

The UAE and Global Humanitarian Work From Relief to Sustainability (1971 - May 2025)





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Introduction - The Union Association for Human Rights

The Union Association for Human Rights is committed to documenting and monitoring the pioneering experiences of the UAE in promoting human dignity. This commitment stems from a firm belief that giving is a cornerstone of social justice and an effective bridge for enhancing global human security.

This special supplement, published as part of the third issue of the UAE Human Rights Journal, highlights the UAE's extensive journey in humanitarian, developmental, and relief foreign aid during the period (1971 - May 2025). This journey has embodied a leading international model for work based on partnership, mutual respect, and global responsibility.

The state's foreign aid has been a practical reflection of its political and humanitarian values. It hasn't been limited to supporting crisis response but has also included capacity building, infrastructure support, promoting education and health, and empowering the most vulnerable groups, especially women and children.

What distinguishes the UAE's approach in this area is its proactive stance and adoption of sustainable developmental approaches through clear strategies and integrated national policies that align with UN frameworks, particularly the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

This publication serves as a documentary reference, demonstrating how the UAE, with wise leadership and a comprehensive humanitarian vision, has managed to make its foreign aid a tool for positive global impact and a cornerstone of its international relations built on solidarity and human interdependence.

The UAE's Humanitarian and Developmental Policy: A Strategic Vision

Since the establishment of the Union in 1971, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, may he rest in peace, laid down a humanitarian approach based on solidarity and tolerance, without discrimination based on gender, color, religion, or race. From then on, the UAE charted a unique path, becoming a global role model in giving and relief work.

This humanitarian approach was strengthened by the establishment of pioneering institutions like the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development in 1971 and the UAE Red Crescent Authority in 1983, along with other donor and charitable organizations that became the state's arm in international humanitarian aid.

UAE aid wasn't just a temporary response to crises; it was an integral part of its foreign strategy. This stemmed from an ethical and value-driven commitment that «humanity comes first,» regardless of politics, geography, ethnicity, or religion.

In 2017, the UAE launched the first national foreign aid policy in the region, which was updated in 2022 to keep pace with accelerating global challenges, especially those imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic. This policy focuses on seven pivotal global issues: infrastructure, empowerment and protection of women and girls, education, health, climate change mitigation, food security, and science, technology, and innovation.

In alignment with the Ten Principles for the Next Fifty Years, the policy's ninth principle affirmed that the UAE's foreign humanitarian aid is an «integral part of its ethical journey.» It also stated that aid is not restricted by any religious, ethnic, or cultural considerations, and that political differences with any country do not justify withholding relief in disasters, emergencies, and crises.

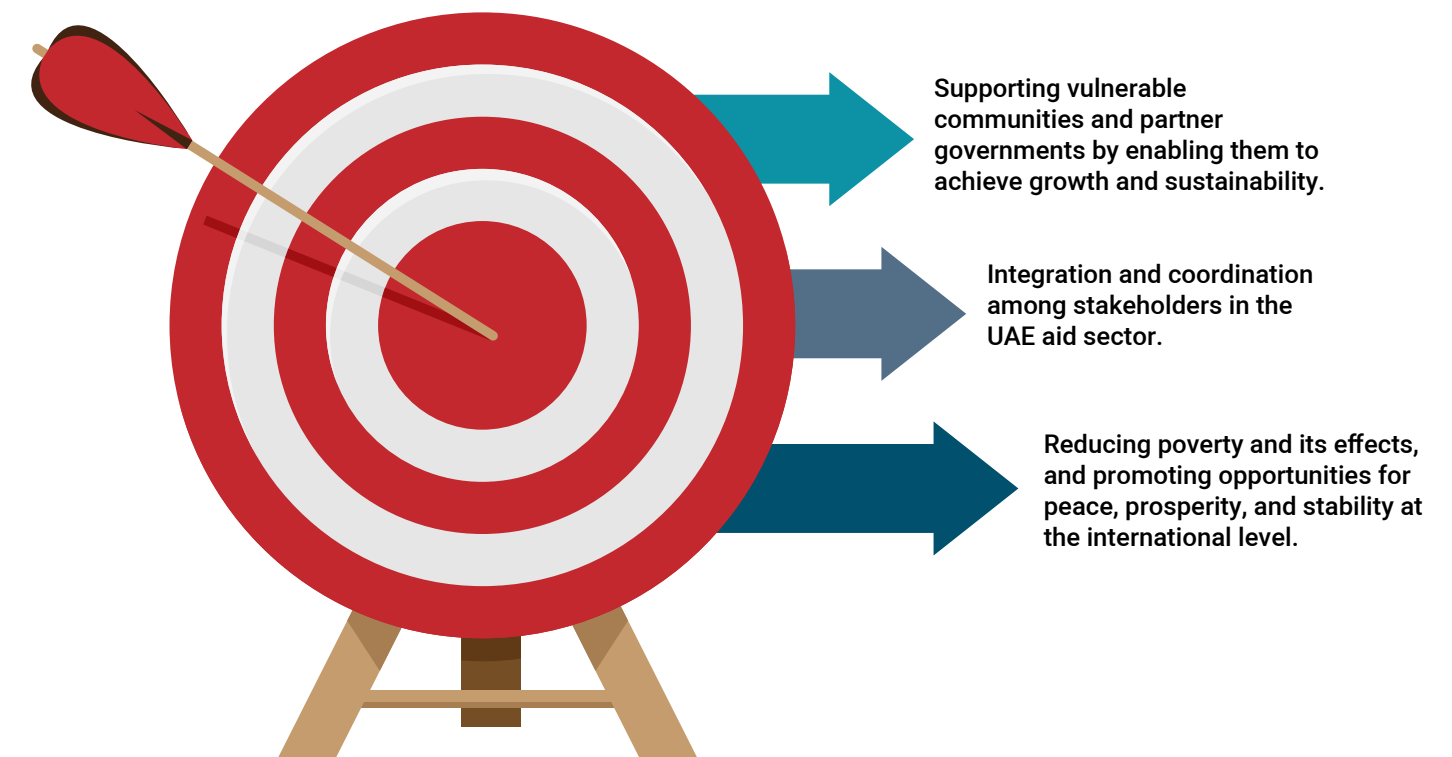
Objectives of the UAE Foreign Aid Policy:

The UAE's foreign aid policy is driven by a strategic vision that seeks to support vulnerable communities and partner governments by enabling them to achieve growth and sustainability. The policy aims to contribute to achieving the national priorities of these countries, within the framework of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

The policy also fosters integration and coordination among actors in the UAE aid sector, expands the scope of multilateral partnerships, and contributes to supporting economic cooperation and trade exchange activities with partner countries.

UAE aid focuses on reducing poverty and its effects, and promoting opportunities for peace, prosperity, and stability internationally, reflecting the state's commitment to both its developmental and humanitarian roles.

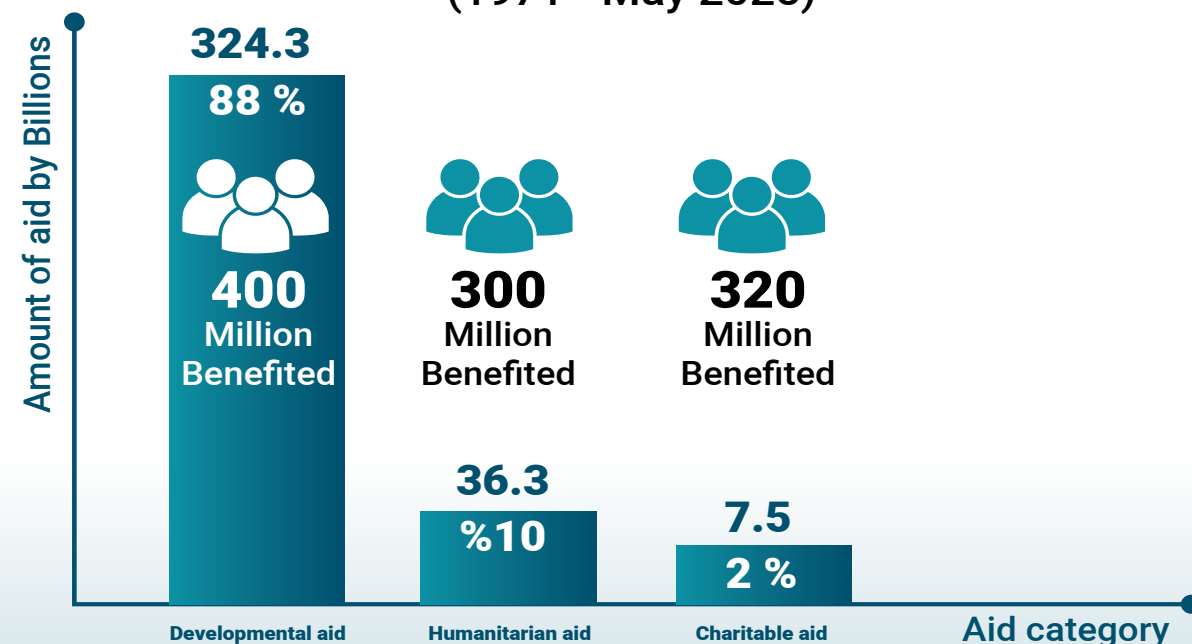
Key Objectives of UAE Foreign Aid:



The Numbers Speak – Half a Century of Giving in Review

- Over a journey spanning more than fifty years, from 1971 to May 2025, the UAE provided AED 368 billion (over \$100 billion) in foreign aid. Approximately two-thirds of this aid, 65%, was in the form of grants.
- The aid was distributed as 88% developmental aid, valued at AED 324.3 billion; 10% humanitarian aid, valued at AED 36.3 billion; and 2% charitable aid, valued at AED 7.5 billion. The geographical reach of UAE aid extended to over 200 countries and dependent territories worldwide, including 50 Least Developed Countries.
- The estimated total number of beneficiaries from UAE aid during the period (1971 - May 2025) exceeded 1 billion people. Of these, 400 million benefited from developmental aid, 320 million from charitable aid, and 300 million from humanitarian aid. Among the beneficiaries, 580 million were children and 200 million were women.
- Regarding the geographical distribution of aid across continents, Asia accounted for 47.1% during the period (1971 - May 2025), totaling AED

The Distribution of UAE aid by category (1971 - May 2025)



Number of beneficiaries from UAE aid during



580
Million
Children



200
Million
Women



200
Countries and
Dependent territories
around the world

173.4 billion. This included 83% developmental aid, 15% humanitarian aid, and 2% charitable aid. Africa ranked second, receiving 41%, or AED 152.3 billion, with 94% developmental aid, 4% humanitarian aid, and 2% charitable aid. Together, these two continents received approximately 88.5% of UAE aid during the period.

