



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

# Year In Review 2017

AED  
**1.8**  
Billion  
spent in 2017

**68**  
Countries  
reached in 2017

**69**  
Million  
beneficiaries in 2017









# Year In Review 2017

Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives...

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

## Year In Review 2017

2nd Volume



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

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## Putting Humanity First

Since the foundation of the UAE, we have believed in the clear vision that a nation can only be built through the development of its people. We develop people by empowering them, equipping them with the latest scientific resources, motivating them to work, creating the appropriate conditions for them to innovate, and inspiring them with the hope that they can improve their reality, and having faith that they can play an active role in shaping the future of their nation.

All our initiatives and institutions revolve around a primary objective: to invest in people as the most precious resource and the backbone of progress in any nation.

Over the past 20 years, we have embraced many initiatives and projects through which we aim to make a difference to people's lives. We invest in empowering young people through knowledge, developing education systems, fighting diseases in disadvantaged communities and helping the poor and those affected by conflict or natural disasters – wherever they may be. We also focus on empowering women, supporting youth projects, contributing to the development of leaders, and inspiring new generations with a sense of hope.

We will continue to work, to build and to give, in accordance with the vision we have set for ourselves and for our team at the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives** – putting humanity first.

**Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum**  
**Chairman of the Board of Trustees**





## Hope... A Profitable Business

The launch of the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives** in 2015 as an umbrella organisation for humanitarian, charitable and development initiatives is a translation of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum's vision to advance humanitarian, relief and community work locally, regionally and internationally.

Dozens of the initiatives and programmes sponsored by His Highness in the past 20 years have transformed into established entities, which work to institutionalise philanthropic work. This formalisation of organised giving, as opposed to occasional charity work, ensures its sustainability, maximises its positive impact and expands its benefits, instilling hope as the fundamental basis of the way we think and plan for the future.

Today, as we monitor the work and performance of the 33 institutions and initiatives under the umbrella of **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives** in the Year In Review 2017, we feel very proud of its success.

Our achievements in making hope into a real and sustainable business are backed by figures and demonstrated by powerful humanitarian stories. As His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum said: "Hope is the most profitable business. It is the only business in the world where nobody can lose."

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

# Members of the Board of Trustees

## His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum

Chairman of the Board of Trustees

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## His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum

Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees

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- His Highness Sheikh Maktoum bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum
- Her Royal Highness Princess Haya bint Al Hussein
- Her Highness Sheikha Manal bint Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum
- His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum
- Her Highness Sheikha Maitha bint Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum
- H.E. Mohammed bin Abdullah Al Gergawi
- H.E. Reem bint Ebrahim Al Hashimy
- H.E. Humaid Mohammed Al Qatami
- H.E. Mohamed Ahmed Al Mur
- Abdulla Mohammed Al Basti
- Saeed Mohammed Al Tayer
- Mattar Mohammed Al Tayer
- Ibrahim Mohammed Bumelha
- Dawood Abdul Rahman Al Hajiri
- Sami Ahmad Al Qamzi
- Mona Ghanem Al Marri
- Saeed Mohammad Al Eter Al Dhanhane
- Dr. Hamad Al Sheikh Ahmed Al Shaibani
- Jamal Khalfan bin Huwaireb
- Dr. Raja Easa Al Gurg









# **Executive Summary**

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# Making Hope and Building the Future







حفصة الظنحاني

عفاف رائد





# 2017 Achievements

AED

**1.8** Billion



**total spent on all  
humanitarian, developmental  
and community programmes**

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**69** Million



**beneficiaries of MBRGI's initiatives  
in 68 countries**

---

AED

961

Million

spent across all initiatives  
and programmes

---



AED

869

Million

invested in building  
sustainable organisations

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90,000

volunteers involved  
across various initiatives  
and programmes

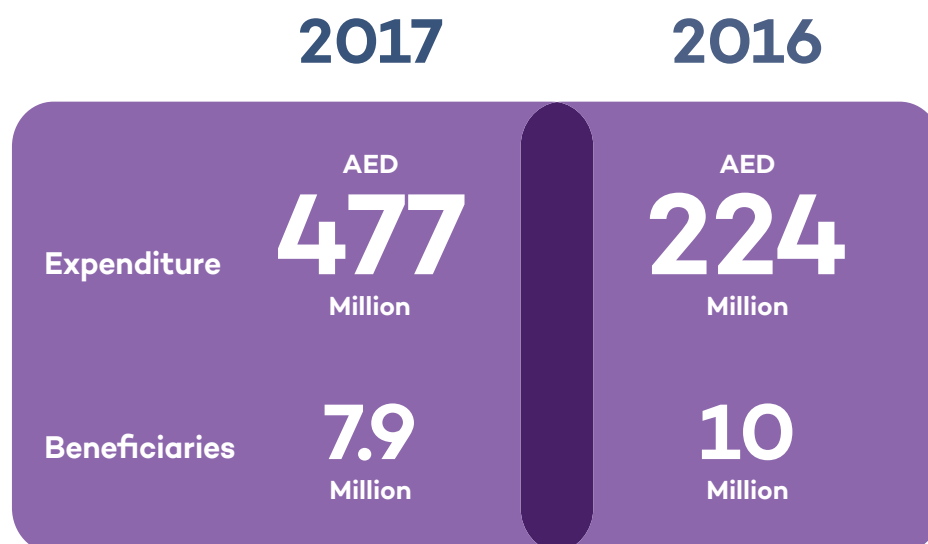
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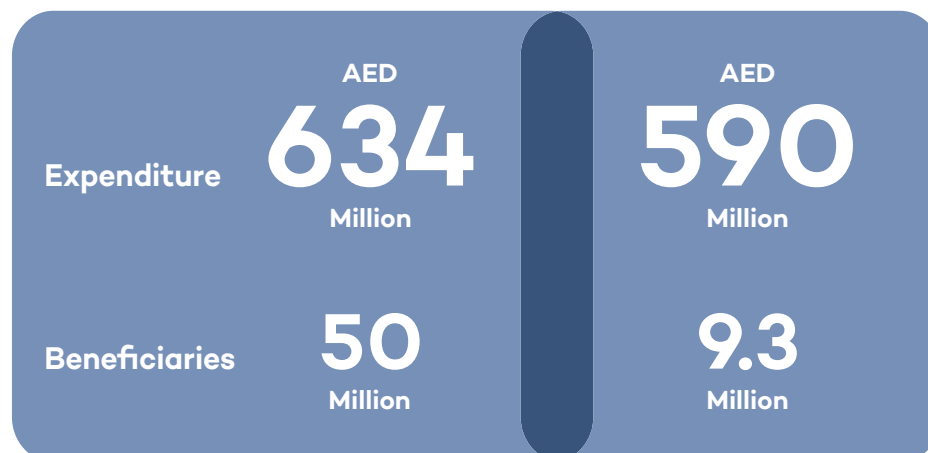
# 2016-2017 Comparison



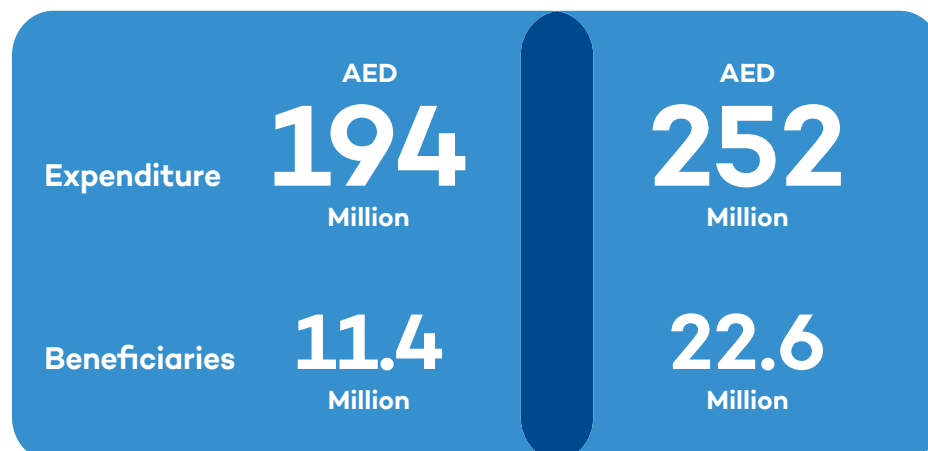
## Healthcare & Disease Control



## Spreading Education & Knowledge



## Humanitarian Aid & Relief







## Innovation & Entrepreneurship

2017

2016

Expenditure **396**  
AED Million

Beneficiaries **4,700**

Expenditure **377**  
AED Million

—



## Empowering Communities

Expenditure **129**  
AED Million

Beneficiaries **66,000**

Expenditure **79**  
AED Million

—



## Awards

Expenditure **84**  
AED Million

Expenditure **115**  
AED Million



**“We will stay the course of the late founding father, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, to promote the culture of giving, love of benevolence and extending the helping hand to those in need, particularly the elderly, women and children, in areas affected by conflicts, tensions and drought”**

**Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum**

# Introduction

The **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives (MBRGI)** was launched in 2015 as the largest humanitarian, developmental and community-based foundation in the Arab world, with 33 institutions and initiatives under its umbrella. The various entities all work towards a unified vision which aims to establish a culture of humanitarian work and charity, as well as to spread hope through projects that enhance people's lives, contribute to societal progress, and establish a more stable and advanced future.

Reflecting the vision of their founder His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE, Ruler of Dubai, the various institutions and initiatives working within **MBRGI** offer a range of services in the fields of combatting poverty and disease, spreading education and knowledge, empowering communities, supporting innovation and entrepreneurship and shaping the future.

The **MBRGI** Year In Review 2017 focuses on the achievements of the Foundation's different institutions and initiatives, and the impact they have made on the lives of individuals and

communities, both regionally and globally. The report also introduces the vision, mission and objectives of some new initiatives launched during 2017, which aim to consolidate the values of tolerance, find pioneering solutions to the social, cultural and environmental challenges facing the Arab region, and use eLearning techniques to support generations of Arab scientists, researchers and innovators.

The Year In Review 2017 classifies the **MBRGI** institutions and initiatives under five main pillars:



## Humanitarian Aid & Relief



## Healthcare & Disease Control



## Spreading Education & Knowledge



## Innovation & Entrepreneurship



## Empowering Communities

**“We celebrate our humanity above all else because we are a people who love others and love peace, stability and tolerance”**

**Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum**

Within the Humanitarian Aid & Relief pillar, **MBRGI** provides emergency aid and development support to help communities affected by crises and natural disasters, as well as those whose progress is obstructed due to poverty and conflict.

Through its diverse institutions and initiatives under the Healthcare & Disease Control pillar, **MBRGI** seeks to provide various health and therapeutic services, launch awareness and medical research programmes to address urgent health problems in disadvantaged communities and provide effective and rapid solutions.

The **MBRGI** initiatives and programmes that fall under the Spreading Education & Knowledge pillar aim to build human capacity, achieve sustainable human development and promote social and economic progress.

Additionally, the different projects and initiatives within the Innovation & Entrepreneurship pillar promote innovation, champion research, and embrace creativity as one of the most important tools in transforming the future.

Within the Empowering Communities pillar, **MBRGI** invests in forums, conferences and awards to encourage a united approach towards humanitarian work and cultural and intellectual dialogue, promote the values of tolerance and develop a media discourse. Its efforts also aim to create hope, reject extremism and intolerance and ensure peace and a stable future for mankind.

# 2017 Highlights

## Spreading Hope for a Better Future

The **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives (MBRGI)**, through all its initiatives and entities, continued to invest in its goal of building a better reality for mankind and spreading hope for a better future for the Arab world and beyond.

During 2017, the Foundation increased its expenditure to AED 1.8 billion compared to the AED 1.5 billion spent in 2016. Of this figure, AED 961 million was spent on the programmes and initiatives of entities falling under **MBRGI**'s five pillars, which benefitted 69 million people in 68 countries around the world, compared to **MBRGI**'s reach of 42 million beneficiaries in 62 countries in 2016. Of the total AED 1.8 billion, AED 869 million was invested in establishing sustainable institutions such as the **Mohammed bin Rashid Library** and the **Museum of the Future**.

About 90,000 people volunteered throughout 2017 to implement the various programmes and initiatives of the **MBRGI** entities, supporting the Foundation's 554 permanent employees.

Two new initiatives joined **MBRGI** during 2017, making a significant contribution to the Foundation and its 33 initiatives and entities.

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum issued a law in June 2017 ordering the creation of the **International Institute for Tolerance**, which also included the launch of the **Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Award for Tolerance**. The Institute, the first of its kind in the Arab world, aims to instil a spirit of tolerance in society, build social cohesion and promote the UAE as a role model for tolerance and cultural and religious diversity, while working to combat extremism, and all forms of discrimination among people.

His Highness also launched the **Mohammed bin Rashid Arabic eLearning Project** in September 2017, which seeks to educate future generations of Arab researchers, scientists and innovators, by providing an online advanced learning platform. The Project included the **Translation Challenge** as its first initiative contributing to its vision of improving education in the Arab world. The **Translation Challenge** involves the translation and localisation of thousands of educational videos on the subjects of science and maths, making them accessible online for free to millions of Arab students.



#### Humanitarian Aid & Relief

spent in 2017  
**AED 194 Million**



#### Healthcare & Disease Control

spent in 2017  
**AED 477 Million**



#### Spreading Education & Knowledge

spent in 2017  
**AED 634 Million**



#### Innovation & Entrepreneurship

spent in 2017  
**AED 396 Million**



#### Empowering Communities

spent in 2017  
**AED 129 Million**

# Humanitarian Aid & Relief

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AED

194

Million

spent on  
Humanitarian Aid &  
Relief initiatives in 2017

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11.4

Million

beneficiaries of  
Humanitarian Aid &  
Relief initiatives in 2017

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# 8.3

Million  
beneficiaries of UAE Water  
Aid (Suqia)'s projects in 2017

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# 82

wells drilled during 2017

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# 1.2

Million  
beneficiaries of  
the International  
Humanitarian  
City in 2017

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# 311

families benefitted from the  
initiatives of the Mohammed  
bin Rashid Al Maktoum  
Humanitarian & Charity  
Establishment in 2017

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# 709

tonnes of food  
distributed by  
the UAE Food  
Bank to charities  
during 2017

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# Humanitarian Aid & Relief


## Building a Better Reality for Mankind

Among the five main pillars underpinning the work of the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives (MBRGI)**, the Humanitarian Aid & Relief pillar distils the vision of **MBRGI** as a Foundation which brings together numerous humanitarian institutions with projects and initiatives benefitting people across the world and at home, under one umbrella. Work under this pillar means joining forces to deploy all available resources to alleviate human suffering in any part of the world.

The initiatives and organisations that fall under the Humanitarian Aid & Relief pillar seek to provide urgent aid and relief to communities affected by crises and disasters. They offer many types of aid and developmental support as part of sustainable plans and programmes to benefit communities facing challenges such as poverty and conflict, which hinder human progress. All of these efforts work towards building a better reality for mankind through improving people's quality of life.

