



UNITED NATIONS
KUWAIT



ANNUAL RESULTS REPORT

2024





2024



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FOREWORD



On behalf of the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Kuwait, I am honoured to present the Annual Results Report 2024. This report reflects the depth of our partnership with the Government of Kuwait and our collective impact in advancing Kuwait's national development priorities and international engagements. It highlights Kuwait's continued progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) while reaffirming its global humanitarian and development leadership.

Kuwait remains steadfast in its commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with Kuwait Vision 2035 serving as a strategic blueprint. To accelerate the localisation of the SDGs through the Six Transitions and the Pact for the Future, the UNCT aligned its efforts with national priorities, including economic diversification, gender equality and women empowerment, environmental sustainability, and inclusion of youth and persons with disabilities as agents of change.

In addition to making significant strides toward the SDG targets, Kuwait has continued its legacy of generous contributions to humanitarian and recovery efforts as a humanitarian leader. The UNCT served as a strategic partner in ensuring that Kuwait's impact on global solidarity is far-reaching and long-lasting.

Ms. Ghada Hatim Eltahir

The Representative of the United Nations
Secretary-General and Resident Coordinator
in the State of Kuwait

High-level engagements underscored Kuwait's elevated global position in 2024, including the words of peace exchanged in Kuwait between the UN Secretary-General António Guterres and His Highness Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Amir of the State of Kuwait. This was preceded by the visit of the UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed. His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, the Crown Prince of the State of Kuwait, delivered powerful messages on Kuwait's commitment to global cooperation at the 79th Session of the UN General Assembly and the Summit of the Future.

Kuwait also hosted key international events, including the High-Level Conference on Strengthening International Counter-Terrorism Cooperation and Building Agile Border Security Mechanisms and the launch of the Global Humanitarian Overview 2025. These events showcased Kuwait's leadership in humanitarian and security efforts as well as the deepened trust and collaboration between the UN and Kuwait on shared global priorities.

As we enter 2025, we stand at a critical final stretch toward achieving the SDGs, with a decade remaining to realise the aspirations of Kuwait Vision 2035, demonstrating financial, cultural, and institutional leadership in the region. Kuwait, through its presidency of the Gulf Cooperation Council, designation as the Arab Capital of Culture and Media, hosting of the sixth Arab Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and more, continues to demonstrate its commitment to sustainable development and multilateralism. The forthcoming Strategic Cooperation Framework will set a clear roadmap for a deeper collaboration between the UN and the Government of Kuwait.

On behalf of the UNCT, I extend my deepest gratitude to the Government of Kuwait for its unwavering support, strategic leadership and trust in our partnership. I also sincerely appreciate the collaboration and contributions from our partners in civil society, the private sector, academia and beyond.

This year marks the 80th anniversary of the UN and 62 years of partnership with Kuwait – milestones that reaffirm our commitment to working as one. At a time when global cooperation and multilateralism are being tested, we remain dedicated to leading by example and strengthening trust through action, partnering closely with the Government and people of Kuwait to build a future of prosperity, peace, and progress for all — including future generations, leaving no one behind.



ANNUAL RESULTS REPORT

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS





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SOCIOECONOMIC LANDSCAPE



1.1 DEVELOPMENT TRENDS

In 2024, Kuwait experienced a year of economic adjustment, marked by several policy initiatives aimed at fiscal reform and economic diversification amidst a challenging oil market landscape. The country remained in recession, primarily driven by ongoing OPEC+ production cuts, which significantly impacted a sector that contributed approximately 89% of government revenue. Kuwait's nominal GDP stood at USD 159 billion in 2024, marking another year of decline. Real GDP contracted by 2.8%, weighed down by a 6.9% decline in the oil sector, but the non-oil sector exhibited resilience, growing by 2.0%, supported by increased corporate lending.



The oil market remains integral to Kuwait's economic landscape. The country has had to withstand the dual impacts of lower production (down from 2.6 million barrels per day (mb/d) in 2023 to 2.4 mb/d in 2024) and a moderate annual decline in Brent crude prices year-on-year.¹ The reduced oil revenues contributed to a narrowing of the current account balance, which is expected to be 27.2% of the GDP. Consequently, the fiscal deficit of the budgetary central government for the 2024/2025 fiscal year is also anticipated to rise to 6.6% of the GDP despite expenditure rationalisation efforts. Moreover, Kuwait has had to balance these challenges with global market uncertainties, including trade policies, geopolitical dynamics, and fluctuating demand patterns.²

