providing them with the tools and resources to overcome poverty, adversity and ignorance. This is our greatest achievement, benefitting not only us but also humanity as a whole.

The road of giving and generosity stretches far ahead; it is a path without an end, as each milestone paves the way for greater achievements. We will persist along this road, ever committed to serving humanity whenever the need arises, steadfast in our mission to build a brighter future for all.

Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum
Chairman of the Board of Trustees



A Beacon of Hope

When we speak of the annual achievements of the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives (MBRGI)**, what we are really speaking of is the impact the Foundation has had in the lives of tens of millions of people around the world. Its success in continuously developing its vision, goals and methodology, as well as its ability to embrace new humanitarian initiatives while strengthening existing ones, all contribute to growing **MBRGI's** circle of beneficiaries.

During the eight years since its establishment, **MBRGI** has promoted a culture of creating hope in the region, institutionalised sustainable humanitarian action and nurtured a general climate of giving. These efforts reflect the values on which the UAE was founded and our nation's ambition to be an inspiring model for changing the lives of individuals and communities to enable them to build a better tomorrow.

Hundreds of programmes, projects and campaigns were implemented by **MBRGI** in the past year, including the **1 Billion Meals Endowment** campaign launched by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, during Ramadan 2023. Thanks to the generosity of the UAE community, it exceeded its targets in record time, raising the ceiling of our humanitarian ambitions to the greatest extent possible.

Thanks to its visionary leadership, genuine people and a strong impetus to give, the UAE will remain a global capital for humanitarian work and a beacon of hope. As His Highness Sheikh Mohammed said: "Hope-making is the highest expression of humanity and noble values."

Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum
Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees

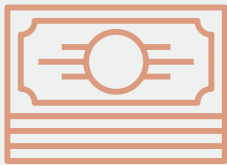


Our role in the UAE is to help ensure people everywhere have education, hope and life. We have to contribute to creating a better future around the world.

Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum



2023 Achievements



AED

1.8 Billion

spent across all pillars
in 2023



111 Million

beneficiaries of MBRGI's
initiatives in 2023



105

countries reached
in 2023



160,547

volunteers across all
initiatives, projects and
programmes in 2023



1,028

employees in 2023



AED

25.1 Million

awarded in total prizes
in 2023

111 Million

beneficiaries of
MBRGIs initiatives

AED

1.8 Billion

spent across all pillars



**Humanitarian
Aid & Relief**

34.4 Million
beneficiaries

AED

1.1 Billion



**Healthcare &
Disease Control**

9.4 Million
beneficiaries

AED

209 Million



**Spreading
Education &
Knowledge**

62.2 Million
beneficiaries

AED

242 Million



**Innovation &
Entrepreneurship**

1.2 Million
beneficiaries

AED

138 Million



**Empowering
Communities**

3.4 Million
beneficiaries

AED

87.2 Million

Introduction

The **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives (MBRGI)** was established in 2015 as the largest regional incubator for the various initiatives, projects and programmes launched and supported by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai. It operates within a framework that seeks to make a positive, comprehensive change in people's lives and communities, and to build a sustainable future in the region and beyond.

In the past eight years, **MBRGI** has institutionalised humanitarian action, maximising its impact and expanding its geographical scope in a way that builds communities and promotes a culture of hope. It also strives to create a dynamic volunteering ecosystem that fosters the spirit of giving, participation and social responsibility.

MBRGI manages more than 30 entities and initiatives that design and implement a wide variety of programmes and campaigns in the humanitarian, community and development sectors. All of these efforts are aimed at achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, such as eliminating poverty, hunger and unemployment, factors which threaten social peace and hinder progress. **MBRGI's** work is focused on the most vital sectors contributing to development, including infrastructure, healthcare and education, and provides support for those affected by conflicts and natural disasters.

In order to accelerate community development, **MBRGI** also invests in future building through knowledge, with initiatives focused on science, advanced technology and the knowledge economy.

Moreover, **MBRGI** prioritises the human element, which is key to driving progress, by providing training and qualifications to professionals in various sectors, helping them hone their talents while designing policies to fast-track societal development.

The Year in Review 2023 outlines **MBRGI's** most prominent humanitarian and development projects, programmes and initiatives implemented throughout the year, supported by numbers and inspiring stories that highlight their impact in target communities.

MBRGI's entities and initiatives are classified under the following five pillars:



Humanitarian Aid & Relief



Healthcare & Disease Control



Spreading Education & Knowledge



Innovation & Entrepreneurship



Empowering Communities

2023 Highlights

EXCEPTIONAL INITIATIVES TO IMPROVE LIVES

The **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives (MBRGI)** spent around AED 1.8 billion in 2023 to implement the various initiatives and programmes within its five pillars, serving 111 million people in 105 countries. These projects and campaigns were supported by more than 160,000 volunteers in various fields who worked alongside **MBRGI's** team of 1,028 permanent staff to provide all manner of assistance.

Within the Humanitarian Aid & Relief pillar, **MBRGI** delivered food support through its **1 Billion Meals Endowment** campaign during Ramadan 2023. Under this initiative, **MBRGI** raised a record-breaking AED 1.075 billion from 180,000 donors, which reflects the importance of social solidarity in the UAE community.

Under this same pillar, the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Humanitarian & Charity Establishment** continued its efforts to implement a variety of relief, health, education and empowerment initiatives. In 2023, these projects benefitted more than 2.6 million people across the world.

Al Jalila Foundation, under the Healthcare & Disease Control pillar, launched 'The Child Fund' in 2023. Valued at AED 50 million, this fund will be dedicated to providing essential medical treatment for 3,000 children every year at the UAE's Al Jalila Children's Hospital.

Under the Spreading Education & Knowledge pillar, **Dubai Cares** succeeded in placing education at the forefront of the 28th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28) agenda during the second RewirEd Summit. Participants included prominent officials and global stakeholders, advocating the transformation of education as a powerful solution to achieve sustainable development.

The Digital School, another initiative operating under the Spreading Education & Knowledge pillar, joined the global education agenda for sustainable development and solidified its position as a leading e-learning institution that aims to have a far-reaching, sustainable impact on the lives of disadvantaged individuals. In 2023, it extended its reach globally, benefitting more than 108,000 students in eight countries.

Within the Innovation & Entrepreneurship pillar, the **Great Arab Minds** initiative announced the winners of its first awards cycle in 2023. The largest scientific movement in the Arab world, the initiative is designed to identify exceptional Arab scholars, thinkers and innovators in various fields.

Meanwhile, the **Mohammed bin Rashid Center for Leadership Development**, under the Empowering Communities pillar, launched the 'Dubai Family Business Program', in partnership with Dubai Chambers, to develop second-tier management skills among family business leaders. The programme seeks to ensure the continuity of these businesses, effective succession planning and better governance among family businesses.



Humanitarian Aid & Relief

Through various Humanitarian Aid & Relief projects, programmes and initiatives, the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives** works to alleviate human suffering and improve life across societies. It strives to enhance well-being and stability by pursuing its vision of institutionalising humanitarian work to build a more sustainable future for all.

AED

1.1

BILLION

spent on Humanitarian
Aid & Relief initiatives
in 2023

34.4

MILLION

beneficiaries of
Humanitarian Aid & Relief
initiatives in 2023

AED

1.075
BILLION

in donations raised for the
1 Billion Meals Endowment
in 2023

AED

50
MILLION

in urgent relief directed
to Gaza by His Highness
Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid
Al Maktoum in 2023

2.6
MILLION

beneficiaries of the Mohammed
bin Rashid Al Maktoum
Humanitarian & Charity
Establishment in 2023



Sustainable Projects to Serve Humanity



AED
1.1
Billion

spent on Humanitarian Aid & Relief initiatives in 2023



34.4
Million

beneficiaries of Humanitarian Aid & Relief initiatives in 2023

The Humanitarian Aid & Relief pillar reflects **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives' (MBRGI)** vision of institutionalising humanitarian work to improve social conditions and harness all available resources to alleviate human suffering around the world, as well as bring about comprehensive and sustainable change to enhance community well-being and stability. In 2023, **MBRGI** implemented numerous sustainable humanitarian, development and community initiatives and campaigns in cooperation with regional and international entities to serve underprivileged communities facing challenges such as poverty, natural disasters and conflicts.

Within this pillar, **MBRGI** launched the **1 Billion Meals Endowment** campaign in March 2023, raising AED 1.075 billion during the holy month of Ramadan from 180,000 donors. In addition to promoting sustainable charitable work, the success of this campaign reflects the spirit of social solidarity that prevails in the UAE. The Endowment aims to ensure the sustainability of the resources needed to support food security projects worldwide.

To alleviate human suffering and support the UAE's efforts to aid neighbouring nations in times of crisis, **MBRGI** announced in October 2023 its donation of AED 50 million in emergency relief to Palestinians.

Additionally, the **International Humanitarian City (IHC)** celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2023 – two decades marked by an unparalleled track record of giving and proactive support for global humanitarian

endeavours. During this time, it has strengthened its global position as a hub for cooperation and coordination that facilitates impactful assistance to those most in need.

Meanwhile, the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Humanitarian & Charity Establishment** continued to implement various relief, health, education and empowerment initiatives in 2023, benefitting more than 2.6 million people around the globe.

The **UAE Food Bank** also provided food support to those in need through the '3 Million Saved Meals' campaign, which managed food surplus that was generated during the holy month of Ramadan 2023, reduced waste and delivered food to as many people as possible.

Under the umbrella of **MBRGI**, the **UAE Water Aid Foundation (Suqia)** implemented 58 different projects in 2023 to provide clean drinking water in six countries, including Benin, Kyrgyzstan, Mauritania, Niger, Uganda and Chad, benefitting around 195,000 people.

In order to support sustainable humanitarian work and meet the needs of the community, the **Mohammed bin Rashid Global Centre for Endowment Consultancy** launched an endowment for real estate developers, in cooperation with the Dubai Land Department, as the first-ever endowment scheme aimed at real estate developers.

MBRGI's total spending on Humanitarian Aid & Relief initiatives and projects in 2023 amounted to AED 1.1 billion, benefitting 34.4 million people around the world.





AN ENDOWMENT TO ELIMINATE HUNGER



AED
1.075
Billion

in donations collected for the 1 Billion Meals Endowment in 2023

On 19 March 2023, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, launched the **1 Billion Meals Endowment** campaign to promote endowment as a development tool and a means to support global efforts to eradicate hunger in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

An example of the UAE's long-held values of giving, compassion and solidarity, the **1 Billion Meals Endowment** is an expansion of **MBRGI's** previous Ramadan campaigns: '1 Billion Meals', '100 Million Meals' and '10 Million Meals'. With its contribution to achieving food security, the Endowment exemplified the UAE's commitment to its global humanitarian role and its pledge to lend a helping hand to communities in need

worldwide. As the largest sustainable food aid endowment fund, the **1 Billion Meals Endowment** provides a food safety net for underprivileged communities. It represents the UAE's long-term vision for relief work and sustainable humanitarian philosophy based on preserving human dignity.

Under **MBRGI's** umbrella, the campaign raised a record AED 1.075 billion from 180,000 contributors, including a personal donation from His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, who gave AED 250 million in real estate assets and cash. This generous gift embodies the UAE's inspiring leadership model, as well as the spirit of giving and commitment to supporting those in need, no matter where they are, that is shared by both the country's leadership and its people.



With the support of Abu Dhabi Police, Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority, etisalat by e& and du, **MBRGI** organised the 'Most Noble Numbers' auction to support the **1 Billion Meals Endowment** campaign, raising more than AED 168 million.

The 'P7' Dubai number plate set a record as the most expensive number in the world after being sold for AED 55 million. The Diamond numbers, presented by etisalat by e&, brought in more than AED 3.3 million, and the special numbers from du raised AED 3 million. Organised by Abu Dhabi Police, the second 'Most Noble Numbers' charity e-auction raised an additional AED 71 million by selling 555 number plates for vehicles in Abu Dhabi.

GROWING ENDOWMENT ASSETS

On 30 April 2023, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, issued a directive to form the Board of Trustees for the **1 Billion Meals Endowment**, with the aim of managing and growing its assets to ensure the Endowment’s continuity as a sustainable source of giving that facilitates further development and benefits to target groups.

To achieve the highest recurring return, the Board of Trustees will focus on feasible sectors in line with economic growth through a Sharia-compliant approach, which will provide permanent sources of funding for charitable causes to aid communities in need. The Board of Trustees is tasked with creating a modern investment strategy and as well as overseeing and

reviewing investment policies to ensure compliance with approved processes. It will also be responsible for analysing cash requirements and flow, gauging investment risks and opting for high-return diversified investments, while ensuring compatibility with relevant regulations.

The Board of Trustees held its first meeting on 12 May 2023, during which it approved its governance structure and formed an investment committee and an audit, risk and compliance committee. It also reviewed plans to coordinate work between the **1 Billion Meals Endowment** and **MBRGI**, with **MBRGI**’s executive arm providing administrative support and preparing annual action plans for food aid and hunger-fighting projects. The Endowment will provide the funding for these initiatives from the returns on its assets.



180,000
Contributors

to the 1 Billion Meals
Endowment campaign
in 2023



A HARVEST OF GOODWILL IN BANGLADESH



Like other Rohingya refugees, Mohamed Salim and his family fled the violence in Myanmar in 2017 to seek safety in neighbouring Bangladesh. There, they found themselves in the Cox's Bazar refugee camp where they lived under harsh conditions. Initially working in the camp to support his wife and three children, Mohamed struggled to make ends meet.

However, their circumstances began to change with the introduction of a sustainable agriculture project by **MBRGI** as part of the '1 Billion Meals' campaign. This initiative provided him with the resources and training to start his own vegetable garden. Within just a few months he was able to grow a variety of vegetables, including chilli peppers, squash, aubergine, beans and okra. The produce not only helped feed his family, but he was able to sell the surplus at the market. This shift from consumer to producer provided Mohamed with additional income, enabling him to buy other essentials like meat and fish, significantly improving his family's diet and living conditions.

Reflecting on the impact of the project, Mohamed expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to substantially improve his family's life: "This project has given us the opportunity to learn and benefit from new skills to feed our families and earn additional income. We are grateful to **MBRGI** for supporting us."

HOPE IN TIMES OF CRISIS



Magdalene Abbey's story is one of resilience in the face of trauma. After losing her husband during the long war between the Cameroonian state and separatist fighters, Magdalene was forced to flee in secret with her eight children. The 50-year-old had to leave everything behind, including her career as a successful businesswoman, and become a refugee.

After an arduous two-week journey through the jungle, the family arrived at a border community in Cross River State, Nigeria. A year later, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees transferred them to Adagom refugee camp, where they tried to rebuild their lives. However, this proved difficult. Magdalene struggled to earn a living, which forced her to borrow money to feed her children. To cover her family's expenses and pay off her debts, she worked on a nearby farm, while one of her sons scavenged the street for iron to sell for small amounts of money.

Things finally took a turn for the better with the generous contributions of **MBRGI**. Through the '1 Billion Meals' campaign, Magdalene now receives money to buy food for her family. She is one of 44,000 Cameroonian refugees in Nigeria who are supported by **MBRGI** to enhance their well-being and reduce malnutrition among children.

Magdalene rejoices in her ability to provide for her children: "I thank God and **MBRGI**. I am very happy to be able to cook delicious and nutritious food for my children again."



UNLIMITED HUMANITARIAN AID



2,000 Volunteers

participated in the 'Bridges of Giving' campaign in 2023

As part of the UAE's wide-ranging efforts to provide relief to the victims of the earthquake that devastated entire regions of Syria and Türkiye in February 2023, **MBRGI** supported the nationwide 'Bridges of Giving' community volunteering campaign, which was launched by the Emirates Red Crescent in cooperation with several local ministries alongside humanitarian and charitable institutions. On 13 March 2023, **MBRGI** brought together more than 2,000 volunteers from various schools and universities, employees from the private and public sectors, as well as influencers and well-known local and regional personalities at the Dubai World Trade Centre to prepare 15,000 food packages to help those affected in both countries.

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, personally visited the 'Bridges of Giving' campaign centre, praising the efforts of participating volunteers. He toured the

facility and was briefed on the roles and responsibilities of the teams, from package preparations to loading operations.

On 2 May 2023, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum approved the provision of urgent humanitarian aid to Sudan to help displaced citizens affected by the recent conflict in the country. The aid consisted of food parcels, medical supplies and tents, which were delivered through **MBRGI**.

A delegation from **MBRGI** and the World Food Programme (WFP) visited a number of Pakistani cities and villages, specifically Maghan Halepoto and Soomar Sher in the Mirpur Khas District, in May 2023 to inspect the results of the aid provided by **MBRGI** through the '1 Billion Meals' campaign to those affected by the devastating floods that occurred in summer 2022. His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum had directed urgent relief worth AED 50 million, including contributions from WFP, to extend a helping hand to flood victims. This support, which was delivered through WFP, reached more than 3.4 million people who received food and emergency aid.

In line with the directives of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, **MBRGI** announced the provision of AED 50 million in humanitarian aid to Palestinians in Gaza in October 2023 to help alleviate some of the suffering caused by the difficult humanitarian situation they are facing. This move reflects the UAE's firm dedication to supporting its neighbours in times of crisis.



GLOBAL PARTICIPATION & GENEROUS PLEDGES

MBRGI joined the UAE delegation to the United Nations High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, which was held between 10 and 19 July 2023 at the UN Headquarters in New York under the theme ‘Accelerating the Recovery from the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) and the Full Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at All Levels’.