- 23.7% of UAE aid during the period (1971 - May 2025) was directed to 63 Least Developed Countries and low-income countries, amounting to AED 85.7 billion. This comprised 77.4% developmental aid, 18.9% humanitarian aid, and 3.7% charitable aid.
- Additionally, AED 495 million was directed to 17 Caribbean island nations during this period, with developmental and humanitarian aid accounting for 85% and 15% respectively.
- UAE aid has achieved a leading position globally, starting with the UAE securing first place worldwide in the ratio of Official Development Assistance (ODA) to Gross National Income (GNI) in 2013, 2014, 2016, and 2017, with percentages of 1.34%, 1.26%, 1.12%, and 1.31% respectively. It also ranked second globally in 2015 with 1.18%. In other words, the UAE topped the world four times and maintained its leading position by coming in second once over five consecutive years, reflecting its continuous commitment and leadership in supporting global development. This marks a historic achievement in foreign aid provision.

368 Billion AED (Over 100 Billion USD) Value of UAE humanitarian aid over a journey spanning more than fifty years.

The UAE and Humanitarian Response in Crisis Management

The UAE in Confronting Global Health Challenges

First: The UAE in Confronting the Pandemic: A Comprehensive Humanitarian Response from the First Hours of the COVID-19 Crisis

- All UAE donor entities and humanitarian and charitable organizations redoubled their efforts since the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis in 2020 under exceptional circumstances. This was aimed at supporting brotherly and friendly nations, whether in developmental project support, humanitarian disaster and crisis response, or mitigating the severe repercussions imposed by the pandemic. These efforts were made in cooperation with regional and international partners and UN agencies working in the humanitarian and developmental fields.
- During the peak of the pandemic in 2020, the value of UAE foreign aid reached AED 10.24 billion (US\$2.79 billion). This covered a wide geographical scope, extending to over 170 countries worldwide, including at least 46 Least Developed or low-income countries.

Key approaches taken by the UAE in dealing with the coronavirus crisis included:

- Since the start of the pandemic in 2020 and throughout the crisis, the total volume of medical aid exceeded 3,000 tons. This included ventilators, testing equipment, and personal protective equipment, contributing to supporting and protecting millions of medical workers in over 142 countries worldwide through 202 medical aid flights.



- Twelve field hospitals were established to enhance health capacities in beneficiary countries, including two hospitals in Mauritania and three hospitals in Syria, Sudan, Jordan, Lebanon, Guinea-Conakry, Tunisia, and Gaza. Additionally, a mobile clinic was equipped in Turkmenistan.
- The UAE transported two mobile hospitals from Norway and Belgium to Ghana and Ethiopia for the World Food Programme.
- Aid was dispatched to 117 countries from the warehouses of international organizations located in the International Humanitarian City in Dubai, representing 80% of the international response volume to affected countries during the pandemic. The state also donated in-kind assistance to the World Health Organization.
- In addition, the UAE coordinated with relevant international organizations and their specialized bodies, such as the World Health Organization (WHO), assisting them in delivering medical aid to various countries. This boosted these organizations' capacity to reach the largest possible international beneficiary base worldwide and contributed to providing necessary medical supplies.
- The UAE also took the initiative to offer assistance to friendly and brotherly nations, working to evacuate citizens of Arab and foreign countries who were stranded in affected nations. Accommodation and care were provided in the UAE Humanitarian City in Abu Dhabi until they were transferred to their home countries after being confirmed free of illness.

Global Vaccine Distribution:

- The UAE sought to provide a coordinated and comprehensive global health response to ensure equitable and safe access to vaccines and treatments. It launched the «Hope Consortium,» a collaborative logistics alliance of local and global entities based in the UAE, aiming to provide up to 18 billion vaccine doses worldwide.

- An international logistics alliance was also launched from Dubai to support the WHO's COVAX initiative, with the goal of distributing 2 billion vaccine doses to developing countries, especially those most affected by the pandemic.

Efforts of the International Humanitarian City in Dubai (currently Dubai Humanitarian):

- The UAE is a main artery for the logistical operations of international organizations, with their strategic warehouses located in the International Humanitarian City in Dubai. It serves as the first responder to global crises, especially with aid related to COVID-19.
- The volume of aid sent from the International Humanitarian City in Dubai to affected countries accounted for over 80% of the total international response worldwide.
- International organizations located in the International Humanitarian City in Dubai contributed by sending over 955 shipments of COVID-19 aid, including personal protective equipment and other materials, to 117 countries worldwide.

