



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

Year in Review



AED
1.5
Billion
spent in 2018

86
Countries
reached in 2018

70
Million
beneficiaries in 2018

Year In Review 2018

Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives...

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

Year In Review 2018

3rd Volume



مبادرات محمد بن راشد آل مكتوم العالمية
Mohammed Bin Rashid
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Creating Hope for a Better Future

Our humanitarian, social and developmental initiatives and projects reflect our fundamental vision, which is centred on people's empowerment and happiness. Humanity is the cause to which we dedicate all our resources and capabilities, because people are the basis of a country's stability and progress.

Through the years, we have been dedicated to developing plans and strategies, and defining our goals to ensure a decent life for all. More than 30 entities and initiatives under the umbrella of the **Mohammed bin Rashid Global Initiatives (MBRGI)** have worked tirelessly to lend a helping hand to the disadvantaged, aid the vulnerable and improve the lives of marginalised and less-fortunate communities.

Our numerous sustainable programmes and projects have touched the lives of millions of people around the world. Our entities and initiatives have made a difference to over 70 million men, women and children in 2018. Some people had their vision restored, others had their thirst quenched, while millions were educated and acquired the necessary knowledge and skills to get them through life. These are the success stories worth celebrating.

We will continue planting the seeds of hope across the world. We will continue opening our hearts and doors to those who strive to make a difference in the Arab world to join us in the most noble Arab craft: Hope Making.

Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum
Chairman of the Board of Trustees



Making the Real Change

One of the most noble jobs of all is one that strives to make a positive change in the world. This is the overarching mission that the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives (MBRGI)** has adopted since its official launch over four years ago.

As an umbrella organisation for institutional initiatives with hundreds of projects and programmes, **MBRGI** is considered the largest of its kind globally, both in terms of its pillars that cover all aspects of humanitarian and development work, and its partnerships with regional and international organisations which enable its projects to reach the largest number of beneficiaries and create sustainable impact on ground.

In 2018, more than 70 million people benefitted from **MBRGI**'s various initiatives and programmes. Many of the beneficiaries, as highlighted in this report, have experienced a positive change that impacted their lives, at a personal and community level, proving once again that making a difference – big or small – in the life of an individual will ultimately benefit the entire community.

Many of our humanitarian, education, healthcare and empowerment initiatives and projects require periodic follow-ups and constant updates to broaden their impact and increase the number of their beneficiaries. This is the real positive change we seek.

In the UAE, hope making and the culture of selfless and unconditional giving are deeply embedded in our Emirati culture and identity. As His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum once said: “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”.

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

Creating Hope and Building the Future





2018 Achievements

AED **1.5**
Billion

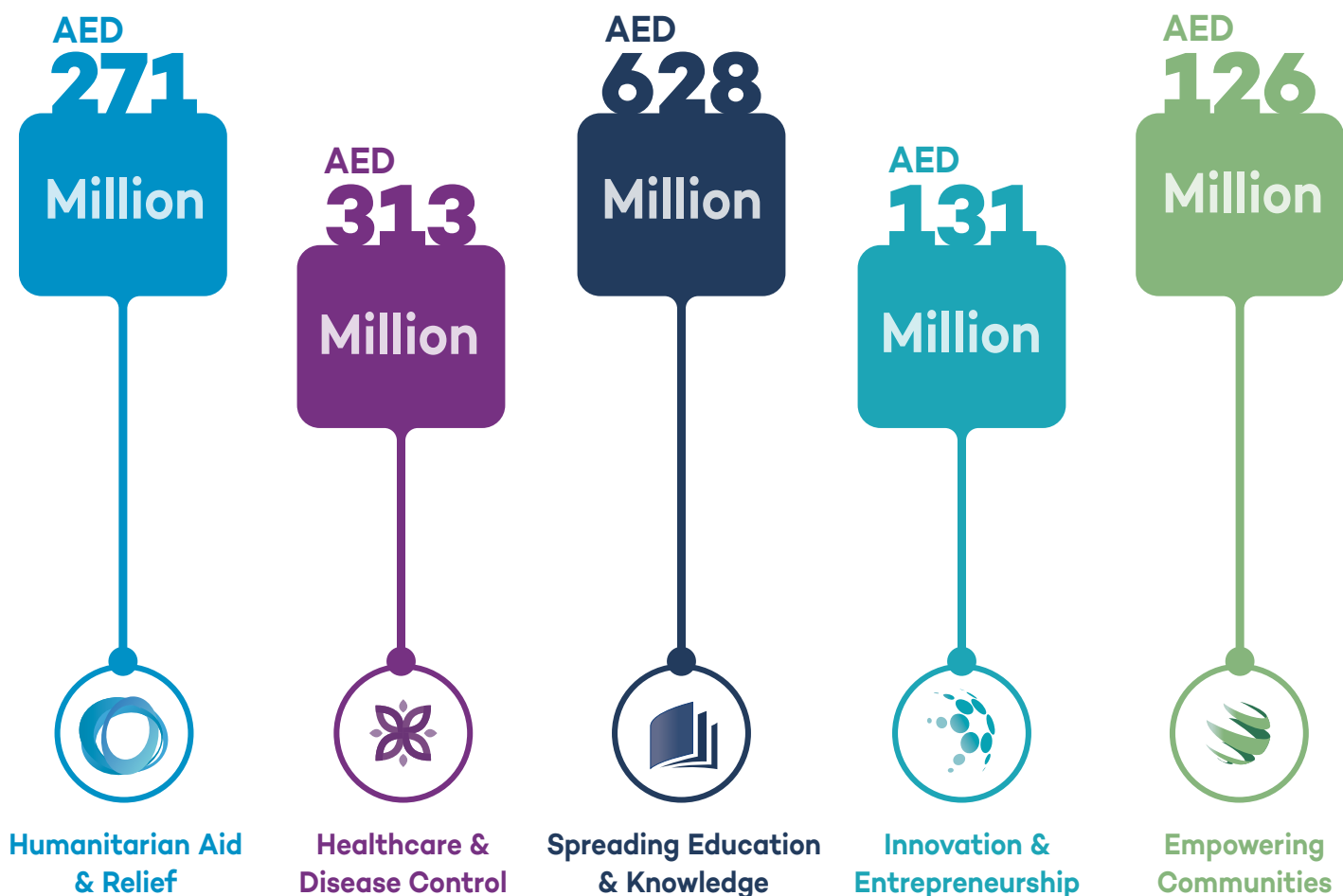
spent across
all pillars

70
Million

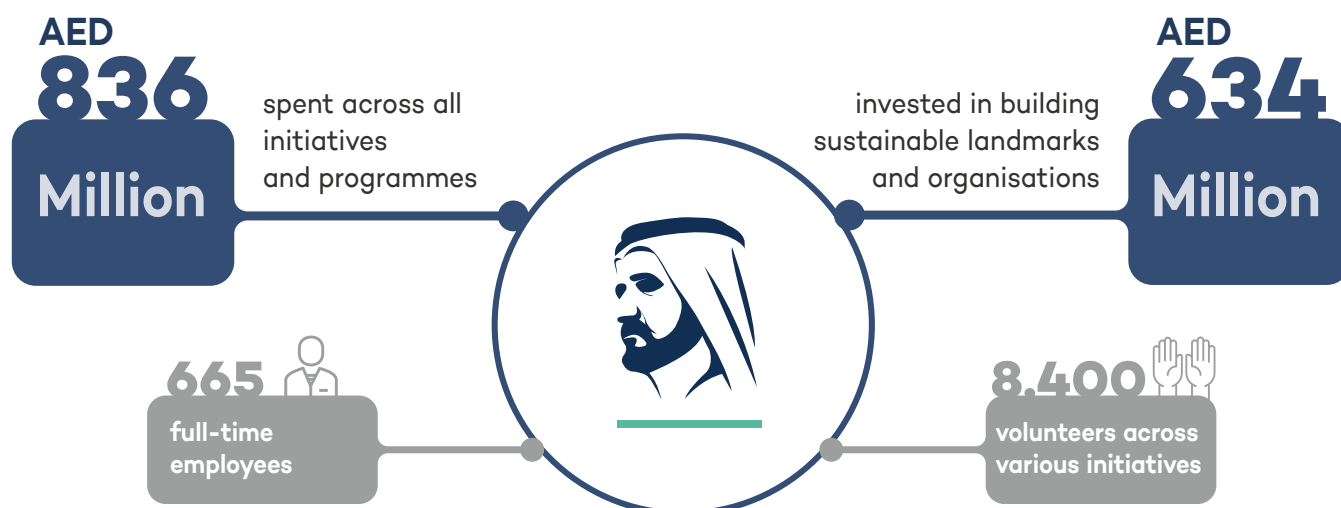
beneficiaries
of MBRGI's
initiatives
in 86 countries



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



AED 1.5 Billion
Total spend in all pillars



Introduction

The **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives (MBRGI)** is the largest regional and international foundation dedicated to humanitarian aid, developmental and social work. The Foundation aims to alleviate all kinds of suffering around the world, with a focus on communities facing social, economic, health and educational challenges that hinder development and stability.

The Foundation reflects the vision of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE, Ruler of Dubai, to serve humanity, spread hope and fight despair. Its goal is to promote the values of human fraternity and coexistence and create an open dialogue between different cultures, regardless of religion, race or ethnicity. **MBRGI** also aims to spark innovation and empower youth, directing their energy and talent towards building successful and thriving societies based on a solid foundation of knowledge.

MBRGI was founded in 2015 to unify efforts and extend the positive impact of more than 30 humanitarian and developmental initiatives and entities launched and supported by His Highness over the years.

The **MBRGI** Year in Review 2018 highlights the vision and mission of the Foundation's different entities and their key achievements through figures and human stories.

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



Humanitarian Aid & Relief



Healthcare & Disease Control



Spreading Education & Knowledge



Innovation & Entrepreneurship



Empowering Communities

2018 Highlights

Improving Life & Spreading Hope

The total expenditure of **MBRGI's** entities during 2018 amounted to AED 1.5 billion, of which AED 836 million was spent on various initiatives, projects and programmes that benefitted 70 million people across 86 countries, compared to 69 million beneficiaries in 68 countries in 2017. Of the total AED 1.5 billion, AED 634 million was also invested in building sustainable landmarks, such as the **Mohammed bin Rashid Library** and the **Museum of The Future**.

During 2018, over 8,400 volunteers joined hands with the Foundation's 665 full-time employees to support and achieve the goals of different programmes and activities under **MBRGI**.

MBRGI launched the **Madrasa e-Learning Platform**, a new initiative in the Spreading Education & Knowledge pillar, that provides free Arabised science and math educational videos to more than 50 million Arab students, in accordance with the latest international curricula.

Dubai Cares also expanded its educational and developmental projects to Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua to achieve its objectives of empowering millions of underprivileged children across the world with quality education.

In the field of Humanitarian Aid & Relief, the **International Humanitarian City** launched the 'Humanitarian Logistics Databank', a global platform designed to gather and share humanitarian aid stock data, enabling a swift and effective response to emergencies.

The **International Institute for Tolerance** held the first **World Tolerance Summit** in 2018, bringing together global leaders and decision-makers to discuss ways to endorse the values of tolerance in societies and promote coexistence and dialogue between cultures and religions.

In 2018, **Al Jalila Foundation** partnered with 'The Little Wings Foundation' to provide medical assistance to children with musculoskeletal deformities in the Middle East and North Africa. The partnership aims to facilitate necessary treatment and prostheses for children with congenital or acquired limb deformities, helping them overcome their daily struggle and lead a positive life.



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





Humanitarian Aid & Relief



AED

271

Million
spent on Humanitarian
Aid & Relief initiatives
in 2018



11.9

Million
beneficiaries of
Humanitarian Aid & Relief
initiatives in 2018



3

Million
beneficiaries of the
Mohammed bin Rashid
Al Maktoum
Humanitarian &
Charity Establishment
in 2018



8.2

Million
beneficiaries of
UAE Water Aid
Foundation (Suqia)
projects in 2018



2,000

Tonnes
of aid and relief
dispatched and
distributed with
the support of
the International
Humanitarian City
in 2018



Humanitarian Aid & Relief

Building Stable & Prosperous Societies

Since its inception, the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives' (MBRGI)** work has been centred on Humanitarian Aid & Relief, with a focus on both developmental and relief projects that serve as the basis for building cohesive societies, preserving human dignity and upholding the values of collaboration, harmony and social responsibility.

