



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

YEAR IN REVIEW

2020



AED **1.2**
Billion
spent in 2020

82
Countries
reached in 2020

83
Million
beneficiaries in 2020

YEAR IN REVIEW

2020

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

Year In Review 2020

5th Volume



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

© Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced in any material form (including photocopying or storing in any medium by electronic means) without the written permission of the copyright holder.

Contents

Nothing Can Stop Us from Creating Hope	4
Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum <i>Chairman of the Board of Trustees</i>	
2020: A Year of Challenges & Achievements	6
Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum <i>Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees</i>	
2020 Achievements	8
Introduction	10
2020 Highlights	11
Humanitarian Aid & Relief	14
Healthcare & Disease Control	32
Spreading Education & Knowledge	54
Innovation & Entrepreneurship	78
Empowering Communities	96
A Journey of Hope	118
Annex	126



Nothing Can Stop Us from Creating Hope

Since the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives**' inception as an umbrella for numerous entities and initiatives devoted to humanitarian, development and community work locally and internationally, I have set before my team a clear objective: to create hope in the region, regardless of any circumstances.

In 2020, our vision and mission were put to a severe test with the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, which paralysed vital sectors in various parts of the world and placed unprecedented challenges on humanitarian aid.

But we passed the test with great success. Despite the lockdowns and health and logistical obstacles, we rose to the challenge and, in line with our expectations, touched the lives of more than 83 million people in 82 countries.

As we continue our work every year, our determination to fulfil our vision grows stronger. We gain more partners and serve more people, and our conviction that humanitarian work is essential to reigniting civilisation burns brighter.

May the days ahead be better.

Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum
Chairman of the Board of Trustees



2020: A Year of Challenges & Achievements

In 2020, the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives (MBRGI)** extended a helping hand from the UAE to the rest of the world. Its ongoing efforts in this regard have affirmed that what others may see as a challenge, the Foundation sees as an opportunity to achieve more, improve people's lives and build stable societies.

In addition to continuing its commitment to implementing sustainable humanitarian, health, community and knowledge programmes and campaigns, **MBRGI** was one of the first philanthropic organisations to respond to the pandemic by leading global relief efforts. The Foundation dedicated its resources, expertise and technical and logistical capabilities to enable international organisations and agencies to deliver food and medical aid to the vulnerable, no matter where they are.

MBRGI took a step forward and launched new initiatives in 2020, including **The Digital School**, the first Arab digital education platform to provide smart and flexible distance learning solutions to students anywhere in the world, particularly young people in underserved communities and refugee camps. These efforts are in line with the UAE's vision that everyone has a right to receive the best education, which is a central belief to the Foundation and its leader, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai.

As Sheikh Mohammed once said: "Nothing can stop us from aiding those in need, treating the sick, feeding the hungry and helping people wherever they are".

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

2020 Achievements



AED
1.2 Billion
spent across all pillars
in 2020



83 Million
beneficiaries of
MBRGI's initiatives
in 2020



82
countries reached
in 2020



AED
17 Million
in total prizes
awarded in 2020



1,045
scholarships,
fellowships and
research grants
awarded in 2020

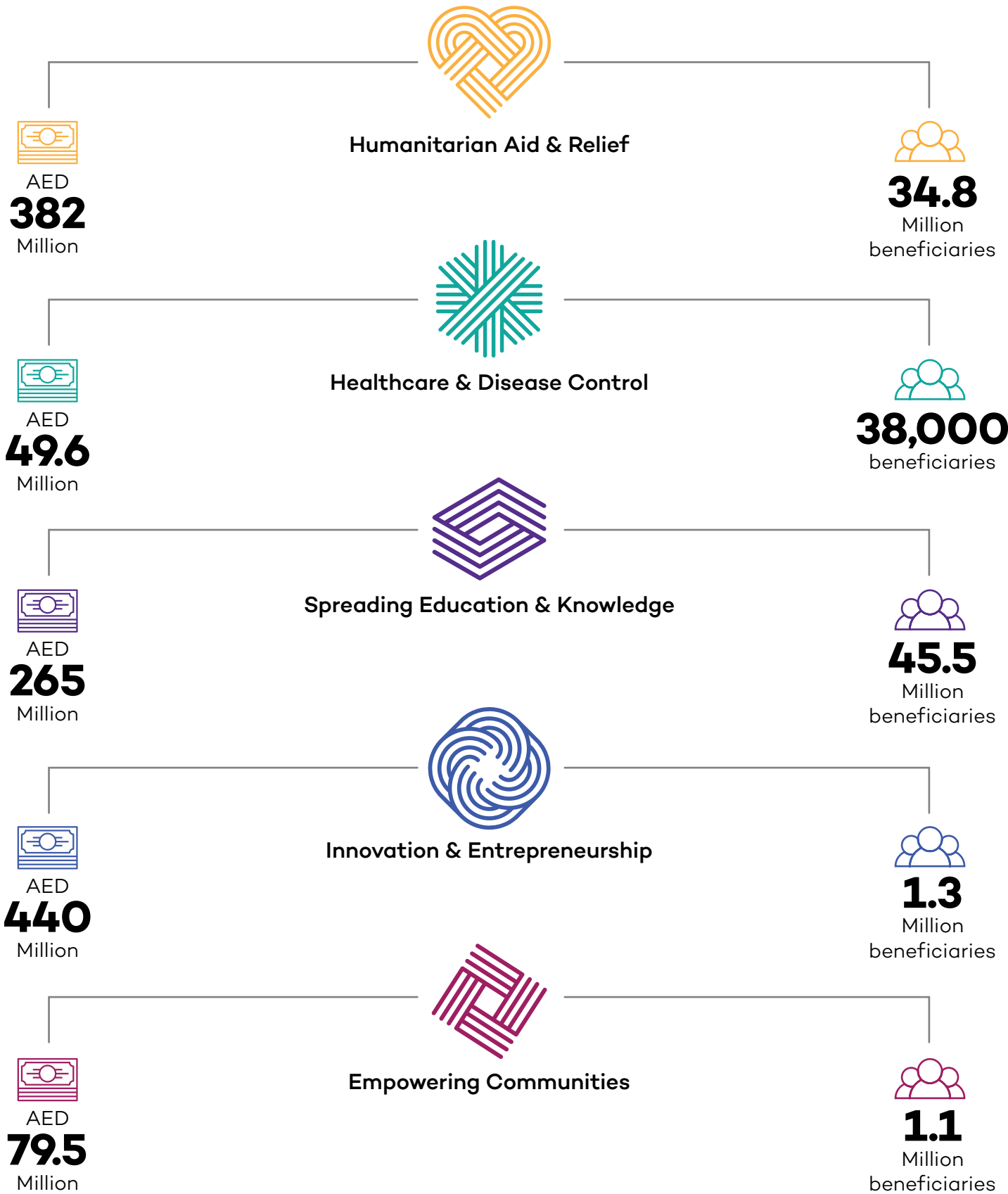


576
employees in 2020



121,676
volunteers across all
initiatives, projects and
programmes in 2020

AED
1.2 BILLION SPENT ACROSS ALL PILLARS
83 MILLION BENEFICIARIES OF MBRGI'S INITIATIVES



Introduction

The **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives (MBRGI)** was established in 2015, combining under its umbrella numerous initiatives and entities which have been launched and supported by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, for more than 20 years. In the years since, the Foundation has played a pivotal role in humanitarian aid, relief and development work locally, regionally and internationally. Through its integrated strategic approach based on efficiency, speed and effectiveness, **MBRGI** provides both urgent relief and sustainable, long-term support as part of its vision to create hope, establish a culture of positive change and invest in human capital.

In the five years since **MBRGI** was launched, it has supported dozens of existing initiatives, maximised the impact of the projects and entities under its own umbrella and expanded the scope of its work, launching new initiatives and institutions that have made a significant impact in the Arab region and across the world.

The **MBRGI** Year In Review 2020 is particularly important, as the coronavirus pandemic that swept across the globe brought unprecedented economic, social, health and humanitarian challenges. It was the most difficult test to date for the entities and initiatives under the Foundation's umbrella, which have emerged successful, proving the efficacy of the Foundation's investment in sustainable projects and programmes.

Throughout 2020, **MBRGI**'s 35 entities and initiatives carried out hundreds of programmes, projects and campaigns aimed at advancing societies around the world, addressing the challenges facing vital areas such as healthcare and education, and improving people's lives. The Foundation applies emerging trends and technologies to shape a sustainable future for the region, build capacity in various sectors, and support and empower young talents and entrepreneurs, particularly in vulnerable communities and crisis-affected areas.

The **MBRGI** entities and initiatives are classified under five main pillars:



Humanitarian Aid & Relief



Healthcare & Disease Control



Spreading Education & Knowledge



Innovation & Entrepreneurship



Empowering Communities

2020 Highlights

Exceptional Efforts to Combat COVID-19

In 2020, **MBRGI** spent a total of AED 1.2 billion on the projects, programmes and campaigns under its umbrella, benefitting 83 million people across 82 countries. Around 122,000 volunteers working in beneficiary countries with varying areas of expertise contributed to the success of these initiatives.

Despite the global coronavirus outbreak, which crippled vital sectors in many underprivileged countries, **MBRGI** continued to pursue its objectives, redoubling its efforts to fill the void caused by pandemic.

Under the Humanitarian Aid & Relief pillar, the organisations and companies based at the **International Humanitarian City (IHC)** joined forces to provide urgent humanitarian aid to those affected by the floods and natural disasters in Sudan, Somalia, Bangladesh and other countries, and to survivors of the explosion at the Port of Beirut in Lebanon.

Locally, the '10 Million Meals' campaign was carried out to assist vulnerable groups facing economic despair as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. The campaign surpassed its target by distributing more than 15.3 million meals to those in need during the holy month of Ramadan.

Entities and initiatives within the Healthcare & Disease Control pillar played an effective role through several preventive and therapeutic programmes in the UAE and abroad. **Al Jalila Foundation** expanded its research portfolio to address the COVID-19 outbreak, and witnessed the launch of the Mohammed bin Rashid Medical Research Institute, the first independent biomedical research centre in the

UAE, by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum in August 2020.

In light of the increased importance of digital education amid the disruption of traditional school systems and the shift to distance learning due to the global pandemic, **MBRGI** launched **The Digital School** under the Spreading Education & Knowledge pillar. The School aims to chart new milestones in the future of e-learning that integrates knowledge, expertise, self-learning skills and modern technologies.

Within the Innovation & Entrepreneurship pillar, the Dubai Future Foundation launched the **One Million Arab Coders** 'COVID-19 Hackathon', aimed at engaging Arab programmers from around the world to develop innovative solutions to challenges facing the healthcare sector as a result of the pandemic. In addition, the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Water Award**, under the supervision of the **UAE Water Aid Foundation (Suqia)**, introduced in 2020 the 'Innovative Crisis Solutions Award' to recognise projects that can provide relief within 48 hours of declaring a state of emergency.

As part of its efforts in the Empowering Communities pillar, the **Mohammed bin Rashid Center for Leadership Development** celebrated the graduation of 30 participants in the first cohort of the 'Global Secondment Program for Emirati Leaders'. The Centre also partnered with the Dubai Future Council on Humanitarian Aid to launch the 'Hope Makers Development Program' in February 2020 to build national leaders who are specialised in humanitarian work and capable of establishing the UAE as a pioneer in the field.



We seek to transform philanthropy
into a sustainable institutional
practice to bring tangible societal
change and make a real difference
in people's lives.

Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum



Humanitarian Aid & Relief



AED

382 Million

spent on Humanitarian Aid & Relief
initiatives in 2020



34.8 Million

beneficiaries of Humanitarian Aid &
Relief initiatives in 2020

15.3 Million

meals distributed by the
'10 Million Meals' campaign
during Ramadan in 2020

9,086 Tonnes

of food distributed by the
UAE Food Bank in 2020

2.1 Million

beneficiaries of the
Mohammed bin Rashid
Al Maktoum Humanitarian &
Charity Establishment in 2020





Ensuring Quality of Life



AED
382 Million

spent on Humanitarian Aid & Relief initiatives in 2020



34.8 Million

beneficiaries of
Humanitarian Aid & Relief
initiatives in 2020

The Humanitarian Aid & Relief pillar captures the essence of the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives' (MBRGI)** work, which aims to transform humanitarian efforts into a sustainable institutional framework to overcome challenges that impede development in vulnerable societies and ensure social stability. Under this pillar, numerous sustainable initiatives, programmes and projects are implemented in cooperation with various regional and international organisations.

In 2020, the Humanitarian Aid & Relief pillar gained an exceptional importance at the backdrop of COVID-19 pandemic, which has brought unprecedented challenges in modern history. The ensuing health crisis has not only deteriorated millions of lives in underprivileged parts of the world, but has pushed new communities that were not previously experiencing poverty into an economic and social hardship. **MBRGI**, therefore, doubled its efforts to deliver humanitarian aid to millions around the world – living up to its mission to support those in need wherever they are.

Within this framework, **International Humanitarian City (IHC)** joined forces to dispatch urgent relief in response to the global fight against COVID-19, especially in disadvantaged communities.

As part of its mission to improve lives and support communities, **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Humanitarian & Charity Establishment** continued to implement sustainable healthcare, family

empowerment and education initiatives in the UAE and abroad.

Meanwhile, the '10 Million Meals' campaign, implemented by three entities under **MBRGI's** umbrella, underlined the role of social solidarity, at individual and institutional levels in the UAE, in alleviating suffering. The Ramadan campaign attracted overwhelming donations from the UAE community to provide food support for low-income families and individuals affected by the COVID-19 pandemic across the country.

Despite the technical and logistical challenges imposed by the global pandemic, the **UAE Water Aid Foundation (Suqia)**, under the umbrella of **MBRGI**, continued to carry out numerous projects in 2020 to secure clean drinking water for underprivileged communities.

In 2020, **MBRGI's** total spending on initiatives, programmes and projects under the Humanitarian Aid & Relief pillar reached AED 382 million in 2020, benefitting more than 34.8 million people around the world.



Improving lives brings us happiness and empowering anyone in need brings us honour. Creating hope is a successful investment that will reap outstanding results in our society and the world.

Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum





Overwhelming Support for the '10 Million Meals' Campaign



15.3 Million

food parcels distributed by the '10 Million Meals' campaign during Ramadan in 2020

In collaboration with the Social Solidarity Fund Against COVID-19, **MBRGI** launched the '10 Million Meals' campaign, the largest national food distribution drive of its kind, during the holy month of Ramadan in 2020. The campaign aimed at distributing meals, food parcels and supplies to COVID-19-hit individuals and families across the UAE, providing a sense of safety in vulnerable homes and a chance to a dignified life during exceptional circumstances.

The campaign was implemented by three **MBRGI**-affiliated entities, the **UAE Food Bank**, the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Humanitarian & Charity Establishment** and the **UAE Water Aid Foundation (Suqia)**, in coordination with a number of federal and local entities, and humanitarian and charitable organisations in the UAE.

The '10 Million Meals' campaign drew donations from 130,000 individuals and public and private institutions to distribute 15.3 million meals to vulnerable groups across the UAE. More than 1,000 volunteers supported the campaign, which distributed meals and food parcels to beneficiaries via an integrated logistical network.

Donations received on the campaign's website secured 1.4 million meals, while SMS donations helped provide 771,000 meals. In-kind donations made through the dedicated call centre were equivalent to more than 726,000 meals. The **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Humanitarian & Charity Establishment** topped the list of institutional donors, contributing AED 29 million. Other

humanitarian and charitable organisations in the UAE collectively donated the value of 6.8 million meals, with entrepreneurs and businesses pledging an additional 5.7 million meals.

Suqia provided water bottles for the Campaign, in addition to water boxes at Iftar distributions, COVID-19 testing and quarantine facilities, and at the Dubai Field Hospital. Overall, **Suqia** distributed 14.4 million water boxes, valued at AED 5.1 million.



The World's Tallest Donation Box



1.2 Million

meals donated as part of the 'World's Tallest Donation Box' initiative in 2020

Supporting the '10 Million Meals' campaign, **MBRGI** launched the 'World's Tallest Donation Box' initiative, in collaboration with the Burj Khalifa, to encourage individuals and companies to donate as little as AED 10 to provide one meal. For every AED 10 donated, one pixel on Burj Khalifa was lit, gradually illuminating the 1.2 million lights on the façade of the world's tallest building, one at a time, in a message of hope and solidarity to the world amid the global pandemic.

The 'World's Tallest Donation Box' initiative enabled all segments of the society to donate through the website – www.tallestdonationbox.com – to provide food aid for targeted communities across the country. Donors were able to see the impact of their contributions by watching the number of lights their donations would illuminate on Burj Khalifa, encouraging others to follow

suit. A real-time countdown of donations was also projected on Burj Khalifa and the campaign's website.

Within one week of its launch, Burj Khalifa beamed bright after the 'World's Tallest Donation Box' initiative achieved its AED 12 million target through 8,500 donors from 111 nationalities, securing 1.2 million meals for disadvantaged individuals and families in the UAE.