Inflation has been moderating, with the Consumer Price Index (CPI) declining from 3.3% at the start of 2024 to 2.5% by year-end as excess demand pressures ease and imported food prices drop. In turn, the Central Bank of Kuwait maintained a policy of gradual easing by lowering interest rates to 4%, which was in line with reduced inflationary pressures.³

Kuwait's population reached approximately 4.99 million in 2024, of whom 69% are expatriates.⁴ The labour force is estimated to be close to 3 million, yet Kuwaiti nationals account for less than 20%, with significant segmentation between sectors. Kuwaitis predominantly occupy positions in the public sector (78%), while non-Kuwaitis represent approximately 97% of private sector employment.⁵ This substantial disparity reflects a pronounced dual labour market characterised by unequal labour incentives

and benefits, resulting in Kuwaiti nationals' strong preference for public sector jobs. Consequently, the private sector remains heavily dependent on expatriate workers.

Overall unemployment stood at 2.1%, but notable gender disparities persist, with female unemployment at more than six times the rate of males.⁶ Despite improvements in female literacy over the years, the gender gap in workforce participation has remained unchanged, falling more than 10 percentage points below the average of the MENA region.⁷ This suggests that barriers beyond education, such as workplace policies and societal expectations, hinder women's employment opportunities.

Additionally, Kuwait faces a broader challenge with youth (15-24). Unemployment is estimated at 15%, signalling difficulties for young people entering the labour market. With 50% of its population under 35, the government prioritises education and healthcare reforms under the New Kuwait Vision 2035 to prepare a skilled and healthy workforce.⁸

Kuwait's Vision focuses on economic diversification and strengthening private sector engagement to reduce reliance on hydrocarbons.⁹ In alignment with this vision, a comprehensive government endorsed white paper was issued in 2024, estimating the value of the energy transition to Kuwait at USD 389 billion, requiring a projected investment of USD 260 billion up to 2060.



This represents a major stride towards bolstering employment opportunities, developing high-skilled capabilities, fostering a knowledge-based economy, and strengthening Kuwait's global standing on carbon neutrality and environmental sustainability.¹⁰ These ambitious initiatives aim to position Kuwait as a regional leader in economic diversification and sustainable development.

Kuwait prioritises human development and social welfare, placing significant emphasis on securing long-term financial stability and economic diversification. Central to this strategy is the Future Generations Fund (FGF), managed by the Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA), which ranks among the world's largest and best-performing sovereign wealth funds.¹¹ Kuwait's fiscal stability



remains robust, underscored by Fitch Ratings’ projection that the country’s sovereign net foreign asset position — including the FGF — will average 529% of GDP over the 2024-2025 period.¹²

Universal access to public healthcare and education ensures a strong foundation for societal well-being. Kuwait’s healthcare system provides accessible and comprehensive services through a robust public sector at minimal or no cost. Complemented by a growing private sector offering personalised care, the system includes diverse facilities such as hospitals and specialised centres.¹³ While progress is evident, challenges like improving outcomes and integrating advanced technology remain key priorities for the government.

Home to over 66,000 individuals with disabilities, Kuwait is advancing inclusivity through initiatives like the Kuwait Universal Design Code, digital accessibility frameworks, and educational support models. Collaborating with the UN in Kuwait, the government aims to empower people with disabilities and foster a more inclusive society in line with Kuwait Vision 2035.¹⁴

1.2 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS)

As of 2024, Kuwait ranked 111 out of 166 countries on the Global SDG Index, scoring 63.76. This index aggregates progress across various SDG targets, based on available data, to provide a comprehensive assessment of each country’s performance.¹⁵

Kuwait has already made good progress towards SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation) by ensuring universal access for its population. The country is also steadily advancing on SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals), demonstrating Kuwait’s strong commitment to enhancing the quality of life for its population.

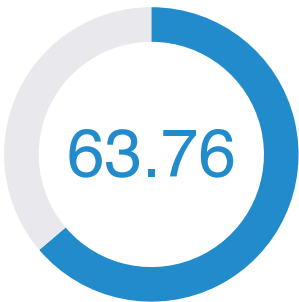
However, progress in some areas has been more limited. While Kuwait boasts a high literacy rate, improvements in the quality of education (SDG 4) and learning outcomes are necessary to meet the demands of a knowledge-driven and innovation-focused economy. Under SDG2 (Zero Hunger), the prevalence of undernourishment and stunting among children is low, but 35% of adults are obese, and another 38% are overweight¹⁶, indicating the need for enhanced public health and nutrition strategies.