In 2017, total spending on humanitarian aid and relief initiatives, programmes and projects totalled AED 194 million, benefitting more than 11.4 million people around the world.

 **AED**  
**194 Million**  
spent on Humanitarian Aid & Relief initiatives in 2017

 **11.4 Million**  
beneficiaries of Humanitarian Aid & Relief initiatives in 2017







## Immediate Response

As part of the Humanitarian Aid & Relief pillar, the **International Humanitarian City (IHC)**, the world's largest humanitarian hub, plays a major role in providing all sorts of technical, logistical, and field support, facilitating and coordinating emergency response efforts in times of disaster and crisis. Situated only eight hours away from two-thirds of the world's population by plane, **IHC** can swiftly intervene in areas requiring urgent relief. In 2017, **IHC** provided aid which benefitted 1.2 million people around the world.

**IHC** responded quickly and effectively to alleviate the suffering of Rohingya Muslims in refugee camps in Bangladesh, setting up an air bridge between Dubai and the capital Dhaka, which has provided assistance to 582,605 people. **IHC** carried out 13 airlifts to Bangladesh between October and December 2017, carrying 1,777 metric tonnes of food supplies and basic relief items worth more than AED 16.4 million.

**IHC's** activities throughout 2017 included setting up air bridges to deliver aid to people affected by natural disasters and conflicts around the world. These activities benefitted 285,500 people in Iraq, namely those who were affected by the violent earthquake that struck the Iran-Iraq border in mid-November 2017; 85,255 people suffering as a result of the crisis in South Sudan; 130,000 people in Madagascar who received medical, food and non-food supplies following Hurricane Enawo in March and 47,100 people in Haiti who received relief aid following Hurricane Irma in September.

In early 2017, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum approved the expansion of **IHC** by 300,000 square feet to emphasise the UAE's central role in supporting regional and international humanitarian efforts.



# 583,000

Rohingya refugees in  
Bangladesh benefitted  
from relief assistance



“We are facing many humanitarian challenges, and must think innovatively in order to accelerate philanthropic work and achieve high results – this cannot wait”

Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum





## Fighting Hunger

The **UAE Food Bank** was launched in January 2017 as part of **MBRGI's** efforts to address social challenges such as poverty and hunger, and alleviate the suffering of vulnerable people in our society. It aims to fight hunger through collecting excess food from a wide range of catering establishments and then redistributing it to those in need. During its first year, the **UAE Food Bank** collected 709 tonnes of food that was distributed to charities across the UAE, benefitting 354,000 people.

The **UAE Food Bank** organised a number of events, most notably the 'Sheikha Shamma bint Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum' initiative, held in November 2017, which attracted students and volunteers to distribute about 30,000 meals to workers. In another event, held in October 2017 as part of a campaign to mark World Food Day, 8,000 workers received meals. In addition to working with hotels, restaurants, suppliers, factories, supermarkets and other entities, the **UAE Food Bank** set up fridges in 80 locations across Dubai for people to donate food.



# 392,000

people received meals from  
the **UAE Food Bank** in 2017

## Building Stable Societies

Through its various programmes and projects in the UAE and abroad, the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Humanitarian & Charity Establishment** is a major entity within the Humanitarian Aid & Relief pillar. It aims to provide relief to vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, helping poor people who have been the victims of war, conflict and natural and environmental disasters. The Establishment also contributes to the development of sectors such as healthcare and education and supports basic infrastructure and community empowerment projects, making a significant difference to people's lives and contributing to the establishment of stable societies.

In 2017, more than 1.6 million people benefitted from the various programmes, projects, and initiatives executed by the Establishment in less fortunate areas and communities in 53 countries around the world.

## Ramadan Initiatives

The **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Humanitarian & Charity Establishment** has sponsored a number of Ramadan initiatives within the UAE and abroad. For the seventh year, the Establishment's local focus has been on its Ramadan campaign 'Qawafil al Shuwab', which gathers together elderly people and orphan children from care homes across the UAE for a group iftar. During the occasion, gifts and Eid





clothes are distributed. 'Qawafil al Shuwab' is organised by CoTopia Social Responsibility, a body that helps public and private-sector entities design corporate social responsibility initiatives. The initiative covers all seven emirates including remote areas, with iftars held in 12 locations across the UAE, hosting about 580 elderly people and 200 orphans with the help of 200 volunteers.

The **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Humanitarian & Charity Establishment** also held a number of charity events for people in need around the world, as part of its annual international charity efforts during the month of Ramadan. These included iftar initiatives in countries across the Arab world, Asia and Africa, as well as Haiti, the United States and Canada. The budget for these activities exceeded AED 11 million, benefitting 56,506 families.



**1.6 Million**  
beneficiaries of the  
**Mohammed bin Rashid  
Al Maktoum Humanitarian &  
Charity Establishment in 2017**

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**53**  
countries reached by the  
**Mohammed bin Rashid  
Al Maktoum Humanitarian &  
Charity Establishment in 2017**

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## No More Suffering

Kawthar Ahmed Mohammed, an Egyptian woman from Al Jamaliyah village in Qena Governorate, hoped to live a happy life when she got married. When her marriage ended in divorce, however, she found herself caring for her two sisters – one of whom is also divorced with two kids and the other living with a terminal illness. The family lives in an area with no water supply, which forces Kawthar to walk long distances to reach the River Nile to collect the water necessary for their daily use. She also sells confectionery to the students attending the school next to her house to earn the money her family needs to buy necessities, including medication for her ill sister.

The family's situation has been transformed, however, with the help of the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Humanitarian & Charity Establishment**, which has relieved Kawthar from the burden of trekking every day to get water from the Nile. Not only did the Establishment ensure clean drinking water reaches their home, but it also set up a grocery shop for Kawthar beside the school to increase her income.

## A Decent Life After Poverty

"Being born with nothing makes it difficult to lead a decent life. It is a struggle even to scrape together enough to afford the bare essentials," said Saad Shehata Zuhri, from the village of Assara in the Egyptian Governorate of Assiut.

Saad tried hard to overcome the substandard living conditions by working multiple jobs. He then got married and had children, which made life even harder for him, especially after his wife fell ill and was diagnosed with cancer.

"As our situation worsened, I exerted every effort and did my best to go on in this life," said Saad. "I started selling detergents, carrying the goods on my back as I rode my bike, and visiting every shop to try to earn a few pounds to pay for necessities and the medication for my wife."

Their situation changed when the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Humanitarian & Charity Establishment** supported Saad in his work by providing a cart to transport his merchandise. He said their support did not stop there; they even set up a grocery kiosk for his wife to provide a distraction from her pain and suffering. "Life has changed significantly, definitely for the better," he said.





“The UAE does not provide conditional aid and does not wait for any returns. We only want the good and stability of all people”

Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum





## The Human Right to Water

Another entity under the Humanitarian Aid & Relief pillar, the **UAE Water Aid Foundation (Suqia)** contributes to raising awareness of water issues and provides clean drinking water to communities affected by water scarcity. Clean drinking water is considered by **Suqia** to be a fundamental human right that cannot be denied, and as such 8.3 million people benefitted from **Suqia**'s initiatives and projects in 2017, in 22 countries.

**Suqia** dug a total of 82 wells, benefitting 521,370 people living in countries outside the UAE, including China, Egypt and Bangladesh.

As part of its awareness programmes on water scarcity, preservation and conservation, **Suqia** sponsored the first 'Global Children's Designathon' in Dubai in November 2017, in collaboration with a number of strategic partners. The event brought together 530 students, aged between 7 and 12, through a live online video connection to exchange ideas, as well as design and develop solutions and innovative concepts around future water issues.



# 8.3 Million

beneficiaries of UAE Water Aid (Suqia)'s projects in 2017



# 22

countries benefitted from UAE Water Aid (Suqia)'s projects in 2017



# 82

wells drilled during 2017



## Tajikistan The Message of Giving

Although Tajikistan has an abundance of freshwater resources, with its rivers, lakes, and glaciers, 60% of its population still lacks access to safe drinking water, particularly in rural areas. People living in remote villages have to walk several hours to reach the nearest spring to collect clean water for their families. Living in poverty, these people are unable to develop and prosper.

To help respond to this challenge, **Suqia** sent a team of volunteers to Tajikistan under the 'Risalat Khair', or 'Message of Giving' programme, undertaken in cooperation with Dubai Electricity & Water Authority (DEWA) and the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Humanitarian & Charity Establishment**.

During the visit, **Suqia** launched a sustainable development project in the village of Kaznok to provide drinking water to over 45,000 people. It also inaugurated a new 70-metre well in one of the rural areas and inspected an existing 70-metre well in Nimaj village, which was established by **Suqia** in 2015 and continues to provide clean drinking water to more than 15,000 people.

The Foundation provided people living in villages in Rasht district with school supplies for more than 1,000 students, sewing machines to create work opportunities for 400 families and 25 means of transport. In addition, the team laid the foundation stone of the 'Zayed Al Khair' clinic, which will provide medical assistance to the people of Kamli village.



## Endowment A Development Tool

The **Mohammed bin Rashid Global Centre for Endowment Consultancy** launched a number of initiatives in 2017 to revive the role of endowments as a tool for community development and an effective response to a variety of social needs.

The Centre has helped specifically in drafting Law No. (14) of 2017, which was issued by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum to regulate endowments in Dubai. The law aims to create a comprehensive legislative framework compatible with today's requirements and the community's need to regulate, manage, protect and operate endowments. The law also seeks to support an environment that encourages endowment, development work and community contributions in various fields, as well as endowments that fall within creative initiatives to address the needs of modern society.

 **AED**  
**10 Million**  
the cost of the first collective  
endowment farm in the world

The Centre announced the establishment of 'Al Ehsan Endowment Farm', the first collective endowment farm, with a cost of AED 10 million. The farm, being developed by Dubai Municipality, will cover an area of 15 hectares alongside Dubai's Mushrif Park. It will be cultivated using innovative techniques based on collective crowdsourcing, whereby members of the community will be able to participate in the establishment of the new farm by giving palm trees as a charitable donation in the name of the UAE community. The returns from the farm will be distributed to the needy. A date factory will also be developed, which is expected to produce 150 tonnes of dates every year.

In less than two years, the **Mohammed bin Rashid Global Centre for Endowment Consultancy** has granted its 'Dubai Endowment Sign' to more than 100 companies, representing services worth more than AED 1 billion annually.

The 'Dubai Endowment Sign' is awarded by the Centre to government institutions and private companies that make sustainable community contributions based on the concept of innovative endowments. This modern model, designed by the Centre, provides the chance for people and institutions from all walks of life to contribute to society through endowments and highlights it as a tool for community development.





**“We believe our true values are enhanced by our ability to change people’s lives for the better”**

Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum





# Healthcare & Disease Control

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AED

**477**

Million

spent on Healthcare  
& Disease Control  
initiatives in 2017

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**7.9**

Million

beneficiaries of  
Healthcare & Disease  
Control initiatives in 2017

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6

Million  
patients treated for  
trachoma, a disease that  
causes blindness, in 2017

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1.7

Million  
vaccines provided for the  
treatment of maternal and  
neonatal tetanus during 2017

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## International Mobile Eye Camps

13,663

patients screened for  
eye diseases in 2017

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4,064

pairs of eye glasses  
distributed in 2017

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1,423

surgeries conducted  
in 2017

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# Healthcare & Disease Control

## Quality Treatment Despite Harsh Conditions

The **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives (MBRGI)** has a clear and strategic focus on the pillar of Healthcare & Disease Control, as the Foundation braves adverse conditions to deliver vital medical services to disadvantaged communities.

The work performed by **MBRGI** within the scope of this pillar aims to alleviate the suffering of communities that lack access to proper treatment and deal with basic health issues. It takes preventative measures against infectious diseases and contributes to the eradication of debilitating communicable diseases, which hinder the development and economic progress of these communities. Support is provided through treatment programmes, research funding, awareness campaigns and enabling medical staff and health workers.

**Al Jalila Foundation**, an entity within **MBRGI's** Healthcare & Disease Control pillar which promotes medical education and research, worked alongside **Noor Dubai** and the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Humanitarian & Charity Establishment** to address the medical needs of large numbers of people within and outside the UAE.

During 2017, the entities have continued their efforts, especially in developing countries around the world, to treat congenital heart disease among children, and to help stem the spread of common illnesses such as tetanus.

Spending on the programmes and initiatives covered by the Healthcare & Disease Control pillar totalled AED 477 million in 2017, benefitting about 7.9 million people around the globe. This represents more than double the amount spent in 2016.

**AED**  
**477 Million**  
spent on Healthcare  
& Disease Control  
initiatives in 2017



**7.9 Million**  
beneficiaries of  
Healthcare & Disease  
Control initiatives in 2017









## Glimmer of Light

Eye diseases and disorders are pressing issues affecting developing countries that lack basic resources and have weak healthcare infrastructure. These diseases can, however, be prevented by conducting surgeries, increasing awareness, taking precautionary measures, supporting medical education and research, and developing mechanisms for keeping up to date with scientific breakthroughs and the latest treatments.

**Noor Dubai** works to combat blindness and visual impairment in the UAE and the Arab world, as well as internationally across Africa and Asia. It operates treatment programmes, conducts surgeries and participates in local campaigns for the prevention of eye diseases.

As part of its ambitious goal to eradicate trachoma – the primary cause of infectious blindness in the world – by 2020, **Noor Dubai** continued its work in the Amhara region of Ethiopia, one of the worst-affected areas worldwide. The Foundation built on its success of previous years, performing 91,977 surgeries and distributing 5,896,473 doses of medication in partnership with the United States-based NGO, 'The Carter Center'. **Noor Dubai** also organised training courses for more than 44,000 teachers, supervisors and health-sector employees, and held health education sessions in 3,000 villages across the Amhara region.

## Mobile Eye Camps

**Noor Dubai** continued to operate international mobile eye camps in developing countries across Asia and Africa as part of its global outreach. The camps, which are equipped with state-of-the-art equipment, provide free-of-charge eye screening and diagnosis, as well as treatment for patients through conducting surgeries and distributing eye glasses.

In 2017, mobile eye camps were held in Bangladesh, Eritrea and Nigeria, where they screened 13,663 patients, conducted 1,423 surgeries and distributed 4,064 pairs of glasses.

**Noor Dubai's** UAE mobile eye clinics extended their reach during 2017 to a greater number of schools, labour camps, people of determination and elderly people. They screened 8,000 patients during the year, more than doubling the number of screenings conducted in 2016.

Other **Noor Dubai** initiatives launched locally include a programme to support UAE residents with limited financial capability and no health insurance to treat critical eye diseases. The programme financed treatment for 149 patients in 2017, compared with 103 patients in 2016.