UAE Efforts with International Organizations:

- Collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) involved signing an agreement to provide \$10 million worth of COVID-19 testing equipment. Additionally, medical supplies for the WHO were transported to Iran, Ethiopia, and Somalia.
- The UAE allocated \$20 million to the Pandemic Fund and the COVID-19 Response Fund in collaboration with the World Bank during the G20 Summit in 2022 in Indonesia.
- Collaboration with the World Food Programme (WFP) also included the transfer of two field hospitals from Norway and Belgium to Ghana and Ethiopia, valued at \$4 million.



Second: The UAE on the Front Line Against Malaria

In line with its ongoing commitment to improving global health, from 2010 to 2019, the UAE provided \$30 million in financial support to the «Roll Back Malaria» program, in cooperation with the World Health Organization. This was part of its efforts to eradicate malaria in the most affected countries.

UAE Support for Syria and Turkey Earthquake Victims 2023: Comprehensive Relief by Land, Air, and Sea

- \$20 million was allocated to support the United Nations Humanitarian Response Plan in Syria, in coordination with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).
- 262 airlifts were sent to Syria and Turkey, including 247 under Operation «Gallant Knight» and 15 planes from the International Humanitarian City in Dubai. The total aid transported via airlifts reached 12,630 tons, with 1,148 tons to Turkey and 11,152 tons to Syria.
- The UAE dispatched 4 aid ships carrying 9,000 tons of food, relief, medical supplies, and construction materials from Alexandria port in Egypt to Latakia port in Syria.
- Two field hospitals were established to treat the injured: the first in Gaziantep with a 50-bed capacity, and the second in Hatay with a 200-bed capacity. Both were equipped with all necessary equipment, medicines, X-ray rooms, emergency units, and operating theaters.
- Etisalat (E&) sent equipment worth AED 20 million (\$5.4 million) to support the telecommunications sector in Turkey.
- 1,000 temporary housing units were built in various areas of Latakia Governorate at a cost of AED 65 million, providing temporary shelter for approximately 6,000 people.



Supporting People and Enhancing Resilience

UAE Support for Palestine: A Historic Commitment to Fostering Human and Developmental Resilience

- The value of foreign aid provided by the UAE to Palestine reached AED 16.2 billion, with AED 438 million channeled through UNRWA. Non-repayable grants constituted 100% of the total aid. Developmental aid accounted for 60% of the total, valued at AED 8.9 billion, while humanitarian aid represented 38%, valued at AED 5.7 billion.
- Foreign aid primarily focused on supporting general programs, totaling AED 8.7 billion, followed by the commodities sector with AED 2.3 billion. The health, social services, and education sectors received AED 2.3 billion, AED 1.5 billion, and AED 1 billion, respectively.
- The United Arab Emirates has pledged \$25 million to Al-Maqasid Hospital in East Jerusalem as part of continuous efforts to support Palestinian healthcare institutions, in cooperation with the World Health Organization and the Office of the UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process. The UAE also allocated \$64.5 million to support the hospital's operational activities and upgrade its facilities.

Support for UNRWA:

Approximately 7.7% of the UAE's support to Palestine, equivalent to about \$332.5 million, has been allocated to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

- In 2018, the UAE increased its funding to support education programs in

UAE Foreign Aid to the State of Palestine

The total value of aid amounted

AED **16.2** billion



Humanitarian aid

AED **5.7** billion



Development aid

AED **8.9** billion



Through UNRWA

AED **438** billion

all five locations: the West Bank, Gaza Strip, Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan. It provided \$100 million for 2018 and 2019 to ensure UNRWA's ability to continue providing education services in Palestine.

- In the same year, the UAE contributed \$2 million to provide 727,000 liters of diesel fuel for four months, which helped maintain the health of 1.9 million Palestinians in Gaza by supporting vital health and service facilities.
- The UAE also pledged \$15 million annually during 2016-2018 to support education programs in the Gaza Strip.

The UAE ranked as the world's leading donor to the Gaza Strip, with contributions totaling USD 1.4 billion, according to OCHA statistics.

- The UAE concluded its term as Chair of the UNRWA Advisory Commission in June 2021, handing over the chairmanship to Lebanon.
- On July 16, 2023, the UAE pledged \$15 million to support Palestinian refugees in the Jenin camp, following one of the largest military operations in the West Bank.
- In 2024, \$20 million was allocated to address the dire humanitarian conditions faced by the Palestinian people in Gaza during the war. This aid was designated to support the efforts of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA).

Humanitarian Efforts in the Gaza Strip:

Given the humanitarian crisis affecting the residents of the Gaza Strip, all UAE humanitarian efforts have been mobilized, and all capabilities and expertise harnessed to overcome these humanitarian challenges. This has been achieved through a fully integrated system for relief and humanitarian work and the formation of a field-based UAE humanitarian task force to provide all forms of support to the Palestinian brethren in the Gaza Strip, under the umbrella of the «Gallant Knight 3» initiative. More than 65,000 tons of immediate emergency relief supplies have been transported.