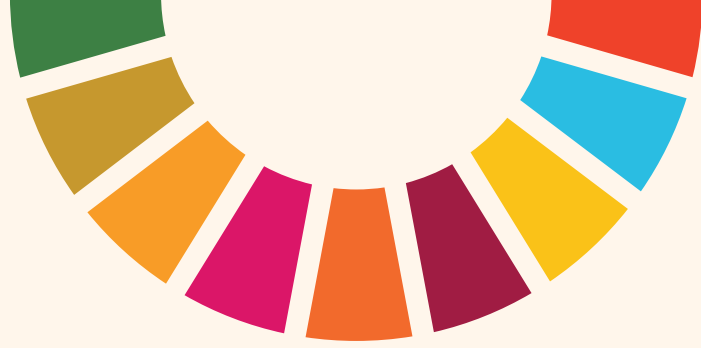
Since the early 90s, Kuwait has also made progress in achieving universal access to electricity. Still, progress on SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy) is marred by lacklustre growth in renewable energy, which accounts for a mere 0.1% of total energy consumption and a regressive trend in energy intensity, significantly hindering efforts to achieve SDG7.2 and 7.3.¹⁷ However, the country faces challenges related to rising CO₂ emissions. The lack of progress on SDG 7 will contribute to the already disproportionate effects of climate change on Kuwait, including desertification, sand and dust storms, water scarcity, and air pollution. These challenges underscore the need for substantial investments in sustainable and clean energy solutions. More importantly, policies and regulations are needed to improve the environment.¹⁸

Kuwait’s performance under SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions) demonstrates both notable achievements and areas for improvement, particularly in crime control, homicide rates, and corruption. For the crime control area, Kuwait benefits from well-resourced law enforcement and a functioning judicial system. However, corruption remains a significant challenge, scoring low in the 2023 Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI). Homicide rates remain low at 0.25 per 100,000 people, yet further investments in crime prevention and judicial efficiency will be essential to sustaining and enhancing public safety.¹⁹



COUNTRY SCORE





SDG DASHBOARDS AND TRENDS



Note: The full title of each SDG is available here: <https://sdgs.un.org>



02 OVERVIEW OF RESULTS



2.1 EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE AND RULE OF LAW

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ENHANCING GOVERNANCE, TRANSPARENCY, AND ANTI-CORRUPTION EFFORTS

Throughout 2024, Kuwait took significant steps to strengthen its government administration, enhance transparency, and uphold the rule of law. The Kuwait Anti-Corruption Authority (NAZAHA) led efforts to align public-sector processes with international anti-corruption standards. Practical measures — such as implementing the right-to-access Information Law and enforcing stricter financial disclosure requirements for public officials — reinforced the reform agenda. NAZAHA, in collaboration with the UN in Kuwait, also organised workshops to help civil servants detect, prevent, and investigate corrupt practices. NAZAHA began exploring ways to strengthen Kuwait's approaches to corruption risk assessment, particularly by contextualising the “State of Integrity: A Guide on Conducting Corruption Risk Assessments in Public Organizations,” published by UN Kuwait, within Kuwait's legal, cultural, and institutional context and by building related capacities.

ADVANCING HUMAN RIGHTS AND STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY

In 2024, the UN in Kuwait organised five workshops addressing various aspects of human rights. Four workshops were conducted in partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), while the Human Rights and Law Enforcement workshop involved officials from both the Ministry of Interior (Mol) and the MOFA. Their collective aim was to enhance institutional capacity and foster compliance with international human rights standards. From 28 January to 1st February, the first workshop focused on developing national human rights plans to monitor the implementation of recommendations issued by the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and other treaty bodies. It was attended by 45 participants, including one female participant with a disability. Between 5 and 7 May, a workshop on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) was convened to bolster committee members' effectiveness in reviewing Kuwait's sixth periodic report. The workshop was attended by 41 participants. The programme offered in-depth insights into CEDAW, the role of the Committee, and the importance of addressing its recommendations.

On 16 and 17 September, a workshop on the Convention Against Torture (CAT) was held, equipping attendees with the skills to prepare for Kuwait's fourth CAT report review. This involved formulating responses and stimulating discussions with the CAT Committee; a total of 46 Participants took part in it. Subsequently, on 18 and 19 September, a UPR workshop provided a comprehensive overview of the UPR mechanism, Kuwait's previous UPR submissions, and relevant human rights indicators. Both sessions promoted inter-ministerial collaboration for reporting and follow-up on CAT, CEDAW, and UPR.