Presenting an inspiring model for social cohesion and solidarity, the '10 Million Meals' campaign bagged 34 global awards and nominations, including six Cresta Awards in creativity and innovation, and five SHORTY Social Good Awards for driving positive impact in society.





Fighting Hunger: A Shared Responsibility



9,086 Tonnes
of food distributed by the
UAE Food Bank in 2020

Established under the Humanitarian Aid & Relief pillar, the **UAE Food Bank** presents an integrated system that collects surplus food from restaurants, hospitality establishments, manufacturers, factories, farms and supermarkets, and redistributes it to people in need across the UAE. In 2020, the **UAE Food Bank** played a central role in providing food aid to underprivileged families and individuals, and low-income groups across the UAE, who were most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. It was also instrumental in implementing the '10 Million Meals' campaign, along with the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Humanitarian & Charity Establishment** and **Suqia**.

In September 2020, the **UAE Food Bank** organised an awareness campaign to educate labourers on maintaining food safety and

hygiene in their accommodations to help limit the spread of the virus, reaching about 250,000 people.

As part of the objectives to foster social responsibility towards the disadvantaged and promote a culture of sharing to avoid food waste, the **UAE Food Bank** fridges distributed 1,502 tonnes of safe, untouched food in 2020, through its network of 100 fridges across Dubai, which are accessible to any person in need.

Also in 2020, the **UAE Food Bank** distributed 9,086 tonnes of food to low-income workers and disadvantaged families.



Support to Combat COVID-19



1.1 Million

beneficiaries of the IHC's relief efforts in 2020

As the largest humanitarian hub of its kind that hosts about 80 members comprised of UN agencies, international and non-governmental organisations, and companies, the **International Humanitarian City (IHC)** swiftly joined efforts to provide urgent relief to countries hit hardest by COVID-19. **IHC** dispatched humanitarian aid to disaster-stricken regions including Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Iran and Somalia. It also sent relief supplies to communities affected by natural disasters and floods in Bangladesh, Ethiopia and Sudan, and to survivors of the Port of Beirut explosion.

In May 2020, **IHC** supported the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in providing urgent humanitarian aid to Somalia, as part of the COVID-19 response. In a separate event, **IHC** also dispatched emergency assistance to help communities affected by the floods in Somalia. The Mogadishu-bound flight carrying over 35 metric tonnes of life-saving equipment and medical supplies was chartered by the **IHC** to support UNHCR's flood relief efforts to help thousands of internally displaced Somalis. Vital supplies and basic living necessities benefitted 1,500 affected families and 20,000 relief workers.

In June 2020, a cargo plane left **IHC** carrying around 100 tonnes of emergency aid supplies to Burkina Faso, including 88 tonnes of core relief items from UNHCR and 12 tonnes of essential kits of medicines and medical supplies urgently required for combatting

COVID-19 from WHO. The urgent humanitarian assistance reached more than 346,000 refugees and internally displaced people in the Central Sahel Region.

In July 2020, the UN World Food Programme (WFP) airlifted 52 metric tonnes of life-saving, high-energy biscuits (HEBs) from its Humanitarian Response Depot in **IHC** in Dubai to flood and conflict-stricken Bangui in the Central African Republic. Requiring no preparation, HEBs offer a quick and easy way to respond to the basic nutritional needs of people in need during emergencies. HEB shipments covered the basic nutritional requirements of about 35,000 victims in August and September when flood levels were at their worst.

Other humanitarian assistance included COVID-19 testing kits and medical supplies, which benefitted 64,257 people. As part of global efforts to fight the pandemic, critical medical supplies, including ventilators, surgical masks, gloves and testing kits, were also sent to Iran in March 2020, benefitting 100,000 people.



The UAE is not just a financial and economic nucleus, neither is it just a tourism hub; we are also a nerve centre for global humanitarian work.

Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum



Emergency Relief to Beirut Blast Victims



84.9 Metric Tonnes

of relief airlifted from IHC to victims of the Beirut blast in August 2020

An aid flight took off from Dubai to Lebanon within a few hours of the Port of Beirut explosion on 4 August 2020. It carried approximately 30 metric tonnes of medical aid, including trauma kits, surgical supplies and personal protective equipment (PPE) provided by the WHO and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) from their stocks in Dubai's **IHC**. The emergency aid benefitted 7,000 blast survivors.

On 11 August 2020, another shipment of 24.9 metric tonnes of medical supplies and PPE, prepositioned within **IHC** by WHO, carried surgical masks, goggles, gowns, respirators, thermometers and stretchers to Lebanon's victims.

On 21 August 2020, two cargo aircrafts, chartered by **IHC**, left Dubai carrying 30 metric tonnes of aid, including 12 metric tonnes of medical supplies from the WHO, and 18 metric tonnes of hygiene kits from the IFRC. The third consignment of aid supported 12,500 people.





A Rapid Humanitarian Response

In 2020, Sudan experienced its worst flooding in decades, prompting the government to declare a three-month state of emergency in early September. Millions of people in Eastern Sudan, the White Nile and Darfur regions, as well as the capital Khartoum and the city of Omdurman were at the risk of a looming food shortage and a lack of fresh water. Thousands of houses have been destroyed and damaged, leaving an estimated 125,000 refugees and internally displaced people in uncertainty.

In a swift response to UNHCR's efforts to help the flood victims, an aid flight departed from Dubai International Airport to Khartoum on 4 September, carrying about 100 metric tonnes of critical relief supplies from UNHCR's warehouse in **IHC**, including much-needed

shelters, blankets, sleeping mats and other non-food supplies. The relief material helped more than 105,000 victims. On 10 October 2020, **IHC** chartered two additional flights carrying 100 metric tonnes of aid supplies provided by the IFRC. The shipment comprised emergency shelters and household essentials for 5,000 families, or 25,000 people, who have lost their homes and livelihoods, as well as drainage and sanitation equipment to reduce the risk of water-borne diseases. Three more aid flights departed to Sudan on 27 and 30 November and 3 December.





2.1 Million

beneficiaries of the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Humanitarian & Charity Establishment in 2020

A Universal Right to Education, Healthcare & Clean Water

In line with its mission to provide vital services, such as education and healthcare, to improve lives of underprivileged communities, the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Humanitarian & Charity Establishment** built schools in a number of villages in Tajikistan and Pakistan at a cost of AED 1.8 million, providing safe learning for 9,000 students.

It also built and equipped three gynaecology and obstetrics clinics at a cost of AED 1.1 million to provide healthcare to 11,700 women in Tajikistan.

Moreover, the Establishment implemented several projects to provide clean, potable water to remote communities around the world at a cost of AED 4.5 million. The projects involved drilling wells, installing water distribution

networks, and building and maintaining water plants in eight Asian and African countries, including Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Benin, Ghana, Kyrgyzstan, Senegal, Tajikistan and Uganda. The wells, drilled in areas with scarce water resources, now benefit more than 343,000 people.

The **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Humanitarian & Charity Establishment** also built houses to shelter 89 low-income victims in disaster-stricken area in Pakistan and Tajikistan.

To help underprivileged communities to endure cold winters, the Establishment provided coal, heaters, blankets and warm clothes to support 10,500 people in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan through its 'Heating Project'. Other Asian, Arab and African countries also received various in-kind support valued at AED 1.4 million.





Humanitarian Support in the Face of COVID-19



**AED
10.3 Million**
financial assistance
provided to low-income
families and individuals
in 2020

As part of its local efforts to assist those impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Humanitarian & Charity Establishment** distributed 753,279 meals to 21,540 workers at a cost of AED 5.6 million throughout 2020.

It also dedicated AED 10.3 million in financial assistance to empower 1,930 low-income families and individuals against COVID-19.

In the same context, the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Humanitarian & Charity Establishment** provided AED 26 million worth of support, including 52 ventilators valued at AED 7 million and medical supplies worth AED 19 million, to the COVID-19 Command

and Control Centre, which operates under the National Emergency and Crisis and Disasters Management Authority.

The Establishment also continued to fund treatment for UAE citizens and residents who could not afford healthcare. In 2020, it covered, surgeries, cancer treatments, care for premature babies, childbirth and dialysis at a total cost of AED 2.25 million.



STORIES

OF HOPE

A Flicker of Hope Dispels Despair

Saad lives with his wife and children in a small house in a rural area of Egypt's Asyut Governorate. He makes a modest living from a little workshop attached to his home, where he manufactures soap from raw material that he struggles to buy in the market. He uses barrels and simple tools to cook and mould the soap, before packing the bars in bags and delivering them to small shops in the area on his bicycle. Despite his hard work, Saad's meagre income is barely enough to put food on the table.

In a cruel twist of fate, Saad's family endured more suffering when his wife was diagnosed with cancer. Saad was devastated and felt

utterly helpless, as he couldn't afford the necessary treatment to ease his wife's pain. He was also anxious about his children's growing needs and expenses as they got older.

Saad was in complete despair, worrying about the fate of his wife and family, until one day, representatives from the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Humanitarian & Charity Establishment** visited his home and asked about his situation. They soon returned with a motorcycle loaded with several months' worth of soap-making supplies, as well as a funded plan for his wife to open and run a small grocery.

Within a matter of days, Saad's life changed drastically. He now has plenty of supplies to make soap and a motorcycle that allows him to travel to more distant markets to sell his soap and expand his client base. His wife's shop is earning additional income for the family, enabling her to get the medical care she needs.

Thanks to the support of the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Humanitarian & Charity Establishment**, Saad and his wife are now able to provide for their children and plan for the future. Their life of poverty, pain and despair has been transformed into one of hope, filled with bright prospects.





Clean Water for Thriving Communities



38

water projects
implemented by Suqia
across five countries
in 2020

Under the umbrella of **MBRGI**, the **UAE Water Aid Foundation (Suqia)** continued to pursue its mission to support vulnerable communities suffering from water scarcity.

Suqia provides clean drinking water to underprivileged societies around the world by drilling wells, installing water pumps and building water distribution and purification networks. It implements numerous sustainable projects that improve quality of life and support the creation of stable, thriving communities where economic and production cycles are not interrupted by water shortages or water-supply failures. **Suqia** also supports the research and development of innovative, sustainable technologies that address water scarcity and minimise its impact on social and economic life.

In 2020, **Suqia** carried out 38 new water projects that benefitted 182,300 people in five countries, including three artesian wells in Ghana for a community of 10,500 people, four artesian wells in Niger serving 16,000 people, and two wells in Mauritania for 16,000 people.

Additionally, **Suqia** drilled four artesian wells and 23 surface wells, reaching 129,000 people in Benin, and drilled one well and built a distribution network for 11,050 beneficiaries in Tajikistan in 2020.



STORIES OF HOPE

A Decent Life for Ugandan Villagers

Like many women in Kabiji village in Uganda, 57-year-old Babirye Namukwaya spends an average of four hours every day fetching drinking water for her seven children.

With the nearest well more than three kilometres away from the village, Babirye walks for many hours each morning and waits in a long queue to get her small ration of safe, clean water. She would return home exhausted with barely enough water to cater to her

family's needs and no time to spend with her children.

More than 21 million Ugandans live without basic access to safe drinking water and 40% of the population, mostly women like Babirye, have to walk for long hours daily to get water for their families. It was a daily hardship that Babirye endured as a fact of life, as did her mother before her.

Thankfully, Babirye's life has improved since **Suqia** drilled an artesian well near her village, constructed water distribution networks and installed water purification filters in homes and public facilities. The project, implemented in collaboration with **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Humanitarian & Charity Establishment**, has touched the lives of more than 5,000 people.

With clean drinking water now accessible at home, Babirye and hundreds of other mothers in her village are able to spend more time caring for their children, with the peace of mind that their families are no longer at risk of water-borne diseases.





National Endowment to Combat COVID-19



AED
23 Million

national endowment
fund launched to combat
COVID-19 in 2020

The **Mohammed bin Rashid Global Centre for Endowment Consultancy** plays an essential role in **MBRGI**'s social and humanitarian endeavours by providing free-of-charge consultancy services to stimulate and empower awqaf and endowments to meet urgent social needs.

In 2020, the Centre launched a AED 23 million national endowment fund to combat COVID-19 and fund epidemiological research. The fund, which launched under the theme 'Let's Enhance National Health and Well-being', was developed in collaboration with the Awqaf and Minors Affairs Foundation and Mohammed bin Rashid University of Medicine and Health Sciences (MBRU).

The fund also aims to support medical innovation, establish world-class research centres and clinics and provide essential care for patients, with AED 13 million dedicated to national needs and AED 10 million allocated towards global support. It is considered the first endowment of its kind to tackle COVID-19 and other epidemics, as well as serve the health sector.



Legal & Academic Endowments to Improve Lives



AED
27.5

contributed by entities
carrying the 'Dubai
Endowment Sign' in 2020

In 2020, the **Mohammed bin Rashid Global Centre for Endowment Consultancy** forged a new partnership with the Emirates Association for Lawyers and Legal to launch the 'Law Endowment'. The first of its kind in the Arab world and globally, the endowment provides free consultation and support to those who cannot afford legal services. It has provided more than 26,000 low-income individuals with pro-bono legal advice and judicial assistance worth AED 1 million.

In further efforts to serve the community, the Centre established the 'University Seat Endowment' to support promising students who otherwise would not be able to afford university education. The endowment granted

AED 5.7 million scholarships to 60 students at UAE universities across a range of disciplines, including medicine, engineering, science and the arts.

As part of its innovative endowment initiatives, the **Mohammed bin Rashid Global Centre for Endowment Consultancy** renewed the 'Dubai Endowment Sign' of a number of institutions, including Union Cooperative Society, Easa Saleh Al Gurg Charity Foundation, Al Wasl University, the Department of Finance, Dr Ibrahim Galadari of Galadari Derma Clinic, and the Emirates Association for Lawyers and Legal. Entities carrying the sign contributed AED 27.5 million in 2020, helping 30,545 people across various fields.



Healthcare & Disease Control



AED
49.6 Million

spent on Healthcare & Disease Control
initiatives in 2020

38,000

beneficiaries of Healthcare & Disease Control
initiatives in 2020

AED
22.5 Million
raised by the 'Bassmat Rashid
Bin Saeed' initiative in 2020

AED
300 Million
invested to establish the
Mohammed bin Rashid Medical
Research Institute

11,564
beneficiaries of the 'Trachoma
Elimination Programme' in
Ethiopia in 2020





From Immediate Medical Aid to Sustainable Health Programmes



AED
49.6 Million
spent on Healthcare
& Disease Control
initiatives in 2020



38,000
beneficiaries of
Healthcare & Disease
Control initiatives
in 2020

Healthcare & Disease Control is a central focus of the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives (MBRGI)**, which implements dozens of therapeutic, preventive and awareness programmes, regionally and internationally, to address the most pressing challenges facing healthcare systems in disadvantaged communities.

The Foundation also aims to combat infectious diseases, which not only threaten people's quality of life, but also hinder the development of productive societies and impede growth and prosperity.

MBRGI's efforts go beyond providing immediate relief and aid in times of emergency, in line with its vision to develop sustainable healthcare programmes and initiatives focused on treating and preventing serious diseases.

To carry out this pivotal goal, the Foundation has launched institutional initiatives that aim to improve healthcare services in underprivileged countries, train medical staff and provide the necessary medical equipment to build healthy, stable communities.

In 2020, **MBRGI** was able to continue playing an effective role on ground at home and abroad, despite the enormous challenges that arose as a result of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. The pandemic had a devastating impact on healthcare sectors

across the world, particularly in communities poorly equipped to deal with a health crisis of this scale.

MBRGI persisted in implementing existing healthcare projects to ensure disadvantaged communities would not miss out.

In parallel, the Foundation provided medical supplies, equipment and COVID-19 vaccines to support healthcare systems of several countries in the fight against the pandemic.

Within this framework, **Al Jalila Foundation** expanded its research portfolio in 2020 to help curb the impact of COVID-19 on public healthcare systems and address the urgent and unprecedented need to develop novel treatments. The Foundation also continued to fund scientific research in several biomedical fields, offer treatment to people who cannot afford healthcare and grant scholarships to train a new generation of specialised medical practitioners. In line with these efforts, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, launched in August 2020 the UAE's first independent biomedical research centre, the Mohammed bin Rashid Medical Research Institute, with an investment of AED 300 million.

The other main entity in the Healthcare & Disease Control pillar, **Noor Dubai**, continued working towards creating a world free



from avoidable causes of blindness by implementing therapeutic and preventative eye care programmes in Sudan, Nigeria and Ethiopia. It offered ongoing support in the field of eye health locally, regionally and internationally, in addition to its rehabilitation services to communities in need.

The first phase of the Magdi Yacoub Global Heart Centre in Cairo, Egypt, was also completed in 2020. The **Arab Hope Makers**

initiative, which comes under the umbrella of **MBRGI**, supported the project, which will provide free cardiac care, particularly to children, in Egypt and across the Arab world.

In 2020, the total spending on programmes and initiatives under the Healthcare & Disease Control pillar amounted to AED 49.6 million, benefitting 38,000 people around the world.



