

Pledge by United Arab Emirates

Acceded to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on 3 January 1997

Acceded to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography on 2 March 2016



Pledges

1. Offer a programme for training specialists on child protection.
2. Create a Digital Government KIDX Platform to acquaint children and their parents with all the services provided to the child and the different governmental, civil and private sector providers of such services.
3. Adopt a national policy for the protection of children in educational institutions to ensure the investigation of any violations of children's rights.
4. Reduce the percentage of possible cases of violence against children in the UAE by protecting the child from all manifestations of neglect, exploitation, and abuse, and any physical and psychological violence.
5. Place more children from unknown parentage in foster families.

Celebrating 30 years of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

Pledge by the United Arab Emirates

Pledges

Initiative 1

What?	Programme for training specialists on child protection
Why?	Providing cadres possessing all skills and competencies to enforce child rights in the field of protection
How?	1- Preparing the training program, training plan and content of training materials 2- Specialized teacher test 3- Providing training venues
When?	2020 - 2025
Implementing authorities	Federal authorities: Ministry of Community Development, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Health and Prevention, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Justice.

	<p>Local authorities: Department of Community Development (Abu Dhabi), Community Development Authority (Dubai), Social Services Department (Sharjah), Supreme Council for Family Affairs, Health Authorities, Education Authorities and Departments.</p> <p>Civil society: Dubai Foundation for Women and Children, Emirates Child Protection Association, Emirates Human Rights Association, Emirates Association for Lawyers, Juvenile Association, Foundation for Women and Children, EWAA shelters.</p>
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Initiative 2

What?	Digital Government KIDX Platform
Why?	Acquainting children and their parents with all the services provided to the child and their providers (governmental - civil - private sector).
How?	Create databases of services and agencies that provide these services and specialists in the field of child rights.
When?	2022 - 2024
Implementing authorities	<p>Federal authorities: Ministry of Community Development, Federal Competitiveness and Statistics Authority, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Health and Prevention, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Justice.</p> <p>Local authorities: Department of Community Development (Abu Dhabi), Community Development Authority (Dubai), Social Services Department (Sharjah), Supreme Council for Family Affairs, Health Authorities, Education Authorities and Departments.</p> <p>Civil society: Dubai Foundation for Women and Children, Emirates Child Protection Association, Emirates Human Rights Association, Association for Lawyers, Juvenile Association, Foundation for Women and Children, EWAA shelters.</p>

Initiative 3

What?	National policy for the protection of children in educational institutions
Why?	Ensure investigation of acts and abuses violating the rights of the child in educational institutions.
How?	Adoption of the policy by decision of the Council of Ministers
When?	2023 - 2025
Implementing authorities	<p>Federal authorities: Ministry of Community Development, Federal Competitiveness and Statistics Authority, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Health and Prevention, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Justice.</p> <p>Local authorities: Department of Community Development (Abu Dhabi), Community Development Authority (Dubai), Social Services Department (Sharjah), Supreme Council for Family Affairs, Health Authorities, Education Authorities and Departments.</p> <p>Civil society: Dubai Foundation for Women and Children, Emirates Child Protection Association, Emirates Human Rights Association, Association for Lawyers, Juvenile Association, Foundation for Women and Children, EWAA shelters.</p>

Initiative 4

What?	Reducing the percentage of possible cases of violence against children in the UAE
Why?	Protecting the child from all manifestations of neglect, exploitation, and abuse, and any physical and psychological violence.
How?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The establishment of child protection units within the competent authorities and bodies concerned with children's affairs at the State level. 2. Issuing licenses by the competent authorities to specialists in child protection to enable them to practice their profession. 3. Implement a package of programmes directed at all segments of society to spread the culture of child rights.
When?	2020 – 2025
Implementing authorities	<p>Federal authorities: Ministry of Community Development, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Health and Prevention, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Justice.</p> <p>Local authorities: Department of Community Development (Abu Dhabi), Community Development Authority (Dubai), Social Services Department (Sharjah), Supreme Council for Family Affairs, Health Authorities, Education Authorities and Departments.</p> <p>Civil society: Dubai Foundation for Women and Children, Emirates Child Protection Association, Emirates Human Rights Association, Juvenile Association, Foundation for Women and Children, EWAA shelters.</p>

