Named world's most generous country in 2013-2014

UAE's developmental, humanitarian and charitable aid reaches
178 countries around the world

AED 173 billion value of the UAE's foreign aid since its establishment covering 21 sectors

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The United Arab Emirates continued to offer humanitarian and developmental aid in various regions around the world during 2015, with the total number of beneficiary countries reaching 178 since the establishment of the UAE in 1971.

Statistical data of the ministry showed that the developmental and humanitarian and charitable aid provided by the United Arab Emirates during the 44-year value, averaged 173 billion dirhams, were distributed among the 21 sectors.

These statistics were announced by MICAD in a special report launched on the 44th UAE National Day, to highlight the country's efforts in the field of international aid, and the initiatives of its wise leadership provided through donor institutions to improve the lives of millions of people. These efforts gave the UAE the title of the "most generous country in the world" in the years 2013 and 2014.

The Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) released yesterday its final report including official development assistance data previously announced in April 2015. According
to the released data, the UAE ranked first globally as the largest international donor of official development aid for the second year in a row, with a total of 18.36 billion AED of developmental aid in 2014, accounting for 1.26% of gross national income.

According to the final results published by the Committee, Sweden came second with its development aid accounting for 1.09% of its national income, followed by the Luxembourg with 1.06%, then Norway in fourth place with 1.00%.

Occupying this position for the second year in a raw reaffirms the UAE's commitment to its humanitarian mission, and the principles on which it was established. It also enhances its position as a humanitarian hub and a source of relief and aid to all friendly nations in the world. This achievement is also a testimony for the generous policies adopted by the UAE's wise leadership. These policies, HE continued, were established by the late founder of the nation, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, and carried forward by His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE; His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE, Ruler of Dubai, and His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces.

Asia largest beneficiary

According to the latest information released by the ministry, the Asian continent was the main beneficiary of support and aid money provided during the past 44 years, with a total exceeding AED 79.4 billion dirhams, followed by the African continent with a total value of AED 75.4 billion used in development projects such as the construction of housing complexes, roads, and bridges, as well as power generation and others.
Released records show that the largest percentage of aid is concentrated in the "government and civil society" sector, amounting to AED 80.6 billion, followed by the "public programs support" sector with a total of AED 22.5 billion in aid. The value of humanitarian and relief aid in emergency situations accounted for about AED 7.7 billion.

In a related context, the combined statistics for the past 44 years showed that government aid accounted for 74% of the total value of aid and grants provided by donors in the country, collectively worth AED 129 billion. The Abu Dhabi Fund for Development came in second place with contributions worth AED 30.5 billion, followed by the Emirates Red Crescent with funding valued at AED 5.7 billion, then Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan Foundation with charities worth AED 2.9 billion.

The value of development projects and support provided by UAE donor institutions to children over the past 44 years amounted to about AED 2 billion, which were distributed among the health and education sectors, as well as relief programs and infrastructure.

**AED 1.6 billion UAE aid to Yemen**

In the framework of ongoing humanitarian development in Yemen, the United Arab Emirates played a pivotal role in responding to humanitarian crises on the ground in Yemen, thus becoming the second largest donor of humanitarian aid in Yemen globally, according to data released by the UN Financial Tracking Service (FTS).

The total UAE foreign aid granted to Yemen until the end of 2015 amounted to about AED 1.6 billion, dedicated to infrastructure rehabilitation projects to be implemented in Yemen.

The process of sending UAE humanitarian aid to Yemen was carried out over four stages aimed at the reconstruction and rehabilitation of Aden and the neighboring
provinces, with a focus on electricity, food, health, water, sanitation, fuel, and transport, as well as coordination and support. The aid was distributed to the provinces of Aden, Lahj, Al Dhali, Abyan, Marib, Shabwa, Hadramout, Al Mahr, and Socotra Island.

It is worth mentioning that the total value of UAE aid to Yemen from 1971 to 2015 amounted to AED 6.65 billion.