The health of the people is the foundation for building a strong society capable of driving development and economic and social stability in the UAE.

Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum



Building on a Humanitarian Legacy



AED
22.5 Million
raised by the 'Bassmat
Rashid Bin Saeed'
initiative in 2020

Since its establishment in 2013, **Al Jalila Foundation** has spearheaded medical innovation in the UAE by building a comprehensive national research system. It has provided patients from all segments of society who are in dire need of medical care with access to the best possible treatment, and has worked on improving the high academic standards of medical education by offering scholarships, exchange programmes and partnerships with international associations.

Among **Al Jalila Foundation's** 2020 initiatives is the 'Bassmat Rashid Bin Saeed' initiative, dedicated to the late Dubai founder Sheikh Rashid bin Saeed Al Maktoum, to follow in his footsteps and build upon his humanitarian

legacy. The unique fundraising initiative, which aims to advance medical research in the UAE, presents the first-of-its-kind digital recognition wall that showcases every donor's name along with their contributions to encourage other individuals, companies and associations to follow suit. Throughout the year, 107 donors participated in the initiative, leaving their mark on the future of medical innovation.

By the end of 2020, the initiative raised more than AED 22.5 million, which will go towards supporting and expanding medical research in the UAE to new areas that monitor future health and epidemiological challenges.





The First Independent Centre for Biomedical Research



AED 300 Million
invested to establish
the Mohammed
bin Rashid Medical
Research Institute

In August 2020, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, launched the Mohammed bin Rashid Medical Research Institute, under **Al Jalila Foundation**. The AED 300 million institute is the UAE's first independent biomedical research centre, established as part of the UAE's response to the urgent need for in-depth research into the fields of biomedicine, preventive medicine and epidemiology, prompted by the global health crisis that the COVID-19 outbreak has caused. The centre is already contributing to international COVID-19 research efforts.

The Mohammed bin Rashid Medical Research Institute strives to contribute to developing a team of specialised researchers and establishing advanced research tools using cutting-edge technologies. These include building genetic maps for diseases, proactively monitoring potential outbreaks using biomarker analysis techniques for individuals, deploying artificial intelligence, algorithms and machine learning to predict disease patterns, improving communication among research sectors and investing in developing research talents. The institute also offers equipment and funding to pioneering research projects seeking solutions to the region's major health challenges, including cancer, cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, obesity and mental health.



'A'awen' Ramadan Campaign



AED
500,000

raised by the 'A'awen'
Ramadan campaign
in 2020

A total of 270 patients who were unable to afford healthcare costs benefitted in 2020 from **Al Jalila Foundation's** 'A'awen' campaign, which is designed to fund treatment for UAE residents with life-threatening diseases.

The Foundation's annual 'A'awen' Ramadan campaign, organised in collaboration with

14 partnering entities and individuals from the community, raised more than AED 500,000 to cover treatment of patients across the country. As part of the campaign, an advisory webinar addressed healthy eating during Ramadan and tips to stay safe from COVID-19.



STORIES OF HOPE

A Paediatric First

Pritvik Sinhade, 16, was born with two small, partially functioning kidneys. When his health deteriorated as the disease evolved to advanced stages, he had complete kidney failure, which called for immediate renal replacement therapy and, ultimately, a new kidney. After a review of potential donors, his father was identified as a successful match. The kidney transplant was then performed successfully, going down in the UAE's medical records as the first paediatric kidney transplant from a living donor. A team of doctors from Al Jalila Children's Specialty Hospital, Mohammed bin Rashid University of Medicine and Health Sciences and Mediclinic Middle East performed the operation with the support of **Al Jalila Foundation's** 'Aawen' programme.

In a heartfelt message, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, expressed his support for the boy who was given a second chance at life. He wrote, "To my dear Pritvik, this is a small gesture from me to remind you that you're at home and in safe hands, and I will pray to God to keep you in good health and safe. Keep smiling, little warrior."

Pritvik, who was named a UAE Ambassador of Organ Donation, pledged to work with **Al Jalila Foundation** to raise awareness on the crucial need for organ donation in saving lives of patients like him. "I have been lucky to have my father as my donor", he said. "However, there are many who need transplants to survive."



'Ta'alouf' Programme for Parents & Teachers



7,600

students benefitted
from the 'Ta'alouf'
programme in 2020

The 'Ta'alouf' training programme, named after the Arabic word for 'harmony', is one of **Al Jalila Foundation's** key initiatives, designed to assist parents of children of determination.

The programme offered two training courses in 2020 in response to the need to take precautionary measures to limit the spread of COVID-19. The sessions of the first course were held face-to-face in Dubai, while the second course was delivered online and, for the first time, included participants from around the world. The free courses equipped parents and caregivers with the skills necessary to help their children of determination lead independent lives. A total of 264 participants of 17 nationalities graduated from the programme in 2020.

The Foundation continued to offer the 'Ta'alouf' training programme to schoolteachers and headmasters from the UAE's public and private schools throughout the academic year. The programme aims to provide educators with

the knowledge and skills required to better understand the individual learning needs of each child of determination and broaden their perception on inclusive learning best practices. In its sixth edition, which concluded in June 2020, the programme impacted 7,600 students across the country. Moreover, 73 teachers and headmasters from 23 schools across the UAE graduated from 'Ta'alouf' and presented 67 new initiatives to their schools to promote the effective integration of children of determination in classrooms.

Responding to COVID-19 precautionary measures, **Al Jalila Foundation** organised 14 webinars in Arabic and English. The sessions, which kicked off in June and concluded in December with participants from 33 nationalities, tackled several healthcare issues including cancer, medical research, COVID-19, mental health, diabetes and cardiovascular diseases.





Scholarships & Research Grants



**AED
7 Million**
in grants and
scholarships
provided by Al Jalila
Foundation in 2020

Al Jalila Foundation is committed to providing scholarships to train and prepare the next generation of specialists and professionals in the UAE's healthcare sector. The Foundation's medical scholarship programme offers students the opportunity to pursue graduate and doctoral studies at some of the most prestigious universities and colleges in the world. In 2020, the programme benefitted 13 students, including a postgraduate student who received a scholarship to study at the University of Glasgow in Scotland.

Al Jalila Foundation's AED 3 million medical research grants programme, which oversees 45 seed-funding projects, has given rise to four major medical discoveries and six registered patents in 2020. Under its auspices, more than 50 articles were published in scientific journals over the course of 2020, and 14 research projects were completed by researchers and scholars from the best universities and medical institutions in the UAE.

During 2020, **Al Jalila Foundation** provided grant funding, of approximately AED 500,000 each, to support five researchers from four universities and specialised medical institutes in the UAE to study the science behind COVID-19. The researchers focused on analysing the virus' functional and structural mutations, characteristics, diagnosis methods, its spread among members of the community, possible treatments and preventive measures. The grants aimed to promote the nation's medical capabilities in addressing the pandemic, while developing a proactive approach to tackle similar viral diseases in the future.

The research projects included the work of Dr Farah Mustafa, from the United Arab Emirates University, who aimed to determine the characteristics of microRNAs during the different stages of COVID-19 to improve diagnosis and develop new relevant treatments.

Professor Rabih Halwani, from the University of Sharjah, received funding for his research into the underlying congenital defects that make a COVID-19 infection life threatening to previously healthy youths.

Professor Taleb Al Tel, also from the University of Sharjah, won a grant for his project to develop novel natural therapies for COVID-19. His treatment aims to inhibit the enzymes and proteins that enable the virus to enter into host cells and reproduce itself inside human cells.

The research of Dr Mohammad Ghattas, from Al Ain University, focused on studying potential drugs that could treat COVID-19, while the research of Dr Ahmad Abou Tayoun, from Al Jalila Children's Specialty Hospital, examined the genetic make-up of COVID-19 among children and youths in the UAE.



The world has long questioned where the true power lies. Does economy drive politics or vice versa? The coronavirus spread showed that healthcare is the main power shaping economics and politics at a time when a disease brought nations to a standstill.

Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum



STORIES

OF HOPE

A Beautiful Smile

When Antheia was born with a congenital cleft lip, the consulting doctor recommended a surgical repair when she turns three months old. However, the cost of the surgery, which her parents could not afford, and the restrictions in place due to the COVID-19 pandemic hindered the procedure.

At six months old, Antheia started experiencing numerous health complications, as the competence of her lip muscle was deeply damaged, affecting her nose. Her parents applied to **Al Jalila Foundation** when the operation became an urgent need, and they were delighted when their application was accepted. Thanks to the surgery she underwent at Al Jalila Children's Specialty Hospital, with the support of the 'A'awen' programme, Antheia is now in good health, lighting up the world with her beautiful youthful smile.



STORIES OF HOPE

Stepping Confidently into the Future

Deformed legs and arched feet caused three-year-old Wed intense physical and emotional struggle. Her severe knee pain prevented her from playing with other children her age, leaving her in a perpetual state of sadness and isolation.

Her family's challenging financial situation qualified Wed for support from the 'Aawen' programme. In March 2020, just two months after she first visited Al Jalila Children's Specialty Hospital, Wed underwent a life-changing surgery.

Wed is now a happy child, living her most-cherished moments playing with her friends. A happy-go-lucky young girl, she enjoys finally wearing the clothes she had once been deprived of due to her health condition. With her x-rays revealing steady recovery, Wed and her family are looking forward to stepping confidently into the future.





Protecting health remains our priority above all else.

Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum



Mission to Combat Blindness



11,564

beneficiaries of the
'Trachoma Elimination
Programme' in 2020



2,746

patients received
trachoma surgery in 2020

Noor Dubai continues its mission to eradicate avoidable causes of blindness to improve social, health and economic conditions of people in disadvantaged communities.

The Foundation strives to implement sustainable therapeutic, preventative and educational programmes, in the UAE and abroad, to address the main causes of blindness. The comprehensive eye care includes surgeries, eyeglasses and medication, in addition to rehabilitation services to integrate the visually impaired into society.

Noor Dubai also supports initiatives to combat infectious eye diseases that cause blindness in many parts of the world and to boost the skills of eye care professionals. It also backs effective eye health programmes locally, regionally and internationally and supports relevant scientific research.

As part of its ongoing work with The Carter Center in the United States and pursuit of a world free from blinding trachoma, **Noor Dubai** continued to carry out its elimination programme in one of the most trachoma-endemic regions in the world, the Amhara region of Ethiopia. The Foundation implemented the SAFE strategy (Surgery, Antibiotics, Facial Cleanliness and Environmental Improvement) for trachoma control.

In 2020, **Noor Dubai** continued to meet its targets and implement a large number of its programmes, despite the logistical and procedural challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

By March 2020, 29% of the Amhara region had achieved the desired goal of eliminating the disease. The 'Trachoma Elimination Program' benefitted 11,564 people in Ethiopia in 2020, including 8,818 public health workers who received special training in trachoma control and 2,746 patients who underwent surgery.



Comprehensive Eye Care



11,288

beneficiaries of the Katsina comprehensive eye care programme in 2020



1,774

patients underwent cataract surgery in 2020

Despite the mandatory suspension of its programmes and campaigns in a number of beneficiary countries due to the COVID-19 outbreak, **Noor Dubai** resumed work in the state of Katsina, Nigeria, in August 2020, after a three-month interruption. The comprehensive eye care programme aims to provide sustainable preventive and therapeutic services in Katsina and neighbouring areas.

Noor Dubai restructured the programme to ensure full compliance with COVID-19 precautionary measures to safeguard its personnel.



The four-year programme, which will be active from 2019 to 2022, supports the international strategy of VISION 2020, a global initiative launched by the World Health Organization and the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness, and Nigeria's National Eye Health Program. It aims to improve available eye care services, thereby raising the standard of living and socio-economic status of the residents of Katsina and surrounding areas.

The programme also seeks to train and empower doctors, nurses and optometrists to offer the necessary eye care services and develop integrated eye care policies.

Over the four years, the Katsina eye care programme aims to provide free surgeries to more than 11,000 beneficiaries and free eye examinations to 36,000 local people and 300,000 school students, alongside educating more than two million health and community service providers in the state.

During 2020, the three centres affiliated with the programme conducted more than 8,870 eye examinations, including 1,774 patients who had later undergone cataract surgery. Eyeglasses were distributed to a further 382 people. In cooperation with the state's Ministry of Health, the programme trained 250 primary healthcare workers in centres across Katsina to offer diagnostic services and treatment and provided the medication and equipment needed to carry out their work.

Mobile Eye Camps



3,900

beneficiaries of the Khartoum mobile eye camp in 2020

Noor Dubai continued to organise mobile eye camps as part of its international efforts to target remote areas in developing countries. The mobile camps deliver essential eye care to communities who struggle to access timely healthcare, increasing their risk of blinding eye diseases. The camps provide eye exams, healthcare services, surgeries and eyeglasses.

to strict COVID-19 precautionary measures, lasted for 10 days, conducting examinations of approximately 3,400 patients and performing 500 cataract surgeries.

The Foundation launched a new mobile camp in December 2020 to treat cataracts in Khartoum, Sudan, to help revive the country's humanitarian service sector, which was badly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The camp, which adhered



STORIES

OF HOPE

A Fresh Start

Sabiu Nuhu, 15, works with his siblings to help their father tend to several farms and raise livestock near their home in the Maiadua district of Katsina State, Nigeria, to put food on the table for their large family.

In January 2020, Sabiu was feeding the animals when one of the goats struck him with its horns, severely injuring his left eye. Although he underwent surgery to repair the tear in his eyelid, Sabiu could not see with his wounded eye a few months after the accident. When he visited the nearest public hospital in his district, he was informed of a cataract that had formed as a result of the injury.

Sabiu's family could not afford the vital surgery needed to restore his vision, but thanks to the support of **Noor Dubai's** comprehensive Katsina eye care programme, he was able to receive the sight-saving surgery. He has since regained his vision and returned to his family as a healthy boy capable of leading a productive life.



COVID-19 Awareness Campaigns

Locally, **Noor Dubai** continued to offer treatment in the UAE, ensuring patients received uninterrupted access to healthcare services amid the outbreak of COVID-19. It funded the treatment of 12 UAE residents in 2020.

In an effort to combat the negative social impact of the pandemic on the local community, namely young students, **Noor Dubai** launched a back-to-school campaign titled 'Children and COVID' in September 2020. The campaign aimed to raise awareness among students on safety protocols at school, emphasising social distancing, wearing masks and sanitising hands.

A series of video interviews were conducted with eight students aged four to eight years old via Zoom, each addressing a different topic about the changes in students' lives, daily habits and emotional state amid the pandemic.

Similarly, **Noor Dubai** organised its 'Ramadan Majlis' to support the UAE's efforts in curbing the spread of the coronavirus. Through virtual sessions open to the public, the Majlis addressed COVID-19-related topics such as volunteering amid the pandemic and following precautionary and safety measures within the same family, alongside tips to safeguard mental health and boost immunity.



STORIES OF HOPE

Against All Odds

Sardar Mazaz Ashraf, an Indian resident in the UAE, has lived with diabetes for more than a decade. As a result, he developed several eye conditions that could potentially lead to vision loss if not regularly treated and monitored by specialist doctors.

In early 2020, life became even more challenging for Sardar, as the coronavirus' rapid spread across the world brought his treatments to a halt. He could barely sustain himself and cover the rent of his modest home, until **Noor Dubai** offered much-needed assistance through its 'UAE Treatment Program', which is dedicated to funding critical eye treatment for low-income residents in the UAE.

Thanks to the Foundation, Sardar received the necessary treatment, enabling him to resume his daily life and return to work.



A Step Closer to Healing Hearts



AED
88 Million

donated by the Arab
Hope Makers initiative to
fund the construction of
the Magdi Yacoub Global
Heart Centre

The year 2020 witnessed the completion of the first phase of the Magdi Yacoub Global Heart Centre in Cairo, Egypt, a project named as the Humanitarian Cause of the Year in the third round of the **Arab Hope Makers** initiative.

A live fundraising campaign was held during the **Arab Hope Makers** grand ceremony, the largest initiative of its kind to honour philanthropists in the Arab world, collecting more than AED 88 million. Proceeds from the ceremony also went to supporting the construction of the Centre that aims to

provide free cardiac care to less fortunate communities, especially children, in Egypt and the Arab world.

The Centre will perform more than 12,000 free-of-charge heart surgeries annually, 60% of which will target children. Upon completion, it will be one of the largest medical institutions specialising in heart diseases, research and surgery in the Arab world. Meanwhile, the Magdi Yacoub Global Heart Foundation seeks to train more than 1,500 doctors and surgeons.



Spreading Education & Knowledge



AED
265 Million

spent on Spreading Education & Knowledge initiatives in 2020



45.5 Million

beneficiaries of Spreading Education & Knowledge initiatives in 2020

21 Million
participants in the fifth edition
of the Arab Reading Challenge

15,668
beneficiaries of the 'Madrasa
in 1,000 Villages' initiative

20 Million
total beneficiaries of
Dubai Cares' programmes
and initiatives

المدرسة الرقمية



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



Modern Education: Gateway to the Future



AED
265 Million
spent on Spreading
Education & Knowledge
initiatives in 2020



45.5 Million
beneficiaries of Spreading
Education & Knowledge
initiatives in 2020

The **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives'** (MBRGI) implements several far-reaching projects and initiatives, as part of its vision to provide quality education to millions of young people around the world and enhance the education systems in the region. Under the Spreading Education & Knowledge pillar, the Foundation invests in digital education to foster self-learning skills among young students. It aims to empower future generations with science and knowledge to lead the development of their societies and keep pace with the rapidly growing technological advancements.