From 28 to 31 October, a workshop on Human Rights and Law Enforcement was conducted to deepen police officers' understanding of ethical conduct, detainee rights, and the absolute prohibition of torture. The workshop involved over 30 participants from various ranks, including Lieutenant, First Lieutenant, Captain, and Major, emphasising practical applications of human rights principles in law enforcement contexts. In partnership with the Mol, a similar training workshop was conducted. The latter will be replicated through three additional workshops in 2025. The UN in Kuwait also engaged with the Judicial Institute for Judicial and Legal Studies and the Kuwait Diplomatic Institute to expand future training in Human Rights and law enforcement, as well as cooperation.

COMBATING ORGANISED CRIME AND STRENGTHENING REGIONAL COOPERATION



In the field of combating organised crime, Kuwaiti officials received training in August 2024 on using advanced AI tools to investigate online drug trafficking. The workshop was implemented in collaboration with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Criminal Information Centre to Combat Drugs (GCC-CICCD) and the UNODC Regional Centre for Combating Cybercrime in Doha.

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Moreover, the State of Kuwait contributed expertise to the High-Level Regional Workshop held in Abu Dhabi in September 2024 as part of the “Gulf Strategy to Combat Drugs 2025–2028.” Developed by the General Secretariat of the GCC with the technical support of the UN in Kuwait and endorsed by the GCC Supreme Council on December 1, 2024, the Strategy aims to standardise efforts in controlling narcotics and bolster regional cooperation in drug prevention and enforcement across the GCC region.

STRENGTHENING RESPONSES TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND MIGRANT PROTECTION

Kuwait intensified its efforts in preventing and combating Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants (TIP/SOM) through several multidisciplinary specialised training sessions. Conducted by the MOFA in collaboration with the UN in Kuwait, these sessions prepared diplomats, law enforcement officers, and social workers to identify victims and align national laws with international protocols. Such measures have cemented Kuwait’s growing stature as a regional model of effective governance and a valuable partner in upholding global legal norms. Building on the legislative support provided in 2023 for reviewing the national anti-trafficking legislation, the UN in Kuwait continued in 2024 to support Kuwait in building capacities for the effective implementation of the National Action Plan to Combat TIP/SOM.²⁰



In this regard, a total of 213 government officials (approximately one quarter women), including diplomats, law enforcement officers, and selected representatives of the member entities of the Permanent National Committee for Implementing the National Strategy for TIP/SOM, were trained to better understand their respective roles in identifying and providing protection and assistance to victims and to conduct specialised investigations in TIP cases. Moreover, five Kuwaiti officials successfully completed the tenth edition of the yearly Diploma Programme, “Specialists in Combating Human Trafficking,” organised by the UN in Kuwait in partnership with the National Committee to Combat TIP in the UAE, the Dubai Police, and the Dubai Judicial Institute. In July 2024, the UN in Kuwait and the Ministry of Justice signed

a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that provides the framework to streamline technical cooperation with and through the Committee to support the country in fulfilling its international obligations to effectively prevent, suppress, and punish human trafficking in person (TIP). Similarly, in collaboration with the MoJ, the UN in Kuwait conducted a series of specialised training sessions to enhance countertrafficking skills and knowledge of Kuwaiti law enforcement and judicial officials.



In February, a five-day training on criminal and electronic investigations equipped 30 frontline police officers with the necessary skills to identify human trafficking networks, collect electronic evidence and conduct effective investigations in line with Kuwait’s legal system and international best practices. In August and October, additional specialised training was provided to 59 Criminal Investigation Department (CID) officers, including General Investigation, Residency Investigation, and Airport Security personnel. This training covered legal frameworks, investigative techniques, and victim identification strategies, ensuring that officers are better equipped to detect and respond to trafficking cases. In September 2024, the UN in Kuwait organised a three-day discussion session. Twenty-two participants from relevant government agencies attended the session, which focused on protecting migrants and individuals in need of international protection. The session covered key principles of international refugee and migration law and enhanced the participants’ understanding of critical legal principles such as non-refoulement and international solidarity in burden-sharing.

Additionally, a one-week comprehensive training for frontline police officers in combatting human trafficking was conducted in November for 22 officers from various MoJ departments. The training provided an in-depth understanding of the socio-economic drivers of trafficking, strengthened knowledge of national and international anti-trafficking laws, and reinforced a holistic, victim-centred approach to counter-trafficking efforts. Additionally, a session for 26 judges and prosecutors was also held in November, focusing on judicial responses to human trafficking cases to introduce international legal standards, strengthen legal procedures, and ensure effective prosecution of trafficking crimes.