MBRGI’s delegation conducted a series of meetings with major international institutions to discuss ways to bolster strategic partnerships and mutual collaboration, in line with **MBRGI**’s humanitarian and developmental efforts and its commitment to contributing to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

During the ‘UAE Partnership for Global Development: Building Towards the 2030 Agenda’ event, **MBRGI**’s delegation presented some of the Foundation’s projects and initiatives implemented across

dozens of countries, highlighting its ability to effectively address key humanitarian, development and social challenges.

Additionally, **MBRGI** pledged to provide AED 60.6 million in 2024 in support of refugees and forcibly displaced people in 10 countries, including Palestine, Chad, Armenia, Bangladesh, Botswana, India, Namibia, Nigeria, Pakistan and Tunisia. The announcement was made during the Global Refugee Forum, held in Geneva, Switzerland, between 12 and 15 December 2023, and co-hosted by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Swiss Government. The funds will be distributed in the form of direct food aid and sustainable employment programmes.

The pledge is a manifestation of **MBRGI**’s commitment to harness its humanitarian capabilities in support of the UN’s efforts to meet the urgent needs of refugees and those forcibly removed from their homes.



AED
50
Million

in urgent relief directed to Gaza by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum in 2023





TWO DECADES SERVING HUMANITY



746
Metric
Tonnes

of aid dispatched by the International Humanitarian City in 2023

Established in Dubai in 2003, the **International Humanitarian City (IHC)** represents a global humanitarian hub that hosts a community of 87 members, including humanitarian agencies, UN organisations, international NGOs and private companies. Over the past 20 years, it has reaffirmed its commitment to providing assistance to disaster and crisis-affected communities all over the world.

Under the umbrella of **MBRGI**, **IHC** provided urgent humanitarian aid and relief to countries impacted by war and natural disasters in 2023. It dispersed around 746 metric tonnes of supplies to alleviate the suffering of more than 1.5 million people.

Following the earthquake that devastated Türkiye and Syria, **IHC** mobilised its members to facilitate a swift response, sending 67 aid shipments with a total value of AED 47.8 million (USD 13 million). It also facilitated two airbridges of 13 airlifts through its own Global Humanitarian Impact Fund in partnership with Emirates, and dispatched more than 300 metric tonnes of aid from stocks of member organisations at **IHC**, including the World Health Organization (WHO), WFP, UNHCR and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

IHC also allocated three relief air shipments to support the Sudanese people who were affected by the ongoing conflict in the country, two of which headed to Chad's capital N'Djamena in May 2023, transporting various shelter items, such as blankets, sleeping mats, solar lamps,

buckets, jerry cans, mosquito nets, plastic sheets and kitchen sets, in addition to other materials donated by UNHCR and essential telecommunication equipment for WFP's Fast IT and Telecommunications Emergency and Support Team.

In June 2023, **IHC** successfully completed the third airlift of aid supplies to those affected by the crisis in Sudan in coordination with WHO. The shipment was distributed via Aswan in southern Egypt, which is a critical gateway for delivering aid in the region. The cargo consisted of essential medical supplies for patients who arrived in Egypt from Sudan.

In the wake of Storm Daniel, which swept through eastern Libya, causing massive destruction and displacing thousands, **IHC** operated an emergency airbridge in September 2023 in cooperation with its members to transport vital aid to alleviate the suffering of those most affected by the disaster. Three airlifts from Dubai to Benghazi, the last of which was in October 2023, carried 200 metric tonnes of relief.

As part of its continuous efforts to ease human suffering, and in response to the emergency appeal from WHO, WFP and the United Nations Children's Fund, **IHC** launched an urgent humanitarian airbridge operation in October 2023 to transport essential medical supplies and food assistance to Egypt and Lebanon. This action aimed to help address the challenges brought about by the escalating emergency in Palestine's Gaza Strip.

COOPERATION FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

As part of its participation in the 2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28), **IHC**, in collaboration with the UAE's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, organised the First Conference of the Countries Hosting the World's Humanitarian Hubs on 4 December 2023. This landmark event aimed to fortify partnerships among nations hosting humanitarian hubs and establish a robust safety net to aid disaster-affected populations worldwide.

The gathering marked **IHC**'s pivotal step towards mobilising the efforts of humanitarian hubs worldwide to respond to emergencies swiftly and effectively.

On 6 December 2023, **IHC** also organised a conference devoted to fostering a sustainable humanitarian supply chain. The event aimed to strengthen cooperation and espouse collective responsibility among stakeholders to transition towards a more sustainable charitable future, focused not only on immediate response but also on long-term environmental impact mitigation. The conference marked the launch of a call to action stressing the imperative need to include carbon emissions in supply chain planning and adopting low-carbon solutions within the humanitarian sector.





We want our humanitarian work to last for hundreds of years in the name of the UAE people.

Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum

ONGOING HUMANITARIAN & DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS

Under the umbrella of **MBRGI**, the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Humanitarian & Charity Establishment (MBRCH)** continued to expand the scope and impact of its initiatives and projects, reaching more than 2.6 million people around the world in 2023.

In 2023, **MBRCH** sustained its support for the medical sector in fragile communities, building three hospitals, including one in the Philippines and two in Tajikistan, at a cost of more than AED 2.5 million to benefit 5,789 people.

In order to provide cardiac surgeries and catheterisation for children suffering from heart defects, **MBRCH** treated 1,027 children in 2023 through its medical initiative 'Nabadat', which means 'heartbeats' in Arabic, including 220 in Tajikistan, 361 in Mauritania and 446 in Kyrgyzstan, at a cost of around AED 3.7 million.

MBRCH also built an integrated charitable housing complex for 500 families in Kyrgyzstan, along with two other housing complexes in Tajikistan as part of its efforts to provide shelter for disadvantaged communities around the world.

Other efforts **MBRCH** undertook in 2023 included projects to bolster education systems, which are vital for the advancement of societies. As part of these endeavours, **MBRCH** constructed six schools, including two in Tajikistan, two in Kyrgyzstan, one in Pakistan and one in Niger, to benefit approximately 53,900 students.

MBRCH also continued its efforts to improve living conditions and provide clean water to communities in remote areas in 2023. It built several wells in various countries, including seven wells and one canal in Tajikistan, six wells in Burkina Faso, two wells in Uganda and one well in Mali, at a total cost of approximately AED 1.4 million to benefit 103,900 people.

Additionally, it implemented its annual charitable projects at the beginning of the winter season, providing coal heaters, winter clothes and blankets to 54,000 people in Kazakhstan, Egypt, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

MBRCH carried out its annual 'Ramadan Iftar' projects as well, through which it distributed parcels of basic food items to low-income people and those who are fasting. In 2023, these projects benefitted 99,435 people in 13 countries.



2.6
Million

beneficiaries of the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Humanitarian & Charity Establishment's projects in 2023



WHEN DREAMS COME TRUE



In the village of Nawai in south-eastern Tajikistan, Daulat Mirza, his wife Gul Arous and their four children lived in a small, dilapidated house. Despite their desire for a better home, financial constraints prevented them from realising this dream.

The house was in very poor condition. Water seeped in during rainstorms, and the cracked walls and crumbling floors worsened over time. Despite Daulat working tirelessly on a farm to provide for his family, his income fell short of meeting their basic needs and his wife had to join him in the fields.

During these difficult times, their dream of moving to a new home seemed impossible, until a delegation from the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Humanitarian & Charity Establishment** visited the village to assess the needs of its residents. Upon seeing their situation, the delegation promised to fulfil the family's dream, providing them with a new, furnished house and a dairy cow.

The family happily settled into their new home, secure and protected from the elements. They were grateful for their safe haven and the new-found stability it provided. Additionally, the dairy cow proved to be a valuable asset, significantly boosting their income through the provision of milk and dairy products.

This was a turning point in Daulat's life, prompting him to express his heartfelt gratitude: "We are very grateful to the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Humanitarian & Charity Establishment**. We did not expect that our dream of a new home would come true, but goodness still exists in people."

PRESERVING FOOD FOR SUSTAINABILITY

Launched in 2017 under the umbrella of **MBRGI**, the **UAE Food Bank** constitutes a comprehensive humanitarian network that advocates the importance of food aid and distributes high-quality donated and surplus meals to beneficiaries in cooperation with local and international institutions.

In 2023, the Food Bank distributed more than 18.6 million meals donated by 800 local and international food establishments and charities. It also delivered more than 105 awareness programmes with the participation of 9,843 people and around 1,800 volunteers.

As part of its objective to enhance environmental sustainability, the **UAE Food Bank** lowered its carbon footprint by diverting 6,000 tonnes of food from landfills, which reduced environmental pollution and emissions resulting from food. During 2023, it forged at least 32 new alliances with strategic partners, including companies, hotels, charities and various government institutions.

During the holy month of Ramadan 2023, the Food Bank launched the '3 Million Saved Meals' initiative, which managed food surplus, reduced waste and provided sustenance to as many people as possible. The initiative promoted giving and generosity and emphasised the Food Bank's commitment to valuing food and serving the needy.

More than 211 food establishments and charities and 720 volunteers participated in the initiative, which distributed more than 5.1 million meals, surpassing its goal of three million by more than 70%.

The **UAE Food Bank** collaborated with businesses in the private sector to recycle food that was no longer suitable for human consumption and turn it into organic fertiliser. By doing so, the Food Bank reduced carbon emissions by 2,306,687 kilogrammes, which is equivalent to planting 96,112 trees.

The Food Bank distributed 1,476 tonnes of food through more than 50 refrigerators across Dubai in 2023, promoting a culture of food sharing and reducing food waste.

The **UAE Food Bank** participated in many local and international events in the fields of humanitarian action and sustainability. It was a gold partner for the Grace Preservation First Global Conference, COP28, the Gulfood Exhibition, and the Food Industry Forum. It also provided approximately 293 tonnes of food for earthquake victims in Syria and Türkiye, 54 tonnes for flood relief in Libya and an additional 60 tonnes for the 'Tarahum for Gaza' campaign.



18.6
Million

meals distributed by
the UAE Food Bank
in 2023





WATER IS LIFE



**14
Million**

beneficiaries of Suqia projects in 37 countries by the end of 2023

The **UAE Water Aid Foundation (Suqia)**, under **MBRGI**'s umbrella, launches projects and initiatives to provide clean drinking water to communities suffering from water scarcity and pollution. Since its establishment in 2015 until the end of 2023, the Foundation has improved the living conditions of about 14 million people in 37 countries suffering from a lack of access to water.

In cooperation with **MBRCH**, **Suqia** implemented water projects in four countries in 2023, touching the lives of 113,750 people. It built 30 wells in Benin, five in Mauritania and six in Niger, and restored an artesian well and extended two water distribution networks in Kyrgyzstan.

The Foundation also worked with **MBRGI** and UNHCR to construct 10 artesian wells in Chad, benefitting 65,000 people.

As part of its sustainable projects, **Suqia** cooperated with the Emirates Red Crescent in 2023 to dig five artesian wells with solar-powered pumps in Niger, in addition to another solar-operated artesian well in Uganda, benefitting 15,000 and 1,000 people respectively.

To support the UAE's international aid and relief campaigns, **Suqia** supplied bottled drinking water to more than 1.1 million people in Syria and Afghanistan in 2023 to aid the countries' affected communities.



A WAVE OF HOPE



Mehri, 39, lives in the rugged mountains of Tajikistan. For two decades, she has devoted her life to taking care of her family while her husband works construction in far-away areas. In this challenging environment, she struggled daily to procure clean drinking water. While she previously bought or fetched water from the river, the draught and the village's remote location made this increasingly difficult.

Despite these circumstances, Mehri remained steadfast and resolute in her determination to improve the living conditions of her family and fellow villagers. She sent requests to the concerned local authorities, but they were not prepared to pay for a new water system.

Water scarcity continued until the **UAE Water Aid Foundation (Suqia)** intervened and implemented several projects to provide potable water in the village. This radically transformed and improved the living conditions of the village residents, as clean water became readily available in their homes.

Suqia's intervention extended beyond providing water. It spread a wave of joy and hope that enveloped Mehri and her entire community.



PIONEERING ENDOWMENT INITIATIVES



AED
193.5
Million

received for 'Sukuk Al Waqf' by the end of 2023

Through its various projects, the **Mohammed bin Rashid Global Centre for Endowment Consultancy (MBRGCEC)** seeks to mobilise awqaf and endowments in the service of humanity. The Centre acts as an endowment consultation entity providing services free of charge to individuals, as well as local, regional and international institutions to fulfil Dubai's Global Vision for Awqaf and Endowments. Its initiatives benefitted more than 89,000 people in 2023.

The Endowments and Minors' Trust Foundation, represented by **MBRGCEC**, announced the first-ever endowment scheme for real estate developers in 2023. The initiative was launched in collaboration with the Dubai Land Department, represented by the Real Estate Regulatory Agency (RERA), and aims to support sustainable humanitarian efforts and meet the needs of the community.

The scheme urges developers to allocate one unit from their projects as a sustainable endowment to support charitable causes, including providing education and medical treatment to people in need and supporting

orphans and people of determination. It also consolidates the role of real estate companies in promoting the value of social solidarity and enhancing community cooperation. By the end of 2023, the initiative received an estimated AED 8 million in contributions from eight developers.

In 2023, **MBRGCEC** also launched the 'Bunyan Al-Khair' initiative, which aims to raise AED 35 million to build 22 endowment buildings for low-income citizens and families, as well as humanitarian cases where applicants cannot meet the requirements for housing services.

MBRGCEC supported around 80,000 people in 2023 through the 'Bread for All' initiative, which was launched in 2022 to offer free bread to underprivileged families and workers. The initiative uses technology to provide fresh bread to those in need through smart machines deployed in several locations.

In its second year, the value of endowment sukuk under the 'Sukuk Al Waqf' initiative amounted to around AED 193.5 million. The initiative, which was launched by **MBRGCEC** in partnership with the Endowments and Minors' Trust Foundation in Dubai and the National Bonds Corporation of UAE as the first charitable endowment of its kind in the region, aims to support Dubai's vision in becoming a global centre for stimulating and enabling awqaf and endowments to serve humanity. 'Sukuk Al Waqf' also facilitates contributions to endowments for individuals, companies and the private sector through temporary endowments, promotes sustainability in the humanitarian sector and launches innovative endowment initiatives.





We continue to uphold the values of giving in our society. We continue to extend a helping hand to less fortunate people. We continue to fight poverty, hunger and ignorance everywhere in our region and the world.

Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum



Healthcare & Disease Control

Within the Healthcare & Disease Control pillar, the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives** has implemented numerous initiatives, projects and programmes to combat common health challenges, improve healthcare services and contain epidemics. This effort aims to enhance quality of life in less fortunate and disaster-stricken areas worldwide.

AED

209

MILLION

spent on Healthcare
& Disease Control
initiatives in 2023

9.4

MILLION

beneficiaries of
Healthcare & Disease
Control initiatives in 2023

AED

50
MILLION

dedicated to 'The Child Fund'
launched by Al Jalila Foundation

AED

73.5
MILLION

provided through the 'A'awen'
initiative to treat patients in 2023

9.1
MILLION

patients received treatment
for trachoma in 2023



Preventing Disease & Fostering Sustainable, Healthy Environments



AED
209
Million
spent on Healthcare
& Disease Control
initiatives in 2023



9.4
Million
beneficiaries of
Healthcare & Disease
Control initiatives
in 2023

The **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives (MBRGI)** has emphasised the importance of Healthcare & Disease Control, one of its five key pillars, since its establishment. It has launched numerous initiatives, treatment programmes and awareness campaigns aimed at addressing health challenges, preventing infectious diseases and alleviating suffering in underprivileged communities and vulnerable groups worldwide.

MBRGI focused its efforts within this pillar to provide critical medical care and support the development of the healthcare sector. It also concentrated on funding research programmes and medical grants and qualifying and empowering medical professionals. Through its work within this pillar, **MBRGI** is committed to creating sustainable, healthy environments and preserving human health in societies around the world.

This vision was clearly translated into reality in 2023, as **Al Jalila Foundation**, which operates under **MBRGI**'s umbrella, celebrated its 10th anniversary as a global non-profit foundation in the field of healthcare, dedicated to improving lives and pioneering medical innovation.

Since its launch in 2013, **Al Jalila Foundation** has achieved significant milestones through medical treatment, education and research programmes and initiatives. Over the past 10 years, **Al Jalila Foundation** has provided direct medical support to 8,768 people, 30%

of whom were children suffering from life-threatening diseases such as cancer, heart disease and other chronic conditions. As part of its efforts to advance scientific research, **Al Jalila Foundation** has also awarded 125 research grants and 146 scholarships to medical students and doctors in training, in addition to investing AED 50 million in research infrastructure and knowledge enhancement.

Noor Dubai has continued to implement its various treatment programmes and awareness campaigns to combat eye disease, blindness and visual impairment, which have been launched over the years in vulnerable and remote communities in countries such as Ethiopia, Nigeria, Bangladesh, Nepal and the Philippines.

In 2023, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, issued a directive to establish the Sheikha Latifa bint Hamdan Unit for Cardiac Catheterisation Surgery at the Magdi Yacoub Global Heart Centre in Cairo, Egypt, which was supported by the **Arab Hope Makers** initiative, under the umbrella of **MBRGI**.

Total spending on **MBRGI**'s Healthcare & Disease Control programmes, initiatives and projects amounted to AED 209 million in 2023, benefitting 9.4 million people around the globe.





A SUSTAINABLE CHILDREN'S FUND



AED
50
Million

dedicated to 'The Child Fund' launched by Al Jalila Foundation

Under the umbrella of **MBRGI, Al Jalila Foundation** has worked to advance medical treatment and education since its establishment in 2013. It continues to spearhead innovation and scientific research to find new ways to mitigate life-threatening diseases.

