



UNITED
NATIONS
SAUDI ARABIA

UN COUNTRY RESULTS REPORT

KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA 2024





TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acronyms and Abbreviations	2
Foreword	4
United Nations in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	5
Key Partners of the United Nations Development System in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	7
Chapter 1: Overview of National Developments in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	9
Chapter 2: Overview of Results	13
2.2 Cooperation framework priorities and outcomes	20
• STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA 1	21
• STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA 2	27
• STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA 3	31
• STRATEGIC PRIORITY AREA 4	39
2.3 Support to Partnerships and Financing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	46
2.4 Results of the United Nations Working More and Better Together	48
2.5 Financial Overview	49
Chapter 3: Looking Forward to 2025	51
Annexes	52
Annex 1: Overview of Outcomes and Outputs	53





ACRONYMS & ABBREVIATIONS

AMR

Antimicrobial resistance

COP16

Sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

CSO

Civil society organization

CST

Communications, Space & Technology Commission

ESCWA

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

FAC

Family Affairs Council

GASTAT

General Authority for Statistics

GCC

Gulf Cooperation Council

GDP

Gross domestic product

GDP

Gross domestic product

ICT

Information and communications technology

ILO

International Labour Organization

LNOB

Leave no one behind

MEP

Ministry of Economy and Planning

MEWA

Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture

MOH

Ministry of Health

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

NCCHT

National Committee for Combating Human Trafficking

NUP

National Urban Policy

RF

Results Framework





SDGs

Sustainable Development Goals

SHRC

Saudi Human Rights Commission

SFDA

Saudi Food and Drug Authority

SRAD

Sustainable Rural Agricultural Development

STEM

Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics

TiP

Trafficking in persons

UNCT

United Nations Country Team

UNCTAD

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

UNDP

United Nations Development Programme

UNEP

United Nations Environment Programme

UNESCO

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

UNICEF

United Nations Children's Fund

UN-Habitat

United Nations Human Settlements Programme

UNGC

United Nations Global Compact

UNDIS

UN Disability Inclusion Strategy

UNDS

UN Development System

UNSDCF

United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework

VLR

Voluntary Local Review

WHO

World Health Organization





FOREWORD

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, with the support of the United Nations, has continued to make significant strides in advancing sustainable development, fostering inclusive growth, and strengthening institutional capacities across multiple sectors. In 2024, the United Nations - Saudi partnership under the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2022-2026 remained steadfast in its commitment to people, planet, prosperity, and peace and partnerships, working to ensure that no one is left behind. This report embodies the achievements realized within this cooperation, structured around the system-wide results that advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Building on Vision 2030 and SDGs, the United Nations in Saudi Arabia worked alongside national institutions to drive impactful change in critical areas such as social protection, environmental sustainability, governance, and economic diversification. These efforts reflect Saudi Arabia's commitment to multilateralism, global cooperation, and data-driven decision-making in addressing national, regional and global challenges.

Through its leadership in climate action, peacebuilding, and socio-economic transformation, Saudi Arabia plays a pivotal role in shaping global development agendas. Saudi Arabia is poised to reinforce its global environmental leadership, having successfully hosted World Environment Day and COP16, the 16th biennial Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in Riyadh. The events underscored Saudi Arabia's commitment to climate resilience, sustainable land management, and biodiversity conservation, with significant initiatives launched, including the Global Climate Adaptation Resilience Initiative (GCARI) and advancements in the Circular Carbon Economy Strategy.

The United Nations has been instrumental in facilitating progress across natural resource management, food security, urban sustainability, and the empowerment of marginalized groups, including rural youth and women. This report



highlights Saudi Arabia's significant strides in educational reforms, women empowerment, environmental conservation, and biodiversity protection, reflecting its dedication to fostering sustainable and equitable development.

As we progress in 2025, the United Nations remains dedicated to strengthening partnerships, expanding successful initiatives, and harnessing innovative solutions to advance sustainable development in Saudi Arabia. In 2025, the United Nations will focus on enhancing child protection policies, expanding sustainable agriculture and climate resilience projects under the Saudi Green Initiative, and continue to advance gender equality in the workforce, with a particular emphasis on increasing women's participation in STEM and digital industries, while further strengthening regional and international cooperation to address pressing global challenges such as climate change, migration, and human rights. The achievements of 2024 underscore the transformative potential of the United Nations - Saudi Arabia partnership in navigating complex development challenges. By fostering multi-sectoral collaboration, promoting data-driven policymaking, and ensuring inclusivity, the United Nations and Saudi Arabia remain committed to driving sustainable development, prosperity, and global cooperation in the years ahead.

*by Resident Coordinator, Mr. Mohamed El Zarkani
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 28 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), United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), UN Tourism, 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.





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Resilient nations.



International
Labour
Organization





KEY PARTNERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM IN THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

In 2024, the United Nations deepened its engagement in Saudi Arabia, leveraging multi-sectoral partnerships to advance sustainable development, strengthen institutional capacities, and support the realization of the Saudi Vision 2030. Through targeted interventions, United Nations' agencies provided technical expertise, policy guidance, and programmatic support across a wide array of sectors, ensuring measurable progress toward the SDGs. These collaborations were instrumental in fostering systemic resilience, facilitating knowledge exchange, and catalyzing policy innovations that enhance social development, environmental sustainability, and economic diversification. Below is a list of key partner organizations:

- *Abdullah Abdullah Al Fozan Organization*
- *Al-Ahsa Development Authority*
- *Al-Nahda Society*
- *Al-Madinah Regional Development Authority*
- *Al Madinah Urban Observatory*
- *Al-Ula Development Authority*
- *Al Qassim Municipality*
- *Al Qassim Urban Observatory*
- *Almawaddah*
- *Aoun Centre | Jeddah*
- *Arab Gulf Program for Development (AGFUND)*
- *Attorney General's Office*
- *Authority for the Care of Persons with Disabilities (APD)*
- *ACWA Power*
- *Balad Alkheer Endowment Foundation*
- *Centre for Disease Control | Atlanta*
- *Communications, Space and Technology Commission*
- *Digital Cooperation Organization*
- *Environmental Development Foundation | Faseel*
- *Estidamah*
- *Family Affairs Council*
- *Fintech Saudi*
- *General Authority for Statistics*
- *Governorate of Jazan*
- *Gulf Cooperation Council – Health Sector*
- *Human Capability Development Program (HCDP)*
- *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)*
- *Ministerial Committee of Traffic Safety*
- *Ministry of Culture*
- *Ministry of Economy and Planning*
- *Ministry of Education*
- *Ministry of Environment, Water, and Agriculture*
- *Ministry of Finance*
- *Ministry of Foreign Affairs*
- *Ministry of Health*
- *Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development*
- *Ministry of Industry and Mineral Resources*
- *Ministry of Interior*
- *Ministry of Justice*
- *Ministry of Municipalities and Housing*
- *Ministry of Transport and Logistic Services*
- *MiSK Mohammed Bin Salman Foundation*
- *Naif Arab University for Security Sciences*





- 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 Combating Human Trafficking
- National Committee for Workers' Committees
- National Committee for Narcotics Control
- National Family Safety Program
- National Industrial Development and Logistics 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
- Public Health Authority
- Quality of Life Program Center
- The Royal Commission for Makkah City and Holy Sites
- Royal Commission for Al-Ula
- Royal Commission for Riyadh
- 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 Development Bank
- Saudi Food and Drug Authority
- Saudi Health Council
- Saudi Human Rights Commission
- Saudi Irrigation Organization
- Saudi Logistics Academy
- Saudi Oversight and Anti-Corruption Authority (NAZAHA)
- Saudi Patient Safety Centre
- Saudi Public Health Authority
- Saudi Standards, Metrology and Quality Organization
- Saudi Telecom Company
- Saudi Youth Society (SYS)
- REEF, MEWA
- Warfa Camp
- Women and Energy Association

In 2024, Saudi Arabia placed significant emphasis on environmental sustainability, positioning itself as a regional and global leader in climate resilience, biodiversity conservation, and responsible resource management. The United Nations supported Saudi Arabia in advancing these priorities by providing technical expertise, facilitating multi-stakeholder dialogues, and strengthening institutional capacities to implement ambitious environmental strategies. The United Nations' agencies worked closely with national counterparts to enhance climate adaptation policies, introduce sustainable land management practices, and develop renewable

energy frameworks, ensuring that Saudi Arabia's initiatives aligned with global best practices and international commitments under the 2030 Agenda. A key milestone in these efforts was COP16, which Saudi Arabia hosted in Riyadh. This landmark event underscored the country's leadership in combatting desertification and fostering sustainable land use practices. The UNCCD, alongside UNDP, UNEP, FAO, and other United Nations agencies, collaborated with Saudi authorities to support negotiations, share technical insights, and develop policy recommendations.





201

**OVERVIEW OF NATIONAL
DEVELOPMENTS
IN THE KINGDOM OF
SAUDI ARABIA**



OVERVIEW OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS IN THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

In 2024, Saudi Arabia sustained its trajectory of political, socio-economic, urban and environmental transformation, further cementing its position as a prominent global actor. Through the implementation of Vision 2030 reforms, Saudi Arabia demonstrated steadfast commitment to sustainable development, regional leadership, and international cooperation. This chapter examines the multifaceted advancements that defined Saudi Arabia's strategic initiatives and broader developmental progress.



ECONOMIC AND STRUCTURAL ADVANCEMENTS

In 2024, Saudi Arabia's economy showcased resilience, successfully mitigating global economic challenges through well-coordinated structural reforms and policies. Data from the General Authority for Statistics (GASTAT) indicates a real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rate of 2.8% year-on-year in the third quarter, driven by an impressive 4.2% expansion in non-oil sectors such as advanced manufacturing, retail, and sustainable construction. Governmental investment in education increased by 1.7%, focusing on expanding access to quality learning, modernizing curricula, and enhancing vocational training programs to better align with labor market demands. Meanwhile, infrastructure investment grew by 1.4%, prioritizing large-scale transportation projects, smart city developments, and digital connectivity initiatives, reinforcing the nation's comprehensive approach to economic diversification, a fundamental pillar of Vision 2030.

Fiscal management remained a cornerstone of economic policy in 2024. Despite a budget deficit of 1.9% of GDP, as projected in the Ministry of Finance's Budget Statement for 2024, Saudi Arabia leveraged innovative financing mechanisms, including USD 6 billion in green bonds and USD 3.5 billion in sukuks, to fund infrastructure and renewable energy projects. Such measures affirm the Kingdom's role as a leader in sustainable economic development within the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region.

In 2024, foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows exceeded USD 30 billion, primarily channeling resources into renewable energy development and state-of-the-art digital infrastructure. These achievements underscore Saudi Arabia's strategic positioning as a global hub for innovation and sustainability.



LEGAL AND POLICY REFORMS

In 2024, Saudi Arabia implemented progressive reforms in labor laws, women's empowerment, and inclusivity, reflecting its commitment to fostering a just and equitable society. For instance, Saudi Arabia introduced measures to expand maternity leave and establish workplace childcare facilities, encouraging higher female workforce participation. Additionally, the "Qiwa" labor reform initiative streamlined employment contracts to ensure transparency and enforce labor rights. Women's empowerment was further promoted through initiatives that increased women's representation in leadership





roles, with new quotas mandating 20% of board seats in public sector entities to be held by women. Women’s labor market participation reached 35.4%, a marked increase from 29.8% in 2023, driven by targeted initiatives supporting entrepreneurship and resource accessibility. These reforms represented significant strides toward parity between men and women, albeit with lingering disparities in political representation and broader economic inclusion. Inclusivity reforms extended protections for migrant workers, including the introduction of an electronic wage protection system to prevent exploitation and ensure timely payment of salaries. Additionally, in May 2024, the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development released the Guide to the Rights and Obligations of Domestic Workers in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. This guide serves as an educational resource, detailing the rights and responsibilities of both domestic workers and their employers, and aims to promote awareness and compliance with existing labor laws.



ENVIRONMENTAL ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERSISTENT CHALLENGES

A landmark achievement was COP16 Summit, hosted from 4 to 13 December 2024 in Riyadh. COP16 served as a global platform for addressing climate challenges. The summit spotlighted Saudi Arabia’s commitment to international climate policy and sustainability. During COP16, Saudi Arabia launched the Global Climate Adaptation Resilience Initiative (GCARI), pledging USD 10 billion toward renewable energy projects for climate-vulnerable nations. Additionally, the Circular Carbon Economy Strategy highlighted innovative approaches to achieving net-zero emissions by 2060, including carbon capture technologies and expansive renewable energy projects. These efforts reinforced Saudi Arabia’s leadership in the global effort to combat climate change.

The Saudi Green Initiative (SGI) reached key milestones in 2024, including a 300% increase in renewable energy capacity and the planting of 43.9 million trees, effectively addressing biodiversity restoration and combating desertification. However, water scarcity remains a pressing challenge for Saudi Arabia, one of the world’s most water-stressed nations. In

response, Saudi Arabia accelerated research in desalination and sustainable water management technologies, exemplifying a balanced approach to addressing environmental sustainability and resource scarcity.



URBANIZATION ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERSISTENT CHALLENGES

As Saudi Arabia undergoes rapid urbanization, the need for resilient infrastructure, efficient mobility solutions, affordable housing, and sustainable resource management has become increasingly critical. Expanding cities have placed mounting pressure on transportation networks, public services, and environmental sustainability, necessitating innovative urban planning approaches. Climate-related factors such as extreme temperatures and water scarcity add further complexities to urban development, requiring holistic solutions that balance environmental resilience with quality of life. At the same time, as Saudi cities evolve into global hubs, fostering economic diversification while preserving cultural heritage and ensuring social inclusivity remains a key priority.

In response to these challenges, Saudi Arabia is advancing forward-thinking urban policies, harnessing cutting-edge technologies, and integrating data-driven decision-making to develop smart, sustainable, and inclusive cities. Through the adoption of artificial intelligence, digital governance, and intelligent transportation networks, the country is optimizing urban efficiency, reducing congestion, and minimizing environmental impact. A steadfast commitment to sustainability is reflected in renewable energy initiatives, green building standards, and water conservation strategies, all of which contribute to long-term ecological balance. These forward-looking policies not only address immediate urban challenges but also align with global climate goals, reinforcing Saudi Arabia’s role as a leader in sustainable urban development.

Beyond infrastructure and technology, Saudi Arabia is actively reimagining urban spaces to promote social cohesion and livability. By prioritizing inclusive urban design, expanding public spaces, and fostering vibrant cultural and recreational environments, cities are becoming more people-centric and globally competitive.





Strategic investments in urban regeneration projects, such as revitalizing historical districts and enhancing public transportation networks, further contribute to the creation of dynamic, accessible, and culturally rich urban environments.

As a result of these transformative efforts, Saudi Arabia is setting new benchmarks for urban innovation, sustainability, and inclusivity on a global scale. By leveraging technological advancements, sustainability-driven policies, and human-centered urban planning, the Kingdom is not only shaping the future of its cities but also positioning itself as a global leader in modern urban development.



SDG-LINKED REPORTING PROCESSES

Saudi Arabia demonstrated measurable progress on key SDGs, particularly in health and education. Enhanced healthcare systems contributed to increased life expectancy, while educational reforms bolstered enrollment rates in primary education. These initiatives underscored Saudi Arabia's prioritization of human capital development as a cornerstone of its Vision 2030 agenda. However, challenges persisted in environmental sustainability, specifically in SDGs 13 Climate Action, SDG 14 Life Below Water, and SDG 15 Life on Land. Issues such as carbon emissions, marine ecosystem degradation, and land desertification necessitated further investment and policy innovation. These gaps emphasized the importance of integrating environmental considerations into economic growth strategies.