“The healthcare sector nurtures life and happiness  
and enriches generations into the future”

Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum



91,977

people benefitted from surgery  
against trachoma in 2017



5.9 Million

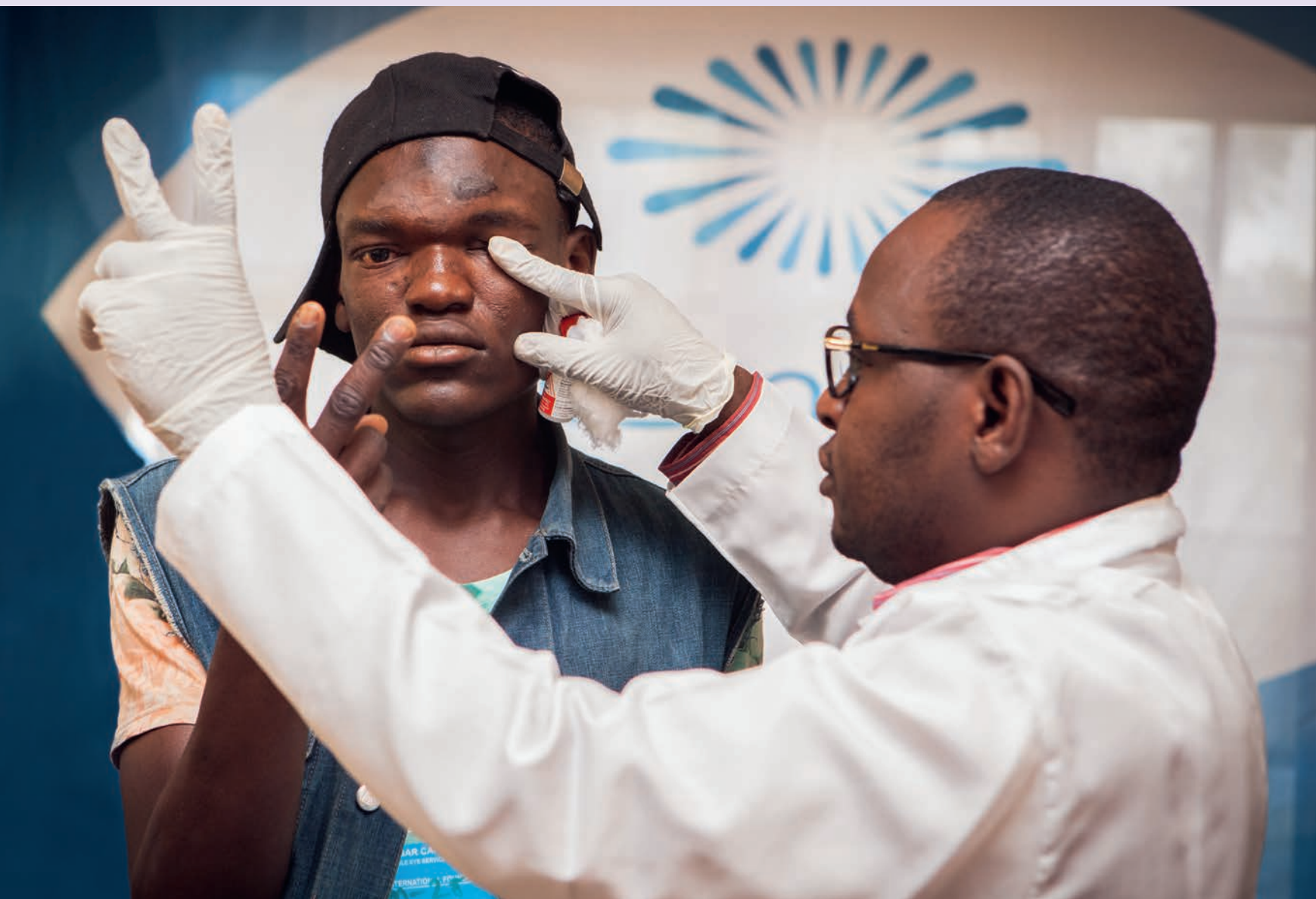
recipients of trachoma  
medication in 2017

### Help at Home

To support its much-needed interventions, **Noor Dubai** organised local activities such as its annual fundraising event ‘Art4Sight’. The event raised AED 567,000 by auctioning artworks donated by 35 volunteer artists. The funds raised will be used to build a rehabilitation centre for visually impaired people in the UAE.

The year 2017 was also a landmark in the overall development of the Foundation as it was awarded three ISO certifications, which are testament to its commitment to providing the best treatment and preventative services to fight visual impairment around the globe.





## Return of Hope

Abdul Aziz Awa, a 20-year-old man from the Kaduna region of Nigeria, lost sight in one of his eyes after suffering from cataracts. The condition clouds the lens of the eye and is the most common cause of blindness in the world. After losing his sight, Awa's prospects seemed to decline. He had been the sole provider for his

family – his father passed away when he was only five years old – but losing his eyesight meant he was no longer able to support his family.

Awa regained hope following a visit to one of **Noor Dubai's** mobile eye camps. The surgery he accessed as a result of the visit restored his eyesight and gave him back his normal life.





## Research for a Brighter Future

The **Al Jalila Foundation** runs a number of medical treatment and preventative care programmes for people in need. In 2017, the Foundation supported UNICEF's 'Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus Elimination' initiative, providing 1.7 million tetanus vaccines to 19 countries to protect mothers and newborns against the disease. It also assisted in providing clean drinking water and sanitation networks to 5,625 households across 35 countries to improve personal hygiene through UNICEF's 'Water, Sanitation and Hygiene' (WASH) programme.


Locally, **Al Jalila Foundation's** activities include the 'A'awen' programme, which provides financial support to UAE residents who cannot afford the costs of their medical care. In 2017, the programme supported 161 people, including 30 patients who were selected through a Ramadan campaign held in cooperation with local partners.

Parents and teachers gained valuable insight into caring for children of determination through **Al Jalila Foundation's** 'Ta'alouf' programme,

which teaches parents how best to manage their children's special needs and to prepare them to become active members of society. The training also helps teachers provide inclusive education and to understand each child's individual learning needs. In 2017, graduates from the programme included 80 parents and 72 teachers from 16 schools.

**Al Jalila Foundation** also supports children suffering from life-threatening conditions, such as cardiovascular diseases and cancer, as well as chronic diseases. The Foundation's 'Farah' programme treats children with these conditions, while also funding advanced research that could lead to medical breakthroughs that restore hope to patients and their families.

Another significant commitment by the Foundation is its 'iMcan' programme, which provides prosthetic limbs, saving patients from marginalisation and the psychological trauma associated with social stigma. The programme rehabilitates people living with prosthetics, allowing them to lead a normal life as active and productive members of society.

 **1.7 Million**  
vaccines provided for the treatment of maternal and neonatal tetanus during 2017

 **5,625**  
families benefitted from the 'Water, Sanitation and Hygiene' (WASH) programme in 2017

## An Excellent Experience

Sultan Siddiq is the father of four children, three of whom suffer from autism. He described the challenges faced by his family: “We did not know how to deal with or adapt to this situation. We were socially isolated and people in our community could not understand the nature of our children’s condition.”

**Al Jalila Foundation’s** ‘Ta’alouf’ programme, however, improved life for him and his family. Siddiq said he would recommend the ‘exceptional experience’ to all parents with autistic children, and he praised the expert trainers and the supportive environment that allowed them to connect with other parents facing similar challenges.

“The ‘Ta’alouf’ programme has changed, and continues to change, the lives of many people,” said Siddiq, adding that: “Our lives and our children’s lives have become much easier.”

The programme employs a comprehensive toolkit of educational and supporting materials, using proven methods to reduce the daily anxiety and challenges faced by autistic children and their families, and promoting a better understanding of the nature of autism. Siddiq said: “We have three children of determination. To us, they are very special and we are also special parents. Despite the challenges we share with them, we do love them very much.”

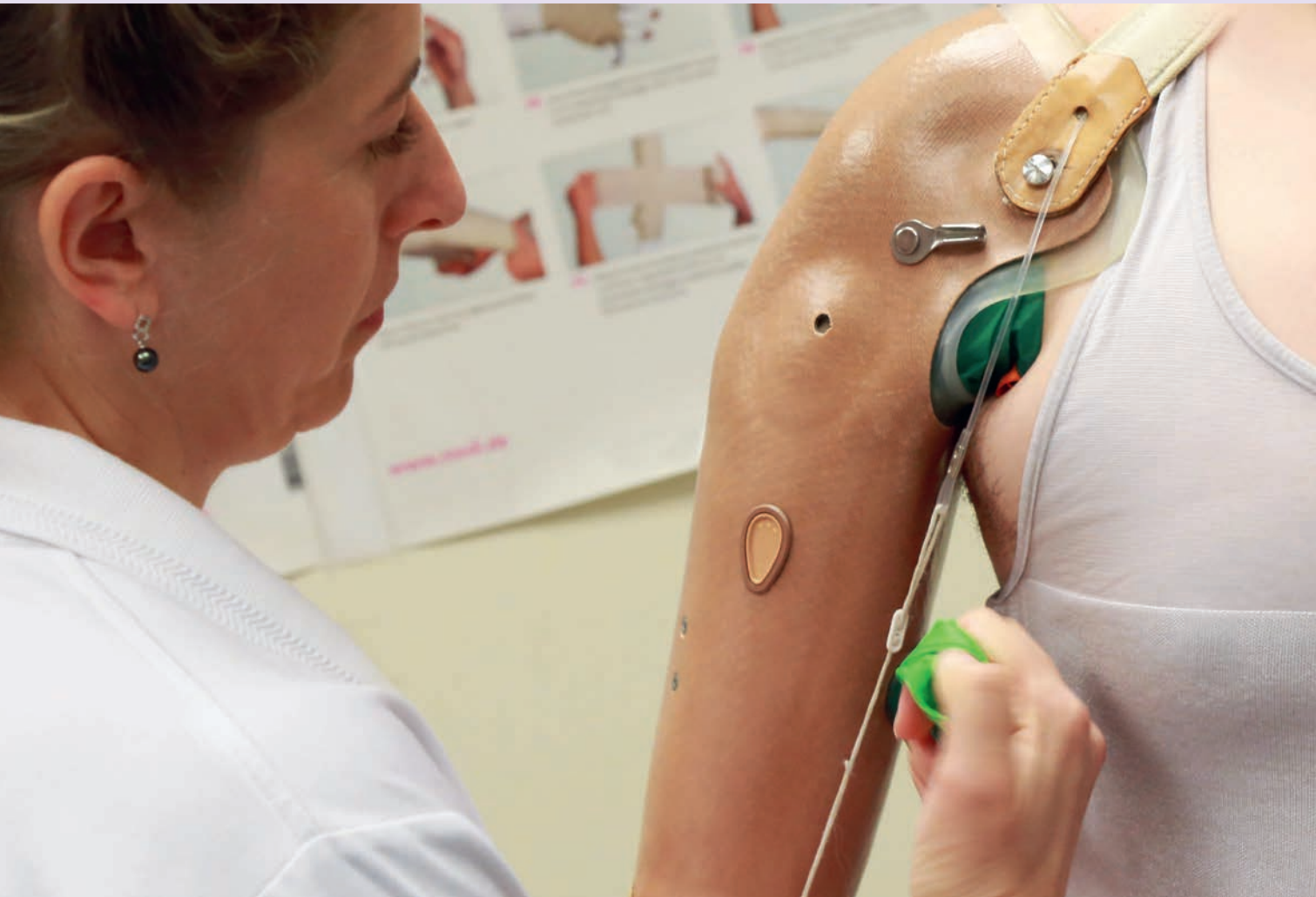
## ‘iMcan’ Revives Dreams

Mohammed A. had an active and happy life until 15 years ago when he suffered a tragic accident, which resulted in the amputation of his right arm. He was left struggling with a rigid artificial limb that was uncomfortable and inflexible.

Mohammed’s frustration with his condition reflected negatively on his job and social life, and he felt increasingly helpless and depressed. He finally gathered enough strength to seek help in finding a more suitable prosthesis.

His long journey brought him to the UAE, where his search came to a happy conclusion. **Al Jalila Foundation’s** ‘iMcan’ programme gave him the artificial right arm he was hoping to find, one which allowed him to move his prosthetic hand and fingers for the first time since he lost his arm.

Mohammed said the ‘iMcan’ programme has restored his optimism in life and now he is back on his feet, ready to pursue his future and revive his dreams that have been kept on hold for so many years.



## Facing up to Anaemia

Haroun Abdul Karim's first child, a baby girl born in 2008, was four months old when doctors told him she had a severe case of anaemia. Sadly, she died soon after as his efforts to get her the necessary medical care failed.

Abdul Karim, from Sudan, moved with his wife to work in the UAE where their second child, Mohammed, was born. The parents soon found themselves facing the same daunting challenge when Mohammed was diagnosed with anaemia when he was less than two months old. The couple could not afford the cost of treatment, but thanks to **Al Jalila Foundation's** 'A'awen' programme, they were able to receive the required medical assistance.

To Abdul Karim's surprise, the Foundation moved quickly to provide immediate medical care. As his son's condition stabilised over time, Abdul Karim's wife delivered another baby girl, who was found to suffer from the same disease. Again the Foundation agreed to bear the treatment and follow-up cost for both children until their health improved.



## Events & Activities

In 2017, **Al Jalila Foundation** hosted the second 'MENA SEN Conference' in partnership with the Dubai SEN Network. The special education needs (SEN) conference brought more than 250 consultants, educators and social workers from the UAE together with more than 30 experts from countries across the Middle East to exchange ideas, expertise and best practice, and discuss how best to apply them in schools.

Workshops, presentations and dialogues focused on the latest developments surrounding special educational needs and mental health in the UAE, including behavioural difficulties, dyslexia and anxiety.

**Al Jalila Foundation** also participated in Breast Cancer Awareness Month during October 2017, organising more than 96 community awareness events in cooperation with local partners. The activities, held in more than 35 schools and universities, attracted considerable public participation, with attendance exceeding 100,000 people. As a result, the Foundation raised AED 1 million towards breast cancer research and covering the cost of therapy for breast cancer patients in the UAE.

## 'Nabadat'

'Nabadat', meaning 'Heartbeats', is among the most outstanding humanitarian initiatives which have been launched by the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Humanitarian & Charity Establishment**. Run in the UAE and around the world in conjunction with Dubai Health Authority, the initiative aims to save the lives of children suffering from congenital heart defects and reduce the economic and social burden on their families of costly and complicated surgeries. In 2017, the initiative treated 120 children of various nationalities with heart surgery and catheterisation. Diagnostic services were provided to a further 150 children.

Since its launch in October 2007, the 'Nabadat' initiative has performed open-heart surgery and interventional catheterisation operations on 875 children from around the world, in addition to providing diagnosis to more than 5,000 children inside the UAE and abroad, with the help of some of the world's best cardiologists and heart surgeons.



# 270

children benefitted from the  
'Nabadat' programme in 2017



## Tiny Heart Beats Anew

Mahina, a five-year-old girl from the Rasht district of Tajikistan, suffers from a rare congenital heart condition, with four kinds of deformities diagnosed in her heart. Doctors described her condition as 'intractable', and it prevented her from playing with other children and living a normal life, a situation which was further exacerbated by family troubles.

The Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Humanitarian & Charity Establishment's 'Nabadat' team took a bold step by intervening despite the high complexity of the surgery. The team succeeded in giving Mahina a healthy heart so she can live a healthy life, and be the unifying force for her family members to lead a better life.