In 2023, **Al Jalila Foundation** announced the launch of a pioneering community-based initiative called 'The Child Fund'. Valued at AED 50 million, the fund finances essential medical care for 3,000 children every year. The treatments are provided by Al Jalila

Children's Hospital, the UAE's first and only dedicated children's hospital.

During the inauguration of 'The Child Fund', 'The Giving Wall' was unveiled as a tribute to the Foundation's partners who pledged their support to the fund as permanent donors and contributors. Partners include the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Humanitarian & Charity Establishment**, Easa Saleh Al Gurg Charity Foundation, Islamic Affairs & Charitable Activities Department, Awqaf Dubai, Albatha Holding, IFFCO and Tarahum.



BIOBANK UPDATES

In 2023, **Al Jalila Foundation** completed Phase 1 of the biobank's construction with the delivery and installation of the biostore and the sample processing laboratory. Announced by **Al Jalila Foundation** in 2022, the biobank is the first of its kind in the UAE. Supported by robotic technologies and boasting a storage capacity of seven million samples, it will advance local medical research in the fields of genetic disorders, cancer, epidemics and chronic diseases.

Initial operational tests have been completed at the biostore and sample processing

laboratory, and it has been fully operational since early 2024. During Phase 2 of the project, **Al Jalila Foundation** aims to establish a facility to support the biobank, which will comprise a histopath laboratory, a study assessment module and a training laboratory.

Located at the Mohammed bin Rashid Medical Research Institute, the biobank will store all types of human biological samples, including blood, tissue, cells and bodily fluids. It will also store data related to the samples and other biomolecular resources that can be used in medical research.



7
Million

samples capable
of being stored at
the biobank





DONATIONS IN DIGITAL CURRENCY



5 NFTs

launched to support those in need of medical treatment

Al Jalila Foundation inaugurated the UAE’s first-ever collection of non-fungible tokens (NFTs) by a charity in 2023, making the Foundation the first healthcare charity in the UAE to accept donations in cryptocurrencies.

The idea of Emirati artist Maisoon Al Saleh, ‘A Fingerprint on Humanity’ was launched to raise awareness and encourage the community to make donations to support patients with life-threatening diseases. The collection comprises five NFTs, with each one designed in the shape of a letter and a colour representing cancer, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, vascular disease, mental health or obesity.

Unveiled at the 2023 Arts DAO Fest, a pioneering cultural festival celebrating digital art and internet culture, the NFT collection is aligned with the Dubai Metaverse Strategy, which aims to make the city a global hub for the metaverse community.

SPORT IN SUPPORT OF HUMANITARIANISM

In line with the UAE National Sports Strategy 2031, which aims to promote community well-being through sport, **Al Jalila Foundation** signed a memorandum of understanding with the Dubai Sports Council in 2023 to enhance the sport sector’s contributions towards humanitarian programmes and charitable initiatives.

In addition, **Al Jalila Foundation** was announced as the official charity partner of the Dubai Sports Council, further strengthening the entities’ collaboration. Together they aim to launch a series of initiatives to promote sport philanthropy and foster a culture of sport, physical activity and inclusive participation across all segments of society.

Coinciding with the announcement, **Al Jalila Foundation** inaugurated the ‘Champions of Hope’ tribute wall to recognise sport personalities who have made significant contributions to the Foundation.



SUSTAINABLE EDUCATION & RESEARCH ENDOWMENT

As a part of its efforts to improve quality of life through education and medical research, **Al Jalila Foundation** announced the AED 46 million 'Oud Metha Building', a seven-storey residential building endowment, in 2023.

Revenue from the building will be used to fund medical education and research programmes at Dubai Academic Health Corporation.

The Foundation plans to dedicate 8% of the revenue collected from renting the building's 60 residential units to support pioneering scientific research. The 'Oud Metha Building' is under construction on land granted by the Government of Dubai, with work commencing in 2023 and anticipated completion by the end of 2024.

Stemming from its commitment to cultivate a new generation of medical professionals, **Al Jalila Foundation** awarded 21 students with the 'Jood Scholarship' in cooperation with the Mohammed bin Rashid University of Medicine and Health Sciences. The

scholarship allows students to pursue various degrees, including a Bachelor of Medicine, a Master of Science in Orthodontics and a Master of Science in Paediatric Dentistry.

The 'Al Jalila Foundation Medical Research Seed Grants Program' also continued to invest in research projects in the UAE throughout 2023, benefitting 17 researchers in the fields of genetics, COVID-19 and cancer.

Additionally, the UAE-NIH Collaborative Research Initiative granted funding to 12 researchers from the UAE and the United States in 2023. **Al Jalila Foundation** launched this initiative in 2022 with the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, an affiliate of the United States National Institutes of Health (NIH), and three Emirati universities: Mohammed bin Rashid University of Medicine and Health Sciences, Khalifa University and UAE University. The partnership enhances collaborative research between scientists in the UAE and the United States.



AED

46

Million

allotted to the 'Oud Metha Building' to fund medical education and research programmes





Providing best-in-class healthcare services is at the forefront of the UAE's ambitious development plans.

Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum

MOBILE CLINICS

Al Jalila Foundation launched the ‘Wellness on Wheels’ initiative in 2023 as part of its efforts to give back to the community and serve humanity. The mobile clinics are outfitted with advanced medical equipment and staffed by volunteer doctors dedicated to providing exceptional medical treatment to the UAE’s senior citizens and labour workers, who may have irregular access to healthcare services.

The clinics treat respiratory illnesses, gastrointestinal diseases, musculoskeletal problems, dental and gum issues, urinary tract infections, vitamin deficiencies, diabetes, hypertension, dermatological conditions and cardiovascular diseases. In 2023, ‘Wellness on Wheels’ benefitted 1,394 people.

COLLABORATION FOR THE COMMUNITY

‘A’awen’, one of **Al Jalila Foundation’s** primary ongoing programmes, offers support to UAE-based patients who cannot afford quality medical care. During 2023, the programme funded treatment for 4,097 patients, including 357 children, with a budget of more than AED 73.5 million.

The Foundation also organised its annual ‘A’awen’ campaign during the holy month of Ramadan, in collaboration with 18 partners, raising AED 10 million to aid patients across the UAE.



AED
73.5
Million

in support provided through the ‘A’awen’ initiative to treat patients in 2023





SUPPORTING WOMEN WITH CANCER



AED
1.8
Million

in donations collected to support breast cancer patients in 2023

Al Jalila Foundation's 'Majlis Al Amal', or 'Hope Lounge', continued to offer psychological and medical support for cancer patients and survivors. Through the Majlis, women can connect with specialists, seek advice, participate in workshops and attend educational sessions provided by experts in the medical field.

'Majlis Al Amal' is a unique 'cancer drop-in centre' and the first of its kind dedicated to the health and well-being of female cancer

patients. In partnership with 'Brest Friends', in 2023 the Majlis successfully reached 750 members who participated in 155 activities.

In 2023, **Al Jalila Foundation's** annual #PINKtober campaign also raised AED 1.8 million from 197 events and activities organised by partners from various sectors of society, including corporates, academic institutions, government entities, sports organisations, the hospitality industry and individuals.



TA'ALOUF TO SUPPORT PEOPLE OF DETERMINATION

In 2023, **Al Jalila Foundation** remained strong in its commitment to serving people of determination (POD) and their families, caregivers and educators by conducting its annual 'Ta'alouf' initiative. Through its three main programmes – the 'Ta'alouf Talent Scout Program', the 'Ta'alouf Teachers Training Program' and the 'Ta'alouf Parents Training Program' – the initiative reached 7,782 people.

The 'Ta'alouf Talent Scout Program' organised free workshops and events in 2023 to empower POD with intellectual disabilities and their caretakers by identifying and nurturing the POD's talents and strengths and enabling them to pursue meaningful social and educational opportunities. The programme benefitted 489 people through events and workshops such as 'Empowering and Discovering Talents of Students of Determination',

'Indoor Plant Arrangement for Young People with Down Syndrome' and 'Every Mind Matters'.

Al Jalila Foundation also continued the 'Ta'alouf Teachers Training Program' in 2023. The programme focused on equipping teachers and principals with the necessary skills to better understand each student's individual learning needs and broaden their understanding about inclusive education. The 2022–2023 cohort included 67 teachers and school principals from 15 schools, which impacted the lives of 6,923 students.

Meanwhile, the 'Ta'alouf Parents Training Program' benefitted 303 people in 2023. The programme teaches parents and caregivers the necessary skills to enable them to support the development of their children of determination and advocate for their social inclusion.



7,782
Beneficiaries
of the 'Ta'alouf'
programme in 2023



MELODIES OF LIFE & HOPE



When Fatima was eight months old, her parents noticed that she did not respond to sounds, even loud noises. They took her for a hearing test and discovered that she was suffering from severe hearing loss.

Fatima's parents worried for their daughter. Not only would she grow up without hearing their voices, but they were concerned for her future and the challenges she would face.

They held onto hope, however, trying to improve her condition with hearing aids, but their efforts were in vain. After consulting with a specialist, it was clear that the only cure for her condition was an advanced cochlear implant. Despite its high cost, Fatima's parents were determined to give their daughter the best life possible. They contacted **Al Jalila Foundation**, which provided the family with the support they needed to proceed with the operation.

Fatima underwent cochlear implant surgery in August 2023, and regained her hearing in less than four months. The surgery was so successful that she started speaking even before beginning speech therapy.

Fatima's parents were overjoyed by their daughter's remarkable progress and expressed their gratitude for the Foundation's support: "No matter how much we thank **Al Jalila Foundation**, we cannot thank them enough for the support they gave our daughter. She has regained the gift of hearing and can now live a normal life filled with sound and music."

FINDING BELONGING AT 'MAJLIS AL AMAL'



At 43 years old and leading a full, healthy life, Darlington's world was turned upside down in April 2022 when she was diagnosed with Stage 3 breast cancer.

She was deeply shaken by this news, especially as her husband had lost his job and her insurance would not cover her treatment. Despite her fears for the future, she continued to hope. With the assistance of **Al Jalila Foundation's** 'A'awen' programme, she was finally able to receive the treatment she needed.

After Darlington finished her last chemotherapy session, she received a call from **Al Jalila Foundation's** 'Majlis Al Amal', a support network of women whose lives had been touched by cancer, inviting her to the group's one-year anniversary celebration. Darlington describes her experience at the event as "bringing her back to life."

Through 'Majlis Al Amal', Darlington found belonging and reassurance. Its members became like her second family, providing her with hope to persevere through her battle. Alongside other women in the group, she found not just psychological support, but also courage and resilience.

Today, Darlington is grateful to everyone who helped her during her recovery journey: "I cannot thank **Al Jalila Foundation** enough for helping. I was afraid because we couldn't afford treatment, but with the financial and moral support of the Foundation, I feel much better today – I feel like myself again. Thank you for giving me hope."



SUSTAINABLE EYE HEALTH CAMPAIGNS



**9.1
Million**

patients treated for trachoma in 2023

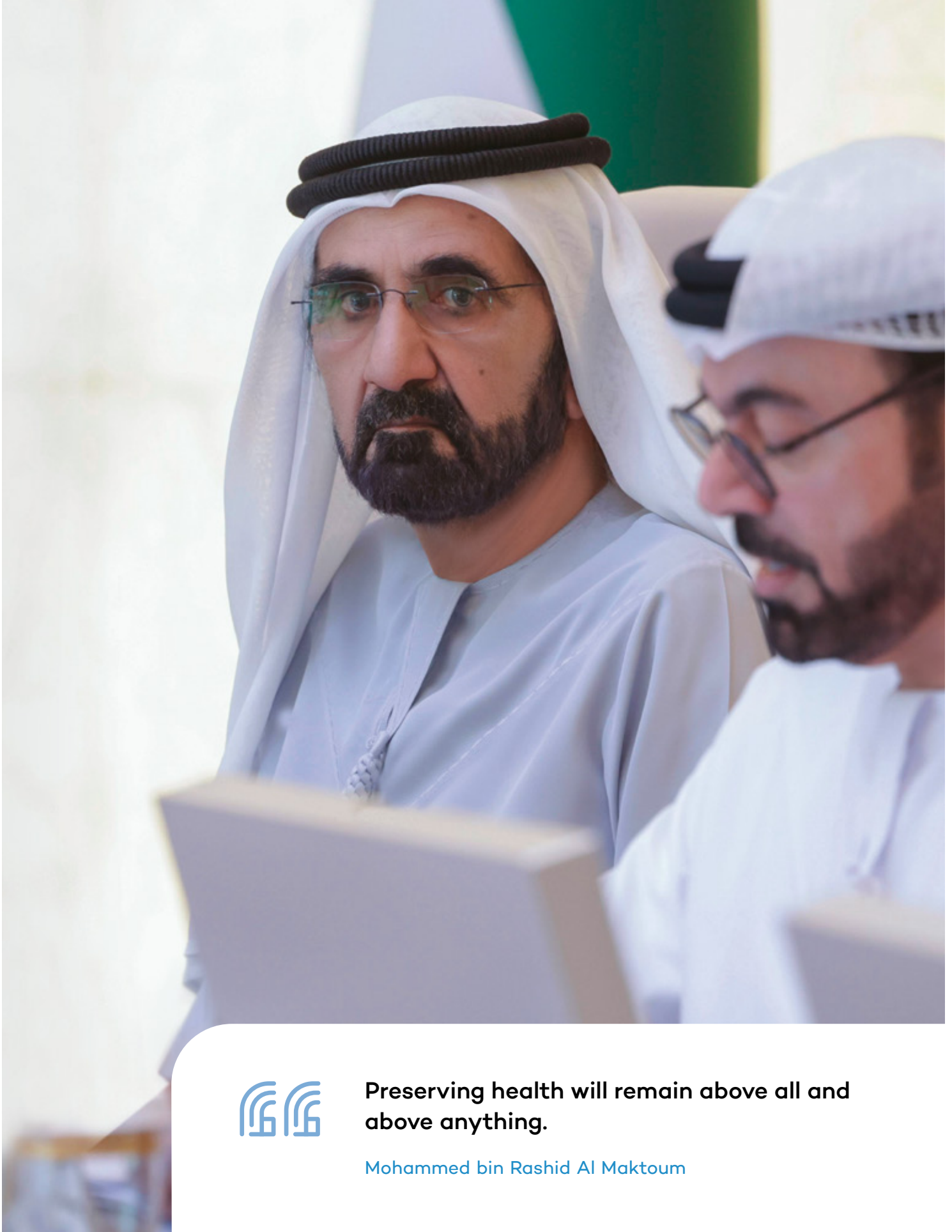
Under **MBRGI's** Healthcare & Disease Control pillar, **Noor Dubai** serves disadvantaged communities around the globe by implementing various therapeutic, preventive and awareness campaigns to achieve its vision of mitigating eye diseases that cause blindness and visual impairment.

In 2023, **Noor Dubai** sustained its efforts to combat chronic and infectious eye diseases by conducting examinations to diagnose, identify causes and provide treatments for those affected. It also focused on training eye health specialists, supporting scientific research in this field and raising awareness about the importance of maintaining eye health and preventing blindness.

Noor Dubai also continued its programme to eliminate blinding trachoma in 2023 in Ethiopia's Amhara Region, which has the highest-known rate of trachoma in the world. The programme benefitted 9,142,612 people in the region and trained 14,865 health workers in trachoma prevention and mass drug distribution.

Through this programme, **Noor Dubai** and The Carter Center work together to implement the World Health Organization's SAFE strategy, which encompasses eye surgeries, antibiotics, facial cleanliness and environmental improvement, to stop the spread of trachoma.





Preserving health will remain above all and above anything.

Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum



EYE HEALTH IN KATSINA



121,507 Beneficiaries

of the 'Katsina School
Eye Screening
Programme' in Nigeria
in 2023

In 2023, **Noor Dubai** concluded the 'Katsina Eye Care Program' in Nigeria's northern state of Katsina. The four-year programme, which ran from 2019 to 2023, provided comprehensive eye care, including examinations, diagnosis and treatment for conditions that cause visual impairment, including conjunctivitis and allergies, while referring cases involving refractive visual defects and cataracts for surgery. The programme is sustainable as its activities are integrated into the public health system.

In 2023, the programme benefitted 7,783 people, including 5,186 people who received eye examinations and 2,597 who underwent cataract surgery.

The 'Katsina Eye Care Program' improved the quality of life for residents of Katsina state and neighbouring areas over the past four years, providing eye screening and treatment for 22,381 people. Under the programme, 11,873 people received cataract surgery, 51% of whom were women, and 267 medical

professionals were trained in eye health. Additionally, it refurbished and equipped three eye clinics, established 12 vision centres and supplied Katsina with 128 ophthalmic devices.

Noor Dubai also completed its 'Katsina School Eye Screening Program' in Katsina, Nigeria. During 2023, it benefitted 121,507 people, including 119,579 students and 396 teachers who received eye examinations, and distributed 1,532 pairs of eyeglasses. Since the programme's launch in 2022, 281,103 students and 2,196 teachers were able to access eye examinations and 1,821 pairs of eyeglasses were handed out. In addition, 80 teachers and eight nurses received specialised training in eye health.

