



UNITED NATIONS
SAUDI ARABIA



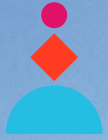
UN COUNTRY RESULTS REPORT

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, 2023



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Acronyms *and Abbreviations*

COP16	• Sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
CSO	• Civil society organization
FAC	• Family Affairs Council
GASTAT	• General Authority for Statistics
GDP	• Gross domestic product
JWP	• Joint Work Plan
LNOB	• Leave No One Behind
MEP	• Ministry of Economy and Planning
MEWA	• Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture
MHRSD	• Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development
MOI	• Ministry of Interior
NAUSS	• Naif Arab University for Security Sciences
NCVC	• National Center for Vegetation Cover
NCW	• National Center for Wildlife
SDGs	• Sustainable Development Goals
SFDA	• Saudi Food and Drug Authority
SRAD	• Sustainable Rural Agricultural Development
STEM	• Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
UNDIS	• UN Disability Inclusion Strategy
UNDS	• UN Development System
UNSDCF	• United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
VNR	• Voluntary National Report

Foreword

In 2023, the United Nations, the Government of Saudi Arabia, and strategic partners, continued the strong shared commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2022-2026. This report embodies that commitment, structuring its narrative around the system-wide results achieved within this cooperative context.

The report acknowledges Saudi Arabia's global and regional leadership, hosting significant international events, and actively participating in key regional and global initiatives, including contributions towards regional reconciliation and stability.

The Saudi Arabia Vision 2030 and the SDGs intersect to guide the country's transformative development path, emphasizing economic diversification, environmental sustainability, and social inclusion. The United Nations' partnership has resulted in significant achievements across several domains, including natural resource management, food security, urban sustainability and empowerment of rural youth and women. Particularly noteworthy is Saudi Arabia's progressive stance on educational reforms and empowerment of women, as well as its endeavours in environmental conservation and biodiversity protection. This report emphasizes the importance of leaving no one behind, highlighting efforts to reach vulnerable groups and integrate them into Saudi Arabia's development narrative.

Challenges such as the need for better data availability and strengthening of partnerships are candidly addressed. In response, strategic initiatives such as the SDG Data Webinar Series illustrate the United Nations' efforts to surmount these obstacles. The report also delves into Saudi Arabia's future focus areas, which include continuing to support global environmental events like the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP16) of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the World Environment Day and ensuring



participation in significant global discussions such as the Summit of the Future.

As we advance into 2024, the United Nations in Saudi Arabia pledges continued support to the country's development journey, advocating that strides towards the SDGs and Vision 2030 are sustainable and inclusive. With a clear sight set on the Summit of the Future, the report establishes the United Nations's support for Saudi Arabia's preparatory efforts for this crucial summit, which presents an opportunity to showcase Saudi Arabia's development achievements and aspirations on a global stage.

*by Resident Coordinator
United Nations
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia*

◆ United Nations *in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia*

The United Nations has been actively working with Saudi Arabia since 1948. The United Nations Country Team (UNCT), led by the Resident Coordinator, is composed of United Nations entities working in or with Saudi Arabia. The UNCT has 27 members, of which 18 are signatories to the UNSDCF 2022–2026.

The 18 UNSDCF signatories are the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), International Labour Organization (ILO), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Human Settlements

Programme (UN-Habitat), United Nations Volunteers (UNV), World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and International Organization for Migration (IOM).

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), UN Tourism (UNWTO), the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), the World Bank Group (WBG), the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) and the UN World Food Programme (WFP) participate in UNCT coordination activities where relevant to their work with Saudi Arabia.

The Government of Saudi Arabia also actively engages with other United Nations entities on specific issues or collaboration not directly linked to the UNSDCF 2022–2026.





◆ Key Partners of the United Nations Development System in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

The United Nations would like to thank the many partners, without whose support the United Nations would not have been able to achieve the many successes and accomplishments during 2023. Below is a list of some of our partners

- *Abdullah Abdullatif Al Fozan Organization*
- *Al-Ahsa Development Authority*
- *Al-Nahda Society*
- *Al-Madinah Regional Development Authority*
- *Al-Ula Development Authority*
- *Almawaddah*
- *Aoun Centre | Jeddah*
- *Arab Gulf Program for Development (AGFUND)*
- *Authority for the Care of Persons with Disabilities (APD)*
- *Balad Alkhiyer Endowment Foundation*
- *Centre for Disease Control | Atlanta*
- *Digital Government Authority (DGA)*
- *Environmental Development Foundation | Faseel*
- *Estadamah*
- *Family Affairs Council*
- *General Authority for Statistics*
- *Global Environment Facility*
- *Governorate of Jazan*
- *Gulf Cooperation Council – Health Sector*
- *King Abdullah Petroleum Studies and Research Center (KAPSARC)*
- *King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST)*
- *King Abdulaziz Centre for National Dialogue*
- *King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology (KACST)*
- *King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre (KSRelief)*
- *KSA Khair*
- *Ministerial Committee of Traffic Safety*
- *Ministry of Culture*
- *Ministry of Economy and Planning*
- *Ministry of Education*
- *Ministry of Environment, Water, and Agriculture*
- *Ministry of Foreign Affairs*
- *Ministry of Health*
- *Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development*
- *Ministry of Interior*
- *Ministry of Justice*
- *Ministry of Municipal, Rural Affairs, and Housing*
- *Ministry of Transport and Logistic Services*
- *MiSK Mohammed Bin Salman Foundation*
- *Naif Arab University for Security Sciences*
- *Napco National*
- *National Centre for Environmental Compliance*
- *National Centre for Vegetation Cover and Combatting Desertification*
- *National Centre for Meteorology*
- *National Centre for Waste Management*
- *National Centre for Wildlife*
- *National Committee for Workers' Committees*
- *National Family Safety Program*
- *Northern Borders Province*
- *Nokia Saudi Arabia*
- *Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)*
- *Prince Mohammad Bin Fahd University*
- *Princess Nourah bin Abdulrahman University*
- *Prince Sultan University*

- *Quality of Life Program Center*
- *The Royal Commission for Makkah City and Holy Sites*
- *Royal Commission for Al-Ula*
- *Royal Commission for Yanbu*
- *Saudi Central Board for Accreditation of Healthcare Institutions*
- *Saudi Accreditation Center*
- *Saudi Data and Artificial Intelligence Authority*
- *Saudi Development and Reconstruction Program for Yemen*
- *Saudi Food and Drug Authority*
- *Saudi Health Council*
- *Saudi Human Rights Commission*
- *Saudi Oversight and Anti-Corruption Authority (NAZAHA)*
- *Saudi Patient Safety Centre*
- *Saudi Public Health Authority*
- *Saudi Standards, Metrology and Quality Organization*
- *Saudi Telecom Company*
- *REEF, MEWA*
- *Warfa Camp*
- *WHO Collaborating Centre on the Impact of COVID-19 on Child Protection Services*
- *Yanbu Industrial City*

Throughout this report, it is evident that fostering partnerships extends far beyond a procedural checkbox in the quest for sustainable development. These collaborations are not peripheral but integral to the operations and ethos of the United Nations system within Saudi Arabia.

The year 2023 marked a significant stride in prioritizing and advancing the rights of people with disabilities, showcasing innovative, impactful partnerships that have set a precedent in this domain. These alliances were instrumental in driving forward the objectives of the 2030 Agenda and aligning with Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 inclusive development goals.





Chapter 01

Overview of National Developments *in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia*



Overview of National Developments in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

In 2023, Saudi Arabia experienced a transformative year, marked by the launch of significant policy and development initiatives and evolving regional dynamics. This chapter provides an overview of the political, socio-economic, and geopolitical landscapes that shaped Saudi Arabia, signifying its progress and transformation toward sustainable development and global partnerships.



Economic Development

Saudi Arabia's economy experienced mixed trends in 2023, with a 1.2% growth in the second quarter but a contraction of 4.5% in the third quarter of 2023, primarily due to a 17% drop in oil GDP. Non-oil activities continued to grow, and the government projected flat growth for 2023 and a rebound of 4.4% in 2024. Fitch Solutions revised its economic growth projection to -0.7% for 2023, while the IMF anticipated a growth rate of 1.9%. The fiscal landscape shifted from surplus to deficit in 2023, with an expected deficit of 2% of GDP. To address this challenge, the Ministry of Finance aimed to diversify financing tools between loans, bonds, and sukuk while exploring new financing markets. The Consumer Price Index trended downward, with inflation rates slowing to 1.6% in October 2023. This was primarily driven by rent and food costs.

Saudi Arabia has surpassed its pre-pandemic tourism levels¹, ranking as the second fastest-growing tourist destination globally in the first three quarters of 2023. The World Travel & Tourism Council forecasted the tourism sector to contribute 9.7% to GDP in 2023, up from 8.4% in 2022. Saudi Arabia launched a unified

platform called 'KSA Visa' in December 2023, linking to more than 50 agencies and private sector operators, and introduced a free transit visa to attract more tourists. Additionally, HRH Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman launched the master plan for a mountain tourism project in Soudah, which is expected to accommodate 2 million visitors a year by 2033. Tourism is a key driver of Saudi economic diversification efforts under 'Vision 2030', whose target has been raised from 100 to 150 million visitors, reflecting the progress made in the sector.

The government intensified efforts to attract foreign direct investments (FDI) including the National Investment Strategy, the regional headquarters program, and newly introduced tax incentives². These efforts significantly increased FDI inflows in 2023, with Saudi Arabia recording a 29.13% surge in the 3rd quarter of 2023. Furthermore, Saudi Arabia launched 'Invest in Saudi', a joint initiative between the Ministry of Investment and the Royal Commission for Riyadh City, to attract international companies³. The Ministry of Investment also revealed that it has issued more than 2,100 new investment licenses in the third quarter of 2023, representing a 135% growth rate on an annual basis. In a related development, a new Events Investment Fund was launched to develop infrastructure and position Saudi Arabia as a global cultural, tourism, and sports hub. These developments reflect the country's positioning as an attractive investment destination as part of the plans to increase FDI's contribution to 5.7% of the GDP by 2030. Key projects driving FDI include the Saudi top seven infrastructure initiatives (Neom, Roshn, Diriyah Gate, Jeddah Central, Red Sea, Al-Ula, and Qiddiya).

The Saudi sovereign wealth fund, the Public

¹ According to the UNWTO's Barometer report, international arrivals in Saudi Arabia increased by 156% in 2023 compared to 2019.

² In December 2023, the government announced a 30-year zero-tax policy on corporate profits for foreign companies relocating their regional headquarters in Riyadh and a 10-year waiver on quotas for hiring nationals.

³ resulting in 180 companies moving their regional headquarters to Riyadh.

Investment Fund (PIF), continues steering Saudi Arabia's economic diversification efforts by making strategic investments across various sectors and countries. It acquired stakes in London's Heathrow Airport and raised its shares in Aston Martin. PIF made other significant investments in the electric vehicle sector, including launching a Saudi electric vehicle brand, Ceer, and the start-up Lucid Motors, which announced that its first manufacturing plant in Saudi Arabia had begun production.

Saudi Arabia advanced its commitment to renewable energy, with projects totalling a capacity of 22.8 gigawatts. ACWA Power, for instance, signed agreements to build the largest solar power plant in the Middle East. It is also considering expanding its nascent nuclear activities, with the announcement of the plan to build Saudi Arabia's first nuclear power plant and switching to a full inspection regime for its nuclear activities while reemphasizing its commitment to the Non-Proliferation Treaty .

In 2023, Saudi Arabia's strategic energy initiatives significantly influenced global oil markets. OPEC's report highlighted that global economic growth remained steady, with projections for 2023 and 2024 at 2.8% and 2.6% respectively. Saudi Aramco entered the global liquefied natural gas market, acquiring a minority stake in MidOcean Energy for USD 500 million, marking a strategic shift towards diversifying energy sources beyond oil. Additionally, two significant natural gas discoveries were made in November, supporting Aramco's strategy to increase gas production.

To support economic and social development, Saudi Arabia published in 2023 results of its national census in the previous year. The census aimed to provide complete and accurate statistics on the population as well as information on housing in all regions of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and sub-categories of the population.



Legal and policy reforms

Saudi Arabia continued implementing new reforms to enhance its legal framework in line with its international obligations. The Saudi Cabinet approved on June 23 a new Civil Transactions Law, regulating contracts, financial transactions, sales and lease contracts, participations, and compensation for damage, building on the best

international practices. New policy developments included an amendment of the citizenship law, allowing the Prime Minister to grant citizenship to children born to a non-Saudi father instead of the Minister of Interior. Saudi Arabia also issued a new national policy to promote equal opportunities and treatment in the labour market. It contains provisions that prevent discrimination and focuses on boosting women and groups with fewer opportunities and helping them enter the market. Other measures were also approved to increase protection of domestic workers. On the sidelines of the 111th International Labor Conference in Geneva, Saudi Arabia has also announced a national policy on combating forced labour, with more stringent monitoring of labour conditions and tougher punishment for abuses. Saudi authorities announced amendments to the Zakat collection law and a comprehensive investment law.

Important institutional changes occurred in 2023, including transforming the country's state grain buyer, SAGO, into a General Food Security Authority to strengthen the food security system. A Strategic Office for the Development of the Northern Borders Region was established, like in other provinces. A new Center for AI Research and Ethics⁴ was launched to promote ethics in advanced technologies and contribute to developing related policies and frameworks. Saudi Arabia also established a Global Cybersecurity Forum Institute in Riyadh to enhance and harness cyberspace's potential, highlighting the country's significant investments in digital transformation and artificial intelligence.



SDG-linked reporting processes

Saudi Arabia prepared and submitted in 2023 two important SDG-related reports. The first is the Voluntary National Report (VNR), which describes the country's progress in achieving the United Nations Agenda 2030 and the remaining challenges. The report also expressed the country's renewed commitment to the SDGs. In a related development, a Voluntary Local Review (VLR) report was also prepared for the Madinah region, the first in the country, covering nine SDGs. Saudi Arabia has also submitted its 4th national Universal Periodic Review report (UPR). The process included inputs from civil society groups, independent experts, and the United Nations.