The local, regional and international projects and initiatives that comprise the Humanitarian Aid & Relief pillar aim

to improve the lives of people across the globe. They seek to address the most pressing challenges hindering development and provide urgent aid and effective emergency relief to communities affected by natural disasters, wars and other crises to alleviate the suffering of millions around the world. They provide social and developmental aid and sustainable programmes to serve communities facing challenges such as poverty and conflict, particularly in Africa, Asia and the Middle East. Initiatives and entities under this pillar unify their efforts to develop humanitarian programmes, projects and campaigns, deploying necessary resources to bring about positive change and build stable and prosperous communities.

In 2018, spending on Humanitarian Aid & Relief initiatives and projects totalled AED 271 million, benefitting more than 11.9 million people internationally.



AED
271
Million

spent on
Humanitarian Aid
& Relief initiatives
in 2018



11.9
Million

beneficiaries of
Humanitarian Aid
& Relief initiatives
in 2018





The Gift of Giving

The **International Humanitarian City (IHC)** has emerged as a vital humanitarian aid and relief hub that facilitates first responses to disasters and crises at a global level. Hosting a community of more than 80 United Nations organisations, international non-governmental organisations and commercial companies, **IHC** supports and coordinates international humanitarian and emergency response to aid communities around the globe affected by natural disasters, wars and other conflicts. Situated only eight hours away from two-thirds of the world's population by plane, **IHC's** strategic location at 18 kilometres from Al Maktoum

International Airport and 21 kilometres from Jebel Ali Port allows members to move aid shipments from sea to air in less than 10 minutes.

In 2018, **IHC** has continued setting up airbridges to deliver medical supplies, food and relief items to crisis-torn countries. It carried out 20 shipments, delivering more than 2,000 tonnes of aid and relief material to 10 countries in 2018. **IHC** member organisations dispatched an additional 1,200 aid shipments, carrying more than AED 257 million worth of aid to 89 countries across Africa, Asia and the Middle East.



619,000

beneficiaries of
relief campaigns
organised by
the **International
Humanitarian City**
in 2018





Whenever you relieve the pain of another human, it is like planting a flower in a garden, lighting a candle in the dark or saving a life that God Almighty treasures

Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum

IHC continued supporting Rohingya Muslims in refugee camps in Bangladesh, operating relief flights that benefitted more than 344,000 people in Dhaka and Chittagong. Two aid shipments were also sent to Ethiopia in November 2018 to help around 45,000 people, while humanitarian efforts in Papua New Guinea provided emergency aid to 60,690 earthquake victims. Medical and logistical supplies were also airlifted to Angola to help combat malaria and yellow fever among other epidemics, while 91 tonnes of relief items were shipped to Indonesia to assist survivors of the devastating Lombok earthquake in August 2018.

Regionally, **IHC** led efforts to send emergency aid to help 30,000 victims of strong floods that swept through areas of Jordan in November 2018. An additional 95 tonnes of supplies, including tents, blankets, medical relief items and large amounts of food, were dispatched to the Sudanese capital of Khartoum to assist 45,000 flood victims in the Blue Nile area.





Immediate Response

In February 2018, **IHC** launched the 'Humanitarian Logistics Databank', a pioneering platform set to revolutionise the global humanitarian aid and relief sector. Developed by a group of specialist engineers and information technology experts, the Databank aims to tackle common aid distribution, coordination and other logistic challenges. The Databank collects and shares real-time data on humanitarian aid stocks and flows, strengthening the world's capacity to respond to emergencies swiftly and efficiently.

Employing automated tracking of aid movements based on customs data from ports, airports and other entry points, the Databank will provide aid agencies and support centres around the world with information on the exact location of critical relief supplies such as food, medicine and shelter, enabling a faster response to affected communities during emergencies and crises. In its first phase, the Databank gathered information on all relief shipments and humanitarian aid dispatched from Dubai, making this information accessible to the global humanitarian community.

Stories from the Field

In 2018, **IHC** launched 'Flash Studio', a new project that equips agencies, NGOs and other international organisations with technology to broadcast and live stream field stories from crisis-torn areas. With the aim of enhancing cooperation, capacity-building and knowledge exchange between **IHC** and its members, the mobile studio helps publish 'stories from the field' to raise awareness on humanitarian missions and draw the attention of media and decision-makers to issues in remote areas of the world.





Anyone can be a benefactor, regardless of their position or wealth

Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum





Touching People's Lives

Under the umbrella of **MBRGI**, the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Humanitarian & Charity Establishment** embodies the UAE's spirit of giving and humanity. Through its various humanitarian programmes and projects, the Establishment seeks to alleviate the suffering of disadvantaged communities in the UAE and abroad. In addition to organising international relief and rescue missions to regions affected by war and natural disasters, the Establishment implements vital projects that support sustainable development and stability, including building schools, hospitals and houses, drilling wells, and executing other infrastructure and utilities projects.

In 2018, the Establishment intensified its efforts both locally and internationally, serving 3 million people in 2018, compared to 1.6 million in 2017.

The Establishment organised a number of Ramadan initiatives in 2018, including iftars held for 96,000 people across 53 Arab, African and Asian countries, as well as in Brazil, the United States and Canada. The 'Eid Gift' project provided new clothing to 44,000 families in 14 Arab, African and Asian countries. The Establishment's meat distribution campaign during Eid

Al Adha celebrations benefitted 62,000 underprivileged families in 31 countries in 2018.

'Ready for School' Bags

One of the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Humanitarian & Charity Establishment's** international initiatives involves distributing school bags packed with uniforms, books and other supplies to thousands of students at the beginning of each academic year. The project was implemented in 13 countries in 2018, with 3,000 school bags distributed in Kazakhstan and 45,000 in the Philippines, benefitting more than 100,000 students around the world.

Providing Warmth in Winter

During the winter of 2018, the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Humanitarian & Charity Establishment** sent warm clothing and heaters to several countries, including Palestine, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, to protect disadvantaged families from harsh winter conditions. Continuing its relief efforts, the Establishment also delivered winter supplies to support Syrian refugees in Lebanon.



**3
Million**

beneficiaries of
the Mohammed bin
Rashid Al Maktoum
Humanitarian
& Charity
Establishment
in 2018





Sustainable Giving

In addition to providing time-bound emergency and financial relief, the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Humanitarian & Charity Establishment** implements sustainable development projects and initiatives including residential, education and healthcare facilities that aim to improve the quality of life in less fortunate communities around the world. In 2018, the Establishment built 12 schools, three clinics and five orphanages, including the notable AED 2.3 million Dar Zayed Orphanage in Afghanistan that focuses on instilling values of tolerance and coexistence among 1,500 Afghan youth. The Establishment also drilled wells and improved water networks in 25 countries as part of its sustainable projects.

Other developmental projects were executed in Egypt and Tajikistan to combat poverty and provide low-income families with livestock, sewing machines, transport and fishing boats, among other facilities, which helped empower and enable hundreds of people in both countries in 2018 to make a decent living.

The UAE's Pioneering Humanitarian Efforts

In 2018, the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Humanitarian & Charity Establishment** organised several local community initiatives in the UAE, including the 'Orphans Support Initiative', which distributed AED 3 million to empower 2,000 orphans. The Establishment also dedicated AED 16 million in financial aid to low-income families and widows, and an additional AED 4.7 million to provide healthcare services for more than 800 patients in need. Over AED 4 million was dedicated to educational programmes, covering school fees and laptops for students. Other infrastructure projects focused on building majlises, event venues and mosques across the UAE, benefitting more than 250,000 people.





There is a sense of goodness in every person, and a merciful and generous soul inside each of us. The aim is to remind people of the great value of water and demonstrate the difficulties hundreds of millions face to get access to water

Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum

The 100 Water Projects

The **UAE Water Aid Foundation (Suqia)** is dedicated to providing clean drinking water to remote areas across the world, in efforts to tackle global water scarcity. Holding the belief that clean drinking water is a fundamental human right, **Suqia** carried out water-supplying initiatives in cooperation with leading local and international organisations, benefitting 8.2 million people in 2018.

In line with 2018 being declared the Year of Zayed, which commemorated the 100th anniversary of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan's birth, **Suqia** launched the '100 Water Projects' initiative, which helped provide safe

drinking water to 125,000 people in 12 countries in collaboration with the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Humanitarian & Charity Establishment** and Emirates Red Crescent. The projects included drilling wells, building water purification plants and establishing a water wagon network to help carry water from faraway sources. In collaboration with the Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA), **Suqia** launched the '100 Volunteers' initiative in 2018 to instil the culture of volunteering and humanitarian work among Dubai Government employees. The initiative saw more than 100 volunteers participate in various charitable activities and events throughout the year. The Foundation's '100 Letters to Zayed' initiative collected more than 200 messages of gratitude addressed to the late Sheikh Zayed from volunteers, employees, community members and school students. **Suqia** also distributed 100 portable water coolers to labour camps across the UAE as part of the '100 Water Endowments' initiative.



**8.2
Million**

beneficiaries of
UAE Water Aid
Foundation (Suqia)
projects in 2018





Hands in the Field

In 2018, **Suqia** joined efforts with the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Humanitarian & Charity Establishment** to implement sustainable development programmes through its 'Hands in the Field' initiative, which organised volunteer field trips to a number of developing countries. On a visit to Kabigi village in Uganda, a team of UAE volunteers renovated two schools and provided the community with basic utilities. The water projects included digging an artesian well, installing water distribution networks and providing water purification filters to houses and schools, benefitting a total of more than 5,000 people.

In Upper Egypt in the Qena Governorate, 'Hands in the Field' volunteers opened a water distribution network in the district of Arment. The volunteers also initiated the second phase of the project, extending water pipelines and installing filters in 80 houses.

Besides its work abroad, **Suqia** also focused efforts at home, distributing drinking water to iftars in mosques and labour camps during Ramadan. The initiative was expanded to distribute drinking water to 13 more countries including Uganda, Tajikistan, Egypt and Bangladesh.



THEIR STORIES

A Day of Hope

For Domiana, a 32-year-old wife and mother living in Upper Egypt, every day is the same. She starts her morning routine by going out to collect fresh water for her two children before they go to school. She then goes out several times throughout the day to collect water for her family's crops and livestock

Domiana's family is one of 50 in the El Hajer village in Luxor Governorate with no direct access to clean drinking water, forcing villagers to spend several hours a day finding and collecting water to satisfy their basic needs.

In cooperation with other charity organisations, **Suqia** installed a water distribution network in the village, facilitating the direct flow of water into Domiana's house. The system enabled villagers to spend more time seeking work or pursuing their education, in efforts to combat poverty and unemployment in remote villages.

For Domiana, the project has made a huge difference in her family's life. She now looks forward to waking up every morning with a renewed sense of hope.



United to Feed the Hungry

The **UAE Food Bank** has continued its efforts to fight hunger and eliminate food waste by collecting surplus food from the local hospitality sector and food industries before redistributing it to people in need in the UAE and abroad, in collaboration with local and international organisations.

The **UAE Food Bank** organised a number of local charity initiatives in 2018, particularly during Ramadan. The 'Your Suhoor is Our Responsibility' programme, executed in cooperation with the Knowledge and Human Development Authority (KHDA), distributed 49,700 iftar meals and 23,500 suhoor meals. The **UAE Food Bank** also signed an agreement with Careem to deliver meals to low-income families and individuals across the country. The 'UAE Food Bank Containers' initiative collected surplus food at the 2018 Gulfood exhibition and redistributed it to 8,000 low-income families and workers in the UAE with the support of local charitable organisations.

The **UAE Food Bank** further expanded the scope of its activities during 2018, installing 10 fridges in Ras Al Khaimah and 10 in Ajman, in addition to the 80 fridges previously installed in 2017 at various locations across Dubai, to encourage the community to donate food for people in need.

Community Development

The **Mohammed bin Rashid Global Centre for Endowment Consultancy** provides free services to local, regional and international entities and individuals, to achieve the Dubai Global Vision for Awqaf and Endowments, placing Dubai at the forefront of deploying endowments to serve humanity. Aiming to become a valuable resource for international best practices, the Centre strives to maximise social impact through innovative awqaf and endowment opportunities and



73,200
Meals

provided by the UAE
Food Bank during
Ramadan 2018



monitor and respond to urgent social needs in the UAE and the Arab world.

In 2018, the Centre granted its 'Dubai Endowment Sign' to nine community service groups as part of its objective to encourage individuals to make social contributions.

In September 2018, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum,

Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE, Ruler of Dubai, issued Law No. (11) of 2018, placing the **Mohammed bin Rashid Global Centre for Endowment Consultancy** under the Awqaf and Minors Affairs Foundation (AMAF). AMAF now provides all financial and administrative support for the Centre, making an outstanding difference to the endowment system's role in supporting communities, both locally and globally.