# Spreading Education & Knowledge

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AED

634

Million

spent on Spreading  
Education & Knowledge  
initiatives in 2017

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50

Million

beneficiaries of Spreading  
Education & Knowledge  
initiatives in 2017

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# 39

**Million**  
beneficiaries of Dubai Cares'  
initiatives and programmes in 2017

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# 10.1

**Million**  
students participated in the  
Arab Reading Challenge during  
the academic year 2017/2018

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# 221

**scholarships, fellowships and  
research grants awarded in 2017**

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# 51,000

**applicants to volunteer in the  
Translation Challenge**

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# Spreading Education & Knowledge

## Sustainable Human Development Through Education

Providing quality education to disadvantaged communities is of exceptional importance to the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives (MBRGI)**, as the Foundation believes in education as a conduit to a better life and the basis for achieving sustainable human development. The Spreading Education & Knowledge pillar is therefore one of the cornerstones of **MBRGI**, supporting tools and resources to develop educational systems and spread knowledge as a foundation for building strong economies.

To achieve its vision in this regard, **MBRGI** launches initiatives and programmes to combat ignorance and illiteracy, committing the resources necessary to create innovative and effective ways of providing essential basic education in developing countries, while reinforcing the Arab region's heritage as a centre of knowledge through cultural and enlightenment initiatives.

In 2017, the total expenditure on initiatives, programmes and projects dedicated to spreading education and knowledge amounted to AED 634 million and benefitted about 50 million people around the world, in comparison to 9.3 million people in 2016.

 **AED 634 Million**  
spent on Spreading  
Education & Knowledge  
initiatives in 2017

 **50 Million**  
beneficiaries of Spreading  
Education & Knowledge  
initiatives in 2017







## Better Education Opportunities

Under the umbrella of the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives (MBRGI)**, **Dubai Cares** continued, in its 10th year, its global contributions to improving access to basic education for children in developing countries. In 2017, more than 39 million people benefitted from its activities and initiatives.

As part of its strategy to promote public health, provide proper nutrition in schools and treat intestinal diseases among students, **Dubai Cares** implemented comprehensive parasite-control programmes in schools in Ethiopia and India in cooperation with international organisations and local authorities. In 2017, treatment to eradicate parasitic infections was given to 30 million children.

The Organisation launched the 'Lao Educational Access, Research and Networking' (LEARN) programme in Laos, which aims to lower the drop-out rate and improve early years education, as well as promoting health, sanitation and nutrition in schools, and encouraging parents to be actively involved in their children's education. The 'LEARN' programme offers a Lao language short course in the first four weeks of the school year and a school readiness course including teacher training and the provision of materials such as teacher and student workbooks. It benefitted 185,000 people in 2017.

**Dubai Cares'** 'Adopt a School' initiative was launched five years ago to improve access to quality education for thousands of children in developing countries. It provided school infrastructure, books and supplies, toilet facilities and teacher training in four schools in Cambodia, Malawi, Nepal and Senegal in 2017, benefitting about 2,250 people. It also started construction on 15 schools around the world.

Another project funded by **Dubai Cares** in 2017 was a training programme for kindergarten teachers in Gaza, Palestine, which aimed to inspire children to read through storytelling. The Organisation also renovated a kindergarten in a refugee camp. As part of its 'Volunteer Globally' initiative, volunteers from **Dubai Cares** visited the village of Phuleli in Nepal, where they participated in the construction of a new school for 150 students and 60 illiterate women.

In Kenya, **Dubai Cares** is working in partnership with the Aga Khan Foundation (AKF) to train teachers to use information and communications technology (ICT) to improve learning outcomes. In the Philippines, meanwhile, its 'Real Assets through Improved Skills and Education for Adolescent Girls' (RAISE) programme aims to prevent adolescents from poor rural households from dropping out of school. It especially helps young mothers continue their education after giving birth. This programme benefitted 84,765 people in 2017.





**30 Million**  
students benefitted  
from treatment against  
parasitic infections in  
Ethiopia and India in 2017

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**15**  
schools under  
construction in  
various countries  
from 2017

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## Big Dreams for Little Girls

Lolita, a mother from Masbate Province in the Philippines, was concerned for the future of her daughter Rosa, who stopped attending school following her early pregnancy. Rosa was also facing health problems, living in poor conditions, and had little knowledge about bringing up a child.

Lolita said: “I make sure to first provide for all my children’s needs. I know that I can give them what they need to finish their education.”

Through the ‘RAISE’ programme, Lolita was able to convince Rosa to go back to school.

“With determination, my daughter Rosa continues her schooling while I take care of her nine-month-old daughter. Now with this programme, I am sure that my dream for her and for my other children will be fulfilled,” Lolita said.

Rosa added: “I dream of becoming a fashion designer and I have big dreams for my little girl too.”







## Education in Emergencies

In an effort to support the continuity of education even during crises, conflicts and natural disasters, **Dubai Cares**, in collaboration with the International Rescue Committee (IRC) and the Global TIES for Children at the New York University (NYU), has launched 'Education in Emergencies: Evidence for Action' (3EA), a three-year programme that seeks to have a catalytic effect on the Education in Emergencies sector, while enhancing the quality of education by improving teaching and assessment methods.

The programme consists of eight core competencies: the use of diverse teaching methods tailored to students; the creation of an intellectually stimulating classroom environment; the use of positive communication techniques; the creation of a sense of belonging; the promotion of positive social relationships; as well as the establishment of effective relationships with parents, the community and other stakeholders.

The initiative supports three programmes in Lebanon, Niger and Sierra Leone that benefitted 18,788 people in 2017, including students, teachers and parents. The programmes aim to determine which interventions are most effective in improving learning outcomes, as well as to ensure that children in crisis-hit areas attend safe schools and gain essential literacy, numeracy, social and emotional skills.

## Local Efforts

Locally, **Dubai Cares** organised its eighth annual 'Walk for Education', engaging 14,500 members of the UAE community to raise funds and awareness of the suffering of millions of children in developing countries who walk an average of three kilometres per day to go to school.

**Dubai Cares** also launched a campaign in the UAE in October 2017 to raise funds to support education for Rohingya refugee children in Bangladesh to help provide them with a sense of stability and normality.

The Organisation held eight editions of 'Volunteer Emirates' in 2017, involving 3,125 volunteers in total. The volunteers visited national charity schools across the UAE, providing equipment and furniture, building new school facilities and improving learning conditions for thousands of students. Arabic-speaking volunteers also helped to inventory 10,000 Arabic books and packed backpacks containing school supplies for 50,000 children in Jordan who are affected by the Syrian crisis, as well as for 6,000 students from low-income families in the UAE.

## A More Peaceful World

Mohamad, 12, fled his hometown of Al-Qusayr in Syria to escape daily violence, and is seeking refuge in Awadeh village in the Akkar region of Lebanon with his family of eight. Mohamad is now studying at a remedial centre in Awadeh and at a Lebanese government school, which established a 'second shift' to accommodate the influx of Syrian refugees into the country.

His father Abed, formerly a farmer, said the conflict affected Mohamad's school attendance in Grades 1 and 2, leaving large gaps in his basic education. However, he now notices an improvement in his education level after enrolling in **Dubai Cares'** 'Education in Emergencies: Evidence for Action' (3EA) programme, where he does literacy and numeracy lessons, as well as mindfulness exercises that he practises at home to help him address his social and emotional development.

Mohamad said: "I have been improving in all academic subjects. I've started to recognise my feelings and to be able to express them freely and fearlessly using my own simple words. The mindfulness activities enable me to live in the present and start to imagine wonderful things, making the world a more peaceful place."

## A Generation of Hope

Nine-year-old Maher Mohamad came to Lebanon from Syria four years ago, having previously had no opportunity to attend school in either Syria and Lebanon.

When he joined **Dubai Cares'** 'Education in Emergencies: Evidence for Action' (3EA) programme, he was underperforming academically and his behaviour in class was often disruptive. Education was not a priority for him or his parents, given their difficult living conditions.

A year after enrolling in the programme, however, his academic levels have progressed and he has finally enrolled formally in the Lebanese public school system. Furthermore, he has become a 'homework support' student helping other children in 'Non-Formal Education' (NFE) classes.

"My dream is to help other Syrian children access education like I did," said Maher. His father added: "Maher and his brother Adnan are leaders of a new generation of Syrian refugees that can spread hope to children all over the world."



**“Our aid has humanitarian objectives only; it is never governed by politics or limited by the geography, race, colour or religion of the beneficiary”**

**Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum**

## Education Despite Danger

Brothers Yusef and Hamza have only one fear in life: not going to school. Even in Syria, as bombs dropped around them daily, the 14-year-old twins made the short, yet dangerous journey to school.

“Our mum said if we die, then we die. But we have to keep going to school because there’s a chance we may live,” said Hamza. Their mother, Bashira, like many other parents, was well aware of the risk but, realising that the war was not going to end any time soon, she felt that pulling her children out of school would do more harm than good.

When they enrolled in public school in Lebanon, the brothers initially struggled to maintain their academic performance until they took supportive classes funded by **Dubai Cares**.

The brothers now dream of becoming teachers.

“I am getting knowledge from my teacher and I hope in the future I will be in her place doing the same for the next generation,” said Yusef.





## Knowledge for Today's Challenges

As a leading entity in the field of knowledge and development within **MBRGI**, the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Knowledge Foundation** aims to equip a new generation of Arabs with the skills to address current challenges and develop solutions to the pressing problems facing society today, through knowledge and technology. The Foundation aims to achieve this goal through initiatives focused on building knowledge-based economies.

Under the theme 'Knowledge and the 4th Industrial Revolution', the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Knowledge Foundation** organised the fourth annual **Knowledge Summit** in Dubai to discuss the dimensions and perspectives of industrial revolutions and their role and impact on people's lives. The Summit also tackled the quantum leap that the digital revolution has made in the knowledge sector.

The **Knowledge Summit** is considered one of the UAE's most significant annual events as it seeks to highlight the importance of knowledge and the promotion of programmes and ideas that help raise awareness of knowledge around the world. The Summit attracted more than 100 speakers from 23 countries in 2017 and was attended by 15,000 people.

During the Summit, the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Knowledge Foundation** announced the results of the 'Global Knowledge Index' that monitors the reality of the knowledge sector across the world and identifies the challenges facing it, so that decision-makers can develop the necessary strategies in this field. The largest index of its kind in the world, it is a key factor in establishing the Foundation as a reliable data source for global researchers in the field of knowledge. In 2017, the initiative collected first-time knowledge data for 195 countries and calculated the knowledge index for 131 countries.

During the **Knowledge Summit**, the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Knowledge Foundation** also launched the 'Literacy in the Arab World' project, which aims to bridge the literacy gap in the Arab world.

In line with its mission to support knowledge sharing, the fourth edition of the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Knowledge Award** honoured three winners in 2017, who have made significant contributions to the development of mechanisms to spread knowledge.



# 15,000

people attended the Knowledge Summit in 2017



**“We seek to collect thought leaders, experts and academics in an open dialogue to share best practices, innovation and experience”**

Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum





## Diverse Knowledge Initiatives

In line with its humanitarian mission, the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Knowledge Foundation** distributed 1,000 smart reading library bags to Syrian refugee children in Jordan as part of its 'Smart Bag Convoy' initiative. Each smart bag contained 15 self-study smart learning tools for children to help them learn the Arabic alphabet and read correctly.

Moreover, the '#Bil-Arabi' initiative aims to enhance the position of Arabic as a global language through social media and also to enrich online Arabic content, especially among the younger generation. The initiative crossed the borders of the UAE and the Arab world to include participation from countries such as the United Kingdom, United States and South Korea.

Members enrolled in **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Knowledge Foundation's** 'Arab Professionals Forum' reached 1,655 people, including leading Arab professionals from both the public and private sectors, in addition to academics, teachers, scientists and researchers. The Forum was launched in 2015 in partnership with the professional communication network LinkedIn as a virtual platform for Arab professionals to exchange information and expertise and attract Arab specialists.

The **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Knowledge Foundation's** ongoing activities include the publication of magazines and book summaries, including 'Flashes', the first English language knowledge magazine in the UAE, and 'Wamadat', a magazine specialising in knowledge and development. In 2017, the Foundation published 12 issues of each magazine, each reaching 60,000 people.

The Foundation also published 36 book summaries in Arabic as part of its 'A Book in Minutes' initiative, which aims to translate and summarise in Arabic various publications by prominent authors in the fields of culture, literature and science and to deliver their exceptional thoughts and ideas to the largest number of Arab readers.

The 'Dubai International Program for Writing' promotes the dissemination of cultural and knowledge products and encourages and empowers young, creative and talented writers while refining their literary and research skills. The Programme has continued its efforts in helping Arab authors to shine worldwide. More than 40 writers graduated in 2017 after receiving special training related to developing their professional writing abilities.



## The Arab Reading Challenge

As the largest cultural and knowledge project of its kind in the Arab world dedicated to establishing a culture of reading among young people, the **Arab Reading Challenge** attracted more than 10.1 million students from 52,000 schools from different Arab countries during the academic year 2017/2018, compared to 7 million students from 41,000 schools during the academic year 2016/2017.

Palestinian student Afaf Raed Sharif won first place in the second round of the **Arab Reading Challenge** for the academic year 2016/2017, Al Iman School from Bahrain won the title of best school, while Dr. Houriya Al Thil from Morocco was honoured as the most outstanding supervisor.

The **Arab Reading Challenge** awards a total of \$3 million (AED 11 million), of which \$1 million is given to the winning school to help develop its facilities and enhance its library.

The first round of the **Arab Reading Challenge** was launched in 2015, under the umbrella of **MBRGI**, to raise awareness of the importance of the Arabic language, revive the habit of reading among young students and establish it as a way of life, thereby nurturing educated generations, and stimulating the writing and publishing movement required to enrich Arab libraries.



**10.1 Million**  
students participated in the  
**Arab Reading Challenge** during  
the academic year 2017/2018



## “To read is to live”

Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum

### The Reading Hero

Fatima Gholam, an Algerian student from a humble family living in Ouled Ouchen in Adrar Province, Algeria, demonstrated strong will in her journey to participate in the **Arab Reading Challenge**. Fatima, who qualified in the first stage of the Challenge, hoped to continue until the end. Her dream ended, however, with a tragic accident that claimed her life while on her way to join the Challenge final in Algeria.

Fatima was known among her classmates for her passion for reading. Her teacher said in sadness: “We didn’t know that Fatima was from a very humble family, or the circumstances she faced in pursuing her ambition to represent Algeria in the **Arab Reading Challenge** finals. This in itself makes us proud of her.”

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum honoured Fatima’s family during the awards ceremony of the Challenge’s second round and ordered that 10 libraries be named after Fatima for setting an example through her determination to read and to learn whatever the circumstances.

### A Role Model in Dedication

Dr. Mubarak Al Otaibi, an official in the Kuwaiti Ministry of Education and the educational representative for his region, dedicated all his spare time to the **Arab Reading Challenge**. He has supported the Challenge since its inception, in recognition of its mission and the vision of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum who, when it comes to knowledge and culture, invests all available resources in building human capacity in the Arab world.

Following the development of the initiative closely across all areas of Kuwait, Dr. Al Otaibi’s deep interest was sparked by his desire to provide a better future for his children and the youth of Kuwait.

Dr. Al Otaibi made a significant contribution to the successful participation of Jouri, a blind girl who took part in the first round of the **Arab Reading Challenge**. He gave her all the attention she needed, helping her to win the Challenge on a national level in Kuwait. He also insisted on involving all the schools under his prefecture, with many of the top students in the Challenge hailing from his area.









# مليون

رياض الأطفال إلى الصف 12



## Evolving Arab Learning

Launched in 2017, the **Mohammed bin Rashid Arabic eLearning Project** is the latest addition to the **MBRGI** entities within the Spreading Education & Knowledge pillar. The Project contributes to the UAE's efforts to prepare generations of Arab scientists, researchers and inventors by giving them access to advanced eLearning, thus propelling a renewed intellectual and knowledge-driven renaissance in the Arab region.

The **Translation Challenge** was launched as the first comprehensive educational initiative under

the **Mohammed bin Rashid Arabic eLearning Project**. Dedicated to promoting educational content and developing the Arab education system, the Challenge involves translation – to the highest international standards – of 5,000 maths and science-related videos into Arabic in one year. This equates to 11 million words made available for free through a unique eLearning platform to more than 50 million Arab students, aged from kindergarten to Grade 12.

Since its launch, the **Translation Challenge** has attracted 51,000 volunteers with different types of expertise from 55 countries around the world.



# مشروع محمد بن راشد للتعليم الإلكتروني العربي



Of these, 30,000 have reached the final stage of qualification. During the first months of the Challenge, more than 1,000 resources were translated and aligned with the curricula of Arab countries.



## 51,000

applicants to volunteer in the  
Translation Challenge

## A Cultural Beacon Under Construction

Work continued in 2017 on the construction of the **Mohammed bin Rashid Library**, which will become a cultural beacon and one of the largest libraries in the Arab world, with an investment of AED 1 billion. Once opened, the Library will include 4.5 million printed, digital and audio books.

## A Passion for Volunteering

Emirati Amal Al Mullah, 21, let nothing get in the way of her volunteering for the **Translation Challenge**. She contributes as a voiceover artist for educational videos in Arabic, making the trip from Umm Al Quwain to Dubai whenever needed.

“I look forward to the two times a week that I go to Dubai to contribute to the Challenge,” she said. Al Mullah studied Multimedia Design at Zayed University in Dubai and says her passion for radio work and voice commentary led her to volunteer in this capacity.

“I applied to volunteer after I learned about the initiative on social media. I spoke with my family and they were very encouraging because it would contribute to my personal growth, as well as the development of Arab students,” she added.

“What also motivated me was the fact that my mother was a teacher. She initiated my passion for science and maths and encouraged me to take part in the Challenge. I am eager to hone my skills and enhance my own potential through this important experience,” she concluded.

## Volunteering in his 60s

Sarmad Khalil is an Iraqi electrical engineer who has been based in the UAE since 2005. When he read the call to action for volunteers for the **Translation Challenge**, he did not hesitate to offer to be a voice commentator on Arabic educational videos.

Khalil is 60 years old and although most of the volunteers in the Challenge are young, he does not think that age makes a difference as he feels he is in full swing.

Khalil has always wanted to work in radio, and volunteering as a video commentator has been an opportunity for him to experience his dream. As an engineer, he is able to contribute his invaluable expertise on the subject matter.

He said: “When I record my voice for the **Translation Challenge** videos, I remember my granddaughter. I feel as if I am recording for her, so that she can learn maths and science and achieve her ambitions for the future.”



“Translation is the foundation of a cultural renaissance,  
and opens the doors to intellectual enlightenment”

Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum





## Promoting the Arabic Language

The **Mohammed bin Rashid Arabic Language Award** honoured 11 winners in its fourth round in 2017, selected from 962 candidates from 38 countries. Winners were chosen in five categories: education; technology; media and communications; linguistic policy planning and Arabisation; and culture, intellect and knowledge.

The Award aims to promote the Arabic language, support initiatives that champion it as a language of thought and research, and celebrate the efforts exerted in disseminating it, as well as facilitate its learning, teaching and development, and expand its use in various scientific, knowledge-related, intellectual and informational fields.

## Research & Scholarships

**Al Jalila Foundation** is committed to investing in education and research in the field of medicine to help develop medical treatments and provide greater opportunities to cure common health problems. It established the **Al Jalila Foundation Research Centre** to support education and medical research and provide scholarships to develop the next generation of medical professionals. The Foundation also funds research studies that address health challenges including cancer, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, obesity and mental illness.

In order to encourage Emirati students to pursue careers in medicine, **Al Jalila Foundation** organised in 2017 the fourth edition of its 'Destination Medicine Summit', which welcomed



## “The more our children read, the more optimistic our future becomes”

Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum

2,000 Emirati students to experience a day in the life of a doctor. As part of its support for Emirati students and specialists, two students received educational support to pursue healthcare sciences, 23 Emirati students won scholarships at UAE higher education institutions, and 17 Emirati students were awarded scholarships at the Mohammed bin Rashid University of Medicine and Health Sciences, while one student was awarded an international scholarship at Harvard Medical School.

In addition, **Al Jalila Foundation** provided 21 research seed grants, following an audit by 75 international reviewers, and supported five Emirati research fellowships at internationally renowned institutions. The total amount spent on medical research, scholarships, and fellowship programmes in 2017 was AED 10.4 million.

One of its research grant recipients, Dr. Nicolas Christoforou at Khalifa University, developed a new source of cardiac tissue by ‘reprogramming’ skin cells to behave like those of heart muscle. This research may be of great value to medicine as the tissue could be used to repair hearts that have suffered damage during cardiac arrests.

In addition, the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Knowledge Foundation** provides annual support to a number of students to continue their educational and practical careers through various scholarships, including the ‘University of Oxford-Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Graduate Scholarship’, which was granted in 2017 to one citizen from the GCC. The scholarships aim to prepare a cadre of highly skilled young Emiratis to ensure the nation’s progress.

As part of **MBRGI**, the **Mohammed bin Rashid School of Government** also supports a number of students and employees working in government institutions and departments to advance their skills and provide them with the knowledge they need within their respective competencies and functions through grants in four Masters’ programmes: an Executive Master of Public Administration; a Master of Public Administration; a Master of Innovation Management, and a Master of Public Policy. These grants benefitted 134 people during 2017.



# 221

**scholarships, fellowships  
and research grants  
awarded in 2017**

# Innovation & Entrepreneurship

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AED

396

Million

spent on Innovation  
& Entrepreneurship  
initiatives in 2017

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4,700

beneficiaries of Innovation  
& Entrepreneurship  
initiatives in 2017

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# 888

companies launched with the support  
of Mohammed bin Rashid Establishment  
for SME Development in 2017

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AED

# 14

Million

spent on supporting youth start-up  
ventures in 2017

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# 3,372

beneficiaries of Mohammed bin Rashid  
Establishment for SME Development's  
services in 2017

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# 1.1

Million  
applicants in the One  
Million Arab Coders  
Initiative in 2017

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# 64

winners of awards  
supporting Innovation  
& Entrepreneurship  
in 2017

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# 200

graduates of academic  
programmes run by  
Dubai Future Academy  
in 2017

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# Innovation & Entrepreneurship

## Supporting New Businesses, Driving Research & Embracing Innovation

In an era where the future is built upon technology and the knowledge-based economy, the youth of today face many challenges. When it comes to realising their ambitions and actively contributing to driving social and economic growth in their communities and nations, they need support, incentives and the necessary resources to develop their capabilities and ideas.

This is why the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives (MBRGI)** Foundation puts strong emphasis on fostering the entrepreneurial spirit of young people and providing advanced support to talented innovators in both the public and private sectors.

All the foundations and initiatives that operate under **MBRGI's** Innovation & Entrepreneurship pillar endeavour to implement the Foundation's vision of providing all the facilities and mechanisms necessary for new and emerging enterprises, while driving research and embracing innovation to transform the future.

Total spending on the various initiatives, programmes and projects classified under the Innovation & Entrepreneurship pillar amounted to AED 396 million in 2017, benefitting 4,700 individuals. Most of the investment was made in building sustainable landmarks.

AED  
**396** Million  
spent on Innovation & Entrepreneurship initiatives in 2017



**4,700**  
beneficiaries of Innovation & Entrepreneurship initiatives in 2017



فاستبقوا الخيرات



المسرعات  
الإنسانية



## SME Support

The **Mohammed bin Rashid Establishment for SME Development (Dubai SME)** aims to establish an environment that encourages young Emiratis to set up their own businesses. **Dubai SME** seeks to raise awareness of entrepreneurship as a valid alternative to employment, as well as promote a culture of innovation and creativity, which is considered a cornerstone of economic development. It also offers consultancy services, technical facilities and support mechanisms to nurture the development and growth of small and medium businesses.


In 2017, **Dubai SME** spent about AED 14 million on youth start-up ventures. This resulted in the launch of 888 new Emirati companies, benefitting from the package of facilities and incentives the Establishment offers. In total, 3,372 Emirati men and women benefitted from these services.

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), registered as members with **Dubai SME** were also supported in 2017 with contracts worth more than AED 1 billion, awarded by parties supporting the programme.

Building on the trail of achievements that has consolidated Dubai's position as a global centre for business and innovation, **Dubai SME** presented the 'Dubai SME 2021 Plan'. Through this plan, the Establishment has developed strategies and programmes aimed at encouraging innovation, fostering an entrepreneurial culture and building an environment that inspires creative ideas.

It also establishes policies to increase productivity and develop a competitive knowledge-based economy, as proposed by the Dubai Plan 2021, and in line with the UAE's Vision 2021.

In early 2017, **Dubai SME** launched the 'SME Classification System', which provides an overview of the performance of companies, classified by financial and non-financial criteria.

 **AED**  
**14 Million**  
spent on supporting youth  
start-up ventures in 2017





**“We may not live for hundreds of years, but the products of our creativity can leave a legacy long after we are gone”**

**Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum**

**Dubai SME** also signed an agreement to implement a smart government procurement gateway system. The project aims to provide a smart solution to managing the pre-qualification and registration processes of member companies and facilitate access to Dubai Government entities' procurement and contract opportunities.

In another development, **Dubai SME** launched the 'Dubai Intellectual Property Centre' (DIPC) to raise awareness of intellectual property (IP) in the business sector, and help companies to develop and share best practices, especially among small and medium businesses. The Centre kicked off its activities by organising its first course in Intellectual Property Protection, in conjunction with the IP Academy Singapore and with the participation of IP officials from both the government and private sectors in the UAE.

To provide further support to its members, **Dubai SME** signed a cooperation agreement to launch an SME e-commerce initiative with Souq.com, the Arab world's largest e-commerce portal. The initiative involves offering integrated e-commerce solutions to boost companies' global competitiveness, including for displaying products, electronic payments and a delivery and logistics network. Under the same initiative, a digital platform was launched for the 'Young Entrepreneurs Competition', the largest contest of its kind in the Arab world, which offers school and university students the opportunity to experience real-life enterprise. The online platform is designed to increase participation in the competition to meet growing demand and build on the success the competition has achieved since its launch.



**888**

companies launched with the support of Dubai SME in 2017



## Supporting Awards

**Dubai SME** honoured 11 enterprises from the UAE and 11 more from other Arab countries as the winners of the 10th edition of the **Mohammed bin Rashid Award for Young Business Leaders**. The Award aims to raise awareness of the significance of the sector, while also shedding light on Dubai's efforts to promote the sector, highlighting the capabilities and potential of SMEs in the UAE, and showcasing them to regional and international investors. A total of 456 enterprises participated across all categories, including 251 small businesses from the UAE and 78 from other Arab countries, as well as a further 127 organisations which provided support services.

Another prestigious award organised under the **MBRGI** umbrella is the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Business Award**, which is the highest accolade for business excellence that an organisation can achieve in the region. It is supported by the '**Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Business Award Program**', which is a robust learning platform for organisations aiming to implement international best practices and

boost performance, with the ultimate goal of becoming leading players in the global market.

In February 2017, the ninth edition of the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Business Award** honoured the achievements of 21 corporate establishments for their contributions to the economic progress of the region. Another nine companies were recognised in the first edition of the 'Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Business Innovation Award', a new category that aims to honour companies for outstanding innovation.

Two distinguished companies were awarded the Outstanding Award for Business Excellence and the Outstanding Award for Business Innovation during the ceremony, which was attended by business leaders from across the Gulf.

A series of seminars on best practice in innovation and entrepreneurship, and training sessions to help businesses with the criteria for both awards, were also held as part of the programme.



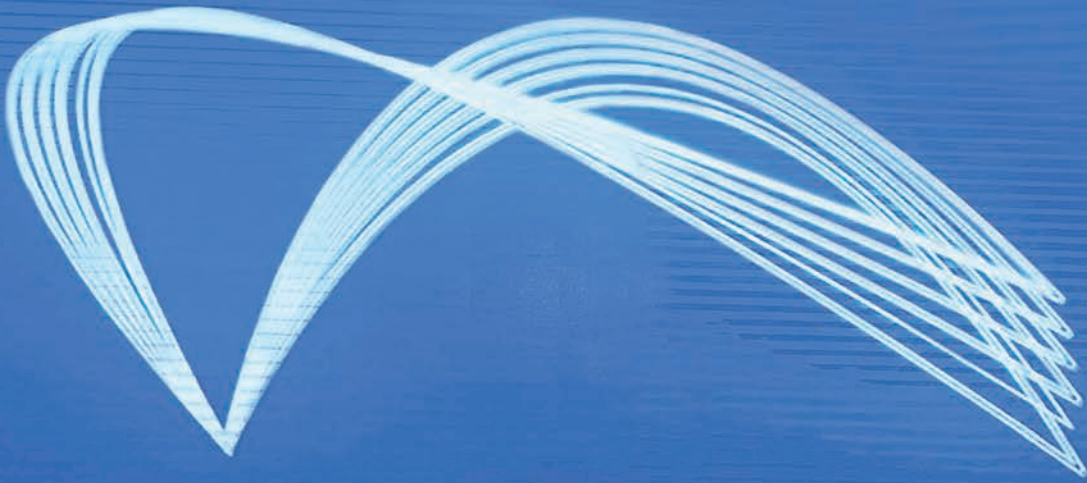
# 456

participants across all categories of the Mohammed bin Rashid Award for Young Business Leaders in 2017



# 32

companies awarded the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Business Award in 2017



جائزة محمد بن راشد آل مكتوم

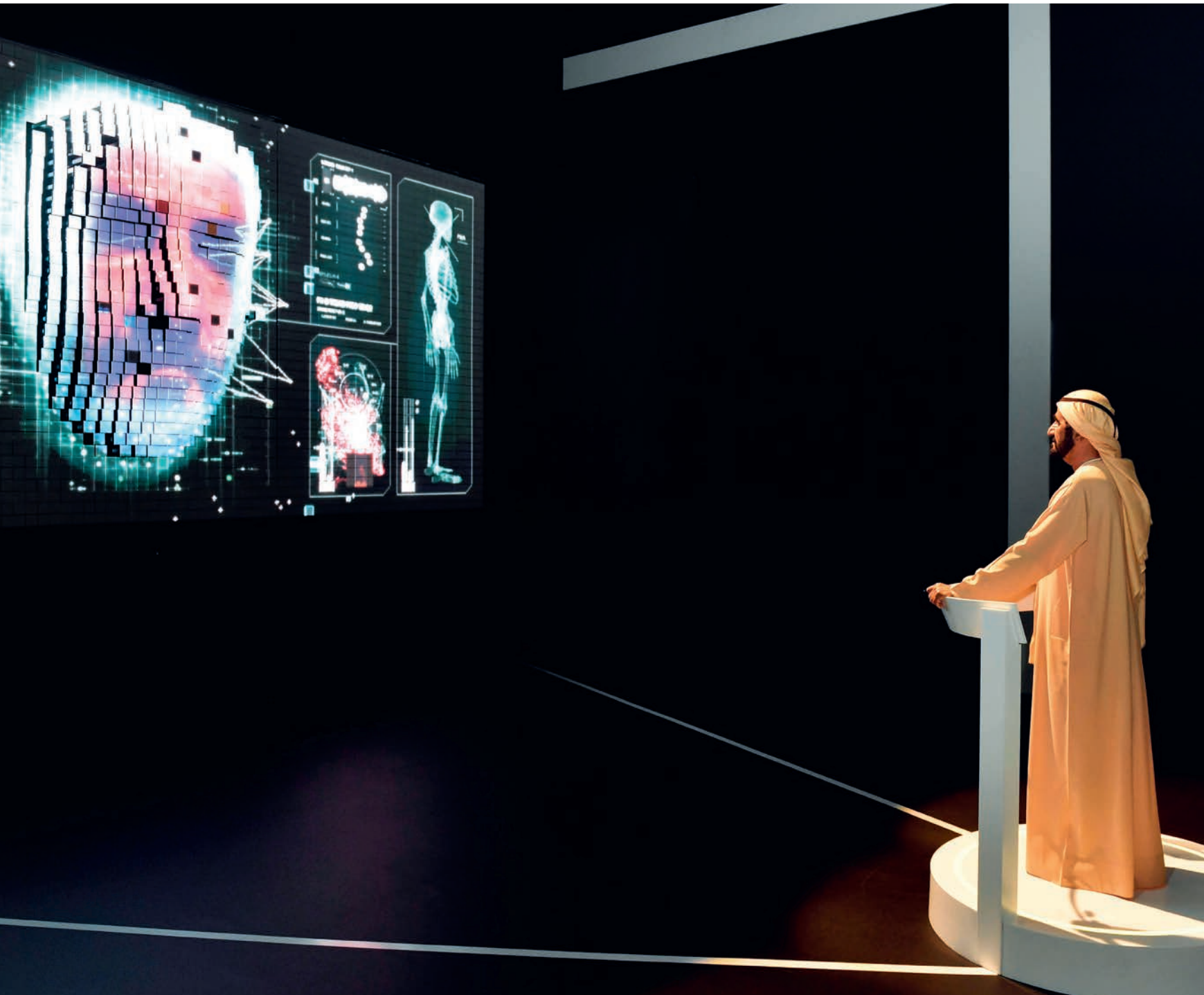
BIN RASID A MAKTUM BUSINESS AWARD





“The road to the future is not smooth sailing; but by your strong will, determination and hard work, we will realise our ambitions and become best of the best, always and forever”

Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum







## Future Outlook

Looking to the future and exploring new horizons is the remit of the **Dubai Future Foundation**. The Foundation plays a pivotal role in shaping the future of strategic sectors, in cooperation with government and private-sector organisations.

The **Museum of the Future**, currently under construction, is a unique architectural landmark, as well as an incubator for futuristic design and innovation and a centre for exploring the future of science and technology. A glimpse of the Museum, which comes under the umbrella of **Dubai Future Foundation**, was featured as an experience during the fifth edition of the World Government Summit held in Dubai in February 2017, where it attracted more than 1,000 visitors. The pop-up Museum focused on the effects of climate change and how societies must adapt, as well as forecasting future solutions to prepare for forthcoming challenges.

The **Museum of the Future** will be a destination where scientists, inventors, research institutes, entrepreneurs and financiers can meet under

one roof. It will feature innovation laboratories in the fields of health, education, smart cities, energy and transportation, as well as a permanent exhibition for future inventions. The Museum, which is expected to be completed in 2019, will test and challenge the capabilities and limits of the human mind to innovate and conceive new and lasting developmental solutions.

As an integrated global platform for shaping the future of strategic sectors, **Dubai Future Accelerators** works under the umbrella of the **Dubai Future Foundation** to incubate and accelerate start-up businesses developing pioneering technology, attracting the best talent and making their innovations a reality. Two intensive rounds of **Dubai Future Accelerators** were held in 2017, each lasting nine weeks. The rounds brought together technology companies from around the world with Dubai Government organisations to look into revolutionary solutions to the biggest challenges facing governments.

A total of 13 government entities, and 82 private companies from 24 countries, participated in the two rounds, working in the areas of transportation, healthcare, education, safety and security, energy and water, telecommunications, smart cities, food security, construction, aviation and social enterprise. As a result of the two rounds, 78% of the participating companies signed MOUs – 99% of which went on to become pilot projects, while 11 of the companies opened offices in Dubai.



# 1,000

visitors to the Museum of the Future at the World Government Summit in 2017



## Humanitarian Accelerators

The 'Humanitarian Accelerators' programme was also launched as a cooperation between the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives (MBRGI)** and **Dubai Future Accelerators** to connect start-ups from around the world with the UAE humanitarian services sector to bring about innovative solutions to the social, cultural and environmental challenges facing the Arab world. The 'Humanitarian Accelerators' focuses on four challenges – finding ways to educate refugee children via eLearning and facilitate access to resources; developing advanced technology to provide clean water in developing countries; enabling refugees to join the workforce; and improving and disseminating Arabic online content.

**Dubai Cares** hosted the first round of the 'Humanitarian Accelerators', which addressed the challenge of employing technology to improve access to quality learning for refugee children from around the world. Following a thorough evaluation process, three companies – one from the United States and two from the UAE – were selected to participate in a programme that prepared them with knowledge and experience to help deal with the task. A team of participants visited Jordan on a fact-finding mission to better understand the situation on the ground and connect with other NGOs and government entities operating in the field. Following the visit, a decision was made to combine the technologies of the respective

companies into one single solution to develop the most comprehensive and effective approach to support early childhood development. **Dubai Cares** plans to pilot the solution to provide education to Syrian children living in refugee camps in Jordan.

In 2017, the **Dubai Future Foundation** also launched the **Dubai Future Academy**, which has been set the mission to build capacity and train both UAE Government officials and private-sector employees in strategy and decision-making. This is achieved through integrated and innovative educational programmes focused on shaping the future, developed in cooperation with top academic institutions from around the globe. In 2017, the number of students and graduates at the Academy reached 200, distributed across three main courses: the Executive Education Program, the Future Design Diploma, and the Master's degree in Applied Future Sciences. The Academy also offers secondary courses providing executive education in specialised areas such as the Fourth Industrial Revolution and new business models.



**200**  
graduates of academic  
programmes run by Dubai  
Future Academy in 2017







## Language of the Future

The **One Million Arab Coders Initiative** was launched in 2017 under the umbrella of **Dubai Future Foundation**, and in cooperation with partner establishments, including the Mostaqbal portal, a global platform for anticipating the future, online learning platform Udacity, and recruitment portal Bayt.com, with the purpose of driving progress in the Arab world by teaching its citizens the 'language of the future'.

The Initiative aims to train one million young Arabs in computer programming through four courses focusing on building the most critical web development skills. Part of the UAE's efforts

to spread hope across the Arab world and create a better future for young people by enabling them to be innovative and creative, the Initiative was met with great enthusiasm, with 1.1 million people applying from all over the world.

 **1.1 Million**  
applicants to the **One Million Arab Coders Initiative** in 2017





## Water is the Source of Life

The **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Water Award** is an incentive for leading corporations, research centres, institutions and innovators around the world to compete to find sustainable and innovative solutions for water shortage through the use of solar energy. In 2017 the Award, which is managed by the **UAE Water Aid Foundation (Suqia)**, granted AED 2.4 million to 10 projects selected from a total of 138 applications from 43 countries.



AED

**2.4 Million**

the total value of the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Water Award in 2017

# Empowering Communities

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AED

129

Million

spent on Empowering  
Communities initiatives  
in 2017

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66,000

beneficiaries of Empowering  
Communities initiatives  
in 2017

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# 87,000

stories of hope from across the Arab world from the Arab Hope Makers initiative in 2017

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# 1,555

beneficiaries of the various programmes of the Mohammed bin Rashid School of Government in 2017

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# 35

countries represented by participants in the Arab Journalism Award in 2017

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# 420

graduates of all educational and training programmes through Empowering Communities initiatives in 2017

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# 59,000

beneficiaries of the initiatives and activities of the Sheikh Mohammed Centre for Cultural Understanding in 2017

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# Empowering Communities

## A Message of Harmony & Understanding

The pillar of Empowering Communities represents one of the most important focus areas of the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives (MBRGI)**. It aims to strengthen cohesion and tolerance to ensure stability and harmony, provide a creative environment that supports pioneers and nurtures innovative talents, establish interactive platforms for the exchange of ideas, and instil a culture of hope and positivity, uniting people for the greater good and guiding communities to reject hatred, violence, fanaticism and extremism.


In line with **MBRGI's** wider vision to spread hope and shape a better future for mankind, the initiatives, programmes, conferences and awards under this pillar aim to encourage a unified approach to humanitarian work in order to promote peace, to encourage cross-cultural dialogue and respect for cultural, religious and ethnic pluralism, and to instil the values of tolerance and acceptance of the other by focusing on what makes humans similar, while appreciating the diversity that enriches society.

It also works to build human capacity and prepare the leaders who will shape future strategies through pilot projects and initiatives.


The total spent on the various initiatives and programmes in this pillar during 2017 amounted to more than AED 129 million, and benefitted more than 66,000 people through a number of forums and conferences that discussed

intellectual, geopolitical, economic and societal issues, as well as a number of awards honouring people who have personified the spirit of giving, creativity and excellence in the field of sports. Other initiatives recognised people for spreading hope, and promoting a culture of positive change through the media, providing an effective tool for empowering communities and sparking dialogue about the various issues affecting society.

**AED**  
**129 Million**  
spent on Empowering  
Communities initiatives  
in 2017



**66,000**  
beneficiaries of  
Empowering Communities  
initiatives in 2017







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





“We are investing in the business of hope  
because it is the most profitable endeavour  
for the future of our Arab world”

Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum





## The Journey of Giving

The **Arab Hope Makers** initiative reflects **MBRGI**'s core mission of spreading hope. It aims to transform the concept of hope from being a human and cultural value into a sustainable business through initiatives, projects and programmes that seek to improve the quality of life and to invest in humanity by evoking the values of kindness, altruism and giving.

**Arab Hope Makers** is the largest of its kind in the Arab world, seeking to honour the philanthropists who spread the message of hope and positivity in their home countries by fighting despair and negativity. It recognises those who find solutions to the social and economic problems that hinder the progress of their communities, as well as those who dedicate their efforts and resources to transforming living conditions and making a real difference to the lives of the people around them. The projects and programmes highlighted through this initiative

help the poor and the needy and empower vulnerable or marginalised groups in societies, while also providing teaching and guidance to disaffected members of the community.

**Arab Hope Makers** targets individuals, volunteer groups and non-profit institutions that operate sustainable projects to improve people's lives or find solutions to urgent issues, positively impacting as many beneficiaries as possible. Projects could focus on social services, volunteering, education, environment, raising awareness, health, development or serving a particular social group in their communities.

The second edition of **Arab Hope Makers** attracted more than 87,000 entrants from across the Arab world, a significant increase on the 65,000 participants who entered in 2016. Winners, who could be individuals or groups, were awarded AED 1 million each.



# 87,000

stories of hope from across the  
Arab world from the Arab Hope  
Makers initiative in 2017



“We are proud of the 87,000 participants in Arab Hope Makers. They are truly stars in the skies of giving in our Arab world. It is our role to highlight this new generation of stars of hope”

Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum



Egypt's first **Hope Maker**, Mahmoud Wahid, was selected as the ultimate winner of the latest edition of **Arab Hope Makers** for his initiative, 'Together to Save a Human', which provides shelter, healthcare and emotional support for homeless elderly people, rehabilitating them and reuniting them with their families.

Mahmoud was selected from five inspirational **Hope Makers** who made it through to the finals of the competition, based on both votes from the public as well as the decision of the judging panel during the event that took place in Dubai. Mahmoud and the four other finalists each received AED 1 million to help them to develop their initiatives and expand their reach.

AED  
**5** Million  
the total value of the Arab  
Hope Makers awards in 2017





## Mahmoud Wahid Saving Human Dignity

Walking the streets of Cairo in 2014, young Egyptian Mahmoud Wahid was not prepared for the scene he witnessed – a man in shabby clothes sleeping on the pavement, his body scarred and disfigured with severe wounds and infested with worms. Unable to forget the incident and unwilling to pass by without helping, Mahmoud took him to a hospital. But it was not easy to find a hospital which would admit a homeless man, and it was harder still to find a care home ready to accommodate an elderly person with no documents to his name.

That day, Mahmoud decided to make a difference. He discovered several similar stories of homeless senior citizens, who would succumb to starvation, sickness or despair if no one would help them. With the support of friends, volunteers and individual donors, Mahmoud founded a shelter called 'Together to Save a Human'. The establishment took the people in and provided medical and psychological care, supporting them to find employment and reunite them with their families, should they wish.

Since the launch of the 'Together to Save a Human' Foundation four years ago, Mahmoud has set up a second shelter and is currently working to open a third. During this period, the Foundation has assisted more than 1,000 homeless people, mostly senior citizens, by

taking them in and providing them with medical care. It has also reunited 85 senior citizens with their families.

Today, Mahmoud works with a group of young volunteers and is ably supported by an army of 250,000 helpers on social media, who assist him by reaching out to the homeless and providing information about them and their families. The Foundation also includes supervisors and nurses who monitor the health and well-being of the residents 24x7. The elderly people receive specialised psychological care and medical attention, with a psychiatrist making house calls once a week. Furthermore, a dedicated team of physiotherapists and doctors across specialisations routinely follow up on the general health of the senior citizens.

**Hope Maker** Mahmoud Wahid has helped preserve the human dignity of those he rescued. His ambition is to grow his philanthropic project to accommodate all homeless people so no Egyptian has to sleep on the streets again.



## Reason to Smile

Mohammed Al Faqir is a **Hope Maker**, one of the entrants to the 2018 round of the initiative to celebrate humanitarians across the Arab world. Mohammed, a young journalist and activist from Taroudant in southern Morocco, was aware of a large number of local families in desperate need. Mohammed wanted to shed light on the suffering of these people, and with the participation of a number of young volunteers, he launched a Facebook page called 'Taroudant Smiles' to serve as a platform to identify the difficulties facing the community while at the same time reviving interest in the city's heritage.

The name of the Facebook page, launched in 2012, translates the vision of local youth, who hope to see their city shine and return to its former glory. They have employed all available means of communication to deliver the city's voice to government officials and to document the neglect of historic buildings, seeking their speedy restoration.

The initiative quickly transformed into a humanitarian platform to help poor, needy and marginalised individuals through the organisation of events and campaigns aiming to put a smile on people's faces. Among them, the 'Warm Hearts' campaign collected blankets, clothes and other basic items to distribute to poor families in the city and the rugged mountain areas, to help them face the extreme cold weather during winter. To date, more than 150 families have benefitted from this campaign.

Mohammed and his fellow volunteers launched campaigns to provide treatment for poor people by raising money to cover the cost of emergency medical surgeries. They also collected medication, which had not yet expired, from families who no longer needed them and donated them to healthcare institutions to redistribute for free to those in need. The team also contacts the concerned authorities to secure facilities, equipment and devices such as wheelchairs, for people of determination.

'Taroudant Smiles' also started several educational initiatives, including the 'Let's Make Our Schools Smile' initiative, which raised money to clean and repaint classrooms to provide a more nurturing environment and encourage students to learn, as well as launching cultural competitions and prizes for the children.



The administrators of the Facebook page organise a range of community, humanitarian and charitable activities throughout the year. They also post news about the city and its people, which has attracted a large audience of followers, including officials and citizens of Taroudant who live abroad and periodically send aid, which they can track with transparency on the Facebook page until it reaches those in need.

The page is viewed by more than 250,000 people every week, its success stemming from its diverse voluntary services and credible projects, which make Mohammed and his colleagues admired and respected by the whole city.

Mohammed said: "Volunteer work is a human message. It establishes the concept of solidarity in society. I am looking to improve our work and collaborate with many partners in the city to serve the people of Taroudant."

He and his colleagues also benefit from the initiative, he said: "We feel happy to see a child or poor family smiling because we were able to provide them with the things they need such as clothes, food and medical treatment, or an elderly man or woman recovering and walking again after undergoing the necessary surgery."



“Every individual in the Arab world shoulders the responsibility of creating hope. The attribute of giving is entrenched in Arabs, and making hope is a cultural mission”

Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum



### Ahlam, The Dream Maker

**Hope Maker** Ahlam Youssef, an English teacher at Jidhafs Secondary Girls School in Bahrain, could have simply done her job as required, but she refused to limit her ‘sacred’ mission as a teacher to the existing educational system, the curriculum or the walls of the classroom. According to Ahlam, a teacher’s mission is primarily focused on the students and their educational needs. Therefore, she launched the ‘Ihtiwa’ initiative in 2014 to personalise the learning experience.



The initiative aims to assist female students of various levels of ability in their English education, with a focus on helping under-performing students, people of determination, and students experiencing special circumstances that require psychological and academic support.

‘Ihtiwa’ is based on an innovative strategy to tailor the learning experience to each student’s individual circumstances, abilities and potential. Ahlam believes that successful education takes into account individual differences from the





start and finds the most effective way to extract the best from each student.

It involves designing manuals, activities and projects with differing levels of difficulty, which allow students to learn at their own speed. Her approach is not only limited to providing innovative educational content in English, but rather offers a comprehensive learning experience that includes building bridges of communication, caring for the students' psychological and emotional well-being, following up on their academic performance, and seeking the involvement of their families.

Interactive activities are used to bring together parents, students and teachers, all designed to ensure engagement. The initiative has reached beyond the limited school community to contribute to the creation of a wider platform for communication and learning using social media. Networks such as Instagram are used

to create virtual classrooms and as a creative space in which teaching tools are tested.

Since its launch four years ago, the initiative has benefitted 116 students at the school, with performance rates now exceeding the national index in Bahrain. More important than the grades achieved is the great improvement in the students' psychological state, which is reflected in their relationships with their families and the community around them.

Ahlam embodies the image of a noble teacher as she spreads hope to her students and makes a big difference to their lives.



**“The UAE has established itself as a global role model for tolerance. We cherish tolerance as a key value. Yet, we intend to transform that value into a sustainable institutional work that will reflect positively on our peoples in the Arab world”**

**Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum**

### **A Strategy for Tolerance**

The **International Institute for Tolerance**, established in 2017, is one of the newest institutions under the umbrella of **MBRGI**. The Institute aims to instil the principles of tolerance in society, build a cohesive community, and promote the UAE as a role model for tolerance. The Institute's strategy involves the development of new policies and programmes to promote the values of love, brotherhood, kindness and acceptance, encouraging continuous dialogue between different nationalities, cultures, religions and civilisations.

The Institute will focus on providing consultation and exchanging knowledge and experience in the field of policy-making and developing programmes that strengthen the principles of tolerance between nations. In addition to publishing studies and research reports on tolerance, it will work with relevant authorities in the Arab world to instil principles of tolerance in the younger generations. The Institute will also release social studies on the root causes of fundamentalism, seclusion and sectarianism, providing support to Arab and international experts on tolerance, and contributing to the development of educational systems.

The Institute participated in several exhibitions and conferences in its first year to introduce its vision and objectives and to emphasise the UAE's role as a champion for the values of peace and tolerance. The Institute also organised a number of external outreach activities, including a visit to the International Peace Institute in New York, where the UAE delegation discussed opportunities regarding cooperation and the possibility of carrying out joint activities. Locally, the Centre organised the 'UAE Tolerance March' on 16 November 2017, in which 500 people participated to celebrate the International Day for Tolerance.

The **Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Award for Tolerance** reinforces the Institute's objectives to guide, assist and honour Arab leaders in the field of tolerance and provides support to intellectual, cultural and media outlets promoting the values of tolerance and openness. The Award includes five categories, three of which are dedicated to honouring champions of tolerance in human thought, literary creativity and the arts. The other two categories focus on youth projects and new media.



Also under the **MBRGI** Foundation, the **Sheikh Mohammed Centre for Cultural Understanding** seeks to build bridges of communication, removing boundaries between different cultures and nationalities living in the UAE and raising awareness of local culture and traditions. It reached about 59,000 people in 2017 through its day-to-day activities of welcoming visitors, organising tours, lectures and cultural events.

The Centre arranged several events, including UAE National Day celebrations, which opened up heritage activities and interactive dialogue sessions with Emirati citizens to visitors for them to experience the culture of the UAE. It also held group iftars during Ramadan to familiarise UAE residents and tourists alike with Islamic culture and show them traditional Arab hospitality.



# 59,000

beneficiaries of the initiatives  
and activities of Sheikh  
Mohammed Centre for Cultural  
Understanding in 2017



## A Humanitarian Message

The 12th **Dubai International Sports Conference** was held in December 2017, under the theme 'Modern Investment in International Football'. It attracted about 1,400 participants, bringing together leaders from all areas of the sport including chairmen, directors, referees, agents, and some of the sport's greatest players. Promoting the humanitarian potential of the industry and its positive impact in the rise of nations, the Conference also auctioned off collectibles from some of the world's top names in football, raising AED 190,000 for **Dubai Cares**. On the sidelines of the Conference was the first 'World Cup Memories Exhibition' of precious memorabilia, and the 'Globe Soccer Award – Dubai', which honoured the stars of the sporting world with awards including Best Club and Best Player.

The **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Creative Sports Award** is the first accolade of its kind in the world, reinforcing the need for innovation in the industry of sport, in line with the objectives of **MBRGI**, by rewarding individuals and institutions

that have shown their capability to overcome obstacles and generate innovative solutions. The ninth **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Creative Sports Award** rewarded 23 people in 2017, who were recognised in the presence of 850 people, including high-profile local, Arab, and international sports personalities. Launched in 2009, the Award has since granted more than AED 61 million, reaching 1,835 participants, and recognising 302 winners locally, regionally and internationally from 54 countries.

The 13th 'Dubai International Symposium for Sports Creativity' was held alongside the ninth edition of the Award. With the theme 'Empowering Women in Sport' the symposium celebrated the pioneering role of women at all levels. The ninth edition of the 'Sports Creativity Forum' was also held to bring together the winners of the Award to present and share their experiences and creative approaches in further support of promoting innovation in the industry.



# 23

recipients of the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Creative Sports Award in 2017

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“Investing in human capital is the global approach in the 21st century, and the only means to achieve sustainable development that drives our country towards greater progress and prosperity”

Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum





## Leadership Development

Under the Empowering Communities pillar, **MBRGI** seeks to develop and nurture the leaders of tomorrow and equip them with the knowledge and practical expertise needed to build effective strategies for shaping the future.

The **Mohammed bin Rashid Center for Leadership Development** is working to create and develop national leaders at all levels and across sectors. As such, 90 young executive and government leaders graduated from the Centre in 2017. During the graduation ceremony, the Centre launched its new vision – to represent the UAE's culture in creating and designing the future, and to enable the nation to achieve the UAE Centennial 2071 Plan through collaborating with the best global partners in developing international leadership programmes.

As part of this vision, the Centre launched the 'Mohammed bin Rashid Leadership Framework', a carefully curated curriculum of competencies that are required in the next phase of the UAE's development, in addition to 'Impactful Leaders', its flagship programme, designed in collaboration with three international universities. The programme received more than 700 applications, 90 of which were assessed, resulting in 27 applicants being accepted.

The **Mohammed bin Rashid School of Government**, the first research and teaching institution in the Arab world focusing on governance and public policy, aims to support excellence in governance in the UAE and the Arab world, building future leaders through an integrated system of education and training programmes, research and studies.

Since its inception in 2016, the School has attracted 137 students from across the Arab world to enrol in its 'Future Government Programs'. These programmes are tailored to the highest global academic standards to enable the next generations of leaders to face future challenges.

In March 2017, the School also organised the first edition of the 'UAE Public Policy Forum', under the theme 'Future Directions of Education Policy'. The Forum provided a global platform for discussion, and brought together leaders, academics and experts from various sectors regionally and globally, to directly address the future challenges, opportunities and direction of education policy. In addition, the School launched several executive education programmes, an open enrolment programme, and published a series of scientific research papers and reports, while 254 people graduated from its various programmes.





**90**

graduates of the  
Mohammed bin Rashid  
Center for Leadership  
Development in 2017

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**254**

graduates of the  
Mohammed bin Rashid  
School of Government  
in 2017

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## Future Forecasting

The 10th **Arab Strategy Forum** was held in December 2017 in the presence of more than 500 participants, including decision-makers, thought leaders and researchers from around the world. The Forum, a regional platform focused on exchanging views and creating solutions to various geopolitical and economic challenges, unveiled new initiatives to motivate Arab youth to exploit opportunities and explore their future. To further this aim, it launched the 'Arab Forecasters Challenge', which is the first Arab challenge to pave the way for a new generation of Arab analysts to scrutinise, assess and forecast the most pressing political and economic events on a local and global scale. The top seven participants in the Challenge were honoured, with the first-place winner receiving AED 367,000.

The **Arab Strategy Forum** also announced the first edition of the 'Geopolitical and Economical Analysis and Forecasting Programme for Arab Journalists', which graduated 26 Arab journalists who had received training to enrich their geopolitical and economic forecasting skills. For the second year in a row, the Forum agenda included the 'Geopolitical and Economical Analysis and Forecasting Programme for Decision-Makers', which aims to equip researchers and decision-makers in the public and private sectors with the required tools to develop future strategies in light of current geopolitical and economic events. A total of 43 decision-makers from the Arab world graduated from the Programme.



# 500

participants in the  
**Arab Strategy Forum**  
in 2017

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# 76

graduates of the various  
programmes of the **Arab**  
**Strategy Forum** in 2017

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“I call on all our institutions to continue instilling goodness and hope, on behalf of the UAE, in every part of the world, and to be proactive in bringing about positive change and working to build a better future for all of humanity”

Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum





“There is a language for dialogue and understanding and a common ground for coexistence and mutual interests”

Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum





## Constructive Dialogue

Under its values of fostering a culture of tolerance and openness, **MBRGI** promotes constructive media discourse to help raise awareness of current events and build media literacy among the community, while positively shaping public opinion. To this end, the 2017 **Arab Media Forum** was held on the theme 'Civil Dialogue', and it attracted more than 3,000 high-profile media professionals, thought leaders, writers and commentators from around the world.

The Forum discussed the media's important role in supporting civil dialogue between nations and their people and promoting the spirit of tolerance and acceptance. A brainstorming session held on the sidelines of the Forum provided a platform for the audience to share ideas on how to use social media to achieve the most beneficial outcomes for Arab societies.

As part of its efforts to enhance the role of the media in humanitarian work, the Forum also involved an interactive fundraising activity, with proceeds put towards providing education for Syrian refugee children in Lebanon, in partnership with **Dubai Cares**.

The **Arab Media Forum**, in conjunction with Arab News, also released a report entitled 'Arab Image in the West', which pieces together the image of Arabs as portrayed in the American media.

The 16th **Arab Journalism Award** recorded its highest ever participation, with 6,000 participants from 35 countries.

The awards ceremony, held in Dubai, was attended by more than 800 people representing local and international media institutions, writers, media students, social media influencers and decision-makers from around the world. Awards were presented to 17 winners in 14 categories in 2017, with the total value of prizes reaching over AED 1 million.

**MBRGI's** efforts to support positive dialogue through the **Middle East Exchange** platform continued throughout 2017. The largest initiative dedicated to focusing on developmental issues in the Arab world, the **Middle East Exchange** continued to collaborate with Arab newspapers to publish weekly pages dedicated to articles about solutions and aspirations for the region, written and edited by a global team of writers, experts and researchers.



# 6,000

participants in the Arab  
Journalism Award in 2017

**“We are dedicated to serving humanity and standing by those in need wherever they may be; we believe that our value lies in improving the lives of others, regardless of their colour, gender, religion, or sect”**

Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum







# Future Outlook

The **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Initiatives (MBRGI)** Foundation continually strives to redouble its efforts across its range of humanitarian and developmental programmes to make a positive difference in the lives of millions of people across the world. The entities under the umbrella of **MBRGI** have a pipeline of new programmes and projects that will continue to increase the Foundation's impact in promoting stability and economic prosperity, and building a better future for mankind.

**MBRGI** is expanding the reach of its institutions, programmes and projects to benefit as many people as possible around the world, working in collaboration with local and international partners and with the help of thousands of volunteers.

## In Humanitarian Aid & Relief

A number of key entities under the umbrella of **MBRGI** have defined strategic goals for the forthcoming years, including the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Humanitarian & Charity Establishment**, which aims to benefit 1.5 million households between 2018 and 2020.

The **UAE Food Bank** not only plans to open new locations in the UAE, but also to establish partnerships across the region to enable it to assist refugees and people in conflict-hit countries. It also aims to widen its scope from fighting hunger to addressing environmental issues and developing solutions such as fertiliser and power plants to recycle waste food deemed unfit for human consumption. In the long term, the **UAE Food Bank** hopes – through awareness and education programmes – to gradually reduce food waste as part of a phased plan with the vision of making Dubai the first city, then the UAE the first country, to be completely waste-free.

The **UAE Water Aid Foundation (Suqia)** outlined its goals for 2018, which include implementing 100 projects to provide clean drinking water to communities in need around the world. It also plans to distribute clean drinking water to Muslims living outside of the UAE, who are fasting during the month of Ramadan, in partnership with the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Humanitarian & Charity Establishment**. **Suqia** will continue its activities to raise awareness of water issues and the importance of preserving and reducing water usage, while encouraging the development of sustainable solutions to water scarcity through research and development.

## In Spreading Knowledge & Education

As part of its mission to inspire the love of reading in the younger generations, the **Arab Reading Challenge** seeks to grow further to involve ever-increasing numbers of Arab students in what is already the largest and most comprehensive Arab literacy initiative. The Challenge has already taken a major step in its transition from a regional to a global programme, by allowing students of Arabic from around the world to participate in the next round of the Challenge during the 2018/2019 academic year.

**Dubai Cares**, another entity under the pillar of Spreading Education & Knowledge, is expanding its coverage to include stemming the worldwide increase seen in students dropping out of school. The Organisation will finance interventions in areas where governments are unable to provide national education services. This involves increasing funding for research programmes in its new areas of focus – early childhood education, secondary education, displaced youth and education in emergencies.

The **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Knowledge Foundation** has set a target to attract more than 104,000 people to participate in the **Knowledge Summit 2018**, whether attending in person, or engaging with the Summit via live broadcasts, and to receive 50,000 nominations for the **Mohammed**

### **bin Rashid Al Maktoum Knowledge Award.**

The Foundation also aims to provide learning for 10,000 authors and writers and educate 1,000 trainees interested in writing in the Arab world through the 'Dubai International Program for Writing'.

## In Healthcare & Disease Control

**Noor Dubai** will expand the coverage of its eye care programmes to additional countries in Asia and Africa, and extend its comprehensive eye care programmes in Nigeria, as well as furthering its campaigns to treat cataracts through increasing the number of surgical procedures it offers. In addition, **Noor Dubai** aims to conduct 100,000 surgeries and provide medical treatment for other eye problems and diseases to some 16 million people in Ethiopia. The Foundation also plans to set up a rehabilitation centre for visually impaired people in Dubai and conduct eye tests for 10,000 people, including labourers and schoolchildren, through its UAE mobile clinics.

## In Empowering Communities

Over the next three years, the **Sheikh Mohammed Centre for Cultural Understanding** intends to establish new partnerships with local and international universities and foreign cultural institutes, and to support innovative teaching techniques in UAE schools.





# **Annex**

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# 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
  - Mohammed bin Rashid Arabic eLearning Project
-



## Innovation & Entrepreneurship

- Dubai Future Foundation
  - Mohammed bin Rashid Establishment for SME Development (Dubai SME)
    - Mohammed bin Rashid Award for Young Business Leaders
  - Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Business Award
- 



## Empowering Communities

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

# Humanitarian Aid & Relief



## International Humanitarian City

**International Humanitarian City (IHC)**, established in 2003, is a global humanitarian hub based in Dubai with the mandate of using its transport and logistics capacity to enable aid agencies to provide emergency relief items to victims of crises. **IHC** hosts the offices of United Nations agencies and other non-governmental organisations. It plays an indispensable role transporting emergency, life-saving items, thanks to its strategic location in Dubai, which positions it within an eight-hour flight of two-thirds of the global population.



## UAE Food Bank

The **UAE Food Bank**, established in January 2017, is committed to collecting excess food from hotels, restaurants, supermarkets, farms and other related establishments, and distributing it to those in need in the UAE and abroad, in coordination with a number of local and international charities. As the first food bank in the UAE, it represents a comprehensive humanitarian, social, economic and cultural ecosystem that aims to eliminate waste while alleviating hunger locally, regionally and internationally.



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

## Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Humanitarian & Charity Establishment

Since its inception in 1997, the Establishment has worked to enhance the quality of life of people in the UAE and around the world. It implements development and relief projects, such as health, family empowerment and education-related initiatives as well as infrastructure projects. It works in 68 countries in collaboration with local and international partners.



## UAE Water Aid Foundation (Suqia)

The **UAE Water Aid Foundation (Suqia)** was established in 2015 to dispense humanitarian aid around the world and help communities suffering from water scarcity. It provides clean drinking water by drilling wells, distributing water pumps and water purification equipment, and undertaking desalination projects. **Suqia** also identifies sustainable responses to water scarcity and runs the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Water Award**, which encourages innovators to compete to find solar-powered solutions.



## Mohammed bin Rashid Global Centre for Endowment Consultancy

Launched in 2016 to help Dubai achieve its vision for maximising the potential of awqaf and endowments in serving humanity, the Centre offers free consultancy to encourage investment in these charitable instruments as a means of fulfilling societal needs. It works with partners to define a clear legislative framework, adopt best practice and identify and crowd-fund urgent needs.



# Healthcare & Disease Control



## Noor Dubai Foundation

Launched in 2008 with a vision for creating a world free from preventable causes of blindness, **Noor Dubai** provides therapeutic and preventative programmes on a regional and international scale. **Noor Dubai** implements a number of initiatives globally, especially in Africa and Asia, where it focuses on remote areas lacking in resources and healthcare infrastructure. The Foundation provides mobile clinics for treatment, runs awareness and preventative medicine programmes and invests in capacity-building.



## Al Jalila Foundation

Established in 2012, **Al Jalila Foundation** seeks to improve people's lives through medical education and research, as well as positioning the UAE at the forefront of medical innovation by investing in the nation's medical treatment capabilities and providing scholarships to nurture the next generation of Emirati healthcare professionals.

# Spreading Education & Knowledge



## Dubai Cares

**Dubai Cares** aims to break the cycle of poverty by ensuring children in developing countries have access to quality education through designing and funding programmes that aspire to be integrated, impactful, sustainable and scalable. Established in 2007, **Dubai Cares** works to increase access to primary education through programmes that eliminate the underlying obstacles preventing children from attending school and learning. Since its inception, **Dubai Cares** has reached over 18 million beneficiaries in 53 countries.



## Mohammed bin Rashid Library Foundation

The **Mohammed bin Rashid Library** was announced in 2016 to support and promote the country's comprehensive strategy in the cultural and knowledge sector, as well as to instil a passion for learning and a love of reading. The Library will be one of the largest facilities in the Arab world, containing millions of printed, digital and audio books. It aims to play an active role in disseminating knowledge and encouraging reading.



## Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Knowledge Foundation

Established in 2007, the Foundation aims to empower future generations through knowledge. Committed to the creation of knowledge-based societies in the Arab world, it funds research and nurtures ideas and innovation while focusing on its main pillars of education, entrepreneurship, research and development, and translation and publishing. It also hosts awards to strengthen the UAE's status on the knowledge map.



## Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Knowledge Award

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



## Knowledge Summit

Organised by the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Knowledge Foundation**, the annual Summit brings together experts from across the globe to discuss knowledge and ways to apply it in a local context. It seeks to highlight the importance of knowledge and to promote the programmes and ideas that help to spread the awareness of knowledge around the world.



## Mohammed bin Rashid Arabic Language Award

This Award, launched in 2014, encourages exceptional contributions to the Arabic language. It has categories in the areas of education; technology; media and communications; linguistic policy planning and Arabisation; and the development of a knowledge-sharing society. It aims to reinforce the UAE's role as a centre of excellence for Arabic and promote its use, while facilitating the learning and teaching of the language.



## Arab Reading Challenge

The **Arab Reading Challenge (ARC)** is the largest reading initiative for students across the Arab world and beyond. It seeks to instil the habit of reading, and a passion for knowledge, deep in the DNA of young students. **ARC** was launched in the 2015/2016 academic year and engaged students from the first to 12th Grades. The Challenge takes place throughout the school year, with a comprehensive follow-up system that includes qualifications at school level, country level and regional level, with a final ceremony held in Dubai.



Mohammed Bin Rashid  
Arabic eLearning Project

## Mohammed bin Rashid Arabic eLearning Project

Launched in 2017, this Project seeks to strengthen the UAE's position as a leader in providing an advanced scientific and educational environment. It aims to improve the Arab education system and students' attainment levels by giving them access to international curricula through eLearning. It includes the **Translation Challenge**, which aims to create Arabic content in various subjects by translating over 5,000 maths and science-related educational and instructional videos.



# Innovation & Entrepreneurship



## Dubai Future Foundation

The **Dubai Future Foundation (DFF)** was established in 2015 in line with the launch of the 'Dubai Future Agenda', a roadmap for shaping the future of strategic sectors. The Foundation oversees a number of initiatives, such as the upcoming **Museum of the Future**, a platform to demonstrate and test the latest inventions and prototypes from start-ups as well as the world's technology giants. In 2016, the Foundation launched **Dubai Future Accelerators** with a mission to design the future by facilitating partnerships between forward-thinking entrepreneurs and government entities to form a testbed for creating solutions to future global challenges. **DFF's One Million Arab Coders Initiative** is the largest of its kind and aims to train one million young Arabs in programming, equipping them with the tools to build their future and to contribute to the development of the digital economy. The **Dubai Future Academy** delivers educational and training programmes in strategic sectors to enhance the ability of government officials and private-sector partners in decision-making, strategy setting and future thinking.



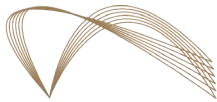
## Mohammed bin Rashid Establishment for SME Development (Dubai SME)

Launched in 2002 to play a leading role in developing the SME sector in addition to its mandate of fostering enterprise in Dubai, **Dubai SME** advocates for a pro-business environment which nurtures entrepreneurship. It aims to make Dubai a global centre for entrepreneurship, encouraging SMEs to start, grow and expand their businesses, thus adding greater value to the emirate's economy.



## Mohammed bin Rashid Award for Young Business Leaders

Founded in 2003, this Award honours distinguished entrepreneurs and recognises the individuals and organisations who have aided the development of entrepreneurs across the UAE. It supports the Dubai Plan 2021 by encouraging the younger generation to innovate and nurturing a culture of entrepreneurship and a creative, business-friendly environment in which they can contribute to economic progress in the UAE and the Arab world.



جائزة محمد بن راشد آل مكتوم للأعمال  
MOHAMMED BIN RASHID AL MAKTOUM BUSINESS AWARD  
AN INITIATIVE BY DUBAI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

## Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Business Award

This Award, launched in 2005, recognises and celebrates the success of organisations that contribute to the sustainable economic development of the UAE and GCC. It is supported by the 'Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Business Award Program', which is an intensive qualification initiative to help GCC companies adopt best practice and improve their business strategies, and which has been the fundamental part of Dubai Chamber's quest to foster business excellence.

# Empowering Communities



## Mohammed bin Rashid School of Government

Launched in 2005, the School is the first research and teaching institution focusing on governance and public policy in the Arab world. It aims to support world-class governance and build future leaders through an integrated system of education, training and research. It collaborates with government and private institutions both regionally and internationally, and is considered unique for its focus on the practical side of governance.



## Sheikh Mohammed Centre for Cultural Understanding

Founded in 1998, the Centre plays an indispensable role as a bridge between the many different nationalities living and working in, as well as visiting, the UAE. The Centre acts as a gateway to learn about Emirati heritage, culture and tradition. Since its foundation, it has provided a wide range of cross-cultural exchanges and other activities, including producing educational and awareness material for local and international schools and universities.



## International Institute for Tolerance

Founded in 2017, the **International Institute for Tolerance** aims to promote a spirit of tolerance, build a cohesive society and strengthen the UAE's position as a role model for tolerance. The Institute is keen to support initiatives that promote innovation and excellence in instilling the principles of tolerance on a national and international level through the **Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Award for Tolerance**.



## Arab Media Forum

This annual platform for leading media figures involves discussions and the exchange of ideas on media-related issues affecting the region and beyond. Launched in 2001, the Forum has attracted media personalities from all over the world, as well as a host of political, academic and intellectual leaders. Every year, media representatives, editors-in-chief, columnists, academics and senior government officials attend the event, which covers issues facing the media, such as new phenomena and future trends.



## Arab Journalism Award

Since its inception in 1999, the **Arab Journalism Award** has helped improve the quality of journalism and media in the Arab world. Its main goal is to reward talent, inspire excellence and stimulate creativity. Categories include investigative reporting; young talent in journalism; photojournalism; economic journalism; outstanding cartoon artwork; sports journalism; best press interview; best columnist; media personality of the year; political journalism; cultural journalism; smart journalism and humanitarian journalism.



## Arab Social Media Influencers Summit

Launched in 2015, the Summit provides a platform for communication about information, ideas and culture. Sessions cover a range of positive and constructive topics, such as education, health and human development, which are shared on social networking sites. It also features the **Arab Social Media Influencers Award**, which aims to shed light on the most important social media initiatives in the Arab world.





## Dubai International Sports Conference

Launched in 2006, **Dubai International Sports Conference** is an annual event that addresses key issues affecting global sports. Every year, sports-related speakers and audiences including referees, managers, agents and world-famous athletes gather to discuss solutions surrounding outstanding governance in sports for the success of clubs, professional associations and international bodies.



## Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Creative Sports Award

The **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Creative Sports Award**, founded in 2009, works to honour individuals, teams and establishments that have contributed to the enrichment of the sports movement, and encourage them to achieve more and demonstrate further creativity on a local, regional and global level.



## Arab Strategy Forum

The **Arab Strategy Forum**, established in 2001, is a premier platform for world leaders and global shapers to discuss geopolitical and economic trends, insights and impactful strategies, as well as to navigate risks and exploit opportunities. The Forum develops pioneering, short-term forecasts, thought leadership and insights to achieve this mandate.

مركز محمد بن راشد لإعداد القادة  
Mohammed Bin Rashid Center for  
Leadership Development

## Mohammed bin Rashid Center for Leadership Development

The **Mohammed bin Rashid Center for Leadership Development** was launched in 2003 in order to prepare future leaders at all levels and provide them with the knowledge and expertise to support the UAE's social and economic development initiatives. Over the past 14 years, 600 leaders have graduated from the Centre and gone on to head projects that have established Dubai as one of the leading global cities.



## Arab Hope Makers

The **Arab Hope Makers** initiative was launched in early 2017 with the goal of highlighting the philanthropists and **Hope Makers** of the Arab world, who dedicate their time to serving others and improving living conditions. The Initiative seeks to honour these individuals, raise awareness of their projects, and fund their humanitarian initiatives so they may continue their efforts and instil hope in their communities.



## Middle East Exchange

The **Middle East Exchange (MEE)** was launched in 2016 as a platform for sharing new ideas, inspirations and perceptions in the Middle East, aiming to stimulate and encourage frank, open and constructive debate around the important issues and challenges facing the region today. **MEE** presents weekly articles in well-known Arabic newspapers that tackle regional issues and address various developmental, economic, environmental and social topics.



مبادرات محمد آل مكتوم العالمية  
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