SAUDI ARABIA'S ROLE AS A GLOBAL AND REGIONAL LEADER

Saudi Arabia's geopolitical influence reached new heights in 2024, driven by its active role in international conflict mediation and multilateral diplomacy. Saudi Arabia facilitated peace dialogues for the Russia-Ukraine conflict and brokered negotiations in Sudan and Yemen.

Saudi Arabia's multifaceted advancements in 2024 illustrated its capability for transformative change and its strategic vision for the future. Through ambitious domestic reforms and proactive international engagement, Saudi Arabia positioned itself as a central actor in regional and global affairs. As it progresses toward the objectives of Vision 2030, Saudi Arabia's leadership in achieving the SDGs and fostering international cooperation will remain instrumental in shaping the region's trajectory and global dynamics.





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OVERVIEW
OF RESULTS



OVERVIEW OF RESULTS

Saudi Arabia and the United Nations embarked on a transformative partnership to advance the SDGs under the UNSDCF 2022-2026. This framework, strategically aligned with national priorities, establishes a cohesive platform for United

Nations support in realizing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Throughout 2024, Saudi Arabia leveraged synergies between Vision 2030 and the SDGs to facilitate progress toward a more sustainable and inclusive future.

VISION 2030 AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Vision 2030 and the SDGs are united by a commitment to prosperity, sustainability, and inclusivity. The United Nations - Saudi Arabia cooperation framework strategically aligns Vision 2030 with the global SDGs,

enabling targeted interventions in economic diversification, environmental sustainability, and social equity. This harmonized approach fosters 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



An assessment of Saudi Arabia’s advancement towards the SDGs highlights significant progress in monitoring and measuring national achievements. Currently, 10 out of 17 SDGs can be effectively tracked using quantifiable indicators with sufficient data availability,

defined as at least two data points per target. The current UN ESCWA status index metric, which evaluates national progress from 2015 to 2030, reveals notable achievements in two key SDGs that have already surpassed the projected 2024 threshold:




3 Good Health and Well-being



4 Quality Education

In addition, Saudi Arabia has demonstrated strong advancements in four additional SDGs,


with performance nearing the expected 2024 benchmarks:



2 Zero Hunger
Strengthening food security and nutrition initiatives.



9 Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure
Enhancing technological innovation and infrastructure development.



6 Clean Water and Sanitation
Expanding access to sustainable water resources and sanitation infrastructure.



17 Partnerships for the Goals
Reinforcing international cooperation and multi-stakeholder engagement.

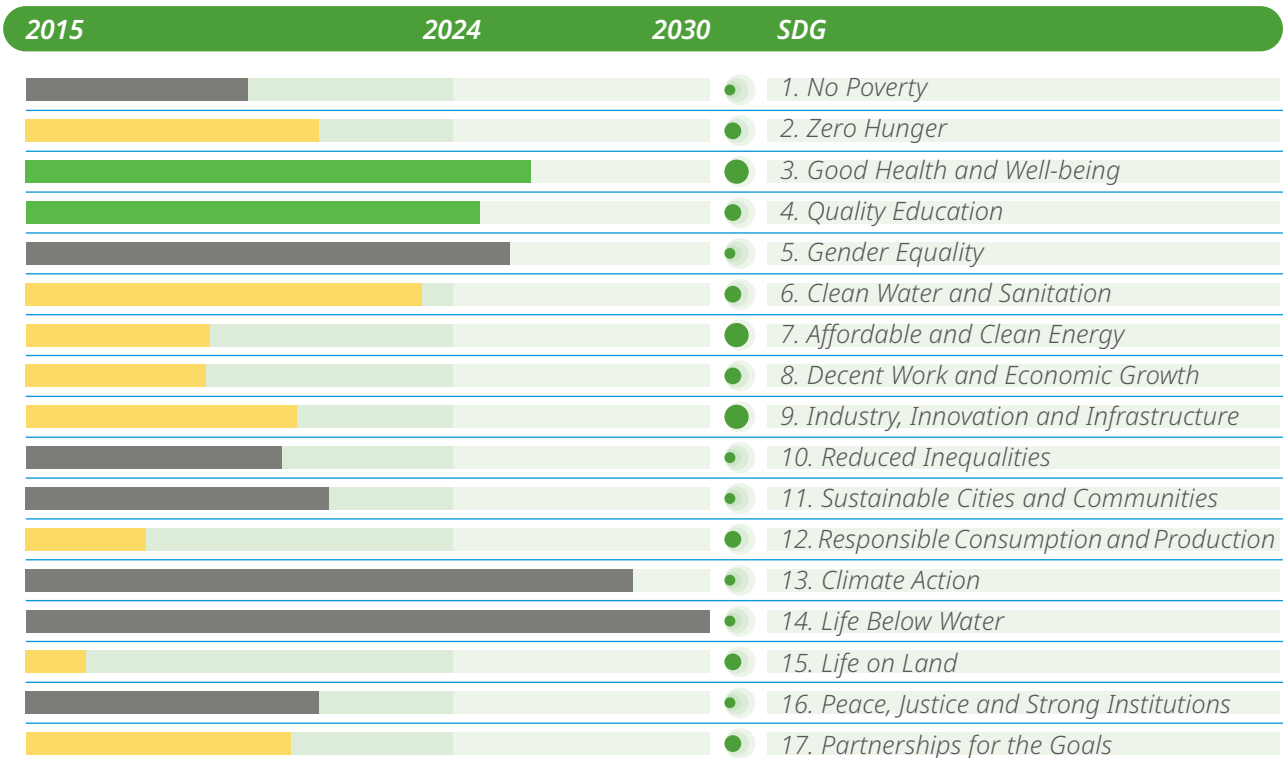


Figure 1. UN ESCWA SDGs Tracker. Saudi Arabia

These results reflect Saudi Arabia’s sustained efforts to leverage Vision 2030 and Agenda 2030 to strengthen national policy, emphasizing data-driven decision-making, institutional

coordination, and strategic investments in health, education, infrastructure, and international partnerships to accelerate SDG implementation.



UNSDCF 2022–2026

The UNSDCF 2022–2026, signed in June 2022, enhances the United Nations development system’s capacity to address emerging challenges and opportunities. It provides a collaborative framework for Saudi Arabia’s sustainable

development roadmap, structured around four Strategic Priority Areas, derived from the 2030 Agenda, the 17 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 2024, 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

Advancing Health, Education, and Gender Equality

The United Nations supported Saudi Arabia in improving healthcare systems, expanding education access, and promoting gender equality (SDGs 1-5). Targeted efforts in disease elimination, vaccination programs, and antimicrobial resistance (AMR) mitigation strengthened Saudi Arabia's public health infrastructure and global health security contributions. In gender equality, the United Nations worked to empower women in the workforce and leadership roles, particularly in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) and information and communications technology (ICT) sectors, supporting career progression and economic inclusion. Additionally, child protection and gender-based violence prevention programs reinforced social inclusion, ensuring a more equitable and safe society.



Planet

Promoting Environmental Sustainability

The United Nations played a key role in advancing climate action, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable resource management (SDGs 6, 12, 13, 14, 15). Saudi Arabia's leadership in hosting UNCCD COP16 demonstrated its global commitment to land restoration, desertification mitigation, and early warning systems. The United Nations also supported initiatives on waste management, water conservation, and clean energy transition, contributing to Saudi Arabia's green economy agenda and long-term environmental resilience.



Prosperity

Economic Diversification and Sustainable Development

To support inclusive economic growth (SDGs 7-11), the United Nations supported urban planning, agribusiness expansion, tourism development, and industrial innovation. The launch of Saudi Arabia's National Urban Policy (NUP) and Spatial Planning Act (SPA) laid the foundation for sustainable city development and smart infrastructure. The United Nations also contributed to entrepreneurship development, digital transformation, and investment in clean energy solutions, fostering economic diversification and sustainable job creation.



Peace, Partnerships, and Governance

Efforts to enhance governance, transparency, and accountability (SDGs 16-17) were a key priority for the United Nations' engagement in Saudi Arabia. Collaborations with NAZAHA on anti-corruption measures, support for human rights policy development, and assistance in strengthening public sector integrity helped improve institutional governance. Additionally, Saudi Arabia's election to ECOSOC (2025-2027) underscored its growing role in global governance, diplomacy, and international cooperation.

AVAILABLE RESOURCES



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



NUMBER OF PROGRAMMATIC INTERVENTIONS PER SDG



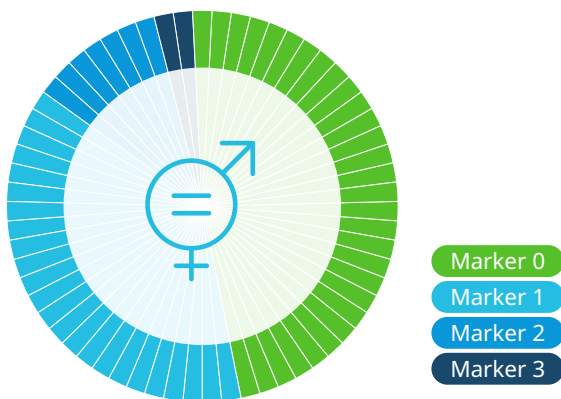
Figure 3. Number of Programmatic Interventions per SDG

LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND

In 2024, the United Nations in Saudi Arabia reinforced its commitment to gender equality, disability inclusion, and youth empowerment, supporting efforts that no one is left behind in the country's development trajectory. Through targeted interventions, policy support, and advocacy efforts, the United Nations worked alongside national stakeholders to enhance access to essential services, improve quality of life, and empower women, youth, and marginalized

populations to participate fully in economic and social life. The Joint Work Plan (JWP) and Results Framework (RF) incorporate Gender and Human Rights markers to ensure inclusive monitoring and results-based accountability. These mechanisms translated the UNSDCF priorities into measurable targets, strengthening evidence-based decision-making and fostering systemic resilience across key sectors.

Gender Equality Marker



Human Rights Marker

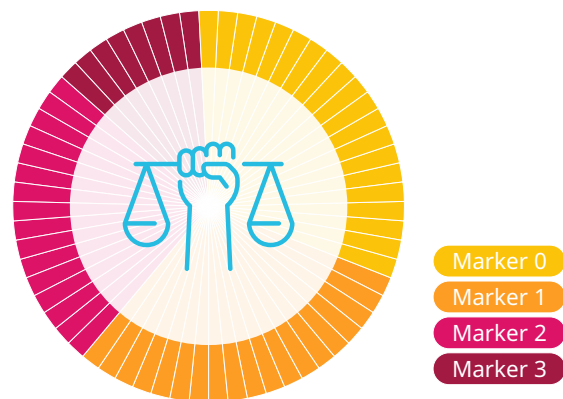


Figure 4. Thematic Markers Overview



A key achievement in gender equality was the mainstreaming of gender-responsive policies across multiple programs, guided by the UNCT System-Wide Action Plan Gender Equality Scorecard. Public awareness and advocacy campaigns exceeded expectations, solidifying gender equality as a central policy priority, while women's economic participation continued to expand through leadership initiatives and entrepreneurship programs. In disability inclusion, the United Nations embedded disability-sensitive programming within the Common Country Analysis (CCA) and UNSDCF, ensuring that policy frameworks, service delivery, and public engagement reflected the needs of persons with disabilities (PWDs). A disability inclusion training program strengthened the capacity of United Nations' personnel, while bilateral consultations with Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) contributed to the co-development of inclusive policies. Additionally, youth empowerment remained a central focus, with youth-targeted initiatives integrated into the JWP, addressing leadership development, digital innovation, and economic

inclusion. The dissection of marker scores in relation to the allocation of funds across various outcomes and outputs has underscored the necessity for a stronger emphasis on gender equality and human rights. A notable example of this commitment was the mobilization and capacity-building of 800 Saudi UN Volunteers for COP16 in Riyadh, where 63% of participants were female, 37% male, with an average age of 27, including 65 persons with disabilities.

While significant progress was made, challenges persist, including data gaps in rural areas, barriers to youth participation in policy-making, and inconsistent accessibility in public infrastructure and services for PWDs. The analysis of marker scores highlighted the need for greater emphasis on gender and human rights contributions, reinforcing the imperative to refine program sub-outputs and strengthen institutional accountability. Despite these challenges, 2024 laid a strong foundation for a more inclusive and equitable development approach.

CHALLENGES IN UNSDCF IMPLEMENTATION

While the implementation of the UNSDCF 2022-2026 continues to drive meaningful progress toward sustainable development, key challenges remain. Strengthening data quality and availability for evidence-based policymaking, enhancing multi-sectoral partnerships, and mobilizing resources for sustainable financing remain critical areas requiring focused attention.

Building on foundational efforts launched in 2022, the SDG Data Webinar Series, developed in collaboration with the Ministry of Economy and Planning (MEP), has continued to serve as a platform for addressing data gaps and improving statistical capacities.

The United Nations has also expanded its strategic engagement with non-traditional government entities, civil society, academia, and the private sector to advocate for vulnerable populations, address human mobility challenges, and strengthen human rights frameworks. These efforts contribute to further localizing the SDGs in Saudi Arabia, ensuring an inclusive and comprehensive approach to sustainable development.

Moving forward, the United Nations in Saudi Arabia remains committed to enhancing multi-sectoral partnerships, scaling data-driven solutions, and ensuring the full participation of marginalized communities in Saudi Arabia's transformation under Vision 2030 and the SDGs.





2.2



COOPERATION FRAMEWORK PRIORITIES AND OUTCOMES

In 2024, Saudi Arabia continued its progress in sustainable development, driven by the Vision 2030 framework and supported by key partnerships with United Nations agencies. This chapter highlights United Nations' tangible

achievements across four strategic priority areas, demonstrating its commitment to economic growth, environmental sustainability, and social inclusion in Saudi Arabia, all aligned with the SDGs.





Strategic Priority Area 1

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)

People



AGENCIES

FAO, IFAD, ILO, OHCHR, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UN Volunteers, WHO

In 2024, the United Nations supported programs in alignment with SDGs 1–5 and Leave No One Behind (LNOB) principle 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.

NUMBER OF PROGRAMMATIC INTERVENTIONS PER SDG



Figure 5. 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.

In 2024, the United Nations, in collaboration with Saudi Arabia's government, played a pivotal role in strengthening child protection systems and advancing violence prevention measures. Through the United Nations' advocacy, Saudi Arabia pledged its commitment at the first Global Ministerial Conference on Ending Violence Against Children, reinforcing national efforts to promote positive parenting, establish safe schools, and enhance child protection services. The United Nations also provided technical expertise to support the development of the National Framework for the Prevention and Protection of Children from Abuse, known as "We Detect and Protect." This multi-sectoral framework enhances inter-agency coordination,

ADVANCING CHILD PROTECTION AND ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN



early detection mechanisms, and intervention strategies to protect vulnerable children from abuse and exploitation.

Saudi Arabia's commitment to protecting children from violence has been reinforced through its contribution to the Second Global Status Report on Preventing Violence against Children, developed in partnership between UNICEF and WHO. This effort aligns with Saudi Arabia's broader child protection policies, ensuring that children grow up in safe environments free from violence, abuse, and neglect.

Recognizing the growing risks in the digital landscape, the United Nations and the Global Cybersecurity Forum (GCF) launched a multi-country initiative under HRH Prince Mohammed bin Salman's global initiative to protect children online. This collaboration focuses on enhancing cybersecurity measures, raising awareness, and equipping children, educators, and parents with tools to mitigate digital threats, ensuring a safer cyberspace for children across Saudi Arabia.