The UAE's contributions exceeded \$1.4 billion, placing it at the top of the list of countries providing the most support to Gaza, according to statistics from the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

- UAE aid has been sent through various means:
- By air: 614 humanitarian aid flights were conducted, along with 190 airdrops as part of a formal operation named «Birds of Goodness.»
- By land: Approximately 3,000 trucks were dispatched.
- By sea: 15 vessels were sent.
- The UAE launched the «Tarahum for Gaza» campaign, which saw the participation of 24,000 volunteers within the country. 71,000 relief baskets were collected, in addition to providing scholarships for 45 male and female students from the Gaza Strip at UAE universities.
- The Dubai Humanitarian Foundation dispatched 24 air shipments and one vessel to Gaza via the Sokhna port in Egypt, totaling 1,191 tons of aid from the stockpiled supplies of UN organizations hosted by the foundation.
- The total distributed aid amounted to over 65,000 tons of food, health supplies, and shelter materials, distributed by the UAE humanitarian team in cooperation with international partners.
- The humanitarian maritime corridor from Cyprus to Gaza was activated, and 7 vessels were sent in collaboration with Cyprus and international partners.

- Treatment Initiatives in UAE Hospitals: The UAE is providing treatment for 1,000 Palestinian children and 1,000 Palestinian cancer patients in its hospitals. So far, 1,214 injured children and cancer patients, along with 1,416 companions, have arrived via 25 evacuation flights.
- Polio Vaccinations (\$5 million): In collaboration with the World Health Organization, UNICEF, and UNRWA, the UAE allocated \$5 million for an urgent polio vaccination campaign in Gaza. This campaign will provide two doses of vaccines to over 640,000 children.
- Establishment of Two Hospitals: field Hospital: Located in southern Gaza, supervised by a UAE medical team, with a 200-bed capacity. It includes over 100 doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and lab technicians. It also provides «Star link» service for urgent medical consultations through video conferencing technology. As of December 2, 2023, 52,850 cases have been treated since its opening floating Hospital: Off the coast of Al-Arish city, with a 100-bed capacity. It began providing medical services on February 26, 2024, and has received 17,185 cases. It is considered one of the first floating hospitals in the Arab world to support critical cases in besieged areas.
- Establishment of 6 Water Desalination Plants: These plants produce 2 million gallons of fresh Water daily, which is pumped into the Gaza Strip, benefiting over 1 million people.



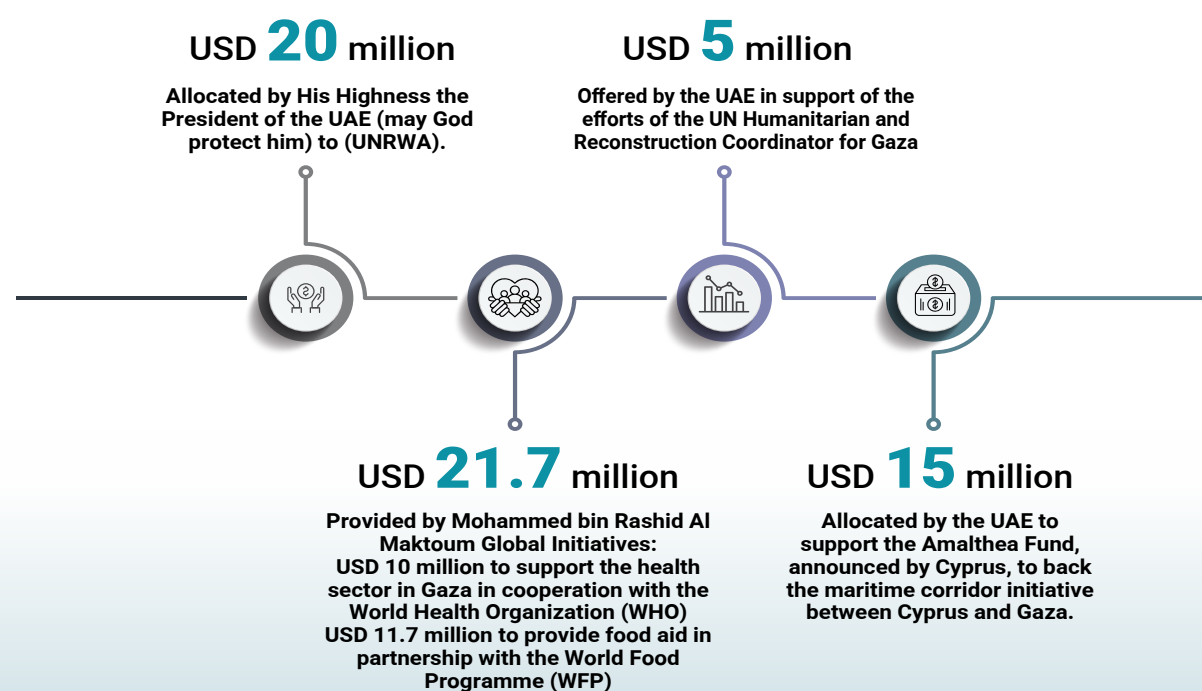
Aid through UN Agencies:

- \$20 million: His Highness the President, may God protect him, allocated this amount to address the difficult humanitarian conditions faced by the Palestinian people and to support the efforts of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA).
- \$21.7 million: «Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives» provided \$10 million to support the health sector in Gaza in cooperation with the World Health Organization, in addition to \$11.7 million for food aid in cooperation with the World Food Programme.
- \$5 million: The UAE provided this support for the significant efforts of the UN Coordinators for Humanitarian Affairs and Reconstruction in Gaza.
- \$15 million: The UAE allocated this support to the «Amalthea Fund» announced by Cyprus, aimed at supporting the maritime corridor initiative between Cyprus and the Gaza Strip.