As part of its efforts to have a positive economic and social impact and further fulfilment of the Sustainable Development Goals in Katsina, **Noor Dubai** conducted three qualitative studies to measure the impact of its programmes' eye surgery interventions. The first study, 'The Economic Impacts of



EYE CAMPS TO PREVENT BLINDNESS

Cataract Surgery on Sustainable Vision and Quality of Life in Katsina State', examined 300 random samples selected from among the cataract surgery beneficiaries. The results showed that surgery recipients' productivity increased by 96.2% and their income increased by 99.6%. Meanwhile, 99% agreed that their employability had improved, and 90% reported general improvement.

The second study, 'Economic Benefits of Eye Care Interventions on Social Inclusion and Quality of Life', investigated how **Noor Dubai's** programmes impacted beneficiaries' social inclusion and quality of life by examining 300 random beneficiaries. The study revealed that 98% of respondents were less dependent on escorts, 98% were more active in social functions and 99% had more freedom over their life choices. It also found that discrimination against those with visual impairments decreased by 96%, and 96% of respondents agreed that life feels more sustainable for them.

Noor Dubai's third study, 'The Impact of Eye Care Intervention on Poverty Reduction in Katsina State', looked at 200 samples selected from cataract surgery beneficiaries. The results were positive, with beneficiaries who initially had a monthly income of only USD 11.30 reporting a significant increase to reach USD 113.40. The current poverty threshold in Katsina is USD 2.15 per day. The study suggested that eye care interventions reduced poverty by improving quality of life indicators, including productivity, income, employability, knowledge, skill and self-esteem.

Targeting remote areas in developing countries to reduce blindness, **Noor Dubai's** mobile eye camps offer screening, diagnosis and treatment, conduct surgeries and distribute eyeglasses to at-risk groups.

In 2023, the camps served 30,690 people across five countries, of which 23,123 people received eye examinations and 2,643 underwent eye surgery. In addition, 4,924 eyeglasses were distributed.

Camps in Bangladesh reached 6,567 people, 708 of whom underwent surgery, and distributed 1,418 eyeglasses. In Nepal, 4,379 people received eye exams, 506 underwent surgery and 2,119 eyeglasses were distributed.

In Ghana, 9,627 people had screenings, 504 people underwent surgery and 982 eyeglasses were distributed. The camps in the Philippines conducted 1,200 exams and 255 surgeries and distributed 405 eyeglasses. In Somaliland, 1,350 patients received eye screenings and 670 underwent surgery.



30,690
Beneficiaries
of Noor Dubai's mobile
eye camps in 2023



A HEALING JOURNEY FROM INDIA TO NEPAL



Lakku Devi, 64, and Dev Narayan, 69, sought cataract treatment in India. Despite support from their youngest son, who was already burdened with the cost of his own diabetes treatment as well as supporting his three young children, the couple could not afford the surgery in their home country.

The couple heard about a treatment camp run by **Noor Dubai** in Nepal. Accompanied by their youngest son, they travelled to the camp on bicycles, where they did not have any accommodation. However, they were so determined to receive treatment that they endured these hardships, clinging to the hope that they would be cured and eventually return home.

The couple was examined by the medical team at **Noor Dubai's** mobile eye camp, and they were approved for surgery. The couple asked the doctors if they could undergo surgery together, as they had not been separated since the day of their wedding.

Their sight was restored, and they returned to India. Their treatment journey had finally ended, and their journey towards recovery had begun.

A DREAM WITHOUT LIMITS



Abdullah, a fourth-grade student from Bangladesh, always wanted to become a doctor. His interest in healthcare was piqued when he heard about a training programme at his school.

The training programme, part of the 'Barisal Eye Care Program', is a joint initiative by **Noor Dubai** and the Fred Hollows Foundation. During the programme, Abdullah learned how to examine vision using the 'E' chart. He also learned how to evaluate his classmates' vision and detect hidden problems related to uncorrected refractive defects.

The programme was a pivotal moment that solidified his aspirations to become a doctor: "I was happy to join the training programme, and I want to become an ophthalmologist to be a guardian of sight. Our eyes are the essence of our existence and our companions on the journey of life."



COMPREHENSIVE EYE CARE



20,850 Beneficiaries

of the 'Barisal Eye Care Program' in Bangladesh in 2023

In line with its commitment to reducing blindness-causing eye diseases, **Noor Dubai** resumed its 'Barisal Eye Care Program' in Bangladesh's Barisal Division, which will continue until the end of 2025. The programme offers effective and affordable prevention, as well as treatment and management of refractive errors and diabetic retinopathy through specialised healthcare services, free screening and eye health awareness campaigns.

In 2023, a total of 20,850 people benefitted from the programme, with 12,500 undergoing refractive error screening, 5,000 of whom were students, and 1,250 receiving eyeglasses. Another 6,789 patients were screened for diabetic retinopathy, of whom 128 received laser treatment, while 183 people were trained in basic eye healthcare.

MAINTAINING EYE HEALTH LOCALLY

As a part of its outreach programmes, **Noor Dubai** provided free eye screening to 4,093 people and distributed 402 free pairs of eyeglasses across the UAE through its annual mobile eye clinic. Launched in 2014, the clinic provides free examinations to UAE residents via buses equipped with state-of-the-art medical equipment.

Noor Dubai also continued its national 'UAE Treatment Program' to provide partial or complete funding for UAE residents with limited financial capability to treat critical eye diseases. During 2023, the programme gave 104 people access to eye screening and treatment – the largest number treated in a single year since it began.

The programme seeks to reduce the risk of visual impairment due to delayed access to or limited financial means to pay for healthcare.



A CARDIAC CATHETERISATION UNIT

In 2023, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, issued a directive to establish the Sheikha Latifa bint Hamdan Unit for Cardiac Catheterisation Surgery at the Magdi Yacoub Global Heart Centre in Cairo, Egypt. It aims to provide free medical services and heart catheterisation surgeries for children and disadvantaged patients from all over the Arab world.

The unit will offer free, advanced treatment services around the clock. It will feature the latest medical technologies, including robotic surgical facilities, in order to perform 9,000 catheterisation procedures for adults and children every year.

Construction of the Magdi Yacoub Global Heart Centre, which was supported by the

Arab Hope Makers initiative, under the umbrella of **MBRGI**, reached 80% completion in 2023.

The new centre in Cairo aims to meet the increasing demand for cardiovascular care by accommodating up to 120,000 outpatients and 12,000 inpatients, especially newborns with congenital heart conditions. This would constitute a three-fold increase in the current capacity of the hospital in Aswan.

As cardiovascular disease is among the leading causes of death in the Arab region, according to the World Health Organization, the Magdi Yacoub Global Heart Centre seeks to train approximately 1,750 healthcare professionals and scientists every year to address this urgent need.



9,000
Procedures

to be performed at the Sheikha Latifa bint Hamdan Unit for Cardiac Catheterisation Surgery every year





Spreading Education & Knowledge

The **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives** conducts dozens of projects and programmes under its Spreading Education & Knowledge pillar, which is fundamental to the development of thriving societies. These efforts enhance cultural appreciation and foster knowledge with the aim of equipping youth with the skills they need to tackle future challenges.

AED

242

MILLION

spent on Spreading
Education & Knowledge
initiatives in 2023

62.2

MILLION

beneficiaries of Spreading
Education & Knowledge
initiatives in 2023

24
MILLION

beneficiaries of Dubai Cares'
programmes and initiatives
by the end of 2023

24.8
MILLION

student participants in
the seventh edition of the
Arab Reading Challenge

3.5
MILLION

students registered on the
Madrasa e-Learning Platform
by the end of 2023



Advancing Education & Empowering Future Generations



AED
242
Million

spent on Spreading Education & Knowledge initiatives in 2023



62.2
Million

beneficiaries of Spreading Education & Knowledge initiatives in 2023

The **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives (MBRGI)** places particular emphasis on the Spreading Education & Knowledge pillar, as education is one of the most important human rights and the foundation upon which societies are built. It is key to enhancing quality of life and driving economic development, as well as equipping future generations with the skills and expertise they need to build a better future. Within this framework, **MBRGI** implements numerous projects and initiatives around the world that enhance traditional and digital education environments, train teaching staff and provide educational tools and techniques.

In 2023, **Dubai Cares** placed education at the forefront of the 28th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28) agenda during the second RewirEd Summit. The Summit convened leading officials, global stakeholders and experts from different backgrounds to lead a global discussion promoting education transformation as a powerful solution to achieving sustainable development.

In October 2023, the closing ceremony of the seventh **Arab Reading Challenge** named Abdullah Mohammad Abdullah Al Berri, Qatar, and Amnah Mohammad Al Mansoori, UAE, the joint Champions of the 2023 Challenge, which saw a record participation of 24.8 million Arab students from 46 countries.

Meanwhile, the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Knowledge Foundation** held the eighth **Knowledge Summit**, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme. Under the theme 'Knowledge

Cities and the Fifth Industrial Revolution', the Summit drew 15,124 participants, convening thought leaders, policymakers and experts to examine the impact of the Fifth Industrial Revolution and fifth-generation technologies on the future economic model and the development of knowledge cities.

The Digital School joined the global education agenda for sustainable development, consolidating its position as a leading digital education institution that achieves scalable and sustainable results for underprivileged communities. In 2023, its international services benefitted more than 108,000 students across eight countries.

The **Madrassa e-Learning Platform** received the eLearning Innovation Award from the National eLearning Center in Saudi Arabia in recognition of its continuous efforts to provide open-source learning materials and Arabic educational content in all areas.

Also in 2023, the **Mohammed bin Rashid Library** launched a project called 'A World in Your Language' to allow visitors to read and listen to books in 13 languages. Initiated in line with the Library's vision to foster effective communication, the project aims to remove barriers between cultures by enabling readers of different nationalities to read and listen to books and knowledge resources in their native language.

MBRGI spent approximately AED 242 million in 2023 on Spreading Education & Knowledge initiatives, programmes and projects to benefit 62.2 million people around the globe.





REWIRING EDUCATION



**24
Million**

beneficiaries of Dubai Cares' programmes and initiatives by the end of 2023

Under **MBRGI's** umbrella, **Dubai Cares** continued to work towards achieving United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 4, Quality Education, by providing comprehensive education, supporting innovative and sustainable learning projects and offering training for teachers, with special emphasis on education in emergencies and crises. By the end of 2023, the total number of beneficiaries of **Dubai Cares'** initiatives and projects reached more than 24 million in 60 countries.

In 2023, **Dubai Cares** made history during the second RewirEd Summit by bringing education to the forefront of the COP28 agenda. This marked the first time in COP history that the education and climate sectors convened under one roof. The Summit hosted more than 1,000 participants, including two heads of state, 22 ministers and 28 CEOs, with

260 speakers from 209 entities and 76 countries uniting their voices to promote education as a vital component of achieving sustainable development.

The RewirEd Summit featured 35 sessions, which brought together key figures from many sectors. It witnessed the launch of initiatives and solutions to facilitate the rewiring of education systems around the globe in ways that empower youth to actively contribute to climate action at every stage of learning.

Dubai Cares announced the spin-off of the RewirED Summit as an independent global platform led by an international Board of Directors. The Board's three co-chairs are Laura Frigenti, CEO of Global Partnership for Education, Yasmine Sherif, Executive Director of Education Cannot Wait, and Dr Tariq Al Gurg, CEO and Vice-Chairman of **Dubai Cares**.

The 'Green Jobs for Youth: Online Training and Mentoring' programme was also launched at the Summit as a collaboration between the Ban Ki-moon Centre for Global Citizens and **Dubai Cares**, to help youth choose careers that aid in solving the climate crisis and enhance their potential in contributing to the transition to a green economy. Under this partnership, **Dubai Cares** will be committed to the programme's three main components: an online course that leverages technology to empower students with green skills; a mentoring element that connects youth with professionals in the green job sector; and a policy recommendation document to influence policy aimed at attracting more youth to work in green sectors.



ACCELERATING EDUCATIONAL TRANSFORMATION

Reinforcing its commitment to transforming education everywhere, **Dubai Cares** unveiled the 'Global Education Solutions Accelerator', in partnership with the Aga Khan Foundation and with support from the Global Centre on Adaptation, at COP28 in 2023. This innovative tool will help countries accelerate progress towards 2030 by working with a robust network of international experts in development and education to identify and implement solutions that best address challenges facing education transformation.

In its first phase, **Dubai Cares** and the Aga Khan Foundation aim to fast-track education transformation across 10 countries that are part of the Schools2030 programme, which is led by the Aga Khan Foundation. These countries include Afghanistan, Brazil, India, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Portugal, Tajikistan, Tanzania and Uganda, which represent a collective population of 2.1 billion people. The transformation of the existing education systems in these countries would result in significant gains for entire populations, with children and youth reaching their full potential through the right set of values, skills, knowledge and experiences needed to address current challenges and drive socioeconomic growth within their countries.

In the same context, according to the United Nations' report on the 2022 Transforming Education Summit, more than 80 countries plan to include climate education in their national curricula. However, the major challenge is to design climate education policies and implement them in an ambitious, realistic and inclusive way.

The Aga Khan Foundation, in partnership with Teach For All, **Dubai Cares** and the Learning Planet Institute, also announced the launch of 'teachersfortheplanet.org' during COP28 to ensure that teachers remain at the centre of the world's educational response to the climate crisis. The online portal hosts more than 100 outstanding teacher-led climate education solutions from 60 countries.

The solutions offered on the portal include a permaculture training programme to support homeless children in Uganda, as well as an initiative that supports high school and university students in Cambodia to work with local people living on the Mekong River to tackle environmental issues. It also includes the Planet B project, a user-friendly climate education teaching resource for teachers in Lebanon.



100 Solutions

submitted on 'teachersfortheplanet.org' to address the global climate crisis by the end of 2023





FUTURE SKILLS IN INDIA



50,000
Beneficiaries

of the 'Future Skills
in India' programme

To address unemployment caused by the COVID-19 pandemic in India, **Dubai Cares** continued its partnership with the National Skills Development Corporation, the first and largest programme to invest in impact bonds to enhance skills development in India, in cooperation with global stakeholders through the 'Future Skills in India' programme. Operating from 2021 to 2026, the programme features a USD 14.4 million fund dedicated to equipping 50,000 young people in India, 60% of whom are females, with the necessary skills and training to access paid employment in industries recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic.

This partnership successfully launched the first impact bonds for skills development through the collaborative efforts of **Dubai Cares**, HRH Prince Charles's British Asian

Trust, the Michael and Susan Dell Foundation, the Children's Investment Fund Foundation, HSBC India, the JSW Foundation, the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office of the Government of the United Kingdom and the United States Agency for International Development. The coalition aims to build innovative financing mechanisms leveraging the capital and expertise of the private sector, with a focus on achieving results.

Under this framework, rather than the government funding the project upfront, private sector investors provide the financing, with repayment due only when the initiative achieves agreed-upon milestones. The programme will address the youth unemployment crisis by offering skills development for participating trainees, motivating training providers and creating systemic change in India's labour market.



A FUTURE OF OPPORTUNITIES



Pinki Kumari grew up with four siblings in the Dhanbad district in Jharkhand, India, where her family worked in agriculture for an annual income of only 36,000 Indian rupees (USD 433). Her life changed dramatically when her friend told her about Bokaro Gurukul, a training centre run by one of the partners of the 'Future Skills in India' programme, which is supported by **Dubai Cares**.

The programme provides young people with comprehensive professional training, equipping them with essential skills to secure employment within their communities. Adjusting to this change was difficult at first, but Pinki soon adapted. By the end of the course, she had acquired new skills in operating and manufacturing automated vehicles, as well as made lots of new friends.

After her graduation, she was offered a position as a trainee in an engineering company and received a much higher income than her family members, making her the main breadwinner. She was proud that she could at last help support her family. She was even able to buy a bicycle for her father.

Pinki's resilience and determination have made her an example of success despite adversity. Her story illustrates how embracing opportunities in challenging situations can bring hope and positive change.



SOLIDARITY WITH AFFECTED COMMUNITIES



10,000 Relief Kits

packed as part of the 'Bridges of Giving' initiative in 2023

Dubai Cares participated in the 'Bridges of Giving' initiative in February 2023, organised by the Emirates Red Crescent in collaboration with the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other local charities and humanitarian organisations, to aid families affected by the devastating earthquake in Syria and Türkiye.

With the assistance of 1,670 volunteers, **Dubai Cares** packed 10,000 relief kits for families in Syria and Türkiye, which included food, hygiene items and winter supplies.

To support further relief efforts, **Dubai Cares** also organised two events in Dubai as a part of the 'Tarahum for Gaza' campaign in October 2023. The events were supervised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in cooperation with the Emirates Red Crescent, the World Food Programme and the Ministry of Community Development, and included the

participation of 20 humanitarian institutions in addition to national volunteering platforms.

The campaign was an extension of the UAE's efforts to support those affected by the conflict in Gaza. The nation's philanthropic values are evident in many of its initiatives aimed at alleviating the suffering of the people of Palestine, especially women and children, and to mitigate the severe impact of the humanitarian crisis they are facing.

The first event organised by **Dubai Cares** as a part of the 'Tarahum for Gaza' campaign was held on 21 October 2023. It was supported by 1,862 volunteers who assembled 7,500 relief kits, which included packages for women and children and food packs. On 29 October 2023, **Dubai Cares** organised the second event with the participation of 988 volunteers who packed 5,000 food kits.



RESEARCH & STUDIES TO SUPPORT EDUCATION

In line with its belief in the pivotal role of research to improve education in underprivileged communities, **Dubai Cares** supported two research projects examining promising policies to support teacher management in refugee settings, which were funded by the Foundation’s E-Cubed research envelope and undertaken in collaboration with the UNESCO International Institute for Educational Planning and the Education Development Trust. The two projects aim to study existing policies in Kenya and Uganda.