To enhance social protection investments for children, the United Nations, in partnership with the Family Affairs Council and the Ministry of Finance, launched Saudi Arabia's first-ever Child-focused Public Expenditure Measurement (C-PEM). Set to be implemented in 2025, C-PEM will enable the government to analyse public spending on children, identify service gaps, prevent duplication, and enhance budget allocations to improve social protection programs. This initiative will provide evidence-based recommendations to ensure that government expenditures effectively address the needs of children and vulnerable populations while promoting sustainable and inclusive development.

≈ ENHANCING ACCESS TO ESSENTIAL HEALTH AND PROTECTION SERVICES

In collaboration with the United Nations, Saudi Arabia has made significant strides in strengthening its public health system, expanding disease prevention programs, and improving healthcare access for all, particularly vulnerable populations. Technical support has been instrumental in combating communicable diseases, including progress in the elimination of malaria at the national level and the global eradication of polio, reinforcing Saudi Arabia's role in international health security. Additionally, targeted interventions to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV, hepatitis, and syphilis have

been prioritized, ensuring that newborns are protected from preventable infections.

Routine immunization remains a cornerstone of public health efforts. The United Nations actively contributed to the 6th Saudi International Vaccination Forum hosted from 28 to 30 May 2024 in Riyadh, fostering regional and global dialogue on vaccination policies and best practices. This aligns with the 50th anniversary of the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI), underscoring the country's commitment to increasing vaccine coverage and preventing outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases.

Beyond communicable diseases, the United Nations has provided technical support and advocacy for the elimination of childhood cancers and cervical cancer, aiming to enhance early detection, and strengthen national cancer control programs. Additionally, Saudi Arabia is actively progressing in non-communicable disease (NCD) prevention and control efforts, including combating tobacco use and exploring possibilities of restricting digital marketing, sharing best practices on plain packaging, and contributing to the WHO Report on the Global Tobacco Epidemic. Saudi Arabia has also been recognized among the first five countries to successfully implement trans-fat elimination policies, marking a significant milestone in nutrition and public health.

Further initiatives include advancing road traffic safety through improved data collection, triangulation, and analysis in collaboration with the Ministerial Committee of Traffic Safety and addressing air pollution and improving air quality to reduce health risks associated with environmental hazards. Saudi Arabia also completed the WHO Mental Health Atlas for 2024, contributing to a global understanding of mental health system capacities.

In the fight against antimicrobial resistance (AMR), Saudi Arabia is supporting data collection on antibiotic consumption, strengthening prescription monitoring and stewardship activities, and has funded the development of new WHO guidelines to reduce bloodstream infections from catheter use. Saudi Arabia played a key role in hosting the 4th Ministerial Summit on AMR on 14-16 November 2024, issuing the Jeddah Declaration, and participating in the UN General Assembly High-Level Meeting on AMR to drive global action on antimicrobial resistance.





Saudi Arabia continues to strengthen its role in the global health agenda by co-chairing the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body (INB) to update the International Health Regulations (IHR 2005), streamlining health data reporting, and advocating for transparency and data-sharing. Saudi Arabia also expanded its WHO Collaborating Centres, bringing the total to 10

centres in 2024, reinforcing its commitment to global health research and policy development. Under the Healthy Cities Programme, Saudi Arabia conducted assessment visits to certify three additional cities as healthy cities, further promoting public health and well-being at the local level and solidifying its leadership role in the region.

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.

≈ STRENGTHENING EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT IN SAUDI ARABIA

In 2024, the United Nations played a pivotal role in advising the Government of Saudi Arabia on policy reforms in early childhood education and care, ensuring alignment with Vision 2030 priorities and global best practices. The United Nations provided technical expertise in the development of the National Framework on Early Childhood Education, a key initiative aimed at enhancing access, quality, and inclusivity in early learning systems. This framework serves as a strategic roadmap to guide government institutions in delivering high-quality early childhood education services, ensuring that all children, including those with special needs, receive equitable learning opportunities from birth to six years old.

The United Nations has supported the expansion and strengthening of childcare services, focusing on multisectoral collaboration to integrate

health, nutrition, responsive caregiving, and child well-being into early childhood education programming. Strengthened early childhood development (ECD) systems are critical to inclusive education, particularly for children aged 0–6 years and those with special needs. By promoting quality service delivery and institutional capacity-building, these efforts contribute to enhanced school readiness, cognitive development, and overall child well-being, reinforcing Saudi Arabia's commitment to inclusive and equitable education.

≈ IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF HEALTH AND PROTECTION SERVICES

In collaboration with the United Nations, Saudi Arabia has taken significant steps to improve healthcare quality, patient safety, and medical standards, ensuring alignment with international best practices. A major initiative in 2024 focused on the standardized inclusion of the WHO Patient Safety Curriculum in medical education, equipping future healthcare professionals with comprehensive knowledge and skills to enhance patient safety and reduce medical errors. This effort is part of a broader strategy to embed a culture of safety, accountability, and continuous learning across the healthcare system.

To further strengthen healthcare delivery, the United Nations has provided technical support to enhance the quality of laboratory services. This includes capacity-building for laboratory professionals, the adoption of best practices in diagnostic procedures, and improvements in laboratory safety and accreditation standards. These efforts ensure that laboratories across Saudi Arabia continue to provide reliable, high-quality diagnostic services to support effective disease surveillance, early detection, and clinical decision-making.





In line with the United Nations' global initiatives to protect public health, Saudi Arabia continues to actively participate in the WHO Medical Product Alerts system, enabling timely identification and response to substandard or faulty medical

products and medicines. By ensuring swift action to prevent the circulation of unsafe medical products, Saudi Arabia reinforced its commitment to patient safety and the regulation of pharmaceuticals.

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.

≈ EMPOWERING SAUDI YOUTH THROUGH LEADERSHIP, CIVIC ENGAGEMENT, AND GLOBAL ADVOCACY

In 2024, the United Nations and its partners advanced a range of youth-focused initiatives aimed at leadership development, civic engagement, global advocacy, and sustainable development. These efforts, aligned with Vision 2030 and the SDGs, provided Saudi youth with opportunities to shape national policies, participate in global governance, and contribute to climate action and sustainability.

In 2024, the United Nations facilitated the Second Regional High-Level Meeting (HLM), which provided young leaders with a platform to develop advocacy skills and engage in key policy discussions on education, employment, and digital innovation. The meeting fostered knowledge exchange between youth, government representatives, civil society organizations (CSOs), and the private sector, ensuring that youth perspectives were integrated into policymaking. By adopting a gender lens and a human rights-based approach (HRBA), the HLM promoted broad accessibility and participation of marginalized groups, reinforcing Saudi Arabia's commitment to inclusive decision-making and youth empowerment.

The United Nations further expanded volunteering and leadership opportunities for Saudi youth, strengthening their engagement in international cooperation and sustainable development. The United Nations expanded international volunteering opportunities for Saudi youth, strengthening their leadership skills and global engagement. As part of this initiative, 20 Saudi youth were deployed as UN Volunteers across six countries, gaining firsthand experience in global governance, humanitarian response, and sustainable development projects. This initiative enhanced their technical expertise,

facilitated cross-cultural exchange, and reinforced Saudi Arabia's contributions to international cooperation.

The United Nations mobilized and trained 800 Saudi nationals to support COP16 in Riyadh, where volunteers—63% female and 37% male, including 65 persons with disabilities—contributed to event coordination, sustainable land management, and climate action initiatives. This large-scale engagement strengthened local expertise in environmental governance and empowered Saudi youth as active contributors to sustainable development, positioning them as future leaders in international diplomacy and climate advocacy.

Through the United Nations' support, 30 young people (50% girls) living in Saudi Arabia were equipped with knowledge, skills, and platforms to voice their concerns and priorities on global sustainability and climate resilience. As part of this commitment, young delegates actively participated in COP16, contributing their perspectives to climate policy discussions and advocating for youth-inclusive environmental policies.

To further amplify youth leadership and civic engagement, the United Nations partnered with civil society and academic institutions to promote active participation in development initiatives. The Green Circle Initiative, implemented in collaboration with Balad Alkhieer Endowment Foundation, promoted a bottom-up, community-driven approach to sustainable development by engaging local stakeholders in inclusive decision-making processes. Additionally, the United Nations' partnerships with Misk and the Saudi Youth Society provided young leaders with capacity-building programs, leadership training, and advocacy opportunities through annual SDGs Challenges and competitions, encouraging youth-driven innovation.

In the realm of scientific literacy and sustainability,





the United Nations collaborated with King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST) to advance the SDGs Collection initiative, integrating scientific research with global development goals. This program enhances youth involvement in sustainability solutions, empowering young scientists, researchers, and students to drive meaningful change.

≈ ADVANCING EDUCATION, HUMAN CAPITAL, AND GENDER EQUALITY

In line with Vision 2030's focus on education and skills development, Saudi Arabia partnered with the United Nations to organize a regional workshop on early childhood literacy, improving Arabic language education across Arab states. Furthermore, Prince Sultan University and the United Nations established Saudi Arabia's first Think Tank on Public Diplomacy, promoting research in governance and international cooperation. The Human Capability Initiative (HCI) Insight Report 2024, led by the United Nations, emphasized digital inclusion and education as critical pillars for future workforce development.

The United Nations advanced efforts to empower women entrepreneurs and foster innovation in the tourism sector across the region. The second edition of the Women in Tech Startup Competition – Middle East was launched, spotlighting the role of women-led startups in advancing the SDGs, particularly SDG 5 Gender Equality and SDG 9 Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure. Hosted in Riyadh, the competition finals featured dynamic panel discussions on bridging technology with transformative impact and celebrating women innovators. Two Saudi-based startups, Darent and BuzzAr, were recognized for their contributions to sustainable tourism and technological advancement.

To further support innovation, the Innovation Masterclass at TDF Grow (Riyadh, May 2024) was conducted in collaboration with the Tourism Development Fund (TDF) and Plug and Play Middle East. This initiative equipped tourism startups with tools to scale sustainably and drive long-term innovation. Participants benefited from expert-led sessions focused on business growth and environmental responsibility, reinforcing the ecosystem of sustainable tourism in Saudi Arabia.

≈ ENHANCING SKILLS RECOGNITION AND LIFELONG LEARNING FOR INCLUSIVE EMPLOYMENT

In 2024, significant progress was made in recognizing skills, competencies, and qualifications acquired through nonformal and informal learning. Functional systems for skills validation and certification have been developed and are currently in the final stages of validation. These systems ensure that workers can demonstrate and certify their skills, regardless of how they were acquired. Competency standards—which provide clear assessment tools to measure knowledge, skills, and attributes—have been introduced to help workers identify skill gaps and meet industry standards. To support this transition, technical assistance and capacity-building initiatives have been implemented, ensuring that competency standards reflect labour market needs. A National Skills and Lifelong Learning Policy, developed with the United Nations support, aims to bridge education-to-employment gaps by strengthening vocational training, career guidance, and industry partnerships. The policy prioritizes women, youth, and vulnerable populations, equipping them with market-relevant skills and removing barriers to employment. Additionally, targeted training programs in emerging sectors help to foster economic stability and create sustainable job opportunities. These initiatives broaden access to employment by removing systemic barriers for marginalized groups, including persons with disabilities.

≈ ADVANCING HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT IN TOURISM

In 2024, the Ministry of Tourism of Saudi Arabia, in partnership with the United Nations made significant strides in strengthening human capital development through expanded e-learning, labor market research, and education quality enhancement, aiming to build a skilled and inclusive tourism workforce. A key initiative involved the development of ten new Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) on the UN Tourism Online Academy, covering areas such as destination marketing, event management, digital transformation, and hospitality operations. These courses were translated into Arabic, Spanish, French, and Chinese, with scholarships offered to Saudi residents—particularly women—to promote equitable access. In parallel, the Online Academy underwent a major platform upgrade, supported by a global outreach campaign to boost enrollment.

To address workforce challenges, the Tourism Labour Market Observatory (TLMO) developed





a Comprehensive Labour Market Report and conducted an AI Impact Analysis on Tourism Jobs, offering data-driven insights to guide national policies promoting diversity and inclusion. Furthermore, the UNTourism TedQual Certification advanced quality standards in tourism education by aligning Saudi institutions

with global benchmarks, supported through tailored mentoring and quality assurance programs. The Tourism Faculty Development Programme (TFDP) enhanced curriculum design and teaching methodologies, equipping educators—especially women—with the skills needed to lead in tourism education.

OUTPUT 1.4

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

In 2024, the United Nations advanced agricultural innovation, technology adoption, and capacity building in Saudi Arabia, benefiting thousands of farmers, cooperatives, and agricultural professionals. The United Nations promoted nine cutting-edge technologies, including tissue culture for coffee and rose, improved cereal varieties, bee queen rearing packages, animal husbandry service delivery, Saudi Smart Flock, seaweed production, digital cameras for fishing boats, and smart drip irrigation systems. These interventions aimed to enhance productivity, improve resilience, and modernize agricultural practices across multiple value chains.

To strengthen capacity building and knowledge exchange, the United Nations trained 4,185 individuals through 172 training events, with 82% men and 18% women, while supporting 87 smallholders and cooperatives and 85 staff from the Ministry of Environment, Water, and Agriculture (MEWA). Furthermore, ten study tours engaged 164 participants from MEWA,

Reef program, National Center for Vegetation Cover (NCVC), and farmer cooperatives, fostering expertise in livestock value chains, coffee production, and forestry management. International study tours provided exposure to global best practices, with delegations traveling to Italy (beekeeping), Turkey (forestry), Morocco (agricultural extension and land desertification), Ethiopia (coffee Arabica), and the Republic of Korea (agricultural cooperatives).

The United Nations' support also strengthened institutional frameworks, directly establishing four new agricultural cooperatives and registering seven smart farmer field schools on an online learning platform. Additionally, 74 farmers, mainly women, received intensive training in fruit nursery management, honeybee value addition, and agribusiness development, alongside business advisory services and funding proposal development, facilitating access to financial resources and strengthening market linkages.





Strategic Priority Area 2

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)

Planet



AGENCIES

FAO, UNDP, UNEP, UN ESCWA, UNESCO, UNIDO, UN Volunteers

Together with the Government of Saudi Arabia, the United Nations worked steadily towards national efforts to ensure that the country's ecosystems and the planet's natural abundance are sustainably protected for future generations. In alignment with SDGs 6, 12, 13, 14, 15, some of the initiatives that proved most effective in Saudi Arabia throughout 2024 related to environmental governance and planning, international climate collaboration, and biodiversity and conservation efforts.

NUMBER OF PROGRAMMATIC INTERVENTIONS PER SDG

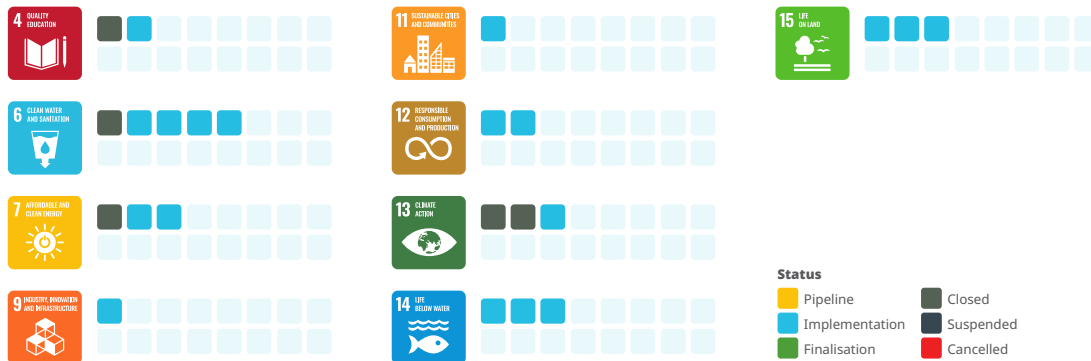


Figure 6. The number of different United Nations activities planned under Priority 2 per Sustainable Development Goal

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.