Healthcare & Disease Control



AED

313

Million
spent on Healthcare
& Disease Control
initiatives in 2018



13.1

Million
beneficiaries of
Healthcare & Disease
Control initiatives in 2018



11.7

Million
patients treated for
trachoma, a disease
that causes blindness,
in 2018



32,474

eye surgeries conducted
in 2018



1.4

Million
vaccines provided for
the treatment of
maternal and neonatal
tetanus during 2018



Healthcare & Disease Control

Addressing the Most Pressing Medical Challenges

Through the years, the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives (MBRGI)** has strengthened its role in making a significant difference to human development through its work in Healthcare & Disease Control. This central pillar reflects the Foundation's immense regional and global efforts to improve quality of life, tackle the most pressing medical challenges that hinder development and create environments that nurture stable and prosperous societies. Work in this pillar comprised a large portion of **MBRGI's** programmes and projects in 2018, aiming to combat major diseases and epidemics, prevent and treat infectious diseases, and provide primary healthcare and medical services to disadvantaged communities.

Programmes launched by entities in Healthcare & Disease Control provide scholarships, training programmes and missions inside and outside the country, to support medical research locally and regionally and equip UAE-based medical staff, students and researchers with advanced skills and experience to improve the country's medical services.

In 2018, **Al Jalila Foundation**, **Noor Dubai** and the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Humanitarian & Charity Establishment** continued carrying out a

variety of specialised programmes and projects to combat common diseases such as tetanus and trachoma and conduct critical surgeries to cure eye conditions, heart defects and limb deformities in children, in addition to awareness campaigns.

These **MBRGI** foundations have forged new strategic partnerships, working closely with local government and private entities to strengthen humanitarian services and involve different society segments in serving humanity. **Al Jalila Foundation** has supported the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in its efforts to combat tetanus and has partnered with 'The Little Wings Foundation', which provides medical assistance to children with musculoskeletal deformities in the Middle East and North Africa, while **Noor Dubai** has continued its campaign to eliminate trachoma in collaboration with 'The Carter Center'.

Spending within the Healthcare & Disease Control pillar totalled AED 313 million in 2018, benefitting around 13.1 million people worldwide.



AED
313
Million
spent on
Healthcare &
Disease Control
initiatives in 2018



13.1
Million
beneficiaries of
Healthcare &
Disease Control
initiatives in 2018





A World Free From Avoidable Forms of Blindness

Standing among the most prominent and pioneering medical humanitarian organisations in the region, **Noor Dubai** continues to dedicate resources to provide necessary eye care and procedures to prevent blindness to vulnerable and disadvantaged communities globally, focusing on crisis-torn areas in the Middle East and North Africa. Besides supporting international health organisations and entities through periodic prevention, vaccination and examination campaigns, and surgical procedures, the Foundation carries out local treatment programmes and awareness campaigns to educate the UAE community on eye disease prevention.

As a member of the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB), **Noor Dubai** continues to strive towards achieving the Vision 2020 initiative for the global elimination of trachoma in collaboration with 'The Carter Center' in the United States. The Foundation's work in the Amhara region of Ethiopia, one of the most trachoma-endemic regions in the world, saw 11,662,671 doses of medicine distributed and 32,474 eye surgeries performed in 2018.

To ensure the sustainability of medical care in the Amhara region, the Foundation has trained 9,262 health workers and supervisors. It has also expanded the scope of its activities to cover 3,459 villages in Ethiopia and organised blindness-prevention awareness campaigns.



11.7
Million

recipients
of trachoma
medication in 2018





32,474

people benefitted
from eye surgeries
in 2018

Eye Camps

As part of its ongoing efforts to alleviate the suffering of people living in remote areas in Asia and North Africa with poor infrastructure and limited access to proper medical services, **Noor Dubai** continues to run mobile eye clinics that provide screening, diagnosis and healthcare services, and perform eye surgeries. The Foundation diagnosed

and treated 6,100 patients in Rajshahi city as part of its treatment camps in Bangladesh, conducting 646 surgeries, distributing 1,923 pairs of eyeglasses and providing medical care and treatment to 2,000 Rohingya refugees. Cataracts, considered the leading cause of blindness among adults in Bangladesh, can be easily treated if the necessary medical intervention is made available.



Locally, **Noor Dubai's** state-of-the-art mobile eye clinics provide screening and diagnosis free of charge. In 2018, the mobile clinics conducted more than 4,000 medical examinations and organised campaigns to distribute 6,000 pairs of free reading glasses.

In conjunction with World Sight Day on 11 October, **Noor Dubai** signed a memorandum of understanding with the Dubai Health Authority to expand the scope of visual impairment prevention in the UAE. The programme funded treatments for 71 patients in 2018.



THEIR STORIES

From Darkness to Light

Thirty years ago, Noor Hussein, a 60-year-old Rohingya Muslim in Myanmar, sustained a work injury that permanently damaged his right eye. Four years ago, Noor developed a cataract in his left eye, but as part of the Rohingya minority, who are denied government and healthcare services, he was unable to receive the proper medical treatment, which left him completely blind.

When Rohingya Muslims began fleeing to Bangladesh, Noor endured a terrifying experience with his wife and five children when the family was shot at during their escape. His son sustained a leg injury, causing them to spend a week hiding in the forests and mountains. His wife almost drowned when they tried to cross a river. Noor was unable to help her due to his condition, but thankfully, she was saved by a stranger.

Despite the tragic conditions that forced his family to leave home, Noor can now see the light. After they arrived at a refugee camp in Bangladesh, he was examined at one of **Noor Dubai**'s mobile eye clinics and underwent surgery to treat his cataract and restore his vision. Noor can now start a new chapter in his life with renewed hope.





If each one of us only gives one-tenth of what he makes,
no poor or sick or illiterate person will be among us

Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum

End of Struggle

Mulu Mekonnen, a 46-year-old woman from the South Gondar zone of the Amhara region of Ethiopia, suffered from pain and itching in her eyes ever since she was a child. Her condition was further exacerbated with age, affecting her daily activities and adversely impacting her family's livelihood.

Mulu did not know she had trachoma, a bacterial infection caused by *chlamydia trachomatis*, which results in a roughening of the inner eyelid, triggering extreme irritation of the cornea that can cause blindness. She tried a range of traditional treatments but to no avail. Thanks to **Noor Dubai's** medical campaigns that cover home visits, Mulu's eyes were examined and she was diagnosed with advanced trachoma that, if left untreated, could have left her blind.

Mulu was referred to a healthcare centre in the region to undergo surgery. Once she had completed a three-month course of follow-up treatment, her trachoma had completely healed.

Mulu now leads a normal life. She was able to resume her agricultural work to support her family. Having recovered fully from her ordeal, Mulu's future is now assured.



Medical Support to Millions

Al Jalila Foundation carries out humanitarian missions in Healthcare & Disease Control that improve the lives of millions around the world. Throughout 2018, the Foundation continued to implement several programmes and initiatives, in collaboration with global organisations, to provide medical treatment and preventative care to communities and patients in need inside and outside the UAE.

Al Jalila Foundation has continued to collaborate with UNICEF to eradicate maternal and neonatal tetanus. During 2018, more than 1.4 million tetanus vaccines were provided in 20 countries to save mothers and their newborn babies, as part of the last phase of the 'Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus Elimination' programme.

Al Jalila Foundation formed a new partnership with 'The Little Wings Foundation' in 2018. Through the partnership, **Al Jalila Foundation** has provided vital medical care, from surgeries to prostheses, to children with congenital or acquired limb deformities in conflict areas, helping them become independent and seize opportunities for a better future. Through its two missions to Gaza in 2018, the programme treated 88 children with musculoskeletal deformities and screened 300 children.



**1.4
Million**

vaccines provided
for the treatment
of maternal and
neonatal tetanus
in 2018





THEIR STORIES

A Girl of Courage & Determination

In the Gaza Strip, Mai was born with a congenital deformity in her right lower leg, in addition to struggling with a rare skeletal defect, which is considered one of the most difficult to treat.

Mai's family exhausted all available treatment options over the previous three years, including bone-grafting procedures conducted by doctors in Gaza since she was just a year old and other surgeries by 'The Little Wings Foundation'. But when all treatment and surgeries failed to make any progress, it became clear that it was necessary to amputate her leg to end her suffering.

With her family's support, Mai courageously agreed to undergo an amputation conducted by 'The Little Wings Foundation' in partnership with **Al Jalila Foundation**. Mai never stopped smiling despite having to make this difficult decision.

After her treatment concludes, Mai will be fitted with a prosthetic limb, which will enable her to walk to school independently and achieve her dream of "becoming a doctor to provide treatment to people with similar conditions".





Local Programmes & Activities

Locally, **Al Jalila Foundation's** 'A'awen' ('support' in Arabic) programme is central to providing financial assistance and free medical care to UAE-based patients unable to afford healthcare expenses. In 2018, the programme provided treatment to 183 children and adults at a total cost of AED 7.5 million.

Another vital programme is 'Ta'alouf' ('harmony' in Arabic), the first of its kind in the region to train parents and teachers to empower children of determination, helping them overcome their challenges and discover their underlying potential. The programme aims to equip parents with skills to better manage the challenging behaviour of children of determination and help teachers and school principals to best understand the individual needs of each student, broadening their understanding about inclusive education best practices. In 2018, 100 parents and 74 teachers graduated from the programme to become today's ambassadors of hope and humanity who help create a better future for children of determination.

Other significant commitments by the Foundation include the 'iMcan' programme, which provides prosthetic limbs for adults and children, allowing them to lead an active and normal life.

As part of the 'Farah' ('happiness' in Arabic) programme, which strives to support children with heart disease, cancer and other chronic diseases, **Al Jalila Foundation** organised the 'Basma' ('smile' in Arabic) campaign to raise funds during Ramadan for children living with debilitating and life-threatening illnesses. In collaboration with over 40 partners, the 2018 campaign raised AED 1 million to provide urgent treatment and medical care for children.

In October 2018, **Al Jalila Foundation** led its annual campaign during World Breast Cancer Awareness Month, organising 125 community awareness events and activities in cooperation with 120 partners across the UAE. The Foundation raised more than AED 1 million to support breast cancer research and treatment for patients in the UAE.



174

beneficiaries
of the 'Ta'alouf'
programme
in 2018





THEIR STORIES

A Difficult Journey Ends with a Smile

The first smile of Bana Nizar Hassan, a nine-year-old Sudanese girl, after her surgery, is a moment her father will never forget. Since birth, Bana has suffered from a complete failure of her left kidney and atrophy of her right kidney – a condition that affects one in 1,000 children. Bana spent the first years of her life enduring all kinds of treatments and medications until it was finally decided that a kidney transplant would save her life.

After a long search for a donor and completing the necessary tests, Bana has become the first child to undergo kidney transplant surgery in Dubai, thanks to **Al Jalila Foundation's** 'A'awen' programme. Her case not only represented a significant medical achievement, but also reflected a model of cooperation between nine government and private health entities that worked in parallel to ensure a smooth and quick kidney transplant was carried out within the critical 12-hour window after the donor had passed away in Abu Dhabi.

Today, thanks to the surgery, Bana is able to lead a normal and healthy life.





THEIR STORIES

A Story of Hope

Khalid Al Ali is a young Emirati man with an enchanting smile and a strong will. The 26-year-old athlete – an international swimmer and a member of the UAE National Swim Team – has a long list of hobbies that include horseback riding and sailing. He has also participated in international sports championships in several countries.

Born with Down syndrome, Khalid has become an inspiring young man, thanks to his perseverance and his family's support. His parents enrolled in **Al Jalila Foundation's** 'Ta'alouf' programme, which trained them to communicate better with Khalid and understand his feelings and behaviour, helping them to further empower him towards fulfilling his potential and meeting his aspirations.



Mental Health for a Better Future

As part of its medical and social efforts, **Al Jalila Foundation** offers the annual Rosalynn Carter Fellowships for Mental Health Journalism, the first programme of its kind in the Middle East that aims to develop a cadre of journalists better informed on mental health issues. Emirati journalists Nahid Al Naqbi, Deputy Head of Content at Al Bayan Newspaper, and Iman Ben Chaibah, CEO of Sail Publishing and Editor-in-Chief of Sail Magazine, were the 2018 recipients. In her project, Nahid addressed the underlying reasons behind the lingering social misconceptions surrounding mental health therapy. She also launched a social media campaign to enable users to share personal stories about mental illness and develop supportive relationships. Meanwhile, Iman's study addressed the mental health difficulties among Emirati youth, addressing ways to promote well-being and cope with mental illness.