The research projects address the need to understand and chart paths for how policies related to the global refugee crisis, such as the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework and the Global Compact on Refugees, can be applied to teachers in refugee settings. The aim is to generate policy options and guidance to advocate for

improved refugee teacher management in line with international and regional standards.

Dubai Cares concluded another research project under the E-Cubed envelope, which focused on how participation in a non-formal accelerated education programme can shape adolescents’ trajectories and outcomes in north-east Nigeria. The study collected data and assessed how informal education in crisis environments impacts the lives of youth.

Additionally, the E-Cubed study ‘Voices of Refugee Youth: The Impact of Post-Primary Education in Emergencies in Pakistan and Rwanda’ filled a critical gap in global research on education in emergencies by building an evidence base for post-primary education for refugee youth. The study looked how post-primary education for refugees affected their learning, employability and capabilities.



AED
3.9
Million

dedicated to education research by Dubai Cares in 2023





The doors to the future open to those who seek knowledge. The future exists between the covers of a book, and whoever reads a line today will write chapters in the book of tomorrow.

Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum

NURTURING YOUNG READERS

Since 2015, the **Arab Reading Challenge** has ignited a passion for reading among students across the Arab world, Arab communities in foreign countries and non-native Arabic learners. The Challenge raises awareness of the reality of Arab reading and highlights its importance to advance its position globally, as well as to foster a deeper sense of belonging to one Arab nation. It promotes tolerance through reading and nurtures a generation of exceptional individuals capable of transforming all sectors.

On 31 October 2023, the closing ceremony of the seventh **Arab Reading Challenge** was held at Dubai Opera before an audience of more than 1,500 people. The ceremony honoured the Challenge winners, with Abdullah Mohammad Abdullah Al Berri, Qatar, and Amnah Mohammad Al Mansoori, UAE, tying for the title of Arab Reading Champion 2023. Naema Jihad Rajoub, Syria, and Mohammad Walid Abdullatif, Egypt, tied for second place.

The seventh **Arab Reading Challenge** engaged a record 24.8 million students from 46 countries and 188,000 schools, and was overseen by around 150,000 supervisors.

The seventh Challenge also launched the People of Determination category, which attracted 22,506 participants. A major improvement to the initiative, the new category reflects the importance of giving people of determination opportunities to showcase and enhance their skills. Yousuf bin Dawoud, Tunisia, was declared the Champion of the new category, while Abdullah Ammar Mohammed Al Sayyed,

Egypt, won second place, and Zaid bin Tariq Al Aadi, Oman, was awarded third place.

Mohammed Abdulraqib Ali Ahmed Al Kawkabani, Malaysia, earned first place in the Community Champion category for students in non-Arab countries and non-Arab students. Maram Saddouqi, France, won second, and Hussain Mustafa Ihsan, Türkiye, won third.

The King Abdullah II School for Excellence in Jordan was named the Best School out of 188,000 participating schools. Saudi Arabia's Mawaheb Al Watan School earned second place, while the Martyr Pilot Ali Mohammed Ali School in Egypt came in third.

The Outstanding Supervisor Award went to Samaher Al Sawaei, Jordan, while Fuad bin Medyef Al Talhi, Saudi Arabia, won second place and Noorah Al Shehhi, UAE, won third.



24.8 Million

participants in the
seventh edition of the
Arab Reading Challenge



A VISIONARY HERO



Yousuf bin Dawoud, a 10-year-old boy from Tunisia, was born with a severe visual impairment, but his passion for reading was stronger than the challenges he faced. He had heard about the previous seasons of the **Arab Reading Challenge**, and as an avid reader, had always dreamed of participating.

In 2023, the seventh **Arab Reading Challenge** introduced a new category for people of determination. When Yousuf heard about this opportunity, he was thrilled. By the end of the Challenge, he had read 25 books, both fiction and non-fiction.

He competed against more than 22,000 students from across the Arab world and emerged victorious, becoming the Challenge's inaugural champion in the People of Determination category.

Yousuf did not view his visual impairment as an obstacle. Rather, it fuelled his determination. Refusing to let it hinder him, Yousuf pursued his goals and ultimately earned this prestigious title. Reflecting on his journey, he said: "Life unfolds according to our will. Don't allow a disability to stand in the way of your dreams."

BUILDING COMMUNITIES OF KNOWLEDGE

Within the framework of its strategic partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in 2023 the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Knowledge Foundation (MBRF)** resumed its 'Knowledge Project' to promote knowledge-based sustainable development in the Arab region and beyond. The project comprises the 'Global Knowledge Index', the 'Knowledge4All' portal and the 'KnowTalks'.

In 2023, **MBRF** announced the 2023 'Global Knowledge Index' (GKI) during the eighth **Knowledge Summit**. Since 2017, the GKI has measured the performance of seven sectors in the production, dissemination and application of knowledge, including pre-university education, higher education, vocational education, scientific research and innovation, economic development, and information and communication technology, in addition to the supportive environments that contribute to the knowledge climate.

The GKI highlights the strengths and weaknesses of countries' performance in these areas, with a focus on the relationship between knowledge and development. It is the only index to evaluate rates of interaction with knowledge at the country level, and is a major source of global development data.

Switzerland topped the list of 133 countries in the 2023 GKI report, while Finland came in second place, followed by Sweden and the Netherlands. The UAE maintained its leading position among Arab nations and ranked 26th globally. This reflects the country's efforts to promote, disseminate and exchange

knowledge and build a knowledge-based economy. Qatar came second in the region, followed by Saudi Arabia.

In 2023, **MBRF** organised 18 'KnowTalks', bringing together 34 experts in various fields of knowledge. Meanwhile, the 'Knowledge4All' portal, which offers knowledge products, data and publications on knowledge-related topics for academics, professionals, students and the public, reached 456,196 users.

MBRF and UNDP also announced the launch of the 'FutureSkills4All' initiative in 2023 as a new initiative under the 'Knowledge Project's' umbrella. A collaboration with Coursera, this initiative seeks to hone the skills of thousands of Arab youth to prepare them for future jobs and drive regional economic growth. The initiative's initial phase covers nine Arab countries and strives to engage 6,000 learners to lead the skills revolution. The long-term vision is to extend the initiative's reach to one million youth. Courses are offered in Arabic, English and French to ensure they are accessible to a wide segment of learners.



1 Million

learners targeted by the 'FutureSkills4All' initiative





THE LANGUAGE OF SCIENCE & TRANSLATION



6.5 Million

people engaged with celebrations and activities as part of the 'Bil Arabi' initiative in 2023

In conjunction with World Arabic Language Day on 18 December, **MBRF** launched the 11th 'Bil Arabi' initiative in 2023 under the theme 'Arabic: The Language of Science and Translation'. The initiative aims to enhance the use of the Arabic language in digital media and raise awareness of its richness, sophistication and values, which are closely linked to Arab heritage, by publishing content across social media channels. More than 6.5 million people interacted with its activities.

To promote the habit of reading in the Arabic language, **MBRF** distributed 50,000 books to

2,500 families in the UAE under its 'My Family is Reading' initiative, in collaboration with the Emirates Schools Establishment.

MBRF also signed a memorandum of understanding with the Akdemistanbul Language Center in 2023 to strengthen and promote the use of the Arabic language. The agreement encompasses several topics such as knowledge resource management, launching initiatives and organising research and knowledge forums to create an institutional culture that supports knowledge exchange.



PARTNERSHIPS FOR KNOWLEDGE DISSEMINATION NURTURING YOUNG WRITERS

In 2023, **MBRF** reaffirmed its commitment to develop and disseminate knowledge and enhance international partnerships, evidenced by its participation in the Cairo, London, Abu Dhabi, Sharjah and Frankfurt book fairs. These came as opportunities to establish lasting relationships with global partners. **MBRF** also demonstrated its international commitment by concluding strategic agreements with counterpart institutions in several countries, including Ukraine and Slovenia, with the goal of expanding bilateral cooperation in knowledge exchange and development.

In 2023, **MBRF** signed an agreement with the Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Foundation to reinforce their existing strategic partnerships, consolidate efforts to serve society and create a positive influence in the economic and social spheres.

MBRF's collaboration with the Supreme Council for Media Regulation in Egypt and the Arab Council for Childhood and Development solidified its commitment to enhancing media cooperation and supporting childhood development initiatives. Furthermore, an agreement was concluded with the Islamic World Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (ICESCO) to improve the GKI performance of ICESCO member states.

MBRF's work found global acknowledgement during the United Nations General Assembly meeting in New York, where **MBRF** was recognised for its strong partnership with UNDP by Dr Abdallah Al Dardari, UNDP's Assistant Secretary-General and Director of the Regional Bureau for Arab States.

Since it was launched in 2013, the 'Dubai International Program for Writing' has had an indelible impact on the region's literary and creative landscape. Offering training courses and workshops in writing to help young talents excel, the programme has produced many pioneering publications. The programme provides a nurturing environment for creativity and innovation that contributes to the literary and knowledge movement at the local, regional and international levels.

In 2023, **MBRF** organised a new series of the programme that included five specialised training courses. Under the guidance of top trainers, 42 participants created 21 books. Since its inception, it has sharpened the writing skills of more than 300 young people and organised numerous workshops.



42
Participants
in the 'Dubai
International Program
for Writing' in 2023





THE OUTLOOK FOR KNOWLEDGE CITIES



15,124

Attendees

and viewers of the Knowledge Summit in 2023

In November 2023, **MBRF** hosted the eighth **Knowledge Summit** in collaboration with UNDP under the theme ‘Knowledge Cities and the Fifth Industrial Revolution’.

The Summit’s eighth edition brought together experts, thought leaders, policymakers, academics and entrepreneurs from across the globe to examine the role the Fifth Industrial Revolution has played in shaping knowledge cities and the fifth-generation technologies that have revolutionised business models and are now shaping the future economic model. It highlighted the trends influencing the development of the sustainable and equitable cities of the future, as well as the pivotal role of knowledge workers in building futuristic economies.

The Summit comprised 43 sessions on subjects including digital health, sustainable tourism strategies, education transformation tools, knowledge cities, fifth generation

educational technologies, the impact of the Fifth Industrial Revolution on start-ups and the biotechnology industry, among others.

The **Knowledge Summit** welcomed 15,124 people who either attended in person or streamed the live broadcast to hear from 105 speakers, including experts, leaders and government officials from around the world.

The **Knowledge Summit** has continued to advance the global knowledge movement by convening thought leaders and decision-makers to forecast the future of knowledge. It has galvanised Dubai’s efforts to strengthen countries’ abilities to foster knowledge societies and increase awareness among governments aspiring to achieve high levels of development and well-being for their citizens.



LEADING DIGITAL LEARNING

Launched in 2020 under the umbrella of **MBRGI**, **The Digital School** is the first comprehensive online school of its kind, which empowers students with digital learning options in areas where the necessary educational environment and resources are not available. It offers high-quality distance learning options in a smart and flexible manner using modern education materials and curricula, primarily targeting displaced persons and students in underserved communities.

The Digital School endeavours to make a difference in the lives of children who have been deprived of access to quality education due to crises or a lack of resources by providing an integrated digital education system. Furthermore, **The Digital School** believes in its ability to make a profound impact on communities through its use of cutting-edge teaching and education techniques, as well as its partnerships with

international organisations, funding institutions, technology and education experts and global stakeholders.

In less than three years, **The Digital School** has gained global recognition and was listed in the Education for Sustainable Development agenda, achieving widespread and sustainable impact for those who need it most. Within a remarkably short period of time, **The Digital School** has attracted significant attention, solidifying its position as a leading educational institution in the field of digital learning that is wholly aligned with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals as well as the UAE's humanitarian aid and development objectives.

In 2023, **The Digital School**, in cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, designated 19 March of each year as the International Day for Digital Learning.



108,000
Beneficiaries

of The Digital School
in 2023





Our goal is to bring digital learning to new horizons, as it is the education of the future and the future of education.

Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum

BORDERLESS DIGITAL LEARNING

In 2023, **The Digital School** expanded its reach, providing its services to more than 108,000 beneficiaries across eight countries, including Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, Egypt, Mauritania, Bangladesh, Afghanistan and Colombia. It also developed a library that is one of the largest of its kind to provide digital lessons in line with the national curriculum of each country. Lessons are delivered in Arabic, English, French and Spanish.

To support the teachers that are foundational to educational development, **The Digital School** partnered with Arizona State University to launch a specialised teacher training programme presented in Arabic, English, Spanish and French. In 2023, the international academic initiative qualified more than 1,600 digital educators.

In 2023, **The Digital School** also signed a strategic agreement with the Human Aid and Development organisation to implement and support a digital education project for Syrian refugees in Lebanon for 30,000 students over a period of three years. The primary goal is to provide accessible and quality digital programmes that complement the Lebanese curriculum to help children overcome the years of education they missed through remedial and accelerated learning programmes and enrolling them in formal education.

In conjunction with the United Nations General Assembly, **The Digital School** signed a memorandum of understanding with the World Food Programme (WFP)

Southern Africa in New York in 2023. The partnership aims to leverage the School's experience to create a digital education roadmap for countries in sub-Saharan Africa to improve education and nutrition outcomes by linking school meals with digital education.

The Digital School also organised a series of high-level meetings in Cape Town, South Africa, from 27 to 29 November 2023, in cooperation with WFP and the Southern African Development Community. Education, development and technical experts participated in the sessions, which aimed to influence the future trajectory of the education sector by developing a roadmap for the advancement of digital education in the region, as well as identify the sector's opportunities and challenges.



1,600 Teachers

benefitted from
The Digital School's
training courses
in 2023





DONATE YOUR OWN DEVICE



27,930
Devices

collected under the
'Donate your Own
Device' initiative
in 2023

In August 2023, **The Digital School** launched the 'Donate Your Own Device' (DYOD) campaign in collaboration with the Emirates Red Crescent as an educational, humanitarian and environmental initiative to support digital education for less fortunate students around the world.

The campaign seeks to empower **The Digital School** students who struggle to obtain electronic devices by collecting a range of used devices from entities and individuals who are willing to support the programme. They are then upgraded in accordance with best practices in partnership with specialised institutions to help students around the world access quality education.

DYOD contributes to achieving a comprehensive vision for the future through an innovative partnership between humanitarian and environmental work. It combines charitable and technological initiatives to serve those in need, reflecting the commitment of various entities to social responsibility and their dedication to building a more cohesive and sustainable society. Participating institutions will be granted a green contribution certificate in sustainability and recycling from Ecyclex and Reloop.

By the end of 2023, the campaign collected 27,930 used electronic devices from individual donors and 79 institutions to be refurbished, recycled and distributed in 2024.



INNOVATION IN EDUCATION

In June 2023, **The Digital School** signed an agreement with the British University in Dubai (BUiD), the first institution to issue degrees using blockchain technology. Leveraging the existing relationships between BUiD, the University of Nicosia and the Dubai Blockchain Centre, **The Digital School** will gain access to various blockchain solutions. The expertise of the initiative's stakeholders will enable the development of sophisticated digital solutions for issuing certificates for digital teacher training programmes.

The agreement includes the creation of a roadmap for certifying microcredentials and the establishment of digital portfolios for both students and teachers. This certification approach will ensure interoperability and international verifiability.

Emphasising the importance of artificial intelligence in education, **The Digital School** organised the two-day 'DigiCode-Ed Challenge' in June 2023 in cooperation with the Artificial Intelligence, Digital Economy and Remote Work Applications Office. The challenge aimed to develop educational tools using ChatGPT for teachers to create tailored lesson plans for all students.

In 2023, **The Digital School** also launched 'The Digital School Modular Classroom' during the 2023 Dubai International Humanitarian Aid and Development Exhibition and Conference to provide digital education solutions in remote and crisis-affected areas. The modular classroom can be easily installed, dismantled and expanded. It is equipped with computers that use 80% less energy and solar panels.



80%
Less Energy

consumed by the smart devices in 'The Digital School Modular Classroom'



FROM LUXOR TO ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY



In a small village in the Luxor Governorate of southern Egypt, three mothers dreamed of working in education. To realise this dream, they joined a community learning centre, where, despite numerous challenges, they worked hard to serve underprivileged youth.

Their determination led them to recognise the advantages of digital education initiatives, ultimately capturing the attention of **The Digital School**. Seeing their potential, the School provided them with training through its collaborative programme with Arizona State University (ASU). The course enhances the skills of teachers, digital education providers and educational supervisors, empowering them to contribute more effectively to their sector.

After earning accredited certificates from ASU, the trio's enthusiasm drove them to even greater heights. They successfully trained more than 100 educational facilitators from the surrounding villages, who subsequently earned certificates from ASU. Their efforts provided essential support for the development of digital education in the Luxor Governorate of Egypt.

EMPOWERING ARAB STUDENTS

Established in 2018, the **Madrasa e-Learning Platform** is the first free e-learning platform to provide educational materials in Arabic. The Platform has consistently sought to enrich its content both quantitatively and qualitatively, now offering more than 7,000 educational videos designed under the supervision of specialised teachers and academics and produced in line with the world’s highest standards and best practices.

The **Madrasa e-Learning Platform** provides an integrated curriculum covering general sciences, future sciences, mathematics, chemistry, physics, biology and the Arabic language for learners in kindergarten to grade 12.

By the end of 2023, 3.5 million students were enrolled on and engaging with the **Madrasa e-Learning Platform**. The Platform has reached 125 million views by students from 70 countries in the five years since it was launched – a milestone that reflects its pivotal role in knowledge dissemination, enriching the Arabic language and supporting the learning journey of Arab students no matter where they are.