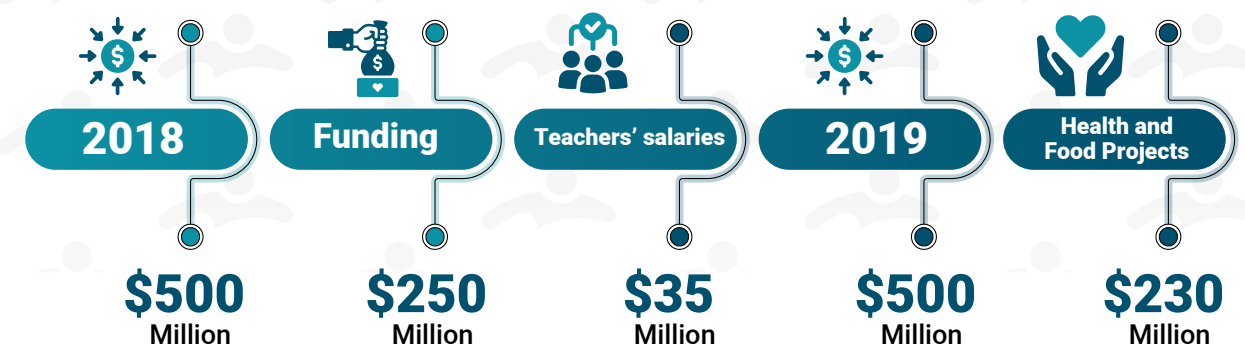
UAE Support for Yemen: A Comprehensive Response to a Protracted Humanitarian and Developmental Crisis

During the period (2015-2025-), the total foreign aid amounted to AED 26.1 billion. Non-repayable grants constituted 95.7% of the total aid, while loans made up 4.3%. Developmental aid accounted for 65% of the total aid, valued at AED 17 billion. Humanitarian aid comprised 34.5% of

UAE Aid to the Gaza Strip through United Nations Agencies



In support of the UN Humanitarian Response Plan in Yemen The UAE has provided over \$1.5 billion since 2018, including:



the total, valued at AED 9.0 billion, and charitable aid represented 0.5%, valued at AED 127.5 million.

Foreign aid focused on the commodities sector, totaling AED 8.4 billion, followed by the health sector with AED 5.5 billion, and then the power generation and supply sector. UAE donor entities participated in supporting the foreign aid provided to the Republic of Yemen, with government contributions being the most significant, accounting for 92.7% or AED 24.0 billion.

The UAE also implemented a number of qualitative projects in Yemen during the period (2022–2025). These included supporting the health sector with \$38.4 million to improve child and maternal care services and providing medical supplies in Sanaa, Socotra, Hadhramaut, and Shabwah. In the energy sector, a 120 MW solar power plant was established in Aden, directly supporting the stability of the electrical grid in the governorate.

As part of its developmental efforts, the UAE funded the Hassan Dam project with \$82 million, which contributed to enhancing agricultural production and achieving food security in several governorates. Rapid response to health crises was also evident, as the UAE sent six aircraft carrying 122.1 tons of medical aid during the COVID-19 pandemic, benefiting over 122,000 healthcare workers.

In support of the United Nations Humanitarian Response Plan in Yemen, the UAE has provided over \$1.5 billion since 2018, including:

- 500 million dollar in 2018.
- An additional 250 million dollar to bridge the funding gap.
- 35 million dollar to support the salaries of 64,000 teachers in cooperation with UNICEF.
- 500 million dollar in 2019.
- 230 million dollar in 2021 to support health and food projects.

\$1.63 billion in commodity assistance, public support programs, and healthcare for displaced persons and refugees affected by the Syrian crisis.

UAE Support for Syria: Continuous Efforts in Humanitarian Response and Reconstruction

- The UAE began providing humanitarian aid for the Syrian crisis since its onset. From 2012 to 2024, the UAE provided approximately \$1.63 billion in aid to support displaced persons and refugees affected by the Syrian crisis. This included \$879.4 million for commodity aid, \$364.9 million for general support programs, and \$220.7 million for the health sector.
- UAE efforts were directed towards covering vital sectors such as water and sanitation, education, power generation, and reconstruction and infrastructure. The UAE also focused on managing refugee camps in cooperation with international organizations.
- The UAE contributed AED 86 million (\$23.4 million) to the Syria Recovery Trust Fund (SRTF) to implement developmental programs covering health, agriculture, food security, power generation, and water and sanitation sectors. Additionally, the UAE provided AED 183.7 million (\$50 million) through stabilization projects.
- Furthermore, the UAE allocated \$152 million of its aid through UN channels and international non-governmental organizations, emphasizing its commitment to multilateral partnerships. As part of its support for reconstruction efforts, the UAE helped establish the Syria Recovery Trust Fund in partnership with Germany and the United States, to finance priority projects in health, water, education, electricity, and food security sectors. Through this fund, the UAE provided \$23.4 million, and an additional \$50 million for stabilization projects in Raqqa Governorate, supporting areas liberated from the control of terrorist organizations.