Saudi Arabia's Role as a Global and Regional Leader

This year also saw critical geopolitical developments, the most important of which being the war escalation in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in the Gaza Strip. Saudi Arabia responded with key efforts to coordinate regional positions, call for de-escalation, and prevent an extension of the conflict. The 2023 Arab-Islamic Extraordinary Summit on Gaza, and other events held in Saudi Arabia, demonstrate Saudi Arabia's commitment to regional reconciliation and stability. As a member of the League of Arab States, the Gulf Cooperation Council, and the Organization for Islamic Cooperation, Saudi Arabia is actively involved in regional stabilization efforts, including in Sudan and Yemen, in line with the United Nations' New Agenda for Peace. Saudi Arabia also signed a landmark reconciliation agreement with Iran in 2023, in line with its de-escalation policy, paving the way for direct peace talks with the Houthis to reach a sustainable ceasefire in Yemen.

Internationally, Saudi Arabia joined ASEAN, and the Shanghai Organization in 2023, and exploring to join BRICS, signalling a willingness to assume an expanded global role. It hosted key regional and global events, including the International Humanitarian Forum, the 45th session of the World Heritage Committee, World Tourism Day, a Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) - ASEAN Summit, and a Saudi - Africa Economic Forum, further indicating its growing global leadership. A significant development was the 2023 agreement with India, the USA, UAE, Germany, Italy, and the

EU to build a new economic corridor, to stimulate economic integration among the three continents through infrastructure like railways and power and optical fibre networks, aligning with the country's plans to become a global logistics hub.

In 2023, Saudi Arabia demonstrated remarkable activity across various United Nations fora, underscoring its commitment to multilateralism, global collaboration, and the advancement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. These engagements highlight Saudi Arabia's role as a dynamic and influential player in shaping a sustainable future on the global stage. For a detailed account of Saudi Arabia's contributions and its strategic collaborations within the United Nations framework, refer to Chapter 2.3, "Support to Partnerships and Financing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development," where these efforts are comprehensively explored.

Saudi Arabia also announced establishment of the Global Water Organization to enhance efforts in securing water resources and coordinate efforts to address the related challenges. The organization will focus on water sustainability and accessibility through research, innovation, policy and technology development, and funding projects.

In summary, 2023 was a year where Saudi Arabia demonstrated its capacity for significant transformation across multiple domains. From modernizing its economy to playing a pivotal role in regional stability and global humanitarian and development efforts, Saudi Arabia's actions aligned with its national vision and its growing global leadership.



Chapter 02

Overview *of Results*



Overview of Results

Saudi Arabia and the United Nations embarked on a significant journey towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2022-2026. This framework, aligned with the government's priorities, lays the foundation for cohesive and

coherent United Nations support aimed at realizing the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 SDGs. Throughout 2023, the substantial complementarities and common interests that align the SDGs and Saudi Vision 2030 were leveraged towards a more sustainable future in Saudi Arabia.

Vision 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals

Vision 2030 and the SDGs share a common vision of prosperity, sustainability, and inclusivity. The cooperation framework between the United Nations and Saudi Arabia reflects a strategic alignment of Vision 2030's goals with the global SDGs, underscoring a commitment to transformative development that benefits all segments of society. The integration of these

global and national agendas facilitates targeted efforts in critical areas such as economic diversification, environmental sustainability, and social inclusion, paving the way for comprehensive and sustainable development across Saudi Arabia.

SYNERGIES: VISION 2030 (LEVEL 2) AND THE SDGS

Vision 2030, Level 2	SDGs
1.1 Foster Islamic values	10, 16
1.3 Strengthen national identity	4, 5, 8, 11
2.1 Improve healthcare service	2, 3, 10
2.3 Improve livability in Saudi cities	1, 3, 11, 12, 16
2.4 Ensure environmental sustainability	2, 3, 7, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15
2.5 Promote Culture and Entertainment	4, 8, 11
2.6 Create an empowering environment for Saudis	1, 3, 4, 8, 10, 11, 16
3.1 Grow contribution of the private sector to the economy	16, 17
3.3 Unlock potential of non-oil sectors	4, 8, 17
3.5 Position KSA as a global logistic hub	16
4.1 Develop human capital in line with labour market needs	4, 8
4.2 Ensuring equal access to job opportunities	1, 4, 5, 8, 10, 11, 17
4.3 Enable job creation through SMEs and micro-enterprises	4, 8, 9
4.4 Attract relevant foreign talents for the economy	1, 3, 5, 10, 11, 16
5.1 Balance public budget	8, 11
5.2 Improve performance of government apparatus	1, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 13, 16, 17
5.3 Engage effectively with citizens	8, 16
5.4 Protect vital resources of the nation	2, 6, 12, 14
6.1 Enable citizen responsibility	1, 4, 8
6.2 Enable social contribution of businesses	8, 16
6.3 Enable larger impact of non-profit sector	1, 4, 8, 16

UNSDCF 2022–2026

The UNSDCF 2022–2026 (signed in June 2022) is designed to enable the United Nations Development System (UNDS) to engage with emerging challenges and opportunities and support the country's Sustainable Development Roadmap in a collaborative and innovative

way. The UNSDCF 2022–2026 is organized into four Strategic Priority Areas that draw from the United Nations's 2030 Agenda, its SDGs, and the '5Ps': People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace, and Partnership. The four Strategic Priority Areas are:



Strategic Priority Area 1

People

According to the principles of 'Leave No One Behind' (LNOB), ensure that all human beings can fulfil their potential in dignity, equity, and equality in a healthy environment (SDGs 1-5)



Strategic Priority Area 2

Planet

Protect the planet from degradation, including through sustainable consumption and production, sustainably manage its natural resources, and take urgent action on climate change (SDGs 6, 12-15)



Strategic Priority Area 3

Prosperity

Ensure that all human beings can enjoy prosperous and fulfilling lives (SDGs 7-11)



Strategic Priority Area 4

Peace, Partnership, and Other Cross-Cutting Issues

Foster peaceful, just, and inclusive societies and mobilize the means required for implementation (SDGs 16-17)



Throughout 2023, the United Nations and its partners have worked on a wide array of projects and initiatives under these strategic priority areas. From addressing zero hunger through innovative food security programming, advancing gender equality and women's empowerment

in the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) sector, to cultural heritage preservation and promoting quality education through support for international education agendas and local capacity-building.



People

Ensuring all human beings can fulfil their potential in dignity, equity, and equality in a healthy environment, focusing on SDGs 1-5. Efforts in 2023 under this priority included programs to improve health and well-being, education, and gender equality. Initiatives such as combating communicable diseases and advocating for early childhood development (ECD) policies demonstrate the United Nations' commitment to this strategic area.



Planet

Protecting the planet from degradation through sustainable consumption and production, managing natural resources sustainably, and taking urgent action on climate change (SDGs 6, 12-15). Activities under this priority are designed to align with Saudi Arabia's environmental sustainability goals, including green initiatives and projects aimed at energy diversification and carbon neutrality.



Prosperity

Ensuring all human beings can enjoy prosperous and fulfilling lives by fostering a sustainable economic growth model that benefits everyone (SDGs 7-11). This includes efforts to diversify the economy, enhance the tourism sector, and invest in sustainable projects that contribute to Saudi Arabia's GDP and global market competitiveness.



Peace, Partnership, and Other Cross-Cutting Issues

Fostering peaceful, just, and inclusive societies and mobilizing the means required for implementation (SDGs 16-17). The focus here is on strengthening partnerships for sustainable development, enhancing coordination within the United Nations system, and ensuring effective implementation of the UNSDCF.

59 activities in Joint Workplan

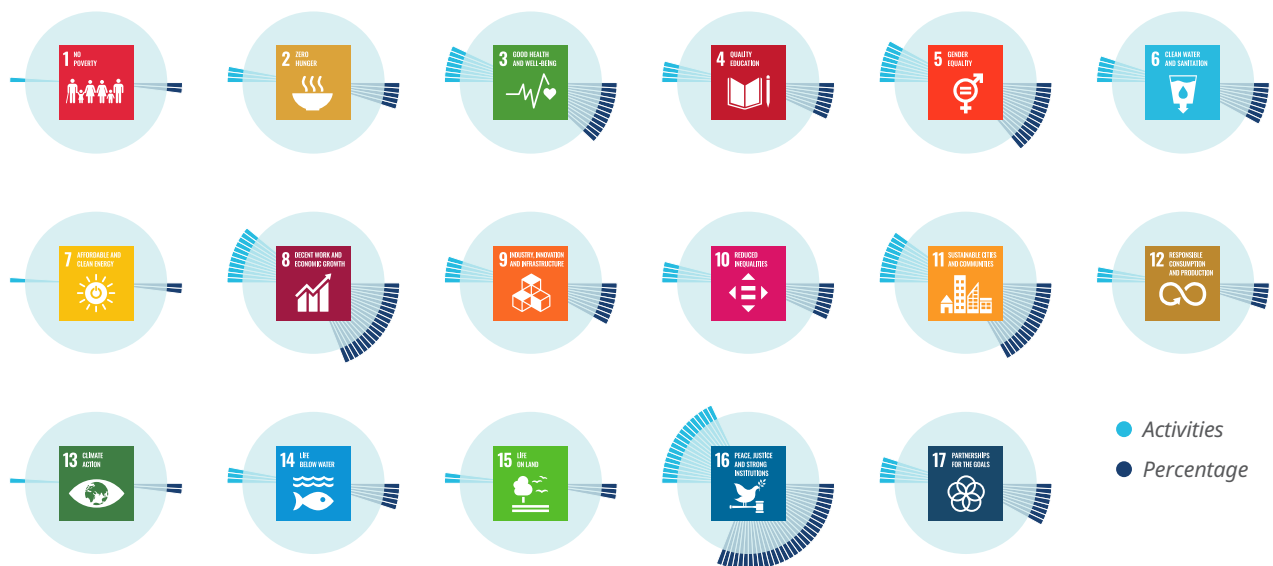


Figure 1. The number of different United Nations activities planned for 2023, categorized by each Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) and the percentage each SDG represents in the overall work plan for the year.

◆ Leaving No One Behind

Central to the UNSDCF is the principle of “Leaving No One Behind” (LNOB), which guides the United Nations’ work with vulnerable populations in Saudi Arabia. The United Nations, through its various agencies, has supported programs aimed at enhancing access to essential services, improving quality of life, and empowering women,

girls, and marginalized groups to participate actively in the labour market, civic engagement, and decision-making processes. These initiatives are instrumental in fostering an inclusive society where every individual has the opportunity to achieve their full potential.

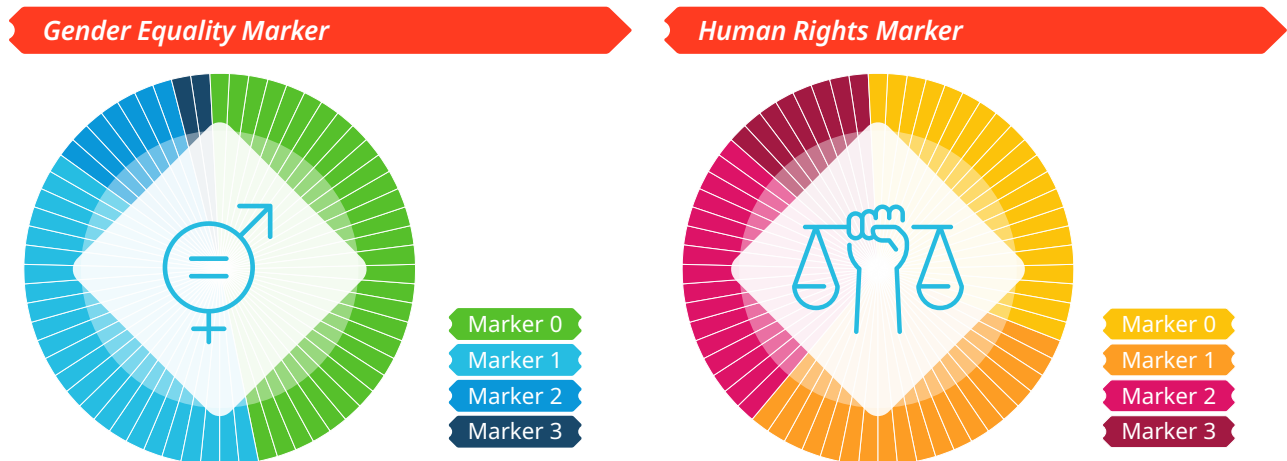


Figure 2. Thematic Markers Overview

In alignment with the UNSDCF, a new Joint Work Plan (JWP) and Results Framework (RF) have been established, focusing on the strategic areas: People, Planet, Prosperity, and Peace and Partnerships. These mechanisms translate the UNSDCF priorities into measurable targets, emphasizing inclusive monitoring and result evaluation. Incorporating LNOB principles, the United Nations has innovatively applied Gender and Human Rights markers within the JWP, marking a significant advancement in integrating this fundamental principle into its operational framework. This inaugural application of markers has demonstrated satisfactory outcomes, with the assessment indicating robust performance across the gender and human rights markers. The results underscore the potential for this methodological approach to bolster the JWP's next cycle. The quality assurance team review recognized the adept application of the marker system, appreciating the meticulousness in both the scoring and coding processes.

The dissection of marker scores in relation to the allocation of funds across various outcomes and outputs has shed light on the necessity for a more profound emphasis on the principles of gender and human rights. There is a clear imperative to refine sub-outputs to resonate more distinctly with these principles. This is

particularly true for bolstering gender equality and human rights contributions, ensuring that future strategic directions are well-aligned with the LNOB commitment.

◆ Challenges in UNSDCF implementation

While the journey towards delivering on the results of the UNSDCF 2022-2026, and contributing to sustainable development, is promising, it is not without its challenges. The main challenges are the need for enhanced data quality and availability for informed decision-making, the strengthening of partnerships across government, civil society, academia, and the private sector, and the mobilization of resources for sustainable financing. The SDG Data Webinar Series, launched in 2022 in collaboration with the Ministry of Economy and Planning (MEP), and the nascent Academia for SDGs Network (ASN) exemplify efforts to build partnerships and to address data-related challenges and accelerate progress on the SDGs. Additionally, strategic engagement with non-traditional partner ministries and entities has been expanded to advocate for vulnerable groups and address mobility and human rights issues, further localizing the SDGs in Saudi Arabia.