In recognition of its continuous efforts to provide quality open-source education resources in Arabic, the **Madrasa e-Learning Platform** was honoured with the eLearning Innovation Award under the Impact track from the National eLearning Center in Saudi Arabia.



3.5 Million

students enrolled on the **Madrasa e-Learning Platform** by the end of 2023





WORLD CULTURAL LANDMARK



700,000 Visitors

to the Mohammed bin
Rashid Library in 2023

In less than two years since its opening, the **Mohammed bin Rashid Library** has solidified its position as a beacon of knowledge and a home for creativity. During 2023, it welcomed around 700,000 visitors of different nationalities who read more than 100,000 books from its nine specialised libraries. Government and private entities gifted more than 40,000 books in various languages to the Library, and 13,000 new titles were added to its shelves.

In 2023, the Library hosted 270 official, diplomatic and school visits, and it participated in 10 regional and international

exhibitions and festivals. It attracted 227 volunteers who contributed 16,105 hours of their time.

The **Mohammed bin Rashid Library** organises a wide series of activities, including many local, regional and international festivals and forums to instil a passion for knowledge and a love of culture and learning. In 2023, it hosted 149 events to promote community participation in different fields, in addition to 171 government and private events. These events attracted 22,000 participants in total.

In March 2023, the Library launched the 'World Reads' initiative, in collaboration with local publishers, special-publication institutions and a select group of authors and writers, which aimed to support school libraries, educational centres, clubs and government departments. By the end of 2023, the **Mohammed bin Rashid Library** donated 64,567 books in Arabic, English and Braille to 133 institutions under this initiative. 'World Reads' embodies the Library's ongoing efforts to promote a love of reading and dissemination of knowledge, and to support the UAE's culture and education sectors.

In September 2023, the Library also launched a project under the slogan 'A World in Your Language' to create an environment of effective communication. The project aims to break down barriers between cultures by making resources accessible to visitors who speak different languages. Using artificial intelligence, 'A World in Your Language' enables users to read and listen to books from the Library's collection in 13 languages.



HONOURING ARABIC LANGUAGE PIONEERS

During a ceremony held on 6 November 2023, the **Mohammed bin Rashid Arabic Language Award**, organised by the **Mohammed bin Rashid Library**, honoured the winners of its sixth and seventh rounds, including individuals, work teams and institutions, for their distinguished projects supporting the promotion and protection of the Arabic language, as well as the consolidation of its position in society. The two rounds recognised 20 winners across five main categories: Education; Media and Communication; Technology; Linguistic Policy, Planning and Arabisation; and Culture, Intellect and Knowledge Society.

The **Mohammed bin Rashid Arabic Language Award** is a natural reflection of the intellectual and cultural movement and the UAE's commitment to sustainably preserve and develop the Arabic language. Since it was launched in 2014, the Award has sought to raise awareness on the importance of personal and institutional initiatives to support the Arabic language. It has also continued to encourage youth to conceptualise creative uses for the Arabic language, as well as worked to expand the Arabisation of works from different fields of knowledge to benefit from the experiences of global cultures.



20
Winners

of the Mohammed bin Rashid Arabic Language Award in its sixth and seventh rounds





Innovation & Entrepreneurship

Under its Innovation & Entrepreneurship pillar, the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives** fosters an entrepreneurial mindset and supports a culture of innovation and development by providing incubation environments for young entrepreneurs and works to equip them with the necessary tools and training to excel across various sectors.

AED

138

MILLION

spent on Innovation
& Entrepreneurship
initiatives in 2023

1.2

MILLION

beneficiaries of Innovation
& Entrepreneurship
initiatives in 2023

1.2
MILLION

visitors to the Museum
of the Future in 2023

AED

233
MILLION

in incentives and facilities
provided to entrepreneurs
by Dubai SME in 2023

AED

100
MILLION

dedicated to the Great Arab
Minds initiative to identify
1,000 exceptional talents in
the Arab region



Encouraging Today's Innovators to Build a Better Tomorrow



AED
138
Million

spent on Innovation & Entrepreneurship initiatives in 2023



1.2
Million

beneficiaries of Innovation & Entrepreneurship initiatives in 2022

Through its Innovation & Entrepreneurship pillar, the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives (MBRGI)** works to consolidate the position of Dubai and the UAE in the field of entrepreneurship and enhance innovation to keep pace with the world's rapid digital transformation. Moreover, **MBRGI** motivates communities to confront the challenges that hinder societies' progress and make the changes required to create a brighter future.

Within this pillar, the **Museum of the Future** welcomed 1.2 million visitors in 2023, including official delegations and dignitaries from around the world. It hosted 48 programmes throughout the year to benefit 20,500 people.

In line with its efforts to support innovation and advancement in the fields of science, knowledge and culture, the **Great Arab Minds** initiative announced the winners of its first round. The award embraces Arab scientists, innovators and thinkers across several fields, empowering them to develop their ideas in collaboration with top international partners in order to maximise their positive impact on the region.

As a part of the UAE's endeavours to catalyse innovation and utilise technologies in support of sustainable and resilient food systems, **MBRGI** announced the launch of the **Food Innovation Hub UAE** in December 2023 in collaboration with the World Economic Forum. The Hub seeks to accelerate and strengthen innovation ecosystems to transform food consumption profiles in favour of sustainable alternatives and improve food production

systems in the UAE and the broader Arab region.

In 2023, **MBRGI** continued to support and empower entrepreneurs to accelerate economic growth and enhance entrepreneurship at the local level through the **Mohammad bin Rashid Establishment for Small & Medium Size Enterprises Development (Dubai SME)**. The Establishment focuses on supporting young entrepreneurs by providing skills training, tools and funding.

The **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Business Award** was reimaged and relaunched in 2023 with a series of enhancements to its business model, evaluation process and award categories. The result of a merger between two of Dubai's most prominent business excellence awards – the original **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Business Award** and the Dubai Quality Award – the restructured Award seeks to support and improve the business community in line with current digital, economic and intellectual advancements.

The **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Water Award** kicked off its fourth cycle in 2023. The Award recognises and supports researchers and innovators who contribute to finding sustainable solutions to water scarcity in underprivileged and disaster-stricken communities worldwide.

MBRGI's total spending within the Innovation & Entrepreneurship pillar in 2023 reached AED 138 million, benefitting more than 1.2 million people.





A WINDOW TO THE FUTURE



**1.2
Million**

visitors to the Museum of the Future in 2023

In the less than two years since it opened its doors to the public, the **Museum of the Future** has established itself as a global destination for exploring and designing the future and a permanent hub for research, knowledge and innovation. It offers its visitors an immersive, one-of-a-kind experience using virtual reality, augmented reality and artificial intelligence. In 2023, the **Museum of the Future** welcomed 1.2 million guests, including numerous delegates and dignitaries from around the world.

Adding to the awards the Museum received during its first year of operation, the **Museum of the Future** earned 16 awards and accolades in 2023. Among them was the prestigious International Design Communication Award (IDCA), which recognised the Museum in its 'Most Innovative' category. The IDCA awards distinguish entities and institutions for

their contributions to innovation, sustainability and artistic expression within their respective communities. The Museum also earned a WELL Health-Safety Rating for Facility Operations and Management, making it the first museum to obtain this esteemed certification in the Middle East.

Throughout 2023, the **Museum of the Future** hosted a series of programmes, including conferences, talks and workshops, in collaboration with pioneering international partners and research entities. The Museum offered more than 360 training hours under 48 programmes over the course of the year, benefitting 20,500 people.

Among the Museum's activities was the 'Future Talks' programme, a series of talks hosted by experts in the industry covering a wide range of topics. The **Museum of the Future** also organised the monthly 'Future Experts' series, featuring a line-up of international technology pioneers.

At the beginning of 2023, the **Museum of the Future** hosted 1,000 children of determination to celebrate its one-year anniversary. The children and their families were invited to enhance social inclusion and diversity, which is a pivotal part of the Museum's mission.

The **Museum of the Future** organised the second 'Future Heroes Summer Camp' in July 2023. Campers enjoyed edutainment-based activities and glimpsed what life could be like in the future. The 2023 camp focused on space exploration, technology, sustainability and ecology, and happiness and well-being.



EVENTS FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

In September 2023, the **Museum of the Future** kicked off its 'Climate Future Week' in collaboration with the Fiker Institute, which took place as the UAE counted down to the 28th United Nations Climate Change's Conference of the Parties (COP28), and in line with the UAE's Year of Sustainability. More than 6,300 people participated in the event, including industry leaders, experts, futurists and academics in the fields of environmental studies and sustainability from the UAE and abroad.

The five-day event showcased new technologies and innovations to support climate transition, highlight the importance of preserving natural resources and raise awareness on climate issues. It also encouraged entrepreneurs and start-ups to focus on environmental and climate

challenges. 'Climate Future Week' comprised 20 public sessions, six workshops and three flagship activations including climate film screenings, a regional environmental photography exhibition and a climate start-up majlis.

The **Museum of the Future** also hosted the second cycle of the 'Dubai Future Forum', the world's largest gathering of futurists, which was attended by more than 2,500 futurists from 100 countries and 100 international institutions. The forum welcomed more than 150 speakers from the UAE and around the world to participate in 70 panel discussions and keynote speeches, as well as workshops on space, sustainability, environment, energy, food, health, medicine, education, technology, artificial intelligence, the digital economy, governance and many other topics.



6,300
Participants

in the Museum of the Future's 'Climate Future Week' in 2023





A nation that appreciates its scientists, geniuses, and thinkers and empowers makers of civilizations, is on the right path to leadership and excellence in the future.

Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum

PIONEERING ARAB ACHIEVEMENTS

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, launched the **Great Arab Minds** initiative in 2023 as the largest scientific movement in the Arab world. It is designed to identify exceptional scholars, thinkers, innovators and creators from across the Arab region in order to nurture and empower them to maximise their positive impact and pursue their goals in collaboration with top global partners.

Under the umbrella of **MBRGI**, the **Great Arab Minds** initiative was launched with a budget of AED 100 million to seek out 1,000 exceptional Arab talents in the categories of Medicine, Natural Science, Engineering and Technology, Economics, Literature and Arts, and Architecture and Design within five years. It attracted 3,872 applications for the first round of the **Great Arab Minds** Award in 2023. Judging committees evaluated the nominations based on criteria such as embodying a positive Arab identity, displaying creative and inventive ideas, proficiency in their field, serving as a mentor for Arab youth and using their work to shape the future.

In April 2023, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum was briefed on the nomination process during a meeting with the initiative's committee members. His Highness highlighted that Arab minds were responsible for many scientific and cultural achievements throughout the ages, and they are capable of reigniting that role in the ages to come.

After reviewing the applications and the committees' evaluations, His Highness Sheikh

Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum personally announced the six winners of the 2023 cycle. The awards ceremony was held at the **Museum of the Future** in January 2024.

His Highness presented each of the winners with AED 1 million. Saudi Arabian cardiac surgeon Dr Hani Najm (Medicine) was awarded in recognition of his pioneering innovations in the field of heart surgery for children and adults, while Lebanese engineer and academic Professor Fadel Adib (Engineering and Technology) was recognised for his work in wireless technology and sensing.

Egyptian-American economist Dr Mohamed El-Erian (Economics) was presented with the award for his perceptive analysis of changes in economic and financial systems, and Professor Niveen Khashab (Natural Sciences), a Lebanese scientist and academic, was honoured for her work in the fields of chemistry, bioengineering and biology.

Meanwhile, Lebanese architect and academic Professor Lina Ghotmeh (Architecture and Design) was recognised for her work emphasising the symbiosis of architecture and nature, and Professor Waciny Laredj (Literature and Arts), a writer and academic from Algeria, received the award for his outstanding influence on Arabic literature.

During the awards ceremony, the launch of a new research and knowledge centre within the **Museum of the Future** was announced. The centre will support the scientific and knowledge journey of Arab intellects under the umbrella of the **Great Arab Minds** Award.



AED

6

Million

awarded to winners of the Great Arab Minds Award in 2023

ECONOMIC INNOVATION & GLOBAL IMPACT



In 2023, Dr Mohamed El-Erian, an international economist and the President of Queen's College at the University of Cambridge, was honoured in the Economics category of the **Great Arab Minds** Award. He is considered one of the greatest economic advisors of his generation, with his theories and strategic visions influencing many development policies at the local and international levels.

Dr El-Erian previously worked for the International Monetary Fund and served as President of the World Development Council, as well as CEO at numerous major international institutions, where he oversaw the management of assets totalling over USD 1.1 trillion. During his tenure as CEO of Harvard Management Company, he achieved record-setting returns for the university's educational endowment.

He has strengthened the economic and international presence of his home country of Egypt and the Arab world as a whole with his research, participation in economic conferences and economic consultations. His research has provided a wealth of economic advice, visions and concepts, and is an essential reference in finance, economics and business. He was also selected as one of the 'Top 100 Global Thinkers' for four consecutive years by *Foreign Policy* magazine.

On receiving this award, Dr El-Erian said: "This initiative is important because it reflects the vision of the UAE and Dubai to make a positive impact, and it inspires the Arab youth to make a difference in their communities, which is crucial in our current time."

CELEBRATING HUMAN CREATIVITY



Professor Lina Ghotmeh, winner of the 2023 **Great Arab Minds** Award in Architecture and Design, holds a Bachelor's in Architecture from the American University of Beirut and a Master's in Landscape Architecture from the College of Environmental Design at the University of Georgia, United States. Renowned for her designs inspired by nature, she sets new benchmarks for integrative architecture.

Prof Ghotmeh operates her own studio, specialising in designs that seamlessly blend with their natural surroundings. Drawing inspiration from traditional building materials, she integrates natural materials into her contemporary designs, fostering sustainability and environmental compatibility in her projects. She also shares her passion for architecture by teaching at international universities and colleges.

She has supervised more than 65 architectural projects around the world, including museums, galleries and skyscrapers. One of her most notable is a tower in the Port of Beirut, meticulously crafted from locally sourced materials that reflect the surrounding environment. It was built after extensive research and using innovative techniques inspired by the rich history of the region's architecture. The building was not affected by the huge explosion that ripped through the Port of Beirut in 2020 and continues to symbolise steadfastness and the role of architecture in expressing human values and craftsmanship.

Prof Ghotmeh described the **Great Arab Minds** Award as the ideal initiative for inspiring Arab youth and bolstering talent within the region, and underscored its recognition of the pivotal role of fostering creativity and innovation.



COLLABORATION FOR A FOOD-SECURE FUTURE

Aiming to strengthen global food security, identify sustainable solutions to combat hunger and contribute to the future transformation of food systems, **MBRGI** launched the **Food Innovation Hub UAE**, in collaboration with the World Economic Forum (WEF), during the Foundation's participation in COP28. The new initiative is held in partnership with the UAE Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, Majid Al Futtaim, IFFCO Group, Al Dahra Holding and Abu Dhabi National Hotels Compass.

The **Food Innovation Hub UAE** is an extension of a cooperation agreement between **MBRGI** and WEF, which was signed during the WEF annual meeting in Davos, Switzerland, in May 2022, to co-found the Food Innovation Hubs Global Initiative. The initiative seeks to accelerate and expand the scope of innovations and

technologies that support sustainable food systems transformation and enhance resilient food production mechanisms.

The **Food Innovation Hub UAE** will engage stakeholders from the public and private sectors, as well as civil society, to address food security challenges preventing the sustainability of future global food supplies using unconventional, effective solutions. The initiative will be a hub to pool efforts and share best practices with the world.

It also seeks to accelerate development in managing local supply chains and production. It will serve as a platform to bring together growers, innovators and retailers to explore solutions, test proofs of concept and scale relevant innovations to meet the food security needs of the region.



ONGOING SUPPORT FOR ENTREPRENEURS

Under **MBRGI**'s Innovation & Entrepreneurship pillar, the **Mohammed bin Rashid Establishment for Small & Medium Size Enterprises Development (Dubai SME)**, an entity under the Department of Economy and Tourism in Dubai, has continued its efforts to strengthen the entrepreneurship sector in Dubai by supporting start-ups and innovators. The organisation seeks to foster an environment conducive to entrepreneurship by offering assistance in establishing companies, simplifying official procedures and providing necessary facilities.

In 2023, 1,186 Emirati entrepreneurs benefitted from **Dubai SME**'s advisory services, bringing the total number of those supported since its inception in 2002 to 50,131.

It also provided subsidies to 2,935 Emirati-led start-ups, for a total of 16,441 local SMEs supported since it was founded. **Dubai SME** invested more than AED 233 million in 2023 to provide local entrepreneurs and SMEs with incentives and services.

Furthermore, the 'Mohammed bin Rashid Fund for SME Support' financed 568 innovative SMEs and 321 entrepreneurs benefitted from the fund's financial consultation services in 2023.



AED
233
Million

in incentives and facilities provided to entrepreneurs by Dubai SME in 2023





TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES



1,627

Beneficiaries

of the Dubai Entrepreneurship Academy in 2023

Dubai Entrepreneurship Academy (DEA), the training arm of **Dubai SME**, continued to equip ambitious entrepreneurs with the necessary skills to succeed. In 2023, it provided training programmes to 1,627 entrepreneurs.

‘Dubai NEXT’ was launched by **Dubai SME** in 2021 as the first official government online crowdfunding platform to mobilise community support for start-ups. In 2023, 1,022 projects were registered on the platform, which collectively raised more than AED 661,000.

Meanwhile, the ‘Hamdan Innovation Incubator’ (Hi2), an affiliate of **Dubai SME**, continued to develop the ideal business environment and provide various forms

of empowerment to entrepreneurs throughout the life cycle of establishing their businesses, from planning all the way to launch. In 2023, Hi2 provided services through its network of business incubators to 29 companies from various sectors and hosted 315 entrepreneurial advisory sessions.