**AED 2.2 billion for the Syrian crisis**

In a similar context, Syria has had a large share of UAE aid and support, totaling AED 2.2 billion ($596 million) until the end of 2015. The UAE was at the forefront of countries which came to the aid of the brothers in Syria since 2012.

The UAE’s response to the crisis was implemented in Syria and in countries hosting Syrian refugees like Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, Turkey, and Egypt, including Palestinian refugees in Syria – amounting to 1.5 million refugees and displaced people in total.

This approach is consistent with the wish of the UAE’s wise leadership, which directed the provision of all forms of assistance and multiplying efforts in support of refugee issues in various countries of the world, as well as urgent response in terms of the delivery of relief aid.

The State's contribution was made through the UN Humanitarian Assistance Response Plan inside Syria, and the Regional Refugee Response Plan for Syrian refugees in neighboring countries like Jordan. At the first, second, and third International Humanitarian Pledging Conference for Syria held in Kuwait, the UAE pledged the provision of $460 million.
In order to implement these projects, the State collaborated with international partners to provide humanitarian assistance inside Syria and in neighboring countries aimed at meeting basic humanitarian needs, namely food security and addressing malnutrition suffered by women and children. These international organizations include the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Higher Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), and the International Rescue Committee (IRC).

The State also opened the UAE-Jordanian Mrajib Al Fhood refugee camp and the UAE-funded field hospital in Jordan, and collaborated with a number of countries, including the United Kingdom and Norway, to implement aid projects. The State also set up the Emirati Red Crescent camp for Syrian refugees in northern Iraq.

In this context, the UAE granted around 100,000 visas for Syrians since the start of the crisis in Syria in 2011. About 242,000 Syrians currently reside in the UAE, and most were accommodated in schools and universities and found jobs.

**AED 736 million pledged for the reconstruction of Gaza**

During the meetings of the Cairo International Conference on Palestine held in October 2014, the UAE announced a pledge to donate about AED 736 million, equivalent to $200 million, aimed at the reconstruction of Gaza.

The UAE continues to provide in-kind and financial assistance to support the Palestinian people and strengthen Palestinian institutions in the occupied territories, out of the commitment of the wise leadership to assert its absolute support for the
reconstruction of Gaza and improving living conditions in the strip, and in Palestine in general.

According to the ministry's report, the UAE has disbursed and allocated about $76.34 million of the total pledge of $200 million, while the remaining $123.56 million has been distributed according to the commitments agreed upon with the UAE donor institutions and sides, the largest part of which is managed by the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development and the Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Charity and Humanitarian Foundation.

The UAE funds allocated for the reconstruction of Gaza were divided over a period of three years, starting from 2015 until 2017, under a plan submitted by United Nations organizations and the Islamic Development Bank, and in line with the national plan for early recovery presented by the Palestinian government to the donor conference in Cairo.

**AED 29 billion UAE aid to Egypt**

The ministry's report said that the overall UAE development aid provided to Egypt during the years 2013 and 2014 amounted to nearly AED 29 billion, exceeding the total amount of AED 24 billion previously pledged by the State in support of economic and developmental stability in Egypt.

The ministry's report said that the UAE’s position in support of Egypt is in line with the philosophy and wise guidance of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the founder of the United Arab Emirates, may God rest his soul, who was committed to the UAE’s support for the security and stability of Egypt, out of love and appreciation for the sister Egypt, its position, and its culture, as well as its valuable human and developmental potentials and historical achievements.

[www.micad.gov.ae](http://www.micad.gov.ae)
The report noted that UAE assistance to Egypt is not new as support of the Egyptian people is present and ongoing. The report added that large projects have been developed and funded by the United Arab Emirates over decades and carry its name, reflecting the strong and solid relationship between the two brotherly countries consistent with the UAE’s commitment to provide all aspects of support and assistance aimed at improving the standards of life and living conditions of the genuine Egyptian people.

It is worth mentioning that the total value of aid made by the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, and that since the founding of the Federation of the UAE in 1971 and until 2014, in all areas of humanitarian and development nearly 47.3 billion dirhams.