UAE Support for Sudan: A Regional Humanitarian Response Enhancing Resilience in the Face of Conflicts

- The UAE has provided over AED 16.12 billion in aid to the Sudanese people, equivalent to 4.5% of its total foreign aid during the period (1971–May 2025). Starting in 2023, due to the internal crisis in Sudan, the pace of UAE humanitarian aid intensified, both within Sudan and in neighboring countries (Chad, South Sudan, and Uganda) that have received refugees fleeing the internal conflict.
- This aid included sending 162 aircraft carrying humanitarian supplies and one aid ship transporting 12,120 tons of food, medical, and other relief materials. Additionally, two field hospitals were built in the cities of Amdjarass and Abeche in Chad, which have received over 100,000 cases. A hospital was also built in Madhol in Eastern Equatoria State, South Sudan, providing medical care for Sudanese refugees and the local community.
- Furthermore, five water wells were drilled in Chad to provide water for Sudanese refugees, and 1,000 solar-powered lights were installed in cities and main roads in Chad. Three schools were renovated and rehabilitated to increase local community capacity in Chad to accommodate the influx

of Sudanese refugees. In Uganda, 200 tons of food and relief materials were provided to support Sudanese refugees, along with support for 11 health centers and facilities, and the drilling of three water wells to ensure water availability.

- The UAE pledged \$100 million to support the Sudanese people during the Paris Donor Conference for Sudan in April 2024. This comprised \$30 million through the UAE AID team and \$70 million allocated to UN organizations to support affected individuals inside Sudan and Sudanese refugees in South Sudan. This \$70 million was distributed as follows: \$25 million for the World Food Programme, \$20 million for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, \$8 million for the World Health Organization, \$5 million for the Food and Agriculture Organization, \$5 million for the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), and \$7 million for UNICEF.
- In September 2024, the UAE announced the launch of a new package of humanitarian initiatives in Chad, in addition to contributing \$10.25 million to the United Nations to support Sudanese women refugees. This includes: \$3 million for the World Health Organization to support maternal and child health programs, \$2 million for the UN Population Fund to enhance services targeting women, \$250,000 for the World Food

The UAE provided more than AED 16.12 billion in aid to the Sudanese people (equivalent to 4.5% of total foreign aid during the period 1971 - May 2025).



The UAE provided humanitarian and development aid to Somalia amounting to AED 3.84 billion (\$1.05 billion), with grants accounting for 81%, development aid for 80%, and humanitarian aid for 13.5%.

Programme to address gender-specific needs, \$3 million for the Refugee Agency for social cohesion initiatives, and \$2 million for the UN Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund.

- The UAE pledged \$200 million at the High-Level Humanitarian Conference for the People of Sudan held in Addis Ababa on February 14, 2025.

UAE Support for Somalia: Empowering Communities and Enhancing Resilience

The UAE has provided humanitarian and developmental aid to Somalia totaling AED 3.84 billion (\$1.05 billion). Of this, 81% was in the form of grants, with developmental aid accounting for 80% and humanitarian aid 13.5% of the total.

Support was concentrated in several sectors, most notably: general programs (34%), social services (12.3%), commodity aid (12.2%), and civil construction and development (10.2%).

In the context of humanitarian response during the period (2020–2024), the UAE shipped over 14,000 tons of food aid to those affected by drought and floods and distributed 90,000 food parcels. Additionally, it provided \$39.4 million in emergency support for natural disasters and \$3.6 million for the COVID-19 pandemic.

The UAE also strengthened its health presence through the opening of the Sheikh Zayed Hospital in Mogadishu. Equipped with eight main medical departments, it offers specialized services in emergency care, surgery, obstetrics, pediatrics, and more, thereby enhancing the country's health infrastructure.

UAE Support for Afghanistan: A Humanitarian and Developmental Path Towards Stability and Capacity Building

The UAE provided aid to Afghanistan totaling AED 6.94 billion (\$1.89 billion) until 2025, with 99.8% of this being grants. The aid was distributed as 81.5% developmental, 15.5% humanitarian, and 3% charitable, with support concentrated in the transportation and storage, construction, commodities, and health sectors.

In 2021, the UAE launched a humanitarian airlift that delivered over 515 tons of aid and temporarily hosted more than 10,000 individuals in the UAE Humanitarian City. In 2022 and 2023, the UAE responded to floods and earthquakes by dispatching aircraft carrying hundreds of tons of food and medical supplies, in addition to building a field hospital with a capacity of up to 200 patients daily.

In the health sector, the UAE signed an agreement with the Red Cross for the operation of key hospitals, valued at \$4 million. It also established 10 maternity centers in seven different states as part of its efforts to enhance healthcare for mothers and children.



UAE Support for Rohingya Refugees: Comprehensive Relief for the Most Affected Populations

The UAE continued to provide effective humanitarian support to Rohingya refugees, driven by its unwavering humanitarian commitment to affected populations. In 2018, the UAE funded an emergency nutrition program in cooperation with the UNHCR, valued at \$2 million, benefiting 132,000 refugees. In 2019, the «UAE to Rohingya Children and Women» campaign was launched, with the participation of 20 UAE entities, raising \$67 million to provide education, food, healthcare, and shelter for over 1.2 million refugees.