In 2020, **MBRGI** has strengthened its digital education and knowledge initiatives, in response to the educational disruption caused by the global coronavirus outbreak and the subsequent challenging shift to distance learning in developing nations with weak digital infrastructure.

The enhanced high-tech educational content on the **Madrasa e-Learning Platform**, which is available for free to millions of Arab students, has been a valuable addition to the UAE's advanced digital learning system. In 2020, **MBRGI** also launched **The Digital School**, the first integrated and accredited Arab digital education platform, which provides smart and flexible distance learning experience to students anywhere in the world, primarily young people in underserved communities and refugee camps.

The 'Alliance for the Future of Digital Learning' was simultaneously launched to

bring together specialised education and tech experts to support and advance future digital education and oversee the development of **The Digital School**.

Dubai Cares continued its efforts to provide quality education for young people in developing countries by supporting scalable, integrated and sustainable programmes. It added 15 new educational programmes in 2020 to its investments, bringing its total number of initiatives to 227, which reach over 20 million beneficiaries in 60 developing countries.

In its fifth edition, the **Arab Reading Challenge (ARC)**, the largest-ever Arab knowledge initiative that seeks to instil a culture of reading among young students, continued its mission despite school closures amid the COVID-19 outbreak, attracting around 21 million participants from 52 countries.

In 2020, **MBRGI's** total spending on initiatives, programmes and projects within the Spreading Education & Knowledge pillar exceeded AED 265 million, benefitting approximately 45.5 million people around the world.



Our contribution to developing educational platforms is our real investment in the future of young people.

Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum





Education to Overcome Obstacles



20 Million

total beneficiaries of
Dubai Cares' programmes
and initiatives

Since it was established in 2007, **Dubai Cares** has been working towards providing children and young people in developing countries with access to quality education by designing and funding integrated, sustainable and scalable programmes, in line with the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goal 4 that aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all by 2030. **Dubai Cares** overcame numerous technical and logistical barriers posed by the global pandemic and successfully launched 15 educational programmes in 2020, bringing the total number of programmes to 227 since its inception that collectively benefit over 20 million beneficiaries in 60 developing countries.

The UN Department of Global Communications approved **Dubai Cares** in 2020 as a member of its Civil Society Association Committee in recognition of the Foundation's role in advocating the UN's efforts and mobilising its network and resources to disseminate the UN's knowledge and expand its outreach.

In 2020, **Dubai Cares** invested AED 132 million towards global education, including the launch of 15 new programmes worth AED 68 million that covered a diverse range of vital areas including early childhood education, literacy and numeracy, education in emergencies, girls' education, tertiary education, infrastructure and nutrition, and teacher training.

Dubai Cares also launched the 'Volunteer Globally' initiative in Nepal in November 2020 to build four new community schools in the country, in partnership with the international non-profit organisation buildOn. The initiative seeks to benefit 430 people by improving access to education for women and girls, developing primary school infrastructure and increasing literacy rates among adults.

Within the same context, the Foundation's 'Primary School Construction and Adult Literacy' project in Malawi was launched in May 2020 to improve access to quality primary education, increase adult literacy rates, enhance class infrastructure in primary schools and provide a safe and healthy environment for learning and teaching. The project also aims to train local teachers to educate adults on the basics of reading and writing, and build nine schools that benefit 4,140 people.

Dubai Cares launched the same programme in Senegal in May 2020 to construct two new community schools, in collaboration with

buildOn. The project seeks to increase access to education for women and girls, improve the primary school infrastructure and boost literacy rates among illiterate adults, with the aim of reaching 840 beneficiaries.

The programme, which kicked off in April 2020, will help ensure access to quality education for 1,000 primary school-aged children in each school and hire community and government teachers, benefitting up to 2,670 people.

Under the 'Adopt a School' initiative, **Dubai Cares** adopted two schools in Cambodia's Ratanakiri and Stung Treng provinces.





Battling COVID-19 through the Global Education Coalition



AED
18.5 Million

committed to support the 'Giga' initiative to connect all schools to the internet

Under the umbrella of **MBRGI**, **Dubai Cares** remained committed to funding research programmes and launching model initiatives to support governments and policy-makers in outlining a roadmap for the future of education. During the third round of its 'Education in Emergencies' (E-Cubed) research envelope, the Foundation provided grants to three research projects in 2020.

Dubai Cares expanded the scope of its goals to enhance educational systems around the world in the face of the challenges posed by COVID-19. It committed AED 18.5 million towards global advocacy efforts including its support to 'Giga', an initiative led by the

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), to connect every school around the world to the internet. **Dubai Cares'** commitment to 'Giga' complements its efforts in supporting the 'Global Declaration on Connectivity for Learning and Livelihood' that will be launched during Expo Dubai.

Moreover, **Dubai Cares** joined the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) 'Global Education Coalition for COVID-19 Response' to help countries find solutions for distance learning and minimise disruptions to education caused by the pandemic.



Humanity Inspired

Among its local efforts, **Dubai Cares**, in partnership with several local entities and international organisations, launched the 'Humanity Inspired' initiative to create a record-breaking artistic masterpiece. World-renowned artist Sacha Jafri painted the work of art, titled 'The Journey of Humanity', which was inspired by drawings, pictures, paintings and posters that he received from children from around the world.

The initiative aimed to connect people through art to tackle the devastating impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on children and youth's education and wellbeing. The painting was sold at auction for AED 227.8 million

(\$62 million), which went towards supporting **Dubai Cares**, UNICEF, UNESCO and the Global Gift Foundation on their collective mission to ensure minimal disruption to education globally. Partners from the UAE public sector, including the Ministry of Tolerance and Coexistence, Ministry of Education, and Dubai Department of Tourism and Commerce Marketing, joined the initiative.

'The Journey of Humanity' painting broke the *Guinness World Records* as the 'Largest Art Canvas', measuring 17,176.6 square feet.





Distance learning will be an integral part of our educational system... This is the future.

Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum



Education Uninterrupted



40,000

computers provided to underprivileged students under the 'Education Uninterrupted' campaign

In 2020, **Dubai Cares** organised 'Education Uninterrupted', a nationwide campaign held in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, to supply 40,000 computers to students from low-income families. The initiative enabled those who cannot afford to buy a computer, laptop or tablet to join their peers in distance learning from the safety of their homes.

on 14 February 2020. More than 10,000 people gathered in Dubai's Creek Park and walked three kilometres along Riyadh Street, in solidarity with the millions of young people in developing countries who endure difficult journeys every day to go to school.

Before the global COVID-19 outbreak and the precautions introduced to limit its spread, **Dubai Cares** organised the 'Walk for Education'





A Sustainable Future for Education



2,000

attendees at the 'RewirEdX' virtual conference in 2020

In line with COVID-19 precautionary measures, **Dubai Cares** hosted the 'RewirEdX', a high-level virtual conference on global education launched during the 75th session of the UN General Assembly in September 2020. The platform seeks to rewire the global conversation on education to ensure a future that is sustainable, innovative and accessible to all. The 2020 virtual conference paves the way for the 'RewirEd Summit', scheduled to take place at Expo Dubai site in December 2021.

The two-day 'RewirEdX' virtual conference attracted more than 2,000 attendees, who watched 25 panels featuring 85 keynote speakers, as well as high-profile figures from UN organisations, international non-governmental organisations, academia

and representatives from the public and private sectors from around the world. The conference agenda covered the entire spectrum of education, including early childhood development, primary, secondary and higher education, girls' education, youth and future skills, education in emergencies, and technology and connectivity. The panels highlighted lessons learned about the new reality of education in the post-COVID-19 era.

Also under the umbrella of the 'RewirEd', **Dubai Cares** launched 'RewirEd Talks' during the 2020 session of the UN General Assembly. The initiative offers everyone, regardless of age or occupation, the opportunity to participate in meaningful conversations on the future of education. It aims to contribute to global efforts to reshape education.



Ongoing Educational Programmes and Projects



50,000

students benefitted from the 'Back to School' programme in Senegal and Tanzania

In 2020, **Dubai Cares** continued its 'Back to School' programme in Senegal and Tanzania. Launched in 2019, the programme distributed 30,000 school kits to students in Kaolack in Senegal, and a further 20,000 in 27 primary schools on the islands of Unguja and Pemba in Tanzania.

The 'Improving Access to Safe Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in Schools' (WASH) programme, launched in Bangladesh in 2019, continues to receive **Dubai Cares**' support to provide 87,500 school students with access to water and sanitation facilities.

Dubai Cares continued to make progress in its partnership with Water & Sanitation for the Urban Poor (WSUP), the Ministry of Education and local authorities, implementing school hygiene guidelines, exchanging research findings and adopting best practices. It built or restored WASH facilities in 125 schools to ensure the availability of improved and sustainable services.

The same WASH programme in Antananarivo and Mahajanga, two of Madagascar's largest cities, has almost achieved the objectives laid down in 2017, in partnership with WSUP. The programme aims to construct and rehabilitate WASH facilities, and provide hygiene training and awareness to create a sustainable behavioural change in 30 schools and health centres. Overall, the programme benefitted 82,000 people at the cost of AED 1.3 million.

Since 2018, **Dubai Cares** has been implementing the four-year 'Empowering

Adolescent Girls' programme that focuses on capacity-building of 18 girl-serving grassroots organisations in Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. It supports activities centred on advancing girls' right to education, youth empowerment and equitable access to employment opportunities.

In 2020, **Dubai Cares** provided administrative support, skill development and grants worth AED 1.97 million to selected organisations, benefitting 30,000 girls, including 6,000 in Nicaragua, 12,000 in Honduras and another 12,000 in Guatemala.

The 'Ensuring Supportive and Safe Quality Education for Girls' programme was initiated in 2016 with the goal of improving the quality of girls' education in three governorates in Upper Egypt. The programme is close to achieving its objectives of providing a safe and engaging school environment and raising awareness among public school teachers and social workers of the need to cultivate girls' leadership skills. More than AED 3 million was spent on the programme in 2020 to improve literacy among female students in 30 government primary schools and to develop teachers' skills.

STORIES

OF HOPE

Back to School after an Earthquake

Nia Ramadhani, a 14-year-old student, lives a stable life with her parents, brother and two sisters in Palu, Indonesia. She walks about 20 minutes to school every morning, where she is in the seventh grade.

On the day a devastating earthquake struck her city, Nia and her family were fortunate to come out unhurt. However, the panic and horror she experienced would not be the only memory she carries away from the earthquake. Nia saw her school ravaged by the disaster when she arrived the next morning. She and her classmates had to study in a tent for several months, before being transferred to a temporary school for an additional six months.



Nia wanted an education, regardless of the circumstances. But often, strong winds would blow dust or heavy rain into the school tent. She found it difficult to stay focused, and her grades started to slip, which gave her anxiety.

When Nia visited her old school building, she discovered that the city's Education and Culture Department had marked it as damaged and in need of repair. She was informed that 'Save the Children' organisation, with the support and participation of **Dubai Cares**, is leading the 'Education Response for Children Affected by Indonesia's Sulawesi Earthquake and Tsunami' programme to restore the school to modern construction standards. It was not long before the school was repaired using retrofitting techniques, which strengthens the existing structure in a quicker, more affordable way than traditional methods.

On 28 January 2020, Nia and her classmates returned to their classroom, ready once again to pursue their dreams.

STORIES OF HOPE

A Better Father Every Day

Ebrima Dampha lives with his wife Musukebba and their seven children in a small house in Ballingho, a small village in the North Bank Region of The Gambia. Although they have lived together for more than a decade, Ebrima believed caring for the children was his wife's responsibility. His conviction was reinforced by the long days he spent working in the fields to make ends meet, which did not give him enough time to look after his children.

Ebrima's life has changed drastically, however, since joining the 'Parenting Practices for Early Childhood Development' programme, organised by **Dubai Cares**. He shared his experience, saying: "Before the introduction of

the positive parenting programme in Ballingho, the responsibility of childcare was the business of my wife only. In fact, I rarely had time to talk to my children. My role as a father was more of a provider of the family's basic needs mainly through farming."

Ebrima was among 20 young fathers in Ballingho who enrolled in the programme, which trains parents to be more involved with their children and family affairs.

Ebrima smiled as he realised the extent of his duties towards his children. He said: "I am now a primary caregiver for my children. Ensuring they are clean and fed before they go to school has become my responsibility now." He added that this was an important theme among the practices and skills he learned in the programme, and stressed his commitment to being a better father every day. Sharing responsibilities at home has also drawn him closer to his children.

"In our small village, the effect of positive parenting is also being felt outside of the family. In the past, women in the village were not keen to visit health facilities in the early stages of pregnancy. This situation has changed now. Men have equally become aware of their responsibility to accompany their wives during medical examinations," added Ebrima.





Knowledge to Combat Pandemics



5,559

followers of the
'KnowTalks' webinar series
in 2020

The **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Knowledge Foundation (MBRF)**, under the umbrella of **MBRGI**, held its 'KnowTalks' webinar series in November 2020 as part of its efforts to promote knowledge as the key to solving challenges that impede development.

The Talks, organised as part of the **Knowledge Summit**, discussed the major changes resulting from the global pandemic, with aims to further establish pathways for knowledge transfer and dissemination while contributing to achieving sustainable development, bolstering well-being and devising solutions to meet challenges. Such efforts demonstrated that knowledge alone is key to combating pandemics.

The 'KnowTalks' series attracted 5,559 online viewers, with 34 global speakers participating in 15 panels, which tackled various topics including the repercussions of the global pandemic, the role of organisational culture in knowledge management and the role of the pre-university education sector in the 'Global Knowledge Index'.



Investing Time in Digital Knowledge



252,000

beneficiaries of the
'Digital Knowledge Hub'
in 2020

In 2020, **MBRF's** 'Digital Knowledge Hub' enriched the online Arabic content with an extensive collection of Arabic books, including translated works, across all disciplines. The Hub currently features more than 300,000 books and over 3.5 million digital materials.

The Hub constitutes a platform for major Arab publishing houses, supporting both e-books and audio books. It also features the first search engine for Arabic digital content, and uses a classification system that complies with international standards to facilitate access to information and save user time and effort.

The 'Digital Knowledge Hub' launched its 'Invest in Knowledge' campaign in April 2020 to enhance the user experience of its more than 252,000 beneficiaries at the backdrop of COVID-19 that forced millions of people to stay home. Through the campaign, school and university students and specialist researchers across all disciplines were given access to the electronic platform's wealth of accurate and reliable sources of information to encourage self-learning.





Bil Arabi: The Language of the World



54

graduates of the 'Dubai International Programme for Writing' in 2020

MBRF's 'Bil Arabi' initiative continued to encourage Arabs to use their mother tongue on the digital sphere. The initiative received widespread response, with the hashtag #BilArabi reaching 3.5 billion views, while its events, held in cooperation with UAE embassies across the world, spanned many countries.

As part of its quest to prove that Arabic is a dynamic language that can be used on social media platforms, **MBRF** launched 'Bil Arabi: The Language of the World' initiative to coincide with the UN World Arabic Language Day on 18 December. An Arabic-language webinar for non-Arabic speakers was also held under the theme 'Fusha on Social Media' – 'Fusha' being another term for Modern Standard Arabic.

MBRF's 'Dubai International Programme for Writing', which works to encourage and empower young literary talents, has continued to achieve its goals. In 2020, it supported young

talents in four categories: Writing, Exchange of Writers, the My Story (Qesaty) contest, and Translation across several countries, including the UAE, Egypt and Kuwait. A total of 54 writers graduated from the programme in 2020.

The 'Arab Professionals Forum' connected 3,499 experts through its LinkedIn page in 2020. The Forum is the first electronic platform to facilitate direct communication between Arab professionals and specialists in leadership positions in government and the private sector, as well as academics, researchers and scholars from the region and around the world.

In 2020, members of the Forum engaged in six specialist workshops with various government agencies in the UAE. Seven expert videos were prepared and published, as part of the Forum's mission to become a hub for the best Arab talents from around the world and a resource for international and regional organisations.



MBRF also organised the virtual forum 'COVID-19: Accelerating the Steps Towards the Knowledge Society', in collaboration with the UN Development Programme (UNDP), in September 2020. The event aimed to create a virtual dialogue on various knowledge-related issues and expedite the establishment of knowledge-based societies. The forum featured 10 panels, during which 21 experts from around the world discussed ways to cultivate knowledge-based societies amid the COVID-19 pandemic. About 3,000 people from more than 40 nationalities watched the panels online, with some 300 people participating in a three-day workshop titled 'From Data to Knowledge'.