**AED 1.175 billion UAE aid to Pakistan**

The UAE benevolence also extended to Pakistan, where the UAE Project to Assist Pakistan implemented development and humanitarian projects at a cost of a **billion dirhams** ($320 million) to address the effects of the devastating floods that struck the country in 2010, reconstruct the infrastructure, and provide humanitarian aid. The Abu Dhabi Fund for Development and Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan Foundation financed the bulk of the cost of these projects.

A second important initiative was launched by His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE, may God protect him, to vaccinate millions of Pakistani children under the slogan "Health for All Better Future." The management of the Project to Assist Pakistan said that 86 million polio vaccinations were administered to the children of Pakistan in 53 areas in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, the tribal Fateh Jang region, the province of Balochistan, and the Sindh region.
For his part, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, launched an initiative to provide $120 million as a contribution from His Highness in support of the global effort to eradicate polio by 2018, with a special focus on Pakistan and Afghanistan. In 2011, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation announced a strategic partnership that provided a total of $100 million, divided equally between the two parties, for the purchase and delivery of vaccines for children in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

**Foreign aid sector**

Recognizing the importance of focusing on the UAE foreign aid institutions, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, may God bless his soul, directed the organization of this sector through the establishment and launch of a system of institutions that provide developmental, humanitarian, and charity assistance to many countries in the world, with the aim of strengthening the impact of foreign aid to beneficiary countries.

Sheikh Zayed established many donor, humanitarian, and charitable institutions during his reign. The Abu Dhabi Fund for Development was the first institution to lead the path of benevolence and goodwill. It was created in 1971 with the aim of providing assistance to brotherly and friendly developing countries, and supporting their efforts to achieve economic and social development. The fund has become the UAE’s developmental arm outside the country.
Through the establishment of the Fund, the UAE was able to institutionalize its policies designed to help developing countries, through the provision of development aid in an efficient and organized fashion, thus maximizing the benefits of recipient countries.

The Emirates Red Crescent was established in 1983 and later became the State’s arm for the delivery of relief aid. It has provided aid in a large number of affected countries during emergency situations, and has responded to emergency calls by international organizations.

The humanitarian and development scene in the country was further enhanced with the establishment of a large number of UAE donor institutions and charities, including the Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan Foundation for charitable and humanitarian work and other institutions. Today, this number has exceeded 45 donor institutions working on the provision of foreign humanitarian aid.

In 2008, the State founded the UAE Foreign Aid Coordination Office to regulate the UAE foreign aid sector, and enhance the position of the UAE as a main donor on the international arena. The office and its functions were integrated into the system of the Ministry of International Cooperation and Development (MICAD) established in March 2013.

These bodies helped provide humanitarian, developmental, and charitable aid to many countries. These institutions advanced toward specialization in their work, in accordance with the foundations laid by the founder of the State, which made the UAE today one of the main donors on the international arena.
Emirati pledge at the UN

The UAE continues to play a leading role in international meetings and forums to highlight its contributions in the field of foreign aid, the most recent being the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit 2015 in New York, as part of the State's participation in the summit meetings on the sidelines of the 70th Regular Session of the General Assembly concluded in October.

During this global event, the UAE made a formal pledge to “not ignore any state that lags behind in the development process, and to help the world to move toward a path that supports sustainability and flexibility", as part of its tireless efforts toward the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and achieving the targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development launched by the United Nations General Assembly.

In this context, the State announced that UAE aid supported a number of key areas in the 2030 development agenda, including infrastructure development, fighting poverty and hunger, the provision of aid for health care, education, and renewable energy, in addition to the support and empowerment of women.

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About the Ministry of International Cooperation and Development (MICAD):

The Ministry of International Cooperation and Development was established in March 2013, as a part of the cabinet blessed by the approval of His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE, and announced by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE Ruler of Dubai. HE Sheikha Lubna bint Khalid Al Qasimi was assigned as a Minister of International Cooperation and Development. The Ministry is part of the UAE’s Federal Cabinet. It is headquartered in Abu Dhabi, with a branch office in Dubai.