In 2023, as part of the «Billion Meals» initiative, the UAE distributed 5.4 million meals in refugee camps in Bangladesh in cooperation with the World Food Programme. Additionally, UAE humanitarian organizations such as the Red Crescent, Khalifa Foundation, and Sharjah Charity House implemented specialized projects focused on food, health, education, and water.

UAE Support for Venezuelan Refugees: Humanitarian Contribution to Alleviating Displacement Suffering

The UAE provided tangible humanitarian support to Venezuelan refugees. In 2021, it signed an agreement with the UNHCR, valued at \$2 million, to support over 26,000 refugees in Colombia and improve their living conditions. In 2019, the UAE Red Crescent Authority provided emergency aid valued at AED 10 million, which included distributing 75,000 food and medical parcels, benefiting approximately 375,000 refugees in the Cúcuta border region.



The UAE in Supporting Stability and Reconstruction

The UAE has provided vital support for reconstruction efforts in Iraq and Syria

- In Iraq, this included a \$60 million contribution to the UN's «Funding Facility for Stabilization,» which helped rehabilitate health, education, water, energy, and housing sectors and facilitated the return of displaced persons. The UAE also pledged \$50.4 million to support UNESCO and the Iraqi government in restoring the Grand Al-Nuri Mosque and the Al-Tahera and Al-Saa'a Churches in Mosul. In Sinjar, the UAE supported Nadia Murad's initiative with \$2.5 million to improve water and sanitation facilities for approximately 80,000 people, and contributed to a study for establishing an agricultural university in collaboration with UNOPS. The UAE also supported women's empowerment projects with \$500,000, in addition to \$1.25 million for reconstructive surgeries for war-wounded individuals in northern Iraq, in partnership with the Swiss Cross Foundation.
- In Syria, the UAE contributed \$23.4 million to the Reconstruction Trust Fund (SRTF) to improve basic services. It also allocated \$40 million for a joint early recovery project with the United States to support northeastern Syria.

Women's Empowerment: An Integrated UAE Approach in Humanitarian and Developmental Work

As part of its commitment to gender equality and women's empowerment, the UAE allocated AED 16.8 billion (\$4.6 billion) in aid during the period 2015–2025, representing 8.7% of its total foreign aid. In 2018, it launched the «100% for Women» policy to ensure the integration of women's issues into all aid projects by 2021.

The UAE participated in the 2019 Oslo Conference on Gender-Based Violence in Crises and supported UN Population Fund projects that benefited over 2 million women in Yemen and 300,000 women in Syria and Sahel countries. It also supported the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs with \$500,000 to fund two projects for capacity building and readiness to provide gender-based protection and care.

In Iraq, the UAE contributed a AED 1.84 million grant to Nadia Murad's initiative for the reconstruction of Sinjar and support for women. It also provided \$4 million to the Food and Agriculture Organization to support rural women in Liberia.

The UAE is also a co-founder of the Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative (We-Fi), contributing AED 183.7 million (\$50 million). This initiative has supported over 11,000 women in various countries and invested in 15,000 women-owned businesses. Separately, We-Fi programs provided \$243 million in loans and grants and supported 32 legal reforms to ease legal restrictions faced by women entrepreneurs worldwide.

AED 16.8 billion, representing 8.7% of UAE foreign aid during 2015–2025, allocated to support gender equality and women's empowerment.



Clean Energy as a UAE Tool for Development in Island Nations

The UAE launched a unique initiative to promote renewable energy in island nations through two financing funds totaling \$100 million. Each fund allocated \$50 million for the Caribbean and Pacific regions, respectively, in partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Abu Dhabi Fund for Development, and Masdar.

These projects aim to reduce energy costs, provide clean alternatives, and enhance these nations' ability to withstand natural disasters. Sustainable and innovative solutions have been implemented, such as the renewable energy project in Samoa, which became the sole source of electricity after a devastating hurricane.

The UAE focused on solar and wind turbine projects based on technical and economic feasibility studies. This contributes to supporting essential services like health, education, and water, and reduces developmental challenges associated with the high cost of electricity in these countries.



Conclusion: The UAE and Humanitarian Work at the Heart of the Global System, From Solidarity to Sustainability

Countries aren't measured solely by the amount of aid they provide, but by the vision, sustainability, and impact of that aid in empowering people and achieving comprehensive development. The UAE has successfully transitioned the concept of humanitarian work from mere emergency response to a sustainable strategic approach that integrates fundamental rights, development, and institutional building.

The UAE's foreign aid policy aligns with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly in areas such as eradicating poverty (Goal 1), good health and well-being (Goal 3), quality education (Goal 4), gender equality (Goal 5), clean water and clean energy (Goals 6 and 7), climate action (Goal 13), and peace, justice, and strong institutions (Goal 16). UAE aid has become a strategic tool for building peace, achieving well-being, and enhancing global stability, all under a steadfast commitment to humanitarian principles and international law.

This vision, set forth by the wise leadership of the UAE, solidifies the country's position as an influential and inspiring international actor, redefining the concept of soft power in the 21st century.

Therefore, sustainability in UAE humanitarian work is not an option, but a long-term national path that integrates with the UAE's aspirations for the next fifty years.



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