Scholarships for a Knowledge-based Society



66

recipients of the 'Mohammed bin Rashid School of Communication Scholarship' in 2020

As part of its efforts to foster distinguished media professionals, the 'Mohammed bin Rashid School of Communication Scholarship', offered by **MBRF** benefitted 66 outstanding students across the Arab world, including 17 graduates in 2020. Since its inception, the scholarship has been awarded to 152 students, 88% of whom were female.

MBRF has continued to support the 'Oxford-Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Graduate Scholarship' programme, in cooperation with the University of Oxford. Karim Almahayni, from Syria, earned a Master's degree with Distinction in Pharmacology from Oxford. Meanwhile, Rana Al Mutawa, from the UAE, is pursuing her Master's degree in Middle Eastern Studies, and Farida Makar, from Egypt, is studying for a PhD in History. In 2020, two students from Egypt were awarded scholarships: Karim El Mestekawy, who is preparing for a PhD in Condensed Matter Physics, and Badran Elshenawy who is pursuing a PhD in Oncology.

Determined to Succeed

Under the Spreading Education & Knowledge pillar, the **Arab Reading Challenge** aims to nurture the next generation of Arabs to embrace the Arabic language and make reading a daily habit.

The **Arab Reading Challenge** held its fifth edition in 2020 despite the COVID-19 restrictions, which forced millions of students around the world to stay home, placing them ahead of distance learning challenges and depriving them of extracurricular activities. Finalists and semi-finalists were selected in coordination with specialist educational committees and 120,000 supervisors, who formed a remote judging panel to evaluate the Challenge's national-level champions.

The Challenge's fifth edition attracted 21 million students from 52 countries, with 96,000 schools across the Arab world competing for the 'Best School' award.



21 Million

participants in the fifth edition of the Arab Reading Challenge



STORIES OF HOPE

Shy Student Expresses Herself in Writing

Alia Kharrachi, from Morocco, has been participating in the **Arab Reading Challenge** since its launch. She reached the finals of the Challenge's fourth edition, representing her country in a unique experience that has transformed her from a shy student into a reader and a writer.

Alia, now in her first year of college, believes that the five-year experience of taking part in the **Arab Reading Challenge** turned her into a good listener and an avid reader. According to her, reading is not an act of pride but rather a way to seek relief from the cruelty of the world and the stress of daily life.

She explained: "Throughout history, reading has taught us that our heritage has to be preserved and maintained. This was the responsibility of our ancestors first, then it reached us in the most beautiful words written by none other than His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, who affirms the necessity of holding on to the Arabic language as a language of dialogue, debate, thought and writing."



She believes the greatest challenge to be faced is against oneself. With the support of her supervisor in the initiative, Alia succeeded in overcoming her shyness that was keeping her from expressing her ideas. Finally, she managed to take the leap from an avid reader to a writer, completing her first novel, which she intends to publish soon.

STORIES OF HOPE

A Passion for Arabic

Alexander Fourous, 17, was crowned the winner of the national stage of the fifth edition of the **Arab Reading Challenge** in Italy. Alexander's passion for Arabic started at an early age, when he wanted to read the Arabic stories he always heard. He never thought at the time, however, that his passion would turn into an insatiable and lasting love of the language, which he continues to indulge by reading Arabic literary works and delving into books about the Islamic faith and its culture. He wanted to learn the particularities of the Arab world, which prompted him to participate in the **Arab Reading Challenge**.

Alexander, a Hungarian living in Italy, has read 25 books in Arabic, finding special pleasure in novels and stories. His favourite Arabic works include Kuwaiti novelist Saud Alsanousi's novel *The Bamboo Stalk*; *Kan Ma Kan (Once Upon a Time)*, a collection of short stories by the prominent Lebanese author Mikhail Naimy, who specialised in diaspora literature; and *The Thief and the Dogs* by Egyptian Nobel prize-winning novelist Naguib Mahfouz.





The First Digital School

The COVID-19 challenges prompted **MBRGI** to launch **The Digital School**, the first educational initiative of its kind in the Arab world, which will chart new milestones in the future of education. **The Digital School** strives to integrate existing knowledge, expertise and modern systems into a contemporary educational curriculum powered by cutting-edge technologies and artificial intelligence. It will foster self-learning, empowering students to acquire knowledge, develop their skills and earn accredited school certificates. **The Digital School** will provide a flexible, personalised distance learning experience to students from around the world, primarily targeting underserved communities and refugees. Its mission is to become a source of hope and education for societies with scarce educational

resources and a lack of opportunities, which has been exacerbated by the economic, social and educational repercussions of the global COVID-19 pandemic.

To support digital learning and oversee the **The Digital School**, the 'Alliance for the Future of Digital Learning' was formed, comprising experts from prestigious universities, including Harvard University, Stanford University, New York University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The first alliance of its kind to focus on the future of digital education, it will support the development of **The Digital School's** systems, launch initiatives leveraging the latest innovations and set guidelines to shape the future of digital education.

The Digital School aims to reach one million students between 2021 and 2026. It began with a pilot phase that runs from November 2020 to August 2021, involving some 20,000 students from four countries. The first official cohort of students will join in September 2021.

The School will provide digital study material in line with Arab and global curricula and allow students to interact with certified teachers and fellow learners in virtual classrooms. It is equipped with a smart assessment system that enables students to earn globally recognised and transferrable digital credentials.

The Digital School will offer a smart Personal Learning Plan that caters to each student's needs. It will enable teachers to support and monitor each student through a 360-degree assessment that provides regular feedback.



An Integrated Arabic Curriculum



15,668

beneficiaries of the
'Madrasa in 1,000
Villages' initiative

The **Madrasa e-Learning Platform**, the first open digital educational platform in Arabic, continued its relentless efforts to enrich the volume and quality of its content during 2020. In conjunction with the World Arabic Language Day, the Platform completed the development of an Arabic language curriculum, which launched in 2019. The curriculum includes 1,000 high-tech educational videos targeted at all school levels, including 200 animated 'Madrasa Stories'. These special works, chosen in partnership with institutions and publishing houses specialising in children's literature in the UAE and the Arab world, were made available for free to millions of Arab children through the Platform's library.

The role of the **Madrasa e-Learning Platform** was further emphasised during the COVID-19 pandemic through other initiatives, such as the 'Be Aware' campaign, launched in partnership

with UNICEF, UNESCO and ISESCO, to educate children about the dangers of COVID-19 through a series of animated educational videos in Arabic.

The Platform also launched the 'Don't Stop Learning' campaign to foster a culture of distance learning and lifelong education. It aimed to transform the challenge presented by the pandemic and the subsequent closure of schools into an opportunity for people to benefit from educational platforms such as the **Madrasa e-Learning Platform**, which provides accredited content to all Arab students, wherever they are.

The challenges of COVID-19 did not hinder the mission of the 'Madrasa for 1,000 Villages' initiative, under the umbrella of the **Madrasa e-Learning Platform**, to provide electronic devices and offline innovative learning technologies to students in refugee camps in Jordan and in remote villages with weak digital infrastructure. For the first time, the initiative distributed tablets to 62 children of determination in refugee camps in Jordan.

Since its launch in 2019, the 'Madrasa for 1,000 Villages' initiative has reached 15,668 students and teachers in villages across several Arab and African countries, and has distributed 1,052 tablets.



STORIES OF HOPE

A Gateway to Hope

Like many children affected by the conflict in Syria, Eman, an eight-year-old girl who now lives in Azraq Refugee Camp in Jordan, missed a whole year of school due to the upheaval she and her family endured.

Eman, who has a hearing impairment, receives support from Mercy Corps, a partner of UNICEF, in the form of private Arabic literacy lessons. Her teacher Amal wears a transparent face guard instead of a surgical mask to help Eman read her lips to better understand her lessons.

Under the 'Madrasa for 1,000 Villages' initiative, Eman received a Madrasa tablet, which is specially designed for children of determination. Her teacher expressed her appreciation for the device, as the interactive applications and activities will improve the quality of education that Eman receives and will limit the need of physical interaction in the future.

Eman's eyes sparkle as she looks at her new tablet, her small face radiating with joy, as her gateway to hope and to a future filled with opportunities is right at her fingertips.



The Rare Items Collection

The **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Library**, which comes under the umbrella of **MBRGI**, aims to become a beacon of knowledge that enhances the UAE's position as a cultural capital in the region.

As the three-year construction process came to an end, the AED 1 billion Library continued to prepare its rich variety of intellectual, literary and scientific content as it gears up to opening its doors to writers, researchers, scholars and other communities from across the world.

The Library will house more than 4.5 million printed, digital and audio books in all languages, as well as rare and valuable manuscripts, maps, atlases, periodicals and ancient writing tools, dating from the ninth to the 19th century. It also includes a floor dedicated to exhibitions, consisting of two 1,500 square-metre halls.

The first hall is devoted to activities, meetings, workshops and various types of art and literary exhibitions, while the second hall displays valuable and rare cultural collections from all over the world.

Among the Library's precious items are early Arabic works by renowned Arab and Muslim scholars such as Ibn Sina, Al-Razi, Al-Qubaisi, Ibn Al-Haytham, Abu Ma'shar Al-Balkhi and Al-Zahrawi, as well as their foreign language translations. These publications date back to between the 15th and 19th century. The Library's rarities include the first edition of the Latin translation of Ibn al-Haytham's *Book of Optics*, published in 1572, and the first edition of the Latin translation of the astronomer Abu Ma'shar Al-Balkhi's *Flowers of Abu Ma'shar*, published in 1489.



Innovation & Entrepreneurship



AED

440 Million

spent on Innovation & Entrepreneurship initiatives in 2020



1.3 Million

beneficiaries of Innovation & Entrepreneurship initiatives in 2020

AED
192 Million

incentives and facilities provided by the Mohammed bin Rashid Establishment for SME Development in 2020

1.1 Million

registered participants in the One Million Arab Coders Initiative

3,563

Emirati entrepreneurs supported by the Mohammed bin Rashid Establishment for SME in 2020





Investing in Talent for the Future of Humanity



AED
440 Million
spent on Innovation
& Entrepreneurship
initiatives in 2020



1.3 Million
beneficiaries
of Innovation &
Entrepreneurship
initiatives in 2020

The Innovation & Entrepreneurship pillar is at the forefront of development priorities of the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives (MBRGI)**. In line with the Foundation's futuristic vision, numerous programmes and initiatives are undertaken to invest in tech-driven projects and foster a culture of leadership and innovation across the UAE and the Arab world.

The Foundation works to encourage Fourth Industrial Revolution ventures and new technology adoption, thereby building knowledge-based economies that drive sustainable growth across various sectors. It strives to empower disadvantaged communities to invest in human capital, ultimately bridging the wealth gap between countries and shaping a better future for humanity. A core priority under this pillar is boosting digital literacy and equipping workforces in different parts of the world with 21st century skills to build adaptive and strong future economies.

Youths are at the centre of **MBRGI's** several initiatives. The Foundation supports research in advanced sciences and artificial intelligence to create a nurturing environment for youth to develop innovative, high-tech solutions that serve humanity. It designs training programmes to help young people across the UAE and the region build their skills and turn their ideas into start-up businesses that will spur future job creation.

MBRGI's training programmes encourage youth to venture into emerging sectors and

explore unconventional approaches to solving challenges in their communities.

The outbreak of COVID-19 presented an opportunity for **MBRGI** to test the efficacy of its programmes in building a talent pool in the UAE and wider region that is capable of developing creative solutions to pressing challenges facing vital industries, such as the health, education and service sectors.

Within this framework, **MBRGI** has continued to invest in fostering young talents in digital programming through its **One Million Arab Coders Initiative**. The intensive training programme, under the Dubai Future Foundation, empowers one million young Arabs with the digital skills needed for the future labour market. In response to COVID-19 restrictions, the **One Million Arab Coders Initiative** was held online in 2020 in a series of interactive sessions. The Initiative's latest edition provided financial support to the five most innovative graduate projects.

The Dubai Future Foundation also launched the **One Million Arab Coders 'COVID-19 Hackathon'** to engage Arab programmers from around the world in developing innovative solutions to challenges that have emerged due to the pandemic.

In 2020, the first cohort graduated from the 'One Million Uzbek Coders' initiative that was launched under a strategic partnership for government modernisation between the UAE and Uzbekistan. The advanced training, organised by the Dubai Future Foundation,

prepares young Uzbeks to become world-class software developers and obtain internationally recognised programming nanodegrees.

As part of the UAE's participation in the latest edition of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, **MBRGI** launched the 'Global Coder' initiative. The largest training initiative of its kind, it aims to provide free accredited distance learning courses in coding to five million young people in 50 countries.

The year 2020 witnessed the installation of the final piece of the **Museum of the Future's** façade, a first-of-its-kind hub for innovation and emerging technologies. The new world icon, which sits at the heart of Dubai, is an architectural marvel, designed with state-of-the-art sustainable construction techniques. A grand statement of the UAE's ambition, the Museum bolsters the country's position as the region's innovation capital.

The **Mohammed bin Rashid Establishment for SME Development (Dubai SME)** continued to support UAE entrepreneurs, and intensified its efforts to foster a business-friendly environment in the UAE. The affiliated 'Hamdan Innovation Incubator' (Hi2) furthered this mission by focusing on promoting creativity and providing guidance to start-ups.

As part of its efforts to reward global sustainable solutions to water scarcity, the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Water Award** launched the new category, 'Innovative Crisis Solutions Award', in 2020 to recognise projects that can provide

relief within 48 hours of declaring a state of emergency. The Award, organised by the **UAE Water Foundation (Suqia)**, seeks to encourage individuals and institutions to adopt rapidly growing technologies into their projects to respond to emerging challenges.

In 2020, **MBRGI's** total spending on Innovation & Entrepreneurship projects and programmes reached AED 440 million, benefitting more than 1.3 million people.



History has taught us that civilisations do not survive only because of their strength and wealth, but because of the ability of their youth to devise solutions to the challenges they face.

Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum



Arab Coders Serve Their Communities



1.1 Million

registered
members in the
One Million Arab
Coders Initiative

The Dubai Future Foundation designs forward-looking initiatives to accelerate the adoption of advanced technologies across vital sectors. With a key role in shaping the future, the Foundation seeks to provide a nurturing environment that attracts creative talents from all over the world based on a vision to build a knowledge-based economy in the region.

Under the supervision of the Dubai Future Foundation, the **One Million Arab Coders Initiative** continued to achieve its goals to equip one million young Arabs with essential digital skills to thrive in the future digital transformation. By the end of 2020, the Initiative had attracted 1.1 million members. Graduates leveraged their learnings to develop smart applications that improve the quality of services in their communities. The Dubai Future Foundation selected and supported the top five projects that tackled prominent social issues.

The winning projects included 'Sanad', a smart application created by Farah Mahdi Khudhair, a Jordan-based Iraqi coder, to provide users in Amman with easier access to affordable healthcare services. The app enables users to request an appointment and search for a suitable healthcare facility within their community.

Egyptian coder Iman Wagdy Selim developed '3al faraza', a smart application that gives Egyptian women the opportunity to market and deliver their homemade food. To date, the app has supported 800 families in Egypt. Another project from Egypt was the 'Help the Poor' app, developed by Egyptian coder Mohamed Sobhy Abdelmageed, to facilitate the donation of second-hand clothing to those in need across the country.

Saeed Awad Abou Si'ah, a Yemeni living in Saudi Arabia, received support to launch his 'Tammeni' app, which ensures the safety of students in Yemen by enabling real-time location tracking using a bracelet or student card.

Finally, the 'Landmine Alert' app, created by Yemeni coder Marwan Al Hakimi, detects possible mine regions to help people avoid them, while offering advice on what to do and who to contact in dangerous situations.



The Region's Biggest Coding Competition



AED
184,000

awarded to winners of the
'COVID-19 Hackathon'

In 2020, the Dubai Future Foundation launched the **One Million Arab Coders** 'COVID-19 Hackathon' to engage programmers in developing solutions to challenges that have emerged due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

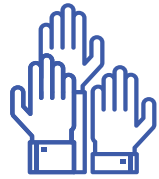
The region's biggest computer programming competition provided participants with the opportunity to showcase their skills, ideas and knowledge in employing the techniques of programming languages to create innovative solutions to the challenges presented throughout the initiative.

Projects addressed COVID-19 challenges such as facilitating access to physical and mental

healthcare services during the world lockdown, providing remote learning opportunities, fostering social solidarity and supporting small businesses.

The committee shortlisted the 15 best teams, whose projects were assessed based on prototype quality, economic feasibility, user experience and implementation cost. Five winning projects were awarded prizes totalling AED 184,000.





100,000

applicants in the first round of the 'One Million Uzbek Coders' initiative

A New Language for Uzbek Youth

The UAE and Uzbek governments celebrated the graduation of the first cohort of the 'One Million Uzbek Coders' initiative during a virtual ceremony held in 2020. The initiative, launched in November 2019 under a strategic partnership between both countries for government modernisation, aims to build young Uzbeks' capabilities to learn the language of the future, enhancing their participation in designing digital government services that can serve their communities. The top 150 graduates received Nanodegree grants, and the best-performing coders were awarded prizes worth up to AED 367,000. More than 100 certified trainers supported

the initiative. The first round attracted more than 100,000 applicants, including 27,000 participants who completed the training programme.

The 'One Million Uzbek Coders' initiative is one of a series of training programmes launched as part of the UAE's strategic partnerships with other governments. A similar initiative, the 'One Million Jordanian Coders', was launched in 2019 under a partnership between the UAE and Jordan. It was also an extension of the **One Million Arab Coders Initiative**, led by the Dubai Future Foundation.





5 Million Coders in 50 Countries

As part of the UAE's participation in the latest World Economic Forum in Davos, **MBRGI** launched the 'Global Coder' initiative at the 'Reimagining the World's Biggest Challenges' panel, organised by Global Citizen. The largest training initiative of its kind, it aims to provide free accredited distance learning courses in coding to five million young people in 50 countries. The initiative reflects the Foundation's unwavering efforts to empower youth to master digital skills, thereby expanding their career prospects.

As part of the initiative, the Dubai Future Foundation will provide a fully integrated educational platform to teach computer science and coding in partnership with world-class organisations, under the supervision of internationally certified experts, to ensure the training programme is the best and most comprehensive of its kind in the world. The platform will be free to use for millions of young people across the world, with aims to advance the technology sector in disadvantaged communities.





Innovation is a sustainable treasure that underpins humanity's march towards the future.

Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum



STORIES OF HOPE

Coding for a Better World

Although Omaila AlKilani, 29, is completing her Master of Business Administration (MBA) in Germany, her real passion lies in the tech world. She has always searched for ways to apply technologies in serving humanity.

Two years ago, Omaila established 'She Code' in Libya to empower women with coding and programming skills that expand their career prospects and enable them to become independent. The project achieved remarkable success.

Surfing through her social media, Omaila came across an ad that read, "Discover the codes that can make the world a better place." After exploring the ad from the **One Million Arab Coders Initiative**, she was delighted to discover another opportunity to fulfil her passion for technology. A few months later, she completed the programme and obtained a nanodegree.

After graduating, Omaila appreciated the potential of coding in developing remote work applications that provide unlimited opportunities for people to pursue their dreams from any part of the world. She had grown more confident in her capacity to innovate and make a difference to people's lives, prompting her to launch the 'Ommi' online platform that aims to eradicate digital illiteracy in Libya.



Besides pursuing her postgraduate degree, Omaila continues to build the foundations of 'Ommi', applying both her programming and business skills in teaching students to transform their high-tech ideas into a commercial reality. As she shares her knowledge and expertise with her community, even from miles away, Omaila lives with the motto: "Programming is here to build bridges and make the world a better place."

STORIES OF HOPE

Turning Dreams into Reality

Mustafa Khaled, from Egypt, believes every person can create their own destiny. With this belief, he mustered the courage to chase his dreams. Despite being only 17, Mustafa considers himself well-versed in the business world. He had developed his first startup, 'Educup' smart application that gamifies learning for middle school students in Egypt, when he was only 15. The app enables students to learn by engaging in interactive educational games and online competitions with their peers.

In response to the common misconception that today's youth lack ambition, Mustafa said, "The world has made us believe that our generation only cares about fun, which has shaken our self-esteem. Yet, coding has helped us follow our dreams, and the **One Million Arab Coders Initiative** proved to every one of us that we can believe in ourselves."

Mustafa's enterprising spirit may be premature for his age, but he decided to break the barriers and follow his ambition. He had finally found his place when he joined the **One Million Arab Coders Initiative** two years ago, which nurtured his skills and gave him the space to execute his ideas.

Today, 'Educup' has an established presence across major online platforms, reinforcing Mustafa's belief that interactive digital games



present the ideal method to encourage and improve learning for the new generation.

His interactive app summarises school curricula and enables students to add questions or develop online competitions that can help improve their learning experience. After obtaining his certificate from the **One Million Arab Coders Initiative**, Mustafa launched another programme to teach public school students basic programming techniques.



A Global Destination for Innovation

The year 2020 witnessed the installation of the final piece of the façade of the **Museum of the Future**, a unique architectural marvel located in the bustling heart of Dubai. The event paved the way for the final construction stage of the futuristic landmark, which will go down in history alongside the UAE's bold feats of design and architecture.

In contrast to the conventional notion of a museum being an exhibition of past accomplishments, the **Museum of the Future** stands out as a global destination for inventors, creative professionals and future entrepreneurs. The Museum presents an exploration base of the greatest challenges and technologies that will shape the future of humanity.

Once complete, the **Museum of the Future** will aim to position the UAE at the forefront of future industries, giving visitors the chance to discover the latest trends and developments across various sectors of life.

Equipped with immersive technologies, big data, artificial intelligence and robotics, the **Museum of the Future** will showcase the future of mankind, cities, societies, life on Earth and even in outer space.



A Glimpse of the Future



1,024

plates manufactured by robots comprise the Museum's façade



14,000

metres of Arabic calligraphy illuminate the façade

The **Museum of the Future** has been recognised globally as an engineering miracle, owing to the sophisticated design technologies and responsive curve formulas employed in its construction. The iconic design has already won the prestigious Tekla Global Building Information Modelling (BIM) Award for the Best BIM Project, even before the Museum's official opening.

Spanning an area of 30,000 square metres, the seven-storey pillarless structure stands at 77 metres high. The stainless steel façade, which extends over 17,000 square metres, is illuminated by 14,000 metres of Arabic calligraphy designed by the Emirati artist Mattar Bin Lahej. The quotes of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of UAE

and Ruler of Dubai, which light up the façade, include, "The future belongs to those who can imagine it, design it and implement it. It isn't something you await, but rather create."

The façade of the Museum consists of 1,024 plates manufactured entirely by robots, in a first-of-its-kind venture in the Middle East. A model for sustainability in creative design, the **Museum of the Future** is powered by 4,000 megawatts of solar energy produced by a station connected to the building, in collaboration with the Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA). Upon completion, the museum will be the first of its kind in the Middle East to obtain a Platinum Certification for Leadership in Environmental Energy and Design (LEED), the highest rating for green buildings in the world.





Continuous Support for SMEs



3,563

Emirati entrepreneurs supported by Dubai SME in 2020



AED 192 Million

incentives and facilities provided by Dubai SME in 2020

In line with **MBRGI's** strategic vision, **Dubai SME** seeks to strengthen Dubai's appeal as a global business hub that offers competitive incentives and benefits to help aspiring entrepreneurs launch their ventures. **Dubai SME** supports and empowers promising small and medium enterprises (SMEs) as key drivers of the national economy and of a productive industrial sector. Key contributors to the GDP, SMEs create new job opportunities and a broad base of skilled workers fundamental to the development of societies.

Despite the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic that has reverberated across the world, the UAE business environment has demonstrated its ability to adapt in the face of crises, thanks to its decades-long cumulative investment. **Dubai SME** has continued to provide guidance and technical, logistical, operational and financial planning support to Emirati entrepreneurs across all stages of their business development, from initial concept to launch.

In 2020, **Dubai SME** incentives and facilities, which exceeded AED 192 million, benefitted 3,563 Emirati entrepreneurs and supported the launch of 1,675 new companies. Since its inception in 2002, the Establishment has supported 9,265 national companies.

'Dubai Entrepreneurship Academy', the educational arm of **Dubai SME** that aims to empower entrepreneurs and foster leadership values in young people, offered training programmes that benefitted 11,254 people. Additionally, the 'Government Procurement Programme' supported **Dubai SME** members with AED 379 million worth of contracts in 2020, while the 'Mohammed bin Rashid Fund for SME' benefitted 368 projects, following feasibility and potential success evaluation.

Nurturing Youth Enterprise Projects

The 'Hamdan Innovation Incubator' (Hi2), an affiliate of **Dubai SME** that provides support and guidance to nurture innovative projects, offered its business incubation services to 30 companies in 2020. Since its inception, the Incubator has supported 654 start-ups.

Hi2 licenced five business incubators in 2020, bringing the total number up to 11 since the service launched in 2018 to help young entrepreneurs transform their ideas into successful commercial projects.

In 2020, Hi2 provided a comprehensive support package for members to mitigate the economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic on routine business procedures. The package included remote consulting services, three-month delay of rent payments, online payment channels, and digital signature services for new tenants.





Strengthening the Gulf Business Community

Under the umbrella of **MBRGI**, the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Business Award** aims to celebrate companies who are proven to be leaders in the realms of innovation and whose outstanding practices and achievements contribute to the development of their economies across the UAE and the wider GCC. By acknowledging corporate excellence, the Award aims to enhance the competitiveness of the regional economy. The Award, supported by the 'Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Business Award Program', seeks to establish a world-class business culture in the region, implement cutting-edge international best practices and stimulate innovation to create a stable, sustainable business community. It

updates its evaluation criteria annually to meet the latest global standards of organisational performance.

In response to COVID-19 restrictions, the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Business Award** organised five webinars in May 2020 to assist with the application process. In June 2020, the Award's team held three additional virtual discussion panels to address enquiries and challenges faced in preparing the award application.



Clean Drinking Water in Emergencies

The **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Water Award**, organised by the **UAE Water Foundation (Suqia)** under the umbrella of **MBRGI**, encourages research centres, institutions, companies, young inventors from all over the world to develop innovative and sustainable solutions to water scarcity and pollution using renewable energy, especially in poor and disaster-stricken communities. It aims to forge effective partnerships with international organisations to build a sustainable and efficient platform in line with the best international practices.

In its third cycle, the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Water Award** expanded

its scope to include new technologies that produce, distribute, store, monitor, desalinate and purify water using renewable energy sources that include solar, wind, biomass, ocean, gradient salinity and geothermal technologies. In 2020, a new category, 'Innovative Crisis Solutions Award', was introduced to recognise innovations that can provide relief within the most critical 48 hours after internationally declared emergency situations. The new category was launched based on the belief that rapid access to safe drinking water becomes a crucial element for survival in crises and natural disasters.



Empowering Communities



AED

79.5 Million

spent on Empowering Communities initiatives in 2020

1.1 Million

beneficiaries of Empowering Communities initiatives in 2020

2,402

graduates of the Mohammed bin Rashid School of Government's programmes in 2020

450,000

beneficiaries of the Sheikh Mohammed Centre for Cultural Understanding's initiatives and events in 2020

10,000

attendees of the Arab Media Forum's virtual sessions in 2020

المكتب التنفيذي
THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE

مركز محمد بن راشد للإعداد للقيادة
Mohammed Bin Rashid Center for
Leadership Development

برنامج القيادات المؤثرة الدفعة الثالثة





Investing in People to Tackle Challenges



AED 79.5 Million
spent on Empowering Communities initiatives in 2020



1.1 Million
beneficiaries of Empowering Communities initiatives in 2020

Empowering community leaders and organisations to transform people's lives and drive progress is one of the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives' (MBRGI)** key missions. The Foundation's numerous sustainable projects, initiatives and programmes have proven the importance of the Empowering Communities pillar year after year, and the individuals and institutions involved have become valuable assets, contributing to the work of governments and leading positive change.

Despite the global COVID-19 outbreak bringing many developmental and humanitarian organisations to a standstill, **MBRGI** continued to mobilise resources to empower communities. It overcame technical and logistical obstacles to ensure its sustainable projects and initiatives endured, restructuring several programmes to adhere to public health restrictions and to help vulnerable communities most affected by the social, economic and psychological effects of the pandemic.

The projects and initiatives under this pillar seek to invest in people, equipping them with the tools and skills required to build their own societies. The Foundation also aims to spread a culture of hope to empower vulnerable societies, boost the role of non-profit organisations in society, and nurture leaders capable of driving institutions forward.

In line with **MBRGI's** long-term vision to develop young Emirati leaders, the **Mohammed bin Rashid Center for Leadership Development** celebrated the graduation of the third cohort

of the 'Impactful Leaders Program' which trained **28** participants from public and private institutions. The first cohort of **30** participants also graduated from the 'Global Secondment Programme for Emirati Leaders' after six months of intensive training to prepare for top-level leadership positions in the private and public sectors.

The **Mohammed bin Rashid School of Government (MBRSG)** continued to work towards building a knowledge-driven framework for public administrations, despite the challenges created by the pandemic. The School designed advanced academic programmes in leadership, management and public policy, organised eight open enrolment programmes and hosted the fourth edition of the 'UAE Public Policy Forum'. It also awarded academic scholarships to **71** students and an additional **14** scholarships to candidates nominated by their entities to pursue Master's degrees in the School's 'Future Government Programs'.

In addition, **MBRSG** supported a postgraduate student-led 'Policy Analysis Exercise' series that aim to bridge the gap between educational output and real policy-making through high-quality research outcomes.

The year **2020** also witnessed the implementation of the first phase of the **Real Madrid Social Sports Academies**. Two academies in Tangier and Marrakesh in Morocco welcomed **450** trainees throughout the year, while two academies in Jordan's Baqaa and Irbid refugee camps, operated by the United Nations Relief and Works



Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), partially resumed their activities, registering **80** young people for football training.

In line with its vision to promote the values of tolerance, coexistence and cohesion, the **International Institute for Tolerance** launched several events to support local and international communities in the face of COVID-19 pandemic. The events included the 'United in Hope' campaign that distributed meals daily during the holy month of Ramadan, and the 'Together We Are Better' initiative, which coincided with the International Day for Tolerance.

Despite the closure of entertainment venues and tourist attractions around the world due to the coronavirus outbreak, the **Sheikh Mohammed Centre for Cultural Understanding** succeeded in spreading its message of harmony and coexistence far and wide. Thanks to the efficacy of social media, the Centre's virtual programmes reached **450,000** people globally. The Centre also organised field trips across Dubai, bagging the Tripadvisor Travelers' Choice Award 2020 for maintaining a high rating from visitors during the pandemic.

In total, the **MBRGI** spent AED **79.5** million in 2020 on initiatives and projects within the Empowering Communities pillar, reaching **1.1** million beneficiaries.



Building Leadership Skills



28

graduates of the
'Impactful Leaders
Program' in 2020

Over the years, the **Mohammed bin Rashid Center for Leadership Development (MBRCLD)** has built its reputation as an incubator for creating the leaders of tomorrow in the UAE. Each year, it provides training programmes in government leadership for young Emiratis at various levels of seniority.

In 2020, the third cohort of 28 government and private sector professionals graduated from **MBRCLD**'s year-long 'Impactful Leaders Program'. The graduates devised creative initiatives for the 'Designing the Next 50' project that involves the public in shaping the future of government services in the UAE. In line with the UAE Centennial Plan 2071, the graduation projects covered 14 government services including infrastructure, social development, education, health, government development, the economy and the environment.

After six months of intensive training, the first cohort of the 'Global Secondment Program for

Emirati Leaders' graduated in 2020. The 30 graduates demonstrated their competence by presenting six detailed proposals in the fields of cultural tourism, talent building, privatisation, virtual sports and research and development, in line with the emerging trends in global economies.

The 'Global Secondment Program for Emirati Leaders' comprises three courses, personal and professional development sessions, and an international trip. The programme is divided into two main parts: a local project, which involves investigating a specified local challenge, and an international project that examines solutions for relevant issues determined during the trip abroad.

The **MBRCLD** also published a report documenting the actions taken in various UAE government departments in the first six months of the COVID-19 outbreak through a series of interviews with leaders in executive and administrative positions. Interviewed by several programme graduates, the participants shared their experiences of confronting challenges, the methods used to make critical decisions, and the administrative changes introduced to respond quickly and efficiently to the pandemic.

The report summarised the themes and issues addressed by the participating leaders across the country to provide insight into successful leadership practices and their impact on people's lives in the UAE and around the world.



STORIES OF HOPE

An Enriching Experience

Fida Al Hammadi, Head of Research and Building Systems Section in the Buildings Department at Dubai Municipality, said she had “absolutely the best” experience as a graduate in the third cohort of **MBRCLD**’s ‘Impactful Leaders Program’. Noting that the experience enriched her personal and professional life, she said, “The ‘Impactful Leaders Program’ was an opportunity to self-reflect and rediscover the values of public service. The programme equipped me with theoretical and practical knowledge, which has contributed significantly to refining my personal and leadership skills.”

Fida considers the ‘Impactful Leaders Program’ to be a window to knowledge, which introduced her to several new concepts of effective administrative and leadership models, and prompted her to view local services through the lens of the best global practices. On her journey, she realised that the UAE’s leadership model deserved international attention and should serve as a foundation to be built upon.

In addition to acquiring practical leadership skills, Fida said the programme helped her define her life goals and broadened her horizons. Since completing the programme, she has become more aware of her inner self, which has reflected on other areas of her life.



She has developed a more strategic thinking that enables her to make forward-looking decisions and determine the value of the projects she undertakes.

She noted that the programme brought out the leader inside her and enhanced her capability to balance priorities and build healthy relationships. “I found the light and direction,” she said.

In the future, Fida hopes to become a role model for emerging Emirati leaders, capable of shaping young people who will add significant value to the ongoing development of the UAE.



Developing Future Government Leaders



2,402

graduates of the
Mohammed bin Rashid
School of Government's
programmes in 2020

The **Mohammed bin Rashid School of Government (MBRSG)**, which specialises in governance and public policy, is considered a pioneering model for academic institutions focused on public administration in the Arab world. With world-class training programmes, the School combines the theoretical philosophy of management with the practical applications of public administration. Its programmes are specifically designed to correspond with Arab governance models, with aims to address the main challenges facing Arab nations in enhancing performance and developing the leadership skills required for successful future governments. In line with its mission to instil government excellence in the UAE and the wider region, the School focuses on exchanging knowledge and experience and creating new leadership models that anticipate future needs.

MBRSG's Executive Education Department held eight open enrolment programmes in 2020, ranging between two and five days, to impart leadership, policy-making, negotiation and administration skills. The programmes attracted **430** government officials, who were introduced to the latest tools and techniques to achieve individual and institutional excellence in the fields of digital transformation, smart government, governments of the future, public policy development, agility in government administration and other related topics.

In line with **MBRSG's** goals to support government departments and entities in developing the skills of their staff, the School worked with nine local partners to develop bespoke executive education programmes tailored to each institution's needs. In 2020, **995** employees graduated from programmes developed for Dubai Police, the Ministry of Interior, Dubai Health Authority, Dubai Government's Department of Finance, the Madinah Institute for Leadership and Entrepreneurship in Riyadh, Ajman Government's Human Resources Department, Etihad Credit Insurance, the Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure, and the Abu Dhabi Department of Economic Development.

MBRSG's 'Smart Executive Education Platform' held **10** online training sessions for **827** participants, as part of its efforts to reach the largest segment of government leaders in the region, enhance government performance and support development in all sectors across the Arab world. The Platform offers online educational material, pre-recorded films and clip, in addition to a set of assessment tests that participants can complete at any time to obtain accredited programme certificates.



150

graduates of the 'Future Government Programs' in 2020



To prepare future government leaders for upcoming challenges and enhance their career prospects, the **MBRSG** graduated **150** students this year from four Master's degree programmes under the 'Future Government Programs' that include Master of Public Administration, Master of Innovation Management, Master of Public Policy and Executive Master of Public Administration.

The 'Policy Innovation Center', a creative space hosted by **MBRSG** in partnership with Microsoft until **2025**, continued to be a forum for discussions about data-based policy and future-oriented analysis and training policies. Since its launch in **2019**, the Center has benefitted **5,000** people who attended high-profile meetings for policy-makers, researchers and professionals, as well as international academic conferences and in-depth political meetings on the UAE development agenda.



Forums & Seminars



1,223

attendees at the 'UAE Public Policy Forum' in 2020

The fourth edition of the 'UAE Public Policy Forum', which is among **MBRSG's** major events, kicked off in 2020 under the theme 'Agile Government: Becoming Future-Proof'.

The two-day Forum hosted top-level officials and governance experts from around the world to attend several sessions and workshops that addressed the importance of developing the capability of governments and individuals to adapt quickly to changes.

The Forum featured 30 speakers on themes that reflect rapidly evolving political, economic and social developments globally, including the importance of agile governments, soft power, happiness and quality of life, resilience, future foresight and the need to keep pace with the international business environment. The sessions attracted around 1,223 attendees.

In cooperation with the Knowledge to Policy Center (K2P) of the Faculty of Health Sciences

at the American University of Beirut (AUB), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, **MBRSG** organised the Sixth Global Symposium on Health Systems Research (HSR2020).

In virtual panels, the Symposium tackled three main topics: education, the security of healthcare systems and the reimagination of research. Held in November 2020 under the slogan 'Reimagining Health Systems for Social Justice and Better Health', the event discussed the importance of preparing healthcare systems and nurturing healthcare professionals to address disease outbreaks and pandemics more efficiently, in light of the global COVID-19 crisis that posed unprecedented health challenges in the Middle East. The panels attracted 1,918 representatives of major global health associations and eminent scientific experts and speakers from 21 countries around the world.



1,918

people followed the virtual Sixth Global Symposium on Health Systems Research in 2020





The aim is to ensure that there are qualified leaders who are able to continue the process of building in the same spirit and with the same leadership culture.

Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum





Scholarships & Research



86

recipients of scholarships from the Mohammed bin Rashid School of Government in 2020

As part of its mandate to provide an integrated system of education and research aimed at developing future leaders, the **MBRSG** continued to support students with outstanding academic and professional records. In 2020, it awarded academic scholarships to **71** students to pursue a Master's degree under the 'Future Government Programs'. Under two memoranda of understanding with the Prime Minister's Office and the Executive Council of the Emirate of Umm Al Quwain, The School offered similar scholarships to an additional **14** students nominated by their institutions.

Under a fellowship agreement with Google, a researcher at **MBRSG's** Policy Research

Department received a grant to develop technology policy and conduct digital transformation research projects for a year.

The School's 'Policy Analysis Exercise' series, led by postgraduate students, provides high-quality research outcomes and valuable practice-driven policy analysis, recommendations and solutions that can contribute to better quality government. The series helps bridge the gap between educational output and actual policy-making. It gives public policy postgraduate students, of which **250** were enrolled in **2020**, the opportunity to apply the acquired advanced skillsets in developing policies and processes of government agencies and public institutions.





530

trainees attended Real Madrid Social Sports Academies in 2020

Tomorrow's Football Stars

As part of its mission to empower Arab youth, **MBRGI** supports rising young sports talents across the region to become the future world leading champions.

In line with the belief in sports as an important tool for unleashing young people's talents, **MBRGI** had partnered with the Real Madrid Foundation in 2020 to establish and manage 10 non-profit football academies in Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Uzbekistan.

Global school closures and the shift to distance learning amid the COVID-19 outbreak has delayed the first phase implementation to open five **Real Madrid Social Sports Academies**.

Following the COVID-19 restrictions of each respective country, the opening of academies in Egypt and Uzbekistan was postponed, while those in Tangier and Marrakesh in Morocco were temporarily closed before eventually welcoming 450 trainees over the course of 2020. The two academies in Jordan's Baqaa and Irbid refugee camps, operated by the UNRWA, partially resumed their activities, registering 80 young people for football training.





Sport in general, and football in particular, is one of the best ways to connect people, as it removes geographical, political and ethnic barriers, especially among youth.

Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum



Football at the Top



200

football professionals attended the Dubai International Sports Conference in 2020

The **Dubai International Sports Conference**, organised by the Dubai Sports Council under the umbrella of **MBRGI**, was the first global sporting event to be held in person in **2020** amid tournament suspensions due to the **COVID-19** outbreak.

The **15th** edition of the annual conference, held under the theme 'Football at the Top' in December **2020**, welcomed **200** football professionals from the UAE and abroad, who adhered to **COVID-19** precautionary measures. Attendees included international football stars like Cristiano Ronaldo, Juventus star and captain of Portugal's national team; Robert Lewandowski, Bayern Munich star and Poland captain; and the famous Spanish goalkeeper Iker Casillas.

A special edition of the annual 'Globe Soccer Awards' was held on the sidelines of the Conference, celebrating the performance of

legendary players, coaches, clubs and agents between **2001** and **2020** in a unique series that highlighted the Best of the **21st** century. Cristiano Ronaldo was named the Player of the Century (**2001-2020**), while Robert Lewandowski won the Player of the Year award.

The Spanish team Real Madrid was named the Club of the Century (**2001-2020**), and Egypt's Al Ahly SC was awarded as the Top Title Winners of the Middle East. Bayern Munich bagged the Team of the Year award.

Spain's Pep Guardiola, coach of Manchester City, was named the Coach of the Century (**2001-2020**), while Bayern Munich's coach Hans-Dieter Flick bagged the Coach of the Year award.





Hope Makers in the Face of Challenges



30

participants joined the 'Hope Makers Development Program' in 2020

The 'Hope Makers Development Program' was launched in February 2020, in cooperation with the Dubai Future Council on Humanitarian Aid and the **Mohammed bin Rashid Center for Leadership Development (MBRCLD)**, as part of **MBRGI's** goal to foster the culture of positivity and progress to improve lives. The Programme offers intensive training, in line with the best global practices, to build national leaders who will shape the future of humanitarian work and establish the UAE's pioneering status in the field.

After successfully completing several stages of rigorous evaluation and personal interviews, 30 participants were selected to join the 'Hope Makers Development Program' in 2020. They were then divided into five teams, each designing a project to advance humanitarian work in the UAE.

The first team proposed developing policies that govern social entrepreneurship to ensure

a legislative framework that builds a nurturing environment for social enterprises in the UAE.

The second project works to bolster the UAE's status as a global hub for shaping the future of humanitarian work, through developing new processes to leverage the country's existing benefits for investors in attracting sector enthusiasts from around the world.

The third project sought to create an information management system that strengthens cross collaborations between humanitarian and charitable organisations in the UAE to maximise the impact of projects and initiatives on ground.

The fourth team proposed identifying the main administrative and operational skill gaps within humanitarian organisations and establishing a specialized training centre and accreditation programme to enhance skills of humanitarian workers in the UAE and the region.

The final project explored boosting the public's support for humanitarian work by enabling non-profit organisations to develop a strategic breakdown of each initiative's objectives and encourage interested volunteers to play an active role in the relevant initiative.



STORIES OF HOPE

Expanding the Horizons of Volunteer Work

As a participant in the 'Hope Makers Development Program', Dr Khalid Lootah was part of the fifth team that explored an active public involvement in humanitarian work. In line with his belief that capacity-building and effective communication with volunteers are vital for non-profit organisations, he helped design a platform that enables humanitarian institutions to break down their objectives and the required skillset to connect with suitable volunteers.

Dr Khalid, an ophthalmologist at the Dubai Health Authority, explained that his team's proposal was especially pertinent as charities and other non-governmental organisations (NGOs) seek to reach the largest segment of beneficiaries. He added that innovative ideas are key to helping the UAE's charities and

volunteer associations meet their objectives to maximise community impact. Dr Khalid and his teammates believe that creating hope is an important mission for the UAE with an astounding influence in the region. The UAE leadership's attention to humanitarian work locally and abroad motivates the team to work harder and give more.

Reflecting on his experience with fellow graduates during the first phase of the training workshops, Dr Khalid: "At first, we thought we would immediately delve into fieldwork through building camps and distributing aid. However, we were surprised with the programme's carefully thought-out preparation."

The first phase of the programme involved lectures and specialist workshops that introduced the theory and principles of humanitarian action, mechanisms of sustainable humanitarian work and ways to design globally adaptive philanthropic initiatives.

The global COVID-19 outbreak changed the programme's original plans, leaving participants with two options: quit until the pandemic subsides, or use the opportunity to learn from others. Dr Khalid said the cohort chose to join the ranks of humanitarian workers in the UAE in developing innovative solutions in response to the pandemic.





From the UAE to the World: A Message of Tolerance



22,000

participants in the
International Institute for
Tolerance's online panel
about bullying in 2020

The **International Institute for Tolerance** was established under the umbrella of **MBRGI** to cement the UAE's role in spreading the message of coexistence, tolerance and harmony across the world. The Institute organises a series of programmes and projects that aim to foster the awareness of tolerance among youth and shape future generations that are open and accepting of other cultures.

In 2020, the **International Institute for Tolerance** launched several events to support communities at home and abroad to face the COVID-19 pandemic. The 'United in Hope' campaign distributed meals daily during Ramadan in cooperation with the Dubai Health Authority. In one week, 1,000 meals were handed out to frontline healthcare workers.

Held in line with the International Day for Tolerance, the 'Together We Are Better' sporting event featured a yoga session on

Dubai's Tolerance Bridge to connect people of diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds amid the COVID-19 social distancing measures. An event at the 'Crossroads of Civilizations Museum' highlighted positive principles of cultural cooperation to preserve historical and religious heritage and promote interfaith dialogue. The **International Institute for Tolerance** also held an interactive panel on social media about the causes of bullying and ways to protect children, attracting 22,000 online viewers.

The **International Institute for Tolerance** continued to relay its message of tolerance and coexistence to the world through its digital newsletter 'The Tolerance Tribune' which seeks to raise awareness of the UAE's approach to tolerance, evident in the country's rich cultural diversity. The newsletter summarised the Institute's news, activities and achievements for an audience of more than 2,500 email subscribers in 2020.





10,000

attendees of the Arab Media Forum's virtual sessions in 2020

Arab Media: The Future is Digital

The COVID-19 restrictions did not hurdle the 19th session of the **Arab Media Forum**, the region's largest gathering of media industry stakeholders. The Forum provides a platform to discuss the state of Arab media and ways to advance its digital transformation, in parallel with other issues affecting the regional and global media industries. This year's edition was held remotely, under the slogan 'Arab Media: The Future is Digital', bringing together more than 3,000 prominent Arab and international media experts and institutions, authors, thought leaders and scholars.

In its latest edition, the Forum raised issues surrounding the prospects for the region's media industry during the next stage of the pandemic and discussed the need to stay abreast of the resulting drastic shift in working norms in media and various sectors. The Forum addressed the future of Arab media and ways to leverage new technologies in delivering the voice of the Arab world. The Forum's

sessions reviewed digital transformation solutions and Fourth Industrial Revolution applications in content creation and information dissemination.

The **Arab Media Forum's** activities garnered extensive coverage on various digital platforms and social media sites, constituting a unique interactive model of media innovation and offering a viable view of the future of Arab media.

The sessions, live streamed on social media platforms and a special platform set up for the Forum, attracted more than 10,000 viewers.





Celebrating Journalistic Excellence



5,874

nominees for the Arab Journalism Award in 2020

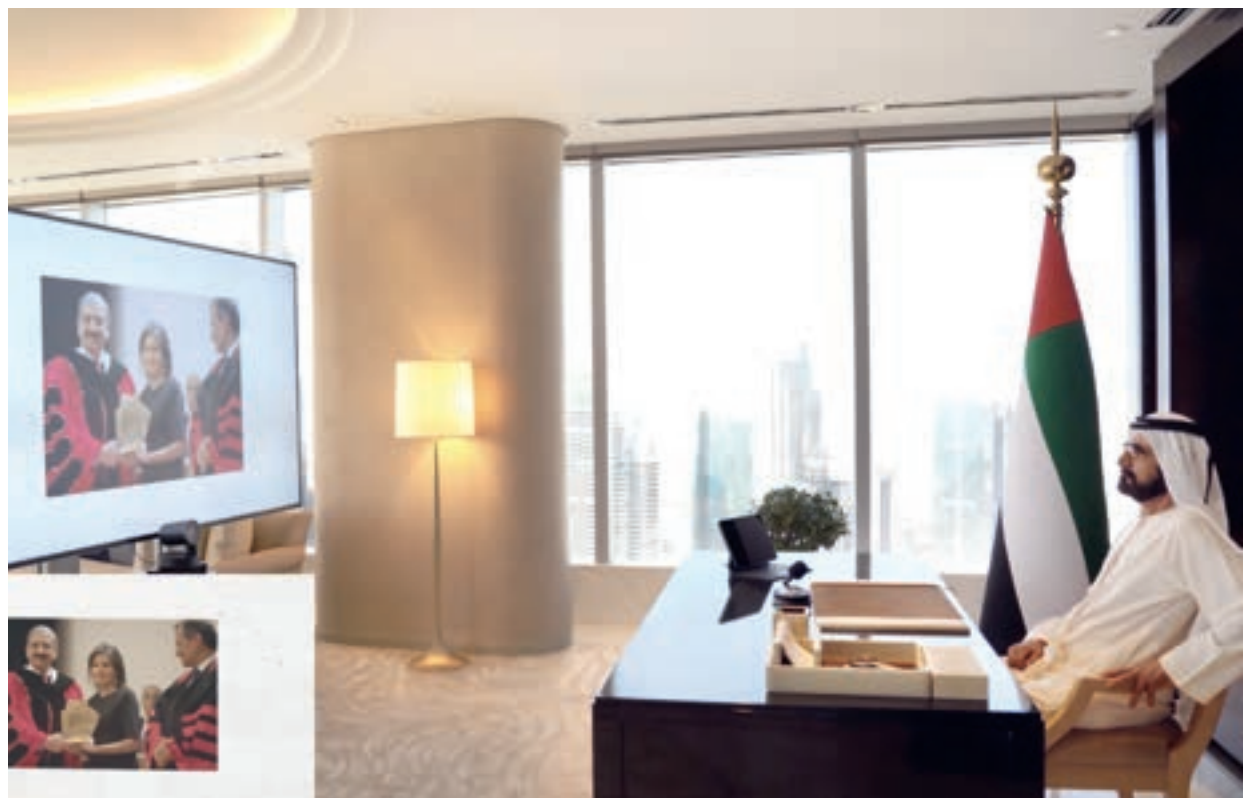
This year's **Arab Journalism Award**, held as part of the **Arab Media Forum**, honoured creative journalistic endeavours across various fields during a virtual ceremony. The General Secretariat of the **Arab Journalism Award**, represented by the Dubai Press Club, organized the Award that saw thousands of people tune in via social media and the official Dubai Press Club and **Arab Media Forum** websites.

In its 19th session, the **Arab Journalism Award**, which promotes the constructive role of Arab press in serving the community and recognises the contributions of journalists in conveying the Arab perspective to the world, honoured **13 winners in 11 categories**, selected from **5,874** candidates. The winners represented daily and weekly newspapers,

magazines, online web portals and media organisations from **43 countries** in the Arab world and beyond.

Nayla Tueni, CEO and Editor-in-Chief of the Lebanese Annahar newspaper, was named 'Media Personality of the Year', in recognition of her contribution to building a strong Lebanese press and enriching the Arab media scene. She is the first Arab woman ever to receive the award in this category.

The 'Best Column Award' went to the renowned Arab journalist Othman Mirghani who joined Asharq Al-Awsat newspaper in late **1988** and rose through the ranks to become Deputy Editor-in-Chief, before deciding to devote his efforts to writing columns.





The media must maintain sincerity and integrity, and set aside any bias for the benefit of the people.

Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum





Virtual Bridges of Understanding



450,000

beneficiaries of the Sheikh Mohammed Centre for Cultural Understanding's initiatives and events in 2020

Under the umbrella of **MBRGI**, the **Sheikh Mohammed Centre for Cultural Understanding** continued to promote and introduce Emirati culture, customs and traditions to people living in and visiting the UAE from all over the world. The Centre holds numerous events to help residents and visitors integrate and coexist in the rich diverse UAE society.

The Centre's virtual programmes and some field trips in 2020 reached more than 450,000 people.

Under the motto 'Open Doors, Open Minds', the Centre hosted a delegation from Israel for the first time in November 2020, as part of the UAE-Israel peace agreement.

While **Sheikh Mohammed Centre for Cultural Understanding** had to close its doors in the first half of 2020 amid COVID-19 global lockdown, the team rallied efforts to find new and innovative ways to deliver the Centre's message.

The Centre's team developed a social media strategy to effectively communicate with people all over the world. Online Ramadan programmes were live streamed, tackling diverse topics that widely appealed to a large segment of users and encouraged followers to interact. The programmes attracted thousands of followers who tuned in during lockdown.

The Centre reopened to visitors gradually in August 2020, in line with safety precautions, and won the Tripadvisor Travelers' Choice Award 2020 for maintaining a high rating from visitors during the pandemic.

In 2020, the Centre also launched the 'Heritage Express', a new tourism initiative which uses specially equipped buses to take visitors on a journey through time. Under the slogan 'The Essence of the Emirates', the initiative introduces visitors to the authentic Emirati heritage through a tour around Al Fahidi Historical Neighbourhood to discover the splendour and charm of the UAE's historical places.





20 Million

monthly views of the
Middle East Exchange's
articles in 2020

A Positive Portrayal of Youth

The **Middle East Exchange** aims to provide a platform for open discussions on current affairs and complex developmental issues facing the region. It publishes articles that highlight young Arab role models working towards improving lives in their societies. The Exchange's articles, which cover a wide

variety of topics including education, health, development and innovation, garnered 20 million online views per month in 2020, especially after this year's shift to digital platforms.



A Journey of Hope

For years, the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives (MBRGI) has been spreading hope and making difference in millions of lives around the globe. Some of those who have benefitted from the Foundation's projects and initiatives have left a lasting impression – people whose stories have made us cry and rejoice. When hope knocked on their door, their lives were changed forever. Some were given a new life, some gave life to others, and still others dared to dream and achieve. They are real heroes who drive change and inspire those around them to be better.

Who are these heroes, and how have their lives changed?
These are their stories, their aspirations and their dreams.



STORIES

OF HOPE

How Al Jalila Foundation Changed the Lives of Three Sisters

Noor, Aisha and Rimsha's parents are overjoyed now when they hear their daughters reciting the Quran, speaking fluently and interacting with others around them, after being born deaf.

Since 2017, Afdal, the girls' father, had been searching for ways to restore his daughters' hearing, until he was introduced to cochlear implants, a cutting-edge technology which offers a permanent solution for hearing impairment. Unfortunately, the high-priced treatment was an unattainable dream for the family, who have lived in the UAE since 2005.

Nevertheless, the family never gave up. They approached **Al Jalila Foundation** in hopes to get the implants for the three little girls.

In no time, **Al Jalila Foundation** approved the cochlear implant for the youngest daughter, Noor, who was six at the time. She was chosen first as implants have higher success rates and faster results for younger patients.

Noor improved rapidly after receiving her cochlear implant. She soon joined a school with other kids her age and did not show any signs of cognitive or social delay, despite the fact that she lived in complete silence for the first six years of her life.



"The happiest day of my life was when we received the approval for the cochlear implant for our daughter," the girls' mother said. "The implant was a priceless gift that drastically changed our lives forever."

Al Jalila Foundation did not leave the older sisters behind, who relied on lip-reading to communicate. Aisha and Rimsha also received cochlear implants, and now the three girls are living their lives to the fullest, making happy memories and planning for a brighter future.

STORIES

OF HOPE

Maryam Amjoun: An Arabic-language Star

Maryam Amjoun, from Morocco, captured hearts all around the Arab world, when she was crowned the champion of the 2018 **Arab Reading Challenge**. Nine years old at the time, the young girl stunned the world with her head-turning confidence, her eloquence in classical Arabic and her profound thought. Tears of joy streamed down her face upon her triumph on stage, prompting His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, to embrace her warmly. Maryam's emotional win has proven that the Arabic language is in good hands, and that **MBRGI's** immense efforts to promote the Arabic literature through the **Arab Reading Challenge** is touching millions of young lives.

Today, at 11 years old, Maryam is an exceptional 6th grader, expanding her knowledge by studying different languages and mathematics. Her parents, who are both teachers, fully guide and support her. She has become a role model and an icon to young people in Morocco since she was named the Arab Reading Champion. As a reading ambassador, Maryam's schedule is busy with school visits, where she shares her experience with students and encourages them to read, build their knowledge base early, refine their talents and learn about other



cultures. She also appears in various TV shows to help raise awareness on road safety. With the onset of the global pandemic, Maryam used her position in the public eye to raise awareness, through interactive videos for children, about the precautions and safety measures necessary to curb the spread of COVID-19. UNICEF has also elected her as an advocate for children's rights in the Middle East and North Africa region.

Maryam still has much to look forward to, and every day presents an opportunity for her to learn something new. She remains committed to the wise words she once said: "Reading feeds the mind and is a treasure chest of knowledge. Those who pursue it will thrive, and those who neglect it will fall behind."

STORIES OF HOPE

Mahmoud Waheed: Dubai Makes Dreams Flourish

Mahmoud Waheed, a young Egyptian engineer, never imagined that Cairo's lively nights would lead him to a life-changing experience. As he was walking in one of the city's neighbourhoods, he heard a moan coming from one of the side streets. To his surprise, he found a wounded elderly man, in pain and covered in blood.

Mahmoud did not leave him to suffer alone. He bandaged his wounds and tried to take him to the hospital, but the man was not admitted since he did not have any family or carry identification documents. Mahmoud then took the man to an elderly care centre, but doors were also shut.

That night, Mahmoud was inspired to create 'Together to Save a Human', which provides elderly homeless people with food, shelter and medical care. In 2018, he was nominated for the second round of the **Arab Hope Makers** initiative, which falls under **MBRGI**. Mahmoud was in awe when he was named the Arab Hope Maker that year. The prize has given him moral and financial support that enabled him to fulfil his ambition of being an active member of the humanitarian field in Cairo. He was able to expand his project to accommodate and rehabilitate more homeless people before reuniting them with their families.

Mahmoud says his win has earned him the respect and trust of Egyptians and Arabs, and paved the way for him to open five additional branches of 'Together to Save a Human' across Cairo, bringing the total number of branches to seven.

Thanks to the initiative's recognition, Mahmoud's project saw a fundamental shift in its activities. 'Together to Save a Human' now cooperates with Egypt's Ministry of Social Solidarity on multiple projects and has transformed into a public welfare institution that accepts donations. After being specialised in caring for elderly homeless people, it has expanded to serve homeless children as well.



STORIES

OF HOPE

Mohammed Jalloud: Algeria's Reading Icon

From Constantine, Algeria's capital of books and learning, to Dubai, Mohammed Jalloud was crowned the champion of the first edition of the **Arab Reading Challenge**, the largest-ever Arab knowledge initiative that focuses on encouraging Arab students to read. Despite being the event's youngest participant, at only seven years old, Mohammed impressed the crowd with his confidence and fluency in Arabic speech, thanks to his remarkable comprehension of a rich diversity of books. He read and summarised more than 50 books during one school year, and demonstrated exceptional articulation and analytical and critical thinking skills to the judges during the finals.

Today, Mohammed is in middle school and enjoys daily life with his family and friends. Winning the **Arab Reading Challenge** has inspired him to continue working hard to develop his skills while pursuing his studies.

The prize has also opened many doors for Mohammed. He was able to gift a small library to his schoolmates to encourage them to read. He also presented a TV show titled 'The Treasure of Reading', which aired on the children's 'Baraem' channel, in addition to participating in a traffic safety campaign for one of Algeria's provinces.

Five years after winning the **Arab Reading Challenge**, Mohammed remains the pride of his community and his city. He is mentioned in the elementary and middle school history and English books as an example of individual achievement and ambition.

Now a national icon in Algeria, Mohammed knows he still has a long way to go to complete his schooling, develop his skills and capabilities, and acquire more knowledge. His reading journey did not come to an end with his **Arab Reading Challenge** win, as he sees every day as a new opportunity to explore new ideas and new worlds through books.



STORIES

OF HOPE

‘Nabadat’ Gave Rahma Back Her Heartbeat

A few years ago, Rahma Al Tablawi's parents, hailing from Kafr El Sheikh Governorate in Egypt, noticed that their daughter cried continuously ever since she was born. After visiting a paediatrician, they learned that baby Rahma has congenital heart defects that require a critical corrective surgery. The procedure had a very low success rate and was far more expensive than the family could afford.

Rahma's parents tried in vain to find help, and their daughter continued to live in pain until she turned six. A ray of hope emerged when Rahma's father was able to enrol her in the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Humanitarian & Charity Establishment's** ‘Nabadat’ initiative in Egypt. In 2017, the family was finally able to schedule the urgent surgery Rahma desperately needed. Her father was worried that he might lose his daughter in the operating room, but he was comforted by the professional and highly trained ‘Nabadat’ medical staff who put Rahma at ease and prepared her psychologically for the surgery.

After the six-hour operation, Rahma was transferred to the intensive care for some time, before moving to a regular room. Her parents were overcome with joy at



the success of Rahma's surgery and the knowledge that their daughter would not have to live in pain any longer.

More than three years after the surgery, Rahma is now looking forward to living a long life full of joy and success. Her cheerful smile brightens up the day, and her parents will forever be grateful to ‘Nabadat’ for giving their little girl back her heartbeat.

STORIES

OF HOPE

Husham Althahabi: The Light of Hope Never Dies

“The most important thing is to have the determination to start. Lighting a candle is better than shedding tears over ashes,” says Husham Althahabi, who was among the five finalists to bag the prize of the 2017 **Arab Hope Makers** initiative, in recognition for his efforts in spreading hope through the ‘Iraqi House of Creativity’ in Baghdad.

The Iraqi humanitarian pioneer, who began his journey helping children in 1998 when he adopted two kids, decided to take action rather than be a bystander. He saw homeless orphans wandering hopelessly around the office of a humanitarian organisation looking for a shelter. In 2004, he turned his house into a foster home, which has become a safe haven for the city’s orphans and homeless children.

Husham’s ‘Iraqi House of Creativity’ has helped raise 480 orphans to lead independent, productive lives. The House currently hosts 70 children. Since winning the **Arab Hope Makers** prize, Husham’s aspirations have grown bigger, and the lives of the children he has taken in have changed drastically. He finally had the means to turn his dream into reality. He put his AED 1 million prize towards establishing a foster home in Baghdad, which is set to be an official childcare



establishment for orphans, homeless children and others in need.

Today, Husham is finally living his dream. He started building the foster home in October 2020, which is due for completion by the end of 2021. Once complete, it will be an eco-friendly, integrated institute, comprising a counselling centre, health club, gym, football pitch, study halls and a library. The home will provide full-time housing for 280 young people and offer support to more than 1,000 non-resident children every year. Children will also be able to undertake occupational training programmes in a variety of areas including cooking, sewing, embroidery and hairdressing.



ANNEX

Humanitarian Aid & Relief



International Humanitarian City

International Humanitarian City (IHC), established in 2003, is a global humanitarian hub based in Dubai, which hosts the 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. The **IHC's** strategic geographic location enables the humanitarian community to reach two-thirds of the world's population within four to eight hours.



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 Bank collects surplus food from hotels, restaurants, supermarkets, farms and other food establishments, and distributes it to people in need, in coordination with a network of local and international charities.



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.



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, distributing 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 with outstanding efforts to find sustainable and innovative solar-powered solutions for water scarcity.



Mohammed bin Rashid Global Centre for Endowment Consultancy

Launched in 2016 to help achieve 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.

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 therapeutic and preventative programmes to combat blindness and visual impairment in the UAE and around the world, focusing on remote areas that lack healthcare resources and infrastructure in Africa and Asia. The Foundation also provides mobile eye clinics, runs educational and preventative programmes and invests in training programmes for medical personnel.



Al Jalila Foundation

Established in 2012, **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 programs that aim to be integrated, impactful, sustainable and scalable. To date, **Dubai Cares'** education programmes have touched the lives of 20 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 equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning for all by 2030.



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-feet 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.



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 hosts international knowledge and science awards to strengthen the UAE's status on the knowledge map.



Knowledge Summit

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



Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Knowledge Award

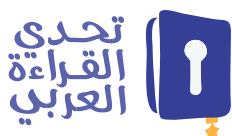
Launched in 2015, the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Knowledge Award** seeks to highlight the importance of sharing and disseminating knowledge as key to global development and, ultimately, the prosperity of nations. It aims to encourage those working in knowledge-related fields to innovate and create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



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 to support the Arabic language in the areas of education, media, Arabisation, technology, preservation and dissemination of the Arab linguistic heritage.



Arab Reading Challenge

As the largest-ever Arab knowledge initiative, the **Arab Reading Challenge (ARC)** 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 students from all over the world. The Challenge runs throughout the school year in staged qualifiers, beginning at class level, to school, country and regional levels, leading up to crowning the **ARC** Champion at the final ceremony in Dubai.



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 5,000 high-tech science and math 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



Museum of the Future

Located in the heart of Dubai, the **Museum of the Future** is a unique architectural marvel and testbed for science and technology, which aims to position the UAE at the forefront of future industries. Upon completion, the Museum will be a destination for scientists, experts, innovators and creatives from all over the world, and an exploration base of the greatest challenges and technologies that will shape the future of humanity.



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.



Mohammed bin Rashid Establishment for SME 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 Award for Young Business Leaders

Founded in 2003 under the umbrella of **Dubai SME**, the **Mohammed bin Rashid Award for Young Business Leaders** encourages entrepreneurs to transform their ideas into projects that enhance the efficiency of doing business in the UAE and across the Arab world. It recognises outstanding entrepreneurs and organisations that drive business projects across the region.



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.



Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Water Award

Launched in 2016, the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Water Award** 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.

Empowering Communities



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.



Sheikh Mohammed Centre for Cultural Understanding

Founded in 1998, the **Sheikh Mohammed 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.



International Institute for Tolerance

The **International Institute for Tolerance** was established in 2017 to promote a tolerance spirit, build a cohesive society and introduce the UAE's as a global model of tolerance. The Institute hosts local and international events to instil the principles of tolerance and coexistence and encourage interfaith dialogue.



Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Tolerance Award

The first global initiative to consolidate tolerance values and expand cultural openness between peoples and communities, the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Tolerance Award** was launched in 2016 to motivate youths to make more efforts in the field of tolerance. The Award honours champions of tolerance across various fields, including human thought, literary creativity, the arts, youth projects and new media.



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 Journalism Award

Launched in 1999, the **Arab Journalism Award** is the first and largest award of its kind in the region to honour journalistic excellence. The annual Award aims to inspire and stimulate creativity, celebrate outstanding content and encourage journalists to use media as a platform to highlight important issues in their societies. The Award recognises achievements across several categories, including Investigative Reporting, Economic Journalism, Sports Journalism and Cultural Journalism.



Arab Social Media Influencers Summit & Award

Launched in 2015, the **Arab Social Media Influencers Summit** provides a knowledge and culture exchange platform, with sessions covering a range of positive and constructive social media topics that capture the essence of Arab societies. As part of the Summit, the **Arab Social Media Influencers Award** honours outstanding social media initiatives and content creators to promote positive online dialogue.



Dubai International Sports Conference

The annual **Dubai International Sports Conference**, established in 2006, brings together sports-related speakers and audiences including referees, managers, agents and world-famous athletes to address key challenges affecting global sports. The Conference proposes sports 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 sports on local, regional and global levels.



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.



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.