2.2

◆ Cooperation framework priorities *and outcomes*

In this section, we delve into the pivotal area of UNSDCF's Priorities and Outcomes, marking a comprehensive reflection on the strides taken towards national development priorities and showcasing the outcomes that have been the focus of our collective efforts in 2023. These elements offer a granular view of the tangible steps and initiatives undertaken within the

reporting period. By integrating both outcomes and outputs, we aim to provide a holistic and nuanced understanding of the progress made and the significant activities that have moved the United Nations forward in its mission to support sustainable development goals and national priorities.





Strategic Priority Area 1

People

According to the principles of 'Leave No One Behind' (LNOB), ensure that all human beings can fulfil their potential in dignity, equity, and equality in a healthy environment (SDGs 1-5)



Agencies

FAO, ILO, OHCHR, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNODC, UN Women, WHO

In 2023, the United Nations supported programs in alignment with SDGs 1-5 and LNOB to support people in Saudi Arabia to achieve their potential in a nourishing and empowering environment, particularly through initiatives related to education, health and well-being, gender equality, and cultural heritage preservation.

15 activities in Joint Workplan



Figure 3. The number of different United Nations activities planned under Priority 1 per Sustainable Development Goal

Output 1.1

Enhanced access to essential inclusive social and protection services for all, based on principles of human rights, gender equality, and inclusion of the most vulnerable populations.

The United Nations effort reflects the comprehensive approach to enhancing access to essential inclusive social and protection services, aligning with principles of human rights, gender equality, and the inclusion of vulnerable populations. Through strategic partnerships and targeted efforts in road safety, mental health support, educational empowerment, and online safety, the United Nations demonstrates its commitment to support Saudi Arabia in creating a more inclusive and equitable society for all.

Health

The importance of data availability to report on the observable progress in the health sector

and setting strategic direction for services in this sector cannot be over emphasized. This area has seen marked progress in 2023, with extensive interaction with the Ministry of Health, MEP and GASTAT. This has led to the sharing of mortality data for the first time in more than 10 years, which is crucial in planning for health services.

Data on tobacco consumption by youth has been made available in 2023, using the standard Global Youth Tobacco Survey. The national survey has highlighted the extent of the tobacco epidemic among youth and the services needed.

A training conducted on the standards of health facilities providing care for older people utilized WHO's "Age-friendly Primary Healthcare Centers

Toolkit” which aims at improving access to facilities by the older population. Following the training, the Ministry of Health developed its own standards for facilities that provide services to the older people and developed a self-assessment tool for use by facilities to check the application of such standards.

Key stakeholders were engaged through consultations and provided evidence-informed advice in response to the National Committee on Narcotics Control’s request for support in developing a national drug control strategy. In this context a training workshop was held on 5-6 March 2023, focusing on the UNODC/WHO International Standards on Drug Use Prevention, which was attended by 43 participants, enhancing their capacity in implementing effective and evidence-based drug use prevention measures.

A collaborative effort in partnership with the Family Affairs Council (FAC) focused on the integration of Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) into Primary Health Care. This initiative assessed health facilities across Saudi Arabia to enhance MHPSS for children, adolescents, and pregnant women. A national workshop facilitated the presentation of key findings and the development of action plans to tackle MHPSS service delivery challenges, demonstrating a unified approach towards improving mental health services.

◆ Early Childhood Development (ECD)

In Saudi Arabia, where increasing enrolment in early childhood care and education is a key target

for Vision 2030, technical advice was provided to the FAC, responsible for the implementation of the National ECD Policy, in the development of the “Early Nurturing Framework” which provides the national policy framework for all nurseries and kindergartens. Additionally, and with an effort to strengthen capacities of frontline ECD workers, the Ministry of Education was supported in institutionalization and roll out of a national training on the protection of young children in kindergarten from abuse and violence. Around 3,700 female teachers were equipped with the skills and knowledge to promote a safety environment in kindergartens.

◆ Child Safety Online

In a significant move towards safeguarding children online, the United Nations joined forces with the FAC at the 6th Saudi Family Forum. Chaired by the Minister of Human Resources and Social Development, the forum unveiled the National Framework for Children’s Online Safety, comprising 10 key initiatives designed to protect Saudi Arabia’s youth in the digital realm. With the United Nations’ technical advice, the Framework was developed in a participatory approach engaging governmental and non-governmental organizations, parents and children and youth. This comprehensive framework highlights the nation’s dedication to creating a safer online environment, addressing digital risks, and empowering families to navigate the complexities of the digital age.

Output 1.2

Improved quality of essential inclusive social and protection services focusing on government institutional capacity and multisectoral collaboration.

Under this output, the United Nations demonstrated the multifaceted approach to improving the quality of essential inclusive social and protection services through government institutional capacity building and multisectoral collaboration. By focusing on critical areas such as the health sector’s response to human trafficking and the promotion of effective parenting programmes, significant strides have been made towards enhancing service quality and ensuring a supportive and nurturing environments for all individuals, particularly the most vulnerable. The collaboration between the United Nations and

local committees and commissions underscores a strong commitment to leveraging expertise and resources to achieve meaningful and sustainable outcomes in the realm of social protection and support services.

◆ Promoting Effective Parenting Programmes in the Gulf

A pivotal step has been taken in addressing the crucial role of parenting in children’s healthy development by joining the FAC in designing nationwide campaigns promoting

positive parenting which reached at least 3 million viewers. In addition, consultations were organized promoting nation-wide parenting programmes including organizing a Gulf-wide webinar focusing on parenting programmes. The webinar provided a platform for policymakers and practitioners in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries to delve into the significance of parenting programmes in fostering children's and adolescents' development. By sharing key principles and approaches that underpin these programmes, the United Nations has significantly contributed to the dissemination of best practices and innovative strategies in parenting, drawing from a wealth of global examples.

◆ Health Services

Improving quality and safety is a cornerstone of health services, encompassing all components, including health service providers, medicines, medical equipment, etc. As part of an ongoing engagement with the Saudi Food and Drug Authority (SFDA), a series of activities and information exchange throughout 2023 culminated in the official benchmarking of the SFDA as a Level 4 maturity national regulatory authority in pharmaceutical regulation. This is the highest level for national regulatory authorities and is achieved by few countries, reflecting continuous progress by the SFDA and years of continuous technical support and cooperation. Technical assistance was provided to SFDA in establishing a central testing laboratory for medical devices in Riyadh, conducting research activities and transferring them to a testing laboratory in Riyadh. In addition, conducting a full comprehensive capacity development programme for veterinarians and pharmacists in adopting international best practices for granting approvals for cosmetics, herbal medicines, and nutritional supplements.

Improving Traffic Safety is one of the strategic objectives of Saudi Vision 2030. With United Nations support, Saudi Arabia has made notable

strides in enhancing road safety, achieving a significant reduction of road fatalities which had been estimated at 18.5 deaths per 100,000 population for 2019. This is a 35% decline in less than five years. This progress has been achieved through the dedicated efforts of the Ministerial Committee of Road Safety which, through a very systematic approach, led the multisector collaboration of all major stakeholders. In 2023, the United Nations supported improvement of the accuracy of road traffic fatality estimates, through study visits and linking crucial data sources. The Global Status Report for Road Safety was completed in December 2023 after six months of consultations.

Furthering international cooperation, the head of the Ministerial Committee of Road Safety contributed insights at the Global Network of Heads of Road Safety Agencies meeting in Sweden, in June 2023. Saudi Arabia's proactive participation in the Seventh United Nations Global Road Safety Week with the theme "Leadership for Road Safety" in May 2023, further highlighted its dedication to raising awareness and galvanizing action.

The year concluded with international recognition at the Sixth International Traffic Safety Forum and Exhibition in Dammam, December 2023 with the United Nations showcasing Saudi Arabia's advancements and collaborative efforts in road safety on the global stage.

Despite the progress, this continues to be a strategic priority as 60% of the road traffic casualties fall in the most productive age group (19 to 40 years) with enormous human and economic burden. With the continued multisector efforts led by the Ministerial Committee, road traffic fatalities are expected to continue declining, and with more data being made available the accuracy of estimates will continue to improve.

Output 1.3

Increased knowledge and skills of population, especially women, girls and the most vulnerable and marginalized groups, to enable them to participate in labour market, civic engagement and decision making.

Through diverse initiatives under this output, there has been a significant increase in the

knowledge and skills of the population, especially among women, girls, and marginalized groups,

empowering them to actively participate in the labour market, civic engagement, and decision-making processes. The concerted efforts in skills recognition, human rights advocacy, educational excellence, STEM empowerment, and youth leadership reflect a holistic approach to fostering a more inclusive, equitable, and prosperous society.

◆ **Strengthening Skills Recognition Systems**

A pivotal initiative has been launched with the United Nations support to develop functional systems for the recognition of skills, competencies, and qualifications acquired through nonformal and informal learning. This effort is aimed at validating the diverse capabilities of the workforce, particularly focusing on enhancing competency standards. These standards serve as crucial assessment tools, outlining the essential skills, knowledge, and attributes required for various work roles. Developed in close consultation with industry stakeholders, these standards ensure alignment with workplace needs, thereby facilitating a more skilled and competitive workforce capable of producing higher value-added goods and services on a global scale.

◆ **Promoting Human Rights and the Rule of Law**

In 2023, the capacities of government officials to promote human rights and the rule of law have been strengthened through comprehensive training programmes. These programmes included a five-day training of trainers conducted in November which contributed to establishing a cadre of certified trainers in human rights. An introductory training in June, followed by a preparatory meeting in November, was also implemented to further strengthen the drafting and reporting skills of the Saudi delegation for the Universal Periodic Review in January 2024. In addition, the awareness and advocacy efforts in human rights were raised through delivering two comprehensive studies, a strategic plan, and disseminating 25 training toolkits. Among these resources delivered to SHRC: a research study on promoting human rights culture within government agencies in October, and a training toolkit aimed at enhancing the efficiency of laws and policies to combat discrimination in November, an analytical study on Business and Human Rights in December, a strategic plan for establishing a Human Rights Research Centre

in Saudi Arabia planned for February 2024. These materials provide a solid foundation for strengthening the legal and policy frameworks, underscoring a commitment to upholding human rights standards.

◆ **Education**

During 2023, the capacity of the Ministry of Education has been strengthened on SDG 4 “Quality Education” global and thematic indicators and monitoring. This collaborative endeavour, involving several key regional and international partners, underscores the United Nations’ engagement in coordinating efforts towards achieving educational goals. The initiative has facilitated a more integrated approach to linking data and analysis with policy decisions, thereby enhancing the quality and implementation of educational strategies.

A regional workshop in February 2023, funded by the Ministry of Education, aimed to integrate twenty-first-century skills into the general education curricula of Arab countries. This workshop brought together a wide array of educational stakeholders to deliberate on a framework that incorporates critical skills such as creativity, critical thinking, and information literacy into educational systems. By aligning with global best practices, this initiative seeks to prepare learners for the challenges of a rapidly evolving world.

◆ **Gender Equality**

A panel discussion was co-hosted, along with partners MasterCard and Misk Schools, which focused on the critical importance of women in sciences, both within Saudi Arabia and the broader region. This event highlighted the need to empower women and girls in STEM fields, recognizing their potential to drive innovation and contribute significantly to the world’s scientific community.

In a collaborative effort to celebrate International Women’s Day, the United Nations organized an event titled “Digit ALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality”. This gathering saw the convergence of United Nations agencies, government officials, and representatives from civil society organizations, focusing on the gender aspects of digital transformation. The discussions were enriched by exploring accessible and inclusive digital solutions for women and girls

with disabilities, underlining the importance of bridging the digital divide.

Furthermore, the United Nations spearhead a media workshop aimed at enhancing capacity and raising awareness about the United Nations initiatives in Saudi Arabia among media outlets, independent journalists, and young media professionals. The workshop's agenda included a session on "Responsible and Ethical Media Coverage of Gender Issues", emphasizing the significance of gender-sensitive reporting. Additionally, a session on "Sustainable Rural Agricultural Development in Saudi Arabia" was facilitated which incorporated a gender perspective into the agricultural sector, showcasing the United Nations commitment to gender equality across different domains.

◆ Opportunities for Saudi Youth

Saudi Arabia, represented by the MEP, has signed an agreement to offer 30 young Saudis international volunteer assignments for a duration of six months. The opportunities primarily focus on economic development and other priority areas as identified by the Ministry, with deployments taking place in jointly agreed countries, namely Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, Philippines, South Africa, and Oman. This programme aims to produce a new generation of professionals who can help lead the country's future across key areas such as its economy and long-term development.

Output 1.4

Rural agriculture sector sustainably developed for enhanced production, value addition and employment opportunities.

The Sustainable Rural Agricultural Development (SRAD) Programme, underpinned by the multi-disciplinary project "Strengthening MEWA's Capacity to implement its SRAD Programme (2019-2025)," has made remarkable strides in enhancing production, value addition, and employment opportunities within Saudi Arabia's rural agriculture sector. This initiative is closely aligned with the Saudi Vision 2030 priorities and is supported by the Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture (MEWA).

◆ Job Creation and Income Enhancement

Since the inception of the SRAD programme, a commendable total of 56,259 new job opportunities have been generated across various agricultural value chains such as beekeeping, coffee, fisheries and aquaculture, livestock, aromatic crops, and subtropical fruits. These opportunities have been particularly focused on empowering women and youth in the rural areas of the SRAD target regions. Furthermore, farmers' income projections have seen a positive trend, as indicated by the Gross Operating Surplus in Agriculture from the National Account Statistics released by the General Authority for Statistics (GASTAT), showcasing the impactful economic benefits of the programme.

◆ Technological Advancements and Capacity Building

The SRAD programme has introduced a plethora of technological advancements and innovative practices across its nine components, including coffee, rose, beekeeping, subtropical fruits, livestock, and fisheries. Noteworthy achievements encompass the adoption of tissue culture for coffee and roses, the implementation of drip irrigation systems, and the establishment of nurseries for various fruits and flowers. Additionally, the programme has enhanced cereal varieties, introduced modern beehives and apiary management techniques, and promoted efficient animal husbandry practices and water management strategies.

A total of 43 training courses and study tours were coordinated throughout the year, benefiting 1,282 individuals, of whom 30% were women. These activities covered a broad range of topics, including beekeeping, rose cultivation, fruit production, livestock management, and cereal farming. These sessions provided a valuable platform for disseminating modern agricultural technologies and practices to the farming community.