A PRESTIGIOUS BUSINESS AWARD

Under **MBRGI's** umbrella, Dubai Chambers launched a reimagined version of the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Business Award** in September 2023, which included enhancements to the Award's business model, categories and evaluation process. The result of the merging of two of Dubai's most prominent business excellence awards – the original **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Business Award** and the Dubai Quality Award – the new Award adopts international best practices and acts as a platform for knowledge exchange to enable organisations to become leaders in their field.

The **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Business Award** has four new categories: the 'Outstanding Business Award' presented by Dubai Chambers, the 'Family Business

Award' presented by the Dubai Chamber of Commerce, the 'Global Expansion Award' presented by the Dubai International Chamber, and the 'Digital Innovation Award' presented by the Dubai Chamber of Digital Economy. The **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Business Award** is open to Dubai-based businesses and international companies headquartered in Dubai.

A higher committee evaluates nominees and selects those with the top performance in each category as winners to be honoured during a grand ceremony in 2024.

The **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Business Award** also organised six training workshops in 2023, which attracted 135 attendees.



135
Participants

in workshops on the new model for the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Business Award in 2023





FIGHTING WATER SCARCITY WITH INNOVATION



31 Winners

of the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Water Award since its inception

The **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Water Award**, organised by the **UAE Water Aid Foundation (Suqia)** under the umbrella of **MBRGI**, aims to honour institutions, research centres and individuals who develop innovative technologies and sustainable solutions to mitigate water scarcity in underprivileged and disaster-stricken communities.

With a total prize pool of USD 1 million (AED 3.7 million), the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Water Award** comprises four main categories: the 'Innovative Projects Award', which includes the Large Projects Award and the Small Projects Award; the 'Innovative Research and Development Award', which includes the National Institutions Award and the International Institutions Award; the 'Innovative Individual Award', which includes

the Distinguished Research Award and the Youth Award; and the 'Innovative Crisis Solutions Award'.

During its previous three cycles, the Award honoured a total of 31 winners from 22 countries for innovative projects that used renewable energy such as solar, wind, biomass, ocean, salinity gradient power and geothermal technologies to desalinate and purify drinking water.

In December 2023, the fourth cycle of the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Water Award** was launched as a part of COP28, which was hosted by the UAE during its Year of Sustainability. **Suqia** invited research institutions and individual innovators worldwide to participate in this cycle of the Award, which continued to receive applications until 30 April 2024.





The secret of the renewal of life, the development of civilisation and the progress of humanity is in one word: innovation.

Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum



Empowering Communities

Under the Empowering Communities pillar, the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives** plays a leading role in promoting the values of tolerance and coexistence. With a focus on creating a culture of hope and positivity, it provides supportive environments that nurture future leaders. Its work also highlights the significance of sport and media, celebrating pioneers in both fields.

AED

87.2

MILLION

spent on Empowering
Communities initiatives
in 2023

3.4

MILLION

beneficiaries of
Empowering Communities
initiatives in 2023

5,967
GRADUATES

of the Mohammed bin Rashid
School of Government's
programmes in 2023

87,345
BENEFICIARIES

of the Sheikh Mohammed bin
Rashid Al Maktoum Centre for
Cultural Understanding's
activities and initiatives in 2023

3,000
ATTENDEES

of the Arab Media Forum
in 2023



Creating Opportunities & Supportive Environments to Empower Communities



AED
87.2
Million

spent on Empowering Communities initiatives in 2023

Within the Empowering Communities pillar, the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives (MBRGI)** sets out to provide individuals with vital skills and resources as well as a nurturing environment that enables them to advance their communities in line with global changes and developments.

The fourth edition of the **Arab Hope Makers** initiative, which celebrates the life-changing humanitarian efforts of individuals and institutions, commenced in 2023. Within three weeks of the initiative's launch, more than 14,000 nominations were submitted through the dedicated website.



3.4
Million

beneficiaries of Empowering Communities initiatives in 2023

MBRGI's programmes and initiatives within this pillar aim to spread a culture of hope and positivity. They prepare capable leaders who can build better societies, invest in sport talents and promote tolerance and multiculturalism, in addition to encouraging civilised dialogue and highlighting the role of media in community development. Through these efforts, **MBRGI** furthers its agenda of fostering cooperation to strengthen community solidarity.

Meanwhile, the 21st edition of the **Arab Media Forum** was held in September 2023, attracting 3,000 government ministers, heads of media institutions and digital platforms, and leading writers and media makers from across the globe.

The **Mohammed bin Rashid School of Government (MBRSG)** has been proactive in achieving this vision, as well as **MBRGI's** overarching goal to support excellence and development in government work. **MBRSG** continued its numerous academic and research programmes, from which 5,967 people graduated in 2023.

Also in 2023, the 22nd edition of the **Arab Media Award** honoured 14 winners. The awards were presented in the presence of newspaper editors-in-chief, leaders of Emirati, Arab and international media institutions, and senior writers and media makers from across the Arab region.

In 2023, the **Mohammed bin Rashid Center for Leadership Development** launched the 'Dubai Family Business Management Programme' in collaboration with Dubai Chambers. The project empowers family business leaders with second-tier management skills to ensure the continuity of businesses, effective succession planning and better governance of family businesses.

MBRGI and the Real Madrid Foundation successfully trained 954 young people in 2023 through the Real Madrid Social Sports Academies in Egypt, Jordan and Morocco. In addition, the two entities banded together to sponsor the 2023 Alma Cup. The tournament is held in Spain, where teams from Academies around the world convene to compete.

In total, **MBRGI** spent AED 87.2 million in 2023 on the various projects, programmes and initiatives within its Empowering Communities pillar, which served more than 3.4 million people.





INSTITUTIONALISING GOVERNMENT EXCELLENCE



5,967 Graduates

of the Mohammed bin Rashid School of Government's programmes in 2023

The **Mohammed bin Rashid School of Government (MBRSG)** provides innovative learning environments to equip UAE and regional government leaders with the skills to support government institutions and progressive public policies.

Since its establishment, **MBRSG** has developed an integrated system of educational and training programmes and research to document the UAE's unique experience. It also facilitates knowledge exchange between government entities and local and regional institutions.

In 2023, 5,967 individuals graduated from **MBRSG's** academic programmes. Of these, 77 graduated from the 'Future Government Programs', which comprises an Executive Master of Public Administration, a Master of Public Administration, a Master of Innovation Management and a Master of Public Policy.

MBRSG continued to aid the development of government institutions through its open enrolment programmes, which had 2,566 participants in 2023. The courses instil knowledge and skills in policy, leadership, negotiation and management.

In addition, 3,086 people enrolled in **MBRSG's** customised executive education programmes, which tailor training plans based on an entity's specific needs and objectives.

MBRSG also continued training through the 'Executive Education Smart Platform' in 2023, benefitting 238 trainees. The platform simulates the latest international technologies and provides scientific and training content.



RESEARCH & STUDIES

As part of MBRSG’s research activities, in 2023 it launched a report entitled ‘The Future of SMEs in the UAE’, in collaboration with the Ministry of Economy and with the support of Google. The report identified the most prominent challenges and opportunities for SMEs and explored how to increase SMEs’ contribution to the national economy.

In February 2023, the School launched the second edition of the ‘Global Economic Diversification Index 2023’. It quantified the diversification journey of 105 countries, examining trade, production and government revenue diversification. Each country is assigned a global ranking based on 25 different indicators.

MBRSG also released its ‘Enhancing the Impact of Artificial Intelligence in Dubai: Future Trends Towards Enhancing the Digital Economy’ report in March 2023, in

partnership with the Digital Dubai Authority and Microsoft. The report is set to envision future policies and pave the way for the ethical adoption of artificial intelligence. It also explored the challenges and opportunities facing companies and organisations that rely on data and digital infrastructure in their daily activities, as well as those that develop digital products and artificial intelligence.

Through its participation in COP28, MBRSG released a special edition of its ‘Arab Region SDG Index and Dashboards Report’ in December 2023 in collaboration with the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network. The report highlights various development challenges facing the Arab region and acts as a practical tool to guide targeted interventions to achieve positive change towards the Sustainable Development Goals across the region.



105 Countries

included in the ‘Global Economic Diversification Index 2023’



LIMITLESS AMBITION & DETERMINATION

Despite already balancing the three challenging roles of wife, employee and mother of three, Jawaher Ahmed, a young Emirati woman, decided to push herself even further by embarking on a journey to earn a postgraduate degree.

Driven by a fierce ambition and desire to learn and grow, Jawaher aimed to fulfil her dream of working in government administration by applying to the **Mohammed bin Rashid School of Government**.

Despite facing daily obstacles, her years of effort and dedication finally paid off when she earned a Master's Degree in Public Administration. She channelled the challenges she faced into motivation to pursue her goal, holding firm to the belief that education is the key to unlocking opportunities and advancement, and that persistence and determination pave the way to success.

Today, as a graduate of the **Mohammed bin Rashid School of Government**, Jawaher possesses the knowledge and tools to realise her dream and enter the field of government administration.



TRAINING FUTURE LEADERS

The **Mohammed bin Rashid Center for Leadership Development (MBRCLD)** was established in 2003 to prepare and empower leaders of all levels to achieve Dubai's ambitious vision. Today, the Centre is witnessing the results of its targeted programmes, which have produced a large number of Emirati executive leaders.

In 2023, **MBRCLD** witnessed the graduation of the second cohort, comprising 20 students, of its 'Dubai Leaders Program'. The programme is designed to develop the capabilities of the new generation of Emirati leaders, equipping them with the required skills to manage strategic and transformative projects and the vision they need to keep pace with the UAE's aspirations.

In addition, 27 individuals joined the sixth cohort of the 'Impactful Leader Program', one of **MBRCLD**'s most important programmes. Delivered in collaboration with local and

international partners, it offers a pioneering training experience designed to advance the skills of future leaders using the Mohammed bin Rashid Leadership Framework.

Additionally, 90 individuals participated in **MBRCLD**'s 'Dubai Leadership Camp'. Through intensive courses, meetings and sessions with decision-makers, the camp aims to nurture creative leaders in all sectors, enhancing their role in formulating policies and strategies that support Dubai's ambitious vision.

To enrich the knowledge and experiences of Emirati leaders, **MBRCLD** collaborated with global universities to offer scholarships to its graduates. A total of 20 graduates received scholarships to pursue a Master's in Executive Business Management at Georgetown University in the United States, while 19 were offered scholarships to France's Université Panthéon-Assas in Paris to pursue a Master's in International Business Law.



39
Recipients

of scholarships through the Mohammed bin Rashid Center for Leadership Development in 2023





NEW LEADERSHIP INITIATIVES



32

Participants

in the first edition of the 'Dubai Family Business Management Programme'

To enhance cooperation in administration and share knowledge with various countries and governments, **MBRCLD**, in partnership with the Government Experience Exchange Office, launched the 'Global Government Leaders Program' in July 2023. The programme worked to export Emirati expertise in the field of government administration and build knowledge bridges with other governments. It is also aimed at developing flexible and innovative government administrative capabilities for dealing with future changes, and create a global network of leaders to exchange knowledge and experiences and share best practices to enhance skill sets and expand professional networks.

The programme included several field visits to vital government authorities and projects in the UAE. Participants learned about best practices in strategic sectors and developed their abilities to anticipate the future, track and respond to changes and develop policies

and programmes for sustainable development. In 2023, 29 high-level ministers, assistant ministers, directors general and assistant directors general from various countries participated in the programme.

In October 2023, **MBRCLD** launched the 'Dubai Family Business Management Programme', in partnership with Dubai Chambers. The programme aims to empower and advance second-tier management skills among family business leaders to ensure the continuity of these businesses, effective succession planning and better governance of family businesses, the success of which indicates growth in Dubai's business community.

In 2023, 32 people participated in the first edition of the 'Dubai Family Business Management Programme', which is aligned with Dubai's vision to be a leading hub for family businesses.



FACILITATING MULTICULTURAL DIALOGUE

In line with **MBRGI**'s mission to instil a culture of coexistence and open, civilised dialogue, the **Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Centre for Cultural Understanding (SMCCU)** has sought to build bridges of understanding and unity among different nationalities since its inception in 1998. These values are a real reflection of the diverse yet harmonious cultures and religions that make up the fabric of UAE society.

In 2023, 87,345 people were introduced to the UAE's history and heritage through the various programmes and events organised by **SMCCU**.

Through visits to Jumeirah Mosque, the Centre offered 24,841 visitors the opportunity to learn about the teachings of Islam and the spirit of coexistence and kinship that is so integral to the UAE community.

SMCCU also organised public and private educational programmes, including workshops and field visits, which attracted 32,252 people. These activities aimed to encourage tolerance and understanding, as well as facilitate participants' inclusion in the UAE's multicultural environment.

SMCCU collaborated with government and private schools in the UAE to raise awareness of the nation's history and culture and foster a sense of belonging in the country, benefitting 10,484 people.

In 2023, **SMCCU** opened the doors to its 'Once Upon a Time' museum, a historical museum that showcases select historical elements to uniquely narrate the story of UAE culture. It also reflects the prosperity of Dubai's cultural scene and the city's ongoing efforts to promote cultural exchange. The museum welcomed 19,768 visitors in 2023.



87,345
Beneficiaries

of the Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Centre for Cultural Understanding's activities and initiatives in 2023





IN SEARCH OF HOPE MAKERS



14,600
Nominations

received within three weeks of the launch of the fourth edition of the Arab Hope Makers initiative

In June 2023, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, unveiled the fourth edition of the **Arab Hope Makers** initiative, the largest initiative of its kind to celebrate philanthropists in the Arab region, under the umbrella of **MBRGI**. The initiative attracted 14,600 applications within the first three weeks of its launch.

The **Arab Hope Makers** initiative recognises Arab individuals and institutions anywhere in the world who have initiated innovative programmes that have had a clear and tangible impact, without seeking financial gain for themselves. These projects have either improved the lives of a segment of society, alleviated the suffering of a particular group, developed a specific

social, economic, cultural or educational environment, or contributed to solving a challenge in their local community.

Potential Hope Makers can nominate themselves or be nominated by others. Nominees go through several qualifiers before reaching the final round. During the final round, which will be held in Dubai in early 2024, finalists and their projects undergo a comprehensive evaluation before the winner of the fourth edition is announced.

Hope Makers receive a AED 1 million prize to allow them to continue their initiatives, intensify their humanitarian efforts, expand their impact, instil a culture of hope and positivity throughout the Arab world and encourage giving no matter how big the challenges one might face.





Hope is strength. It is the driver of change and the secret to new beginnings. Hope is to go on giving and to seize opportunities. It is an infinite source of good for humanity.

Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum



THE FUTURE OF ARAB MEDIA



3,000
Attendees
of the Arab Media
Forum in 2023

In September 2023, the 21st edition of the **Arab Media Forum** was held under the slogan ‘The Future of Arab Media’. It was attended by 3,000 ministers, media organisation leaders, renowned writers, thought and opinion leaders and media sector stakeholders from Arab countries and across the world.

The Forum, which is the largest media gathering in the Arab region, seeks to shape the future of the Arab media, present inspiring experiences and visions about the future of the sector and provide an opportunity for the exchange of future-focused thoughts and ideas. Its agenda comprises a large variety of workshops, discussions, sessions and events that help to highlight the latest media trends and innovative solutions to keep pace with rapid changes taking place in global media.

The 2023 **Arab Media Forum** included more than 75 sessions, which drew participation from 130 speakers and 160 media organisations from around the world. It highlighted the media sector’s most pressing issues, including its current status, the extent to which it is affected by modern media trends and how to enhance the impact of Arab media to build a better future for the Arab world.

The 21st **Arab Media Forum** launched the inaugural ‘Youth Media Forum’, which focuses on preparing a new generation of qualified media professionals to shape the sector’s future. The Forum also hosted the ‘Youth Media Retreat’, which looked specifically at developing the competencies of young Emirati professionals. A series of Master Class sessions was also organised in collaboration with Netflix and TikTok.



HONOURING CREATIVE MEDIA PROFESSIONALS

Held under the umbrella of **MBRGI**, the **Arab Media Award** seeks to enhance the role of Arab media professionals and highlight inspiring achievements and talents in the Arab region. It supports the Arab media sector to raise culture and community awareness and leverage media channels to advance the reality of people living in the Arab region.

Coinciding with the 2023 **Arab Media Forum**, the 22nd edition of the **Arab Media Award** honoured 14 winners in three main categories: the Arab Journalism Award, the Digital Media Award, and the Visual Media Award. The awards were presented in the presence of newspaper editors-in-chief, leaders of Emirati, Arab and international media institutions and senior writers and media makers from across the Arab region.

Among the most prominent winners was Dr Mohammed Al Rumeihi, who was named the 'Media Personality of the Year', in recognition of his service to the Arab journalism and media scene. The 'Best Columnist Award' was given to writer Sawsan Al Abtah from the *Asharq Al-Awsat* newspaper for her contributions to the Arab literary and academic fields.

Hespress, a Moroccan digital newspaper, earned the accolade for 'Best News Platform', while the *Asharq* news channel won 'Best Economic Programme' in the Visual Media Award category for its show 'Al Sabah Ma Siba'.

POLITICAL & ECONOMIC SHIFTS

The **Arab Strategy Forum** was launched in 2001 as a unique platform to predict future geopolitical and economic events in the region and globally. It seeks to consolidate the expertise of senior government officials, strategists and academics from the Arab region, leveraging their views and analysis to address challenges and future opportunities.

To promote a culture of future forecasting and recognising the impact of geopolitical and economic events in the coming years, the 2023 **Arab Strategy Forum** examined political shifts in a session attended by 60 leaders from the Government of Dubai and a group of specialised politicians and economists.

The discussions explored political developments and economic events in light of the major shifts taking place in the region and beyond, showcasing the Forum's commitment to enhancing understanding through dialogue.



14
Winners

of the Arab Media
Award in 2023





EMPOWERING SPORTS TALENTS



954 Trainees

enrolled in the Real Madrid Social Sports Academies in 2023

MBRGI seeks to create positive change in the lives of Arab youth by nurturing and empowering sport talents. To this aim, the Foundation has continued to support the Real Madrid Social Sports Academies under the partnership agreement signed in 2019 and extended until 2024. **MBRGI** works with the Real Madrid Foundation in Egypt, Jordan and Morocco to improve the reality of young people in the region and shape their future through science, knowledge and training.

Through programmes and activities run by certified trainers, the Academies cooperate with social organisations and

institutions in Egypt, Jordan and Morocco. In 2023, 634 trainees in the cities of Marrakech, Taghramt, Khamiss Anjra and Ben Guerir enrolled in the Academies in Morocco, which were established in collaboration with PAIDEIA. Around 200 trainees enrolled in the academies in Jordan through the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East's Baqa'a and Irbid refugee camps, and in the schoolyards of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, the West Bank and Jordan in the cities of Madaba, Fuheis and Jubeiha. In Egypt, 120 trainees attended the Academies held in Cairo in partnership with FAME.

A total of 3,414 children and adolescents aged between six and 17 enrolled in the Real Madrid Social Sports Academies, which have been sponsored by **MBRGI** since 2019.

In a new initiative in 2023, **MBRGI** sponsored the 2023 Alma Cup, which is organised by the Real Madrid Foundation in Madrid, Spain, as a social tournament for its global academies. Its aim is to promote the values of coexistence, competition and experience exchange among participants.

In June 2023, the tournament welcomed 11 teams from 10 countries, including Hungary, Romania, Ukraine, Egypt, Bahrain, Jordan, Bulgaria, Portugal, Morocco and Spain. A training camp was set up and trips were organised to take players to visit Madrid's tourist attractions.



AN EXPERIENCE OF A LIFETIME



Mays Qaqish is a student from Fuheis, Jordan. Through her school, she joined the Real Madrid Social Sports Academy, a football academy established in cooperation with **MBRGI**. Through the Academy, her passion for football took her on an unforgettable journey to Spain to compete in the 2023 Alma Cup.

The Alma Cup provided Mays with an opportunity to develop her football skills, and served as a platform for cultivating teamwork, leadership and perseverance. Interacting with players from diverse backgrounds during the tournament enriched her understanding of tolerance and respect and fostered lasting friendships. The exchange of experiences and the forging of new bonds made the trip an unforgettable experience for Mays and her teammates.

Her favourite memory came at the end of the tournament, when her team received medals from legendary footballer Iker Casillas for being named the Alma Cup's most improved team. This unforgettable experience was a testament to their teamwork and unwavering dedication to reaching their goals.

Mays is grateful for this remarkable experience: "This trip will remain immortal in my memory and a part of my life. Thanks to the Real Madrid Social Sports Academies and **MBRGI** for giving us this opportunity."

ANNEX





Humanitarian Aid & Relief



مؤسسة محمد بن راشد آل مكتوم للأعمال الخيرية والإنسانية
Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Humanitarian & Charity Est.

MOHAMMED BIN RASHID AL MAKTOUM HUMANITARIAN & CHARITY ESTABLISHMENT

Since its inception in 1997, the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Humanitarian & Charity Establishment** has worked to improve the quality of life in the UAE and around the world. It implements sustainable development and relief projects, with a special focus on initiatives that promote health, education and family empowerment, in addition to supporting infrastructure projects in many developing countries.



المدينة العالمية للخدمات الإنسانية
INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN CITY

INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN CITY

The **International Humanitarian City (IHC)**, established in 2003, is a global humanitarian hub based in Dubai, which hosts United Nations agencies, non-profits and non-governmental organisations. Its mandate is to facilitate international aid operations using its transport and logistics capacity to enable aid agencies to provide swift and efficient emergency relief items to victims of crises. **IHC's** strategic geographic location enables the humanitarian community to reach two-thirds of the world's population within eight hours or less.



سقيا الإمارات
UAE WATER AID

UAE WATER AID FOUNDATION (SUQIA)

The **UAE Water Aid Foundation (Suqia)** was established in 2015 to provide clean drinking water to underprivileged communities by drilling wells, providing water pumps and purification equipment and undertaking desalination projects. The Foundation also invests in research to address water scarcity. It has established the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Water Award** to recognise individuals and organisations that have made outstanding efforts to find sustainable and innovative solar-powered solutions for water scarcity.



مركز محمد بن راشد العالمي
لإستشارات الوفاء والهبة
MOHAMMED BIN RASHID GLOBAL
CENTRE FOR ENDOWMENT CONSULTANCY
مركز محمد بن راشد العالمي
لإستشارات الوفاء والهبة

MOHAMMED BIN RASHID GLOBAL CENTRE FOR ENDOWMENT CONSULTANCY

Launched in 2016 to help achieve the Dubai Global Vision for Awqaf and Endowments, the Centre offers free consultancy services to individuals and regional and international organisations, with the aim of stimulating and empowering awqaf and endowments to respond to urgent social needs. It works with partners to define a clear legislative framework, identify urgent needs and encourage crowdfunding of awqaf and endowment projects.



UAE FOOD BANK

The **UAE Food Bank** was launched in January 2017 as the country's first comprehensive humanitarian, social, economic and cultural ecosystem that aims to provide food support for disadvantaged communities in the UAE and abroad. The Food Bank collects surplus food from hotels, restaurants, supermarkets, farms and other food establishments, and distributes it to people in need in the UAE and beyond, in coordination with a network of local and international charities.



1 BILLION MEALS ENDOWMENT

Launched in March 2023, the **1 Billion Meals Endowment** is the largest food aid endowment fund. It seeks to provide a food safety net for underprivileged communities, especially in countries struggling with food security, as well as activate sustainable programmes to eradicate hunger. Operating within an institutional framework, the Endowment constitutes a significant milestone in the UAE's humanitarian work, which endeavours to provide integrated systems for food innovation.

Healthcare & Disease Control



NOOR DUBAI FOUNDATION

Noor Dubai was launched in 2008 with the vision of a world free from avoidable causes of blindness. It implements treatment and preventive programmes to combat blindness and visual impairment in the UAE and around the world, focusing on remote areas in Africa and Asia that lack healthcare resources and infrastructure. The Foundation also provides mobile eye clinics, runs awareness and preventive campaigns and invests in training programmes for medical personnel.



مؤسسة الجيلة
Al Jalila Foundation

AL JALILA FOUNDATION

Established in 2013, **Al Jalila Foundation** seeks to invest in medical education and research to improve people's lives and position the UAE at the forefront of medical innovation. To achieve its vision, the Foundation focuses on advancing the country's healthcare services and research capabilities, as well as providing scholarships to nurture the next generation of healthcare professionals in the UAE.

Spreading Education & Knowledge



DUBAI CARES

Since its inception in 2007, **Dubai Cares** has been working towards providing children and young people in developing countries with access to quality education through the design and funding of programmes that aim to be integrated, impactful, sustainable and scalable. To date, **Dubai Cares'** education programmes have touched the lives of 24 million beneficiaries in more than 60 countries. **Dubai Cares** plays a key role in helping achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 4, which aims to ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning by 2030.



MOHAMMED BIN RASHID AL MAKTOUM KNOWLEDGE FOUNDATION

Established in 2007, the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Knowledge Foundation** aims to empower future generations to develop innovative solutions that facilitate knowledge and research in the Arab world. Committed to the creation of knowledge-based societies, the Foundation funds projects and initiatives that address development, education, research and development, translation and publishing. It also organises international knowledge and science awards to strengthen the UAE's status on the knowledge map.



KNOWLEDGE SUMMIT

Launched in 2014 and organised by the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Knowledge Foundation**, the annual **Knowledge Summit** brings together international experts, researchers and thinkers to discuss programmes and ideas that support knowledge and address ways to disseminate knowledge around the world.



جائزة محمد بن راشد آل مكتوم للغة العربية
MOHAMMED BIN RASHID ARABIC LANGUAGE AWARD

MOHAMMED BIN RASHID ARABIC LANGUAGE AWARD

The **Mohammed bin Rashid Arabic Language Award** was launched in 2014 to recognise outstanding contributions in support of the Arabic language in the areas of education, media, Arabisation, technology, preservation and dissemination of the Arab linguistic heritage.



MOHAMMED BIN RASHID AL MAKTOUM KNOWLEDGE AWARD

Launched in 2015, the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Knowledge Award**, organised by the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Knowledge Foundation**, seeks to highlight the importance of sharing and disseminating knowledge as key to global development and, ultimately, the prosperity of nations. It aims to encourage those working in knowledge-related fields to innovate and create new ways to spread knowledge around the world, as well as honour outstanding knowledge contributions that have benefitted humanity globally.



ARAB READING CHALLENGE

As the largest-ever Arab knowledge initiative, the **Arab Reading Challenge** seeks to instil the habit of reading Arabic-language literature among young students. The annual Challenge was launched in the 2015/2016 academic year, initially inviting students from grades 1 to 12 across the Arab region to participate, before expanding in scope to include Arab and Arabic-speaking students from all over the world. The Challenge runs throughout the school year in staged qualifiers, beginning at the class level and then progressing to the school, country and regional levels, before the Champion is crowned at the final ceremony in Dubai.



MOHAMMED BIN RASHID LIBRARY FOUNDATION

The **Mohammed bin Rashid Library** was announced in 2016 to support and boost the UAE's comprehensive strategy to be a cultural beacon. The Library, one of the largest facilities in the Arab world, houses millions of printed, digital and audio books. The one-million square-foot Library aims to play an active role in disseminating knowledge through several initiatives to attract writers, researchers and thinkers from across the region and the world.



MADRASA E-LEARNING PLATFORM

The **Madrasa e-Learning Platform** was launched in 2018 to provide free, high-quality Arabic educational content to millions of Arab students across the world. The Platform hosts more than 7,000 high-tech science and maths video lessons and 1,000 Arabic-language lessons, custom designed based on the latest international curricula, to promote self-learning and improve the learning outcomes for students from kindergarten to grade 12. With aims to develop the wider educational system in the Arab world, the digital Platform also features more than 200 illustrated children's stories.



THE DIGITAL SCHOOL

Launched in November 2020, **The Digital School** provides smart and flexible remote learning opportunities, powered by cutting-edge technologies and artificial intelligence, to enable students in underserved communities to have access to quality education. As the first comprehensive online school in the Arab world, it will work to chart new milestones in the future of digital learning globally, with aims to reach one million students within five years.

Innovation & Entrepreneurship



MOHAMMED BIN RASHID ESTABLISHMENT FOR SMALL & MEDIUM SIZE ENTERPRISES DEVELOPMENT (DUBAI SME)

Launched in 2002, **Dubai SME** supports entrepreneurs in the UAE and promotes innovation and leadership among the nation's youth. It develops effective strategies to enhance the role of small and medium enterprises in economic development and create a pro-business environment in Dubai, which in turn strengthens the city's position as a global hub for entrepreneurship.



MOHAMMED BIN RASHID AL MAKTOUM BUSINESS AWARD

The **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Business Award**, launched in 2005, recognises and celebrates organisations with outstanding practices that contribute to the sustainable economic development of the UAE and GCC. Supported by the 'Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Business Award Program', the Award seeks to establish a world-class business culture in the GCC and implement cutting-edge international best practices.



MUSEUM OF THE FUTURE

An architectural and engineering marvel, the **Museum of the Future** was conceptualised in 2016. Today, it is a novel scientific and intellectual centre and the region's largest platform for understanding, designing and building the future. Part of a wider vision to mobilise researchers, academics and experts from all over the world, the Museum intends to build a network of partnerships with leading scientific and research institutions around the globe to host and encourage in-depth dialogues surrounding future trends in various developmental, economic, scientific, technological and humanitarian sectors.



MOHAMMED BIN RASHID AL MAKTOUM GLOBAL WATER AWARD

Launched in 2016, the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Water Award**, which is organised by **Suqia**, encourages companies, research centres, institutions, inventors and innovators from around the world to develop sustainable solutions to water scarcity in poor and disaster-stricken regions.



ONE MILLION ARAB CODERS INITIATIVE

The **One Million Arab Coders Initiative** aims to empower young Arabs with the digital skills required to thrive in the future labour market. Launched in 2017, the Initiative provides specialised training courses in computer programming to enable one million young Arabs to lead the digital economy in their societies and, ultimately, improve lives.



GREAT ARAB MINDS

The **Great Arab Minds** initiative was launched in 2022 as the Arab world's most significant movement, which seeks to establish an intellectual elite to constitute the heart of a progressive Arab society and contribute to the global scientific and creative communities. The initiative aims to identify and support 1,000 exceptional Arab scientists, thinkers and innovators within five years across six main categories – Natural Sciences, Engineering and Technology, Literature and Arts, Architecture and Design, Economics, and Medicine – so that they can develop their ideas into transformational solutions, amplifying their positive impact in the region.



FOOD INNOVATION HUB UAE

The **Food Innovation Hub UAE**, which was announced in 2022 as a joint initiative between **MBRGI** and the World Economic Forum, aims to accelerate innovation in the field of food transformation to uncover more efficient, sustainable future solutions and improve food production mechanisms. It intends to foster scientific cooperation and knowledge exchange to develop resilient food production systems that address the 2030 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Empowering Communities



SHEIKH MOHAMMED BIN RASHID AL MAKTOUM CENTRE FOR CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING

Founded in 1998, the **Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Centre for Cultural Understanding** continues to be the bridge between the different nationalities living, working and visiting the UAE from all over the world. The Centre promotes Emirati heritage, culture, customs and traditions.



ARAB MEDIA AWARD

The Arab Journalism Award was launched in 1999, and was renamed the **Arab Media Award** in 2021. It is the first annual Arab award to honour creativity and celebrate outstanding content across all fields of media and journalism. The Award includes four major categories: Arab Journalism, TV Media, Digital Media and, to increase inclusivity, it now includes Media Personality of the Year. The board members of the Award include top media professionals from across the region.



ARAB MEDIA FORUM

The annual **Arab Media Forum** brings together leading media figures to discuss and exchange ideas on vital media-related issues affecting the region and beyond. Launched in 2001, the Forum has attracted leading media personalities, as well as political, academic and intellectual leaders from all over the world. Every year, media representatives, editors-in-chief, columnists, academics and senior government officials attend the event to address challenges and future media trends.



ARAB STRATEGY FORUM

Established in 2001, the **Arab Strategy Forum** provides a premier platform for world leaders, thinkers and decision-makers to discuss regional and international geopolitical and economic trends, as well as forecast challenges and crises. The Forum provides a clear forward-looking picture on the future of many issues, enabling leaders to develop proactive strategies and policies aimed at creating a better world.



MOHAMMED BIN RASHID CENTER FOR LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

The **Mohammed bin Rashid Center for Leadership Development** was launched in 2003 with the vision of creating leaders for tomorrow. Through comprehensive theoretical and practical programmes, the Centre equips participants with the knowledge and expertise needed to become effective leaders capable of taking the helm of the nation's public and private sector institutions and boosting performance. It works to consolidate the UAE's competitiveness across various service and development sectors and drive the nation's journey towards the future.



MOHAMMED BIN RASHID SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT

Launched in 2005, the **Mohammed bin Rashid School of Government** is the first research and teaching institution focused on governance and public policy in the Arab world. It collaborates with government and private institutions, regionally and internationally, to develop academic and training programmes that aim to help future leaders meet public administration challenges, ultimately supporting world-class governance across the UAE and the region.



DUBAI INTERNATIONAL SPORTS CONFERENCE

The annual **Dubai International Sports Conference**, established in 2006, brings together sport-related speakers and audiences including referees, managers, agents and world-famous athletes to address key challenges affecting global sport. The Conference proposes sport governance solutions to support the success of clubs, professional associations and international bodies.



MOHAMMED BIN RASHID AL MAKTOUM CREATIVE SPORTS AWARD

The **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Creative Sports Award**, founded in 2009, honours individuals, teams and entities with significant contributions to the sporting scene, encouraging further creative efforts in promoting sport on local, regional and global levels.



ARAB HOPE MAKERS

The **Arab Hope Makers** initiative was launched in early 2017 as the largest of its kind to celebrate humanitarian efforts that improve lives, alleviate suffering and make a difference in societies. The Initiative aims to highlight the stories of unsung heroes and provide financial support to expand the scope of their humanitarian endeavours to touch as many lives as possible.



علمتني الحياة أن لا أقيس عمر الإنسان بسنوات حياته
بل بقدرات عقله وعمق وعيه.. وأن لا أقيس عمر
الدول بتاريخ استقلالها بل بإنجازاتها التي يكتبها
التاريخ.. وأن الدول العظيمة ليست مجموعة
مؤسسات قوية.. بل مجموعة قيم وأخلاق ومبادئ
تتمثل على هيئة بشر

محمد بن راشد آل مكتوم

Life has taught me to gauge a person's age not by their years, but by their wisdom and depth of awareness. Similarly, the age of nations shouldn't be judged by their years of independence, but by milestones recorded in history. Great nations are not only a set of powerful institutions, but values, morals, and principles embodied in human form.

Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum

