



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

hope

YEAR IN REVIEW

تقرير الأعمال

2 0 1 9

AED

1.3 Billion spent in 2019

108 Countries reached in 2019

71 Million beneficiaries in 2019





Year In Review 2019

Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives...

A comprehensive vision for the business of hope and building the future

Year In Review 2019

4th 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

Our Giving Will Endure	4
Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum <i>Chairman of the Board of Trustees</i>	
Investing in Hope	6
Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum <i>Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees</i>	
2019 Achievements	8
Introduction	10
2019 Highlights	11
The Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives	12
Humanitarian Aid & Relief	16
Healthcare & Disease Control	32
Spreading Education & Knowledge	48
Innovation & Entrepreneurship	68
Empowering Communities	80



Our Giving Will Endure

During challenging times that put humankind to the test, the act of giving keeps us moving forward, builds resilience, gives our humanity meaning and sustains us in our fight against adversity. It is our giving that expresses our love for one another and commitment to our communities.

Our humanitarian, developmental and social initiatives and programmes have stemmed from the principle and value of giving that we have long embedded in our work. Our efforts, fuelled by unwavering hope, have improved lives in every corner of the world.

In 2019, the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives'** projects, programmes and campaigns touched the lives of 71 million people across 108 countries. While we are proud of these achievements, what matters to us most are the real-life stories beyond these numbers. Behind these figures are the faces of those who found joy after grief, health after illness, knowledge after illiteracy, work after unemployment and hope after despair. Behind these figures are inspiring stories more precious to us than the world's treasures.

We work to bring hope to people of all races, ethnicities, cultures and religions, and we promise that our giving will endure as long as there is need in the world.

Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum
Chairman of the Board of Trustees



Investing in Hope

Year after year, the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives (MBRGI)** reaffirms its belief that investing in creating hope has guaranteed returns, and that making a simple change in one person's life can spur tremendous change across an entire community.

With more than 30 initiatives and entities carrying out hundreds of programmes, projects and campaigns under its umbrella, **MBRGI** has encouraged millions of people in the Arab world and the region to become part of the largest social movement – the movement of hope. The **Arab Reading Challenge** and **Arab Hope Makers** initiatives set true examples of how quickly hope can spread and how our nations can unite under a common goal to accomplish, innovate and inspire. This is an achievement that embodies **MBRGI's** mission and reflects our vision.

We have chosen to invest in hope because, as His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum said, “Creating hope kindles new life in our region”.

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

2019 Achievements



AED
1.3 Billion
spent across
all pillars



71 Million
beneficiaries
of MBRGI's
initiatives



108
countries
reached



124,539
volunteers across
various initiatives



565
scholarships, fellowships and
research grants awarded



574
full-time employees

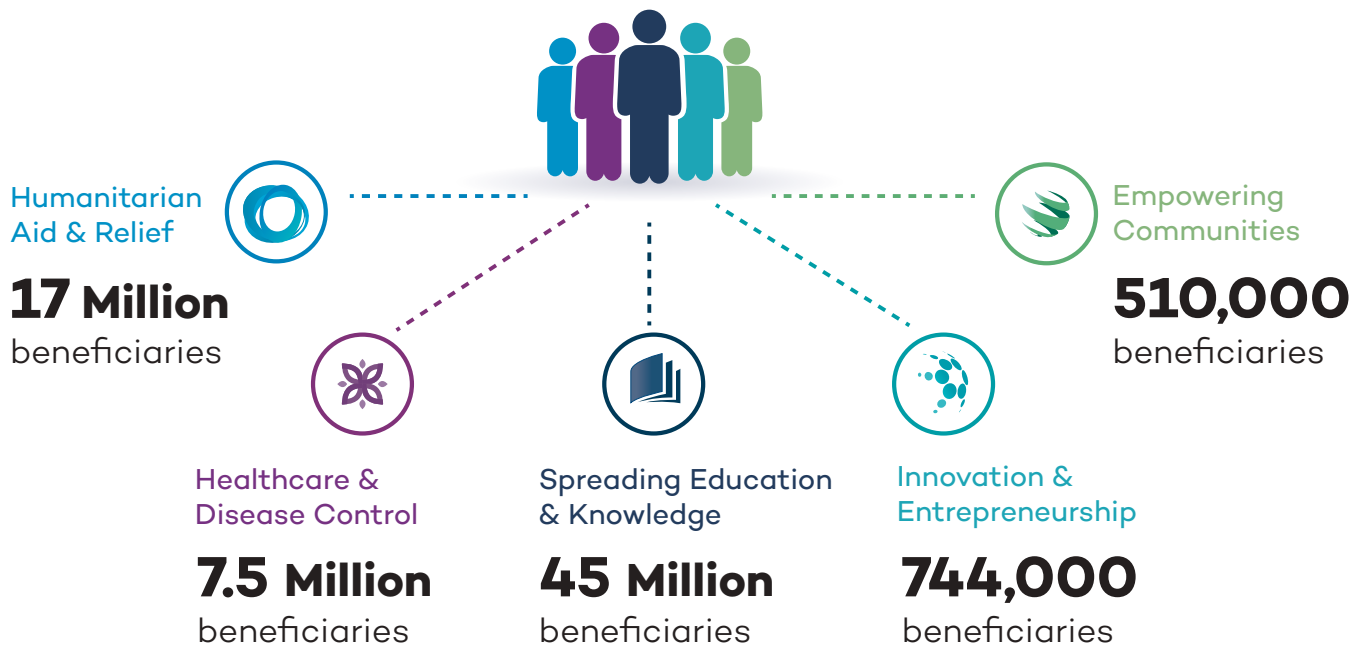


AED
26 Million
in total awards

AED **1.3 Billion** spent across all pillars



71 Million beneficiaries of MBRGI's initiatives



Introduction

Launched in 2015, the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives (MBRGI)** strives to develop a comprehensive humanitarian aid and social framework that fosters a culture of hope. Reflecting the vision of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, the Foundation's integrated strategic approach transcends acts of temporary benevolence, transforming charitable work into sustainable, long-term efforts that empower communities, improve well-being and drive progress and prosperity.

MBRGI focuses on preparing future generations to create a brighter future for their societies and lead the region's development. By investing in human capital, providing valuable training and meeting basic needs, the Foundation's initiatives promote stability and act as a driving force for positive change.

Within this framework, diverse initiatives, programmes and entities, under the umbrella of **MBRGI**, continue harnessing their efforts and resources to support vital societal sectors. They work to develop practical and innovative solutions that address cultural, knowledge, economic, social, health, environmental and humanitarian challenges in the region and the world.

More than 30 initiatives and entities working across various humanitarian, relief, social and development fields are united under **MBRGI**, with a common vision of supporting and empowering vulnerable and disadvantaged communities around the world.

MBRGI's entities and initiatives carry out hundreds of comprehensive programmes, projects, campaigns and activities to improve the quality of life in societies, with a special focus on vital developmental and service sectors such as education, healthcare, women empowerment and youth capacity-building. They provide support to institutions and individuals seeking to improve their communities, spark youth innovation and entrepreneurial thinking, develop talents working in knowledge, cultural and business sectors, instil the values of tolerance and coexistence, and promote a culture of dialogue and respect for differences.

The **MBRGI** Year In Review 2019 highlights key achievements of the Foundation's diverse entities and initiatives throughout the year. It chronicles the positive impact these programmes have had on people's lives through emotional stories that show how simple acts can make a big difference in someone's life.

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



Humanitarian Aid & Relief



Healthcare & Disease Control



Spreading Education & Knowledge



Innovation & Entrepreneurship



Empowering Communities

2019 Highlights

Towards Creating Hope

In 2019, **MBRGI**'s total expenditure amounted to AED 1.3 billion, of which AED 950 million was spent on various initiatives, projects and programmes that benefitted 71 million people across 108 countries, compared to 70 million beneficiaries in 86 countries in 2018. Of that AED 1.3 billion, AED 333 million was spent on completing the construction of sustainable cultural landmarks in the UAE. Work continued on the **Museum of the Future**, acquiring exhibits from all over the world and developing local content with the latest technological innovations. The **Mohammed bin Rashid Library**, one of the region's largest cultural and knowledge facilities, began expanding its collection of print and digital books.

During 2019, around 125,000 volunteers from all over the world joined hands with the Foundation's 574 full-time employees to ensure the success of **MBRGI**'s projects and campaigns.

Under the Healthcare & Disease Control pillar, the third edition of the **Arab Hope Makers** initiative donated the proceeds from its grand variety show to the construction of the Magdi Yacoub Global Heart Centre in Egypt, the Arab world's largest medical facility, which will provide free-of-charge cardiac care to patients from across the region. The facility was celebrated in the **Arab Hope Makers** final grand show, raising AED 88 million in the largest donation campaign of its kind to be aired live on television.

This year, **MBRGI** also signed an agreement with Spain's Real Madrid Foundation, within the Empowering Communities pillar, to

establish and manage the **Real Madrid Social Sports Academies** in four countries, with the aim of using sport as a conduit to foster a culture of hope in youth and empower Arab football talents.

In 2019, the **International Institute for Tolerance** launched the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Tolerance Award**, the first global initiative to celebrate outstanding contributions that strive to consolidate the values of tolerance and coexistence. The Award aims to inspire young Arabs to lead and support intellectual, cultural and media initiatives that promote tolerance.

MBRGI's 'Well of Hope' initiative was launched in 2019, providing clean water to over 1 million people living in disadvantaged communities across the world. The campaign attracted dozens of UAE-based public and private entities that pledged to dig hundreds of wells and provide hundreds of thousands of litres of clean water to more than a million people across the globe.

In 2019, **Dubai Cares** marked the AED 1.1 billion milestone in total financial commitment towards global education since it was established in 2007.

The **Madrassa e-Learning Platform** launched the first phase of its Arabic language lessons in 2019, which aims to provide 1,000 free high-tech, interactive videos to facilitate learning of the Arabic language among millions of students around the world.

The Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives



Humanitarian Aid & Relief

- International Humanitarian City
 - UAE Food Bank
 - Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Humanitarian & Charity Establishment
 - UAE Water Aid Foundation (Suqia)
 - Mohammed bin Rashid Global Centre for Endowment Consultancy
-



Healthcare & Disease Control

- Noor Dubai Foundation
 - Al Jalila Foundation
-



Spreading Education & Knowledge

- Dubai Cares
 - Mohammed bin Rashid Library Foundation
 - Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Knowledge Foundation
 - Knowledge Summit
 - Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Knowledge Award
 - Mohammed bin Rashid Arabic Language Award
 - Arab Reading Challenge
 - Madrasa e-Learning Platform
-



Innovation & Entrepreneurship

- Museum of the Future
 - One Million Arab Coders Initiative
 - Mohammed bin Rashid Establishment for SME Development (Dubai SME)
 - Mohammed bin Rashid Award for Young Business Leaders
 - Young Entrepreneurs Competition
 - Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Business Award
 - Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Water Award
-



Empowering Communities

- Mohammed bin Rashid School of Government
 - Sheikh Mohammed Centre for Cultural Understanding
 - International Institute for Tolerance
 - Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Tolerance Award
 - Arab Media Forum
 - Arab Journalism Award
 - Arab Social Media Influencers Summit & Award
 - Dubai International Sports Conference
 - Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Creative Sports Award
 - Real Madrid Social Sports Academies
 - Arab Strategy Forum
 - Mohammed bin Rashid Center for Leadership Development
 - Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Arts Award
 - Arab Hope Makers
 - Middle East Exchange
-





All of us have the capability and capacity to make
a real difference in the lives of those around us

Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum

Humanitarian Aid & Relief



Within this vital pillar, MBRGI devotes its efforts to alleviating suffering and creating stable, cohesive societies capable of overcoming economic, social and political challenges.

 **AED**
262 Million

spent on Humanitarian Aid & Relief initiatives in 2019

 **17** Million

beneficiaries of Humanitarian Aid & Relief initiatives in 2019

 **2.6** Million

beneficiaries of the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Humanitarian & Charity Establishment in 2019

 **9** Million

beneficiaries of UAE Water Aid Foundation (Suqia) projects in 2019

 **13,488** Tonnes

of food donated to the UAE Food Bank in 2019



Serving Humanity Through a Human-centric Vision



AED
262 Million

spent on Humanitarian
Aid & Relief initiatives
in 2019



17 Million

beneficiaries of
Humanitarian Aid
& Relief Initiatives
in 2019

Since its inception, the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives (MBRGI)** has been centrally focused on providing Humanitarian Aid & Relief to improve lives around the world. The driving force behind the Foundation's vision and objectives, **MBRGI's** work within this pillar brings together numerous human-centric initiatives and programmes to serve anyone in need irrespective of colour, religion or race. The Foundation devotes its efforts to alleviating suffering and creating stable, cohesive societies capable of overcoming economic, social and political challenges.

The numerous initiatives, projects and programmes within this pillar offer all types of humanitarian and developmental support to communities facing challenges that hinder human progress, with a special focus on vulnerable groups such as women and children. Besides providing

time-bound Humanitarian Aid & Relief, the Foundation collaborates with regional and international organisations to implement developmental projects that ensure sustainability and well-being.

In 2019, the Foundation's Humanitarian Aid & Relief efforts touched all corners of the globe. Aid operations continued from the **International Humanitarian City (IHC)** to aid communities reeling from natural disasters, crises or conflicts, spreading a message of love and peace in its wake. The **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Humanitarian & Charity Establishment** focused its efforts in 2019 to providing financial and in-kind assistance to developing areas around the world. It bolstered its youth-centric services by supporting education and building schools, and implemented several developmental initiatives to empower young people in disadvantaged societies and expand their future outlook for success.

Under the same pillar, the **UAE Water Foundation (Suqia)** stood out with its innovative and sustainable initiatives that ensured access to clean drinking water for communities in remote areas around the world.

In 2019, spending within the Humanitarian Aid & Relief pillar totalled around AED 262 million, which went towards projects, initiatives and programmes that touched the lives of more than 17 million people around the world.



Humanitarian work is a common language that defines civilised humans from all over the world irrespective of race, religion or nationality.

Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum





**1,000
Tonnes**

of aid distributed
with the support of
the International
Humanitarian City

Support Without Limits

As the world's largest humanitarian hub, the **International Humanitarian City (IHC)** plays a pivotal role in facilitating swift and efficient responses to emergencies and crises around the globe. Home to 76 United Nations organisations, international non-governmental organisations, intergovernmental organisations, and commercial companies, **IHC's** strategic location in Dubai, which connects Europe and Asia, allows rapid relief and aid shipments to be within reach of all corners of the world through effective transport modes and logistics.

In 2019, **IHC's** member organisations carried out 1,070 shipments with more than AED 246 million worth of humanitarian relief to countries in Asia, Africa, Europe

and the Americas. **IHC** supported the dispatch of an additional 13 shipments carrying over 1,000 tonnes of aid worth AED 18 million, which costed AED 14.5 million to transport.

IHC led efforts to respond to several emergencies this year, facilitating shipments of more than 720 metric tonnes of relief items for people affected by the devastating Cyclone Idai that struck Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi in March 2019. In the aftermath of the earthquake that ravaged Tirana, Albania, in November 2019, **IHC** sent around 44 metric tonnes of resources to aid the city's residents. The City also dispatched 288 tonnes of ready-to-eat food supplies for malnourished children in Nigeria and Bangladesh.

Throughout 2019, **IHC** continued to develop the 'Humanitarian Logistics Databank', a pioneering platform that provides the humanitarian community with a central database to track aid stocks, movements and exact locations in real time using customs data from ports, airports and other border entry points. Now a global resource accessible to organisations all over the world, the Databank strives to enhance emergency preparedness and response.



Flash Studio

As part of **IHC**'s vision to encourage cooperation, capacity-building and knowledge transfer between its members and other international organisations, the 'Flash Studio' project delivers 'stories from the field' to highlight humanitarian missions and draw attention of media and policy-makers to issues in remote parts of the world.

The 'Flash Studio' provides free technology tools specifically designed for field coverage, allowing member organisations and media to broadcast and live stream audio-visual content from wherever they are in the world. Using the mobile studio, a media toolkit on wheels that can be sent to crisis-torn areas, **IHC** members can ensure media coverage and share humanitarian stories of those

living in vulnerable, remote communities. The project allows the humanitarian community to share their multimedia content live with any 'receiving hub' across any part of the world, including media outlets.

In 2019, 'Flash Studio' was deployed in Mozambique and Bangladesh to highlight the suffering of disadvantaged and crisis-stricken people.





2.6 Million

beneficiaries of
the Mohammed bin
Rashid Al Maktoum
Humanitarian & Charity
Establishment in 2019

A Secure Environment for a Decent Life

In line with MBRGI's mission to be a pioneer in humanitarian work, the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Humanitarian & Charity Establishment** is committed to supporting disadvantaged communities in the UAE and abroad, as well as alleviating the suffering of those stricken by crises, conflicts and natural disasters. In 2019, the Establishment's various projects and initiatives touched the lives of approximately 2.6 million people.

The Establishment spearheaded a number of international programmes in 2019, constructing integrated compounds that provide healthy and productive environments for orphans in marginalised communities. These complexes provided secure housing, schools and wells, benefitting more than 122,000 people across eight countries, including Benin, Tajikistan, Senegal, Uganda and Nigeria.

The Establishment also built and renovated several schools in Pakistan, Tajikistan, Benin and Chad to ensure the continuity of education for 11,400 students.

As part of its 'Ready for School' initiative for the 2018/2019 academic year, the Establishment distributed school supplies, books, uniforms and stationery to 30,000 students in 13 countries, including Brazil, Egypt, Mali, Ghana, Lebanon and the Philippines.

The **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Humanitarian & Charity Establishment** also delivered urgent relief, including clean drinking water and food supplies to people in Pakistan and Sri Lanka, as well as Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh. Heating equipment, winter clothes and blankets were also distributed to thousands of families in seven countries, including Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Egypt and Brazil, to help them endure the harsh winter.



In 2019, the Establishment continued to bolster health systems around the world, building two public hospitals in Ethiopia and a medical centre in Chad.

The Establishment's various humanitarian projects focused on the most at-risk groups, providing them with tools and resources to improve their quality of life. In Uganda, the Establishment offered a one-year orphan sponsorship programme. It also provided kiosks for youths and established a centre to teach women tailoring in Chad, creating job opportunities that enabled beneficiaries to earn a stable income to support their families. In Egypt, the Establishment provided prostheses for 200 people who had lost their limbs to accidents or medical conditions, empowering them to become more independent.

In collaboration with the **UAE Water Aid Foundation (Suqia)**, the Establishment

provided clean drinking water to several communities in remote areas of the world. The field projects included drilling dozens of wells and developing crucial water supply and purification infrastructure, benefitting 543,783 people in 19 countries.

Locally, the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Humanitarian & Charity Establishment** furthered its commitment to supporting people in need in the UAE throughout 2019. It offered financial assistance to low-income families struggling to pay rent, utility bills and school fees, and supported orphans. The Establishment also enabled cancer and kidney disease patients to access quality treatment and performed life-saving heart surgeries for the elderly. The financial and medical assistance reached 45,727 people, while several construction projects to serve local community groups benefitted an additional 70,000 people.





AED
18 Million

spent on Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Humanitarian & Charity Establishment's Ramadan activities in 2019

Kindness & Compassion During Ramadan

During Ramadan 2019, the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Humanitarian & Charity Establishment** honoured its annual commitment to meeting people's needs in the UAE and around the world. Under its iftar campaign, the Establishment distributed essential food supplies to low-income individuals in 59 countries including Japan, Bulgaria and Ghana, besides supplying clean drinking water in 11 countries in partnership with **Suqia**, collectively benefitting 811,664 people. The Establishment also distributed meat during Eid Al Adha to 318,650 low-income families and individuals in 33 countries. Its 'Eid Gift' project, which distributed gifts and new clothes to those in need, spread joy and happiness to more than 85,000 people across 20 Arab, Asian and African countries.

During 2019, the Establishment's spending on various Ramadan activities and initiatives totalled AED 18 million.

To promote social cohesion and solidarity in the UAE, the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Humanitarian & Charity Establishment** also carried out several charity projects, including a zakat campaign that distributed a total of AED 42 million to 32,000 underprivileged families and individuals. Another initiative supplied 12,500 iftar meals in local mosques and public places, while the 'Eid Al Adha Gift' programme provided Eid clothing and essentials to bring joy to disadvantaged families. As part of its 'Ramadan Ration' initiative, the Establishment and its partnering humanitarian organisations distributed magnetic stripe cards to 43,000 beneficiaries in the UAE at a total cost of AED 4.3 million.





To create tangible change, philanthropic work needs a clear vision, strategic planning, defined objectives and efficient resource management.

[Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum](#)





STORY OF *hope*

Happiness at Last

Fauz, an elderly Egyptian woman with a face marked by fatigue and hardship, works hard to support her family with the limited resources available in the small village where they reside.

Watching the livestock in the fields with their owners early in the morning, she remembers her far-fetched dream of having her own cattle as a source of income to help her husband provide for the family. Until recently, Fauz spent hours waiting in the street to collect the animals' dung before moulding it into discs and leaving it to dry in the sun to use it as fuel to light the oven or heat water in the winter.

Fauz and her family's struggle continued until the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Humanitarian & Charity Establishment's** team arrived at their village, providing her with a head of cattle and helping rebuild her collapsing house. Thanks to the Establishment's work, Fauz today lives in a safe home with a stable income to support her family.

In recognition of her relentless efforts to provide a decent life for her family, Fauz was honoured as one of the exemplary mothers during Egypt's 'Ideal Mother Festival', held under the patronage of the Establishment. She received another head of cattle to reward her for her hard work and dedication to her family.



STORY OF *hope*

Water: Breathing Life into a Brazilian Village

The Barragem village in the Tenondé Porã territory, located in the southern-most region of Brazil's São Paulo municipality, is home to more than 300 families from the indigenous Guarani Mbya people. For decades, villagers have struggled to secure clean drinking water, heavily relying on a single, distant treatment station. Due to constant power outages and insufficient purification systems, the water supplied by the station is often polluted by the time it reaches the village.



To compensate, villagers resorted to a nearby spring, which poses its own health and environmental risks. The absence of a sewage treatment system subjects the groundwater feeding into the spring to a sewage leak at any moment, which could cause an environmental and health disaster.

The **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Humanitarian & Charity Establishment** installed solar-powered purification units at the village's main station and nearby spring to ensure a steady supply of clean drinking water to residents, even amid power cuts. Running on UV light, the units purify the water within seconds. A solar-powered sewage treatment system – the first of its kind in the area – was also connected at the community's only school.

The Establishment's delegation remained in the village to ensure public health and safety that might have been affected by water scarcity. The team conducted free-of-charge vision, cholesterol, blood pressure, diabetes and hepatitis screening tests for more than 3,000 people. As part of the initiative, the team also distributed hundreds of food baskets.



9 Million

beneficiaries of
UAE Water Aid
Foundation (Suqia)
initiatives in 2019

Providing Clean Water

Under the umbrella of **MBRGI**, the **UAE Water Aid Foundation (Suqia)** maintains its commitment to provide clean drinking water to underprivileged communities around the world, in line with its belief that clean drinking water is a fundamental human right. The Foundation drilled wells, installed water pumps, developed water distribution and purification networks and supported research to find innovative and sustainable solutions to address water scarcity. **Suqia's** new and ongoing projects and initiatives in 2019 benefitted about 9 million people in the UAE and abroad.

Through its major global initiatives, **Suqia** intensified its efforts in drilling artesian and surface wells and installing the necessary pumps to provide clean drinking water to remote villages, primarily in Africa, Asia and South America, improving the lives of 173,357 people. The Foundation's global projects involved drilling 122 wells in different rural areas in Bangladesh, including 67 surface wells to serve the Rohingya refugee camps in the country. It also built a water distribution network to support the inhabitants of 20 villages in the Kashmir region of Pakistan. In Chad, **Suqia** worked with the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation to supply clean drinking water to 2,500 refugees from Sudan, Central Africa and other neighbouring areas.

As part of its annual Ramadan campaigns, **Suqia** joined efforts with 13 local and international humanitarian organisations to distribute more than 8.3 million water bottles to low-income individuals in Ramadan tents and families across the UAE in 2019. The Foundation expanded its Ramadan campaign in collaboration with UAE embassies abroad and the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Humanitarian & Charity Establishment** to quench the thirst of people fasting in 12 countries including Uganda, Thailand, Tajikistan, the Philippines, Pakistan and Indonesia.

Suqia signed an agreement with **Dubai Cares** to support its Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) programme in Madagascar that aims to build and renovate water, sanitation and hygiene facilities in schools, supply clean drinking water for students and raise hygiene awareness in communities.

The Foundation also collaborated with the Dubai Electricity & Water Authority (DEWA) to develop two solar-powered mobile stations that use reverse osmosis to desalinate seawater. The first station has a production capacity of 7.7 cubic metres per day, enough to meet the needs of 1,540 people, while the second includes a reservoir with a water storage capacity of 50 cubic metres per day to meet the needs of 10,000 people.

STORY OF *hope*

Life Flows Where Water Goes

Miremba, a mother of five, wanted what all mothers in her village wanted – more time to focus on her children. Life in the village of Sabalibougo in Mali was anything but simple. Every day, Miremba and the other women in the village would spend long hours trekking across the treacherous terrain in search of clean water for their families.

Bringing home clean drinking water has been an ongoing challenge in Mali, until **Suqia** arrived. The Foundation built an artesian well and installed an extensive water distribution network to five water points, providing 10,000 people in the village with access to clean drinking water.

Suqia's humanitarian project has dramatically changed the lives of Miremba and her neighbours for the better. They now have access to clean water from sources close to their houses, allowing them to focus their time on providing and caring for their families.





13,488 Tonnes

of food donated to the
UAE Food Bank in 2019

Together Against Food Waste

An essential part of **MBRGI's** Humanitarian Aid & Relief pillar, the **UAE Food Bank** constitutes an integrated humanitarian system that collects surplus food from restaurants, the hospitality sector, food establishments and farms before redistributing it to people in need in collaboration with a network of local, regional and international charity organisations.

In 2019, the **UAE Food Bank** spearheaded 93 initiatives and campaigns to promote the value of giving and encourage the community to take part. The amount of food donated to the Food Bank increased more than fivefold from 2,646 tonnes in 2018 to 13,488 tonnes in 2019, reflecting the growing awareness around reducing food waste.

To expand its reach across the UAE, four new branches of the **UAE Food Bank** were inaugurated in 2019 in Dubai's Muhaisanah,

Ras Al Khaimah, Ajman and Umm Al Quwain in collaboration with governmental entities and charity organisations.

The **UAE Food Bank** also participated in Gulfood, one of the world's largest annual food and beverage trade exhibitions, in February 2019. The 'UAE Food Bank Containers' initiative collected 17 tonnes of food from the event's participating companies, providing meals and essential food items to 15,000 families and individuals.

The **UAE Food Bank's** various Ramadan initiatives supported more than 141,400 people with the assistance of local companies including Careem, which pledged free donated food delivery in Dubai for the second year in a row. The **UAE Food Bank** also organised an iftar for workers in Dubai's Quranic Park and distributed suhoor and iftar meals to labourer accommodations. An Eid Al Adha campaign, held in partnership with volunteers and employees from Dubai Police and the municipality's Abattoirs Section, distributed meat to more than 3,000 underprivileged people.

The **UAE Food Bank** organised the 2019 'Summer of Giving' campaign as well as food distribution drives to two workers' accommodation complexes, benefitting 6,800 people. It also teamed up with the Discovery Channel on another campaign that enabled the channel's employees to donate food and beverages to around 2,250 individuals.



Endowments in Service of Humanity

To achieve the Dubai Global Vision for Awqaf and Endowments, the **Mohammed bin Rashid Global Centre for Endowment Consultancy**, under the umbrella of **MBRGI**, provides free-of-charge consultancy services to individuals and local, regional and international businesses. The Centre aims to serve humanity by stimulating and empowering awqaf and endowments to respond to urgent social needs.

In 2019, nine institutions earned the 'Dubai Endowment Sign', which the Centre awards to public and private entities in recognition of their ongoing innovative endowment efforts that provide sustainable contributions to the community. The Centre awarded the Roads & Transport Authority in Dubai for the world's first 'Endowment Taxi', proceeds of which will go towards local and global humanitarian initiatives undertaken by the affiliated Thuraya Fund, primarily in the field of education, with endowments exceeding AED 5.5 million. The Government of Dubai Legal Affairs Department was also awarded for its 'Voluntary Legal Services Smart Platform', which offered 26,000 pro-bono legal consultations with the cooperation of several lawyers.

Innovative Endowment Funds

In 2019, the **Mohammed bin Rashid Global Centre for Endowment Consultancy** launched a series of innovative and specialised endowment funds to address the needs of specific social groups. The Centre's 'Youth Endowment Fund' assists young people in a variety of aspects, including marriage, employment, support for small and medium-sized enterprises and university scholarships. The Fund's services benefitted around 100 young people in the UAE.

The 'Women and Children Endowment Fund' supported 300 women and children in the UAE in the fields of health, education, social care and culture. The 'Endowment Fund for the Disabled' supported and empowered 53 people of determination in the UAE by covering treatment costs and offering suitable job opportunities.

The Centre also launched an endowment fund to back academic research and studies in the fields of medicine, engineering and other sciences. It supported schools and educational centres and provided school supplies and transportation to 4,348 students locally and in Egypt, Tanzania and Thailand.



4,801

beneficiaries of the Mohammed bin Rashid Global Centre for Endowment Consultancy's endowment funds in 2019

Healthcare & Disease Control



Initiatives and programmes under this central pillar support the health sector in disadvantaged communities, help build healthy, productive societies and combat infectious diseases.

 **AED**
118 Million

spent on Healthcare & Disease Control initiatives in 2019

 **7.5** Million

beneficiaries of Healthcare & Disease Control initiatives in 2019



6 Million

patients treated for trachoma in 2019



1.4 Million

vaccines administered for the treatment of maternal and neonatal tetanus in 2019



19,000

patients received critical eye surgeries in 2019



Improving Lives & Building Healthy Societies



AED

118 Million

spent on Healthcare & Disease Control initiatives in 2019



7.5 Million

beneficiaries of Healthcare & Disease Control initiatives in 2019

The **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives (MBRGI)** maintains a clear and strategic focus on Healthcare & Disease Control. The Foundation's numerous initiatives and programmes that fall under this central pillar support the health sector in disadvantaged communities, help build healthy, productive societies and combat the infectious diseases that threaten well-being and hinder development in countries lacking basic resources and medical services. **MBRGI's** projects particularly seek to support the most vulnerable groups, such as women, children and the elderly, to ensure they receive the assistance they need to thrive.

Under this overarching vision, **MBRGI** collaborates with other nations to provide vital healthcare services, organise public health awareness campaigns and facilitate large-scale treatment and vaccination drives to reduce the social and economic impact of infectious diseases and, in turn, enhance stability in countries around the globe.

The two main entities within this pillar, **Al Jalila Foundation** and **Noor Dubai**, lead **MBRGI's** Healthcare & Disease Control efforts. **Noor Dubai** envisions a world free from avoidable causes of blindness. Its work focuses on preventing blindness and visual impairment in developing countries regionally and internationally. Through its programmes and initiatives, **Al Jalila Foundation** strives to develop medical treatment capabilities within the UAE and abroad, in addition to supporting education and research in medical science.

To ensure public health and well-being in the UAE, **MBRGI's** Healthcare & Disease Control initiatives delivered free medical care to those in need and launched awareness campaigns to reach all segments of society in 2019.

MBRGI's entities cultivated strategic partnerships with many local, regional and international health organisations and institutions to implement a wide range of treatment programmes around the world. In Palestine, **Al Jalila Foundation** and 'The Little Wings Foundation' worked together to treat children with musculoskeletal deformities, while **Noor Dubai's** campaigns in Ethiopia supported global efforts towards eliminating blinding trachoma in collaboration with 'The Carter Center' in the United States.

Supporting pioneering medical research that harnesses science and technology to improve lives was also a key area of focus for **Al Jalila Foundation** and **Noor Dubai** in 2019. The foundations financed studies and projects seeking to develop innovative treatments and expand the knowledge and expertise of healthcare professionals. They awarded scholarships to medical students locally and internationally, ensuring Emirati and Arab youth stay abreast of the field's latest developments and are fully prepared to face the health challenges of the future.

In 2019, spending within the Healthcare & Disease Control pillar totalled more than AED 118 million, benefitting around 7.5 million people worldwide.



Healthcare is high on the list of our priorities, and we will continue to work to boost the capabilities of this sector and enhance the infrastructure required to promote its growth.

Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum





6 Million

patients treated for
trachoma in 2019



16,000

people received
trachoma surgery
in 2019

Together Against Blindness

Under the **MBRGI** umbrella, **Noor Dubai** continues to combat blindness and visual impairment in vulnerable communities around the world. It provides preventative and therapeutic programmes to help people in need lead healthy and meaningful lives. Seeking to make a sustainable impact in the UAE and abroad, **Noor Dubai** provides specialised training for local health workers to enable them to serve their own communities. Additionally, it implements comprehensive rehabilitation programmes for patients who have suffered from vision impairment or loss, allowing them to return to work and become active members of society.

Throughout 2019, **Noor Dubai** continued its pursuit of a world free from blinding trachoma, particularly in Ethiopia's Amhara region, one of the world's most trachoma-endemic regions. Working in collaboration with 'The Carter Center', the Foundation implemented the World Health Organization's trachoma-control strategy, **SAFE** – Surgery, Antibiotics, Facial Cleanliness and Environmental Improvement – through its ongoing 'Trachoma Elimination Program'. The programme served about 6 million people, more than 16,000 of whom underwent surgery to correct trichiasis, a major risk factor for trachoma.

In April 2019, **Noor Dubai** joined the International Coalition for Trachoma Control (ICTC), an alliance of 34 non-governmental, private sector and academic organisations working together to eliminate trachoma

globally through the implementation of the **SAFE** strategy. The Coalition will provide a platform for the Foundation to exchange knowledge and best practices with a network of global entities and organisations in the fight against this infectious disease.

Comprehensive Eye Care

One of the most prominent international initiatives **Noor Dubai** launched in 2019 is a four-year, comprehensive eye care programme that will serve more than 7 million people in Katsina State, Nigeria, and nearby states. To increase the efficiency of the local medical system, **Noor Dubai** will supply eye exam equipment to 15 medical centres and offer training for three doctors, 12 nurses and 250 health workers. The programme will also facilitate 40,000 medical examinations and perform free cataract surgeries for more than 12,000 patients. The first phase of the programme, which ran from October to December 2019, conducted check-ups for 3,238 patients, 679 of whom underwent cataract surgery that completely or partially restored their eyesight. The programme also distributed 1,313 pairs of eyeglasses.

To provide the initial data for the programme's launch, **Noor Dubai** surveyed 2,812 people over the age of 50 to assess the prevalence of visual impairment and eye disease within that age group and identify the causes. The survey also evaluated the quality of cataract surgeries and treatments available and identified the major challenges facing Katsina's medical sector.





20,486

patients benefitted
from mobile eye
camps in 2019



9,200

people received
eye exams through
mobile eye clinics
in the UAE in 2019

Mobile Eye Camps

Noor Dubai advanced its humanitarian mission through its mobile eye camps in remote areas of developing countries across Africa and Asia, where blindness is exacerbated by a lack of adequate medical care, widespread poverty and scarce resources. These well-equipped camps provide free eye exams, treatment, surgery and rehabilitation for local communities. In 2019, the Foundation's four camps in Bangladesh and Senegal provided medical services to 20,486 patients, performed 2,158 surgeries and distributed 6,608 pairs of eyeglasses.

Locally, **Noor Dubai**'s mobile eye clinics have continued to provide early screenings and raise awareness on the importance of maintaining eye health among all segments

of the UAE society, particularly students, labourers and drivers. In 2019, the clinics conducted more than 9,200 eye examinations and distributed 158 pairs of eyeglasses.

The Foundation carried on its programme that provides financial support to low-income UAE residents with critical eye diseases and injuries. In 2019, the programme sponsored the treatment of 32 patients, bringing the total number of treated patients since its 2016 launch to more than 200.

In an effort to better understand the state of eye health in Dubai, **Noor Dubai** launched the 'Dubai Eye Health Survey' in December 2019, in cooperation with the Dubai Health Authority (DHA) and Dubai Statistics Center. It is the first comprehensive survey, conducted on a sample of 2,190 residents, to explore the causes and prevalence of eye disease and genetic eye disorders in the emirate. The resulting data will be used to help draft a strategy for preventing blindness and expanding the availability of eye care in Dubai.

In line with declaring 2019 as the Year of Tolerance in the UAE, **Noor Dubai** launched an awareness campaign titled 'Tolerance in Sight' to provide eye exams in places of worship across the UAE through mobile eye clinics. Under this campaign, the Foundation also partnered with the DHA to offer dental check-ups and medical screenings and organise blood donation drives. The campaign benefitted a total of 2,741 people.



STORY OF *hope*



A Long-awaited Ray of Hope

El Hadj Habib Cisse, 74, lives in the rural town of Mekhe, Senegal, home to 33,000 residents who do not have access to basic healthcare services. The town does not have a licenced hospital that provides routine medical services, such as eye examinations and treatment.

Habib used to work as a tailor before developing cataracts more than 20 years ago. His eyesight diminished gradually until he could no longer see well enough to perform his daily tasks, let alone continue working. As a result, he lost his only source of income. Due to the lack of resources in his hometown and his meagre living conditions, Habib was unable to get the proper treatment for his cataracts. Then **Noor Dubai's** mobile eye camp brought a ray of hope into his life.

Habib's eyesight was restored after receiving cataract surgery from **Noor Dubai's** medical team. Today, he leads a productive life with an income of his own.

STORY OF *hope*

Visually Impaired in the Prime of Life

Sirwar, a 35-year-old from Pakistan, works as a bus driver in the UAE. In the prime of his life, he suffered an injury in his right eye, which left him with impaired vision. Sirwar underwent surgery to repair his cornea as well as a vitrectomy, but to no avail. He went on with his life, relying on his left eye and bearing the hardships that come with vision impairment, until **Noor Dubai** offered him the long-awaited solution.

Sirwar underwent a series of tests, before undergoing surgery to remove silicon oil from his eye and implant an intraocular lens that eventually restored his vision. Although the operation was not costly, Sirwar could not personally afford it.

Noor Dubai supported him through its 'UAE Treatment Program' dedicated to low-income residents who suffer from critical eye diseases. Not only did the Foundation cover the cost of his surgery, but it gave Sirwar hope as he continued working and providing for his family.



Health Initiatives & Programmes for a Better Life

Since its establishment in 2013, **Al Jalila Foundation** has been dedicated to improving lives through its health initiatives, educational programmes and scholarships. It also supports ground-breaking research to position the UAE at the forefront of medical innovation and improve the country's treatment capabilities.

In addition to providing healthcare to millions of people around the world, the Foundation aims to nurture a home-grown generation of medical professionals. **Al Jalila Foundation's** scholarship programme enables scientists and medical students to develop the skills and expertise required to find innovative approaches to treatment and prevention of life-threatening diseases.

In 2019, **Al Jalila Foundation** maintained its commitment to the United Nations Children's Fund's (UNICEF) 'Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus Elimination' initiative. It provided 1.4 million tetanus vaccines for mothers and newborns in several African countries as part of its global efforts to combat the excruciating disease and support the overall community health.

The Foundation has also collaborated with 'The Little Wings Foundation' for the second consecutive year to provide financial and medical support to children suffering from musculoskeletal deformities in the Middle East and North Africa. As part of this programme, a team of specialised doctors

and surgeons travelled to Gaza in November 2019 to treat Palestinian children with limb deformities. They screened 150 children, performed 39 surgeries and provided custom orthoses to 25 young patients.

Psychological & Financial Support

Solidifying its commitment to supporting children of determination, **Al Jalila Foundation** operated its 'Ta'alouf' ('harmony' in Arabic) programme for the sixth year. One of the Foundation's most distinguished initiatives, 'Ta'alouf' plays a vital role in promoting social inclusion and providing training and psychological support for parents and teachers of children of determination. It equips participants with the latest and most successful methods and best practices to address the needs of these special children and help them discover their underlying potential and achieve their dreams. In 2019, 'Ta'alouf' helped 234 parents and 63 teachers receive the support they needed to fulfil their exceptional responsibilities.

'A'awen' ('support' in Arabic) is another core initiative for **Al Jalila Foundation** that seeks to ease the financial burden of UAE residents who are suffering from life-threatening diseases but are unable to afford quality medical care. In 2019, the Foundation provided more than AED 18 million in financial support to 235 patients in the UAE.



1.4 Million

vaccines provided
for the treatment
of maternal and
neonatal tetanus
in 2019



AED
4.9 Million

invested in medical
research projects
in 2019

Social Activities

As part of its social efforts, **Al Jalila Foundation** launched a book titled 'Zayed – 100 Years of Inspiration' that brings to life the compassion and generosity that His Highness Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the Father of the Nation, lived every day. It details 100 prominent moments in Sheikh Zayed's life, celebrating his achievements and the values of his wise leadership. The Foundation distributed 500 copies of the book.

The Foundation also distributed 610 free school bags and stationery kits to Dubai's national charity schools, providing students with the necessary resources to successfully complete their academic year.

To strengthen its role in health awareness, **Al Jalila Foundation** partnered with the 'Brest Friends' support group to hold the fifth annual #PINKtober breast cancer awareness campaign during October 2019. The campaign featured more than 400 fundraising events aimed at raising awareness and supporting breast cancer treatment and research.

Research Excellence

Al Jalila Foundation works tirelessly to develop the UAE's healthcare sector and nurture a home-grown generation of qualified medical professionals. In line with these efforts, the Foundation offers scholarships to UAE graduates and students to pursue their studies in the medical field. In 2019, the Foundation awarded 20 scholarships, totalling more than AED 1.4 million, to postgraduate

and undergraduate students from five local and international medical schools.

In addition, **Al Jalila Foundation** has continued to fund scientific and medical research projects in cooperation with leading hospitals, laboratories and universities in the UAE. The Foundation invested AED 4.9 million in medical research throughout 2019. It provided the necessary funding for 38 research studies, which were initiated in 2017 and 2018, examining a variety of topics, including obesity, diabetes, cancer, cardiovascular disease and mental health.

Two UAE-based researchers funded by **Al Jalila Foundation** were honoured during the 2019 edition of Dubai Healthcare City Authority's (DHCA) Excellence Awards, which recognise the outstanding contributions of scientists supported by DHCA-based organisations. Leontios Hadjileontiadis, Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Khalifa University, won the Healthcare Research Award in the Clinical Research category for his work devising an innovative method to detect unconscious depressive disorders using a smart phone application. Taleb Al-Tel, Director of the Institute for Medical & Health Sciences Research at Sharjah University, was awarded the Healthcare Research Award in the Basic Sciences Research category for his research to develop a unique three-dimensional chemical molecule, which helps in developing new drugs to target cancer, hyperlipidaemia and antibiotic-resistant pathogens.



Investing in the healthcare sector, especially in training highly qualified teams to manage and operate it, is vital to creating short and long-term success.

Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum





STORY OF *hope*

Towards a Nearly Normal Life

Muayad Al Arjani, a 12-year-old boy living in Palestine, suffers from osteogenesis imperfecta, more commonly known as brittle bone disease. Barely able to stand or walk without breaking bones in his legs, Muayad was confined to a wheelchair throughout his childhood, unable to play with his friends or lead a normal life.

He was completely dependent on his mother, Mona, who struggled to raise him and his six siblings, including her 26-year-old son suffering from a similar genetic condition. The siege conditions and lack of resources in the Gaza Strip had left Muayad's family helpless and unable to find him adequate treatment.

During their visit to Gaza, doctors from the 'The Little Wings Foundation' decided to transfer Muayad to Dubai to undergo life-changing surgery and treatment for his condition. His family was filled with immense joy and hope that Muayad would finally receive the long-awaited medical attention he needed to take him one step closer to leading a normal life.

Speaking of her son's determination, Mona said: "Muayad has always hoped to walk normally, and I am sure he has the ability to change his current reality. Our lives will change after this surgery, as he will be able to take care of himself and lead a nearly normal life."

With the support of **Al Jalila Foundation**, Muayad was admitted to King's College Hospital in Dubai, where he underwent a complex surgery to insert telescopic steel rods into his legs to repair the repeated fractures.

Muayad may not be able to walk and run exactly like his friends, but the surgery will allow him to become more independent and will soon release him from the confines of his wheelchair.



STORY OF *hope*

A Dream Come True

Diagnosed with renal dysplasia just a few months after his birth, Adam, from India, suffered atrophy and severe functional deficiency in both his kidneys. The 9-year-old underwent dialysis at his home in Ras Al Khaimah for the first five years of his life, but his condition continued deteriorating. He needed more advanced care in a specialised facility equipped to deal with his condition. At this point, his parents decided to seek help. Through **Al Jalila Foundation's** 'A'awen' programme, they found unconditional support.

Adam's family was able to transfer him to Al Jalila Children's Speciality Hospital, where he received a complex dialysis procedure through five-hour sessions three to four times a week. When a matching kidney donor was found, Adam had a successful kidney transplant in July 2019, to become the third child to undergo such an operation at Al Jalila Children's Specialty Hospital, which continues to establish itself as a pioneering medical hub for paediatrics in the region.

At the recovery of Adam, his father said: "Thanks to **Al Jalila Foundation**, our dream of providing the life-saving treatment to Adam came true. Today he is among us, recovering and enjoying good health." He thanked the dedicated team at Al Jalila Children's Specialty Hospital and **Al Jalila Foundation** for supporting his family.



**261**

children benefitted
from the 'Nabadat'
initiative in 2019

Treating Little Hearts

In cooperation with the Dubai Health Authority (DHA), the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Humanitarian & Charity Establishment** continues its humanitarian work through the 'Nabadat' ('heartbeats' in Arabic) initiative to treat children born with congenital heart defects in the UAE and abroad. The initiative provides free medical assistance, surgery and post-surgical care to children whose parents cannot afford the costly treatment of congenital heart diseases. Driven by its mission to treat as many children as possible, the initiative also helps find and facilitate the work of experienced cardiologists and cardiac surgeons and provide necessary resources to perform complex surgeries.

In 2019, 'Nabadat' performed heart surgeries that saved the lives of 261 children – 100 in Morocco, 160 in Tajikistan and one child in Bangladesh. Since its inception in 2007, the initiative has conducted more than 2,000 heart surgeries to treat children with cardiac congenital defects locally and internationally.



Supporting the Arab World's Largest Heart Centre

In its third edition, the **Arab Hope Makers** initiative, which honours heroes of humanity who are spreading the message of hope in their home countries, adopted a humanitarian cause. In 2019, the initiative dedicated the proceeds from its grand variety show to support the construction of the Magdi Yacoub Global Heart Centre in Egypt. The fully-equipped Centre, once completed, will provide free-of-charge cardiac care to less fortunate communities in Egypt and across the Arab region. As part of the largest donation campaign of its kind, institutions and entrepreneurs in the UAE contributed AED 44 million to fund the hospital's construction. His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, announced that the contributions would be matched, bringing the **Arab Hope Makers** initiative's total donation to AED 88 million.

Equipped with 300 beds, the Centre will conduct more than 12,000 surgeries each year, 70% of which will target children. Its clinics will receive over 80,000 patients annually and train more than 1,000 cardiac specialists through the Magdi Yacoub Global Heart Foundation. The team of researchers and healthcare professionals will also create a genetic map of cardiovascular disease in the Arab world to help develop new diagnostic approaches and early interventions.



Spreading Education & Knowledge



This pillar reflects MBRGI's strong commitment to empowering future generations with the knowledge and skills they need to advance their societies.

 **AED**
335 Million

**spent on Spreading
Education & Knowledge
initiatives in 2019**

 **45** Million

**beneficiaries of Spreading
Education & Knowledge
initiatives in 2019**

 **20** Million

**beneficiaries of Dubai Cares
programmes in 2019**

 **2.4** Million

**registered users
on the Madrasa
e-Learning Platform**

 **21** Million

**participants in the Arab
Reading Challenge in the
2019/2020 academic year**



Advancing Future Societies Through Knowledge & Culture



AED

335 Million

spent on Spreading Education & Knowledge initiatives in 2019



45 Million

beneficiaries of Spreading Education & Knowledge initiatives in 2019

Through its work within the central pillar of Spreading Education & Knowledge, the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives (MBRGI)** strives to achieve its long-term vision of providing high-quality education to millions of children and youth around the globe, with a special focus on the Arab world. The entities and initiatives under this pillar provide tools and resources to enhance education systems in underprivileged communities in the region, as well as neighbouring African and Asian countries and South American nations.

This pillar reflects **MBRGI's** strong commitment to empowering future generations with the knowledge and skills needed to advance their societies, lifting them from the cycle of poverty and enabling them to keep pace with scientific and technological development.

The Foundation's Spreading Education & Knowledge projects and initiatives focus on cultivating healthy school environments equipped with modern teaching and learning resources, developing educational programmes and providing specialised training for teachers. They support children in times of emergency, particularly in areas facing severe developmental challenges, to ensure the continuity of their education, even under the most challenging circumstances. **MBRGI** also devotes particular effort and attention to enhancing learning outcomes for Arab youth through devising innovative solutions that provide access to the latest international curricula

for students in remote villages and refugee camps.

MBRGI's efforts within this pillar aim to cement Arabic as a language of science, thought and research. The Foundation seeks to promote Arabic language use among youth through activities and initiatives that support Arabisation projects and develop tools for teaching Arabic that align with internationally approved curricula.

To bolster the development of an inspiring social and cultural movement, **MBRGI** also supports several awards for individuals and organisations in the field of knowledge production, development and dissemination.

In 2019, spending on programmes, initiatives and projects within the Spreading Education & Knowledge pillar totalled AED 335 million, benefitting around 45 million people all over the world.



Life is a never-ending journey of learning. The more we learn, the more we realise how little we actually know.

Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum

"هناك قوة في الحرف و الكتاب، و قوة
في كلمة اقرأ التي بدأ بها التنزيل، قوة تصنع الحضارة"

محمد بن راشد آل مكتوم





20 Million

beneficiaries of Dubai Cares programmes in 2019



60,000

students benefitted from Dubai Cares' 'Back to School' initiative in 2019



6.9 Million

books distributed to students in 23 developing countries in 2019

Over AED 1 Billion for Education

Throughout 2019, **Dubai Cares** furthered its mission of ensuring quality and inclusive education to all by launching innovative initiatives in developing countries, where the barriers to basic education are highest. The Foundation invested in programmes to address the critical needs of children most affected by conflicts and crises, with continued focus on early childhood development, while ensuring access to primary and secondary education and providing technical and vocational training for young people.

Dubai Cares marked an important milestone in 2019, as it exceeded AED 1.1 billion in total financial commitments to educational systems around the world since it was established in 2007. In 2019, its projects touched the lives of more than 20 million people in 59 developing countries.

As part of its efforts to improve lives and break the cycle of poverty through education, **Dubai Cares** launched 29 new educational programmes in 23 countries, including Tajikistan and Togo, which benefitted from the Organisation's initiatives for the first time.

Dubai Cares built and restored 2,046 classrooms and schools, trained 123,725 teachers and established 8,437 parent-teacher associations. It also distributed 6,875,179 books in local languages, supplied meals for 509,294 students, provided 1,100 wells and sources of drinking water and built 6,272 school bathrooms.

Better Health, Better Education

Stemming from its commitment to promoting public health as a means of enhancing learning opportunities and outcomes, **Dubai Cares** continued its fight against the spread of intestinal worms in schools throughout 2019.

In partnership with 'Evidence Action', which works to curb poverty and stimulate growth in developing countries, **Dubai Cares** launched a three-year project in Pakistan to support the government's deworming efforts by providing treatment directly to school students. The programme benefitted 16.8 million children between the ages of 5 and 14. The Organisation also supported a similar project in India, providing intestinal worm treatment to around 15.3 million students in 2019.

Dubai Cares also announced a new partnership with 'The END Fund', the world's first private philanthropic initiative dedicated solely to eradicating the most common neglected tropical diseases (NTDs), to offer deworming treatment to school students in Madagascar. The initiative aims to serve 3.8 million children over a period of two years.

The Organisation undertook similar efforts in Liberia, launching an integrated school health programme to support the country's health system in the aftermath of the Ebola outbreak. Operating in four different counties, the initiative provides deworming and eye care to vulnerable school children. In 2019, the project served around 77,000 children aged 6 to 18 and offered training for approximately 1,400 teachers and 33 education officers.





988,000

benefitted from Dubai Cares' 'Teacher Changemaker' programme in Uganda



**20
Schools**

built under the 'Adopt a School' initiative in 2019

Education Cannot Wait

In the aftermath of the Cyclone Idai disaster that struck Mozambique in March 2019, **Dubai Cares** renewed its strategic support for the global 'Education Cannot Wait' initiative, which specialises in supporting education in emergencies. The programme offered a second chance at education to 107,266 people impacted by the crisis.

In Iraq, the Organisation expanded its 'Recovery & Resilience in Education' programme to revive educational services in Mosul, Baghdad and Duhok, in the wake of the country's displacement crisis. The project will rehabilitate 16 schools and establish two community centres, benefitting 153,903 people. It will organise youth empowerment activities, promote early childhood development and train teachers using the 'Teachers in Crisis Contexts' approach.

Dubai Cares also continued to support children and families struggling to recover from the earthquake and tsunami that hit Indonesia in September 2018. Under this programme, six schools and learning centres were rebuilt, 70 temporary learning spaces were established and 285 teachers received training to address children's psychological and emotional needs. More than 13,000 people benefitted from these efforts. Similar efforts were ongoing in Nepal, as the Organisation helped rebuild and restore dozens of schools impacted by the 2015 earthquake. By supporting learning environments and implementing a holistic literacy programme in 100 schools, the programme will benefit 55,890 people in several areas across the country.

Dubai Cares' 'Teacher Changemaker' programme in Uganda enhances teacher motivation and expertise, thereby improving student outcomes. Since its launch in 2017, the programme has trained 33,989 teachers who have delivered quality education to 988,047 students. The Organisation also announced its support for a similar three-year teacher training programme in Ghana to boost the quality of early childhood education to benefit a total of 7,281 people.

Volunteering Initiatives

In 2019, volunteers and entities in the UAE continued to support **Dubai Cares'** efforts through fundraisers. The 'Adopt a School' programme, for example, supported the construction of 20 schools in Cambodia, Malawi, Nepal and Senegal, providing books, health facilities, teacher training and literacy programmes for adults. Throughout the year, 3,711 volunteers took part in the Organisation's various local and international initiatives.

Dubai Cares held 16 rounds of the 'Volunteer Emirates' initiative in 2019, including 10 to support students of determination in Dubai in partnership with the Senses Residential and Day Care for Special Needs. Three rounds focused on enriching the learning environment of several schools in the UAE, and a summer literacy camp was organised for children aged 6 to 12 to improve their skills in Arabic, English and maths. The global edition of the 'Back to School' programme collected 50,000 school kits that were distributed to hundreds of schools in Senegal and Zanzibar, Tanzania, while the local edition distributed 10,000 school bags to children in need in the UAE.

STORY OF *hope*

We're More Alike than We Think

One of the most crowded schools in the Adjumani district of Uganda, Maaji III Primary School has 2,749 registered students from 14 different tribal groups. Students received their lessons in overcrowded temporary classrooms that lacked the most basic facilities of any learning environment.

Adam William Amuku was among the students who benefited from **Dubai Cares'** school infrastructure development programme that aimed to improve the overall quality of education. Recalling his struggle at school before the Organisation got involved, Adam said: "I joined school in second grade, and we used to take our classes under the trees. The lavatories were quite far, and students had to line up for a long time to use the toilet."



Over the years, overcrowding at the school exacerbated tensions among the children. In 2017, a boy died as a result of a brawl between students, sparking a tribal feud in the local community. Nearby properties were damaged, including Adam's family's house. His school supplies were destroyed, making it even more difficult for him to receive a proper learning experience.

Through **Dubai Cares**, Adam was referred to a local partner organisation, which replaced his school stationery and secured a new home for him and his family. "We are grateful to **Dubai Cares'** programmes, which offered students the space to share their feelings," Adam said. "We now communicate more peacefully, and we share many activities together. We have realised that we are much more similar than we think."

The Organisation also provided the school with books and stationery and built three classrooms equipped with bathrooms, a social club and a library.



AED

21 Million

spent on research to
improve the quality of
education in 2019

International Partnerships & Research Investments

In early 2019, **Dubai Cares** forged a new strategic partnership with the World Economic Forum's Centre for the New Economy and Society to support the reskilling revolution with a push to equip 15 million people with new skills by 2021. The project aims to build dynamic economies and societies that provide a future of opportunities for all. The Organisation's funding will be distributed equally between two three-year programmes – 'Closing the Skills Gap: Preparing Education Systems for the Future of Work' and the 'Shared Vision for Talent in the Fourth Industrial Revolution'.



As part of its commitment to championing early childhood development (ECD), **Dubai Cares** signed the 'Dubai Declaration on Early Childhood Development' together with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) at the 2019 World Government Summit in Dubai. The Declaration comes in response to the growing scientific consensus that children's early development directs their mental and emotional trajectories throughout life, with major implications for the economy and community stability.

On the sidelines of the 74th Session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, the Organisation announced a new partnership with 'Save the Children' to support integrated ECD services in crisis and conflict contexts. It also participated in the MIT Solve ECD Challenge Finals to select the eight most innovative and inspiring solutions and provide the necessary financial support and mentorship.

Highlighting the importance of evidence-based education policies and programmes, **Dubai Cares** invested more than AED 21 million in scientific research in 2019 to equip governments, policy-makers, teachers and other stakeholders with the data needed to improve schools and the overall quality of education. Research efforts focused on early childhood education, education in emergencies and the quality of teaching and learning for children and young people.

STORY OF *hope*

Fun & Effective Learning

After graduating from TTC Mururu in Rwanda in 2016, Mukandayishime Leonila started her career in pre-school teaching. She was determined to provide her students with the best education she could, using the available limited resources, but she soon became stuck in her routine. Explaining the difficulties she faced in the classroom, she said: “The playing corner made me so tense. I had a large carpet where children could play with the available toys. The activities were boring and lacked diversity, depriving children of the freedom to choose their own activities and limiting them to playing in one place with specific objects.”



Leonila and another teacher were selected to join the **Dubai Cares**’ ‘Voluntary Service Overseas’ (VSO) programme in Rwanda, which trained them to develop an effective educational plan and honed their teaching skills. “Small matters that I ignored before became the main source of motivation for innovation and creativity and made the daily activities more fun and effective,” Leonila explained, highlighting the importance of the skills she learned through VSO.

Leonila now spends most of her free time developing new learning activities and shares her experience with teachers from nearby schools. Impressed by her students’ interaction with the teaching materials she uses now, Leonila wonders: “What if I hadn’t received this training? Would I have been able to give the children these fun and effective educational experiences?”



280,000

attendees and live stream viewers of the Knowledge Summit in 2019



AED

3.7 Million

awarded to recipients of the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Knowledge Award

Knowledge: The Path to Sustainable Development

In November 2019, the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Knowledge Foundation (MBRF)** hosted the sixth edition of the **Knowledge Summit** under the theme 'Knowledge: The Path to Sustainable Development'. The Summit attracted 4,100 thought leaders, students, academics, scientists and researchers, and 276,000 viewers of the event's live broadcast. An additional 156 speakers participated in the Summit's 60 sessions that addressed various sustainable development topics including energy, education, global partnerships, water and health, women empowerment, gender equality and building healthy communities.

The **Knowledge Summit** also saw the launch of two new, high-profile initiatives. **MBRF** and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) signed a letter of intent to establish the Mohammed bin Rashid University for Knowledge and Sustainable Development. A group of research and development experts launched the 'Cities for Knowledge Creation' initiative, which recognises one city each year for its outstanding contributions to the field of knowledge. Dubai was selected as the 2020 City of Knowledge.

The **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Knowledge Award**, which honours individuals and organisations with significant accomplishments in producing and disseminating knowledge, was presented during the 2019 Summit. Saudi Aramco won in the Business category, Singapore's National

Institute of Education was recognised in the Government category, and Henrik von Scheel, the originator of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, was honoured in the Individuals category. The Award received 239 applications from 44 countries across a variety of fields.

Global Knowledge Project

Within the framework of the 'Global Knowledge Project', **MBRF** renewed its long-standing partnership with the UNDP by signing a new 10-year agreement (2021-2030) to promote knowledge policies as transformational means to achieve sustainable development in the Arab region and beyond. Outcomes from the 2019 edition of the Project's 'Global Knowledge Index', which measures the current state of knowledge in countries across the world and acts as a roadmap for proactive strategies that support knowledge and sustainable development, were announced during the opening of the **Knowledge Summit**. The Index expanded its scope in 2019 to monitor the performance of 136 countries. The UAE maintained its place among the world's top 20 nations, ranking 18th globally and first in the Arab world. In the Index's Knowledge Economy category, the UAE ranked second globally for the third consecutive year.

The second 'Future of Knowledge: A Foresight Report' was also launched during the 2019 **Knowledge Summit**. The report presented the latest findings of the 'Future of Knowledge' series, which analyses big data and evaluates awareness of skills and technology in 40 countries.



The preservation of leadership, excellence, sustainable growth and prosperity requires us to embrace the age of the knowledge economy as soon as possible.

Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum



Illiteracy: Challenges & Solutions

As part of its holistic vision, **MBRF** partnered with the UNDP and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to launch the 'Literacy Challenge Forum' under the slogan 'Challenges and Solutions'. The inaugural edition welcomed 500 academics, specialists, researchers and decision-makers, who came together to explore best practices and exchange experiences in eradicating illiteracy. The Forum also presented four awards for great contributions towards advancing educational systems and organising impactful literacy projects around the world. Winners were selected from three categories: Individuals, Institutions and Governments.

With the support of representatives from literacy authorities across the Arab world, the 'Dubai Declaration on Modern Trends in Adult

Education and Learning' was announced during the Forum. Signatories pledged to adopt a lifelong learning approach that transcends the limited scope of reading and writing by nurturing technical, digital and life skills, as well as integrate adult education policies into national education strategies.

Digital Knowledge Hub

To mark the 2019 International Day of Education, **MBRF** launched the 'Digital Knowledge Hub', an updated version of the 'Dubai Digital Library', which was announced in line with the Year of Reading in 2016. The Hub offers a wide collection of digital books in Arabic and other languages, providing self-education opportunities and services for students, researchers and experts in various fields. The platform allows free access to more than 2.6 million content items and around 250,000 book titles. In 2019, over 158,000 people benefitted from the Hub's services.



158,000

beneficiaries of the Digital Knowledge Hub in 2019



68 Students

received the 'Mohammed bin Rashid School of Communication Scholarship' in 2019

Knowledge & Education Activities

To further its efforts in preserving and promoting the Arabic language on a global scale, **MBRF** organised the seventh edition of the 'Bil Arabi' initiative. The initiative encourages Arabs to use their mother tongue, increases Arabic digital content, promotes the spread of the Arabic language on social media, and teaches the language to non-Arab speakers. In 2019, 'Bil Arabi' received support from 26 entities in the UAE and 19 others in nine countries around the world. Its knowledge and cultural content reached a total of 194,029 people on social media.

The 'Dubai International Programme for Writing', an initiative that encourages and empowers young talents under the umbrella of **MBRF**, organised five creative writing courses in the UAE, Morocco and Egypt, drawing 105 participants. The Foundation's

'Arab Professionals Forum', which brings together the brightest Arab talents, connected 3,505 people on LinkedIn in 2019. The Forum also organised 15 specialised workshops in partnership with members of UAE government entities, benefitting around 220 people.

As part of its mission to develop young talents in the media field, **MBRF** joined hands with the American University in Dubai to offer the 'Mohammed bin Rashid School of Communication Scholarship' to 68 students from 14 Arab countries, including 10 new recipients and 17 graduates in 2019. The Foundation also continued to support the 'Oxford-Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Graduate Scholarship' with the University of Oxford. The scholarship is an investment fund with lifetime returns used to support Arab students to pursue higher studies in a variety of disciplines at the University of Oxford.



STORY OF *hope*

Passion Since Childhood

Fatma Al Amri, an Emirati writer with passion for literature, was raised in a family that valued knowledge and education. Her father's library was her haven that sparked her passion for words and letters from an early age.

"My teacher would complain about my impatience to learn letters," she recalled. "My mother believes that was the first sign of my future as a writer."

To hone her writing skills, Fatma participated in short story-writing and children's literature workshops under **MBRF's** 'Dubai International Programme for Writing'. She considers her participation to be one of the most enriching experiences in her journey as a writer so far. The courses sharpened her writing skills, allowing her to publish two works – a story collection called 'Al Wajh' and a children's story called 'Dafrantouta'.

"Young writers need a guiding light and a professional entity to support their talent, just like **MBRF**," Fatma said, expressing her pride as a graduate of the programme.





21 Million

participants in
the Arab Reading
Challenge for
the 2019/2020
academic year



96,000

schools participated in
the Arab Reading
Challenge for
the 2019/2020
academic year



AED

11 Million

awarded to winners of
the Arab Reading
Challenge in 2019

Inspiring Reading Stars

Launched under the umbrella of **MBRGI**, the **Arab Reading Challenge** is the largest literacy initiative in the Arab world seeking to promote the culture of reading as a lifestyle among youth. Held during the 2019/2020 academic year, the fifth edition of the **Arab Reading Challenge** saw record participation of 21 million students from 96,000 schools in 52 countries, under the guidance of more than 120,000 supervisors.

Hadeel Anwar from Sudan was declared the Arab Reading Champion for the fourth edition (2018/2019 academic year) that drew 13.5 million students from 67,000 schools in 49 countries. Mahmoud Bilal from Sweden was announced the winner of the 'Arab Students Living in Foreign Countries' award. Imam Al-Nawawi School in Saudi Arabia was named 'Best School', while Amira Naguib from Egypt was declared the 'Outstanding Supervisor' among the 99,000 supervisors who participated in this round.

The **Arab Reading Challenge** distributed prizes valued at more than AED 11 million to the winning students, schools and supervisors.

In the 2018/2019 edition, the **Arab Reading Challenge** semi-finals were transformed into a fun and engaging reality television show that documented the journey of 16 Arab national winners as they partook a series of edutainment challenges and competitions before a panel of notable judges. Millions of viewers around the world watched the seven weekly episodes on MBC, sharing their views of the champions' performances on social media.

The **Arab Reading Challenge** TV show succeeded in highlighting young, inspiring Arab talents, transforming them into stars and role models for future generations to follow. The programme featured literary challenges and specialised workshops with experts who mentored competitors and helped them showcase their ideas and opinions and refine their performance before the judges. The episodes hosted well-known Arab literary, cultural and artistic figures to enrich the knowledge and experiences of the participants and reach more viewers across the Arab region and beyond.

In a landmark move creating the largest scholarship programme in the Arab world, **MBRGI** signed an agreement with the Abu Dhabi University to offer full scholarships for the 16 **Arab Reading Challenge** semi-finalists over the initiative's next 10 editions. The programme will help open new horizons in the students' academic and professional lives and direct their potential towards building stable and prosperous societies.



With ambitious, persistent and knowledgeable youth, the Arab nation will be capable of reviving the status it deserves in the world.

Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum





STORY OF *hope*

Knight in Shining Armour

Mohannad Al Masri was born in Syria and raised in Jordan in a family of seven. His father was unable to work due to a chronic, life-threatening heart condition, leaving Mohannad responsible for supporting his family.

To save his family from hunger and homelessness, Mohannad's only choice was to work in making plaster moulds during the day and attend school in the evenings. He often had to return to work after his night classes to make additional income that he could use to secure food and medication for his family.

Despite his rough living conditions, Mohannad excelled as one of the top students at Mohyi Al-Din Bin Arabi Primary School for Boys. Life's hardships also did not stop him from pursuing his favourite hobby – reading. Books were a refuge that wiped away the day's fatigue, transporting him to worlds where knowledge and joy knew no limits.

Mohannad participated in the fourth edition of the **Arab Reading Challenge** (2018/2019 academic year). He impressed the jury with his wit, optimism and smile, which hid life's worries and burdens.

The plaster under Mohannad's nails and the ash on his palms tell the story of his difficult life, but they also tell the story of a boy who refused to be anything less than a knight in shining armour at the **Arab Reading Challenge**.





Education is the biggest hope for the Arab world. Nothing should stop our children from receiving education.

Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum



Quality Education for Millions of Arab Students

Under the umbrella of MBRGI, the **Madrasa e-Learning Platform** continued its persistent efforts to provide free, high-quality education to millions of Arab students, no matter where they are. The Platform features high-tech science and maths videos developed in line with the latest international curricula to improve student learning from kindergarten to Grade 12. The Platform adopts the 'School of the Future' concept to develop an engaging and modern educational system that promotes self-learning.

Since its launch, the **Madrasa e-Learning Platform** has garnered more than 65 million

visits and attracted over 2.4 million registered users who benefitted from thousands of video lessons.

In 2019, the **Madrasa e-Learning Platform** launched the 'Madrasa for 1,000 Villages' to bring offline educational content to remote areas and refugee camps across the Arab world without the need for internet access. The platform facilitates high-tech educational content through innovative offline solutions such as the Madrasa tablet, wi-fi hotspot devices, the Madrasa smart bag and the Madrasa flash drive. The project benefitted 15,286 students and teachers in Jordan, Senegal, Tunisia and Mauritania.



2.4 Million

registered users
on the Madrasa
e-Learning Platform

Arabic Language Lessons

To mark World Arabic Language Day on 18 December 2019, the **Madrasa e-Learning Platform** launched its Arabic language video lessons, designed by an array of education experts, teachers, scriptwriters, editors, artists, designers and technicians from all over the region. Through the new lessons, the Platform aims to create integrated educational content to teach the Arabic language in line with approved curricula across the Arab world.

The Arabic language lessons on the **Madrasa e-Learning Platform** will cover 800 educational videos addressing the history and aesthetics of the Arabic language to students

from kindergarten to Grade 12, and 200 statically animated stories, totalling 1,000 videos mapped with learning outcomes.

During the first phase of the project, 250 Arabic language videos were launched for students in kindergarten through Grade 4, with the complete 1,000 videos scheduled for completion by the end of 2020.

The **Madrasa e-Learning Platform** also implemented the 'Gamification in Education' approach as the latest teaching method to motivate self-learning, promote healthy competition and build students' interactive skills by combining entertainment and education.



A Beacon of Knowledge, Culture & Creativity

Throughout 2019, construction work continued on the **Mohammed bin Rashid Library**, which is set to become a beacon of knowledge in Dubai and a cultural monument that provides rich printed, digital and audio-visual content to thinkers, writers, readers, researchers and innovators from all over the Arab world. The Library will enrich the work being done within **MBRGI's** Spreading Education & Knowledge pillar, and will play an active role in driving a scientific and intellectual movement that places Dubai and the UAE at the global forefront of culture and development.

The Library's outfitting began in 2019, stocking its shelves with 160,000 titles in English and 120,000 in Arabic on a wide variety of subjects, in addition to 70,000 local publications. In preparation for its opening, the Library's administration is also working to acquire rare manuscripts, maps and atlases of increasing literary and material value.

The **Mohammed bin Rashid Library** is set to house more than 1.5 million printed, audio and digital books. It will host over 100 cultural and knowledge events and welcome more than 40 million visitors from all over the world every year.




Innovation & Entrepreneurship



Through its efforts within this pillar, MBRGI seeks to attract and incubate entrepreneurs, innovative developers and creative minds in all fields to help shape the future.

 **AED**
386 Million
spent on Innovation &
Entrepreneurship initiatives
in 2019

 **744,000**
beneficiaries of Innovation &
Entrepreneurship initiatives
in 2019

 **3,871**
Emirati entrepreneurs
supported by the Mohammed
bin Rashid Establishment for
SME Development in 2019

 **780,000**
participants registered
in the One Million Arab
Coders Initiative

 **AED**
169 Million
in incentives and
facilities provided
to Emirati-led
start-ups in 2019



Attracting Talent to Build a Better Tomorrow



AED

386 Million

spent on Innovation & Entrepreneurship initiatives in 2019



744,000

beneficiaries of Innovation & Entrepreneurship initiatives in 2019

Promoting Innovation & Entrepreneurship is one of the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives' (MBRGI)** highest priorities. Through its efforts within this pillar, the Foundation seeks to attract and incubate entrepreneurs, innovative developers and creative minds in all fields to help shape the future in the UAE and the region. Based on its long-term vision to develop proactive solutions using the tools and skills of the future, **MBRGI** devotes significant resources towards investing in the knowledge economy and supporting advanced science sectors.

MBRGI has continued to adopt innovative initiatives, projects and programmes to support future industries, build capacity in advanced sciences through specialised training and develop skills for the future labour market. The Foundation's efforts seek

to nurture a generation of innovative entrepreneurs prepared to make a difference in their societies and actively participate in creating the future in an innovative and forward-looking ecosystem.

MBRGI also invests in research, provides financial, technical and logistical support for developers and innovators, and implements educational initiatives in cooperation with prominent universities and international institutions to equip Arab youth with the necessary knowledge tools. It hosts prestigious global awards intended to drive the culture of innovation and encourage individuals and organisations locally, regionally and internationally to enhance their efficiency, develop new solutions to pressing issues facing societies and leverage accelerating technologies to confront future challenges and achieve sustainable development.

MBRGI's total expenditure on various Innovation & Entrepreneurship initiatives and programmes amounted to AED 386 million, benefitting 744,000 people.



The future belongs to nations that empower their youth with advanced science and arm them with the tools, knowledge and skills necessary to adapt in the face of rapid global change.

Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum





780,000

participants registered
in the One Million Arab
Coders Initiative

The Language of the Future

The Dubai Future Foundation has a central role within the Innovation & Entrepreneurship pillar, implementing forward-looking projects and initiatives that attract top innovative talent. Through its partnerships with public and private entities, multinational corporations, start-ups and academic institutions, the Foundation anticipates future challenges to vital sectors and develops pioneering solutions to transform them into opportunities that promote economic and social sustainability.

Since its launch in 2017, the **One Million Arab Coders Initiative** has been nurturing a new generation of Arab coders by offering specialised training to teach a million young

Arabs the language of the future. It builds expertise in advanced sciences, equipping youth with the skills required for high-tech industries and the future digital economy. Through its efforts, the Initiative helps create a highly competent and innovative workforce ready to succeed in the future job market and become a productive force that builds a better future for societies in the region.

The **One Million Arab Coders Initiative's** courses attracted 780,000 participants from around the world in 2019, including 52,000 graduates. In recognition of their achievements, 250 of the 2019 graduates received Udacity's Nanodegree scholarships to hone their coding and programming skills.

Expanding the Initiative's scope to the rest of the Arab world, the Dubai Future Foundation launched the 'One Million Jordanian Coders Initiative' in May 2019 to develop the coding sector in Jordan and increase the country's competitiveness. The Initiative aims to provide Jordan's technology sector with a pool of young digital experts who possess knowledge and experience in the language of the future. Since its launch, the Initiative has attracted 5,375 participants, with 322 completing the programme's requirements.

In a similar move that fulfils a strategic partnership between the UAE and Uzbekistan governments, the Foundation launched the 'One Million Uzbek Coders Initiative' in November 2019. It attracted 12,294 participants, 1,212 of which completed the programme by the end of the year.



Humans 2.0

The **Museum of the Future** is one of the Dubai Future Foundation's key projects. A unique architectural, artistic and technological landmark, the Museum is expected to become one of the world's largest and most significant platforms to explore future trends and opportunities in science and technology once it opens to the public. The Museum aims to strengthen Dubai's position as a global destination for researchers and innovators by providing the latest tech incubators for ground-breaking ideas and driving innovation. It will organise scientific conferences and forums and offer specialised workshops on the latest developments and

their practical applications. The Museum will also develop new curricula in design, innovation and entrepreneurship for students worldwide.

The **Museum of the Future** held its sixth exhibition titled 'Humans 2.0' on the sidelines of the World Government Summit 2019. Through interactive, high-tech projections, it offered a vision for a future where humans transcend the limitations of their bodies and minds. The exhibition took visitors on an immersive journey through time, presenting possible developments in four future eras: the 2040s, the 2060s, the 2080s and the year 2100.





AED

169 Million

in incentives and facilities provided to Emirati-led start-ups in 2019



3,871

Emirati entrepreneurs supported by the Mohammed bin Rashid Establishment for SME Development in 2019

Unlimited Support for Entrepreneurs

As part of its continuous efforts to strengthen Dubai's position as a global hub for innovation and entrepreneurship, the **Mohammed bin Rashid Establishment for SME Development (Dubai SME)** continued to empower Emirati entrepreneurs to transform their creative ideas into pioneering businesses that boost development and strengthen the economy in the UAE.

Dubai SME guides young Emirati entrepreneurs through the process of establishing businesses, from planning financial resources to developing strategies for business growth. The Establishment also initiates strategic programmes to develop and implement projects, creates business incubators and cultivates partnerships with various financial institutions and consultancies to provide members with access to the necessary support services.

In 2019, **Dubai SME's** services benefitted 3,871 Emirati entrepreneurs, bringing the total number of beneficiaries since its inception in 2002 to 38,565. Additionally, 1,470 Emirati start-ups benefitted from the Establishment's AED 169 million incentive package, while 6,862 individuals received training and diplomas from the 'Dubai Entrepreneurship Academy', which aims to nurture a creative generation of entrepreneurs. **Dubai SME's** members obtained more than AED 877 million in contracts and purchases in 2019.

The 'Mohammed bin Rashid Fund for SME', the Establishment's financial arm to invest in start-ups and encourage innovation, funded 75 new projects, following a comprehensive review of their feasibility studies, concepts assessment, viability and commercial sustainability. Since it was established in 2012, the Fund has financed 172 start-ups with more than AED 80 million.

Incubator Services

Dubai SME's 'Hamdan Innovation Incubator' (Hi2) works with committed entrepreneurs in the region to actualise their innovative business ideas and offer ongoing support to sustain their growth. Hi2 provided business incubation services for 68 companies in 2019.

Hi2 also teamed up with GEMS Modern Academy (GMA) in Dubai's Nadd Al Shiba community to spark entrepreneurial thinking among students. Under the partnership, the GMA became the first school to earn certification to start business incubators that use experiment-based approaches to support students' innovative ideas and introduce them to the world of entrepreneurship, thereby supporting the local economy in the medium and long term.

Supporting Start-ups

Through its 'Enterprise Commercial Promotion Department', **Dubai SME** provided 489 start-up owners with unique opportunities to participate in 18 local and international trade events. Interactions with potential clients enabled entrepreneurs to assess their products and services in a real market environment, receive valuable feedback and improve marketing strategies. It also gave them the opportunity to obtain new distribution rights for goods and services by attracting new products and learning about the latest technology in various industries.

New marketing channels for members have also been added to the newly launched

'HiDubai' portal of the Dubai Department of Economic Development that facilitates direct communication between entrepreneurs and consumers. The platform enables business owners to publish offers and discounts on their products and services.

In 2019, **Dubai SME** received an overall 5-6 star rating for improving entrepreneur's business guidance and start-up services in the 'Dubai We Learn' initiative, organised by the Dubai Government Excellence Programme to promote institutional learning and knowledge transfer in the public sector. The Establishment's winning project seeks to improve the support to Emirati start-ups and boost mentorship guidance to increase thriving national businesses.





A New Award for Excellence

With the participation of top speakers from leading businesses and government entities, the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Business Award's** global conference was held in November 2019 under the theme 'The Experience Economy: Delivering an Unparalleled Customer Experience for Long-term Growth'. The conference proposed innovative insights and practical applications of global best practices to deliver a rich customer experience.

The 11th cycle of the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Business Award** was announced during the event, as well as the third edition of the 'Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Business Innovation Award', which honours outstanding achievements

in business innovation. The conference also saw the launch of the first 'Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Customer Excellence Award' to highlight the importance of customer satisfaction as a standard for business success.

Honouring Business Leadership & Corporate Culture

The **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Business Award** is supported by the 'Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Business Award Program', a comprehensive learning platform that allows businesses to acquire cutting-edge knowledge to bolster their global competitiveness. It fosters a global corporate culture in the region and helps create a highly competitive ecosystem that boosts commerce and business growth.

Launched in 2005 under the umbrella of **MBRGI**, the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Business Award** recognises outstanding companies and organisations in the UAE and GCC, celebrating their efforts to raise competencies, contribute to the regional economy and enhance performance standards annually by staying abreast of global corporate innovations.

Through its past 10 editions, the Award honoured 181 companies across several categories, while its seminars, lectures and training programmes benefitted 1,800 businesses.





We have great expectations for entrepreneurs because we believe in their unlimited innovative ideas. They are drawing up the future with unrestrained determination and resolve.

Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum





10 Recipients

of the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Water Award in 2019

Innovation in the Face of Challenges

The **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Water Award**, managed by the **UAE Water Aid Foundation (Suqia)**, contributes to finding innovative and sustainable solutions for water scarcity in disadvantaged communities around the world. The Award consolidates the efforts of **MBRGI** and the UAE to boost international cooperation towards protecting fragile water ecosystems, ensuring effective management of available water resources, finding innovative solutions to combat drought and water pollution, and securing potable water for those in need globally.

In line with this vision, the second edition of the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Water Award** was held in April 2019

with three updated main categories: the Innovative Projects Award, the Innovative Research and Development Award and the Innovative Individual Award for Youth and Distinguished Researcher. The Award aims to encourage research institutions and individuals around the globe to develop innovative and sustainable solutions to water scarcity using clean energy.

The 2019 edition received applications from all over the world, which included a host of tech solutions. The Award highlighted inspiring stories of the role of innovation in bringing positive change to disadvantaged communities. Ten individuals, companies and universities from eight countries won the 2019 edition, receiving prizes totalling AED 2.3 million.



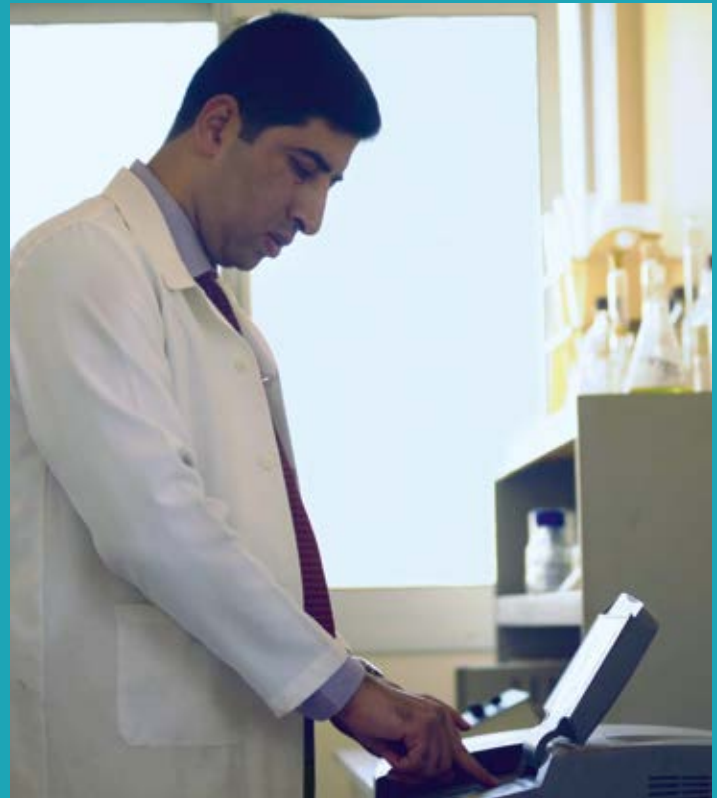
STORY OF *hope*

Clean Water from Clean Energy

Palestinian Dr Mahmoud Shatat, who holds a PhD in water desalination and renewable energy, has dedicated his professional life to finding innovative solutions to address water scarcity, especially in the GCC and other Middle Eastern countries like Syria, Jordan and Palestine.

He said: "Water scarcity is an issue that will exacerbate with the global population increase and climate change."

Citing forecasts from the World Health Organization that nearly half the world population will suffer from water scarcity, Dr Shatat said: "The global figures ring the alarm for researchers in the field of water desalination and treatment to find and create technologies that secure affordable clean water using sustainable and renewable energy sources."



Dr Shatat won the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Water Award** in the Innovative Individual Award category for developing a low-cost desalination system that produces drinking water using solar thermal energy. The household system yields 2,500 litres of clean water per day and consumes only a small amount of energy compared to conventional systems. It uses a special filter that operates at low pressure and temperature, which makes it effective for treating water with high salt concentrations. The storage tank is fully insulated to reduce heat loss and ensure continued operations at night using the solar energy stored during the day.

According to Dr Shatat, the system is ideal for remote and crisis-torn areas, as it is easy to operate and maintain. Its plastic components are available in any market, making it simple to manufacture using basic workshop tools. Dr Shatat plans to test the pilot project in a real-life environment in Gaza, Palestine.

Empowering Communities



Through its work within this pillar, MBRGI enables communities to regain control over factors that impact their lives, facilitating progress and creating opportunities that drive meaningful change.

 **AED**
181 Million

spent on Empowering
Communities initiatives
in 2019

 **510,000**

beneficiaries of Empowering
Communities initiatives
in 2019


92,000

Hope Stories received
in the third edition of the
Arab Hope Makers initiative


1 Million

beneficiaries
of the 'Well of
Hope' initiative

 **AED**
3 Million

awarded to recipients of
the Mohammed bin Rashid
Al Maktoum Tolerance Award



Building Human Capital for a Sustainable Future



AED

181 Million

spent on Empowering
Communities initiatives
in 2019



510,000

beneficiaries of
Empowering
Communities
initiatives in 2019

Empowering Communities in the face of humanitarian, economic and social challenges is a core focus of the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives (MBRGI)**. Through its work within this pillar, the Foundation enables societies to regain control over factors that impact their lives, facilitating progress and development and creating opportunities that drive meaningful change.

During 2019, the Foundation continued its commitment to the Empowering Communities pillar through various initiatives, programmes, events and awards designed to foster talent and build knowledge and skills locally, regionally and globally. Its support allowed individuals and entities to mobilise volunteers, invest in basic resources and build capacity towards improving people's lives, fostering a culture of positivity and inspiring a sense of hope in the Arab world.

The UAE's local community received special attention from **MBRGI** in 2019 through a number of dedicated projects aimed at providing entrepreneurs, young leaders,

managers and government officials of all levels with the necessary tools and expertise to encourage Emirati leadership. The Foundation also organised international conferences to discuss ways of supporting the development of administrative and government policies.

In support of the UAE's drive to foster sports locally and internationally, **MBRGI** hosted several international sports conferences featuring prominent sports personalities. The Foundation also signed an agreement with Spain's Real Madrid Foundation to establish and manage non-profit sports academies in a number of countries to promote sports as an effective tool to nurture a culture of hope and empower young aspiring football stars.

To coincide with the Year of Tolerance 2019 in the UAE, **MBRGI** supported a host of initiatives, including the inaugural edition of the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Tolerance Award**, which recognises global achievements that promote the values of tolerance and coexistence. The Award strengthens the UAE's status as a beacon of hope in the region and celebrates its pursuit of cultural openness and acceptance of others, as well as its efforts to build bridges between different cultures to eradicate racism, discrimination and marginalisation.

The total expenditure on Empowering Communities initiatives and programmes amounted to approximately AED 181 million in 2019, which benefitted nearly 510,000 people around the world.



Water drops make a river, and reigniting civilisations starts with each act of giving. Creating hope kindles new life in our region.

Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum





92,000
Hope Stories

received in the third
edition of the Arab
Hope Makers initiative

Recognising Arab Hope Makers

A cornerstone of MBRGI's Empowering Communities pillar, the **Arab Hope Makers** initiative is the largest of its kind to honour philanthropic efforts in the Arab world seeking to improve lives. The initiative's third edition attracted more than 92,000 applications from individuals and entities across 38 countries that strive to address challenges facing communities through their humanitarian work, helping to alleviate suffering and make a difference to disadvantaged communities around the world.

In a grand variety show that saw around 12,000 guests, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, awarded a total of AED 5 million to five **Arab Hope Makers**, who received AED 1 million each to support their humanitarian endeavours.

Emirati finalist Ahmed Al Falasi, along with his family members, was named the winner of the **Arab Hope Makers'** third edition, following an audience vote at the grand variety show, for his humanitarian work in establishing advanced kidney dialysis centres and incubators in Kenya's Mombasa.

The four other finalists included Dr Mujahed Mustafa, who provides treatment and healthcare for the less fortunate for only 10 Egyptian pounds in his hometown of Tala, Egypt; Ali Al Ghamdi from Saudi Arabia, who fosters orphans across Asia and Africa using his own funds; Steve Sosebee, an American journalist who obtained Palestinian nationality and founded the Palestine Children's Relief Fund (PCRF) that provides medical aid and prostheses for children in the country; and Mohamed Bzeek, a Libyan-American man who fosters terminally ill children in Los Angeles, California.

Honouring Lifetime Achievement

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum presented Dr Magdi Yacoub with the 'Mohammed bin Rashid Scarf for Humanitarian Action' for his scientific and medical achievements and humanitarian contributions. With a career spanning more than five decades, the globally renowned Arab heart surgeon has saved countless lives and given hope to millions of people around the world.

The proceeds from the **Arab Hope Makers** grand variety show were donated towards the construction of the Magdi Yacoub Global Heart Centre in Egypt, which, upon completion, will provide free-of-charge cardiac care to less fortunate communities across the Arab region.



People cannot live without hope. Creating hope is vital to overcoming despair and pessimism in the Arab world.

Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum





1 Million

beneficiaries of
the 'Well of Hope'
initiative

Well of Hope

As part of its drive to encourage individuals and entities to spread hope through simple acts, **MBRGI** launched the 'Well of Hope' initiative, the first humanitarian challenge of its kind in the region that seeks to provide clean water to millions of people in disadvantaged communities around the world. Launched during Ramadan in 2019, the initiative drew massive support from several public and private entities in the UAE, leading to a pledge to drill 150 wells in 34 countries and provide hundreds of thousands of litres of safe drinking water to more than a million people worldwide.

The Awqaf & Minors Affairs Foundation in Dubai took the lead in the challenge by launching a 'Well of Hope' endowment. The fund's yearly returns will help implement sustainable water solutions, providing clean water to over 600,000 people living in communities that lack access to this essential resource.

The 'Well of Hope' initiative adopted simple and innovative ways to raise public awareness on water scarcity and highlight the difficulties disadvantaged communities face in accessing clean water sources. The competition challenged the UAE public to pump as much water as they could through a mobile virtual pumping device, with **MBRGI** donating the collected amount of water to people in need.

The initiative, which began in Cairo, received widespread public support. Of the 50 entities from the UAE that applied to participate, 21 were selected to compete in the challenge, collectively pumping 275,000 litres of virtual water and leading to the construction of 24 wells that provided clean water to more than 61,000 people in Benin, Ghana, Mauritania and Niger.





STORY OF *hope*

For the Children of Palestine

“My name is Steve Sosebee. I’m a Palestinian and this is my Palestinian ID.” This is how Steve, an American journalist who lives in the West Bank, introduces himself as he narrates his humanitarian journey that started in Jerusalem with an assignment in 1989. While covering the First Intifada, Steve came across 10-year-old Mansour, who had lost both feet, one arm and an eye after his house was bombed. From that moment, Steve devoted his life to assisting injured Palestinian children and bringing about a positive change in their lives.

In 1991, Steve founded the Palestine Children’s Relief Fund (PCRF), which has changed the lives of hundreds of injured Palestinian children in need of prostheses by sending them to receive treatment overseas. Over the years, he has facilitated the arrival of more than 70 medical missions to Palestine, comprising a total of around

5,000 physicians, medical staff and volunteers from around the world to work hand-in-hand with their Palestinian counterparts and perform life-saving surgeries and procedures.

Through PCRF, Steve has established a strong network of thousands of volunteers in the United States, Europe and other parts of the world, with whom he coordinates treatment for injured and sick children overseas. The medical care and prostheses his organisation provides have also changed the lives of more than 2,000 children of determination.

When Steve’s Palestinian wife and fellow philanthropist Huda Al Masri passed away following a battle with cancer, he established a cancer hospital in her name with branches in the West Bank and Gaza. The hospital provides free treatment for more than 1,200 children each year.



A Bridge for Dialogue & Understanding

Since its establishment in 1998, the **Sheikh Mohammed Centre for Cultural Understanding** has sought to share **MBRGI's** messages of global harmony and build bridges of communication and understanding between different cultures. The Centre organises innovative cultural initiatives and events that aim to introduce visitors and residents to the rich heritage, culture and customs of the UAE.

Under the banner 'Open Doors, Open Minds', the Centre hosts daily public and private activities and guided tours of prominent historical landmarks in Dubai, such as Al Fahidi Historical Neighbourhood, traditional Emirati souks and the architectural marvel, Jumeirah Mosque. In 2019, the Centre's activities attracted around 66,000 people, including tourists, residents

and employees from various sectors across the country. To raise community awareness among children and young people and strengthen the Centre's role in promoting global citizenship, the **Sheikh Mohammed Centre for Cultural Understanding** organised educational and cultural tours designed specifically for youth, drawing more than 13,000 students from local and international schools and universities in 2019.

As part of its external activities, the Centre participated in several local events in 2019, including the Dubai Food Festival, Sikka Art Festival and Arabian Travel Market, in addition to the UAE National Day celebrations at schools and shopping malls. Participation in these events enhanced the Centre's position as a bridge for communication between people of different cultures living under the universal value system of the UAE.



79,000

beneficiaries of the Sheikh Mohammed Centre for Cultural Understanding's activities in 2019





3,265

attendees at the
World Tolerance
Summit in 2019



240

requests to join
the World Tolerance
Network in 2019

Tolerance in a Multicultural Environment

To coincide with 2019 being declared the 'Year of Tolerance' in the UAE, the **International Institute for Tolerance** organised several initiatives and events locally and globally to promote and institutionalise the value of tolerance. As the first entity dedicated to raising awareness about tolerance and coexistence through education, the Institute received the UAE Pioneers Award in 2019, which honours Emirati pioneers across various fields. The latest edition of the Award was dedicated to celebrating Emirati individuals and initiatives that seek to support tolerance.

In November 2019, the Institute organised the second **World Tolerance Summit**, which attracted 75 speakers and 3,265 attendees from 107 countries, including government

leaders, private sector representatives, peace ambassadors and changemakers.

Held under the theme 'Tolerance in Multiculturalism: Achieving the Social, Economic and Humane Benefits of a Tolerant World', the Summit sessions focused on promoting and consolidating tolerance, in addition to fostering constructive dialogue and peaceful coexistence between nations, cultures and religions. Participants introduced innovative ways to encourage youth to adopt and practice tolerance in their daily lives.

In line with its five-year strategic plan and as part of efforts to enhance its position on the international stage, the Institute launched the **World Tolerance Network**, the first digital platform that aims to connect global decision-makers to frame policies that spread messages of peace across the world. By December 2019, the Network received 240 membership applications from experts, decision-makers, academics and local and international organisations.

As part of its innovative efforts to use education to promote a culture of tolerance in society, the Institute partnered with the **Mohammed bin Rashid School of Government** to develop the 'International Expert of Tolerance Professional Diploma' programme. The programme qualifies young leaders in government departments and entities to contribute to promoting tolerance, coexistence and peace while combatting hate and extremism. The first batch of graduates from the programme included 21 senior leaders.





Tolerance is no catchphrase, but a quality we must cherish and practise. It must be woven into the fabric of our society to safeguard our future and maintain the progress we have made.

Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum



Celebrating Achievements in Tolerance

In 2019, the **International Institute for Tolerance** launched the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Tolerance Award** as the first global initiative to honour individuals and entities for outstanding achievements in promoting tolerance, coexistence, harmony and cohesion between cultures around the world. In its first edition, the Award was presented to three influential personalities with achievements in the three categories of Human Thought, Literary Creativity and the Arts, with prizes totalling AED 3 million.

Saudi national and paediatric surgeon Dr Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al Rabeeah, former Minister of Health of Saudi Arabia, Chairman of the Board at King Faisal Specialist & Research Centre in Riyadh and Supervisor

General for King Salman's Centre for Humanitarian Aid, won the Human Thought category for his success in separating conjoined twins – one of the most challenging surgeries. Since 1990, Dr Al Rabeeah and his team have separated 48 conjoined twins from various countries and backgrounds.

Syrian journalist Rania Ali, who resides in Austria, won the Visual Arts category for her 'Let's Live Together' initiative, which offers young people a space to express their thoughts on cultural diversity and coexistence.

German entrepreneur Dr Hubertus Hoffmann, Founder and President of the World Security Network Foundation, won the Literary Creativity category for his global initiative, 'The Human Codes of Tolerance and Respect', which advocates world peace.



AED

3 Million

awarded to recipients of the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Tolerance Award in 2019



1,800

attendees at the
Dubai International
Sports Conference
in 2019

The Future of Soccer

The annual **Dubai International Sports Conference** has become an invaluable platform that contributes to the development of football in the UAE, the Arab region and the world. The Conference hosts prominent figures in the football world, including leaders, decision-makers, players and coaches, to engage in dialogue on the latest developments in the industry and best practices among professional clubs.

Held in December 2019 under the theme 'Future Football Accelerators', the Conference's 14th edition welcomed more than 1,800 guests and featured panel discussions addressing topics such as English Football's return to the top, football's critical role as the most popular sport in the world, and its impact on millions of youth. Further sessions examined ideas that can influence football's future development and the role of technology in modern training, in addition to women's empowerment in the sport.

On the sidelines, the 11th edition of the 'Globe Soccer Awards' honoured distinguished players, coaches, referees, clubs and sports entities, club managers and players' agents across 16 categories. For the first time since its launch, the Award celebrated women football stars in three categories: Best Player, Best Club and Best Referee for 2019.

Tolerance & Peace in Sport

In line with its vision to position Dubai as a global hub for sports innovation, leadership and excellence, the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Creative Sports Award** honours individuals and institutions for their outstanding achievements in various sports on the local and international levels.

In addition to highlighting outstanding athletes, the Award initiated a range of other activities, such as conferences, seminars and innovation forums, that contribute to spreading a culture of excellence and creativity and reinforcing the noble values of sports.



Under the theme 'Tolerance and Peace in Sport', the inaugural edition of the 'International Sports Creativity Conference' was held in 2019, drawing 500 participants including representatives of Olympic committees, sporting federations and sports councils, along with coaches and administrators. The Conference's four sessions reviewed the role of sport as a universal language of tolerance and peace and a platform for strengthening cooperation between nations and communities.

Real Madrid Social Sports Academies

MBRGI continues its pursuit of driving positive change in the Arab world by forging strategic partnerships with international entities and organisations to implement effective programmes that unify resources and capabilities to uplift communities in the region and the world. In line with this mission, the Foundation signed an agreement with Spain's Real Madrid Foundation in 2019 to establish and manage

10 non-profit sports academies in four countries, with aims to foster a culture of hope among youth and empower aspiring football talents.

The **Real Madrid Social Sports Academies** will be implemented in two phases to train and nurture 4,500 young aspiring football players, aged between 6 and 17, in Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Uzbekistan over the next three years.



4,500 Youth

will benefit from the Real Madrid Social Sports Academies in the next three years





32 Graduates

from the 'Impactful Leaders Program' in 2019

Nurturing Leaders for Future Prosperity

Since its launch in 2003, the **Mohammed bin Rashid Center for Leadership Development**, under the mission of creating the leaders of tomorrow, has graduated hundreds of people who went on to assume leading positions in the UAE's public and private sectors.

In 2019, 32 participants graduated from the second cohort of the 'Impactful Leaders Program', which is designed to nurture young leadership talents to help boost the UAE's global competitiveness. The programme was developed in partnership with three leading universities in Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States. The 2019 edition included a tour to Amsterdam in the Netherlands, where participants took part in workshops delivered by experts in various fields. They also had the opportunity to meet prominent leaders of multinational corporations to learn the best practices in business management and leadership.

Some graduates from the 2019 cohort went on to establish successful enterprises, including a scientific research project conducted under the supervision of New York University Abu Dhabi and Dr Thani Al Zeyoudi, the UAE's Minister of Climate Change & Environment. The project formed the basis for a new start-up called 4mation, which aims to use desert sand to manufacture environmentally friendly bricks for the construction industry, reducing global carbon emissions generated from the production of traditional bricks annually.

The **Mohammed bin Rashid Center for Leadership Development** continued to launch new innovative programmes in 2019, including the 'Global Secondment Programme for Emirati Leaders', which aims to equip young Emiratis with the necessary skills to assume top positions in global corporations. The first edition of the programme, which attracted 30 participants from 19 local and federal government entities, was divided into two phases. During the first six-month phase, participants learned about various international leadership models and practices in different work environments. The second phase posted the programme's top 10 candidates overseas to work on projects to gain new insights and expertise. The first edition's participants travelled to India to learn the leading practices in government and non-government work. They also visited a non-profit organisation and several remote villages to observe on-ground operations of humanitarian work and discuss obstacles that prevent the delivery of humanitarian aid to remote areas in the country.

In addition to its training programmes, the **Mohammed bin Rashid Center for Leadership Development** gave graduates the opportunity to participate in a host of local and international events in 2019 including 'Achieve the Unimaginable', a landmark seminar in Dubai sponsored by the Center and led by American author, life coach and motivation expert, Tony Robbins. The 10-hour event, the largest of its kind in the region, included a series of sessions focused on life and professional skills development.



Our objective is to continuously develop new leaders. We will continue our search for young leaders, and prepare them to take on new responsibilities for a country that is always on the move.

Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum





830 Students

graduated from the Mohammed bin Rashid School of Government's programmes in 2019

Empowering Tomorrow's Leaders

The **Mohammed bin Rashid School of Government** is considered the top Arab institution in the design, development and delivery of academic training programmes in the field of leadership and public administration and policy.

To empower leadership cadres in government and non-government sectors in the UAE and widen their perspective on the latest trends in public policy design, the School added a number of new programmes in 2019. These included open enrolment programmes, which provide students with essential skills in leadership and negotiations, and customisable executive learning programmes

designed to help entities optimise their capabilities with integrated solutions for capacity-building. In 2019, the School offered 170 full or partial scholarships for government employees to join its programmes.

The School also launched a new batch of Masters' degrees under the 'Future Government Programs' to support Dubai's vision to become a leading city of the future. The postgraduate programmes attracted 155 new students, with 830 graduates from all the School's academic and training programmes in 2019.

As part of the 'Future Government Programs' strategy, the School held the third edition of the 'Future Trip' programme in 2019, which aims to support aspiring government leaders by providing the latest administration methods and technological advancements in accordance with the highest global standards. The 2019 edition included a visit to London, which saw the participation of 23 officials from the first and second tiers of the federal and local governments, as well as the private sector. While in London, participants examined global governance trends and gained insight into how the British government operates.

Strengthening its role as an integrated platform for knowledge, the School organised several local initiatives, including the third edition of the 'UAE Public Policy Forum' under the theme 'Accelerating SDGs Implementation: Future Policy Roadmap'. The sessions, facilitated by 44 speakers who addressed 1,173 guests, examined the accelerating dynamics of implementing the SDGs in the age of the



Fourth Industrial Revolution and addressed policy implications, challenges, responses and future sustainable development prospects in the UAE. The School also hosted the third edition of the 'Public Administration Forum', which discussed themes related to 'Capacity Building for Future Readiness' and building competencies among public sector employees.

In cooperation with the Digital Government Society (DGS), the **Mohammed bin Rashid School of Government** organised the 20th Annual International Conference on Digital Government Research in June 2019 under the theme 'Governance in the Age of Artificial Intelligence'. The Conference, which was held in the Middle East for the first time, discussed several research papers and studies on digital

governance and government transformation in the age of artificial intelligence, and the application of AI in developmental plans, government services and smart cities.

In collaboration with various local and federal government entities, the School's 'Emirates Centre for Government Knowledge' launched the 'Government Knowledge Gate' as a smart platform to facilitate knowledge exchange on best practices of local and global government entities. Since its launch in July 2019, the platform attracted 4,750 users who benefitted from 100 guidebooks and references. The platform acts as an open and sustainable source for students, government employees, academics and decision-makers interested in government work and public administration.



4,750

beneficiaries of
the 'Government
Knowledge Gate'
in 2019





Foreseeing the Next Decade

Since it was launched in 2001, the **Arab Strategy Forum** has presented forecasts and analysis of the relevant indicators that shape the formulation of policies and strategies in the region and the world. The Forum represents a global platform to forecast global and regional geopolitical and economic trends to create a better future.

The Forum's 12th edition was held in December 2019 under the theme 'Forecasting the Next Decade: 2020-2030', drawing nearly 500 global experts, analysts, academics, politicians and economists.

Coinciding with the Forum's 2019 edition, three reports were published with forecasts for the next 10 years. The first report, titled 'The World in 2030: Trends, Inflection Points, Challenges & Opportunities', was prepared in collaboration with the 'FutureWorld Foundation', focusing on the challenges imposed on the current world order and its institutions by major forecasted global changes or events. The second report, titled '11 Questions for the Next Decade', was prepared jointly with Good Judgement Inc., posing questions about global issues with a direct impact on the Middle East and North Africa region. The third report, titled 'Mosque & State: How Arabs See the Next 10 Years', was prepared in cooperation with Arab News to shed light on the path of political Islam in the region.





A balanced discourse, constructive ideas and openness are the real weapons that media should use to combat hate speech.

Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum



The Present & Future of Arab Media

The **Arab Media Forum**, the annual platform that brings together prominent media figures, thought leaders and academics, held its 18th edition in 2019, drawing 70 prominent speakers from around the world and 3,000 senior media representatives. Under the theme 'Arab Media: From Now to the Future', the 2019 Forum outlined major issues facing Arab media and necessary steps for its development, as well as the impact of regional and global economic transformations on the media landscape.

Key topics discussed in the Forum's sessions included the role of the media in combatting hate speech, ways to detect and prevent the spread of fake news, fifth-generation media and the current state and future of media in the region.

On the sidelines, the Forum organised a number of complementary activities and workshops, presented by top global media

companies such as Thomson Reuters, Euronews, LinkedIn and Facebook to share tips and media experiences with the public. In collaboration with Dubai's Department of Economic Development, the Forum also launched the 'Proudly from Dubai' initiative to support the city's home-grown businesses and highlight stories of Dubai's emerging entrepreneurs. With support from 'Brand Dubai', the initiative helps select companies secure participation in external events and attract media coverage.

Arab Journalism Award

The annual **Arab Journalism Award** aims to improve the quality of journalism and media in the Arab region by recognising distinguished journalists working to deliver the Arab voice to the world. In 2019, the Award's 18th edition honoured 15 journalists across several categories.

The winners, who received awards totalling more than AED 1 million, were selected from 4,487 applications.



3,000

attendees at the 18th edition of the Arab Media Forum in 2019



4,487

participants in the Arab Journalism Award in 2019



STORY OF *hope*

The Youngest News Reporter

Instead of covering the news, 13-year-old Palestinian reporter Janna Jihad found herself becoming news at the 18th edition of the **Arab Media Forum** in Dubai. Hailed as the youngest journalist in the world, Janna displayed an influential presence during the Forum's sessions, presenting herself as a role model for children around the world to stand up against oppression and inhumane practices and, above all, to never give up.

From her home in Nabi Saleh village, 20 kilometres away from Ramallah in Palestine, Janna has been reporting the daily Palestinian struggle and human rights violations from her mobile phone ever since she was only 7 years old. Sharing the daily scenes on social media, Janna has garnered over 300,000 followers on Facebook alone.

"My camera is my peaceful way to resist the occupation and deliver the truth to the world," she said.



Middle East Exchange

Since its launch in 2015, the **Middle East Exchange** has been bringing together scholars, researchers, authors and prominent personalities from the region and abroad to propose solutions for complex developmental issues facing the Middle East and spread the message of hope. Through a series of weekly articles, studies and analyses, the initiative highlights the contributions of Arab youth that improve the quality of life in their communities.

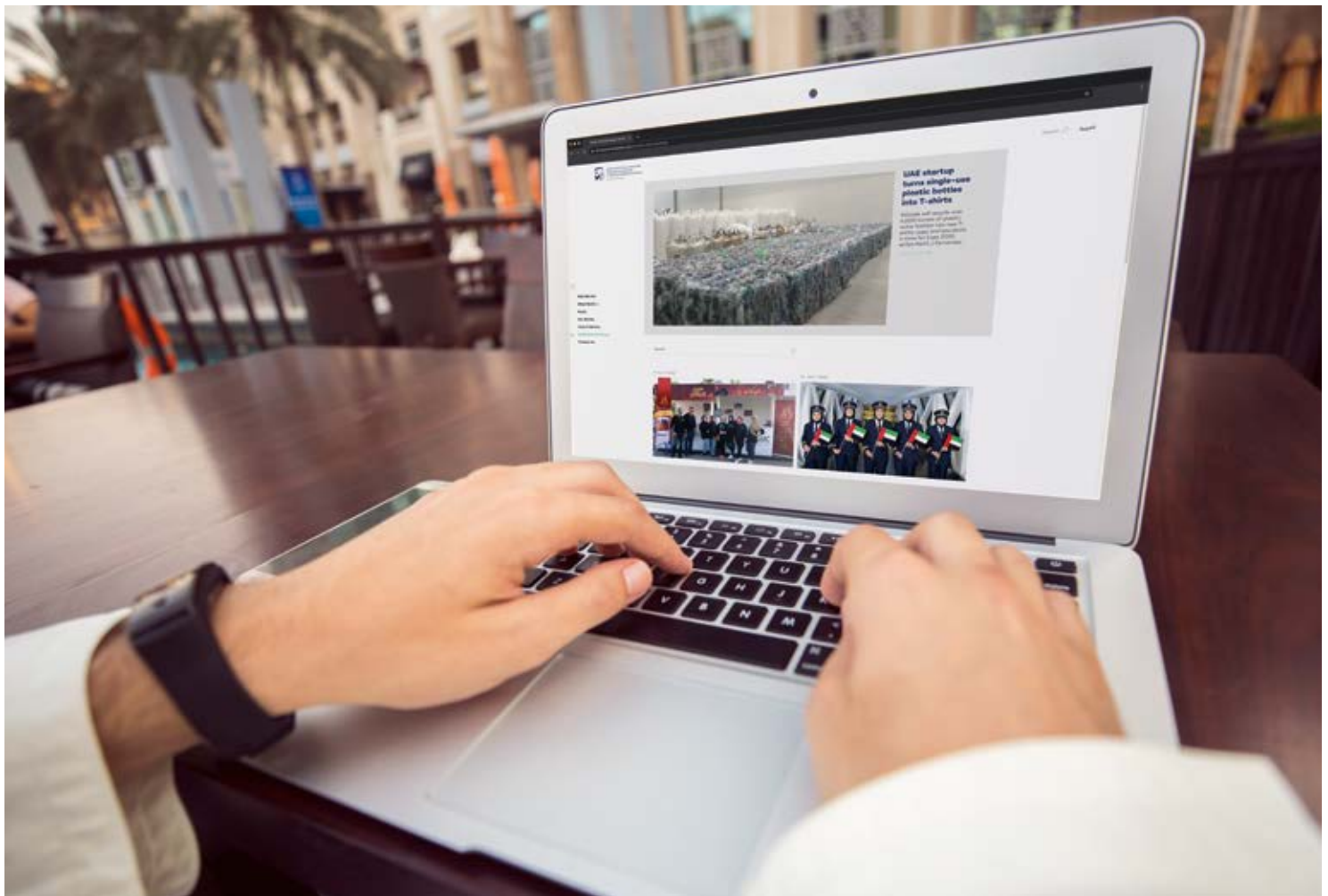
The Exchange's articles cover a wide variety of topics, including human development, innovation, entrepreneurship, public health, education, sustainability, poverty, food security and water resources, among other pressing issues. In 2019, the initiative reached more than 3 million readers every month.

The Exchange also began publishing video clips and other multimedia content related to its articles on social media in 2019, garnering over 120 million views from the region and the rest of the world.



3 Million

monthly readers of
Middle East Exchange
content in 2019







لا يمكن أن يشعر الإنسان بالاكتماء إلا عندما يبدأ بالعطاء

محمد بن راشد آل مكتوم

No one can feel fulfilled until he or she starts giving
to make a difference

Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum