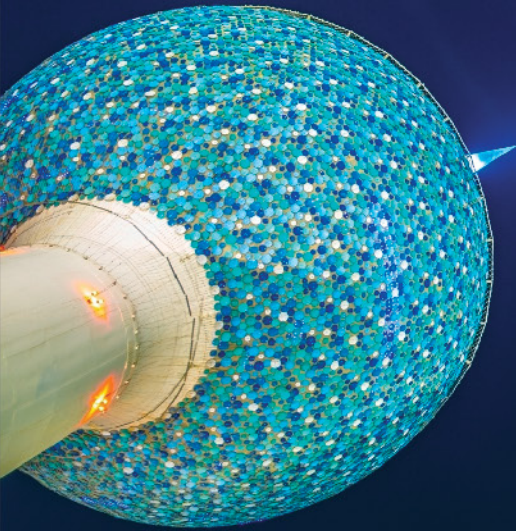




UNITED NATIONS  
KUWAIT



**ONE UN KUWAIT**

REPORT 2022



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United for Peace, Rights and Development for All

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ONE UN KUWAIT  
REPORT 2022

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## FOREWORD BY RESIDENT COORDINATOR

On behalf of the UN Country Team (UNCT) in Kuwait, I am pleased to present the One UN Results Report for the year 2022. This report contains a snapshot of the collective results of all UN agencies, funds and programmes operating in Kuwait and highlights how the UN in Kuwait is supporting the Government and people of Kuwait to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development in line with the country's national development plan aspirations.

I would like to express my deep appreciation to the Government of Kuwait for its continued commitment to continue offering solutions to stay on track to achieving the sustainable development goals. We thank our host government for their trust and partnership translated through a unique and strategic collaboration across various thematic areas ranging from education, women and girls, persons living with disabilities, health, partnerships, and climate action.

I acknowledge the invaluable support of our development and humanitarian partners for the great collaboration in coordinating the response plan, notably.

including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development (GSSCPD), the Ministry of Information, the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Social Affairs, Public Authority for Manpower, Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, private sector and the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry, media, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), local and international communities among others. Last year saw an increased engagement with youth as drivers of change which was evidenced in the commemoration of the UN day with the theme of Youth Driving Ambition for Climate Action.

As we turn our attention to 2023, we look forward to the opportunities and challenges and remain focused to work on the UN promise of Leaving No One Behind. We will continue working with all stakeholders and will strive to bring us all closer together, in solidarity, to advance Kuwait's national development agenda and the SDGs in the country.

**Dr. Assad Hafeez**  
UN Resident Coordinator a.i

## UN COUNTRY TEAM

### UN Agencies (Resident)



ILO - International Labour Organisation



IOM - International Organization For Migration



UNDP - United Nations Development Programme Organisation



UNDSS- United Nations Department for Safety and Security



UN Habitat - United Nations Human Settlement Programme



UNHCR - United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees



UNICEF - United Nations Children's Fund



WB - The World Bank



WHO - World Health Organization

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## UN COUNTRY TEAM

### Non-resident Agencies



FAO - Food and Agriculture Organization of The United Nations



IMF - International Monetary Fund



OHCHR - United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights



UNEP - United Nations Environment Programme



UNESCO - United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation



UN ESCWA - United Nations Economic and Social Commission For Western Asia



UNFPA - United Nations Population Fund



UNIC - United Nations Information Centres



UNODC - United Nations Office on Drugs & Crime



UNOPS - United Nations Office For Project Services



UNV - United Nations Volunteers



UN Women - Un Women



WFP - United Nations World Food Programme



UN OCHA - United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

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## KEY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

The UN in Kuwait through the new Strategic Cooperation Framework renews emphasis on a strengthened partnership with the Government of Kuwait. Furthermore, the UNCT is committed to implementing the New Kuwait 2035 vision, and Kuwait National Development Plan. In line with the SDGs, as well as supporting the global positioning of Kuwait and highlight its international contributions to peacebuilding, humanitarian support, and development cooperation. To achieve these aspirations the UN strategically establishes and strengthens partnerships that support advancing Kuwait's shared vision. The main partner institutions, of the UNCT in Kuwait are:

### 01

#### **Kuwait Government and all the line ministries:**

These are the respective government ministries that collaborate with UN agencies in various technical capacities.

### 02

#### **General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning:**

the main partner of strategic planning and activities coordinated by the UN, and overseeing the SCF document, working closely with UN agencies such as UNDP, UN Women, IOM, Worlds Bank and UNV for the implementation of activities in relation to the pillars of Public Administration.

### 03

**Public Authority for Manpower:** Government entity regulating economic opportunities for national & foreign Labor workforce.

### 04

**Kuwait Municipality:** an urban administrative division having corporate status and usually powers of self- government or authority.

### 05

**Kuwait Environment Public Authority:** an independent government body dedicated to environmental action, and domestic & international legislation and policy regarding the environment.

### 06

**Private Sector entities:** the part of the national economy that is not under direct government control, falls under Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

### 07

**Small and medium enterprises:** the part of national economy that is not under direct government control, falls under SME Fund.

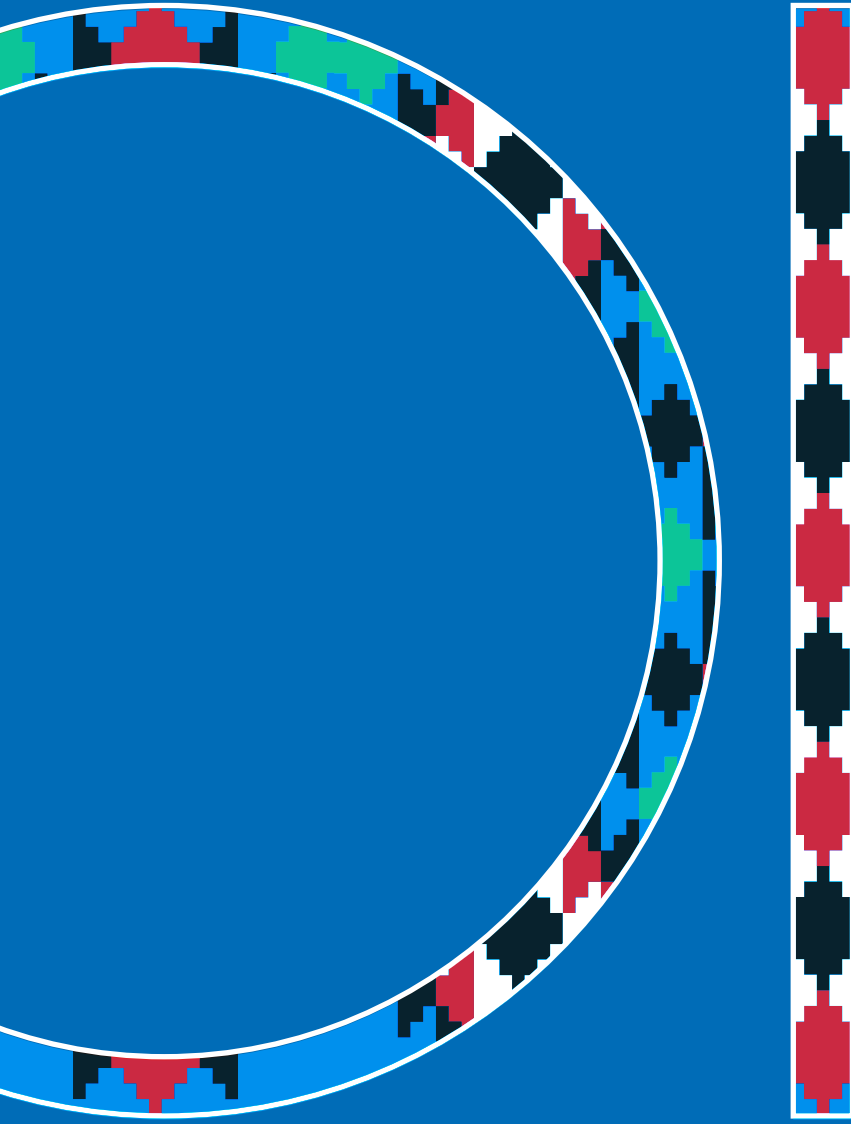
### 08

**NGOs and Civil Society:** organizations from community groups, NGOs, unions, charitable organizations, and foundations that support advancing the agenda of 2035 in different sectors.

### 09

**Research and Academic Institutions:** Educational establishment for advancing research and knowledge management.





# Kuwait's Sustainable Development in Numbers

## KUWAIT'S SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN GOALS

According to the Sustainable Development Report 2022<sup>1</sup>, Kuwait ranks 101(out of 163) countries and achieving an index score of 64.5 which is an improvement from 2021 where it had an index score of 62.5. The SDG index score measures the Kuwait's total progress towards achieving the 17 SDG goals. The SDG dashboard summary in figure 1.2 indicate that there are challenges remaining in achieving SDG 3,4,7,9 and 13 and there are significant challenges in achieving SDGs 5,11,12,14, and 16. There was no data available for SDG 1 and 10.

Figure 1.1 Kuwait SDG dashboard and trend



Source: The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2022

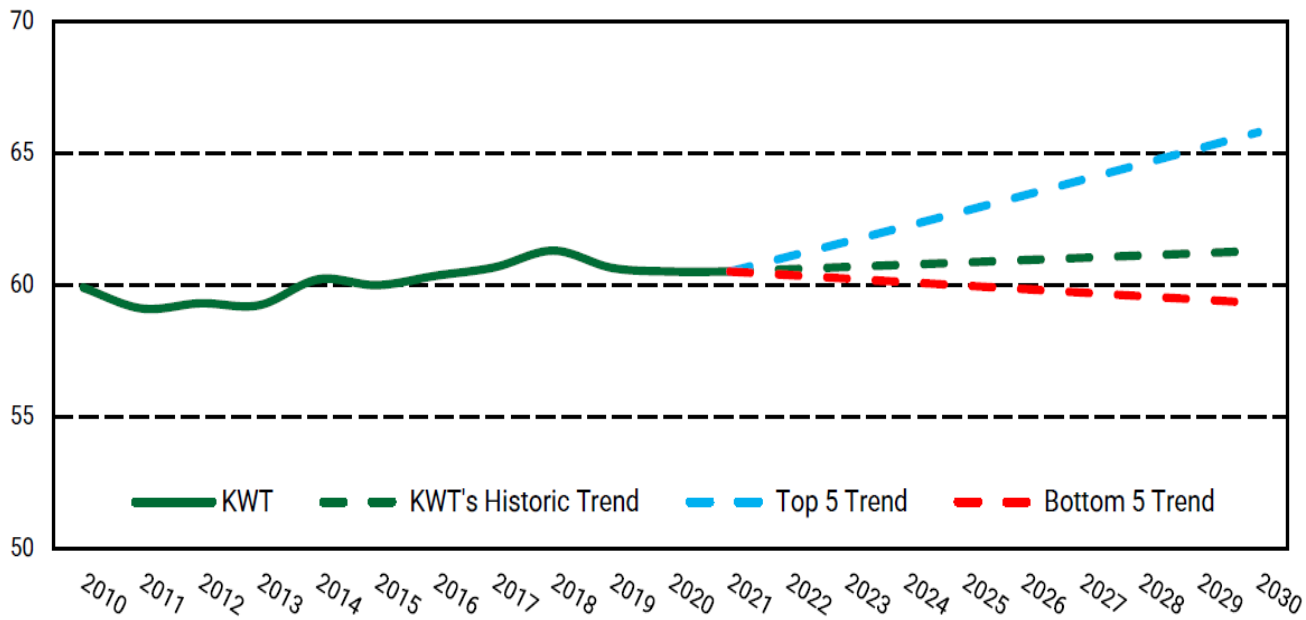
<sup>1</sup> The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2022 available on <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2022/The-Sustainable-Development-Goals-Report-2022.pdf>



As 2030 marks the final year for the viable fulfillment of the global development agenda on sustainable development, namely, it is important for the UNCT to understand Kuwait's development trajectory and forecasts in terms of SDG progress. This will enable us to support the government in designing and implementing context-dependent and inclusive sustainable development policies, while providing technical support to guide Kuwait's Voluntary National Review (VNR) 2023 process.

Using the econometric model underpinned by the Nearest-Neighbor (NN) approach<sup>2</sup>, which can provide the future growth trend of 193 countries based on Sustainable Development Report data, our UNCT estimated that Kuwait's overall SDG trend had an average rate of 0.14% from 2010 to 2021. Furthermore, Kuwait's overall SDG score in 2021<sup>3</sup> was 60.5 and 64.5 in 2022<sup>4</sup> and is forecast to increase to 61.3 in 2030. However, compared to the top countries (at 65.8) and bottom countries (at 59.3), the increase is relatively slight. Nonetheless, SDG forecasts largely vary for each of the SDG goals.

Figure 1.2 Kuwait's historical and forecasted overall SDG score



Note: Figure demonstrates Kuwait's historical and forecasted overall SDG score until 2030. The green line represents Kuwait's growth trend, the dashed-red lines represent the Bottom 5 NN trend growth rate extrapolated for Kuwait's future growth rate, the dashed-green lines represent Kuwait's continuation along its 11-year historical trend growth rate, and the dashed-blue lines represent the Top 5 NN trend growth rate extrapolated for Kuwait's future trend growth rate.

Source: UN Kuwait Policy Brief, "Forecasting Kuwait's Sustainable Development Goals: Policy implication for the Voluntary National Review 2023 process"

<sup>2</sup> Forecasting Kuwait's Sustainable Development Goals, 2022 Policy implication for the Voluntary National Review 2023 process

<sup>3</sup> The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2021 The Decade of Action for the Sustainable Development Goals available on <https://www.sdgindex.org/reports/sustainable-development-report-2021/>

<sup>4</sup> The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2022 available on <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2022/The-Sustainable-Development-Goals-Report-2022.pdf>

In the past year, our Kuwait UNCT support focused on all SDGs, with a particular focus on the five SDGs prioritized by Kuwait's VNR 2023, namely SDGs 6, 7, 9, 11 and 17. Having forecasted each of the five SDGs, we have categorized them into four groups of analysis:

- (a) **Outlier (outperforming SDG)** - likely to surpass the performances of the Top 5 NN countries;
- (b) **Sandwiches** - any form of SDGs whose future performance exists between the Top 5 and Bottom 5 NN countries by 2030;
- (c) **Underperformer (underperforming SDGs)** - initial target not expected to be achievable by 2030; and
- (d) **Data-challenging SDGs** - unable to forecast the fulfillment.

Having analyzed these four classifications of SDG groups, the UNCT will continue to support and scale up our efforts to collaborate with relevant ministries and governmental authorities. This will be in coordination with the National Committee for SDGs and the National Observatory for Sustainable Development, to design and implement inclusive and context-dependent sustainable development policies that are aligned with Kuwait's SDG progress trajectory and forecasts. Keeping this in mind, the following chapters will focus on the UNCT's three key strategic priorities, which outline how we have supported the government in accelerating the inclusive development process towards achieving the SDGs and the National Vision 2035.

Figure 1.3 : Summary of VNR SDG goals based on historical performance

SDG Goals (VNR)	SDG Historical Performance & Forecast	Description	SDG Performance Score	
			Before 2021	After 2021
<b>Outlier</b> 17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SDG 17 (Partnership for the Goals)'s future SDG score in 2030 will outperform than the Top 5 NN countries, even though the goal is lacking data on certain SDG indicators to be properly evaluated.</li> <li>Corresponding custodian agencies for SDG 17 related indicators (UNCTAD, ITU, UNEP, ITC, UNDP, IMF and World Bank) need to scale up their efforts to collaborate with the GSSCPD, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Information and Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development in coordination with the National Committee for SDGs and the National Observatory for Sustainable Development.</li> </ul>		
<b>Sandwiches</b> 7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY 11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES	 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SDG 7 (affordable and clean energy) will remain the same until 2030, even though this goal lack data to be sufficiently evaluated by SDG indicators.</li> <li>Corresponding custodian agencies for SDG 7 related indicators (WHO, IEA and World Bank) need to scale up their efforts to collaborate with the Environment Public Authority, Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research, Ministry of Oil and the GSSCPD in coordination with the National Committee for SDGs and the National Observatory for Sustainable Development in order to strengthen institutional capacity for statistics.</li> <li>SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities) also suffers from a lack of data.</li> <li>Corresponding custodian agencies for SDG 11 related indicators (UN-Habitat, UNESCO, UNDRR, WHO, UNODC and UNFPA) need to scale up their efforts to collaborate with the Civil Service Bureau, Ministry of Social Affairs and GSSCPD in coordination with the National Committee for SDGs and the National Observatory for Sustainable Development.</li> </ul>		
<b>Under-performer</b> 9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SDG 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure) has been underperforming and is forecasted to maintain unsatisfactory progress until 2030.</li> <li>Corresponding custodian agencies for SDG 9 related indicators (UNIDO, UNESCO, World Bank, ICAO and ITU) need to scale up their efforts to collaborate with the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research, Direct Investment Promotion Authority and the GSSCPD in coordination with the National Committee for SDGs and the National Observatory for Sustainable Development in order to strengthen institutional capacity for statistics.</li> </ul>		
<b>Data Challenging</b> 6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation) lacks reliable data.</li> <li>Corresponding custodian agencies for SDG 6 related indicators need to scale up their efforts to collaborate with the Environment Public Authority, the Ministry of Electricity and Water and the GSSCPD in coordination with the National Committee for SDGs and the National Observatory for Sustainable Development in order to strengthen institutional capacity for statistics.</li> </ul>		

● Excellent ● Very Good ● Good ● Fair ● Poor







## 2.1 Human Capital and Inclusive Education

UNESCO celebrated the International Day of Education under the theme “Changing Course, Transforming Education.” This year’s event provided a platform to showcase the most significant transformations that must be nurtured to realize everyone’s fundamental rights to education and build a more sustainable, inclusive and peaceful future. We collaborated with the Abdulaziz Al-Babtain Foundation, a critical partner that translated the true meaning of the culture of peace through education. It was an excellent opportunity for the UNCT to join the forces to promote quality education for peace and development in achieving global goals in Kuwait and beyond.

With the approval of the GSSCPD, UNDP supported the public policy Center in developing a Higher Education and Scientific Research policy and white paper, which came at the request of the Minister of Higher Education. A current state assessment was prepared that examines Kuwait’s Existing policies, gaps and key challenges and synthesizing the evidence around the current Higher Education and Scientific Research policy ecosystem. A Structured benchmarking against countries with similar profiles as Kuwait, including

countries from the MENA region. The policy paper includes over 20 policy recommendation in order for Kuwait to improve the higher education landscape.

In supporting the national educational transformation, the UNCT, in particular with the technical lead and guidance of UNESCO and UNICEF, along with the Resident Coordinators office, partnered with the General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development to conduct national consultations for the Education Transformation Summit. The consultation produced a report, titled “Reimagining our futures together: a new social contract for education,” which drew recommendations for education transformation. Basing on the consultations, a Statement of National Commitment of the State of Kuwait was presented at the Transforming Education Summit on 19th September 2022. Furthermore, to advance the use of technology in education, UNESCO, co-organized the fourth online edition of the International Forum on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Education under the theme “Steering AI to Empower Teachers and Transform Teaching” in December 2022.

Through various UNCT work in collaboration with partners and the government, capacities for developing national education policy and planning for the implementation of the “Education 2030 Framework for Action” have been strengthened. During the UN Transforming Education Summit in New York last September, Kuwait demonstrated its commitment and enthusiasm for educational reform and an obligation to do its best to achieve sustainable development. It was paramount to invest in education and scientific research, especially in the digital transformation sweeping the world.

Within the framework of IOM’s ethical recruitment (IRIS) global hospitality project, the IOM in partnership with the Sustainable Hospitality Alliance, conducted training for employees of the hospitality sector. The training focused on promoting sustainability and ethical recruitment practices in the hotel and tourism industry that are in line with international standards on recruitment.

The UNFPA supported the participation of Kuwait high level delegation to the high-level meeting on Young People’s Learning, Skilling, Social Inclusion and Transition to Decent Working. The event was co-organized by the United Nations Population Fund, the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Children’s Fund under the UN Arab States Issue-Based Coalition for Adolescents and Youth. The transition from learning to work is a key priority for adolescents and young people across the region including Kuwait. The meeting brought together Government Officials from key sectors, private sector and UN in dialogue with young people themselves to enable an exchange of good practices, and to converge towards a shared vision to support young people’s transition from learning to decent work. Recommendations were provided that will be presented to the upcoming UN Secretary General’s Global Summit on Transforming Education in September 2022.

The UN-Habitat conducted a workshop introducing and promoting the SDGs with both the Kuwait English School and The American School of Kuwait. Furthermore, the UN-Habitat has promoted SDGs and encourage environmental sustainability in the College of Life Sciences and the Community Service Center at Kuwait university and an exhibition at the Community Service Center at Kuwait University.

In efforts to combat organized crime and raise awareness among leaders, employees, and the broader public about the role of the member state’s entities and the private sector, the UNODC partnered with the Kuwait Association for protecting Public Funds on the delivery of a symposium and a workshop on the investigation, prosecution, and recovery of stolen assets through crimes to selected government officials from the Public Prosecution, NAZAHA, and the Advisory and Legislative Department. The UNODC presented on asset recovery of the proceeds of organized crime and corruption as well as the various tools and means available for investigation, tracking, and monitoring of stolen assets, along with related practical examples and real-time case studies.





## 2.2 Women and Girls

According to the World Economic Forum's 2022 Global Gender Gap Index, Kuwait's index was 0.63. Although Kuwait's index has fluctuated substantially in recent years, it tended to decrease through the 2007-2022 period, ending at 0.63 in 2022. The Global Gender Gap Index benchmarks the current state and evolution of gender parity across four key dimensions: Economic Participation and Opportunity, Educational Attainment, Health and Survival, and Political Empowerment. The index is measured between 0-1, with '1' implying no inequality and '0' indicating maximum inequality.

Kuwait is a signatory to the CEDAW and has enacted a range of protections for women's fundamental rights, but gaps persist concerning the level of women's political participation, low transition of women to labor markers, and discriminatory limitations to women's rights, including nationality rights, inheritance rights, and social and economic rights.

In June 2022, UN Women and UNDP partnered with the GSSCPD and the Kuwait University Women's Research and Studies Center to support the launch of the Kuwait Women's Economic Empowerment Program (WEEP) initiative in Kuwait by members of the private sector. This program initiative promotes the implementation of the UN Women - Global

Compact Women's Empowerment Principles that guide businesses on advancing gender equality and women's empowerment in the workplace, with the mission of accelerating the implementation of Kuwait's Vision 2035 by increasing the representation of women in leadership positions.

Moreover, the IOM brought together women from different walks of life and organized an art event that allowed them to express themselves through painting while socializing with others. The objective of the event was to recognize women, including migrant women, as powerful agents and leaders in their communities.

For the fifth year in a row, Kuwait participated in the global "Ring the Bell" event, marked by stock exchanges, companies and governments around the world as a commemoration of their mutual commitment to increase women's participation and leadership in the private sector.

A virtual event, "Ring the Bell for gender equality and women's empowerment" was hosted by Boursa Kuwait, the operator of the Kuwait national stock market exchange) with participation of the GSSCPD, Kuwait University Women's Research and Studies Center, UN Women, and UNDP, and leading members of the private sector who have committed to the Women's Empowerment Principles of UN Women and the UN Global Compact.



In line with International Women's Day celebration, UNDP partnered with Gulf Bank and Kuwait University to organize a women's leadership event with the objective of promoting female leadership in the diplomatic corps as part of its support for local civil society efforts that empower women. The platform convened newly appointed women in the Kuwaiti diplomatic corps and included other female ambassadors of Arab and foreign countries working in Kuwait, using the occasion to share experiences and strategies of leadership in the workplaces.

Furthermore, to mark the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and 16 days of activism against gender-based violence, the UNCT (RCO, UNDP, UNICEF, UNHCR, IOM, WHO and UN-Habitat), in partnership with 11 Embassies of Canada, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Japan, Egypt, Switzerland, EU, France, Australia, the Philippines, Pakistan, Indonesia and Kenya, and ICRC organized the Young Ambassadors initiative, inviting high school students from both public and private schools. This initiative allows students to work with corresponding embassies through mentoring and leadership development over five months, providing students with an opportunity to share their ideas and initiatives to promote women's inclusion and empowerment in Kuwait and beyond.

The IOM in Kuwait, in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and in partnership with the National Committee for Counter Trafficking (NCCT), marked the 'World Day Against Trafficking in Persons' (WDATIP), by organizing a national awareness raising campaign and public event at the Avenues mall. The aim of the campaign was to underline the serious risks and implications of trafficking crimes on the society.





Finally, to advance women's rights in Kuwait collectively, the UNHCR worked on collaborations and joint initiatives with various civil society organizations, including the Women's Cultural and Social Society (WCSS), to ensure the inclusion of women refugees and asylum seekers. In addition to aligning with UNHCR's commitment to the "leave no one behind" principle and in line with the gender-based violence policy, the UNHCR conducted a project focused on empowerment through skills training, including leadership, communication, negotiation and decision-making. To commemorate the 16-Days of Activism campaign, we further collaborated with Girls4Girls to host a book club session discussing Khaled Hosseini's "A Thousand Splendid Suns."

The UN-Habitat supported the volunteering ladies of "Al Shamiya Area" and All Shamiya Youth Center under the Public Authority of Youth. In the care and maintenance of the Shamiya reserve, UN Habitat conducted several greening activities to raise awareness regarding sustainable environment and recycling. In commemorating International Desertification and Drought Day UN-Habitat conducted greening campaign and conducted lectures on recycling, greening, and modern farming methods, and their importance.

In collaboration with the Domestic Worker's Department, the ILO organized a workshop to help build the capacity of the investigators in dispute resolution and cross-cultural communication. The training covered multiple topics including international labour standards, mediation, and dispute resolution principles; followed by a deep dive on effective cross-cultural communication, using empathy as a central focus. Training techniques included interactive exercises using role-play, videos and recordings from domestic workers to bring their voices to the center.



In August 2022, the ILO launched a report titled "The Skills needs in Kuwait following covid 19 pandemic". The COVID-19 pandemic adversely affected economies and disrupted labour markets across the world including Kuwait. Skills management and development are especially relevant for the State of Kuwait, which must contend with both the skills relevance of its national populations and those of foreign workers, who represent over 80 percent of the workforce. The report explores how the skills needs of Kuwait changed following the pandemic. Based on desk research and a survey of 240 firms across multiple sectors in Kuwait, carried out from October to December 2021, the report provides a forward-looking assessment of the reskilling and upskilling requirements of the country, focusing on how the skills mix of national and foreign workers is likely to change in response to evolving local conditions and global trends. The research aims to support Kuwaiti businesses, policymakers, and organizations representing workers and employers to better assess policy options, especially as they pertain to skills-based international recruitment.







### 2.3 Persons with Disabilities

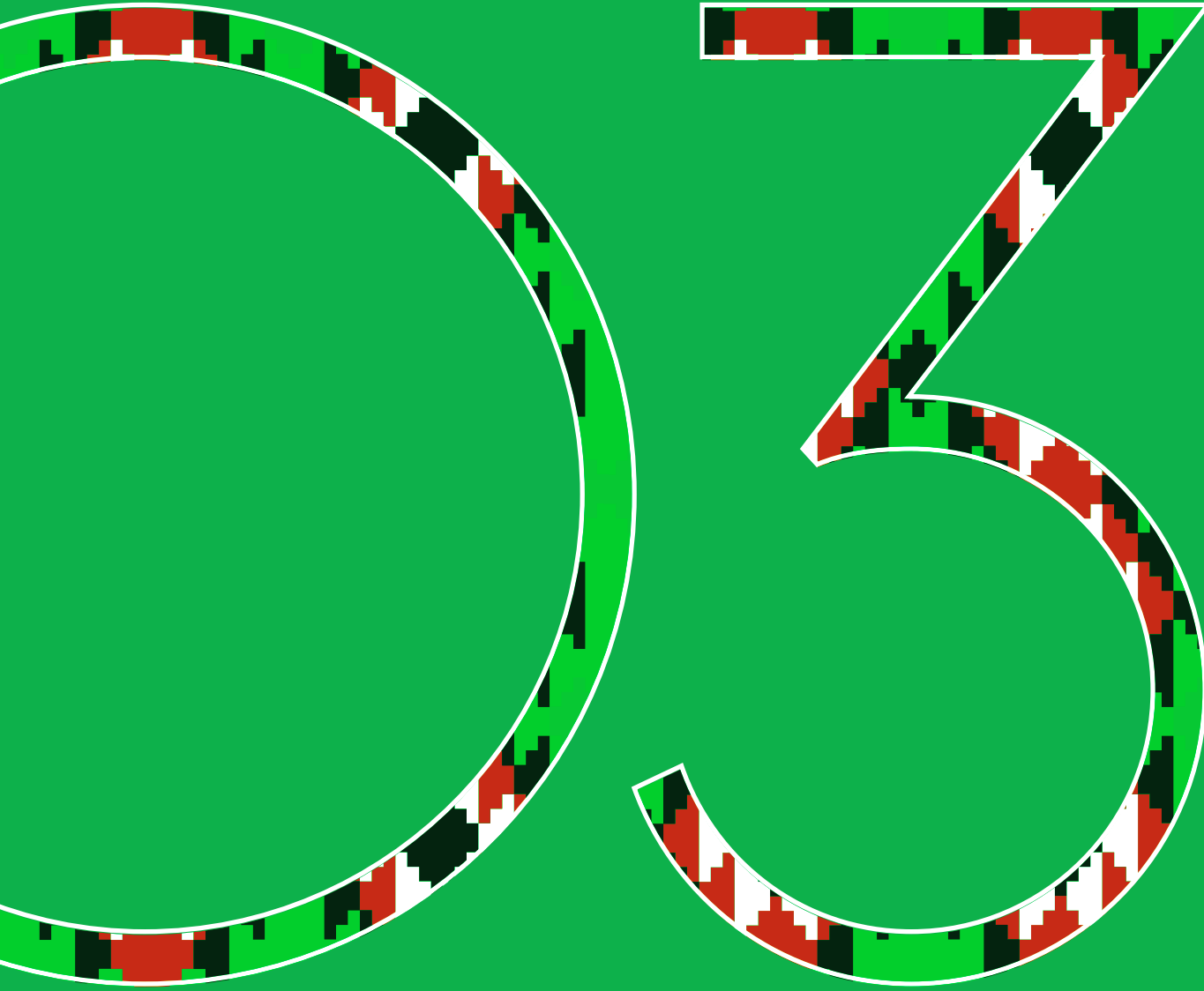
In observance of the World Autism Day, the UNCT (UNESCO, WHO, UNICEF) collaborated with the Autism Center in Kuwait by inviting students to the UN House to share experiences on various issues related to ensuring SDG 4 is achieved through the integration of children with autism in communities. The event was attended by students, instructors, and members from the autism center. We served as an important platform to share experiences from the students, followed by an appreciation note to the UNCT for recognizing people with autism and their potential.

In recognition of the need to integrate persons with disabilities into the development agenda, the UNCT partnered with government authorities: the Public Authority for Persons with Disabilities, the Ministry of Health, the Institute of Human Development, the Public Authority for Youth and the Kuwait Center for the Advancement of Sciences, to organize the graduation of the 2nd & 3rd batch of trainees from the Partners Employment Campaign, with the main objective of integrating persons with disabilities and the developing their capabilities.

In ensuring all children understand environmental issues, the UN-Habitat conducted a greening activity and awareness raising session on sustainable agriculture and its importance to students with disabilities at the John Al-Kuwait Primary School (Girls).







Sustainable Living Environment and Quality Healthcare

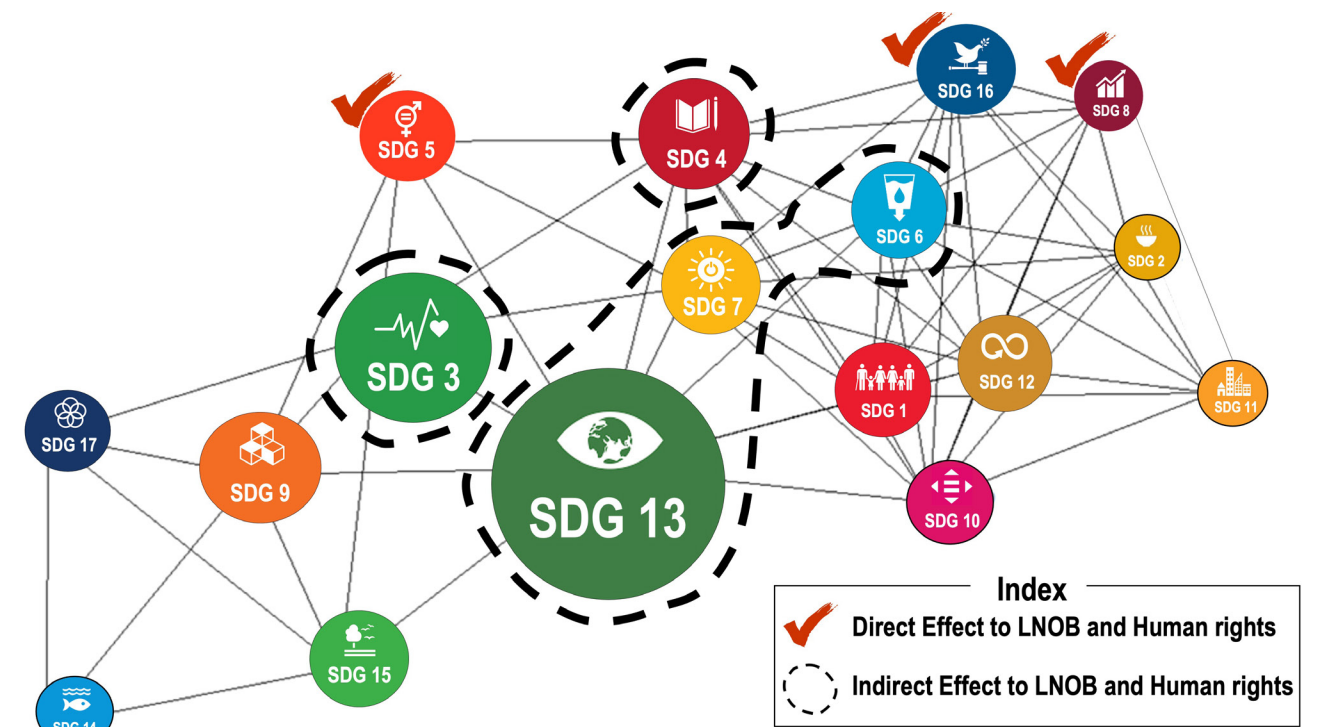
## SUSTAINABLE LIVING ENVIRONMENT AND QUALITY HEALTHCARE

In line with priorities identified in the previous chapter focusing on human capital for leaving no one behind, the UNCT proceeded further by conducting a Social Network Analysis that informs the interlinkages among 17 goals of SDGs. The analysis indicated that SDG 3 (Good Health and well-being) and SDG 13 (Climate action) are among the topmost interlinked SDG's, with strong influence across all other SDG goals. Beyond their influence across all SDG goals, these three goals lay an important foundation towards achieving SDG 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions), 5 (Gender equality), and 8 (Decent work and economic growth).

In this context, two cluster groups of SDG goals can be identified and contextualized as follows – one directly impacting SDGs for the leaving no one behind and human rights and another indirectly impacting SDGs for this principle.

- SDGs with a direct effect on the leaving no one behind and human rights based on a close connection with the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) recommendations.
- SDGs with an indirect effect that contribute to improving the leaving no one behind and human rights situation are channeled through SDGs with a direct effect (these are considered as creating a synergy effect between the identified SDG goals).

Figure 3.1 A System of SDG interlinkages in Kuwait



Source: UN Kuwait Policy Brief, "Maximizing synergy effects among SDGs towards improving the human rights situation in Kuwait"<sup>8</sup>

<sup>8</sup> Maximizing synergy effects among SDGs towards improving the human rights situation in Kuwait, UN Policy Brief, 2022

Recognizing the importance of health (SDG 3) and climate action (SDG 13) in relation to the broader SDGs, and in relation to the shared priority of leaving no one behind, the UNCT and partners are prioritizing transformative policies and interventions that address immediate gaps and prevent against future challenges. This approach, which also strengthens the link between SDG 3 and SDG 13, is necessary given the negative impact that environmental degradation due to climate change has on the health of populations.

Kuwait is confronted with a series of climate challenges such as harsh climate, hot weather and frequent sandstorms. These are mainly due to high temperatures, droughts, floods, soil degradation owing to its geographical characteristics. Besides, Kuwait has been industrialized based on a fossil fuel-driven production method. Fossil fuel accounts for over 90% of the domestic energy consumed in the country. As such, the trend of per capita GDP has inevitably been associated with the dynamics of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

This growth pattern has also been characterized by the inefficient use of available energy resources, further causing a greater carbon footprint, combined with growing energy needs from population growth and rising living standards. Recognizing the impact that these climate challenges have on the health of the population and on long-term environmental sustainability, the government continues to make significant efforts by designing and implementing policies and projects focused on improving systems, human capital, and leadership.

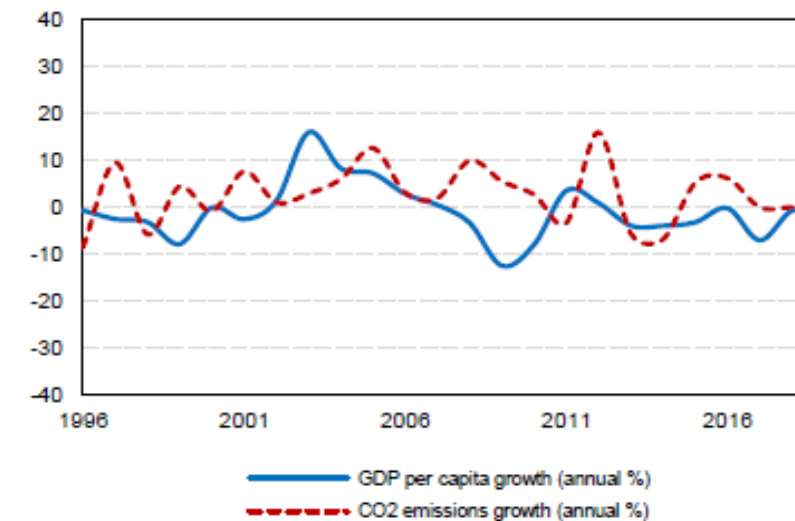
On the health front, Kuwait has in 2021, launched a new WHO country office to increase health policy coordination in line with New Kuwait Vision 2035. This was followed by the initial development of a Country Cooperation Strategy (CCS), led by the government to identify joint priorities for the health sector. The priorities identified in that strategy, with technical inputs from stakeholders representing various sections of Kuwait society, are defined in line with national, regional, and global health targets. These priorities and associated targets seek to increase the focus on quality service delivery, data and leadership capacity among other key themes.

On the environment front, Kuwait aims to further balance out its energy needs with renewable energy sources by 2030. The KNDP reflected TAQA9 initiative under program 7 (Build a livable and harmonious environment) to build renewable and clean energy parks. This initiative is expected to increase the domestic production of renewable energy by exploring solar and wind energy sources. Key milestones include the completion of Shagaya energy park, with a planned capacity of 2,000 MW, and the engagement of private sector companies in a public-private partnership scheme on building additional renewable energy. This will be conducted mainly by Ministry of Electricity and Water with Ministry of Public Works, Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research and Kuwait Oil Company.

The Kuwait National Development Plan (KNDP) aims to address the country's challenges. In particular, the KNDP looks to build a livable and harmonious environment that caters to the needs of the population and promotes health and wellbeing. Some of the policies included in this plan are to;

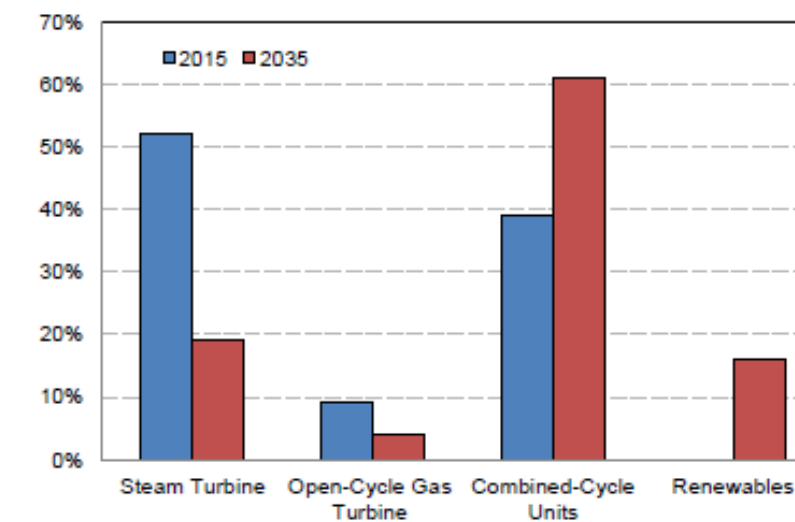
- Improve water resource management, including wastewater treatment and reclamation, water use efficiency, and desalination (KNDP Program 6.1)
- Build eco-cities using green building and green infrastructure principles, and smart technology (KNDP Program 6.2)
- Boost the role of renewables in the utilities sector (KNDP Program 6.4)
- Integrate solid waste management, with a focus on improving waste disposal and resource recovery (KNDP Program 6.5)
- Enhance health information technology systems and launch a national health and nutrition survey (KNDP Program 7.2)
- Optimize health workforce capacity and capabilities for current and future needs, and implement health competency and performance management processes (KNDP Program 7.3)
- Revamp the healthcare service delivery system and adopt new health technology and treatments (KNDP Program 7.4)
- Promote health literacy through behavioral intervention (KNDP Program 7.6)

Figure 3.2 Carbon dioxide emissions vs. per capita GDP growth in Kuwait



Source: UN Kuwait Policy Brief, "Exploring Climate Action in Kuwait: A Focus on Environmentally Sustainable Finance" (2022)

Figure 3.3 Generation technology as a percentage of total installed capacity



Source: Kuwait National Adaptation Plan 2019-2030 (2019)

<sup>9</sup> TAQA is an international company established in Saudi Arabia in 2003 for providing products and solutions to the energy industry <https://www.taqa.com.sa/about/>

<sup>10</sup> Kuwait National Development Plan 2020-2025 ([https://media.gov.kw/assets/img/Ommah22\\_Awareness/PDF/NewKuwait/Revised%20KNDP%20-%20EN.pdf](https://media.gov.kw/assets/img/Ommah22_Awareness/PDF/NewKuwait/Revised%20KNDP%20-%20EN.pdf))



### 3.1 Youth Driving Climate Action

Kuwait aims to transition to a “low carbon equivalent economy” by 2050. However, significant work needs to be done by the country and its partners to build public and policymaker awareness on climate change in the country. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report has clarified that the deliberate removal of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere could reverse some aspects of climate change. The UNCT worked collaboratively with partners and the government on advocacy and increasing knowledge on climate change and disaster risk reduction, with particular focus on engaging youth as drivers of change.

In celebrating the UN Day on October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022, the UNCT promoted climate-related SDGs and the 2030 Agenda with the theme “Youth Driving Ambition for Climate Action.” The UN Day celebrations were an opportunity to highlight and recognize youth efforts, community- led initiatives, achievements, and innovative solutions driving ambitious engagements towards climate change and policy planning, design, implementation, and evaluation at multilateral, national and local level. The enabling environment included people with disabilities and the contribution of the international community.

The UNCT, along with other partners, offered youth an opportunity to provide concrete contributions and recommendations that need to be translated into actions at the national level. Several technical discussions were held across three themes:

- (i) renewable energy,
- (ii) healthy cities, and
- (iii) sustainable supply chains with food systems.



During the event, the youth showcased their initiatives and how they contribute to a greener environment and climate action. Representatives of each chosen organization/youth project showcased their initiative and demonstrated how it contributes to a greener environment and climate action. These included:

- Encouraging individuals to commit to climate action in their daily lives.
- Supporting the Secretary General’s call for local action, global action, and people action
- Spurring ambition and action in key sectors and developing concrete plans that are achievable and impactful.
- Promoting behavioral change and strengthening private sector engagement

During the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction for Climate Action, the UNCT collaborated with various partners to commemorate the day, including the Kuwait Environmental Protection Society, Embassies of United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom and Egypt, Ministry of Information, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kuwait Fire Force, GSSCPD, Environment Public Authority, Kuwait Red Crescent Society, Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research, UNDRR, American University of Kuwait Model United Nations, and Kuwait English School Model United Nations. The forum’s objective was to assess the disaster risk situation of Kuwait in line with the COP 27<sup>11</sup> and in preparation for COP 28<sup>12</sup>. This included a number of presentations describing how every partner can take part in contributing to disaster risk reduction in Kuwait and globally.



<sup>11</sup> COP27 was held in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, from November 6 to November 20, 2022, under the theme “Time for Action: Accelerating Progress Towards a Resilient and Net-Zero Future.”

<sup>12</sup> COP28 will be the 28<sup>th</sup> United Nations Climate Change conference, held from November 30<sup>th</sup> until December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at the Expo City, Dubai.



### 3.2 Eco and Smart Cities

The country's population has grown from 0.99 million in 1975 to 4.20 million in 2020. As more than 98% of the total population resides in urban areas, Kuwait faces many challenges in achieving sustainable urban development. The two significant social impacts facing Kuwaitis are housing shortage and traffic congestion. This combination has promoted the development of urban sprawl, long commuting distances, and high levels of motorization and traffic congestion. In this regard, the UNCT continues to promote community-driven initiatives towards environmentally friendly and sustainable living environments in cities.

The UNCT collaborated with the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Kuwait to organize an annual Smart City Forum on "Smart City Solutions for Quality Living Environment in Kuwait." The sessions addressed two key issues: first, smart solutions for infrastructure, and second, smart solutions for creating a sustainable city. Technical leads from WHO shared the approach behind its healthy cities' initiative, alongside experts from the Republic of Korea shared their experience with intelligent cities, urban re-development, mobility, and e-government initiatives. Together, these insights spurred innovative thinking in Kuwait's urban development planning to accelerate the national Vision 2035

Within the framework of the KNDP towards SDGs and Kuwait Vision 2035, GSSCPD and UNDP (UNDP Kuwait and UNDP Global Center in Singapore), in collaboration with UN HABITAT and the World Bank organized the Eco-Cities workshop. This policy discussion workshop drew panelists from Kuwait Environment Public Authority, Kuwait Institute for Science and Research, the Ministry of Electricity and Water, the Ministry of Housing and Public Works, the Kuwait Direct Investment Public Authority, and the National SME Fund. Furthermore, the National Park

Authority Singapore shed light on Eco-Cities index application while the Republic of Korea's Jeju province on sustainable waste management experiences. This facilitated practical discussions among countries, while promoting South-South cooperation. From the private sector, the EnerTech Holdings as well as emerging Kuwaiti social entrepreneurs such as Kuwaiti Innovations Center and Enviroserve provided their perspectives. Participants discussed, among others, the need for enabling policy environment to operate and scale up Kuwaiti social entrepreneurship linked to environment related SDGs. The main themes discussed were greening space, promotion of renewable energy investments, waste management and recycling, boosting energy efficiency and green infrastructure, and the role of Kuwaiti entrepreneurs and innovators to advance Eco-Cities.

On the occasion of the world cities day and the conclusion of Urban October activities, the UN-Habitat has launched the first National Urban Forum in partnership with the General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development in Kuwait under the theme "Partners for Sustainable Development". The forum provided a platform to showcase Kuwait's progress in implementing the SDG and the Nee Kuwait vision while discussing the implementation challenges and the way forward in achieving sustainable development. The forum included various discussions on topics such as housing, energy, transport, environment. Participants from the public and private sector and civil society organizations discussed their priorities and progress in sustainable urban development projects.

Furthermore, a knowledge sharing forum between Singapore and Kuwait Environment Public Authority was organized in learning practical experiences in implementing the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Animals and Plants (CITES) commitments. Singapore is home to an estimated 23,000-28,000 species of terrestrial organisms and 12,000-17,000 marine organisms. Its National Biodiversity Centre has developed an app that allows members of the public to send photos of plants and animals to a central database. Singapore's urban greening development policies have also boosted biodiversity. Despite its population density more than doubling between 1970 and 2020, the city's green areas have expanded from 36% to 47% of its total land area, according to the Ellen MacArthur Foundation. Collaboration between Singapore and Kuwait helps Kuwait use some of the innovative ideas in conserving marine organisms.

In collaboration with Innovation and Development Academy, the Kuwait Teachers Society and the UN-Habitat conducted "Kuwait Vision; its themes and horizons" at Arab Planning Institute. UN-Habitat presented SDG 11 with the importance of cities including the New Urban Agenda's Road Map for Planning Urban Spatial Development and how it's aligned with Kuwait Vision 2035.

Additionally, the UN-Habitat has made significant progress in involving many participants in planting saplings in open public spaces under the "Greening Kuwait" which launched in 2019. The initiative focusses on raising public awareness on native plants into protecting cities from dust storms, desertification, and sand encroachment.

In addition, the campaigns seek to encourage the public to participate in the States's efforts to achieve carbon neutrality and fulfill Kuwait's environmental commitments by increasing the green area in the state of Kuwait.

In the meanwhile, UN-Habitat finalized the preparation for the project titled Combatting Transboundary Sand and Dust storms from the Republic of Iraq. The project will be conducted in collaboration with the Kuwait Institute for Research (KISR), the Meteorological Department with funding from Kuwait Fund with the objective of improving cities' resilience against the impact of sand and dust storms.

In terms of supporting Kuwait's engagement in the COP27 and the 2022 World Urban Forum (WUF11)<sup>13</sup>, the UN-Habitat, collaborated with the Kuwaiti government to amplify their national dedication towards environmental sustainability. This collaborative effort is in alignment with the previously mentioned strategic interventions, which seek to foster a sustainable future for Kuwait and beyond.



<sup>13</sup> The WUF11 was held in Katowice, Poland, from June 26 to June 30, 2022, under the theme "Transforming Our Cities for a Better Urban Future," focusing on the future of cities and the kind of cities needed to support the future of humanity.



### 3.3 Health Initiatives

Kuwait has a long-standing tradition of providing its residents with comprehensive and high-quality healthcare services across the entire spectrum of health promotion, prevention, treatment, rehabilitation, and palliative care. However, the country's national health system faces unique challenges. Under WHO's lead as the UN's mandated institution for health and wellbeing, the UNCT continued to partner with the government to strengthen public health in Kuwait. The WHO supported the Ministry of Health in conducting a systematic review of its health economics and financing arrangements to inform the planning, design, and implementation of health financing reforms to ensure the efficient and sustainable use of resources. A capacity-building workshop titled "From Concepts to Implementation – Health Economics and Financing for Universal Health Coverage in Kuwait" was co-organized with the Ministry of Health to transfer essential concepts and tools to professionals from various departments, including Budget and Control, Pharmaceutical Services, Quality and Accreditation and Non-communicable Diseases. This was followed by a productive year of technical missions and events led by the WHO, addressing various public health issues, including the national response to the COVID-19 pandemic, delivery of a public health competencies for senior health leadership, and survey-driven health indicators.

Given the interlinked nature of health with other SDGs and given the need for whole-of-society engagement around health targets, these initiatives were expanded to reach non-state actors including the private sector, NGOs and academia among others. Various strategic dialogues and initiatives were delivered, targeting these diverse stakeholder categories. Some of these included the orientation on the Baby-friendly hospital initiative, in collaboration with UNICEF and government entities, which targeted private hospitals to build capacity on baby friendly facilities; the Climate Change and Health Multistakeholder consultation, which sought to further gather data on the impact of climate change on health for different stakeholder groups; and the Healthy Spaces Dialogue which sought to increase understanding and commitment for public spaces that encourage health and wellbeing.

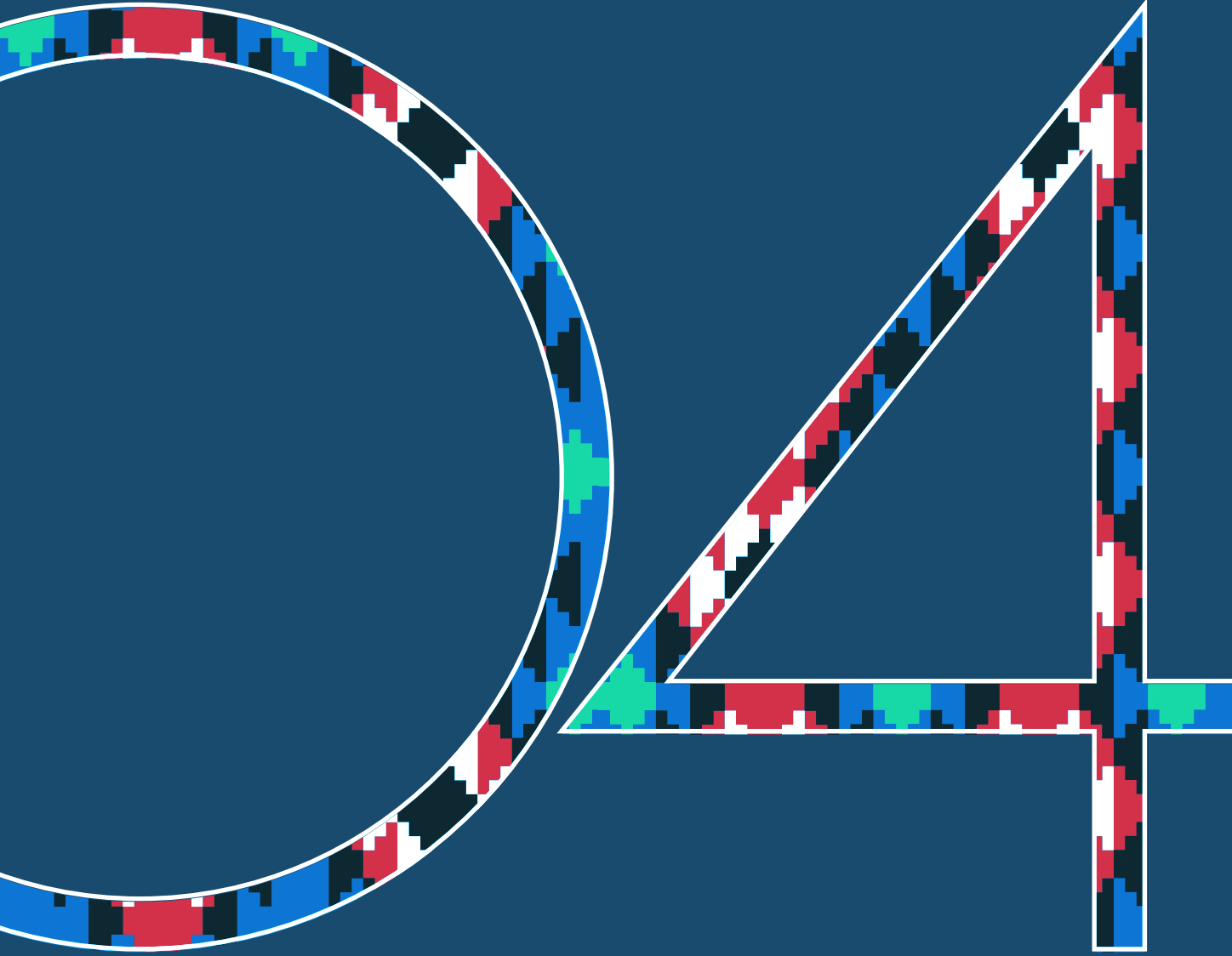


In line with the goal of the KNDP to institutionalize national household surveys for tracking progress in key health indicators, the WHO supported the national team in standardizing the design, data collection and field implementation of the national population household survey. Specific technical support was provided in defining a list of survey-driven indicators that could be captured from ongoing efforts across various departments within the Ministry of Health towards an integrated national strategy for survey-driven indicators.

In efforts to support emergency preparedness and response, UNEP supported the National Chemical Safety Program as part of the Kuwait Environment Public Authority (KEPA)-UNEP Agreement to develop a chemical safety program that focuses on managing chemicals throughout the entire lifecycle. The objective of the program is for Kuwait to work out a national chemical safety blueprint and ensure safe management and usage of chemical substances.







## International Positioning

### INTERNATIONAL POSITIONING

Kuwait's 2035 vision aims to transform the country into a regional and international financial and trade hub, attracting more investors. However, Kuwait's heavy reliance on oil and natural gas to meet its energy needs, combined with its arid climate, poses challenges. Renewable energy accounts for less than 1% of the total generating capacity in Kuwait<sup>13</sup>, and the government seeks to reduce their role, diversify sources of energy, and increase R&D investments in emerging technologies for sustainability. The digital platform for business operations is also being expanded, while an entrepreneurial culture is being fostered, and investments are being made to support small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

The oil sector and its growth potential are considered essential for Kuwait's economic growth, given that the country holds nearly 7% of global oil reserves. As of September 2022, Oil accounts for approximately half of Kuwait's GDP, 90% of government revenue and 95% of exports. Therefore, sustainability trends and dynamics of the private sector in Kuwait mainly focus on its oil and financial industries, emphasizing health, partnerships, sustainability, and innovation, which are in line with SDGs 3, 17, 11, and 9, respectively. The government is recommended to support a joint effort between leading oil companies and the Kuwait Authority for Partnership Projects to identify and form a strategic partnership.

Additionally, the financial and banking sectors' attention towards the influence of innovation on significant developments calls for an alliance with the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences to promote an innovative ecosystem in leading corporations. In this regard, forming and maintaining strategic local and global partnerships is essential to advancing Kuwait's vision of becoming the world's largest integrated energy and chemical company. Strengthening alliances, including in the private sector, as well as in industries including health, energy, and finance, and converging policies that embrace vulnerable groups, will serve as the backbone of Kuwait's global positioning.

<sup>13</sup> As of October 2021, domestic energy production from renewable sources remained under 1% (<https://oxfordbusinessgroup.com/reports/kuwait/2022-report/energy-utilities/powering-the-future-incentive-driven-solar-wind-and-hydrogen-development-plans-are-steering-the-uptake-of-cleaner-energy-sources/>)



## 4.1 SDG Impact Investment

The Private sector plays an important role in investing in areas that support the achievement of the SDGs by 2030. The UNCT continued to support companies listed in the Kuwait stock exchange in embracing the Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) journey. In 2022, UNDP in partnership with the GSSCPD and Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority organized a tailored technical workshop around the standards, practices, and tools for ensuring the impactful implementation and reporting of ESG principles. More than 60 companies benefited from the training that highlighted the importance of integrating ESG principles with the SDGs. This provided companies with a better understanding on social impact into business decision-making and how SDG reporting fits into business processes. Additionally, participants were able to review the relevant SDGs that pertain to their respective sectors.

Moreover UN-HABITAT and the GSSCPD of Kuwait prepared and submitted the “Kuwait National Report of the State of Kuwait on Progress Made in the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda” to the seventy-sixth session of the United Nations General Assembly Economic and Social Council.

Furthermore, the UNDP and Boursa Kuwait organized a follow-up workshop to raise awareness on ESG- SDG principles. The workshop was part of Boursa Kuwait’s ongoing initiatives to promote corporate sustainability in the Kuwaiti capital market and encourage the adoption of the best ESG disclosure and reporting standards among listed companies. Boursa Kuwait’s Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) strategy integrates sustainability efforts into the company culture to achieve longevity in day-to-day operations.

The UNDP developed a socioeconomic report highlighting the socioeconomic issues in Kuwait. The report examines Pre-Covid, During Covid and Post Covid indicators, focusing on issues including, macroeconomic, consumption behavior, the private sector, environmental, health, education, people with disabilities, labor and migration. A recovery index was developed that measures various dimensions that would help policy advocacy for reform and inform policymaking. The index shows that Kuwait’s recovery is in fact low compared to other GCC countries. The index works as a monitoring tool for tracking the quality of the recovery across various dimensions and sectors within the country.

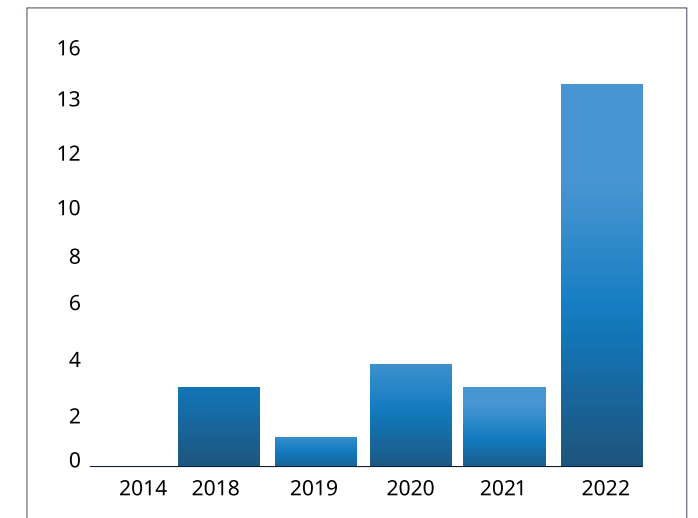


## 4.2 Localizing UN Global Compact Initiative

The UN Global Compact is the world’s largest corporate sustainability initiative, which supports companies in doing business responsibly by aligning their strategies and operations with universal principles on human rights, labor, environment, and anti-corruption.

Our UNCT continued to advocate for and engage with private companies, leading to 15 more companies joining the UN Global Compact whose local manager conducted a review of Global Compact documentation and the website and organized focused meetings with companies to present and discuss the benefits of joining the Kuwait chapter as agents of sustainable development. Currently, Kuwait has a total of 26 companies that have joined the UN Global Compact since 2010, and 15 more have joined in 2022.

Figure 4.1 No of Kuwait Companies that have joined UN Global Compact



Source data : <https://unglobalcompact.org/engage-locally/mena/kuwait%20&%20qatar>





### 4.3 Partnerships as a Cross-cutting

The UNCT has identified partnership engagement as a crucial area and has taken various steps to collaborate with different groups, establishing the UNCT Partnership Taskforce. A strategy to promote and mobilize funds from partners after the signature of the UN Cooperation Framework or during the preparation of its signature was developed for 2022-2023. In November 2022, the UNCT Partnership Taskforce presented recommendations on partnership and development finance strategy for the UNCT was shared for further discussion and implementation.

In engaging with the private sector and strengthening networking, the partnership area established relationships with various different NGOs, private and government sectors, Government sectors and SMEs in different thematic areas. A database was created to support the engagement of different sectors in the activities of the UNCT, and three technical discussion sessions were conducted on renewable energy and technology, sustainable food systems and healthy smart cities with selected partners from SMEs and private sector. Approximately 68 SMEs, NGOs and private sectors were engaged in the success of the UN Day in Kuwait, and the partnership area engaged the academic field in discussions around COP 27 agenda, which resulted in Model United Nations (MUN) developing three resolutions as a solution to the ongoing global environmental challenges.

Regarding overall support to the UNCT, a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry was signed to establish the UN Global Compact in Kuwait, resulting in 27 companies entering the Global Compact in less than a year. The partnership area also coordinated the participation of Kuwait in the High-level Youth Conference in Amman, Jordan, organized by ILO, UNDP, UNICEF, and UNESCO. The partnership supported communication and identified strategic influencers and partners to advance topics and awareness in different areas of the SDGs.



To foster innovative engagement with youth and advance sustainable humanitarian solutions, UNHCR collaborated with the Pan Arab Consulting Engineers, Kuwait University, and Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development to launch a competition for engineering university students. The competition aimed at designing a sustainable, environment-friendly community shelter for Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh. The winners will participate with UNHCR in a field visit to the refugee camp to witness the impact of their design. The winning design will be built and displayed in one of Kuwait's prominent landmarks.

In supporting humanitarian aid interventions for victims of disaster and crisis-stricken countries, the State of Kuwait provided funds to several humanitarian UN agencies operating in Ukraine, Afghanistan and Pakistan. In efforts to mobilize these funds, UN humanitarian agencies (IOM and UNHCR) advocated for these needs through consultative meetings with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as preparing flash reports and updates covering appeals, and through press conferences for the media, such as the one held for Pakistan in September.



Building on this, the UNHCR further supported the global positioning of the State of Kuwait and its leading role in providing humanitarian aid, specifically from Islamic Philanthropy tools. Hence, the Mid-year Islamic Philanthropy Report launching event was organized and hosted in the State of Kuwait with global participation from global entities including representatives from Indonesia, Turkey, Saudi, and UAE. The event was also attended by local entities leading in the area of Islamic Philanthropy to shed light on the impact of contributions received.

Reflecting a long-standing partnership around health, WHO supported the global positioning of Kuwait, by hosting an event to highlight Kuwait's contributions to universal health coverage, on the occasion of UHC day in 2022. The event which engaged the Kuwait Fund, Kuwait Ministry of Foreign Affairs, country representatives from around the world, as well civil society and private sector, highlighted Kuwait's contributions to improving health outcomes in both humanitarian and development contexts.

During the annually celebrated Global Migration Film Festival (GMFF), the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in collaboration with American University in Kuwait (AUK) and the Gulf University for Science and Technology (GUST) hosted two film screening events on the topic of migration, followed by an in-depth discussion with the students during panel discussions.

The festival's goal is to pave the way for greater discussions around the negative perceptions and attitudes towards refugees and migrants and strives to strengthen the social contract between host countries and communities, and refugees and migrants. Additionally, Kuwait Participated in the first International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) that took place at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on 17-20 May 2022, where the State of Kuwait affirmed its commitment to achieving the goals of the Global Compact for Migration (GCM). Prior to the IMRF event, two meetings were held within the framework of the UN Network on Migration (UNNM) to support the feedback provided to the Government.





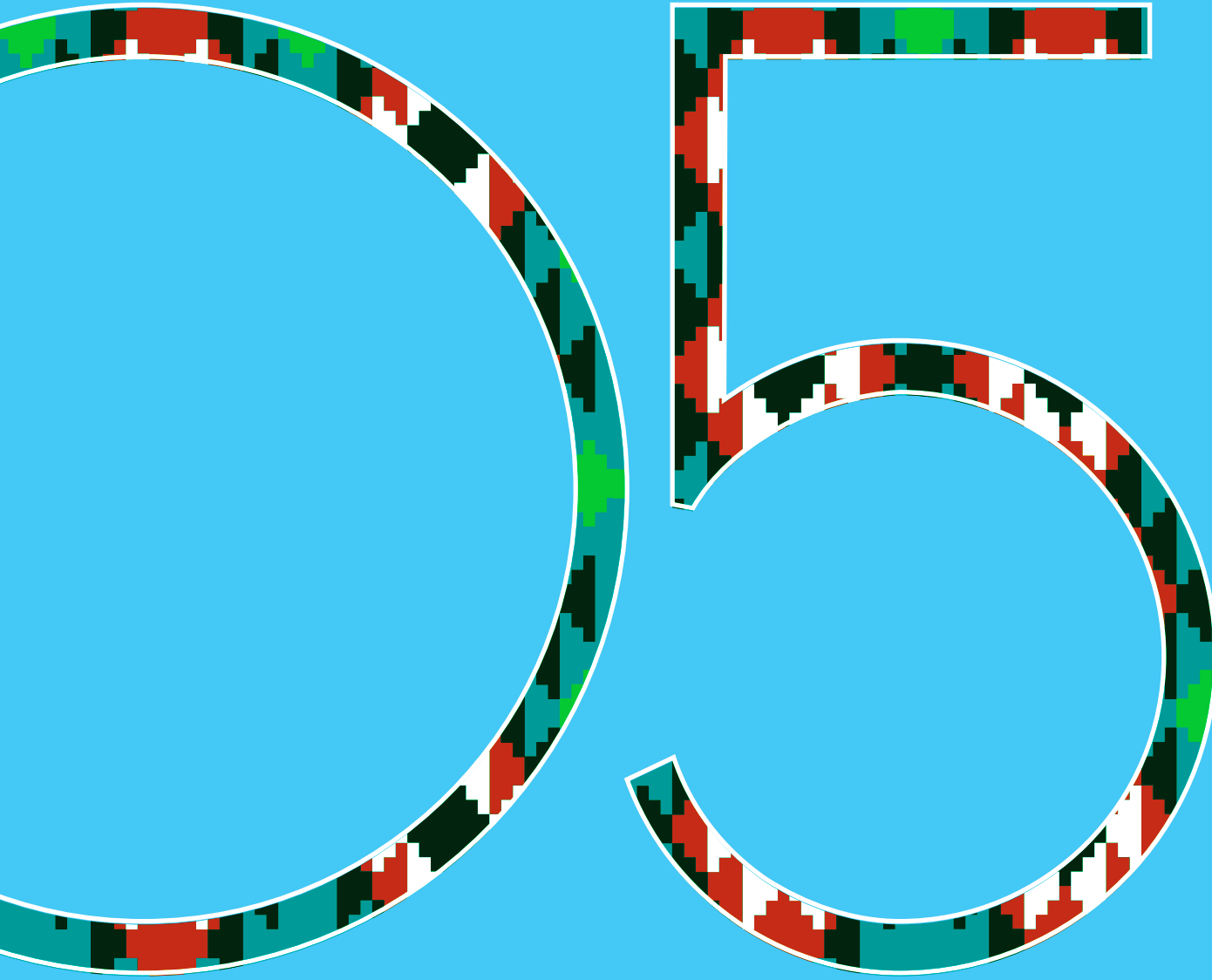
In cooperation with Kuwait University, the UNESCO co-organized a conference on Preserving Cultural Heritage in Kuwait aiming at shedding light on the different aspects of Cultural Heritage and its current state of preservation in the State of Kuwait. The Conference gathered representatives from the National Council for Arts and Culture and the Ministry of Information, memory institutions, private collectors as well as representatives of foreign embassies and students and faculty members of Kuwait University. The Sessions included discussions on Documentary Heritage Preservation, comprising an introduction to the UNESCO Memory of the World Programme and dedicated panels on tangible heritage preservation, community-based safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage: methodologies and perspectives in Kuwait and lessons learned from 50 years of the implementation of the UNESCO 1972 Convention. The event revealed a strong interest by key stakeholders to protect and safeguard Kuwait's heritage. The outcome of discussions focused on the need to strengthen capacities at the national level in the field of heritage, enhance coordination among the different actors who showed very dynamic and willing to implement change to better preserve Kuwaiti heritage.

Furthermore, the UN-Habitat recently arranged a visit for ambassadors and heads of missions accredited to the State of Kuwait to explore the Bait Al-Othman Archaeological Museum. The visit provided an opportunity for the diplomats to gain insight into Kuwait's rich history and the evolution of its cities over time. Additionally, during the Holy Month of Ramadan, the diplomats visited Nayef Palace, where they witnessed the historic "Iftar Cannon" as part of Ramadan heritage practices, and toured the museum of and a replica of the old city of Kuwait. The visit was a valuable cultural exchange, allowing the diplomatic community in Kuwait to deepen their understanding of the country's heritage.

To promote integrity and transparency in the field of media and journalism, the UNODC partnered with NAZAHA on raising awareness of the importance of media in detecting corruption, especially through investigative journalism by delivering a workshop on "the integrity of media and journalism" in Kuwait City on the 17- 18 of October 2022 to a total number of 90 participants from the Ministry of Media, Kuwait Journalism Association, Kuwait News Agency (KUNA), Kuwait Lawyers Society, and NAZAHA. Additionally the UNODC continued to organize technical consultations with the Permanent National Committee for the Implementation of the National Strategy for the Prevention of Trafficking in Kuwait to engage in a strategic partnership with the aim of strengthening Kuwaiti capacities to effectively prevent, suppress, and punish trafficking in persons in accordance with international standards and best practices including through the operationalization of the National Referral Mechanism for victims of trafficking.







## UN Working as One

### UN WORKING AS ONE

In 2022, the UNCT continued implement reform efforts with positive results and benefits for the government and stakeholders. The Resident Coordinator provided coordination functions and led external engagements with key partners to promote a more effective and efficient presence of the UNCT. The UNCT met monthly to promote broad engagement and ensure that all UN agencies were fully aware of the key priorities of the UN, in addition to initiatives that helped deliver results. The Resident Coordinator also held regular bilateral meetings on an as-needed basis with all heads of UN agencies to discuss topics of importance to each agency and to the UN Development System as a whole.

#### Communication Group

In the past year, the UN Communication Group played a key role in raising the profile of the UNCT and adding value to the work of ours and its support to the government. During the celebration of key international days, notably UN Day, World Environment Day, and the 16 Days of Activism, the UN Communication Group played a pivotal role in raising awareness and creating platforms for strategic dialogues towards the achievement of SDGs in Kuwait. The branding of the UNCT has significantly improved, with an increased multilingual presence on its social media accounts and the UN Kuwait website. To improve the 'One-UN' approach, the UN Communications Group produced a quarterly newsletter on events that served as a useful planning and information tool.

#### Operations Management Group

The UN Operations Management Team (OMT) chaired and led by UNDP continued to provide guidance, recommendations, and management support to the UNCT on operations matters. The team met on a monthly basis and discussed synergies on strengthening the common services, including financial, human resources, procurement, and management of office premises. Furthermore, the OMT continued to work on the Business Operation Strategy (BOS) which was updated and endorsed by the UNCT in 2022.

#### UNCT Key Focus for 2023

Looking forward to 2023, the UNCT in Kuwait sees many positive developments on the horizon in terms of its strengthened collaborative efforts with the government and other stakeholders towards the support of the KNDP & the 2030 Agenda. Key areas of focus are supporting the country in the development of the second VNR, which will be submitted at the UN High-level Political Forum in June 2023, and supporting the government in digesting deliberations made during COP 27 and participating in COP 28, to be held in the United Arab Emirates. With the World Bank projecting Kuwait's GDP growth to be around 2.5 in 2023 with non-oil sector anticipated to increase their contribution, the UNCT will strengthen its partnership efforts to ensure private sector are actively engaged in the country's economy.

In particular, the focus of our UNCT will relate to global priorities, namely **"Our Common Agenda"** while recommitting to Agenda 2030 to be localized effectively with greater efforts to support renewed solidarity between peoples and future generations, a new social contract anchored in human rights, better management of critical global commons and global public goods, and reinvigorated multilateralism. The goal is to have a fit-for-purpose UNCT in Kuwait that can address the challenges of today and tomorrow.



ONE UN KUWAIT  
REPORT 2022