In 2024, the United Nations and its partners continued to strengthen Saudi Arabia's natural resource management systems, focusing on land, water, forests, and marine ecosystems. These efforts aligned with Saudi Vision 2030 and the SDGs, ensuring the safeguarding of biodiversity, the restoration of ecosystems, and the resilience of communities to environmental challenges such as desertification, water scarcity, and climate change.

LAND AND WATER SUSTAINABILITY

In partnership with the MEWA, UNDP and UN Women advanced women's participation, empowerment and employment opportunities in integrated land and water resource management. During COP16, a high-level event convened

policymakers, civil society organizations, and international experts to foster gender-responsive approaches in water governance, ensuring long-term sustainability and inclusivity.

The United Nations, working through the NCVC, spearheaded large-scale land restoration and biodiversity conservation efforts, contributing to SDG 14 Life Below Water and SDG 15 Life on Land. As part of Saudi Arabia's 50 billion Tree Afforestation Plan, 2.7 million hectares have already been rehabilitated, mitigating desertification and restoring fragile ecosystems. Additionally, under the National Research Development and Innovation (RDI) Plan, Saudi Arabia has taken steps toward generating 50% of its energy from renewable sources, reinforcing resilience in land and water ecosystems. Techno-



economic assessments on geothermal energy and other renewables were conducted, providing scalable solutions for national energy integration.

≈ **ADVANCING SUSTAINABLE LAND USE AND FOREST CONSERVATION**

To promote sustainable land management, The United Nations and NCVC introduced five innovative conservation technologies, ensuring long-term land and forest sustainability. Key initiatives included:

- **Scaling the National Forest Inventory:** Originally piloted in Albaha, now expanding nationwide with the United Nations technical support.
- **Forest Reservation Programme:** Covering 241 forests across four regions, mapped and surveyed for long-term conservation.
- **Ecotourism and National Park Management Plans:** Initially piloted in Wuthilan, now scaling to four additional national parks.
- **Community Grazing Management Systems:** Successfully implemented in Arar, with plans for expansion to additional grazing zones.

To combat desertification, the United Nations supported the installation of mechanical barriers across 2,600 hectares in Alhasa, with plans to expand to 14 additional sites. The establishment of a Pilot Sand Encroachment Monitoring Station in Alhasa enabled real-time data collection and analysis, with an additional 20 stations planned nationwide.

To enhance community engagement, the United Nations introduced the Ecovillage concept in Aljouf, promoting sustainable land management (SLM) practices. Additionally, 19 NGOs and environmental groups were mobilized across Alhasa and Aljouf, reinforcing grassroots participation in land restoration and conservation initiatives.

≈ **ENHANCING WATER EFFICIENCY THROUGH ADVANCED IRRIGATION SYSTEMS**

The United Nations played a pivotal role in modernizing water resource management by designing and implementing three advanced irrigation systems across 22 demonstration sites in eight regions: pressure-compensating bubblers for tree crops, pressure-compensating drip lines

for greenhouses, and movable sprinklers for grains.

These technologies have significantly increased water efficiency while reducing agricultural water waste, ensuring sustainable irrigation practices across Saudi Arabia.

To institutionalize best practices, the United Nations developed a comprehensive demonstration management manual, providing guidance for the Saudi Irrigation Organization (SIO) on future irrigation systems. Additionally, 138 government officials, extension agents, and lead farmers were trained in modern irrigation technologies.

The United Nations also supported SIO with five critical knowledge products, strengthening national capacity in water management and conservation: Irrigation system performance assessments; Saudi Codes and Standards for Irrigation Practices; Agricultural drainage system performance analysis; Control of invasive plants and weeds in drainage systems; National Irrigation Master Plan for Saudi Arabia.

≈ **PROTECTING BIODIVERSITY AND CULTURAL HERITAGE**

In 2024, Saudi Arabia strengthened its commitment to biodiversity conservation by launching the Saudi National Biodiversity Framework, developed in partnership with the United Nations and aligned with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. Furthering its cultural heritage conservation efforts, the United Nations facilitated a documentary heritage preservation workshop in AlUla, training local experts in digital archiving and conservation techniques. Saudi Arabia's Al-Faw Archaeological Site was inscribed on the United Nations World Heritage List, reinforcing the interconnection between environmental and cultural conservation.

To further promote its geological heritage, in connection with all other aspects of the area's natural and cultural heritage, Saudi Arabia, represented by NCVC, successfully submitted application dossiers for two aspiring Geoparks: the Geological Park in Northern Riyadh, 120 kilometres from the capital, and the Salma Geological Park in Hail, northern Saudi Arabia. Following the submission of the two new sites as UNESCO Aspiring Geoparks, NCVC, in collaboration with the United Nations, hosted a Regional Capacity Building Workshop to promote





Geopark concept in Arab States. The workshop brought together a wide range of experts and professionals in the field of geology and geo-heritage to share best practices, exchange knowledge and take stock of ongoing challenges and needs for the promotion and development of aspiring geoparks in the region.

Recognizing the critical role of youth in achieving sustainability, Saudi Arabia, represented by the National Wildlife Center (NCW), hosted the first edition of the ARABMAB Youth Forum, from 17–19 December 2024 in Jazan, Saudi Arabia. The event convened over 50 young leaders, researchers, and conservationists from across the Arab region. The forum was designed to foster knowledge exchange, promote sustainable development, and strengthen youth engagement within the United Nations’ Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme. The forum emphasized the role of youth in bridging the gap between local communities and policymakers, particularly in the governance and management of biosphere reserves. It provided a platform to empower youth to take active roles in biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration, and sustainable resource management, while addressing regional

environmental challenges. A highlight of the forum was the field visit to the Farasan Island Biosphere Reserve, Saudi Arabia’s first designated United Nations biosphere reserve. Participants gained insights into conservation challenges and sustainable management practices, reinforcing the importance of integrating traditional knowledge with innovative approaches to environmental stewardship. The field visit also provided an opportunity for participants to interact with local communities, strengthening the connection between conservation efforts and social inclusivity.

≈ **STRENGTHENING WATER AND SANITATION MONITORING**

To advance clean water and sanitation initiatives, the United Nations and MEWA hosted a national workshop on Monitoring and Reporting of SDG 6 Water and Sanitation in October 2024. This gathering brought together key SDG 6 indicator custodian agencies, fostering collaboration and enhancing Saudi Arabia’s capacity to track and report progress on water security and sanitation.

OUTPUT 2.2

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

Saudi Arabia has made significant strides in advancing responsible consumption and climate action, with the United Nations providing technical support, capacity-building, and public awareness initiatives to drive sustainable environmental practices. Throughout 2024, the focus remained on fostering a culture of environmental responsibility, strengthening institutional capacities, and mobilizing national and global action toward sustainability.

≈ **PROMOTING ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS AND ADVOCACY**

Saudi Arabia’s hosting of World Environment Day 2024 on 5 June 2024 provided a platform to highlight national and global efforts on land restoration, desertification prevention, and drought resilience—critical themes that align with the country’s Vision 2030 goals. Furthermore, Saudi Arabia hosted the UNCCD COP16 from 2 to 13 December 2024 in Riyadh,

convening international stakeholders to mobilize global action on sustainable land management and climate adaptation. These events reinforced Saudi Arabia’s role as a leader in environmental sustainability and strengthened public awareness of pressing climate challenges.

Saudi Arabia demonstrated global leadership in climate adaptation at UNCCD COP16 in 2024, launching two landmark initiatives:

- Riyadh Global Drought Resilience Partnership: Targeting 80 countries most vulnerable to drought, providing technical support and financial assistance.
- Sand and Dust Storm Monitoring Initiative: Expanding global early warning system capacities to mitigate the impact of sand and dust storms. The initiative will be operated by the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Regional Sand and Dust Storms Warning Advisory and Assessment Node, based at the National





Center for Meteorology (NCM) in Jeddah. Saudi Arabia pledged USD 10 million over the next five years, calling on other nations and United Nations agencies to contribute.

These initiatives build on the outcomes of the First International Conference on Sand and Dust Storms, convened by NCM and United Nations in Riyadh on March 4 - 6, 2024, alongside the Capacity Building Workshop on Sand and Dust Storm Analysis and Modelling in the Arab Region, organized in partnership with the United Nations on March 2 - 3, 2024.

To support national awareness efforts, a communication strategy for MEWA was developed, facilitating advocacy campaigns, educational materials, and stakeholder engagement to promote climate action. Additionally, over 131 workshops, seminars, and training sessions were delivered, reaching 4,757 participants in-person and online, ensuring widespread knowledge dissemination on responsible consumption, climate resilience, and sustainability best practices.

≈ **STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT**

The United Nations provided technical support to the Saudi Environment Fund, offering guidance on privatization strategies, incentive structures, and grant implementation to strengthen environmental financing mechanisms. The development of the third phase of the Environmental Performance Index included a comprehensive review, adjustments, and finalization, alongside upgrades to the environmental dashboard at MEWA, ensuring improved monitoring and reporting of sustainability progress. Capacity-building efforts were further reinforced through support to key environmental institutions. Technical assistance was provided to the National Center for Waste Management, focusing on masterplan development, awareness strategies, and Extended Producer Responsibility schemes. Similarly, collaboration with the National Center for Environmental Compliance (NCEC) led to the development of the National Chemical Safety Initiative, improved water quality monitoring systems, and the formulation of a roadmap for the Minamata Convention implementation in Saudi Arabia.

UNIDO, in collaboration with UNEP, launched the Hydrochlorofluorocarbons Phase-out Management Plan (HPMP) Stage II to support Saudi Arabia's efforts in reducing ozone-depleting substances (ODS) in compliance with the Montreal Protocol. This initiative aligns with the SDG 9 Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure, SDG 12 Responsible Consumption and Production, and SDG 13 Climate Action by strengthening institutional capacities and promoting environmentally sustainable industrial practices. The project, implemented in partnership with the MEWA, the National Ozone Unit (NOU), and the NCEC, aims to phase out hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) in Saudi Arabia's industrial and commercial sectors, ensuring compliance with international environmental agreements while fostering sustainable production practices.

≈ **ADVANCING CONSERVATION AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE**

Recognizing the importance of biodiversity conservation, the United Nations supported the NCW in implementing best practices for captive breeding, conservation, and habitat protection strategies. Key initiatives included the development of human-wildlife conflict mitigation strategies, emergency response plans for terrestrial wildlife, and a strategic action plan for cheetah reintroduction.

Additionally, collaboration with the NCM led to the proposal for the reorganization of NCM's structure, site selection for 12 cloud seeding systems, and specialized training for NCM staff to enhance national climate resilience efforts.

≈ **DRIVING POLICY AND LEGAL REFORMS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

The State of the Environment Report was developed to provide a comprehensive analysis of Saudi Arabia's environmental progress, challenges, and policy recommendations. Legal advisory support was also extended to strengthen enforcement mechanisms for environmental crimes, ensuring that national laws align with international best practices.





Strategic Priority Area 3

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

Prosperity



AGENCIES

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

Over the course of 2024, 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, 8, 9, 10, 11 were particularly successful in bolstering the Saudi Arabia's urban planning, entrepreneurial, and agricultural sectors.

NUMBER OF PROGRAMMATIC INTERVENTIONS PER SDG

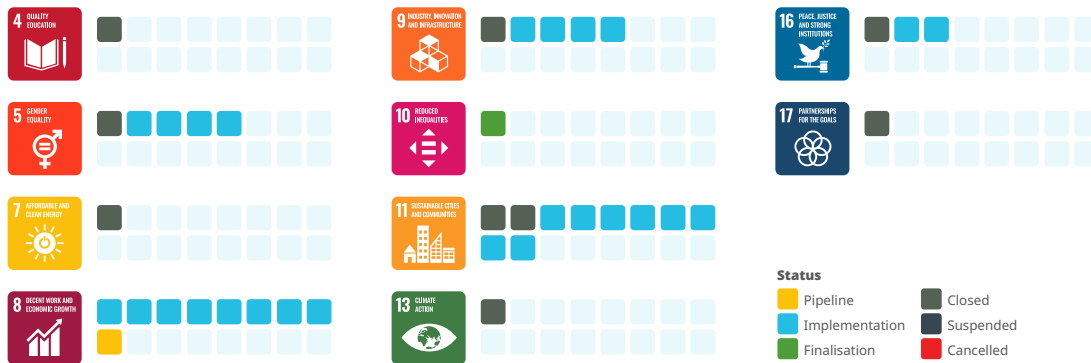


Figure 7. The number of different United Nations activities planned under Priority 3 per Sustainable Development Goal

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 Occupational safety and health (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.

In 2024, the United Nations, in collaboration with the Ministry of Economy and Planning (MEP), played a key role in enhancing regional development governance and fostering inclusive economic growth in Saudi Arabia. The United Nations supported the development of regional development strategies, providing guidelines and policy recommendations to local authorities and sensitizing Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) as a tool to address localized development challenges. Working closely with five regional authorities, the United Nations helped identify and capitalize on regional competitive advantages, contributing to economic diversification, job creation, and sustainable growth. Additionally, the United Nations facilitated capacity-building programs for regional leaders, equipping them with the

ADVANCING REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH



tools and expertise necessary to establish specialized economic clusters. A notable initiative was the United Nations' research collaboration with MEP to develop the Value Chain of Olive Agriculture and Oil, aimed at enhancing economic efficiency, diversifying agricultural production, and expanding employment opportunities, particularly in rural areas.

Beyond rural development, the United Nations provided technical analyses and strategic recommendations to inform the design of selected regional development strategies, ensuring alignment with local needs and opportunities. These efforts emphasized inclusive economic growth, tailoring regional development plans to reflect local strengths while focusing on employment generation and innovation. Complementing these efforts, the United Nations implemented training programs and knowledge-sharing initiatives to strengthen the technical and strategic capacities of policymakers. Key initiatives included a circular economy course, which introduced sustainable resource efficiency practices, and a big data and artificial intelligence training, demonstrating digital solutions for economic resilience.

As part of its commitment to gender inclusion, the United Nations' targeted efforts in women's economic empowerment contributed to raising Saudi Arabia's female labor force participation rate to 30%. These collective initiatives underscore the United Nations' pivotal role in driving economic resilience, fostering innovation, and advancing inclusive development, ensuring that Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 objectives are met with sustainable and equitable growth strategies.

≈ ENHANCING SAUDI ARABIA'S ANTI-TRAFFICKING FRAMEWORK

The "Enhancing Mechanisms to Combat Trafficking in Persons in Saudi Arabia" project significantly advanced Saudi Arabia's anti-trafficking policy framework by developing key tools, training programs, and awareness initiatives. A major milestone was the establishment of monitoring and evaluation (M&E) tools for case management, improving the identification, referral, and tracking of trafficking in persons (TiP) cases. These measures strengthened interagency coordination, ensuring more effective interventions in the protection of trafficking victims and the prosecution of perpetrators.

To build institutional capacity, the United Nations launched a Training of Trainers (ToT) programme, equipping labour officials, law enforcement, and social workers with standardized knowledge and skills to train others on best practices in combating trafficking. Additionally, the United Nations developed awareness materials, including a leaflet for embassies to help consular officials recognize TiP indicators and a handbook for employers of domestic workers to promote ethical labour practices and prevent exploitation. These efforts reinforced Saudi Arabia's commitment to protecting migrant workers' rights and preventing human trafficking.

≈ STRENGTHENING SAUDI ARABIA'S ANTI-TRAFFICKING FRAMEWORK IN LINE WITH INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS

In 2024, Saudi Arabia advanced its efforts to combat TiP through the second phase of a joint project between the United Nations and the Saudi Human Rights Commission, which chairs the National Committee for Combating Human Trafficking (NCCHT). This initiative focused on building institutional capacities, enhancing inter-agency coordination, and ensuring victim-centered approaches in anti-trafficking efforts. A total of 1,440 practitioners (24% women)—including government officials from NCCHT member entities—benefited from a series of specialized training workshops. These sessions covered investigative techniques, victim identification, interviewing protocols, protection strategies, and labor inspection reporting. As part of the initiative, a study visit to Austria was organized, providing Saudi officials with first-hand exposure to international best practices in counter-trafficking efforts.

The United Nations also conducted Saudi Arabia's first TiP mock trial, offering criminal justice practitioners a simulated environment to strengthen their legal response, prosecution strategies, and victim protection measures. Additionally, a ToT program was implemented, equipping selected officials with the expertise to cascade knowledge within their respective institutions, ensuring long-term sustainability of anti-trafficking efforts. The National Referral Mechanism (NRM) for Victims of TiP, originally launched with the United Nations' support in March 2020, was successfully updated in 2024. The revised mechanism enhances inter-agency coordination, victim support services, and case





management procedures, reinforcing Saudi Arabia's commitment to a survivor-centered approach.

To further institutionalize anti-trafficking measures, contextualized resources were developed, including:

- Guidelines for police units and prosecution departments to improve case handling and ensure timely interventions;
- A code of conduct for companies to prevent forced labor within supply chains, promoting corporate accountability in anti-trafficking measures;
- Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for hospitals and medical centers, enabling frontline healthcare workers to identify and refer TiP victims for appropriate protection and rehabilitation.

These initiatives collectively strengthen Saudi Arabia's ability to prevent, suppress, and prosecute trafficking in persons while aligning national efforts with international best practices and human rights standards.

≈ ALIGNING SAUDI ARABIA'S ANTI-TRAFFICKING EFFORTS WITH INTERNATIONAL LABOUR STANDARDS

To support Saudi Arabia's efforts in aligning with international legal frameworks and enhancing its response to Trafficking in Persons (TiP), the United Nations conducted specialized training sessions on the International Classification Standards on Trafficking in Persons (IC-TiP) for entities represented in the National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking (NCCHT). These capacity-building efforts aimed to reinforce institutional coherence by aligning national anti-trafficking frameworks with global best practices. The trainings focused on strengthening case management systems and equipping officials with standardized tools to identify, monitor, and respond to TiP cases more effectively. Participants gained technical knowledge in victim identification, legal frameworks, referral mechanisms, and data-driven decision-making processes. These efforts supported a more coordinated, systematic, and rights-based response across relevant agencies. This initiative also played a pivotal role in strengthening policy implementation and institutional capacity

through inter-agency collaboration. It enhanced operational efficiency in identifying and responding to trafficking cases, while raising public awareness through increased community engagement and private sector participation. Together, these interventions contributed to the development of a more integrated, victim-centered approach to combatting human trafficking.

These ongoing efforts reflect Saudi Arabia's commitment to protecting vulnerable populations, promoting safer labor migration pathways, and advancing equitable employment opportunities in line with international human rights and labor standards.

A significant milestone in 2024 was Saudi Arabia's ratification of the ILO Convention No. 187 – Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health, on 4 June 2024. As the seventh fundamental ILO convention ratified by Saudi Arabia, this step underscores the country's commitment to advancing workers' rights and strengthening workplace safety. The convention, set to enter into force on 4 June 2025, will enhance Saudi Arabia's occupational safety and health (OSH) frameworks, support the reduction of workplace accidents and diseases, and promote a preventive safety culture across industries.

The Saudi Human Rights Commission, as the chair entity of NCCHT, collaborated with the United Nations to organize a regional symposium on cross-border cooperation in combating human trafficking. The event gathered representatives from all GCC countries and Jordan to enhance policy coordination and victim protection mechanisms. Saudi Arabia actively participated in the 5th edition of the Intergovernmental Forum for Combating Human Trafficking in the Middle East, co-organized by the United Nations, Oman (host), and Bahrain (Secretariat). The forum focused on labor legislation and procedural improvements for combating human trafficking, with participation from ministerial-level delegations from the GCC, Egypt, Jordan, the United Kingdom, and the United States. More than 150 officials attended, including one-third women, reflecting gender-inclusive policy discussions.





≈ **STRENGTHENING CHILD PROTECTION AND OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY STANDARDS. WITH INTERNATIONAL LABOUR STANDARDS**

In 2024, the United Nations collaborated with the FAC to enhance child protection measures and combat child labor in Saudi Arabia. These efforts aimed to equip social workers, labor inspectors, educators, and law enforcement officials with the necessary skills to identify, prevent, and respond to child labor violations effectively. A training program on child labor prevention, developed in partnership with FAC, introduced the Supporting Children’s Rights through Education, Arts, and Media (SCREAM) methodology, which targeted a diverse group of stakeholders, including media professionals, education staff, social workers, and government representatives. This initiative emphasized the critical role of public awareness and media engagement in preventing child labor and promoting children’s rights.

Additionally, a ToT program was conducted for 50 professionals, including social and psychological workers, case managers, labor inspectors, school principals, and police officers. The training provided technical and theoretical knowledge on international child labor standards, national legislation, and best practices in child protection and labor inspection. Participants engaged in interactive learning methods, strengthening their ability to detect, document, and report child labor cases. These efforts reinforce fundamental human rights, ensuring that children, particularly those from marginalized backgrounds, are protected from exploitation. The program also promoted equity and social inclusion, addressing barriers that disproportionately affect vulnerable youth, such as children with disabilities and those from low-income households.

≈ **ADVANCING OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH (OSH) IN SAUDI ARABIA**

Following the adoption of Saudi Arabia’s National Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Policy, the United Nations continued its technical support to enhance workplace safety and labor rights. A comprehensive OSH strategy and implementation framework were developed in collaboration with the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development (MHRSD), aligning with international labor standards, particularly the Occupational Safety and Health Convention (No. 155) and the Promotional

Framework on Occupational Safety and Health Convention (No. 187). The national OSH strategy establishes clear objectives, priorities, and policy actions to strengthen workplace protections. It promotes a secure work environment that fosters equitable participation, ensuring that marginalized groups benefit from robust labor protections. This inclusive approach removes structural barriers and enhances compliance with international occupational safety and health regulations, contributing to Vision 2030’s goal of creating a safer, fairer, and more sustainable labor market. Saudi Arabia expanded its commitment to labor rights protection by launching a targeted training program with the the United Nations to prevent child labor. This initiative combined education, arts, and media engagement to raise awareness and implement preventive measures, ensuring at-risk children receive necessary social protections.

≈ **ENHANCING CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE CAPACITIES IN SAUDI ARABIA**

The United Nations, in partnership with the Training Department of Naif Arab University for Security Sciences (NAUSS), supported the Ministry of Interior in strengthening crime prevention strategies through targeted capacity-building programs. A total of 26 law enforcement officers from the MoI enhanced their expertise in youth crime prevention and crime rehabilitation, focusing on strategies for the treatment, rehabilitation, and social reintegration of inmates. The training introduced international best practices in alternative sentencing, community-based rehabilitation, and offender reintegration, ensuring a more effective and human rights-based approach to criminal justice. Additionally, 27 officials from the Crime Research Centre (CRC) within the Ministry of Interior participated in an introductory training workshop aimed at aligning national crime data production systems with international standards. The training emphasized the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes (ICCS), a globally recognized framework for enhancing the quality and comparability of crime and criminal justice data. By integrating these methodologies, Saudi Arabia improved its ability to track and analyze crime trends, facilitating evidence-based policymaking and aligning with SDGs monitoring on public security, safety, trafficking, corruption, and access to justice.





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.

In 2024, the United Nations, in collaboration with Saudi Arabia's government entities, played a critical role in advancing sustainable urbanization and cultural heritage preservation. Through strategic partnerships with United Nations agencies, efforts focused on strengthening urban governance, promoting inclusive city planning, and integrating sustainability into urban development policies. The United Nations provided technical expertise, policy guidance, and capacity-building initiatives to support Saudi Arabia's urban transformation under Vision 2030, ensuring that vulnerable populations, climate resilience, and cultural preservation remain central priorities.

≈ **STRENGTHENING URBAN GOVERNANCE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

In partnership with the Ministry of Municipalities and Housing (MOMAH), UN-Habitat and UNDP launched a comprehensive initiative aimed at improving urban governance and city planning in Saudi Arabia. Building on previous collaboration, particularly since 2016 under the Future Saudi Cities Programme, this initiative sets the foundation for urban transformation by integrating participatory planning, stakeholder engagement, and evidence-based policymaking. This current initiative that continues until 2027, focused on stakeholder engagement, benchmarking, and the development of a strategic methodology to guide future urban expansion efforts. It promotes multi-level governance, enabling local authorities to identify challenges, develop tailored solutions, and implement urban planning frameworks that reflect their cities' unique needs.

After assembling a specialized team and establishing the project framework, the initiative progressed with an in-depth assessment of existing urban development policies. This evaluation laid the foundation for the creation of a new methodological approach, outlining development objectives and urban planning scenarios that will be tested in 2025. These efforts have been structured around six major initiatives: (1) development of a National Urban Policy; (2) updating and adoption of a Spatial Planning Act; (3) a Classification and Reconfiguration of

Municipal Services exercise that aligns with the ambitious development vision of Saudi Arabia; (4) development of a new operational model for municipalities to enhance efficiency and effectiveness; (5) Revision of Local Plans and Urban Codes; (6) and the establishment of an Urban Lab embedded within MOMHA, as a strategic space to explore and solve urban challenges identified as key gaps across cities in Saudi Arabia. UN-Habitat and UNDPs best global practices and tools are playing a key role in providing cutting edge experience and technical assistance to these areas of work and enhancement.

A major priority of this initiative was to enhance the capacities of subnational governments, including Amanahs and Baladiyahs, to improve service delivery and integrate sustainable urban planning strategies. By fostering local governance structures and increasing technical capacity, the project aimed to equip sub-national authorities with the tools needed to effectively manage rapid urban expansion while ensuring inclusivity and environmental sustainability. One of the primary outcomes of the project was the development of an inclusive and sustainable urban development strategy, incorporating principles of social inclusion, equitable access to services, and environmental stewardship.

≈ **DEVELOPING A COMPREHENSIVE URBAN POLICY FRAMEWORK**

To further support the country's urban transformation, the United Nations and MOMAH launched two key initiatives focused on strengthening urban governance and spatial planning frameworks. These initiatives aimed to establish a National Urban Policy (NUP) and review the draft Spatial Planning Act (SPA) to redefine planning tools, roles, and responsibilities for urban development management. The process involved a systematic review of national urban policies, an assessment of global best practices, and a diagnostic analysis of Saudi Arabia's urban challenges and governance gaps.

To ensure that the urban policy framework was evidence-based and aligned with international standards, benchmarking exercises and institutional analyses were conducted.





Additionally, stakeholder consultations were held with MOMAH Deputyships to validate policy priorities and refine governance strategies. A key focus of the initiative was the integration of gender, human rights, and disability inclusion into Saudi Arabia's urban planning processes. By identifying gaps in gender-responsive policies and accessibility measures, the framework incorporated strategic policy directions aimed at ensuring social inclusion and equitable urban development. The outcomes of this initiative will guide the implementation of policy actions in 2025, reinforcing Saudi Arabia's commitment to sustainable, inclusive, and resilient urban growth.

Through its engagement with MOMAH, Riyadh Amanah, and the Royal Commission for Makkah City and the Holy Sites (RCMC), the United Nations supported Saudi Arabia in advancing urban planning, governance, and international collaboration to support Saudi Arabia's sustainable urban development agenda. Key initiatives have focused on knowledge exchange through study visits and high-level engagements, fostering global partnerships to align Saudi urban policies with international best practices. Strategic support has been provided for national urban policy development, regional and local planning, and investment strategies, ensuring that urban growth aligns with Vision 2030 objectives. In Makkah, the United Nations has contributed to spatial growth planning, promoting smart infrastructure solutions and environmental sustainability considerations to manage the city's rapid expansion. Additionally, efforts have centered on digital transformation in urban planning, supporting the development of data management systems that enhance real-time decision-making, cross-agency coordination, and transparency. The United Nations has also worked on quality assurance in planning processes, integrating benchmarking methodologies and monitoring frameworks to future-proof Saudi Arabia's urban policies.

≈ DRIVING INNOVATION IN URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Saudi Arabia reinforced its role in shaping international urban development policies through its election to ECOSOC, highlighting the country's growing influence in global sustainable development agendas. In addition, the United Nations and the Madinah Region Development Authority facilitated a high-level workshop on sustainable investment strategies, focusing on

aligning urban expansion efforts with the SDGs. These initiatives supported data-driven urban planning and reinforced the importance of social inclusion in infrastructure development, ensuring that Saudi Arabia's cities remain resilient and adaptive to future challenges. To further catalyze innovation, MOMAH launched an Urban Design Studio, fostering cutting-edge urban development solutions. Complementing this initiative, the newly established Urban Lab serves as a policy and research hub, piloting innovative urban regulatory frameworks and leveraging the United Nations' global expertise to enhance city planning and governance. At the 12th session of the World Urban Forum (WUF12) in Cairo, the Saudi Delegation showcased its commitment to urban innovation, hosting side-events and workshops highlighting forward-thinking solutions to specific urban challenges. These included mobile applications for crowdfunding affordable housing, illustrating how technology-driven approaches can address social and economic housing needs.

≈ SPEARHEADING LOCALIZATION OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

As part of the United Nations' mandate to advance the localization of the SDGs, Saudi Arabia has taken significant steps to integrate SDG-focused urban planning into its governance structures. The United Nations has played a key role in supporting Saudi cities in aligning their development priorities with global sustainability goals by facilitating Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs)—a crucial mechanism for tracking urban progress and strengthening evidence-based decision-making.

In Madinah, the United Nations has supported the Madinah Development Authority in reaching its SDG targets and adopting a people-centered smart city approach. This transformation aims to establish Madinah as a dynamic, sustainable, and inclusive city, ensuring a high quality of life for its residents and visitors. The impact of the VLR will continue to unfold throughout 2025 and beyond, guiding strategic urban planning and policy implementation.

In Buraydah (Al-Qassim), the United Nations worked to enhance urban planning through data-driven strategies. The Qassim Urban Observatory played a pivotal role in collecting high-quality data to inform urban policy, ensuring that





decision-making is aligned with national and global SDG targets. The Buraydah VLR focused on mainstreaming the SDGs, strengthening stakeholder engagement, and empowering sustainable local development. More than 60 indicators were developed to assess progress across seven SDGs (SDG 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 11, and 17), providing a comprehensive roadmap for the city's sustainable growth.

≈ **ADVANCING CLEAN COOKING SOLUTIONS AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

Beyond urban policy reforms, Saudi Arabia made significant advancements in clean energy solutions for sustainable urban development. In collaboration with the King Abdullah Petroleum Studies and Research Center (KAPSARC) and the United Nations, Saudi Arabia launched a major report titled *The Role of LPG in Enabling a Just and Inclusive Energy Transition in Africa and the Arab*

Region. This study provided a comprehensive assessment of the clean cooking landscape, outlining the social, environmental, and economic benefits of expanding LPG use. It highlighted key policy recommendations, emphasizing the need for regulatory reforms, financial mobilization, and multi-sector partnerships to address the clean cooking deficit and advance progress toward SDG 7 Affordable and Clean Energy and SDG 13 Climate Action. To further promote sustainable urbanization, KAPSARC, in collaboration with Expo City Dubai, the High-Level Climate Champions, and leading UN-affiliated institutions, issued a report titled *Unlocking Energy Efficiency in the GCC Built Environment*. This research identified major barriers to decarbonizing the building sector in the Gulf, focusing on financial, regulatory, and structural challenges. The report also showcased best practices in renewable energy integration, digital transformation in urban design, and regional collaboration for sustainable urban infrastructure.

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.

≈ **EXPANDING WOMEN'S ACCESS TO THE TECH SECTOR**

In 2024, the United Nations made significant progress in enhancing Saudi women's participation in the technology sector, supporting inclusive employment pathways and economic empowerment. In collaboration with Nokia Al Saudia, the United Nations provided technical assistance to the third edition of the Nokia Al Saudia Internship Programme, which engaged 22 Saudi women ICT students from five universities. The initiative aimed to facilitate their integration into the tech industry by providing hands-on project management experience, mentorship, and job training opportunities. The impact of the

programme on women's employability and career progression will be evaluated in 2025, contributing to evidence-based policy interventions for gender inclusion in the digital economy.

To further strengthen the capacity of female ICT professionals, the United Nations conducted a learning session on 12 July, covering topics such as global and national gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE) trends, Saudi Arabia's progress on GEWE, and the relevance of gender inclusion in the digital economy. The session also incorporated a focus group discussion, gathering insights on the barriers faced by women in the tech sector, their motivations for joining, and the structural challenges that hinder their career progression. During the closing ceremony on 15 September, the United Nations linked this initiative to global digital governance frameworks, including the Global Digital Compact and the 30th Anniversary Review of the Beijing Platform for Action, underscoring Saudi Arabia's leadership role in gender and digital transformation as it prepares to preside over the Commission on the Status of Women in 2025.





≈ **ADVANCING WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT THROUGH INNOVATION**

Saudi Arabia cemented its role as a regional fintech leader by hosting the UNCTAD-Saudi Development Bank FintechHub Workshop, which trained thirty-three fintech entrepreneurs, enhancing their ability to drive digital financial inclusion. Furthermore, the Empretec LogiHub Workshop provided 21 Saudi entrepreneurs with expertise in smart logistics, reinforcing Saudi Arabia's emerging role in sustainable supply chain innovation.

≈ **PARTNERSHIPS DRIVING INCLUSIVE URBAN AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

The United Nations, in collaboration with Saudi Arabia's Quality of Life Program, successfully scaled efforts to enhance urban well-being and gender-inclusive planning through data-driven policymaking under the Quality of Life Initiative project. The initiative piloted the Quality of Life Index in Madinah, alongside international

cities such as Vancouver, Queretaro, Nis, Udon Thani, Kampala, and Quito, equipping Saudi policymakers with data-driven tools to improve liveability. These efforts contributed to inclusive city planning, addressing human rights, youth engagement, gender equality, and disability inclusion. As part of the initiative's scale-up, Riyadh is set to conclude its pilot phase, while Al Khober and additional Saudi cities will integrate the Quality of Life Index, ensuring regional knowledge-sharing and best practice exchange.

The Quality of Life Initiative project provides actionable insights into nine key policy domains, allowing decision-makers to identify gaps, improve accessibility, and foster inclusive urban development. By integrating gender-responsive city planning, youth-friendly policies, and disability-inclusive infrastructure, the initiative strengthens Saudi Arabia's commitment to inclusive urban governance under Vision 2030. Additionally, technical webinars were launched to build municipal capacities, reinforcing evidence-based decision-making in Saudi Arabia's urban transformation agenda.





Strategic Priority Area 4

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

Peace, Partnership, and
Other Cross-Cutting
Issues



AGENCIES

ILO, IOM, ITU, OHCHR, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNODC, UN OCHA

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.

NUMBER OF PROGRAMMATIC INTERVENTIONS PER SDG

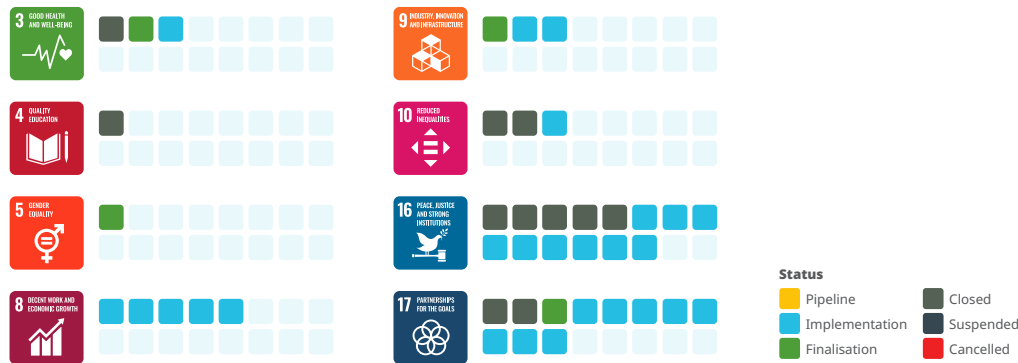


Figure 8. The number of different United Nations activities planned under Priority 4 per Sustainable Development Goal

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.

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.

STRENGTHENING HUMAN RIGHTS RESEARCH AND DATA COLLECTION

In 2024, the United Nations, in collaboration with the Saudi Human Rights Commission (SHRC), advanced the establishment of a dedicated research center focused on human rights data and research. This initiative aims to enhance research capabilities in international human rights standards, positioning the center as a national hub for reliable human rights data. By serving as a bridge between national and global stakeholders, including civil society organizations (CSOs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and governmental entities, the center will foster collaboration and knowledge exchange. Additionally, it will facilitate research on



frameworks that protect and empower vulnerable groups, including women, children, and persons with disabilities.

≈ **ADVANCING CHILD WELLBEING MONITORING THROUGH MICS7**

In 2024, the United Nations and the General Authority for Statistics (GASTAT) made significant progress in strengthening Saudi Arabia’s child wellbeing data ecosystem. A key milestone was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the implementation of the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS7) in Saudi Arabia. MICS7 is a globally recognized tool for producing high-quality, internationally comparable data that will enhance national policy formulation, program monitoring, and strategic investments in child rights, health, education, and social protection. The final MICS7 reports will play a critical role in addressing data gaps, ensuring that existing policies are effectively monitored, and shaping new policy interventions that align with Vision 2030 and global development targets. By offering disaggregated data, MICS7 will enable evidence-based decision-making, allowing policymakers to identify vulnerabilities and design targeted social programs that respond to the needs of marginalized or vulnerable children.

≈ **ADVANCING CYBERSECURITY AND AI GOVERNANCE**

Saudi Arabia continued its leadership in AI ethics and cybersecurity governance through strategic partnerships with international organizations. In 2024, the United Nations and the Global Cybersecurity Forum (GCF) launched a global initiative to enhance child online protection, expanding educational programs, helpline services, and digital literacy initiatives across thirty countries. In parallel, the UNESCO Category 2 Center for AI Research and Ethics (ICAIRE) was inaugurated in Riyadh, positioning Saudi Arabia as a regional and global leader in ethical AI governance. This center will play a pivotal role in developing policy frameworks for AI ethics, privacy regulations, and responsible technology use, ensuring that emerging technologies align with human rights principles and international standards.

≈ **ENHANCING MULTI-REGIONAL DIGITAL REGULATION WITH SAUDI SUPPORT**

Since 2019, the United Nations has partnered with Saudi Arabia’s Communications, Space and Technology Commission (CST) to strengthen digital regulatory capacities while advancing Saudi Arabia’s own digital regulation expertise. Implemented in three biennial phases, the project concluded its second phase in 2022, followed by a third phase—formalized through the first addendum—concluding in 2024. Preparations are currently underway for a third addendum to extend the project until the end of 2026. The initiative has delivered extensive regional impact, including a recent digital regulation training for African countries held from 12 to 22 November 2024. Notably, the project contributed to the establishment of Saudi Arabia’s National Digital Regulations Committee, positioning Saudi Arabia as a recognized leader in digital regulation.

The partnership has made significant contributions to Vision 2030’s digital transformation objectives by enhancing Saudi Arabia’s collaborative and structured approach to digital regulatory policy development, building long-term institutional capacity by training national experts in digital regulation, providing tailored advisory services to improve regulatory frameworks and implementation mechanisms.

≈ **ENHANCING REGIONAL RESEARCH AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT ON DRUGS AND CRIME**

As part of efforts to strengthen governance, security, and justice systems, the United Nations in collaboration with the NAUSS Interregional Centre of Excellence for Evidence-based Drug Control, Crime Prevention, and Criminal Justice Policies and Strategies, advanced regional research and policy development to address drug trafficking, cybercrime, and transnational organized crime.

In 2024, two regional research briefs were produced, focusing on comprehensive strategies to combat illicit synthetic drug trafficking in cyberspace, addressing the evolving challenges of online drug markets; the impact of modern technologies on transnational organized crime, exploring both the risks and potential opportunities for enhancing law enforcement capabilities.





Building on these findings, the United Nations and NAUSS announced in November 2024 the launch of a collaborative research project to assess the threat of amphetamine-type stimulants across the Arab region. This initiative will inform evidence-based policy recommendations for drug control strategies, leveraging previous research from Iraq and Libya and expanding in-depth data collection from other selected countries. By strengthening data-driven approaches, this research contributes to improving national and regional responses to drug trafficking and crime prevention.

≈ **ENHANCING INDUSTRIAL POLICY THROUGH STRENGTHENED STATISTICAL DATA COLLECTION**

The United Nations, in partnership with the Ministry of Industry and Mineral Resources, launched the Strengthening Statistical Data for Industrial Policy in Saudi Arabia initiative to improve the quality, reliability, and accessibility of industrial data. This project aligns with SDG 9 Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure and supports evidence-based policymaking to foster industrial growth and economic diversification. By enhancing data collection from manufacturing firms through modern statistical tools and efficient processes, this initiative aims to ensure that data-driven strategies align with national development priorities, including the National Industrial Strategy (NIS) and other policy programs. Scheduled for implementation in 2025, the project will focus on integrating sex-disaggregated data into industrial performance indicators, training MIM staff on gender-sensitive data collection, and ensuring that all knowledge products include dedicated sections on gender inclusion. Dissemination materials

will incorporate gender-responsive language and visuals, and recruitment under the project will promote gender parity to reflect equal representation in industrial policy development.

≈ **ENHANCING LABOR MARKET DATA AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT**

In 2024, the United Nations and MHRSD advanced efforts to strengthen labor market data collection, policy formulation, and capacity-building initiatives. These efforts align with Saudi Vision 2030 by improving employment forecasting, skills development, and labor market efficiency. To address skills mismatches and labor market needs, a technical advisor in skills was placed in the MHRSD as of July 2024. The technical guidance was provided on measuring skills mismatches, developing mismatch indicators, and crafting skills policies and regulations. Additionally, capacity-building programs and on-the-job training were delivered, ensuring that labor market policies remain adaptive and responsive to economic shifts.

Recognizing the need for evidence-based employment policies, the United Nations organized a training workshop on employment impact assessment to enhance policy design for job creation and economic development. The workshop equipped MHRSD employees with competencies to measure and assess employment effects across various economic, sectoral, and trade-related policies. Participants received hands-on training on labor market forecasting, impact measurement methodologies, and policy evaluation tools, strengthening the government's ability to develop data-driven employment strategies.





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 2024, the United Nations, in collaboration with Saudi Arabia's institutions, played a vital role in advancing transparency, integrity, and responsible governance. Strategic efforts were undertaken to enhance institutional capacities, combat corruption, and strengthen accountability mechanisms in alignment with international standards. These initiatives have reinforced Saudi Arabia's commitment to good governance, ensuring the protection of human rights, labor standards, and anti-corruption policies, while fostering an environment of ethical public service and corporate responsibility.

≈ **COMBATING DRUG TRAFFICKING AND CYBER CRIME THOROUGH REGIONAL COOPERATION**

Saudi Arabia has actively engaged in various initiatives at the GCC and broader Arab region levels to strengthen collaboration, policy frameworks, and institutional capacities in combating illicit drug trafficking, transnational organized crime, corruption, and terrorism. These efforts align with international best practices and commitments under SDG 16 Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions.

In 2024, Saudi officials participated in a technical workshop conducted by the United Nations, which contributed to the development of the first GCC Drug Control Strategy (2025-2028), adopted by the GCC Supreme Council on December 1, 2024. This strategy provides a coordinated, multi-country framework to combat drug trafficking and substance abuse across the region. Saudi representatives also engaged in regional exchanges on emerging trends in illicit drug trafficking, particularly synthetic opioids, Lyrica, and new psychoactive substances (NPS), including smuggling through sea freight routes. Joint capacity-building initiatives were launched, including a training workshop on countering illicit drug trafficking in cyberspace, conducted by the United Nations in collaboration with the GCC Criminal Information Centre to Combat Drugs. In partnership with the NAUSS Interregional Centre of Excellence, the United Nations supported the development of a comprehensive curriculum for a high-level diploma on drug control strategies,

set to be launched in 2025. This initiative aims to train practitioners and policymakers across the Arab region, strengthening expertise in modern drug enforcement and policy development.

Saudi officials engaged in a high-level United Nations-GCC seminar on cybercrime trends and challenges, addressing cyber-dependent and cyber-enabled crimes. The session reinforced regional cooperation and the need for a unified framework for cybercrime investigations. Senior Saudi representatives participated in a GCC-level strategic dialogue facilitated by the United Nations and the GCC Secretariat General on criminal justice responses to terrorism and emerging threats. The United Nations delivered a regional training workshop on countering the illegal export of Somali charcoal to Gulf States and associated risks of money laundering and terrorist financing. The workshop was hosted by the NAUSS Interregional Centre of Excellence and focused on detecting financial crime networks and improving interagency collaboration. In partnership with the Saudi Oversight and Anti-Corruption Authority (NAZAHA), the United Nations facilitated a regional expert group meeting in Riyadh to review the legal and operational challenges of parallel financial investigations.

As part of its criminal justice reform efforts, the United Nations partnered with NAUSS to organize a study visit to Norway for 25 officials from the Saudi General Directorate of Prisons (Ministry of Interior). This exchange with the Norwegian Correctional Service provided insights into best practices in prison administration and rehabilitation programs, supporting Saudi Arabia's efforts to modernize its correctional system.

≈ **PROMOTING INTEGRITY AND RESPONSIBLE GOVERNANCE**

The United Nations, in partnership with NAZAHA, played a central role in strengthening Saudi Arabia's anti-corruption framework and promoting ethical governance. Institutional capacity-building efforts exposed NAZAHA staff to international best practices in anti-corruption





standards, enhancing their technical expertise and refining operational methodologies. These efforts aligned with Saudi Arabia's broader governance modernization agenda, reinforcing transparency, ethical public service, and the implementation of accountability measures across key government institutions.

A significant milestone in 2024 was the completion of the second international expert report on anti-corruption, which facilitated cross-sector collaboration between Saudi government stakeholders. This report engaged leading institutions, including the Ministry of Justice, Zakat, Tax, and Customs Authority, Ministry of Commerce, Saudi Financial Investigation Unit (SAFIU), King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center, the Saudi Fund for Development, Saudi Export Development Agency, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA). Through a combination of tailored participatory mechanisms—including structured questionnaires, in-depth interviews, and follow-up consultations—the United Nations promoted inclusive participation, knowledge-sharing, and commitment from key decision-makers. The use of small-group consultations and trust-based dialogue strengthened the quality and impact of discussions, leading to actionable recommendations for improved governance and accountability.