◆ **Partnerships and International Collaborations**

The SRAD initiative has fostered significant partnerships, notably with the International Crop Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) for field trials of improved varieties, and with the Organization for an International Geographical Indications Network (OriGIN) to support the geographical indication for several agricultural commodities. These collaborations have been instrumental in elevating the global competitiveness of Saudi agricultural products.

◆ **Empowerment of Small Producers and Cooperatives**

The programme has significantly enhanced the capacities of small producer institutions, with a special focus on youth and women. This includes the promotion and strengthening of agricultural cooperatives through legislative revisions,

database enhancements, and international engagements. During 2023, the project supported establishment of 4 new agriculture cooperatives, and contributing to increase number of agriculture cooperatives from 68 in 2020 to 106, marking substantial progress in the institutional ecosystem of Saudi agriculture.

◆ **Value Addition and Market Information**

The Saudi Agriculture Market Information System (SAMIS) was developed in collaboration with MEWA, offering real-time information on over 600 agricultural markets and the prices of 33 commodities. Additionally, a suite of technologies and best practices for post-harvest management and value addition was introduced, further contributing to the sector's efficiency and productivity.



Strategic Priority Area 2

Planet

Protect the planet from degradation, including through sustainable consumption and production, sustainably manage its natural resources, and take urgent action on climate change (SDGs 6, 12-15)



Agencies

FAO, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO

Together with the Government, the United Nations worked steadily towards ensuring that the country's ecosystems and the planet's natural abundance are sustainably protected for future generations. In alignment with SDGs 6 and 12-15, some of the initiatives that proved most effective in Saudi Arabia throughout 2023 related to environmental governance and planning, international climate collaboration, and biodiversity and conservation efforts.

9 activities in Joint Workplan

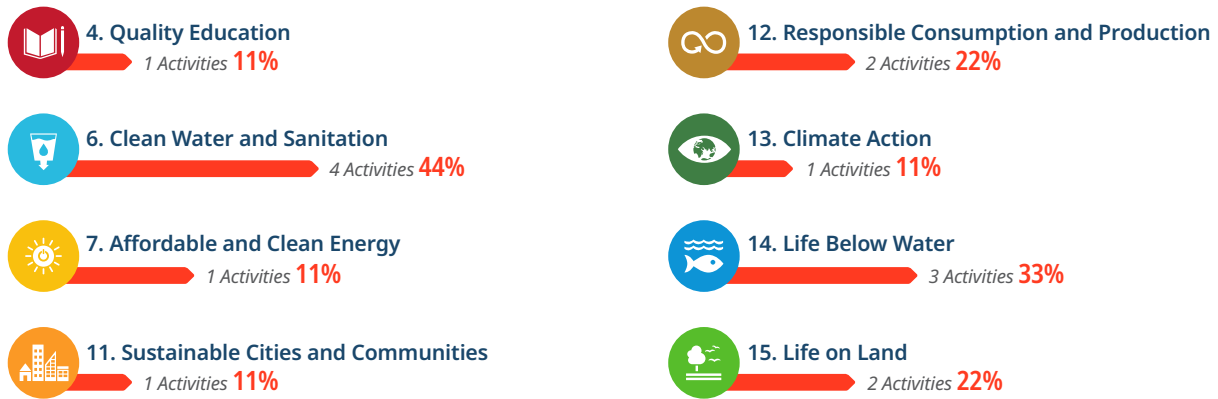


Figure 4. The number of different United Nations activities planned under Priority 2 per Sustainable Development Goal

Output 2.1

Enhanced sustainable natural resources management system (land, water, forest, marine) to safeguard natural resources, preserve biodiversity, and maintain ecological balance in Saudi Arabia.

The collective efforts under Output 2.1 have led to significant advancements in sustainable natural resource management across land, water, forest, and marine sectors in Saudi Arabia. Through strategic partnerships, capacity-building initiatives, and technological innovations, these initiatives are safeguarding natural resources, preserving biodiversity, and ensuring ecological balance, in line with the goals of the Saudi Vision 2030 and the UNSDCF.

has significantly advanced Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), bolstering regional water resilience and sustainability, and enhancing MEWA's capabilities in environmental management. The collaboration underscores Saudi Arabia's commitment to sustainable water usage and management, crucial for maintaining biodiversity and ecological balance.

Integrated Water Resources Management

The United Nations partnership with the MEWA

Monitoring Center Unit

United Nations partnership with MEWA provides technical support and consultancy services to the National Center for Environmental Compliance in monitoring quality and pollution of ground and

surface water, this unit will operate within defined standards, regulatory protocols, and safeguards aimed at safeguarding and preserving water quality by preventing pollution.

This is in addition to the support in building a conformity system for inspection, testing and monitoring possible polluting sources and activities.

◆ Energy Sector Innovation

The United Nations' contributions to the Ministry of Energy's Technology & Innovation Department (TID) have facilitated a transformative shift towards a renewable energy-focused sector. The development of organizational structures, strategic planning, and international benchmarking aligns with renewable energy development outcomes. This strategic direction reflects Saudi Arabia's ambition to innovate within the energy sector, ensuring a sustainable and technologically advanced energy future.

◆ Environmental Conservation and Land Management

The collaboration with the National Centre for Vegetation Cover (NCVC) has strengthened environmental conservation and sustainable land management efforts. Capacity building initiatives have enabled NCVC to combat desertification and promote ecological balance, contributing to the natural resource management and ecosystem preservation goals. This partnership highlights Saudi Arabia's dedication to sustainable land use and environmental stewardship. Also, the United Nations has worked on the International Engagement Strategy aimed towards enhancing NCVC's capacity for global engagement and strategies for international collaboration, as well as recommendations for leveraging digital diplomacy and strategic initiatives.

The United Nations also works with the National Center for Wildlife (NCW) in strategic and technical advice on achieving the national target of 30% protected areas coverage by the year 2030 using international best practices and guidelines associated with country-wide system plans for protected areas with particular focus on strategic alignment with the development sectors, stakeholders' identification and engagement, participative governance and decision-making approaches, and performance monitoring and quality assurance. In 2023, a work plan for

protected areas has been developed, and the United Nations supported strategic planning for the National Center for Wildlife (NCW) and presented an initial assessment report for the national protected areas plan to the center.

◆ Biosphere Reserves and Biodiversity Conservation

The NCW, as the focal point for the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme, has developed a management plan aimed at sustainable natural resource management. This effort is part of Saudi Arabia's broader strategy to diversify income sources and develop its emerging tourism sector, emphasizing the importance of biosphere reserves in conserving biodiversity and supporting sustainable development.

◆ Captive Breeding

The United Nations offered technical expertise and direction to support the improvement and implementation of captive breeding protocols and release efforts within Saudi Arabia, overseen by the NCW at its captive breeding facilities. Additionally, technical counsel on emerging fauna-related concerns was delivered, including the management of animals in private collections, the containment of invasive species, the welfare of animals in captivity, development of baselines reports on different species as well as guidance on best practices for conservative breeding facilities.

In 2023, a strategic approach and technical work plan for captive breeding spanning for 12 months were formulated, delineating precise objectives and timeline objectives, a baseline and inception report concerning the captive breeding protocol in Saudi Arabia were produced, technical guidelines and scientific reports pertaining to captive breeding were developed, an inventory for fauna diversity and established a methodology for fauna survey and analysis were devised.

◆ Curbing Land Degradation and Combating Desertification

Significant progress has been made in strengthening the capacity of government and stakeholders to address land degradation and desertification. Collaborations with NCVC, MEWA, and other stakeholders have focused on sustainable management practices across forests, rangelands, national parks, and land

management areas. Initiatives like the “Forest Reservation” Program and the National Forest Inventory highlight Saudi Arabia’s proactive measures in preserving its natural landscapes and combating environmental challenges. A total of 247 forests covering 313,768 ha in Al Baha, Asir, and Jizan have been surveyed, mapped, documented, and submitted to NCVG General Directorate for Forest (GDF) for declaration as forest reserves. Further, with the technical support of the United Nations, NCVG initiated a pilot National Forest Inventory (NFI) in Al Baha region, following international NFI standards. The pilot including methods and tools, will be the basis for comprehensive NFI for KSA.

Technical support provided to MEWA and NCVG in preparing Saudi Arabia’s National Report to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) exemplifies a strategic commitment to combating desertification. The training of 20 government staff on combating desertification diplomacy, monitoring, reporting, and sustainable land management aims to strengthen the reporting system against the UNCCD, showcasing a dedicated effort to address and mitigate the impacts of desertification within Saudi Arabia.

The United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and the upcoming 30th anniversary of the UNCCD highlight Saudi Arabia’s commitment to land restoration and combating desertification. Hosting the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP16) of the UNCCD in Riyadh further showcases Saudi Arabia’s leadership in addressing land degradation and promoting sustainable land management practices. Marking the preparation for the upcoming UNCCD COP 16, World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought underscored Saudi Arabia’s commitment to combating desertification and drought. It highlighted the role of women in environmental conservation, the Saudi Green Initiative, and the Middle East Green Initiative’s contributions towards sustainable vegetation cover and desertification combat efforts.

Saudi Arabi, with support from the United Nations, has been awarded the host of the 2024 World Environment Day (WED) under the theme “Reviving Lands for a Brighter Future”. The United Nations will also be organizing the Third Arab Forum on Environment (AFEN-3) which is the technical arm of the Council of Arab Ministers responsible for Environment (CAMRE), AFEN-3 will be under the theme of “Restore Lands to

Build Resilience”. This is in addition to support to Saudi Arabia in presenting, discussing, and adopting special United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) resolution on Land Restoration and Drought Resilience at the sixth session of UNEA.

◆ Sand Encroachment and National Park Management

Efforts to manage sand encroachment and develop sustainable national park management practices have been noteworthy. In 2023, in consultation with US National Wind Erosion Research Network, a pilot sand encroachment monitoring stations has designed and procured, which is ready to be installed in Al Hasa National Park, Eastern Region. Based on this station, NCVG plan to implement a comprehensive sand encroachment monitoring network across Saudi Arabia to provide data to inform interventions to control sand encroachment. Pilot sites to test and demonstrate innovative practices and technologies for sand fixation have and sand encroachment control in Al-Jouf and Eastern Regions been designed. Community-based approaches to curb land degradation and combat desertification have been identified which will be implemented in collaboration with selected NGOs in 2024. These initiatives, in collaboration with various stakeholders, aim to mitigate the environmental, social, and economic impacts of sand encroachment while enhancing conservation and ecotourism opportunities.

◆ Agroforestry and Innovative Irrigation Technologies

Collaborative efforts in agroforestry and testing innovative irrigation technologies underscore the commitment to sustainable agriculture and efficient water use. These projects, undertaken with stakeholders across various regions, aim to explore sustainable farming practices and implement technologies that reduce water consumption, contributing to Saudi Arabia’s sustainability goals. In 2023 an assessment of the current technologies was undertaken and practices, conducted stakeholder consultation, benchmarked, and identified good and appropriate irrigation practices (3 technologies; drip irrigation, sprinkler irrigation, and green house system) selecting and designing demonstration farms (to date selected 23, designed 17 and established 3 demo farms), training of lead farmers and extension models.

It is in the process of establishing organizational structures, standards and incentives for sustainability, guidance materials for managing

and supervising and appropriate communication channel and knowledge management tools to disseminate successful techniques and practices.

Output 2.2

Increased knowledge and awareness on responsible consumption and climate action among all people in Saudi Arabia

The United Nations supported Saudi Arabia's concerted efforts in increasing knowledge and awareness on responsible consumption and climate action, pivotal to safeguarding natural resources, preserving biodiversity, and maintaining ecological balance. Through education, combatting desertification, strengthening partnerships, water action awareness, youth advocacy, and highlighting critical environmental themes, Saudi Arabia is actively contributing to global sustainability goals and promoting a culture of environmental responsibility and climate resilience.

◆ Education and Climate Crisis Response

Saudi Arabia's engagement with the Greening Education Partnership reflects a comprehensive approach to integrating climate crisis solutions through education. These efforts aim to implement a whole-of-system approach, enhancing the critical role of education in tackling the climate crisis. Collaboration during Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Climate Week 2023 underscored the importance of sharing good practices in advancing climate change education, highlighting Saudi Arabia's proactive stance in utilizing education as a tool for environmental stewardship and climate action.

◆ Youth Climate Advocacy

Saudi Arabia Local Conference of Youth 18 (KSA LCOY18) empowered Saudi youth to take climate action and contribute to global climate discussions with contributions to UNFCCC COP28. This initiative underscores the vital role of youth in driving environmental sustainability and climate action, aligning with Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 for sustainability.

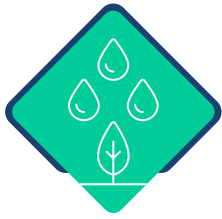
◆ World Environment Day

The special symposium organized with MEWA on World Environment Day highlighted the role of academic institutions in advancing environmental sustainability. This event brought together United Nations agencies, academics, and youth, emphasizing the importance of educational and research institutions in fostering environmental awareness and action.

The celebration of World Food Day 2023, under the theme 'Water is Life, Water is Food', emphasized Saudi Arabia's efforts to combat water scarcity and promote sustainable agriculture. This event, in collaboration with FAO, showcased innovative agricultural practices and reinforced Saudi Arabia's commitment to water and food security.

◆ MENA Climate Week

The United Nations organized a special session at the MENA Climate Week titled "Mitigating Climate Change through Energy Efficiency and Transformative Actions: United Nations Tools to Support the Saudi Vision 2030". This was in addition to several other sessions United Nations agencies organized or co-organized with local, regional and international partners in support of the MENA Climate Week technical tracks.



Strategic Priority Area 3

Prosperity

Ensure that all human beings can enjoy prosperous and fulfilling lives (SDGs 7-11)



Agencies

ILO, IOM, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UNCTAD, UNIDO, UNODC, UN-Habitat, UN Women

Over the course of 2023, the United Nations channelled a substantial portion of its resources towards promoting economic and social prosperity in Saudi Arabia, notably prioritizing the improvement of its alignment with LNOB and environmental ethics. United Nations capacity-building and strengthening efforts associated with SDGs 7–11 were particularly successful in bolstering the Saudi Arabia’s urban planning, entrepreneurial, and agricultural sectors.

19 activities in Joint Workplan

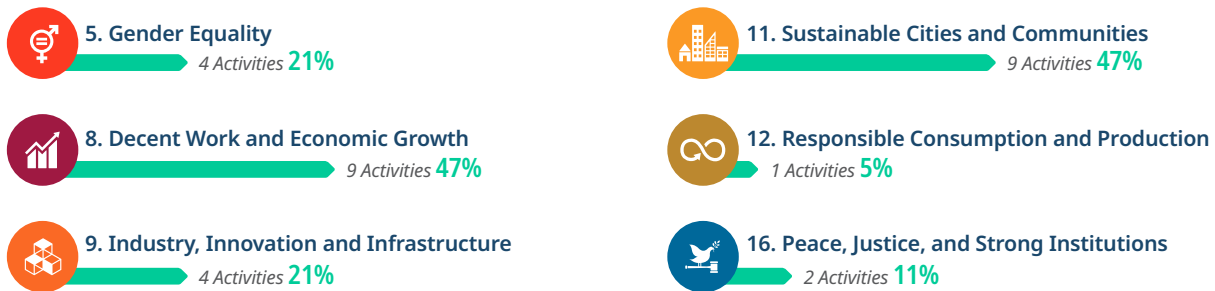


Figure 5. The number of different United Nations activities planned under Priority 3 per Sustainable Development Goal

Output 3.1

Strengthened policy and legal frameworks in the labour sector to protect workers’ rights and support equitable employment opportunities and safer labour migration.

Through this output, the United Nations supported Saudi Arabia’s robust commitment to strengthening policy and legal frameworks in the labour sector to protect workers’ rights and support equitable employment. From enhancing child labour prevention measures and implementing national OSH policies to fostering international cooperation and emphasizing sustainable development, Saudi Arabia is making significant strides toward creating a more inclusive, safe, and sustainable labour market for all.

officials from the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development (MHRSD), the FAC, SHRC, and Ministry of Interior (MOI) in identifying, reporting, and tackling child labour issues. Through targeted training activities, these entities have been further empowered to address child labour within Saudi Arabia, ensuring a comprehensive approach to child welfare and labour rights protection. The focus on capacity building for labour inspectors and law enforcers marks a critical step in safeguarding children’s rights and promoting equitable employment practices.

Child Labour Prevention and Capacity Building

Significant strides have been made towards enhancing the knowledge and capacities of

Additionally, work has started on a nation-wide Child Labour Survey to inform policymaking efforts in that area. The Survey, expected to be completed in 2024, is a joint effort between the

FAC and the GASTAT with technical support from the United Nations.

◆ Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Policy Implementation

Following the adoption of Saudi Arabia's National OSH Policy, concerted efforts have been undertaken to develop and implement a National OSH Strategy, prepared in 2023. This initiative aims to enhance and promote occupational safety and health across various sectors, aligning with international labour standards, notably the Occupational Safety and Health Convention, No. 155 and the Promotional Framework on Occupational Safety and Health Convention, No. 187. The strategy, currently in the validation phase, exemplifies Saudi Arabia's commitment to ensuring safe and healthy working conditions, in line with the G20 Labour and Employment Ministers' agenda under the Saudi presidency. Moreover, the United Nations also worked with MHRSD on drafting a new updated OSH Profile for Saudi Arabia. The profile was completed and shared with the Ministry for finalization before being raised to the Cabinet of Ministers.

In addition, an assessment of the current system/mechanism for the notification, recording and investigation of reported occupational accidents, injuries, and diseases in coordination with the employers and workers' representatives and other relevant stakeholders was launched. This assessment will form the basis for tripartite discussion on the strengths and weaknesses of the system, how it can be improved and the role of the stakeholders in it. The endeavour also includes the establishment of a new electronic system for the notification of workplace diseases and injuries and training of stakeholders on how it's used.

◆ Advancing Anti-Trafficking Efforts in Saudi Arabia

The United Nations' concerted efforts have significantly advanced the protection of workers' rights and facilitated safer labour migration through the enhancement of policy and legal frameworks within Saudi Arabia. In collaboration with the Saudi Human Rights Commission (SHRC) and the National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking (NCCHT), notable progress has been achieved in the strategic enhancement of anti-trafficking measures. Saudi Arabia is now better equipped to assess the reality of trafficking

in persons through comprehensive research and analysis, informing the development and implementation of effective anti-trafficking policies. Through partnerships and targeted campaigns, there is an increased public awareness and understanding of trafficking in persons, contributing to a more informed and vigilant society. The United Nations provided Saudi Arabia with examples of international best practices, supporting the adoption or adaptation of crucial anti-trafficking legislation and initiatives, further protecting workers' rights, and promoting equitable employment opportunities.

Furthermore, in March 2023 the second phase of its joint programme initiative with the SHRC and the NCCHT was launched aimed at supporting and strengthening Saudi Arabia's capacities to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons in line with international standards and best practices. This second phase focuses on the robust implementation of the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) for trafficking victims and the activation of the National Action Plan against Trafficking. As a result, 14 workshops were conducted from 06 March to 31 December 2023, benefiting 1,148 participants, including 211 women, from critical sectors such as Human Resources and Social Development, Education, Foreign Affairs, Health, Justice, and Interior. These workshops significantly boosted multi-sectoral awareness and competency, ensuring victims receive rights-based protection through the NRM and empowering criminal justice professionals to effectively manage trafficking cases.

Through the complementary projects implemented the United Nations, the NCCHT and its affiliated entities have seen a reinforcement of their institutional capabilities, backed by evidence-based programming, ensuring a solidified and effective approach towards combating trafficking in persons. National stakeholders are increasingly endowed with improved capabilities for the rapid identification of trafficking victims and an effective response within well-defined institutional frameworks.

At the request of the MHRSD under an ongoing development cooperation project supporting the MHRSD in analysis, policy and capacity development, in October 2023 a Training of Trainers (ToT) was delivered for selected labour inspectors, SHRC staff and officials from the human rights department of the MOI on how to train front-line actors (labour inspectors, shelter staff, call-centre operators, immigration officers,

etc.) to strengthen the detection of forced labour and improve referrals of possible cases identified.

◆ Entrepreneurship Development

In October 2023, the Social Development Bank (SDB) under the Saudi Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development hosted the 2023 Empretec directors meeting, bringing together 33 representatives from various Empretec centers and 9 tech startup founders to exchange insights. The collaboration focused

on enhancing entrepreneurship through the United Nations' Empretec program, initiated in 1988 to support business development in developing countries. The event concentrated on the directors' annual meeting and expanded to sessions aimed at Saudi entrepreneurs and stakeholders, emphasizing the role of technology and innovation in expanding businesses. This initiative showcased a collaborative effort to stimulate entrepreneurship as a catalyst for sustainable economic progress.

Output 3.2

Enhanced implementation of strategies and policies to safeguard cultural and natural heritage, and promote sustainable urbanization, prioritizing the needs of vulnerable populations.

Through strategic initiatives and collaborations under this output, Saudi Arabia with the United Nations support has significantly enhanced the implementation of strategies and policies to safeguard cultural and natural heritage while promoting sustainable urbanization. These efforts prioritize the needs of vulnerable populations, ensuring the preservation of Saudi Arabia's rich heritage and fostering sustainable development practices that align with Vision 2030 and global sustainability goals.

◆ Spatial Planning Reform and Visual Appeal

The Spatial Planning Reform and Visual Appeal Program by the Ministry of Municipal, Rural, Affairs and Housing, has supported to make cities more sustainable and economically vibrant. This partnership aligns with the Quality of Life Program Center, enhancing the living standards for all residents and contributing to sustainable urban development across Saudi Arabia.

◆ Sustainable Urban Planning in Makkah

The Detailed Master Plan developed with the Royal Commission for Makkah City underscores a strategic approach to sustainable urban development. Phase I achievements include assessing current and future sustainable urban landscapes and enhancing management and transparency for Phase II proposals. This effort is part of a broader initiative to ensure sustainable, inclusive urbanization that meets the needs of different groups of the population.

◆ Cultural Heritage Preservation

The hosting of the Extended 45th session of the World Heritage Committee in Riyadh in September 2023 has amplified global collaboration in preserving cultural and natural heritage. This event, coupled with the inaugural Private Sector Partners Forum has underscored the private sector's role in safeguarding heritage. These efforts align with Vision 2030's objectives, emphasizing the importance of heritage in sustainable development and the localization of SDGs. In June 2023, Riyadh hosted a pivotal workshop in collaboration with the Heritage Commission to bolster the implementation of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in Saudi Arabia. This training played a crucial role in equipping participants with essential skills to preserve the nation's intangible cultural heritage, fostering a national understanding and commitment towards safeguarding cultural traditions across diverse regions of Saudi Arabia.

In 2023 Jabal Ikmah, widely known as the 'open library' for its diverse array of inscriptions, has been added to UNESCO's Memory of the World Register which emphasizes the educational and cultural significance of AIUla's ancient inscriptions. This recognition showcases Saudi Arabia's dedication to preserving its documentary heritage, contributing to the understanding of the region's historical languages and the evolution of the Arabic script. Besides, Uruq Bani Ma'arid Reserve has become the first natural site in Saudi Arabia to be added to UNESCO's World Heritage List in 2023.

◆ Localizing SDGs

Through the strategic partnership with Madinah city, the collaboration has yielded significant advancements in the localization of SDGs and the transformation of Madinah into a Human-Centered Smart City. Over the course of this two-year project, notable milestones have been achieved, including the successful organization of the Smart City Forum in Madinah in February 2023. This event underscored commitment to innovative urban development and facilitated dialogue on sustainable city planning. Moreover, the project played a pivotal role in Madinah's integration into the global SDGs cities accreditation program, a testament to dedication to adopting and implementing sustainable development practices.

◆ Quality Infrastructure for Sustainable Development

In a significant stride towards bolstering its Quality Infrastructure for Sustainable Development,

Saudi Arabia, through a collaborative effort by the Saudi Accreditation Center (SAAC), the Saudi Standards, Metrology and Quality Organization (SASO), and the United Nations, hosted a transformative workshop in October 2023. This event was aimed at evaluating the current state of the Quality Infrastructure (QI) Index by delving into its data, methodology, and analysis. Participants engaged in a thorough review, offering feedback on the Index's design and indicators, ensuring a comprehensive understanding of its framework. The workshop served as a crucial platform for stakeholders to articulate targeted recommendations and strategize a comprehensive roadmap. The primary objective was to enable Saudi Arabia to enhance its performance within the QI Index, thereby significantly contributing to sustainable development goals across key domains: People, Planet, and Prosperity.

Output 3.3

Improved institutional capacities of government, CSOs, and private sector to ensure women economic empowerment (including prevention of violence, harassment, and discrimination at the workplace).

Through this output, initiatives ranging from urban development strategies and quality of life improvement efforts to global reports and summits have collectively contributed to creating safer, more inclusive, and equitable workplaces and communities. Significant progress has been made in enhancing institutional capacities across government, civil society organizations, and the private sector to ensure women's economic empowerment in Saudi Arabia.

The initiative reflects a comprehensive approach to fostering inclusive and affordable housing, minimizing relocation, and ensuring a safer, more equitable urban environment.

◆ Central Riyadh Socio-Economic Strategy

The completion and approval of the Socio-Economic Strategy for Central Riyadh in October 2023 marked a significant advancement in promoting women's economic empowerment and preventing workplace violence, harassment, and discrimination. This strategy, with its 12 programs focusing on both social and economic aspects, aims to enhance socio-economic conditions for residents and businesses, emphasizing gender mainstreaming, job creation for women, and the safety of public spaces for women and children.

◆ Quality of Life

The ongoing Quality of Life Initiative represents a collaborative effort to understand and measure quality of life more holistically across cities globally. With contributions from Saudi experts and the inclusion of pilot cities such as Al Madinah and Riyadh, this initiative aims to rethink how quality of life is defined and measured, including through innovative approaches around foresight, digital innovation, and behavioural science, and to provide capacity-building support for data collection and development. The Quality of Life initiative underscores the commitment to improving living standards and identifying opportunities for enhancement at the local level. The initiative also focuses on supporting local decision-makers in measuring and improving quality of life, with a special emphasis on the needs of vulnerable populations. The project exemplifies

a multi-faceted approach to sustainable urbanization, integrating perspectives from various sectors to foster comprehensive urban development.

◆ Crime Prevention

As part of a joint integrated training initiative launched in 2020 in cooperation with the Naif Arab University for Security Sciences (NAUSS), a follow-up training session was implemented in Vienna in June 2023, building upon the initial

Riyadh session in June 2022, to bolster the MOI officers' capabilities in crime prevention by equipping approximately 20 officers with advanced analytical skills and knowledge crucial for developing sophisticated crime prevention strategies. Through the same initiative, training courses were also conducted to strengthen the capacity of Saudi law enforcement agencies in conducting cryptocurrency investigations in the context of counterterrorism cases, thereby contributing to strengthening Saudi Arabia's internal security framework.



Strategic Priority Area 4

Peace, Partnership, and Other Cross-Cutting Issues

foster peaceful, just, and inclusive societies and mobilize the means required for implementation (SDGs 16-17)



◆ Agencies

ILO, IOM, OHCHR, UNDP, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNODC

The United Nations advocates for the cultivation of social environments that benefit from peaceful, just, and inclusive institutional spaces and mobilize partnerships towards sustainable development. In terms of SDGs 16 and 17, the United Nations supported Saudi Arabia's efforts to fortify its institutions, forge new and strengthen existing partnerships, find durable solutions for peace and security, and generate a robust data ecosystem.

◆ 16 activities in Joint Workplan

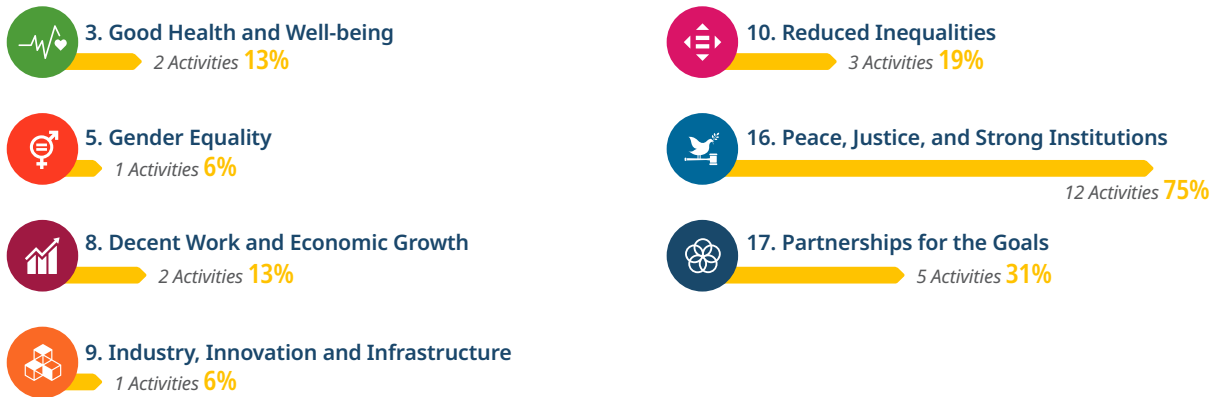


Figure 6. The number of different United Nations activities planned under Priority 1 per Sustainable Development Goal

Output 4.1

Enhanced collection, provision, and dissemination of reliable and transparent data in accordance with international standards to support evidence-based decision and policy making.

Through this output, the United Nations supported Saudi Arabia to make substantial progress in enhancing the collection, provision, and dissemination of reliable and transparent data to support evidence-based decision-making and policy formulation. The establishment of a human rights research center, participation in international human rights review mechanisms, and focused efforts to improve health data reporting exemplify Saudi Arabia's dedication to adopting international standards in data management. These efforts collectively contribute to a more informed, accountable, and transparent governance framework, facilitating the advancement of human rights, health, and overall sustainable development within the country.

◆ Census

Quality data and statistics are vital pillars for achieving SDGs and providing decision makers with concrete information about the communities' needs. In 2023, building on input from the previous year, technical support and assistance was provided to the GASTAT through capacity building activities and support in the area of evaluation of the census outputs and outcomes, improvement of the projection methods, numerical calculations and availability of metadata on long term run. Key capacity building efforts, aside from evaluation of the outcomes, also contributed to enhancing the social inclusion frameworks adopted by the GASTAT. This was critical for producing well-structured household reports and population

reports and enhancing the accuracy of the futuristic projections.

◆ Establishment of a Human Rights Research Centre

Starting from August 2023, the United Nations worked on a strategic plan to establish a human rights research center which had to be delivered to the SHRC in February 2024. This initiative represents a significant stride towards enhancing the collection, provision, and dissemination of reliable data on human rights in Saudi Arabia. This strategic plan, aimed at aligning with international standards, is expected to greatly aid in addressing research needs, offering data analysis, and supporting policy development related to human rights. The future establishment of the research center underscored a commitment to informed decision-making and policy formulation, ensuring a robust foundation for human rights advancements within Saudi Arabia.

◆ Training Workshop for the Universal Periodic Review Mechanism

The collaboration between the United Nations and the SHRC on a training workshop on the Universal Periodic Review Mechanism marked a pivotal effort in enhancing understanding and engagement with international human rights review processes. This workshop, which highlighted Saudi Arabia's proactive approach in participating in the Universal Periodic Review, provided valuable insights into the review mechanism through interactive dialogues and presentations on Saudi Arabia's experiences in previous rounds. This initiative demonstrates a clear commitment to upholding and improving human rights standards through international collaboration and knowledge sharing.

◆ Support to the Voluntary National Review and Data Webinars

The United Nations, through collaboration with the MEP, provided critical support to Saudi Arabia in preparation for its second VNR. Following the success of high-level national data webinars launched in 2022 in partnership with the MEP, a specialized Data Webinar for SDG3 and SDG11 were organized targeting employees of GASTAT, MEP, and relevant ministries. Such initiatives are critical in reflecting Saudi Arabia's progress towards the SDGs, enhancing evidence-based decision-making and policy formulation in

alignment with international standards.

◆ Enhancing Economic Data Infrastructure

The cooperation with the GASTAT has significantly improved Saudi Arabia's economic data infrastructure. In 2023, the United Nations provided technical support to several initiatives such as the international indicators department to monitor SDG indicators and disseminate SDGs progress report, supported in producing digital economy statistics, supported GASTAT to analyse the 2022 Census results. These initiatives have strengthened the statistical framework, ensuring robust and reliable economic data crucial for measuring unemployment rates and supporting economic stability and employment growth in alignment with Vision 2030's objectives.

◆ Enhancing Child Protection and Development through Data-Driven Initiatives

In a concerted effort to bridge data gaps in child protection and development, the United Nations advocated for the application of data-driven approaches to inform policy and programmatic interventions. This initiative has seen significant progress in Saudi Arabia, marked by key activities aimed at enhancing the understanding and management of child-related issues through comprehensive data collection and analysis.

Following the United Nations' advocacy, the Government of Saudi Arabia issued a Royal Decree to conduct the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS7) survey in 2024. This critical survey will be instrumental in generating actionable data to guide policy and programme work, ensuring that interventions are both effective and targeted. A technical team from the GASTAT underwent specialized training in survey design and sampling methodologies. This capacity-building exercise was a preparatory step towards the successful implementation of the MICS7 survey, culminating in the development of a detailed implementation plan.

Government nutritionists, public health specialists, and statisticians from Saudi Arabia received training focused on nutrition data quality, with an emphasis on anthropometry. This training is pivotal in improving the accuracy and reliability of nutrition data, thereby enhancing the effectiveness of nutritional interventions for children.

A significant research activity was conducted to assess the integration of mental health and psychosocial support services in primary health care settings for children and adolescents in Saudi Arabia. The findings from this study

provide valuable insights and lessons learned, contributing to evidence-based decision-making and advocacy efforts aimed at bolstering mental health support for young populations.

Output 4.2

Strengthened capacity of government institutions at all levels to increase accountability, transparency, and reliability towards people of Saudi Arabia, especially vulnerable groups, in line with international standards to combat corruption and bribery and foster an environment of integrity and responsible governance.

In line with international standards, the United Nations supported Saudi Arabia in its progress towards enhancing the capacity of its government institutions to ensure greater accountability, transparency, and reliability, particularly towards vulnerable groups. These efforts are part of a broader commitment to combat corruption and bribery and foster an environment characterized by integrity and responsible governance.

deployment of the United Nations' expertise at NAUSS, significant advancements have facilitated in strengthening institutional frameworks. This includes offering technical and legal expertise, developing comprehensive training programs such as the Higher Diploma in Border Governance and Security, and engaging in capacity-building workshops aimed at enhancing governance practices.

Public Sector Excellence

Collaboration with the Saudi Food and Drug Authority has led to the development and approval of the National Health Technology Assessment (HTA) guideline. Updates and implementation of technical regulations and standards in the Food Sector, coupled with increased expertise and international committee appointments in the Drug Sector, have further supported public sector excellence. These initiatives collectively contribute to the establishment of an inclusive and just society, with particular emphasis on safeguarding public health and ensuring the efficacy and safety of food and pharmaceutical products.

A notable achievement in this area is the comprehensive study and benchmarking of the draft Anti-Corruption Convention against international agreements, including the United Nations Conventions against Organized Crime and Corruption. This collaboration with the Saudi Oversight and Anti-Corruption Authority (Nazaha) has significantly strengthened Saudi Arabia's legislative framework. The initiative reflects Saudi Arabia's proactive stance in combating global corruption and underscores its role in promoting transparency, integrity, and ethical governance practices on the international stage. The activities have contributed to a significant increase in the Statistical Performance Index, from 63.4 in 2022 to 80.8 in 2023, highlighting measurable progress in these critical areas.

Promotion of Integrity and Responsible Governance

The collaboration with NAUSS underscores a strategic effort towards enhancing the capacity of government institutions within Saudi Arabia. This partnership aims to fortify accountability, transparency, and reliability, particularly towards vulnerable groups, aligning with international standards to combat corruption and bribery. The establishment of the Arab Centre for Technical Cooperation in Migration and Border Management serves as a pivotal step in providing the necessary technical, legal, operational, and policy support to improve governance and manage migration effectively. Through the

In September 2023, Saudi Arabia's Team HMT TUWAIQ distinguished itself by securing third place in the first Arab Youth Anti-Corruption Hackathon, a part of the "Coding4Integrity" series organized by the United Nations, showcasing the innovative AI-based "IntegrityHub" project. This ground-breaking mobile application, designed to empower vulnerable workers by enabling anonymous reporting of corrupt activities, leverages advanced speech-to-text technology and data engineering to convert voice reports into text, maintaining whistleblower anonymity through intelligent redaction of personal details. The app's development signifies a critical advancement in fostering ethical governance and

streamlining the investigation and eradication of corrupt practices.

In March 2023, the launch of the Interregional Centre of Excellence for Evidence-Based Drug Control, Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Policies and Strategies, resulting from the long-standing partnership with NAUSS, marked a significant step towards supporting Arab Member States in the implementation of international conventions, protocols, resolutions and other applicable instruments relating to drug control, crime prevention and criminal justice, by growing related knowledge and evidence bases, increasing awareness thereof, building and strengthening multisector key stakeholders' capacity to effectively address drug control, crime prevention and criminal justice issues, and disseminating methodologies, approaches and tools to guide and assist them in their endeavours. Between March and December 2023, the project delivered substantial outcomes, including several regional

conferences and workshops addressing critical issues such as radicalization prevention, border management to combat transnational organized crime, and the advancement of training curricula for law enforcement and judicial institutions. Additionally, an interregional workshop was held to tackle illicit drug trafficking through the Internet. The project's impact was further amplified by the production of two research papers focusing on the intersection of illicit drug trafficking and money-laundering, and the future of alternative development programmes in the region. Another significant achievement was the design of a new higher diploma programme on drug control strategies, benefiting practitioners across Arab countries and the Council of Arab Ministers of Interior. These initiatives have fostered practice and experience sharing between the Arab region and Europe, strengthening the global fight against drug trafficking and related crimes.

Output 4.3

Strengthened capacity of government institutions and multi-stakeholder partnerships promoting improved services and social dialogue to advance a peaceful, just, and inclusive society for all.

The initiatives under Output 4.3, collectively, underscore Saudi Arabia's concerted efforts, in collaboration with the United Nations and other stakeholders, to advance a peaceful, just, and inclusive society. Through fostering futures literacy, engaging youth in global dialogues, and enhancing civil society's role in development, these efforts contribute significantly to the overarching goals of peace, justice, and strong institutions.

◆ Strengthen the capacity of government institutions and foster multi-stakeholder partnerships

A significant step was taken to advance a peaceful, just, and inclusive society for all through the implementation of a comprehensive training programme aimed at enhancing the capabilities of KSRelief staff with focus on promotion of improved services and fostering social dialogue.

A three-day training conducted in cooperation with the University for Peace (UPEACE), marked a pivotal advancement in strengthening the operational efficiency of humanitarian institutions. This training, part of the annual

training cycle for 2022/2023, focused on critical aspects of budgetary planning, equipping KSRelief staff with the necessary skills to optimize financial resources and enhance the delivery of humanitarian aid.

An in-person orientation session provided KSRelief staff with essential insights into Humanitarian Border Management. This session underscored the importance of managing borders in a manner that respects human rights and facilitates safe, orderly, and regular migration, further contributing to the protection of vulnerable populations and the promotion of a more inclusive society.

◆ Youth Engagement, Leadership and SDG Advocacy

The United Nations in Saudi Arabia commemorated International Youth Day with an event that spotlighted young individuals as agents of change. The event showcased the resilience and ingenuity of youth in driving progress towards the SDGs. The Youth Café format provided a dynamic platform for young people to engage with the United Nations initiatives and demonstrate

their contributions to societal improvement and sustainable development. This event underscores the pivotal role of youth in shaping a more inclusive, peaceful, and sustainable future.

The United Nations in collaboration with the Saudi Youth Society, spearheaded the “Speak & Compete” competition. This initiative celebrated the proactive role of youth in promoting the SDGs. By encouraging young leaders to showcase their innovative ideas, the competition aimed to foster a spirit of advocacy and achievement towards the SDGs. The victorious team, comprising four members, was awarded a valuable opportunity to intern with the United Nations, further nurturing their leadership and project management skills.

Reflecting the commitment to integrating youth perspectives in global discussions, the participation of 15 young Saudis at the ECOSOC Youth Forum was facilitated. This forum provided a platform for young individuals to contribute

their voices and innovative solutions to the global youth dialogue. Addressing themes such as clean water, sustainable cities, and energy access, the forum emphasized the importance of youth engagement in achieving the SDGs and shaping a resilient post-COVID-19 recovery.

◆ Empowering Civil Society

In a significant stride towards enhancing the socio-economic development landscape, the “Tadamon” workshop for Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in Jeddah was launched, in collaboration with the Islamic Development Bank and the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development. Tadamon aims to bolster the role of CSOs in socio-economic development, facilitating resource mobilization and expertise sharing. This initiative underscores the critical role of multi-stakeholder partnerships in achieving sustainable development and fostering a just, inclusive society.

2.3

Support to Partnerships and Financing

the United Nations Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development



Saudi - United Nations Partnership

In 2023, the United Nations supported Saudi Arabia's commitment to the SDGs which was notably advanced through strategic partnerships and financial mobilizations, aligning with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Saudi Arabia continued its effort to join United Nations entities' governing bodies. It has been re-elected as UNESCO's Executive Board member for 2023-2027 and the International Maritime Organization's (IMO) Council for 2024-2025. Saudi Arabia was also chosen to host UNIDO's 21st General Conference in 2025. Furthermore, it was re-elected as president of United Nations Tourism's Executive Council for 2024 and selected to host its general assembly's 26th session in 2025. Saudi Arabia has also been chosen to be part of the United Nations advisory body on artificial intelligence (AI), underscoring its proactive stance in global policy shaping and cooperation towards sustainable development.

Saudi Arabia hosted several global events, such as the 3rd International Humanitarian Forum, the 45th session of the World Heritage Committee, and World Tourism Day 2023. It also welcomed several high-level United Nations visitors and delegations, including the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations. These developments reflect Saudi Arabia's engagement and growing presence in the multilateral arena.

In parallel, new partnership agreements were signed in 2023 between Saudi Arabia and the United Nations entities at national and global levels, including IAEA (Ministry of Energy), UNICEF

(KSrelief), UNESCO (Royal Commission for Al-Ula and host agreement), UNDP (Anti-Corruption Authority, Ministry of Environment, Water, and Agriculture, and Ministry of Housing), UN Tourism (Ministry of Tourism), and UN-Habitat (host country agreement with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs). KSrelief also signed several agreements with the United Nations agencies, including IOM, UNHCR, UNFPA, and UNDP, on the sidelines of the International Humanitarian Forum.

The United Nations played a pivotal role in fostering an environment conducive to significant partnership developments. These efforts were integral in promoting Saudi Arabia's sustainable development agenda, particularly in key areas such as economic diversification, technological advancement, and social development.



Saudi Arabia's Voluntary National Review 2023

A highlight of the partnership approach was the collaboration between the United Nations and the MEP, which culminated in the publication of the Saudi Arabia's Second VNR report. The VNR not only showcased Saudi Arabia's progress in implementing Vision 2030 reforms but also highlighted its dedication to the SDGs, particularly in the areas of economic development, job creation, and gender equality. Saudi Arabia's presentation of the VNR at the United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in 2023, and broad participation in all key and side-events, further emphasized its commitment to inclusive and sustainable progress.



Enhancing International Cooperation

Saudi Arabia's active participation in global platforms, such as the United Nations General Assembly and various United Nations' councils, reflects its commitment to international cooperation and dialogue. Saudi Arabia's engagements focused on pressing global issues, including human rights, regional stability, and sustainable development financing. These efforts underscore Saudi Arabia's role as a key player in shaping a sustainable future, leveraging international partnerships to advance collective goals.



South-South Cooperation

The MEP, with support from the United Nations, organized a pivotal session on the fringes of the Future Investments Initiative (FII) -7 conference, highlighting the importance of South-South cooperation (SSTC) in global development. The session underscored SSTC's vital role in achieving the SDGs and fostering economic growth, with the United Nations reiterating its dedication to enhancing SSTC in Saudi Arabia. This collaboration exemplifies the power of partnership in addressing shared development challenges, paving the way for a more unified and prosperous Global South.



Quality of Life Initiative

The Quality of Life Initiative is significantly enhancing strategic partnerships by engaging a spectrum of stakeholders across various levels. This encompasses collaboration with global institutions, local governments, academia, and multiple United Nations agencies to develop and endorse a global Quality of Life Index. By fostering a data-driven and consultative approach, the initiative is maximizing synergies, leveraging opportunities, and aligning efforts to advance the quality of life within the broader United Nations system. The integration of technological innovations and a focus on sustainable

development further strengthens the initiative's impact on strategic partnerships.



Building Futures Literacy for Sustainable Peace and Inclusion

In a groundbreaking move to enhance societal resilience and innovation, the United Nations and Prince Mohammad Bin Fahd University (PMU) embarked on a pioneering partnership. They signed the Futures Literacy Partnership Agreement, aiming to propel Futures Literacy (FL) to new heights locally, regionally, and globally. This collaboration is designed to leverage action-learning and collective intelligence, fostering a shared understanding of sustainability, peace, and inclusion. It promises to unlock transformative learning opportunities, equipping citizens with the foresight needed to navigate contemporary challenges effectively.



UN Global Compact Local Network

In 2023, the United Nations continued to strengthen its partnerships with the private sector through the UNGCLN in Saudi Arabia. The UNGCLN achieved significant milestones, positioning itself as a pivotal force for sustainable development and corporate responsibility in the region. Through 32 events, including high-profile engagements such as The 28th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 28) and the MENA Climate Week with the United Nations in Saudi Arabia, the UNGCLN showcased the commitment of the private sector towards environmental stewardship and climate action. Notably, the Private Sector Forum in Diriyah underscored the vital role of businesses in preserving cultural heritage sites, exemplifying UNGCLN's dedication to holistic sustainability. Additionally, commemoration of International Women's Day in partnership with King Abdullah Financial District highlighted efforts to promote gender equality and empower women in the workplace. Another notable achievement is the 65% increase in the number of participating companies compared to 2022, signifying a growing recognition among businesses of the importance of aligning with the principles of the UN Global Compact.



Academia Network

In 2023, a series of meetings were held with key interlocutors for the establishment of the proposed Academia for SDGs Network. With the key Ministries - Economy and Planning and Education, on board, the Interim Board was formed in December. The Interim Board is working on a roadmap to formally launching the Network in 2024.

session in partnership with the Authority for the Care of Persons with Disabilities and UNGCLN. Partners discussed the new law recently adopted by the country and the challenges still preventing people with disabilities from enjoying all their rights. Together, they committed to working together and in consultation with organizations of people with disabilities to advance rights and well-being for all. Furthermore, a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to formalize and expand the partnership between the Authority and the United Nations was also developed. Preliminary discussions were also conducted with the UNGCLN to explore potential opportunities to promote people with disabilities' rights.



Partnership with the Authority for the Care of Persons with Disabilities

On the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, the United Nations hosted a dialogue

2.4

Results of the United Nations Working More and Better Together

In 2023, the United Nations continued to communicate as one and implement reform efforts with positive results and benefits for the United Nations, the Government, and its many partners. The Resident Coordinator continued to pursue a strategy of external engagement and internal coherence to promote a more effective and efficient presence of the United Nations in the country.

RF, translating the UNSDCF's priorities into measurable targets and commitments. These documents are structured around the strategic UNSDCF areas of People, Planet, Prosperity, and Peace, with a focus on inclusive and participatory monitoring and the evaluation of results. In a novel approach, this JWP has been crafted with thematic markers to ensure a more focused alignment with the LNOB principles, specifically addressing gender equality and human rights. This was the first time the United Nations in Saudi Arabia integrated markers into the JWP, an approach well-received for its efficacy and potential for impact in subsequent cycles.



Internal Progress and Alignment

The United Nations has forged a new JWP and

In preparation for this process, the United Nations entities in the country were provided with the training on the fundamentals of monitoring and evaluation (M&E) to strengthen M&E capacities across the United Nations in Saudi Arabia. This effort was complemented by a joint training session with UN Women and the Development Coordination Office (DCO), on the integration of thematic markers within the United Nations. Together, these sessions aimed at enhancing contributions towards a commitment to strengthen Saudi Arabia's normative frameworks and support its progress towards the United Nations Agenda 2030 goals.



Communicating as One

In 2023, the United Nations achieved notable progress in enhancing coordination to amplify joint messaging and advocacy efforts as outlined in the Joint Communications and Advocacy Strategy 2022-2026 and the Joint Annual Communications Plan 2023. Through the adoption of a unified "one United Nations approach" across digital platforms, the organization witnessed a significant increase in social media engagement, resulting in a 10% expansion of the follower base. Additionally, the Cooperation Framework's strategic priorities were effectively highlighted through localized digital campaigns focusing on Gender Equality, Environment and Climate Action, and Human Rights under the United Nations Communications, and the United Nations expanded its media presence across traditional and social media channels.

Focusing on improved coordination and collective messaging, the United Nations's activities in 2023 showcased a joint impact:

- Enhanced capacities of local journalists and strengthening relationships with the local media through media workshops contributed significantly to creating broader awareness of the SDGs, thereby linking key achievements with impactful results.
- Strengthened public awareness on the United Nations digital platforms saw increased engagement with the United Nations activities and campaigns, notably among Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Youth.
- Improved joint advocacy efforts led to heightened public awareness on focal areas such as gender equality, environment, and human rights. This included publicizing and communicating the United Nations -supported initiatives and achievements, with a strong emphasis on development impact.
- Supported the United Nations in collectively organizing observance days, including International Women's Day, International Youth Day, World Environment Day, Women in Diplomacy Day, United Nations Youth Cafes, International Day of Persons with Disability, and World Tourism Day. Notably, this included a joint photo exhibition on sustainable tourism and heritage.

Moreover, efforts were made to enhance internal coordination and knowledge-sharing among the United Nations through the coordination of the United Nations Communication Group and the dissemination of monthly newsletters.

2.5

Financial Overview

The implementation of the UNSDCF has benefited from generous support from the Government of Saudi Arabia. For 2023, the United Nations had

available resources of USD 148.8 million.

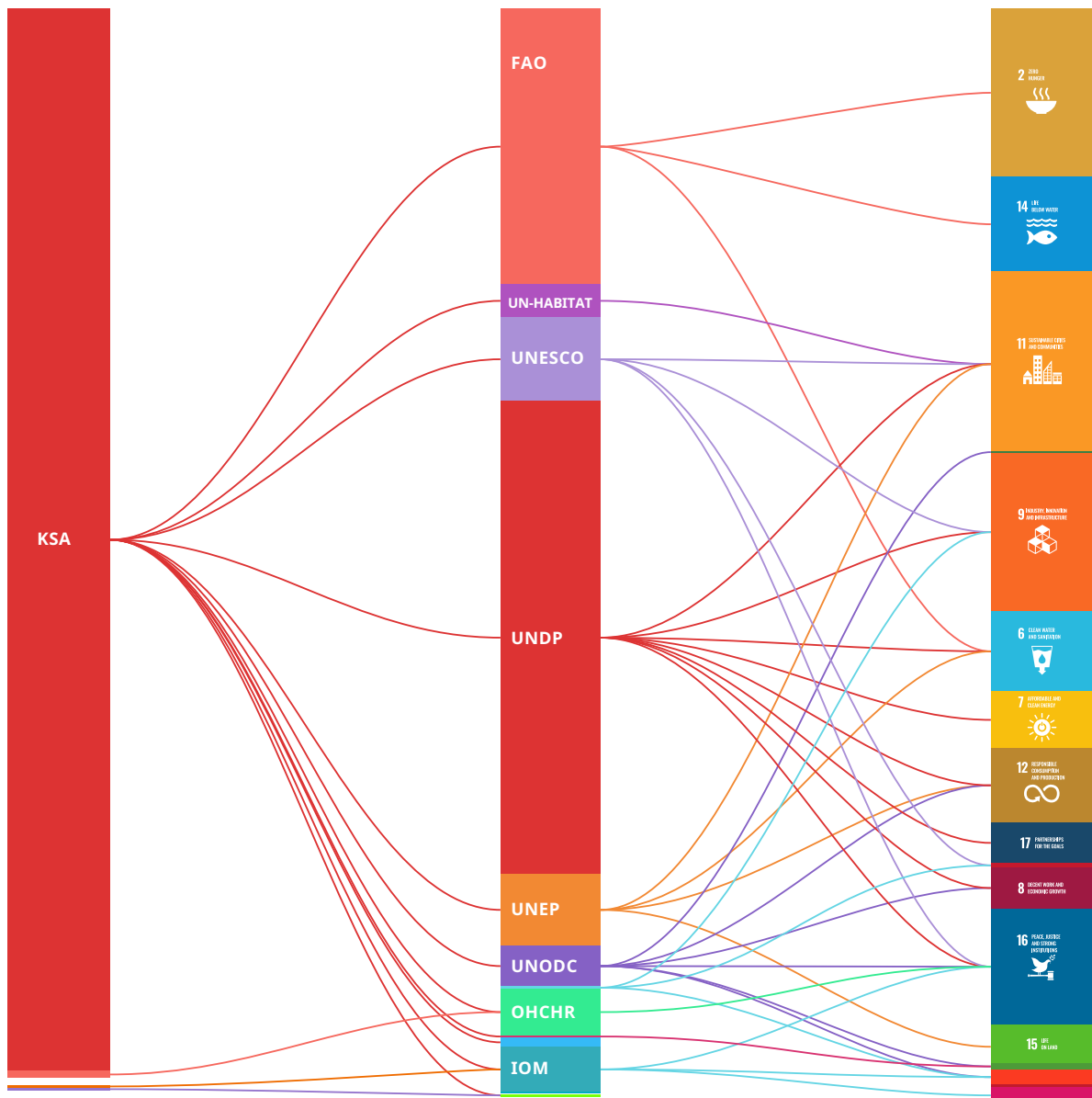


Figure 7. Leveraging United Nations investments to advance the SDGs

This graphic shows how the United Nations funding is contributing to the work of different agencies and partners to advance the SDGs. The

width of the lines represents the relative amount of resources being contributed.

◆ Available Resources \$148.8 million

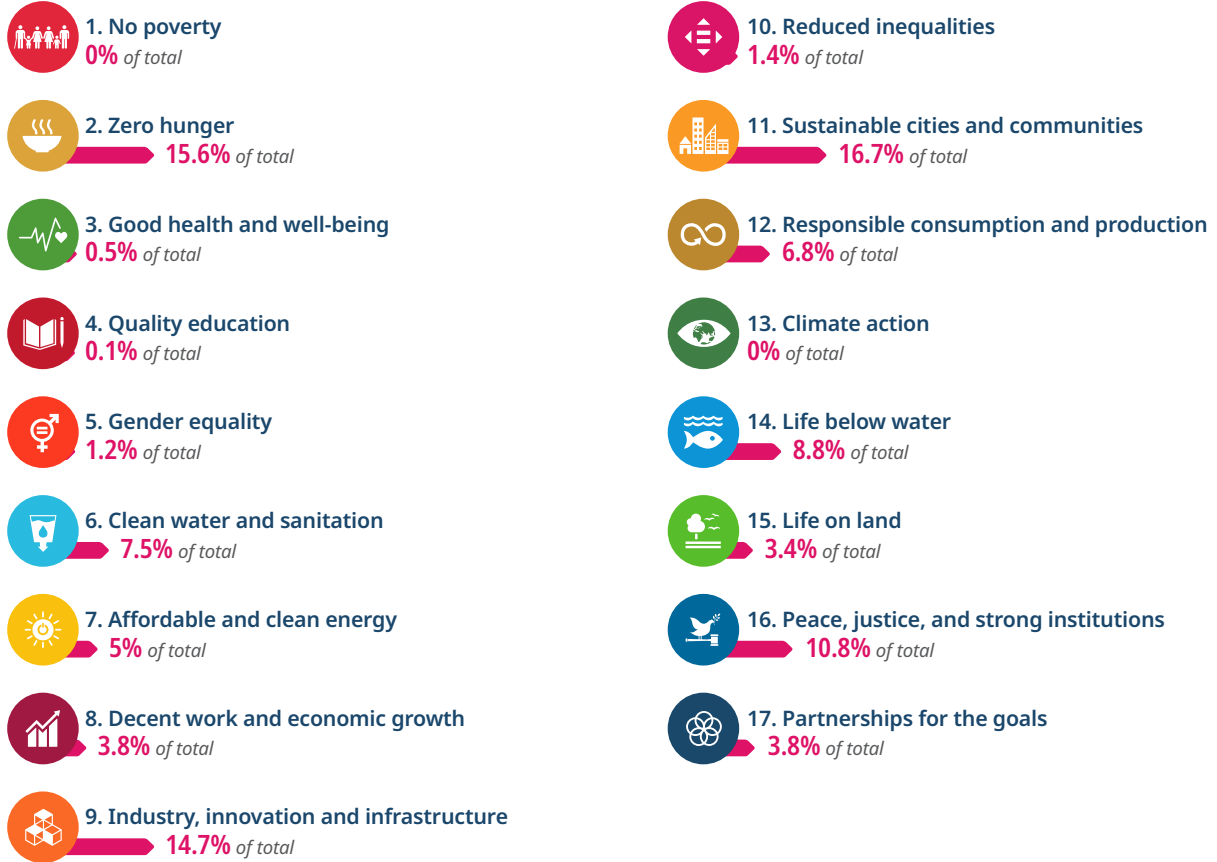


Figure 8. How the United Nations contributes to the SDGs

◆ Available Resources \$25.7 million



Figure 9. Priority Area 1 – People

◆ Available Resources \$47.3 million



Figure 10. Priority Area 2 - Planet

◆ Available Resources \$54.5 million



Figure 11. Priority Area 3 – Prosperity

◆ Available Resources \$21.3 million



Figure 12. Priority Area 4 - Peace and Partnerships



Chapter 03

Looking Forward
to 2024



Looking Forward to 2024

At the global level for the United Nations, 2024 will be dominated by the Summit of the Future in September. The preparation for this pivotal event will be a significant priority for the United Nations and the Government in Saudi Arabia. The Summit represents a crucial opportunity for Saudi Arabia to articulate its vision and efforts on a global stage and to draw from the international community's insights and cooperation. The United Nations, through its various agencies and programs, will facilitate Saudi Arabia's participation in this future-defining event, advocating that Saudi Arabia's voice and experiences contribute to shaping a sustainable and equitable global future. However, the United Nations's support will extend beyond advocacy and consultation; it will involve strategic partnership and capacity building to ensure that Saudi Arabia's contributions and perspectives are fully integrated into the broader global discourse.

Bringing global events local, Saudi Arabia will host the World Environment Day in June and the UNCCD 16th Session of the Conference of the Parties will be held in December. The United Nations is actively supporting Saudi Arabia's engagement in these significant global environmental events.

The imperative to align with, and contribute meaningfully to, global discourse and actions on environmental sustainability, and for further strengthening environmental conservation and natural resources management, significantly shapes our approach, both for these events and in general through UNSDCF. The United Nations is working to encourage the application of innovative technologies and efficient irrigation methods, bolster the Saudi Irrigation Organization's management capacity, and foster educational standards through the Greening Education Partnership. In the realm of chemicals and waste management, our efforts will centre on developing and implementing national actions that align with Multilateral Environmental Agreements. This is in addition to providing oversight and advisory services for waste management strategies that incorporate climate policy considerations.

As we progress into 2024, along with the higher profile global events, the United Nations' priorities for the year encapsulate a commitment to nurturing a more equitable, resilient, and sustainable future for Saudi Arabia, bolstering the nation's stride toward the SDGs and Saudi Vision 2030. The United Nations integrated approach to development, encompassing social, educational, economic, environmental, and urban dimensions, will remain at the forefront of our collaborative efforts with Saudi Arabia, ensuring that no one is left behind.

A key United Nations priority is the safeguarding of children from violence and exploitation by bolstering prevention services and raising awareness. The United Nations aims to promote a resilient social fabric and promoting Child Online Safety that protects children's rights and nurtures their well-being. Complementing this, the United Nations strives to support the social protection reform process, advocating for family-friendly policies that reinforce public finance structures that underpin children's welfare.

The enhancement of healthcare worker capabilities is another pivotal focus, alongside Institutional support to the Saudi Health Council, to fortify health service delivery across the nation. Moreover, the expansion of comprehensive, integrated Early Childhood Development (ECD) services is set to reach an ever-widening circle of communities, with special attention to children with disabilities.

Education remains a cornerstone of the United Nations' agenda, where we aim to augment the supply of well-trained educators and integrate civic education into curricula, thus elevating learning outcomes across the board. Alongside educational strides, the United Nations is committed to empowering rights holders with the tools and knowledge to effectively tackle discrimination, ensuring laws and policies not only exist but are actively enforced and produce tangible societal shifts.

In the economic domain, skills governance in Saudi Arabia will undergo a transformation through rigorous assessments, capacity-building initiatives, and robust policy support. This extends to promoting sustainable agricultural practices and technologies, which are vital for increasing productivity in rural sectors, particularly benefiting youth and women who play crucial roles in these communities. Economic empowerment of women will remain the priority for the United Nations in Saudi Arabia through the development of cultural and creative industries and the protection and safeguarding of cultural heritage.

Ensuring safety and health at work remains a top priority in Saudi Arabia. As such, technical and capacity building support will continue to be provided to promote a safe and healthy working environment for all, in line with the various OSH-related International Labour Standards.

The fight against trafficking, child labour, and occupational hazards will be strengthened through enhanced policy frameworks and capacity-building activities that adhere to international labor standards. The United Nations will keep contributing to the ongoing social protection reform, specifically through support to the poverty reduction strategy development.

On the urban development front, the United Nations will support Saudi cities' aspirations to elevate their Quality of Life index, and in central

Riyadh, we will assist in devising a socio-economic strategy that marries urban regeneration with the principles of inequality reduction and poverty alleviation.

In the realm of data and technology, we will continue efforts to improve the availability of SDG data, aligning with international standards and supporting the development of robust information systems, including health, education, child protection, labour market and other development data. Such information will be crucial for better policy design and strengthened capacities for monitoring and evaluation. With adequate capacity building on impact assessment, government entities will be better equipped to monitor and assess the impact of their policies, particularly concerning employment and the labour market.

The United Nations remains committed to fostering a robust partnership with Saudi Arabia in 2024, aiming to support the country in realizing its sustainable development aspirations. This collaboration is a testament to our shared dedication to promoting sustainable growth and prosperity. Together, we are poised to make significant strides towards achieving Saudi Arabia's visionary goals for a sustainable future.



Annexes

Annex 1: Overview of Outcomes and Outputs

The UNSDCF presents a broad 'problem tree' as a means to visualise the progress towards achieving the SDGs in alignment with the Saudi Vision 2030.

The below table provides more details to the UNSDCF including the output level related to the 4 outcomes as provided by the RF.

UNSDCF2022 - 2026 Overview of Outcomes and Outputs

 People	UNSDCF Outcome Statement	1	All human beings are further enabled to fulfil their potential in dignity, equity, and equality in a healthy environment.
	Output	1.1	<i>Enhanced access to essential social and protection services for all, based on principles of human rights, gender equality, and inclusion of the most vulnerable populations.</i>
	Output	1.2	<i>Improved quality of essential social and protection services focusing on government institutional capacity and multisectoral collaboration.</i>
	Output	1.3	<i>Increased knowledge and skills of population, especially women, girls and the most vulnerable groups, to enable them to participate in labor market, civic engagement and decision making</i>
	Output	1.4	<i>Rural Agriculture sector sustainably developed for enhanced production, value addition and employment opportunities</i>









 Planet	UNSDCF Outcome Statement	2	The environment is better protected from degradation through sustainable consumption and production, sustainably managing its natural resources, and taking urgent action on climate change.
	Output	2.1	<i>Enhanced sustainable natural resources management system (water, forest, marine) to safeguard natural resources, preserve biodiversity, and maintain ecological balance in KSA.</i>
	Output	2.2	<i>Increased knowledge and awareness on responsible consumption and climate action among all people in KSA</i>

 Prosperity	UNSDCF Outcome Statement	3	Increased opportunities are available for all human beings to enjoy prosperous and fulfilling lives.
	Output	3.1	<i>Strengthened policy and legal frameworks in the labor sector to protect workers' rights and support equitable employment opportunities</i>
	Output	3.2	<i>Enhanced implementation of strategies and policies to safeguard cultural and natural heritage, and promote sustainable urbanization, prioritizing the needs of vulnerable populations.</i>
	Output	3.3	<i>Improved institutional capacities of government, COs, and private sector to ensure women economic empowerment (including prevention of violence, harassment and discrimination at the work place)</i>

 Peace and Partnership	UNSDCF Outcome Statement	4	Peaceful, just, and inclusive society is adequately fostered, and the means required for the implementation of Agenda 2030 are
	Output	4.1	<i>Enhanced collection, provision, and dissemination of reliable and transparent data in accordance with International standard to support evidence-based decision and policy making</i>
	Output	4.2	<i>Strengthened capacity of government institutions at all levels to increase accountability, transparency and reliability towards people of KSA, especially from vulnerable groups in line with international standards to combat corruption and bribery, and foster an environment of integrity and responsible governance.</i>
	Output	4.3	<i>Strengthened capacity of government institution and multi-stakeholder partnerships improved services and social dialogue to advance a peaceful, just, and inclusive society for all.</i>

As an extension of the above framework, the below matrix provides a detailed overview of the connection between outcomes, outputs, and sub

outputs confirming there is a clear 'pathway of change' between sub outputs and the attainment of results at the outcome level.

					
 <p>People</p>	<p>OUTCOME 1</p> <p><i>All human beings are further enabled to fulfil their potential in dignity, equity and equality in a healthy environment.</i></p>				
	<p>Output 1.1</p> <p><i>Enhanced access to essential inclusive social and protection services for all, based on principles of human rights, gender equality, and inclusion of the most vulnerable population</i></p>	<p>Output 1.2</p> <p><i>Improved quality of essential inclusive social and protection services focusing on government institutional capacity and multisectoral collaboration.</i></p>	<p>Output 1.3</p> <p><i>Increased knowledge and skills of population, especially women, girls and the most vulnerable and marginalized groups, to enable them to participate in labor market, civic engagement and decision making</i></p>	<p>Output 1.4</p> <p><i>Rural agriculture sector sustainably developed for enhanced production, value addition and employment opportunities.</i></p>	
	<p>Sub outputs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UPR • Essential Health Services • Child protection • Social Protection 	<p>Sub outputs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved quality health services • Increased coverage ECD 	<p>Sub outputs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supply of qualified and well-trained teachers • HR rights materials and study • Human Rights culture research paper • Training tool kit for national stakeholder to raise most urgent discrimination • Skills dev for skilled governance 	<p>Sub outputs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technology innovative practices ag productivity • Enhanced agri enterprises 	
					
	 <p>Planet</p>	<p>OUTCOME 2</p> <p><i>The environment is better protected from degradation through sustainable consumption and production, sustainably managing its natural resources, and taking urgent action on climate change.</i></p>			
<p>Output 2.1</p> <p><i>Enhanced sustainable natural resources management system (land, water, forest, marine) to safeguard natural resources, preserve biodiversity, and maintain ecological balance in KSA.</i></p>		<p>Output 2.2</p> <p><i>Increased knowledge and awareness on responsible consumption and climate action among all people in KSA</i></p>			
<p>Sub outputs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable management of ecosystems • Inclusive biodiversity conservation • Environment policies and regulations • Innovative technologies national vegetation 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity to curb land degradation • Innovative irrigation tech • Capacity of Saudi Irrigation Organization 	<p>Sub outputs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greening education partnerships • National action on chemical and waste management 		
					
 <p>PROSPERITY</p>		<p>OUTCOME 3</p> <p><i>All human beings are further enabled to fulfil their potential in dignity, equity and equality in a healthy environment.</i></p>			
	<p>Output 3.1</p> <p><i>Strengthened policy and legal frameworks in the labor sector to protect workers' rights and support equitable employment opportunities and safer labour migration</i></p>	<p>Output 3.2</p> <p><i>Enhanced implementation of strategies and policies to safeguard cultural and natural heritage, and promote sustainable urbanization, prioritizing the needs of vulnerable populations.</i></p>	<p>Output 3.3</p> <p><i>Improved institutional capacities of national stakeholders to ensure women economic empowerment (including prevention of violence, harassment and discrimination at the work place)</i></p>		
	<p>Sub outputs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mechanisms to combat trafficking • Application of ILS through capacity building • Implementation of child labour policy • Occupational safety and health - international labour standards • Cooperative development in KSA • Analysis and digital transformation for productive employment 	<p>Sub outputs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innovation, entrepreneurship and economic empowerment • Innovation and entrepreneurship for cultural and creative industries • Urban transformation and housing • Municipal systems for settlement boundaries, service delivery • Restructuring KSA planning framework 	<p>Sub outputs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global quality of life index adoption • Socio-economic strategy development for Riyadh • Urban design studio • Women's access to equitable employment • Women's empowerment principles (WEPs) involvement • Creative industries mapped • Creative goods and services 		
					
	 <p>PEACE AND PARTNERSHIPS</p>	<p>OUTCOME 4</p> <p><i>Peaceful, just and inclusive society is adequately fostered, and the means required for the implementation of Agenda 2030 are mobilized.</i></p>			
<p>Output 4.1</p> <p><i>Enhanced collection, provision, and dissemination of reliable and transparent data in accordance with International standard to support evidence-based decision and policy making</i></p>		<p>Output 4.2</p> <p><i>Strengthened capacity of government institutions at all levels to increase accountability, transparency and reliability towards people of KSA, especially vulnerable groups, in line with international standards to combat corruption and bribery, and foster an environment of integrity and responsible governance.</i></p>	<p>Output 4.3</p> <p><i>Strengthened capacity of government institutions and multi-stakeholder partnerships promoting improved services and social dialogue to advance a peaceful, just, and inclusive society for all</i></p>		
<p>Sub outputs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reliable human rights data - int. standard • Capacity for effective labour market info system • GASTAT support - child SDG data • Capacity gender disaggregated data 		<p>Sub outputs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public sector excellence - digital transformation • Immigration and border management • Implement report on safe, orderly and regular migration • Support improved policy development and implementation in MHRSD • MHRSD staff capacity development, M&E 	<p>Sub outputs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency preparedness and disaster relief • Strengthened capacity of stakeholders- promoting improved and inclusive services and social dialogue • Knowledge Universal Dec on Human Rights private sector, CSOs • Support large companies in their Human Rights Due Diligence to promote their respect of human rights • Know of international standards HR by SHRC staff members Board. • Social dialogue institutions created 		



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