

Foreign Aid: A Pillar of UAE Foreign Policy

Since its founding, the United Arab Emirates has been a crucial provider of foreign aid and assistance to developing countries. The fundamental purpose of UAE aid is to reduce poverty and help those in need. In line with this objective, the UAE coordinates with national governments; regional groups, such as the African Union and the Organization of American States; and United Nations (UN) organizations, such as the World Food Programme, to help build state capacity, invest in human capital growth, and address climate change and other critical problems. The UAE provides assistance in three key areas: transport and urban infrastructure, government effectiveness, and women's empowerment and protection.

Profiles of UAE Humanitarian Assistance



The Emirates Red Crescent is one of many UAE humanitarian organizations tasked with providing aid to communities in need around the world.



- **Madagascar:** In 2020, a delegation of UAE aid workers from the Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan Foundation provided humanitarian aid and food assistance to 32,000 families in Madagascar. The Khalifa Foundation has provided aid to more than 85 countries since being established in 2007.
- **Sudan:** In 2019, the UAE announced a \$1.5 billion development grant for Sudan, consisting of monetary, medical, agricultural, educational, and other forms of aid. When floods devastated Sudan in 2020, the Emirates Red Crescent dispatched a humanitarian convoy to deliver 100 tons of food and medical aid to communities in need.
- **Mali:** The UAE has donated over \$90 million to support humanitarian and development efforts in Mali since 2013. The UAE earmarked \$40 million to support Mali's National Social Housing Program, a multi-year project that aims to construct 50,000 housing units across the country.
- **Ethiopia:** In December 2020, through close coordination with the World Food Programme and other international organizations, the UAE opened an emergency air bridge to deliver aid to Ethiopian refugees in Sudan.
- **Yemen:** Since 2015, the UAE has provided \$6 billion in humanitarian assistance to the Yemeni people. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the UAE provided 60,000 COVID-19 vaccine doses to Yemen. UAE assistance to Yemen has enabled the construction or restoration of 110 hospitals and medical centers, as well as 360 schools. The Emirates Red Crescent has also dispatched mobile clinics to provide medical services to remote Yemeni communities.
- **United States:** Following Hurricanes Harvey and Irma, which brought flooding and destruction to communities in Texas and Florida in 2017, the UAE government pledged \$10 million to Texas and Florida, respectively, to help with local and state recovery efforts.

Profiles of UAE COVID-19 Assistance



Since the pandemic began, the UAE has distributed **2,062 metric tons of medical and food aid** to **135 countries**, benefiting more than **2 million medical professionals** in the process (as of July 2021).

- **Somalia:** In collaboration with the World Health Organization, the UAE dispatched an aid plane carrying 27 metric tons of medical supplies to Somalia in April 2020.
- **Organization of American States:** The UAE, through its Embassy in Washington, DC, donated nearly 39,000 pieces of personal protective equipment (PPE) to the OAS. The donated equipment was distributed to Bolivia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Haiti, Honduras, Panama, and Suriname.
- **Colombia:** In 2020, the UAE sent five aid planes to Colombia carrying 53.5 metric tons of medical supplies and 800,000 testing kits. The aid flights also safely repatriated 63 Colombian citizens from the UAE.
- **Caribbean:** In July 2020, the UAE sent an aid flight carrying 12.5 metric tons of medical supplies and 500,000 rapid testing kits for distribution to 14 Caribbean island states.
- **Greece:** The UAE sent 13 tons of medical supplies to Greece, including special coveralls, medical gloves, and sanitizers.

Testimonials

HE Reem Al Hashimy, UAE Minister of State for International Cooperation, and David Beasley, Executive Director, World Food Programme

Op-ed in *The National*: The UAE and WFP are working towards building a world without hunger

“The UAE now hosts [the World Food Programme’s] largest office outside its headquarters in Rome and the most important logistics hub in the UN system at the International Humanitarian City in Dubai. WFP and the UAE have become close partners as first responders, moving aid quickly and efficiently in times of crisis.”

Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General, World Health Organization

“The UAE is a strategic global partner of [the] WHO and we are grateful for their continued support of our shared mission to suppress and control COVID-19 globally.”

Luis Almagro, Secretary General of the Organization of American States

“The pandemic poses extraordinary challenges for OAS member states. The UAE’s donation of protective equipment for hospitals in our region is an important demonstration of its humanitarian commitment and friendship with Latin America and the Caribbean.”



For more information on the UAE's humanitarian initiatives, visit <https://www.uae-embassy.org/>