Initiative 5

What?	Placing more children from unknown parentage in foster families
Why?	Reducing the number of children of unknown parentage sheltered in childcare homes
How?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establishing a database of unknown parentage with a linkage with institutions for the protection of people of unknown parentage in order to clarify the number of children placed in foster families compared to children sheltered in childcare homes. 2. Preparing a comprehensive guide for fosterage procedures, as well as controls and requirements for fosterage. 3. Organizing training programmes for the approved foster families. 4. Launching a series of awareness-raising events and programmes dealing with people of unknown parentage.
When?	2020 – 2025
Implementing authorities	<p>Federal authorities: Ministry of Community Development, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Health and Prevention, Ministry of Justice.</p> <p>Local authorities: Department of Community Development (Abu Dhabi), Community Development Authority (Dubai), Social Services Department (Sharjah), Supreme Council for Family Affairs, Health Authorities.</p> <p>Civil society: Dubai Foundation for Women and Children, Emirates Child Protection Association, Foundation for Women and Children, EWAA shelters.</p>

Other actions taken by the Government to protect children's rights are:

- **Children's rights**

Federal Law No. 3 of 2016 concerning child rights, also known as Wadeema's Law stresses that all children must be provided with appropriate living standards, access to health services, education, equal opportunities in essential services and facilities without any kind of discrimination. The law protects children against all forms of negligence, exploitation, physical and psychological abuses.

The law allows childcare specialists to remove children from their homes against parents' wishes and without judicial permission in cases of imminent danger. In less severe cases, specialists may intervene by visiting the child regularly, providing social services and mediating a solution between the family and the child.

Those who put children in danger, abandon them, neglect them, leave them without supervision, do not enroll them in school or register them upon their birth will be subject to legal proceedings.

Smoking in public and private vehicles and indoor facilities where children are present is also prohibited under the law. Violators will be subject to penalties as set out by the law.

- **Childcare facilities**

Since 2016, childcare providers are required to ensure the highest quality of nurseries, and must be equipped in a manner that produces a pleasant setting satisfying the needs of children and stimulating their physical, intellectual, emotional and social development.

The childcare building should be a safe and healthy setting that comprises ample indoor and outdoor areas proportional to the number and ages of children and must be safe and secure against risks both indoor and outdoor and that all staff are fully aware of the safety and security requirements and procedures.

Children's health and nutrition are other aspects that the provider should maintain by taking all necessary precautions to prevent contamination and the spread of diseases, with appropriate measures for dealing with injuries and sick children.

In 2006, the UAE Cabinet ordered all federal and local government departments with more than 50 women Emirati staff or where the women Emirati staff collectively have more than 20 children, to offer on-site nurseries.

The directive to establish on-site nurseries aims to support working women and lead them to be more productive by providing them the comfort of having their children in a facility close by which is safe and offers a nurturing environment.

- **Children's health**

The UAE Government offers health checkup for new-borns and vaccinations as well as early detection services for neonatal diseases for more than 40 genetic diseases in accordance with international standards.
(<https://www.mohap.gov.ae/en/MediaCenter/News/Pages/1961.aspx>)

Vaccination of children is mandatory from the time they are born to the time they reach Grade 11 to prevent a certain number of diseases

- **Children's education**

Education for Emiratis is free in public schools, colleges and universities. (Art. 17 of the UAE's Constitution).

Emirati children start schooling at the age of 6 and remain in school until they have completed Grade 12 or reach the age of 18, whichever occurs first.

- **Initiatives for children include:**

- The Child protection unit initiative

The 'Child Protection Unit' initiative which aims at protecting children from all forms of harm, negligence and abuse which they may experience at school or home.

There are dedicated phone numbers to report on child abuse cases, such as the MoE's Child Protection Unit (04-217666) or the Ministry of Interior's Child Protection Centre (116111) or by emailing the report to CPU@moe.gov.ae with supporting documents, if any.

- Child protection committee and centre

It undertakes the role of developing, implementing and customising the initiatives and processes aiming at providing safety, security and protection for all children living in the UAE or even those coming as visitors.

Designing the logo of National Programme for Happiness and Positivity (<https://www.hw.gov.ae/>). This initiative aims at enhancing the creative abilities of the students.

The KidX, (February 2019) a digital platform which provides an interactive digital environment using games and virtual reality technologies to raise children's awareness and encourage them to express their views on the services. (<https://kidx.government.ae/en>)

The Child Digital Safety initiative (March 2019) which aims at protecting children from online threats and to instill "positive values and behaviour" as youngsters learn to explore social media platforms and the web.