The treatment of children suffering from illness or disease should not be subject to geographical chance

Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum

Scholarships & Medical Research

To support medical research, develop the future of healthcare in the UAE and stay up-to-date with scientific breakthroughs and the latest treatments, **Al Jalila Foundation** provides medical and research scholarships annually to empower the next generation of medical professionals. The Foundation awarded 24 scholarships to Emirati graduates in 2018 with a total value of AED 2.2 million. The Foundation also funds international scholarships at Harvard Medical School and supports international research fellowships for UAE nationals keen to develop their expertise with the aim to migrate global best medical practices to the UAE.

In the medical research area, **Al Jalila Foundation** opens the door for UAE-based medical researchers and professionals to avail research seed grants at pioneering hospitals and institutes in the UAE. The research addresses pressing health challenges in the local community including cancer and the cause of genetic heart diseases in Emirati families, while special studies are dedicated to tackling mental health issues among the country's youth and children.

In 2018, the Foundation invested AED 3,861,000 in primary research, including 35 cancer research studies focused on breast, prostate and lung cancer; eight studies on cardiac and cardiovascular diseases; 13 research studies related to diabetes; an additional 13 mental health research studies and 10 studies on obesity.

A Generous Heart

'Nabadat', ('heartbeats' in Arabic), is among the most prominent humanitarian projects of the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Humanitarian & Charity Establishment**, executed in cooperation with the Dubai Health Authority. Run in the UAE and around the world, the initiative provides free medical assistance, surgery and post-surgical care to save the lives of children born with congenital heart defects, reducing the economic and social burden on families. 'Nabadat' also helps find and facilitate the work of experienced surgeons able to conduct complicated open-heart surgeries.

In 2018, the initiative carried out campaigns to treat 259 children in Egypt, India and the UAE at a cost of more than AED 2.9 million.



259
Children

benefitted from
the 'Nabadat'
programme in 2018





THEIR STORIES

The Secret of Happiness

“We do not make children happy when we save their lives; they give us happiness by doing us the honour of saving their lives.”

Dr. Obaid Al Jassim, head of the Cardiothoracic Surgery Department at Dubai Hospital, used these words to describe his volunteering journey around the world. “These are the values I carry from my family and my generous country, the UAE,” he added.

Dr. Obaid began his career as a volunteer in Dubai in 2007 – the same year that the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Humanitarian & Charity Establishment** launched the ‘Nabadat’ initiative to treat children with congenital heart defects in the UAE. Dr. Obaid became one of the leading volunteer surgeons the moment Dubai Hospital began conducting heart surgeries for young patients from neighbouring countries. In October 2012, the initiative expanded to conduct free heart surgeries for children from disadvantaged families in developing countries with no access to proper healthcare facilities or experienced medical staff.

Collecting photos and videos of the children he treated has become Dr. Obaid’s passion, enabling him to reminisce on the moments of happiness he shared with families upon the success of their children’s surgeries. He said his photo gallery drives him to take his journey of giving further. Dr. Obaid said returning to these countries to see his previous young patients going to school and growing up healthy fills him with overwhelming joy.





**Spreading
Education &
Knowledge**



AED

628

Million
spent on Spreading
Knowledge &
Education initiatives
in 2018



41.1

Million
beneficiaries within
Spreading Education &
Knowledge initiatives
in 2018



1.1

Million
students registered
on the Madrasa
e-Learning Platform
within three months
of its launch



22.6

Million
beneficiaries of
Dubai Cares
initiatives in 2018



13.5

Million
participants in the
Arab Reading
Challenge in the
2018/2019
academic year



Spreading Education & Knowledge

Building a Culture of Knowledge to Empower Communities

Providing quality education to less fortunate communities is of exceptional importance to the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives (MBRGI)**. To achieve its vision, the Foundation initiatives and projects within the Spreading Education & Knowledge pillar are dedicated to developing educational systems, especially in the Arab world, and facilitate necessary resources to create innovative and high-quality school environments. Through developing modern educational tools and raising awareness on the importance of education among youth, **MBRGI** seeks to break the cycle of poverty and overcome economic and social constraints, reflecting the Foundation's overarching mission to support long-term stability.

The latest addition to **MBRGI's** initiatives in 2018 was the **Madrasa e-Learning Platform**, which offers Arabised educational science and math videos in accordance with the latest international curricula.

In 2018, the total expenditure on initiatives, programmes and projects dedicated to Spreading Knowledge & Education amounted to AED 628 million, benefitting some 41.1 million people around the world.



**AED
628
Million**

spent on Spreading
Knowledge &
Education initiatives
in 2018



**41.1
Million**

beneficiaries of
Spreading Education
& Knowledge
initiatives in 2018





Integrated Educational Systems

Dubai Cares continued to play a key role in helping achieve the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal 4 to ensure quality and inclusive education for all. Through designing and funding programmes, **Dubai Cares** seeks to develop long-term, innovative solutions and create healthy educational environments to combat poverty and improve the lives of people in disadvantaged communities. Since its inception, the Organisation has worked towards enhancing children's access to basic education in developing countries, expanding its scope over the previous years to include secondary education and youth empowerment.

Dubai Cares initiatives benefitted more than 22.6 million people in 39 countries in 2018. The Organisation expanded its educational and developmental projects in 2018, with focus on youth and girl empowerment, to four new countries: Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua.

Dubai Cares also launched 24 new international programmes, which included constructing and renovating 2,029 classrooms and schools, training 118,873 teachers, building 6,055 school bathrooms and providing meals for 484,490 students. In addition, it helped protect around 16 million children from intestinal worms, including 15.3 million in India and 690,650 in Vietnam.

Dubai Cares' 2018 'Volunteer Globally' initiative saw 27 volunteers from nine nationalities lay the foundations of two new schools in Nepal and Senegal. The school in the village of Basuti, Nepal, which is still recovering from the devastating 2015 earthquake, seeks to change the lives of 150 out-of-school children. Senegal's new primary school in the village of Tset Boule is expected to benefit 60 students, 60 illiterate adults and 300 community members.

In Nicaragua, **Dubai Cares** launched the three-year 'School Enterprise Challenge' programme in partnership with the 'Teach a Man to Fish' foundation, a non-profit organisation supporting schools



**16
Million**

**students protected
from intestinal
worms in India and
Vietnam in 2018**





in Africa, Asia and Latin America. The initiative, which strives to establish student-led enterprises that are both educational and profitable, helps around 39,880 students across 165 schools gain skills and knowledge to improve their future career prospects. The programme also provides teachers and administrative staff with the necessary skills and tools to plan and manage a school business.

In Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua, **Dubai Cares** launched the four-year 'Empowering Adolescent Girls' programme in partnership with the Global Fund for Children. The programme focuses on the capacity-building of 18 non-profit, girl-serving grassroots organisations that directly benefit 30,000 adolescent girls and supports activities centred on promoting gender equality, particularly in education and employment, and freedom from violence and exploitation.

In Ecuador, the three-year 'Skilling for Sustainable Tourism' programme focused on technical and vocational education and training (TVET) was launched in partnership with VVOB, a Belgian Flemish non-profit organisation dedicated to education for development. The programme provides tourism-related courses to 4,216 high school

students in 21 schools in the capital city of Quito and the Manabí Province, equipping them with the skills to gain future employment in, and contribute to, the sustainability of Ecuador's travel and tourism agency.

In partnership with UNICEF, **Dubai Cares** began rolling out a four-year programme in Comoros to improve primary school





If we stop learning, we stop progressing in life

Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum

readiness and enhance lower primary school children's learning outcomes and retention rates. The programme is set to benefit 269,382 children and 1,725 teachers, principals and inspectors across primary schools in the islands.

Talk' programme to empower primary school-aged girls to maintain personal hygiene and adopt sanitary practices. The programme is set to benefit 75,000 girls aged 10 to 12 across 200 schools in 12 districts in Zimbabwe.

As part of its strategy to promote public health in Zimbabwe's schools, **Dubai Cares** launched the 'WASH UP! Girl





Global Education Support

On the sidelines of the 73rd session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, **Dubai Cares** reaffirmed its commitment to promoting education globally. The Organisation announced new strategic partnerships and pledged support to several existing programmes and initiatives. Its new commitments included \$5 million (AED 18.3 million) to UNICEF's 'Generation Unlimited' initiative that aims to increase youth employment and investments through supporting promising entrepreneurial ideas, and \$3.75 million (AED 13.8 million) to UNICEF's 'Education Cannot Wait' fund. The global fund seeks to deliver a collaborative and rapid response to the educational needs of children and youth at risk of displacement due to crises, epidemics and natural disasters. The Organisation also pledged \$2 million (AED 7.3 million) to expand the 'Room to Read' programme in Vietnam to boost primary education over the coming three years, and form 'demonstration libraries' to encourage local entities to replicate similar models.

Local Projects & Initiatives

During 2018, **Dubai Cares** launched a number of local initiatives to meet the various needs of the UAE community. The Organisation held 16 rounds of the 'Volunteer Emirates' initiative, compared to eight in 2017, with 2,576 volunteers taking part. Its activities included two 'Back to School' initiatives that provided 50,000 school packs for children affected by the Syrian crisis in Jordan, and an additional 10,000 school bags for low-income families in the UAE. A further 10 editions of the 'Volunteer Emirates' initiative focused on students of determination, in cooperation with the Dubai Senses Residential and Day Care Centre for Special Needs, which serves children and young adults with physical and educational disabilities. Volunteers narrated stories, organised sports and games for students, and assisted teachers in classrooms.

Supporting national charity schools in Dubai and Sharjah, **Dubai Cares** dedicated three editions of its 'Volunteer Emirates' initiative to classroom renovations and basic educational material provision. A week-long summer



16

rounds of the Dubai
Cares 'Volunteer
Emirates' initiative
in 2018



60,000

school packs
distributed in 'Back
to School' initiatives
in 2018



camp, organised in partnership with Al Ihsan Charity Association, supported 200 orphans and children of low-income families in Ajman and Ras Al Khaimah. The volunteers organised recreational and educational activities to develop students' skills in math and English.

Dubai Cares organised its ninth annual 'Walk for Education', engaging more than 15,000 participants from the UAE community who helped raise over AED 1 million to support children and young adults in developing countries who walk an average of three kilometres each day to go to school.

Dubai Cares also held successful fundraising initiatives and signed a number of partnerships with individuals and institutions within the UAE, securing

pledges of more than AED 2.7 million from local partners to support the 'Adopt a School' initiative to build 18 schools in Cambodia, Malawi, Nepal, Palestine and Senegal. In partnership with The Citizens Foundation, **Dubai Cares** held a charity art auction to raise funds for a new primary school unit in Larkana in the Sindh province of Pakistan, that will accommodate 180 students. The money raised will cover the school's operational costs for the first three years. An additional AED 2.28 million was raised for the 'UNRWA Zakat Program' in partnership with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) to alleviate the suffering of 11,000 Palestinian children and their families in Gaza. The funds will go towards distributing food aid for one year and helping refugee children return to school.



Youth & Knowledge-based Economy

The Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Knowledge Foundation (MBRF) aims to develop communities through improving the quality of education, supporting scientific research and driving innovation. Through numerous projects and initiatives within the Spreading Education & Knowledge pillar, the Foundation seeks to equip the next generation with high-tech skills to become active participants in building vibrant and robust knowledge-based economies that invest in future sciences and capitalise on creating stability and progress.

The Foundation organised the fifth edition of the annual **Knowledge Summit**, under the theme 'Youth and the Future of the Knowledge Economy', to highlight the various dimensions and fields associated with the knowledge digital economy and discuss the role of youth in building knowledge-based societies. The Summit aligns with the UAE's objectives to build a knowledge-based economy and support innovation and creativity. It also supports the UAE National Agenda for Youth, which seeks to provide young Emiratis with opportunities that enable them to use their skills to serve their communities and ensure sustainable development.

The **Knowledge Summit** attracted 109 speakers in 48 sessions, holding 130 discussions in 2018. The annual gathering, which brings together the most prominent and influential figures in the field of knowledge, recorded 19,000 attendees and live stream followers, with youths make up more than 60% of the participants.

Reports & Dialogues

As part of its holistic vision, the **Knowledge Summit** aims to highlight the importance of knowledge production and dissemination. It brings together influential global and regional institutions to launch dedicated initiatives and projects to transform Arab societies into knowledge societies and create a reference for decision-makers to design future policies.

To achieve this objective, the Summit announced the results of the 'Global Knowledge Index' for 2018, in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), that aims to monitor the reality of the knowledge sector across the world in seven fields: pre-university education; technical and vocational education and training; higher education; research, development and innovation; information and



19,000

attendees and live
stream followers
at the Knowledge
Summit in 2018





communication technology; economy, and enabling environments. The Index measured the performance of 134 countries, out of which the UAE has achieved a quantum leap, advancing six places from the 25th to the 19th within one year.

In 2018, the **Knowledge Summit** launched the 'Future of Knowledge: A Foresight Report', a first of its kind pilot study, which covered 20 countries. Using big data to measure the current state of knowledge, the report aims to explore the fields expected to shape the future of knowledge societies. The report allows policymakers, business leaders, researchers and developers to better understand and analyse new waves of disruptive technology including artificial intelligence, blockchain and future skills that will lead future societies.

The 'Knowledge and the Fourth Industrial Revolution' report was released based on wide academic demand to publish a detailed analysis of the 2017 'Global Knowledge Index'. Providing a range of recommendations to support the process of building knowledge-based economies, the report explores in greater depth the relationship between the competency of human capital and countries' competitiveness in the context of the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

Additionally, the world's leading speakers and influential personalities came together to share views and experiences on the future of knowledge in more than 16 'Know Talks' sessions, launched on the sidelines of the Summit.

In its efforts to strengthen the value of knowledge, **MBRF** organised the 'Knowledge Week' in Egypt and Jordan. The programme included a series of workshops, activities and lectures to promote the use of the 'Global Knowledge Index' as a guide for sustainable development and a tool for change.

Knowledge Support Awards

Cementing Dubai's leading position on the knowledge map, **MBRF** has continued to honour individuals and organisations with impactful contributions to fields of knowledge and science through initiatives such as the 'Literacy Challenge'.

Launched in 2017, the 'Literacy Challenge' aims to educate 30 million illiterate Arab youth and children by 2030 and seeks to compensate for the missed opportunities of formal education, and build youth capacities, knowledge and skills to effectively respond to the growing challenges of new technologies and the information age.



AED
3.7
Million
awarded to
recipients of the
Mohammed bin
Rashid Al Maktoum
Knowledge Award



Being aware of the value of knowledge and its role in improving our lives is critical to our success

Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum



The 2018 **Knowledge Summit** honoured winners of the previous year's 'Literacy Challenge,' which brought together an outstanding group of literacy projects and initiatives and a select group of inspiring personalities with remarkable accomplishments in the fight against illiteracy. The winners of the first edition included the Ministry of Education in Egypt for modernising and developing pre-university education; the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) for its world-wide projects tackling illiteracy; and Dr. Al Shefa Hassan, Director of the UNESCO/ ISESCO (Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) Chair at the Sudan University of Science and Technology. Dr. Hassan's work on the establishment of the 'Comprehensive Women's Scientific and Technological Literacy Project' in Sudan benefitted 2,420 women in three Sudanese states.



In line with its mission to support knowledge sharing, the \$1 million (AED 3.7 million) **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Knowledge Award** honoured the Egypt-based Magdi Yacoub Heart Foundation, the Saudi Digital Library, the Amersi Foundation in the United Kingdom, and the Institute for International Education in the United States in 2018 for their significant contributions to knowledge dissemination and production.

A UN Knowledge Partner

In 2018, **MBRF** received special recognition from the UNDP as a 'Knowledge Partner', the first recognition of its kind to be dedicated to an Arab knowledge organisation. The accolade marked the 10th anniversary of the strategic partnership between **MBRF** and the UNDP that has yielded world-class knowledge projects, notably the 'Global Knowledge Index' and the 'Arab Knowledge Project', launched in 2007 to bring together several initiatives based on a shared vision of knowledge centralisation to achieve sustainable development for the Arab region.

Ideal for Arab Inventions

In 2018, the **MBRF** launched the first 'Arab Innovation Forum', a platform that brings together innovators, companies and organisations in the Middle East and North Africa to showcase their innovations and discuss relevant topics and issues. Attracting over 1,500 participants, the Forum supported 112 Arab start-ups and hosted 10 specialised workshops and 20 panel discussions that addressed innovation-related topics. It honoured 14 innovators and entrepreneurs in six sectors: technology, energy and sustainability, financial services, healthcare, smart government and transportation.

Knowledge Initiatives & Programmes

The '#Bil_Arabi' ('In Arabic') initiative continued to organise events in 2018 to enhance the status of Arabic as a global language, especially among youth, through social media. The initiative took its mission to promote Arabic language use beyond the borders of the UAE with the participation of countries such as Bahrain, Egypt, France, Italy, South Korea and Singapore, hosting a variety of activities to celebrate Arabic language use in digital media channels and encourage its use in all aspects of life. The initiative partnered with various local entities to spread the Arabic language through programmes including 'Bil Arabi' reading clubs across public schools in the UAE, in cooperation with the UAE Ministry of Education; free workshops for non-Arabic speakers; the 'Bil Arabi' radio show broadcast on Aloula Radio in Dubai; 'Dhad Charter' from Dubai Municipality's Dhad Team, and the 'Fusahaa Al Arab' ('Arabic Eloquence') daily radio show broadcast on Sout Al Arab ('Voice of the Arabs') Egypt Radio. **MBRF** won two awards at Gulf Sustainability and the CSR Awards in the categories of Sustainability Awareness Programme and Government CSR Initiative for its '#Bil_Arabi' initiative.



1,500

participants at the
'Arab Innovation
Forum' in 2018



14

recipients awarded
at the 'Arab
Innovation Forum'
in 2018





To enrich online Arabic content, **MBRF** launched the new edition of the Dubai Digital Library in 2018, encompassing more than 170,000 titles and an extensive collection of 1.9 million digital Arabic books, including translated works, covering all areas of life. It also features periodicals, newspapers, magazines, research studies and biographies accessible to all ages and segments of society. The advanced electronic platform seeks to bridge the knowledge and digital gap and serve Arabic language readers around the world. During the **Knowledge Summit**, **MBRF** also announced plans to launch the first 'Arab Digital Union', uniting efforts with the Saudi Digital Library and the Egyptian Knowledge Bank, to enrich online Arabic content, and contribute to providing trusted sources for all.

The 'Arab Professionals Forum', part of **MBRF**, continued to attract Arab professionals in leadership positions from both public and private sectors, as well as academics, researchers and scientists. With membership reaching 1,827 in 2018, the Forum is a global platform for Arab talent and a reference point for international and regional organisations and entities seeking expert advice. In 2018, the Forum presented 42 topics and organised 21 workshops, in collaboration with members and various government

agencies, benefitting around 400 people locally and regionally.

The 'Dubai International Program for Writing' is another **MBRF** initiative that aims to encourage and empower talented young Arab writers. In 2018, 35 authors graduated from the Programme after receiving special training to develop their professional writing skills. The Programme resulted in 33 graduate works, including novels, children's literature and short stories, further enriching the Arabic library.

In partnership with the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum School for Communication Scholarship and the American University of Dubai, **MBRF** also awarded 85 outstanding Arab media students with journalism scholarships in 2018, including 17 graduates and 10 new students. The initiative aims to nurture the next generation of professional media personalities capable of creating rich and innovative content.



35
Authors

graduated from the
'Dubai International
Program for
Writing' in 2018

THEIR STORIES

A Distinctive Learning Experience

Despite completing his graduate studies in translation, Osama Munir felt that something was missing. “I wanted to find an opportunity that would give me a better experience and enhance my professional translation skills,” he said. “I looked for something to balance theoretical and practical training, and I found what I wanted through the translation workshop as part of the ‘Dubai International Program for Writing’ under the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Knowledge Foundation**.”

According to Osama, there is no other programme in the Arab world that provides such comprehensive training in academic translation. The workshop, he said, develops professional translators by covering theoretical studies in all areas of translation, paying great attention to details essential to the field.

On the experience he gained from the workshop, Osama said: “The workshop gave me the practical skills I was searching for through assigning me to translate the book *Tolerance Among the Virtues* by John R. Bowlin.” He added: “During this journey, I learned the process of developing, qualifying and preparing to become a writer and translator.”

Proud of his achievement, Osama said: “Thanks to the unique initiative, I translated an important book that wasn’t available in Arabic, creating new literary experiences for readers across the Arab world.”



A Literary Challenge

As the largest literacy and knowledge initiative of its kind in the Arab world dedicated to instilling the culture of reading among youth, the **Arab Reading Challenge** seeks to empower educators and families to actively contribute to making reading a lifestyle for the next generation.

The fourth edition of the **Arab Reading Challenge** attracted over 13.5 million students from 62,000 schools during the 2018/2019 academic year, a significant increase from the previous year's 10.5 million students from 52,000 schools. The growing participation reflects the commitment of educational institutions to facilitate reading and the younger generation's awareness of the importance of adopting the habit of reading. The challenge was supported by over 113,000 supervisors across participating countries.

The 2017/2018 round opened the doors to Arab students living in foreign countries, raising the number of participating countries to 44. The **Arab Reading Challenge** awards prizes with a total value of more than \$3 million (AED 11 million) to winning students, schools and supervisors. Moroccan student Maryam Hassan Amjoun won the third round of the **Arab Reading Challenge** in 2018, while Tasneem Eidi from France was declared the 'Outstanding Student from Arab Communities Residing in Non-Arab Countries' in the inaugural category. Aisha Tuwairki from Saudi Arabia was crowned the 'Outstanding Supervisor', while Al Ekhlas Schools from Kuwait won the 'Best School' title.



**13.5
Million**

participants in
the Arab Reading
Challenge in
the 2018/2019
academic year



62,000

schools participated
in the Arab Reading
Challenge in
the 2018/2019
academic year



AED

**11
Million**

awarded to winners
of the Arab Reading
Challenge in 2018





THEIR STORIES

Words Light up the Path

In the prime of her youth, Farah Al-Khamiri from Tunisia gradually began losing her sight from the sixth grade due to the weakening of her corneal tissue. Her condition did not stop her from competing in the **Arab Reading Challenge**. Farah enlisted the help of her mother, who read to her.

Farah's mother said books have given her daughter hope and strength to fight through her visual impairment.

Munir Boulami, the Challenge's coordinator in Jendouba, Tunisia, said: "Farah was born a creative girl with a strong will to challenge any physical or psychological barriers."

Speaking about her experience, Farah said: "With will and determination, I continue my journey. I want to be an active part of society." She added that "reading has made me a stronger person and taught me to be who I am today, to always pursue my hopes and aspirations. Life has taught me that dreams can only come true through diligence and hard work. My life motto is: 'The best is yet to come'."

Farah always dreamed of being a police officer, though she realises her condition might make her dream difficult to achieve. Thanks to the **Arab Reading Challenge** team, Farah fulfilled her dream of becoming a police officer for a day when she donned the uniform and rode in a patrol car during her visit to Dubai to attend the Challenge's final ceremony. She said: "The experience has given me a sense of pride and confidence that I can pursue my dream."





THEIR STORIES

Determination Defies Disease

Hailing from the city of Yatta in Palestine, nine-year-old Ayed al-Jundi was unable to attend the **Arab Reading Challenge** semi-finals in Dubai due to his ailing health. Despite having to undergo kidney dialysis, Ayed managed to read 50 books to qualify for the finals in Palestine.

Ayed said his love for reading has given him the strength to participate in the Challenge. He spends his travel time between Yatta and the hospital in Jerusalem reading books, making his treatments and the long time spent in dialysis bearable. The ambitious boy said he derives his persistence from his mother, who has been his companion through his journey of therapy and reading.

Ayed received a special recognition from the supervising committee when he attended the **Arab Reading Challenge** awards ceremony in Palestine. His persistence and quest for knowledge despite his difficult circumstances has made Ayed a role model for his generation.

Of his ambitions, Ayed said: "I want to be at the top, and reading is my gateway to the best opportunities in life."





A Cultural Monument in the Service of Knowledge

Work continued in 2018 on the construction of the **Mohammed bin Rashid Library**, which is set to become a knowledge beacon in Dubai and a cultural monument for intellectuals, thinkers, writers and innovators from all over the Arab world. The Library will play an active role in driving a scientific and intellectual movement, placing Dubai and the UAE at the global forefront of culture and development. The 66,000-square-metre library will house more than 4.5 million printed, digital and audio books, and will be digitally linked to other international libraries, allowing visitors to easily access otherwise hard-to-find knowledge sources.

Madrasa for 50 Million Arab Students

The **Madrasa e-Learning Platform** is the latest addition to the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives (MBRGI)** in 2018. The Platform provides free Arabised educational science and math videos in accordance with the latest international curricula to improve the quality of education, ultimately bridging the knowledge gap in the Arab world. The innovative e-Learning Platform adopts the 'School of the Future' concept to develop a current, modern educational system, and endorse self-learning.

The **Madrasa e-Learning Platform** aims to provide high-tech, attractive educational content to encourage Arab students to pursue science-based studies, preparing the next generation of Arab researchers, scientists and innovators to actively address major obstacles facing development in their home countries. The platform seeks to equip youth with technology skills, empowering them to contribute to building diversified and sustainable economies on the foundations of knowledge, innovation and future foresight.



5,000

free educational
videos on the
**Madrasa e-Learning
Platform**



1.1 Million

students registered
on the **Madrasa
e-Learning
Platform** within
**three months of
its launch**





The **Madrasa e-Learning Platform** is the outcome of the 'Translation Challenge', launched in 2017, which called on translators, researchers and volunteers to translate 5,000 English videos and 11 million words of high-standard educational math and science content into Arabic. The 'Translation Challenge' attracted volunteers in the fields of translation, voiceover, video production and publishing from all over the Arab world. The **Madrasa e-Learning Platform** provides 5,000 free Arabised videos on physics, chemistry, biology, mathematics and general science to benefit more than 50 million Arab students from kindergarten to Grade 12.



The Platform's minimal technical requirements and compatibility with the most common operating systems enable users to access its free content across various smart devices, creating innovative offline solutions to provide educational resources without internet access. His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum launched '**Madrasa e-Learning Platform** for 1,000 Villages', which provides mobile educational content for remote areas and refugee camps without internet access. Future educational courses will include subjects such as the Arabic language, computer science, engineering, programming, artificial intelligence and space science.

The e-Learning Platform also presents the daily '1000x1000' competition that poses one question a day over 1,000 days. Students in the Arab world can answer the question to be entered into a raffle to win \$1,000 (AED 3,670). The competition gives away \$1 million (AED 3.67 million) worth of awards over 1,000 days.

The Platform works in partnership with a number of local, regional and international organisations in the fields of media, digital communication and education. The partnerships support the Platform's objectives through exchanging experiences in content production and expanding the outreach to the largest number of beneficiaries across the Arab world.



AED
3.7
Million

total prize money
allocated to the
'1000x1000' daily
competition as part
of the Madrasa
e-Learning Platform



There's only one key to the success of our societies, economies and future: education

Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum



10

winners of the
Mohammed bin
Rashid Arabic
Language Award
in 2018

In Honour of the Arabic Language

The AED 2.9 million **Mohammed bin Rashid Arabic Language Award** honoured 10 winners, selected from 223 finalists, in 11 categories during its fifth edition in 2018. The Award's organising committee had received 2,088 entries and chose the finalists after several evaluation phases. The Award's six main themes highlight outstanding projects, initiatives and contributions that support the Arabic language in the fields of education, media, Arabisation, technology, and the preservation and dissemination of Arab linguistic heritage. The Award also honours prominent scientific and

academic figures who have enriched the Arabic library with their innovative literary contributions.

The **Mohammed bin Rashid Arabic Language Award** supports the UAE's efforts to promote, disseminate and use Arabic in public life, consolidating the country's position as the hub of Arabic excellence.



Innovation & Entrepreneurship



AED

131

Million
spent on Innovation & Entrepreneurship initiatives in 2018



640,000

beneficiaries of Innovation & Entrepreneurship initiatives in 2018



4,227

entrepreneurs supported by the Mohammed bin Rashid Establishment for SME Development in 2018



517,000

members registered in the One Million Arab Coders Initiative in 2017 and 2018



AED

101

Million
spent on the establishment of national companies in Dubai in 2018

Innovation & Entrepreneurship

Supporting Creativity, Entrepreneurial Spirit & Youth

The **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives (MBRGI)** supports initiatives, programmes and projects that promote entrepreneurial thinking and creativity, in efforts to meet the global need of building knowledge-based economies, adopting future technologies and investing in futuristic strategies. Through the Innovation & Entrepreneurship pillar, **MBRGI** aims to create an impactful economic and social shift that contribute to the development of local communities and, on a wider scope, raise aspirations of global societies. Entities and initiatives that operate within this pillar channel their collective efforts to support entrepreneurs and innovators, fund research, and establish incubators for innovative youth projects as part of the wider vision to build a better future for humanity.

During 2018, **MBRGI** focused on creating environments that attract young innovators and entrepreneurs of the UAE and GCC to launch forward-thinking start-ups to keep pace with developments in the global economic landscape. The Foundation implemented educational and academic initiatives and programmes, in cooperation with the world's leading educational institutions, to equip Arab youth with necessary skills and knowledge to excel in global competitive fields.

The Foundation also organised international conferences and forums, bringing together innovators from all over the world to explore and seize future opportunities for development and change. These events aimed to review the latest discoveries and inventions to implement modern technologies that support future economies both regionally and internationally.

The total expenditure on initiatives and programmes within this pillar in 2018 amounted to AED 131 million, directly benefitting around 640,000 individuals.



**AED
131
Million**

spent on Innovation
& Entrepreneurship
initiatives in 2018



640,000

beneficiaries
of Innovation &
Entrepreneurship
initiatives in 2018



Towards a Better Future

Dubai Future Foundation plays a pivotal role in shaping the future of communities and driving innovation in strategic sectors in collaboration with government and private sector entities. The Foundation works with prominent innovators, thought leaders and leading academic institutions to establish global pioneering initiatives and projects that seek to create proactive solutions to future challenges faced by vital sectors, to ensure a better tomorrow.

As part of **Dubai Future Foundation**, the **One Million Arab Coders Initiative** aims to teach young Arabs the language of the future, empowering them with essential technological skills to improve their career prospects and, in return, create a better future for the region. Since its launch in 2017, the Initiative has received more than 1.3 million applications and enrolled more than 517,000 individuals from 150 countries. To date, more than 22,000 computer science graduates have completed the programme with the support of over 3,600 experts and tutors, collectively working over 1.5 million training hours. The Initiative will also recognise outstanding graduates and trainers for their efforts through awards that include \$1 million (AED 3.7 million) for the best programmer and \$50,000 (AED 184,000) for each of the remaining

top nine. An additional \$200,000 (AED 735,000) will be divided equally among the top four tutors, decided through student votes.

In 2018, **Dubai Future Foundation** announced new partnerships with international and local organisations, most notably its collaboration with Microsoft and ConsenSys Academy – a leading programmer and developer training company – to launch two new advanced artificial intelligence and blockchain courses. To give outstanding graduates the practical experience, **Dubai Future Foundation** signed an agreement with the Dubai Airport Free Zone Authority (DAFZA) to establish a range of projects that empower young entrepreneurs to contribute to the future economy and spread digital knowledge within their community. Among these projects was the joint work spaces provided through DAFZA's Launchpad initiative that enable the top 50 graduates to establish their own businesses and receive job opportunities at DAFZA-based companies.



517,000
members registered
in the One Million
Arab Coders
Initiative in 2017
and 2018



New technologies are the fastest way to create new opportunities for our youth

Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum





The Museum of The Future is a unique incubator for futuristic innovations and design. We are determined to make the UAE a major contributor to future development

Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum

A Trip to the Year 2035

The **Museum of The Future** is among the most prominent projects under the umbrella of **MBRGI**. Currently in its final stages of construction, the Museum presents an iconic architectural landmark, the first of its kind in the region to collate ideas, innovations, technologies and futuristic visions under one roof. With its planned inauguration in 2020, the **Museum of The Future** will serve as a global hub for exploring the future of science and technology, and an incubator for futuristic innovation and design.

In February 2018, the Museum was featured during the seventh edition of the World Government Summit in Dubai, as part of the wider vision, and attracted a wide range of visitors eager to explore future experiences, concepts and practical applications. The exhibits included live demonstrations highlighting the robot-human relationship and the role of artificial intelligence in developing human capabilities and advancing different sectors of life.





AED
101
Million
spent on the
establishment of
national companies
in Dubai in 2018

Supporting SMEs

The **Mohammed bin Rashid Establishment for SME Development (Dubai SME)** aims to create an ideal integrated environment with necessary tools and facilities that encourage Emirati entrepreneurs to establish and develop their businesses.

In 2018, the Establishment supported 4,227 Emirati entrepreneurs, recording 32% growth from 2017. It offered an incentive package of AED 101 million – 63% higher than the previous year's AED 61.8 million – contributing to the establishment of 1,175 national companies in Dubai. The Mohammed bin Rashid Fund for SMEs, the financial arm of the Establishment, supported 18 projects, adopting a qualitative approach to the delivery of services with a total expenditure of AED 14 million.

The Dubai Entrepreneurship Academy, the educational arm of **Dubai SME**, trained 5,767 Emirati entrepreneurs in 2018, recording a 163% increase from the previous year. The number of training programmes increased to 110, compared to 88 in 2017.

Dubai SME signed a number of agreements to provide quality training to a large segment of stakeholders, and support and develop entrepreneurship. The most notable partnership was

with the Kuwait Business Council to host lectures and exchange economic experiences with prominent Kuwaiti entrepreneurs, in addition to an agreement with the Department of Finance in Dubai, as part of the 'Education Zakat' initiative, to provide a series of courses in the financial field. The Establishment also launched the 'Future Founders and Future Funders Programme' at the Women's College in Zayed University in Dubai, in collaboration with WOMENA. The Programme focused on empowering female students to establish innovative businesses with aims to prepare the next generation of Emirati women to become future investors and entrepreneurs.

Within the same context, **Dubai SME** announced the launch of the 'Business Incubators and Accelerators Centres' in Dubai to provide support, guidance and follow-up to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). The Centres will set a work structure of fourth-generation incubators and accelerators to provide a nurturing environment for youth start-up ventures in Dubai. Accordingly, the first two business incubators in Dubai were granted licenses. The first incubator specialises in supporting and sponsoring design activities, while the second focuses on technology projects, including smart applications and websites.



The Young Entrepreneurs Competition

Aimed at strengthening the role of SMEs in the creation of a new generation of entrepreneurs capable of driving the local economy, the 12th edition of the 'Young Entrepreneurs Competition' was held to foster entrepreneurship culture among students of different age groups. The Competition seeks to provide financial and logistic support to improve entrepreneurial skills and encourage youth to enter the world of business and commerce. The second phase of the Competition saw the participation of 879 students and young entrepreneurs, presenting 580 projects in two age categories: 5 to 11 and 12 to 25 years. The 2018 edition honoured 31 students and young entrepreneurs, recording the first participation of people of determination who presented innovative and unique ideas that boosted a competitive spirit. The Competition also provided an opportunity for winning entrepreneurs to deliver their products to the largest possible customer

base through Amazon.ae, the largest e-commerce platform in the Arab world.

Promising Economic Indicators

In July 2018, **Dubai SME** announced the results of its study on SMEs in Dubai, conducted in collaboration with Dubai Statistics Centre. The study indicated a significant increase in SME contribution to Dubai's GDP from 40% in 2009 to 47% in 2016, confirming the important role played by SMEs in advancing the economic growth of the emirate. The study also revealed that SMEs continued to create more employment opportunities, increasing their contribution to form 52.4% of the Dubai workforce in 2016, compared to 42% in 2009. In addition, it found that start-ups make up about 50% of the registered companies in Dubai, confirming the city's position as a global hub for talents and entrepreneurs.



879

participants in the
'Young Entrepreneurs
Competition' in 2018



18

companies
honoured in the
Mohammed bin
Rashid Al Maktoum
Business Award
in 2018

The Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Business Award & Business Innovation Award

The Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Business Award aims to establish an institutional knowledge exchange platform that contributes to diversifying resources of the Gulf economy, and strengthening sustainable development. The Award also seeks to integrate best business practices, compete in the global market and stimulate excellence in the business community. The 10th edition honoured 18 of the leading companies operating in the UAE and GCC across different categories in the presence of 1,700 businessmen and company representatives.

To consolidate innovation in corporate practices, the second edition of the 'Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Business Innovation Award' honoured 13 companies for their outstanding achievements in business innovation that have contributed to developing

their economies and inspiring similar companies in the GCC to follow suit.

The Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Business Award saw a 46% increase in participating companies in 2018, compared to the previous year. The Award has evolved into an educational journey that helps develop corporate performance. Among its prominent events was the 'Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Business Award International Conference' that brought together around 200 attendees under the slogan 'Happiness and Positivity'. The Conference organised five workshops and three training and educational seminars that reviewed the best international business strategies to improve the strengths of competing companies and increase their chances of being nominated for the prize. The activities reached around 450 people.

A graphic of several stylized green leaves, overlapping and pointing towards the right, located on the left side of the page.

Empowering Communities



AED

126

Million
spent on Empowering
Communities initiatives
in 2018



3.2

Million
beneficiaries of
Empowering Communities
initiatives in 2018



88,000

beneficiaries of
the initiatives and
activities of the Sheikh
Mohammed Centre for
Cultural Understanding
in 2018



876

graduates of all
educational and
training programmes
through Empowering
Communities
initiatives in 2018



1,866

leaders and delegates
attended the World
Tolerance Summit
in 2018

Empowering Communities

Promoting a Culture of Hope & Tolerance

One of the core missions of the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives (MBRGI)** is to empower communities with the necessary tools for their development and prosperity. Through its projects, initiatives and collaboration with local and international organisations, the Foundation guides communities through the challenges that impede progress and development, making a positive impact on people's lives and reinforcing a culture of hope.

The Foundation seeks to foster a culture of tolerance and promote cultural and humanitarian dialogue regionally and globally. It also strives to establish the values of cultural and religious pluralism and coexistence, and encourage an acceptance of and respect for differences. In 2018, **MBRGI** organised international forums, conferences and awards to emphasise the role of media and sports in advancing societies and spreading the message of peace. These events attracted media professionals, athletes and intellectuals, highlighting Arab sporting achievements and the media's role in promoting positive human dialogue. A key discussion point was considering the opportunities for Arab youth and the best ways to develop their potential.

MBRGI is committed to developing diverse programmes and projects to spark the innovative spirit among youth, who make up the largest proportion of the Arab world. By nurturing their creative ideas and channelling their talents, the Foundation seeks to provide them with tools and resources to enhance their potential and, in turn, advance the future of their countries and communities. Through leadership development and public administration programmes, the Foundation aims to build the next generation of effective leaders capable of shaping the future of the UAE.

In 2018, total spending on the various initiatives and projects in this pillar amounted to AED 126 million, which benefitted 3.2 million people.



AED
126
Million

spent on Empowering
Communities
initiatives in 2018



3.2
Million

beneficiaries
of Empowering
Communities
initiatives in 2018





Hope Making

The **Arab Hope Makers** initiative, the largest of its kind in the Arab world, was launched in 2017 to recognise heroes of humanity, whose programmes, projects and initiatives serve a humanitarian purpose and help alleviate suffering and improve the lives of vulnerable or disadvantaged communities.

The initiative reflects His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum's vision of instilling a culture of hope and encouraging selfless acts of giving to build an inspiring generation of Arab youth who set an example for others in the

humanitarian and community-building fields. Highlighting humanitarian efforts intends to encourage young people to engage in philanthropy and develop their own projects that fight despair and bring about positive change.

The initiative's first two editions attracted more than 150,000 submissions from around the world. The first five **Arab Hope Makers** were awarded AED 1 million each to enable them to continue funding their projects and humanitarian endeavours, with total prize money for two rounds of the initiative amounting to AED 10 million.



150,000

stories of hope
from across the
Arab World in the
Arab Hope Makers
initiative in 2017
and 2018



1,866

leaders and
delegates attended
the World Tolerance
Summit in 2018

A Beacon of Tolerance

Within a year of its launch, the **International Institute of Tolerance** helped establish the UAE as a regional and global beacon of tolerance, dedicated to the development of policies and programmes that consolidate the values of love, peace, coexistence and human fraternity.

As part of its wider vision, the Institute organised the **World Tolerance Summit** in November 2018, which brought together government leaders, decision-makers and prominent figures in politics, business, religion, arts and culture from

around the world. Key discussion points included ways to spread the values of tolerance globally, raise awareness of multiculturalism, coexistence and cooperation, and promote constructive dialogue between different societies and religions.

Held under the theme 'Prospering From Pluralism: Embracing Diversity through Innovation and Collaboration', the Summit's first edition drew participants from 105 countries and led to the signing of seven international memorandums of understanding between international bodies and institutions. The Summit

attracted 1,900 leaders and delegations, with 45 global experts and academics calling for every possible effort to fight discrimination, marginalisation and radicalism. The speakers emphasised the urgent need to reject conflict-igniting hate speech, include the principles of moral education in school curricula and promote respect for others, regardless of race, gender, religion or language. The Summit also included an art exhibition and a library of tolerance, highlighting

the importance of arts and culture in spreading the message of tolerance and coexistence.

In April 2018, the **International Institute of Tolerance** also organised the 'Sheikh Zayed and Tolerance' photo exhibition in Los Angeles to share the legacy and teachings of the late Founding Father of the UAE, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, who planted the seeds of tolerance in the country.





Tolerance is a force that drives the community forward.
The strong man is the one that is more capable of
accepting diversity and disagreements

Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum



88,000

beneficiaries of
the initiatives and
activities of the
Sheikh Mohammed
Centre for Cultural
Understanding
in 2018

Cultural Understanding

Under the banner 'Open Doors, Open Minds', the **Sheikh Mohammed Centre for Cultural Understanding** receives hundreds of visitors each day, through its diverse programmes that strive to raise awareness of the UAE's culture and customs among residents and tourists. The Centre's work strengthens human ties and promotes the country's pioneering model of coexistence and social harmony.

In 2018, the Centre organised various cultural activities and programmes to introduce Emirati heritage and authentic Arabian hospitality to tourists, company employees and school and university students. These activities included National Day celebrations and visits to Al Fahidi Historical Neighbourhood, Dubai Creek and Jumeirah Mosque, in addition to heritage dinners accompanied by informative sessions on Emirati history and traditions.

During Ramadan, the Centre organised activities for children and hosted iftars for tourists and residents, further promoting cross-cultural exchange. To coincide with Hajj, the Centre held a photography exhibition, 'The Mosques of the World', depicting the ancient Islamic architectural style of beautiful mosques from 15 different countries. The Centre's activities and events benefitted 88,000 people in 2018, compared to 59,000 in the previous year.

As part of its academic contribution in 2018, the Centre collaborated with the UNESCO Regional Center for Educational Planning and the UAE's Ministry of Education in research towards developing educational curricula to achieve global citizenship.





Developing the Sports Sector

The **Dubai International Sports Conference** has grown to become one of the football industry's top platforms locally and internationally, helping identify challenges affecting global sport. Under the theme 'Football and the Economy', the Conference's 13th edition in 2018 drew more than 1,800 of the world's leading footballers, sports officials, referees and heads of global sporting institutions. Celebrated

speakers from the UAE and the world's top footballing nations addressed issues related to the annual football agenda and discussed sports legislation and commentary. On the sidelines, the annual 'Globe Soccer Award' ceremony, held in Dubai, awarded a total of AED 3.7 million to distinguished players, clubs and international sports figures across 12 categories.



1,800
participants in the
Dubai International
Sports Conference
in 2018



27

sports personalities
recognised in the
Mohammed bin
Rashid Al Maktoum
Creative Sports
Award in 2018

Building the Future

The **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Creative Sports Award** helps spread a culture of creativity in sports and drive innovation in the local and global sporting arena. Under the theme 'Glory Makers', the Award's 10th edition in 2018 honoured 27 sports personalities in recognition of the role of youth as the foundation of the country's development across different sectors. To date, the Award has attracted 2,188 participants from 118 countries and recognised 230 winners with prize money amounting to AED 68 million.

As part of the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Creative Sports Award**, the 14th edition of the 'Dubai International Symposium for Sports Creativity' attracted an impressive list of speakers who showcased leading empowerment initiatives and programmes dedicated

to young athletes around the world. As part of the Symposium's theme 'Empowerment of Youth in Sports Field', speakers shared successful stories of young athletes' empowerment from around the world, highlighting outstanding innovative achievers in the field. The 'Sports Creativity Forum' was also held in 2018, bringing together winners of the 10th edition of the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Creative Sports Award** to present examples of the best athletic experiences to inspire young sporting enthusiasts. Held under the theme 'Creative Sports Experiences', the Forum saw the participation of young Arab medal winners of the Youth Olympic Games in Argentina including Omar Al Marzooqi from the UAE, Fatima Al Zahra from Morocco, Ahmed Osama El Gendy from Egypt and Mohammed Ayed Al-Asiri from Saudi Arabia.

THEIR STORIES

A Man Who Overcame the Impossible

Abdelnour Al-Fadini is a 30-year-old Moroccan who was born without arms. His condition did not stop him from making outstanding contributions to the academic and sports fields. He attained a black belt in taekwondo and went on to become an exceptional athlete who has taken home many bronze, silver and gold medals throughout his inspirational sporting career.

In 2012, Abdelnour and his friends established the 'Challenge and Determination Association for People With Special Abilities' in Morocco. Through its activities, the Association seeks to support athletes with special abilities, empowering them to pursue their passion and become active members of society. Through the years, the Association has received numerous invitations to participate in global sporting championships, which has enabled Abdelnour to personally participate in international taekwondo competitions.

Abdelnour was determined to win the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Creative Sports Award** and had persistently worked to achieve this dream from 2015 until he finally won the 'Athlete Accomplished an Outstanding Achievement Within Difficult Challenges Award' (People of Determination Category) in the 10th edition.

Through achieving the impossible, Abdelnour has become a symbol of hope and determination. His ambition and persistence continues to prove to his generation that when there is a will, there is a way.





Creating Leaders for Tomorrow

The **Mohammed bin Rashid Center for Leadership Development** seeks to prepare, train and support the development of future Emirati leaders. In 2018, the Centre launched the 'Impactful Leaders Programme', selecting 27 individuals from 3,000 applications to partake in diverse 12-month training programmes, in collaboration with the world's best universities. The programmes included 120 lectures and workshops and international visits to San Francisco and Estonia, where participants met President Kersti Kaljulaid and some of the country's most prominent leaders, politicians and businessmen. The visit was aimed at enriching the participants' innovative thinking and introducing them to the Estonian government's experiences in digital technology.

At the 2018 graduation ceremony, the Centre approved two of the graduate projects presented that suggested establishing two NGOs offering innovative social services. The first project was a platform that brings together skilled nationals and provides

services to governmental and non-governmental institutions at competitive prices, while the second provides home care services to senior citizens at less than 10% of the market price.

In line with the Centre's vision of creating leaders for tomorrow, 35 Emirati former graduates were appointed to serve on 35 different boards of directors for civil organisations in Dubai in a step to allow young promising leaders to develop the UAE's social sector.

In addition to advancing leadership skills and academic knowledge, the Centre aims to develop a sense of social responsibility and teamwork among its future leaders. The participants of the 2018 programme had the chance to experience the meaning of teamwork and patience through an organised climb of Jebel Jais in Ras Al Khaimah.



27

applicants selected for the 'Impactful Leaders Programme' organised by the Mohammed bin Rashid Center for Leadership Development in 2018



108

graduates from
the Mohammed
bin Rashid School
of Government
in 2018

Lifelong Learning

Since its establishment in 2005, the **Mohammed bin Rashid School of Government** has sought to develop an adaptive comprehensive system of educational and training programmes for future national leaders. As the first Arab academic research and teaching institution specialised in governance and public policy, the School organises conferences, workshops and forums to share and exchange knowledge with the world. In 2018, the fifth batch of 108 students graduated from the School's masters and leadership development programmes and the Emirates Center for Government Knowledge programmes.

During the 'Annual Alumni Gathering' in 2018, the School launched the 'Lifelong Learning Strategy', which seeks to promote continuous learning to embark on a new phase of sustainable knowledge. The strategy's main initiative, the 'Leadership Club', was launched to foster the exchange of knowledge between current students and graduates, and ensure the continuation of their knowledge development and experience for a decade after graduation.

In early 2018, the **Mohammed bin Rashid School of Government** organised the second edition of the 'UAE Public Policy Forum' under the theme 'Shaping the Future of Public-Private Partnerships'. The Forum created a platform for discussion, and enabled stakeholders to exchange ideas and opportunities for public-private partnerships to apply best practices in the areas of education, health, transport, technology, innovation and sustainable development. During the Forum, the School launched the 'Dubai Policy Review', a new thought-leadership publication that provides trusted insights into future trends in the public policy and government practices sector.

The School organised the second edition of 'Future Journey', a unique initiative aimed at empowering future government leaders and guiding them through the latest developments of pioneering projects that are shaping the future of government work. The five-month journey has made 11 stops starting from local government institutions to a visit to South Korea to explore global best practices.



A Global Outlook

The **Arab Strategy Forum** provides a platform for political and economic decision-makers, thought leaders, strategic analysts and policymakers across the world to forecast the most prominent geopolitical and economic events and trends impacting the region and the world. In December 2018, the 11th edition of the Forum under the theme 'The State of the World in 2019' discussed the regional and global geopolitical and economic trends of 2019, with a number of panel sessions and lectures focusing on current and future issues facing the region and the world. 'The State of the World in 2019' report reviewed key geopolitical and economic issues within the framework of a global balance of power, with detailed analyses and predictions of the most prominent trends impacting the world.

The Forum launched three additional political and economic research reports in 2018 with the participation of experts from Arab and international research centres, creating a comprehensive reference for decision-makers, analysts and academics. The first report, entitled 'Five Key Events that are Reshaping Arab Realities', reviewed events and crises that influenced the political and strategic landscape of the Arab world over the last five years and the impact of conflict, including terrorism and sectarian violence, on the region and the world.

The second report, entitled 'The Economic Costs and Consequences of Iran's Nuclear Programme', explored the economic and social effects of Iran's nuclear programme and the impact of international sanctions on the Iranian people and the country's economy. The third report, 'Socio-Economic Outlook for the Arab Gulf Countries: Figures and Forecasts', investigated the region's economic outlook over the next five years, highlighting the economic diversification strategy adopted by the Gulf states in recent decades.



Every person has the spirit of giving inside them, and the ability to contribute positively to our society; this is our Arab world's civilisational mission

Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum





14

Arab journalists
honoured in the
Arab Journalism
Award in 2018

The Role of Arab Media

The **Arab Media Forum** is considered the most important annual media event in the Arab region, with more than 3,000 industry professionals, notable writers and thinkers attending the two-day event in 2018. Under the theme 'Impactful Media Trends', the agenda included five workshops and 18 panel sessions, with 45 speakers discussing the role of media in shaping the Arab world's current events and exploring ways to establish a clear framework for future media content. The Forum also explored the important role of media in helping Arab societies overcome challenges and achieve security, stability and prosperity.

In cooperation with **Noor Dubai**, the Forum held the 'Media Walk' in 2018 as part of its annual commitment to humanitarian

work and social responsibility. The initiative supports the Foundation's efforts to combat visual disability through treatment camps in developing countries in Asia and Africa, the provision of eye examination services and surgical procedures, and the distribution of eye glasses to disadvantaged patients. To highlight the challenges experienced by visually impaired people, visitors had to navigate their way through a dark corridor, reading phrases inscribed in braille on the walls.

The **Arab Journalism Award** upholds the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives'** (MBRGI) efforts to support and motivate media professionals, recognising the role of the press in serving communities and journalists in delivering the Arab voice to the world. The Award's 17th edition honoured 14 Arab journalists, selected among 5,874 applicants, from daily newspapers, magazines, web portals and media organisations. The growing participation and value of the prizes, which exceeded AED 1 million, have reaffirmed the Award's prominence in the Arab world.





1,700

attendees at the
Arab Social Media
Influencers Summit
in 2018

Positive Communication

The **Arab Social Media Influencers Award** encourages creative thinking to develop social media content and promotes effective use of online platforms in highlighting issues that touch the lives of Arab communities. In 2018, the Award honoured over 25 individuals and organisations in 20 categories in a ceremony held at the third **Arab Social Media Influencers Summit**, which brought together social media influencers from across the region with more than 1,700 attendees from 10 Arab countries. As the largest event of its kind in the region, the Summit provides a platform for participants to network, share and explore experiences, ideas and best practices to implement on social media. Among the notable winners recognised at the Summit was Queen Rania Al Abdullah, wife of King Abdullah II of Jordan. She was presented with the 'Personality of the Year Award' for her strong presence on social media, which she uses to serve humanitarian causes including women and children and education.

Creating Hope through Knowledge

Throughout 2018, the **Middle East Exchange** continued to spread hope, knowledge and the spirit of leadership and positivity in the Arab region. As the region's largest platform dedicated to addressing developmental issues in the Arab world, the initiative issues weekly articles written and edited by a global team of writers, experts and researchers. In 2018, the articles attracted more than 3 million readers each month with a variety of topics and issues, particularly those celebrating Arab achievements and highlighting solutions to challenges hindering the ambitions of Arab youth. The articles also highlight individual experiences of young Arab entrepreneurs and innovators whose social and developmental initiatives have succeeded in making a positive change in their lives and in their communities. The Exchange's aim is to spread optimism among readers, and keep them up-to-date with the latest in social, intellectual and economic development.



Never underestimate your role, your work or your
efforts, for you are in the business of shaping lives,
planning futures and building nations

Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum



Annex



The Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives



Humanitarian Aid & Relief

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



Healthcare & Disease Control

- Noor Dubai Foundation
 - Al Jalila Foundation
-



Spreading Education & Knowledge

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



Innovation & Entrepreneurship

- 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



المدينة العالمية للخدمات الإنسانية
INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN CITY

International Humanitarian City

The **International Humanitarian City (IHC)**, established in 2003, is a global humanitarian hub based in Dubai with the mandate to facilitate aid operations by 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 a pivotal role in transporting urgent life-saving items, thanks to its strategic location in Dubai, only an eight-hour flight away from two-thirds of the world's 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 والإنسانية
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 improve the quality of life in the UAE and around the world. It implements developmental 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 implement sustainable water-supplying projects and alleviate the suffering of communities living with scarce water resources. The Foundation provides clean drinking water by drilling wells, distributing water pumps and water purification equipment, and undertaking desalination projects. **Suqia** also runs the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Water Award**, which encourages innovators, organisations and research centres to compete to find sustainable solar-powered solutions for water scarcity.



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 individuals and organisations regionally and globally 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 global practices and identify and crowd-fund urgent needs.

Healthcare & Disease Control



Noor Dubai Foundation

Launched in 2008 with a vision to create a world free from avoidable 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, focusing on remote areas lacking in resources and healthcare infrastructure. The Foundation provides mobile eye clinics, 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 investments in medical education and research to position the UAE at the forefront of medical innovation. To achieve its vision, the Foundation focuses on advancing the country's healthcare and research 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. Established in 2007, **Dubai Cares** designs and funds programmes that aspire to be integrated, impactful, sustainable and scalable to increase access to primary education. Its comprehensive programmes seek to eliminate the underlying obstacles preventing children from attending school and learning. Since its inception, **Dubai Cares** has reached over 18 million beneficiaries in more than 53 developing 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 reading. The Library is set to be one of the largest facilities in the Arab world, housing millions of printed, digital and audio books. The one-million square-foot library 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 and research. Committed to the creation of knowledge-based societies in the Arab world, it funds projects and initiatives that tackle developmental issues and incubates ideas and innovation while focusing on its main pillars of education, entrepreneurship, research and development, and translation and publishing. It also hosts international knowledge and science awards to strengthen the UAE's status on the knowledge map.



Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Knowledge Award

Launched in 2015, the **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Knowledge Award** seeks to highlight the importance of sharing and disseminating knowledge as 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.



Knowledge Summit

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



Mohammed bin Rashid Arabic Language Award

The annual Award, launched in 2014, encourages exceptional contributions to the Arabic language. It recognises outstanding initiatives that spread knowledge in the Arabic language through the categories of education, technology, media, Arabisation, and the preservation and dissemination of Arab linguistic heritage. It aims to reinforce the UAE's position as a centre of excellence for Arabic, promoting the language's use in public life and supporting teaching efforts.



Arab Reading Challenge

As the largest-ever Arab literacy initiative, the **Arab Reading Challenge** seeks to instil the habit of reading and a passion for knowledge deep in the DNA of young students. The annual Challenge was launched in the 2015/2016 academic year, drawing students across schools in the Arab world from Grades 1 to 12 through a comprehensive qualification system that begins at the class level, then progresses to the school level, country level and regional level, leading to the final ceremony held in Dubai.



Madrasa e-Learning Platform

The **Madrasa e-Learning Platform** was launched in 2018 to provide free Arabised educational content to more than 50 million Arab students from kindergarten to Grade 12. The platform aims to develop the educational system in the Arab world, improve science knowledge of Arab students, and encourage self-learning. The **Madrasa e-Learning Platform** is the outcome of the **Translation Challenge**, the largest of its kind in the Arab world, that called on hundreds of Arab volunteers, to translate, review, edit and produce 5,000 educational 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, including the upcoming **Museum of The Future**, a platform to showcase the latest innovations and technology prototypes of start-ups and the world's technology giants. In 2016, the Foundation launched **Dubai Future Accelerators** with a mission to design the future and facilitate collaboration between forward-thinking entrepreneurs and government entities, using Dubai as a living testbed to co-create solutions for global and local challenges of tomorrow.

DFF's One Million Arab Coders Initiative, the largest of its kind, was also launched to train one million young Arab programmers, equipping them with the tools to build their future and 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, **Dubai SME** plays a leading role in developing effective strategies to create a pro-business environment that encourages innovative entrepreneurship and leadership. The Establishment's mandate is to foster a culture of entrepreneurship, which is central to Dubai's economic development, to reaffirm the city's position as a global hub for entrepreneurship and an incubator for innovation.



Mohammed bin Rashid Award for Young Business Leaders

Founded in 2003, the Award honours distinguished entrepreneurs and recognises individuals and organisations who have aided the development of entrepreneurs across the Arab world. It supports the Dubai Plan 2021 through encouraging innovation, nurturing a culture of entrepreneurship and providing an attractive business-friendly environment for young innovators to implement projects that can contribute to economic progress in the UAE and the Arab world.



Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Business Award

This Award, launched in 2005, recognises and celebrates organisations that contribute to the sustainable economic development of the UAE and GCC. The Award is an intensive qualification initiative for GCC companies aiming to implement cutting-edge international best practices to improve performance and business strategies, embodying 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, representing a unique model for its focus on the practical side of governance.



Sheikh Mohammed Centre for Cultural Understanding

Founded in 1998, the Centre plays a key role as a bridge between the 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 inception, it has provided a wide range of cross-cultural exchanges and educational activities 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 of tolerance. Through the **Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Award for Tolerance**, the Institute seeks to support initiatives that promote innovation and excellence in instilling the principles of tolerance on a national and international level.



Arab Media Forum

This annual platform for leading media figures involves thorough discussions and exchange of ideas on vital media-related issues affecting the region and beyond. Launched in 2001, the Forum has attracted media personalities, as well as political, academic and intellectual leaders from all over the world. The event draws media representatives, editors-in-chief, columnists, academics and senior government officials every year to discuss challenges and future media 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 creative talent, inspire excellence and stimulate creativity in categories including Investigative Reporting; Young Journalist; Photojournalism; Economic Journalism; Outstanding Cartoonist; Sports Journalism; Press Interview; Best Column; Media Personality of the Year; Political Journalism; Cultural Journalism; Smart Journalism and Humanitarian Journalism.



Arab Social Media Influencers Summit & Award

Launched in 2015, the Summit provides a knowledge and culture exchange platform with sessions covering a range of positive and constructive social media topics in education, health and human development. As part of the Summit, the **Arab Social Media Influencers Award** honours outstanding social media initiatives to promote the effective use of online platforms to raise awareness of issues touching the lives of Arab communities.



مؤتمر دبي الرياضي الدولي
Dubai International
Sports Conference

Dubai International Sports Conference

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



Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Creative Sports Award

The **Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Creative Sports Award**, founded in 2009, works to honour individuals, teams and entities that have contributed to the enrichment of the sporting scene, encouraging further contributions and innovations on a local, regional and global level.



المنتدى الاستراتيجي العربي
ARAB STRATEGY FORUM

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 create a better world.



Mohammed bin Rashid Center for Leadership Development

The Mohammed bin Rashid Center for Leadership Development was launched in 2003 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 graduated from the Centre to head projects that today contribute to positioning Dubai as a leading global city.



Arab Hope Makers

The Arab Hope Makers initiative was launched in early 2017 to celebrate humanitarian efforts that serve others and make a difference in societies. The AED 1 million prize enables winners to continue funding their humanitarian endeavours and spreading hope in their communities to create a better world.



Middle East Exchange

Launched in 2016, the Middle East Exchange (MEE) provides a platform to share new ideas, inspirations and perceptions in the Middle East, aiming to spark open and constructive dialogue around current pressing issues and challenges facing the region. MEE issues weekly articles that cover a variety of developmental, economic, environmental and social issues in the region.