Further advancing governance reforms, capacity-building efforts under MOFA equipped Saudi professionals with the necessary skills and expertise to enhance Saudi representation in international organizations. These strategic interventions strengthened Saudi Arabia's engagement in global governance, reinforcing its role as an advocate for international cooperation and ethical leadership.

≈ ENHANCING SAUDI ARABIA'S CAPACITY IN SPACE REGULATION AND RADIO SERVICES

In 2024, Saudi Arabia made significant advancements in space telecommunications through a strategic partnership between the United Nations and the Communications, Space & Technology Commission (CST). This collaboration focused on strengthening regulatory frameworks, enhancing technical capacity, and improving international coordination in satellite communications—key areas in alignment with the Saudi Vision 2030 digital transformation agenda.

With full financial and technical backing from CST, the United Nations expert was deployed in Saudi Arabia for over five months, providing both in-country and remote support throughout the year. Fourteen targeted activities were implemented, including the review and enhancement of national regulations for space radio services, the development of a Space Spectrum Outlook, support for international frequency coordination, and the identification of satellite interference risks. The project also provided tailored technical guidance on Radio regulations and prepared Saudi contributions to global regulatory forums.

A key achievement was the training of 15 national experts in space services, contributing to long-term local capacity-building and institutional sustainability. The initiative resulted in tangible regulatory improvements and reinforced Saudi Arabia's leadership in the global space communications landscape.





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 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.

≈ ENHANCING REGIONAL COLLABORATION ON SOCIAL INCLUSION

In 2024, Saudi Arabia played a pivotal role in advancing regional dialogue and cooperation by actively participating in the UAE Data and Social Development Forum, particularly in the side event on Older Persons co-organized by the United Nations and GCCSTAT. This engagement contributed to institutional capacity-building in data governance, digital transformation, and community development across the GCC countries. Saudi Arabia's contributions to knowledge exchange facilitated improved service delivery models and enhanced social dialogue mechanisms, reinforcing inclusivity and intergenerational solidarity in policy discussions.

The forum provided a platform for discussing critical aspects of older persons' well-being, including gender considerations, human rights-based approaches, disability inclusion, and social protection mechanisms. Through structured discussions and expert insights, Saudi Arabia and its regional counterparts developed policy recommendations to improve services and protections for aging populations. Furthermore, the integration of digital transformation in service provision enabled innovative solutions to enhance accessibility, participation, and empowerment of older persons, contributing to a more inclusive and equitable society.

≈ ALIGNING NATIONAL LEGAL FRAMEWORKS WITH INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS STANDARDS

The United Nations collaborated with the SHRC to conduct a comprehensive legal study analyzing

the 30 rights outlined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). This initiative helped identify gaps in national legislation and supported the alignment of Saudi Arabia's legal framework with international human rights covenants and treaties. The study resulted in the creation of a clear and structured analytical framework, facilitating the integration of international human rights standards into national legal practices. A key focus of the study was empowering vulnerable groups, including women, children, and persons with disabilities. By examining existing international protection mechanisms, the study provided actionable insights on how to effectively implement global human rights frameworks at the national level.

≈ STRENGTHENING BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS ACCOUNTABILITY

The United Nations further supported the SHRC in conducting a legal impact assessment regarding Saudi Arabia's potential accession to an international legally binding human rights instrument. This study mapped national laws and regulations governing business activities with a focus on adherence to human rights standards. It also promoted partnerships and international cooperation, ensuring greater corporate accountability and compliance with global human rights principles. Through this initiative, Saudi Arabia took important steps toward strengthening human rights protections in business operations, ensuring ethical business practices, corporate social responsibility, and adherence to international human rights standards.

≈ STRENGTHENING SOCIAL DIALOGUE AND POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

In 2024, the United Nations collaborated with MHRSD to enhance social dialogue mechanisms and evidence-based policymaking. These efforts contribute to the broader Cooperation Programme by fostering tripartite engagement between the government, employers, and workers to strengthen labor market governance and policy development. A key component of these efforts was the training program for





the Social Dialogue Unit and other tripartite stakeholders, aimed at improving their capacity to facilitate constructive dialogue, resolve labor disputes, and shape labor policies that reflect diverse perspectives. The program equipped MHRSD staff with practical skills in evidence-based policy formulation, implementation, and monitoring, ensuring that labor policies remain inclusive, transparent, and aligned with global best practices. Additionally, the training introduced impact assessment, monitoring, and evaluation mechanisms, enabling policymakers to analyze labor market trends and assess the effectiveness of employment policies. By integrating these tools, Saudi Arabia is strengthening institutional accountability and fostering more responsive labor market policies that align with Vision 2030 objectives.

BUILDING NATIONAL CAPACITIES FOR HUMAN RIGHTS GOVERNANCE

To further strengthen national human rights governance, the United Nations conducted a targeted training program for SHRC officials in preparation for Saudi Arabia's Universal Periodic Review (UPR) in 2024. The training equipped participants with the skills and tools necessary to effectively report on human rights developments, ensuring that Saudi Arabia's submissions to the UPR were clear, accurate, and aligned with international standards. Additionally, the program enhanced the capacity of Saudi representatives to engage in meaningful discussions and constructive dialogue during the UPR review.

Participants received training on responding to international recommendations, presenting Saudi Arabia's progress, and addressing challenges in human rights governance. A key component of the training was the implementation of international human rights mechanisms that protect vulnerable groups, including women, children, and persons with disabilities. The program emphasized practical approaches to embedding human rights protections in national governance structures, ensuring that Saudi Arabia remains proactive in promoting human rights at both national and international levels.

ADVANCING HUMANITARIAN COORDINATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

The United Nations focused on enhancing national and regional coordination mechanisms to support more effective humanitarian response efforts. It facilitated strategic partnerships across government entities, the private sector, and international stakeholders, while advocating for increased and more predictable humanitarian funding from Saudi Arabia as a key global donor. Technical assistance included support for data collection and needs analysis to inform evidence-based humanitarian programming, as well as capacity-building in resource mobilization strategies. These efforts aimed to strengthen Saudi Arabia's role in addressing global humanitarian challenges and advancing a more resilient, inclusive, and sustainable future through principled and coordinated response efforts.





2.3

SUPPORT TO PARTNERSHIPS AND FINANCING THE UNITED NATIONS AGENDA 2030 FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



SAUDI - UNITED NATIONS PARTNERSHIP

In 2024, Saudi Arabia and the United Nations strengthened their partnership through several key initiatives aligned with sustainable development and global cooperation. Notably, Saudi Arabia hosted the 16th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP16) of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in Riyadh from December 2–13, 2024. This milestone event, marking the 30th anniversary of the UNCCD, was the largest United Nations land conference to date and the first held in the Middle East and North Africa region. The conference convened under the theme “Our Land. Our Future. Our Legacy: Uniting for Drought Resilience,” emphasizing Saudi Arabia’s commitment to combating desertification and promoting sustainable land management.

In preparation for World Environment Day 2024, Saudi Arabia collaborated with the United Nations to launch campaigns aimed at combating desertification, restoring degraded lands, and building drought resilience. These efforts underscored Saudi Arabia’s proactive stance in addressing environmental challenges and fostering sustainable development.

Additionally, Saudi Arabia participated in the United Nations High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) 2024 held in New York from July 8–18, 2024. This engagement highlighted the Kingdom’s ongoing commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its dedication to achieving the SDGs.

Furthermore, the Jeddah Commitments on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) were established during a global ministerial conference in November 2024 supported by FAO, WHO, UNEP and the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH). These commitments represent a collective declaration to open a new chapter in global efforts to address AMR, building a coalition of willing nations to turn the tide against this pressing health threat.



QUALITY OF LIFE INITIATIVE

The Quality of Life Initiative and key municipal and international partners, expanded efforts to strengthen urban liveability, inclusivity, and sustainability. The initiative piloted the Quality of Life Index in Medina, alongside global cities such as Vancouver, Queretaro, Nis, Udon Thani, Kampala, and Quito, facilitating cross-regional learning and knowledge exchange. The pilot process empowered Saudi cities with enhanced data collection capabilities, stakeholder engagement strategies, and evidence-based urban planning frameworks.

At the heart of this initiative is a strong multi-stakeholder collaboration between municipal governments, international experts, civil society organizations, and the private sector, fostering an integrated approach to urban development. The Quality of Life Index provides critical insights across nine policy domains, supporting Saudi policymakers in shaping urban strategies that prioritize human rights, youth engagement, gender equality, and disability inclusion. By leveraging global best practices





and local expertise, the initiative promotes inclusive, data-driven, and socially responsive urban development. Additionally, technical webinars and capacity-building workshops were introduced to equip city leaders and planners with practical tools for enhancing service delivery, infrastructure accessibility, and public participation.

Through these strategic partnerships, Saudi Arabia is setting new benchmarks in urban planning and livability, aligning with Vision 2030 to create vibrant, people-centered cities. The initiative's focus on youth-friendly urban policies, gender-responsive city planning, and barrier-free environments for persons with disabilities reinforces its commitment to equity and sustainability. By embedding inclusive principles into urban governance, the Quality of Life Initiative is not only shaping the future of Saudi cities but also contributing to a global movement towards more sustainable and liveable urban environments.

the forefront of corporate decision-making and national policy development.

The UNGC Network also played a significant role in supporting the success of UNCCD COP16, engaging thousands of companies in sustainability dialogues, knowledge-sharing initiatives, and collaborative action. By mobilizing private sector engagement in global sustainability discussions, the Network ensured that businesses contributed meaningfully to shaping the global sustainability agenda, reinforcing Saudi Arabia's leadership in sustainable and responsible business practices.



UN GLOBAL COMPACT LOCAL NETWORK

In 2024, the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) Network in Saudi Arabia played a pivotal role in advancing corporate sustainability in alignment with the national agenda, supporting over 100 companies in integrating Environmental, Social, and Governance principles into their operations. As the leading private sector platform for advancing the SDGs, the UNGC Network provided businesses with tools, resources, and collaborative opportunities to enhance their sustainability strategies. Through capacity-building workshops, policy dialogues, and cross-sector partnerships, the UNGC Network empowered companies to navigate sustainability challenges and positioned Saudi Arabia as a global leader in responsible business practices.

A core pillar of the UNGC Network's work was its strong government partnerships, which secured it a seat on all national committees related to corporate sustainability. This trusted collaboration positioned the UNGC Network as a key advisor to both the public and private sectors, ensuring that sustainability remained at





2.4

RESULTS OF THE UNITED NATIONS WORKING MORE AND BETTER TOGETHER

In 2024, the United Nations in Saudi Arabia continued to strengthen its coordination and operational coherence to more efficiently support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs in Saudi Arabia.

Following agreement reached in the UNCT Annual Retreat in May 2024, the internal coordination structure of the UNCT was reconfigured to align with the four strategic UNSDCF result areas: People, Planet, Prosperity, and Peace & Partnerships with a dedicated Result Group for each result area. To streamline coordination and significantly reduce coordination overhead, the United Nations cross-cutting normative programme areas - Gender, Youth, Disability Inclusion, and Human Rights are now represented by designated Advisors within the Programme Support Team (PST) rather than through separate coordination groups. The PST has further strengthened the Joint Workplans and Results Framework, providing for increasingly more cohesive work around the UNSDCF's four priorities with measurable targets and commitments.

The Operations Management Team (OMT), supported by the Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator and the United Nations Development Coordination Offices' Regional Business Operations Specialist, undertook a review of the Business Operations Strategy (BOS) with a focus on optimizing operational efficiency and preparing for the annual BOS update. Furthermore, the UNCT has initiated discussion on the potential for implementing, in a phased manner, a Common Back Office, aiming to reduce operational costs and increase efficiency. The OMT will explore potential areas for Common Operations in 2025.

In 2024, 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. Under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator, efforts to deepen external engagement and foster internal synergy continued, enhancing the overall impact, visibility, and operational effectiveness of the United Nations' presence in Saudi Arabia.



2.5

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

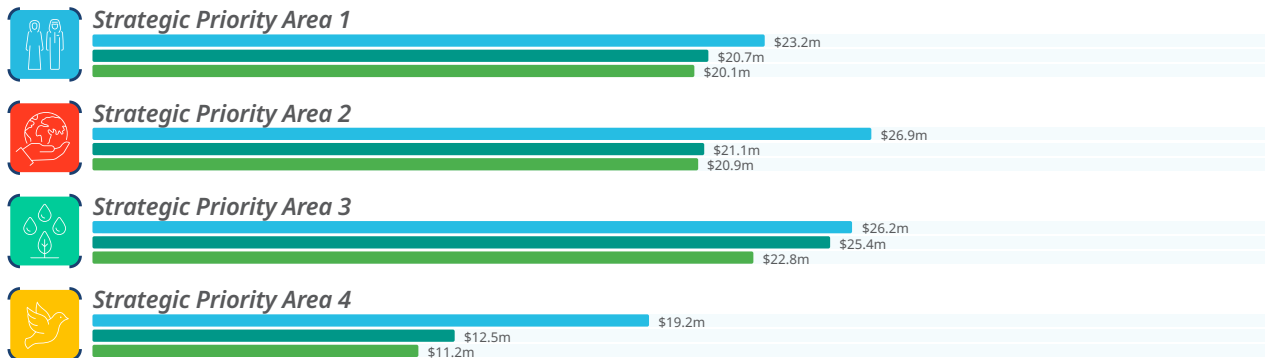
The implementation of the UNSDCF has benefited from generous support from the Government of Saudi Arabia. In 2024, the United Nations had available resources totaling USD 76,331,402, out of the USD 91,434,069 required—resulting in an

83.5% coverage of the total needed resources. Of the funds available, USD 71,790,840 was spent, achieving a 94% delivery rate in terms of expenditure

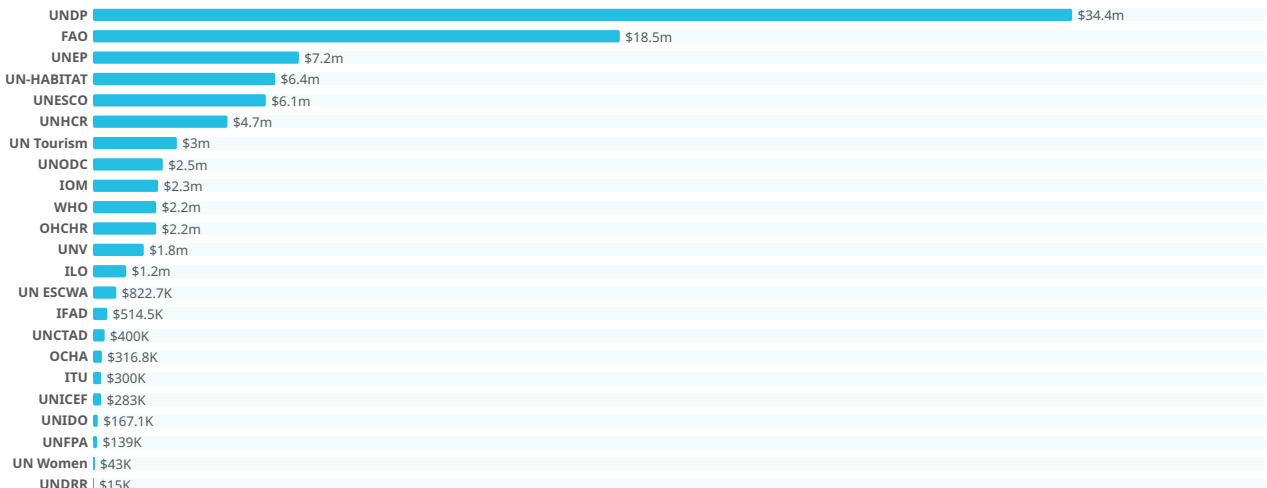
PROGRAMMATIC INTERVENTIONS BY STRATEGIC PRIORITY



REQUIRED, AVAILABLE, AND EXPENDITURE BY STRATEGIC PRIORITY

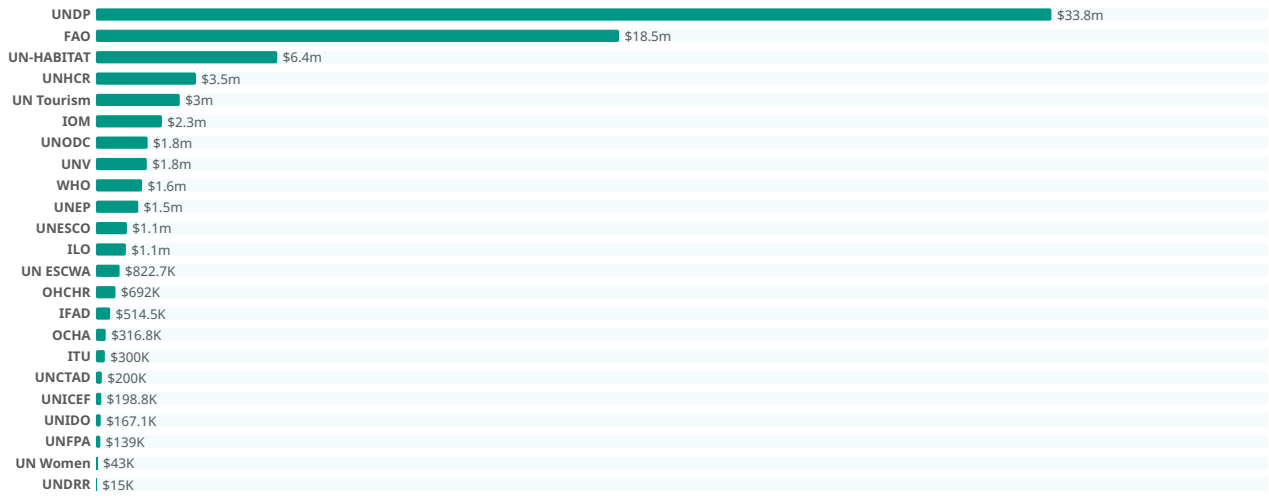


REQUIRED BY UN ENTITY

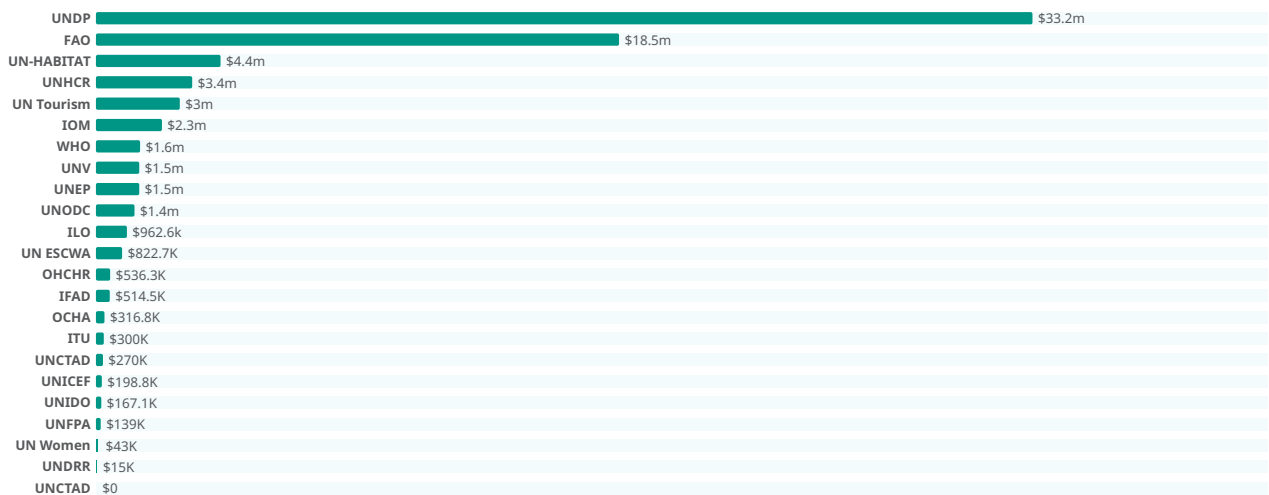




AVAILABLE BY UN ENTITY



EXPENDITURE BY UN ENTITY



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 PER SDG



Figure 9. How the United Nations contributes to the SDGs

AVAILABLE RESOURCES PER SDG Strategic priority 1 "People"

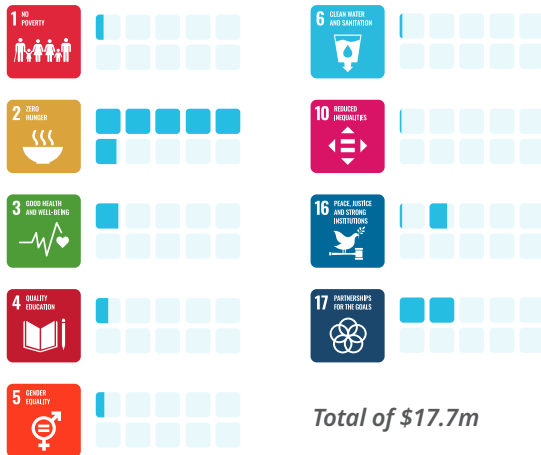


Figure 10. Strategic Priority 1 "People" contribution to the SDGs

AVAILABLE RESOURCES PER SDG Strategic priority 2 "Planet"



Figure 11. Strategic Priority 2 "Planet" contribution to the SDGs

AVAILABLE RESOURCES PER SDG Strategic priority 3 "Prosperity"

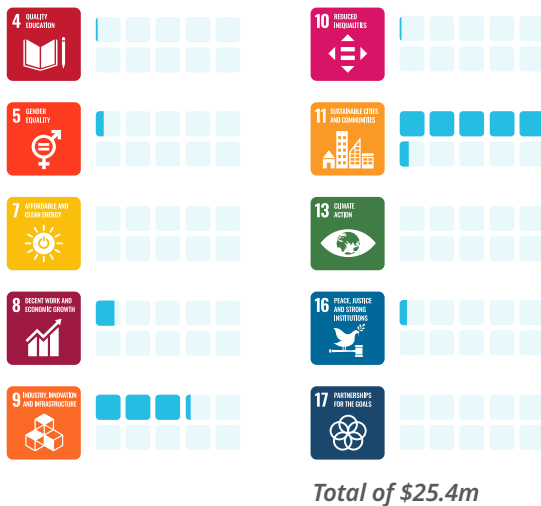


Figure 12. Strategic Priority 3 "Prosperity" contribution to the SDGs

AVAILABLE RESOURCES PER SDG Strategic priority 4 "Peace, Partnerships and Cross-Cutting Issues"

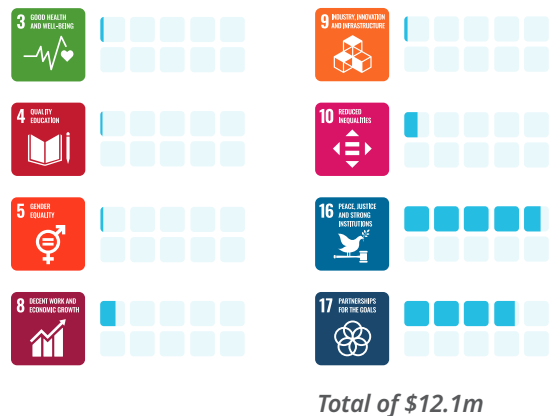


Figure 13. Strategic Priority 4 "Peace, Partnerships and Cross-Cutting Issues" contribution to the SDGs



 03

LOOKING FORWARD
TO 2025



LOOKING FORWARD TO 2025

As Saudi Arabia continues its transformative journey toward Vision 2030, the United Nations remains committed to deepening collaboration with national stakeholders to advance sustainable development, strengthen institutional capacities, and promote social inclusion. Building on the achievements of 2024, the United Nations' priorities for 2025 will focus on scaling up key initiatives across multiple sectors in alignment with the Government's priorities and the UNSDCF.

In 2025, the United Nations will begin preparations for the development of the next United Nations – Saudi Arabia UNSDCF. This framework will serve as the strategic roadmap guiding UN engagement in Saudi Arabia beyond 2026, ensuring alignment with national sustainable development priorities, the SDGs, and emerging global challenges. The new UNSDCF will be developed through a comprehensive consultative process, engaging government stakeholders, private sector leaders, and civil society. This approach will promote an inclusive, evidence-based, and responsive framework in support of Saudi Arabia's evolving development landscape. As a strategic milestone, the preparation of the new UNSDCF will help refine priorities, assess progress, and identify opportunities to deepen impactful collaboration between the United Nations and Saudi Arabia. This process will lay the foundation for accelerating sustainable development, ensuring that the next phase of cooperation maximizes effectiveness and inclusivity.

Ensuring the safety and well-being of children remains a core priority for 2025. The operationalization of the National Framework on Child Online Safety will address emerging digital risks, while the development of a National Child Protection Strategy will strengthen institutional mechanisms to prevent and respond to violence, abuse, and neglect. The Gulf Policy Dialogue on Family-Friendly Policies will facilitate public-private alliances to support working families and child welfare. Additionally, child-focused budget analysis will promote effective public spending on

critical child services. Recognizing the foundational role of early childhood development, the United Nations will implement nationwide campaigns promoting positive parenting practices and expanding access to quality early childhood education. Collaboration with government partners will support the development of national learning outcomes and standards, ensuring strong early learning foundations for all children. The United Nations will support the implementation of the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS7), generating critical data on child well-being to inform evidence-based policies. Additionally, a Situation Analysis on Children with Disabilities will be conducted, ensuring inclusive and accessible services for all children.

Saudi Arabia is chairing the 69th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) between March 10–21, 2025, coinciding with the 30th anniversary review of the Beijing Platform for Action. The United Nations will leverage Saudi Arabia's leadership role to enhance policy advisory services and advance the implementation of CSW recommendations.

The United Nations will prioritize support to expanding women's economic opportunities by advocating for strengthening the Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs) and advancing employment equity across sectors. Expanding women's participation in the digital economy will remain a priority, including the fourth iteration of the Nokia Al Arabia internship program for female ICT students. Additionally, the United Nations will explore strategic partnerships with private sector leaders (e.g., STC) to enhance female leadership in technology and innovation.

The United Nations will expand opportunities for Saudi youth to engage in international cooperation through structured volunteer programs and leadership development initiatives.





The second cohort of the international UN Volunteer program will engage 14 female and 6 male participants in key global development projects. The United Nations will also support Saudi Arabia's "Learning to Earning" initiative, creating pathways for youth employment and economic inclusion. Furthermore, Saudi Arabia will host a MENA/GCC Youth Forum, fostering regional collaboration on youth development and enhancing young people's roles in policy-making and sustainable development initiatives.

The United Nations will scale up support to value-added agribusiness initiatives, particularly in fruit nursery management, honey/bee product processing, and post-harvest loss reduction technologies (e.g., solar drying and cool storage solutions). The expansion of seaweed production as a sustainable marine agriculture enterprise will open new avenues for economic diversification. Additionally, efforts will enhance agritourism and establish quality standards for rose production, benefiting smallholder farmers. Regional study tours for MEWA, Reef, and NCVV officials will further strengthen agricultural sustainability and innovation.

Building on 2024's environmental progress, the United Nations will support scaling up sustainable land and forest management technologies in collaboration with NCVV. Impact evaluations will assess the effectiveness of newly introduced environmental technologies, guiding sustainable natural resource management policies in alignment with the Saudi Green Initiative.

To combat trafficking in persons, the United Nations will support enhancement of legal frameworks, promoting alignment with international classification standards (IC-TIP) and strengthening monitoring and evaluation systems for trafficking cases. Additionally, efforts will focus on improvement to victim support services, including legal aid, shelter, and reintegration programs.

Simultaneously, Saudi Arabia will reinforce labour rights through a targeted partnership with the United Nations, including training programs to prevent child labour and awareness initiatives

integrating education, media, and the arts. Saudi Arabia's ratification of the ILO Occupational Safety and Health Convention (No. 187) will further enhance workplace protections.

The National Urban Planning Methodology will be piloted in at least one region, providing insights for broader implementation across Saudi Arabia. The National Urban Policy (NUP) structure will be finalized, integrating gender equality, social inclusion, and sustainability principles. Work on the Spatial Planning Act (SPA) will continue, creating a cohesive framework for sustainable urban growth. The Urban Lab, established within MOMAH, will serve as an innovation hub, developing and testing cutting-edge urban planning solutions. These initiatives will be complemented by the Urban Design Studio, catalyzing data-driven governance and participatory planning at both national and local levels.

The United Nations will also conduct a GCC-wide Human Rights-Based Approach (HRBA) training series, targeting policy professionals working on social services for older persons. These efforts will promote inclusive, rights-based social development policies across the region.

The Quality of Life Initiative will expand to 100 cities across 40 countries, with Saudi municipalities playing a more prominent role. This initiative will provide data-driven insights to improve urban planning, focusing on youth-friendly policies, gender-responsive city planning, and inclusive infrastructure for persons with disabilities.

The United Nations' priorities for 2025 reaffirm its commitment to contributing to the advancement of sustainable development, fostering social inclusion, and strengthening institutional capacities in Saudi Arabia. By deepening multi-sectoral partnerships, scaling up successful programs, and integrating innovative solutions, the United Nations will continue to support Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 aspirations, and advocating that no one is left behind.









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.









UNSDCF 2022 - 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.

 People				
	OUTCOME 1 All human beings are further enabled to fulfil their potential in dignity, equity and equality in a healthy environment.			
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 population Sub outputs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UPR • Essential Health Services • Child protection • Social Protection 	Output 1.2 Improved quality of essential inclusive social and protection services focusing on government institutional capacity and multisectoral collaboration. Sub outputs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved quality health services • Increased coverage ECD 	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 labor market, civic engagement and decision making Sub outputs <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 	Output 1.4 Rural agriculture sector sustainably developed for enhanced production, value addition and employment opportunities. Sub outputs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technology innovative practices ag productivity • Enhanced agri enterprises 	
 Planet				
	OUTCOME 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 Enhanced sustainable natural resources management system (land, water, forest, marine) to safeguard natural resources, preserve biodiversity, and maintain ecological balance in KSA. Sub outputs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable management of ecosystems • Inclusive biodiversity conservation • Environment policies and regulations • Innovative technologies national vegetation 	Output 2.2 Increased knowledge and awareness on responsible consumption and climate action among all people in KSA Sub outputs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greening education partnerships • National action on chemical and waste management 			
 PROSPERITY				
	OUTCOME 3 All human beings are further enabled to fulfil their potential in dignity, equity and equality in a healthy environment.			
Output 3.1 Strengthened policy and legal frameworks in the labor sector to protect workers' rights and support equitable employment opportunities and safer labour migration Sub outputs <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 	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. Sub outputs <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 	Output 3.3 Improved institutional capacities of national stakeholders to ensure women economic empowerment (including prevention of violence, harassment and discrimination at the work place) Sub outputs <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 		
 PEACE AND PARTNERSHIPS				
	OUTCOME 4 Peaceful, just and inclusive society is adequately fostered, and the means required for the implementation of Agenda 2030 are mobilized.			
Output 4.1 Enhanced collection, provision, and dissemination of reliable and transparent data in accordance with International standard to support evidence-based decision and policy making Sub outputs <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 	Output 4.2 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. Sub outputs <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 	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 Sub outputs <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 		



UNITED NATIONS
SAUDI ARABIA