COUNTER-TERRORISM INITIATIVES AND BORDER SECURITY ENHANCEMENTS

In the field of countering terrorism, in May 2024, Kuwaiti officials were trained on “Strengthening Rule of Law-based Criminal Justice Responses to Terrorism and Emerging Threats” at a regional workshop organised in Riyadh jointly with the General Secretariat of the GCC. The training covered emerging terrorism threats and trends, linkages with organised crime, innovative technologies in tackling terrorism and cross-border threats, and the judicial perspective challenges in prosecuting returning foreign terrorist fighters.

Finally, the UN in Kuwait hosted a High-Level Conference on “Strengthening International Counter-Terrorism Cooperation and Building Agile Border Security Mechanisms – The Kuwait Phase,” co-organised by the State of Kuwait and the Republic of Tajikistan. The event brought together senior officials, counter-terrorism experts, and representatives from 92 countries. The Under-Secretary General of the UN for Drugs and Crime and Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime participated through recorded keynote remarks under the “Thematic Session II” on Border Security in the Context of Porous Borders and New Technologies. The outcomes of the Kuwait Phase of the Dushanbe Process were captured in the “Kuwait Declaration on Border Security and Management,” reinforcing Kuwait’s commitment to strengthening international partnerships, enhancing border security, and adopting innovative strategies to combat terrorism.

2.2 PROSPEROUS ECONOMY AND PRODUCTIVE HUMAN CAPITAL

Kuwait’s focus on inclusive economic growth and human capital development was evident in multiple flagship initiatives throughout 2024. The United Nations has expanded its efforts to empower youth and promote disability inclusion, ensuring that development initiatives are accessible and equitable.

EMPOWERING KUWAITI YOUTH FOR LEADERSHIP AND GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

The Young Ambassador Programme (YAP) in Kuwait, officially launched in 2022, continued to empower Kuwaiti youth in 2024. The programme is a multi-stakeholder initiative involving the United Nations, the MOFA, and international embassies, including those of the UK and Canada, equipping young leaders with the diplomatic and leadership skills necessary to engage in international affairs. In its third season, YAP focused on “Sustainable Peace and Security,” with 40 secondary school students participating in a six-month programme.

The students developed policy advocacy and leadership skills through mentoring from international organisations and diplomatic missions, aligning with SDG 16. This round built on previous successes, where students engaged in workshops,



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networking, and discussions to foster a new generation of candidates for leadership in diplomacy and peace-building. The programme is also an essential platform for youth empowerment, enabling active participation in global discussions on sustainable peace and development. Notably, on March 7, a senior UN representative in Kuwait spoke at the Model United Nations (MUN) conference held at a Kuwaiti school, under the theme “Protect the Truth, Serve the Youth.” This event focused on verifying information before it was shared, promoting the importance of responsible communication, and enhancing the advocacy skills of young leaders.

Moreover, to contribute to the capacity building of Kuwaiti youth and increase Kuwait’s representation in the UN system, the United Nations, through its volunteer agency, funded three UN volunteering assignments for Kuwaiti nationals who joined the UNDP, IOM, and WHO in Kuwait in May 2024 for a one-year assignment. Through this unique professional experience, the Kuwaiti youth enhance their exposure to critical areas of international cooperation and development and promote the values and contributions to sustainable development on the global stage.

The UN in Kuwait successfully conducted a sustainable summer campaign for children facilitated by young engineers, architects, and doctors. The programme focused on teaching children about AI and sustainable technical skills, equipping them with essential knowledge, and effectively preparing them for their future roles and responsibilities.

ADVANCING INCLUSIVE EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR RIGHTS, AND MIGRANT PROTECTIONS

The “Partners for Their Employment” initiative in Kuwait, launched in 2019, is a collaborative effort among the UN in Kuwait, the Public Authority for Disability Affairs (PADA), and the Human Development Society to promote inclusive employment for persons with disabilities (PWDs). In May 2024, the “Partners for Their Employment” initiative celebrated the graduation of its fifth cohort, advancing inclusive employment for PWDs in Kuwait. The initiative trained 285 participants across four approved programmes, achieving an 82% employment rate with zero job attrition. Graduates secured jobs in sectors like telecommunications, banking, and retail, with 100 graduates from the

latest batch receiving on-the-spot job offers. The programme aligns with SDG 8 and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities), as well as Kuwait Vision 2035, emphasising rights-based employment and international standards. In November 2024, the sixth batch began, training 123 participants with support from the Ministry of Social Affairs. The initiative has also driven structural changes by promoting compliance with disability employment laws, providing vocational training, and establishing a regional model for inclusive employment.



Furthermore, Labour Day celebrations in May 2024 allowed the government to showcase reforms supporting national and expatriate workers. Announcements included measures to improve construction site safety standards, regulate housing conditions, and revise wage structures. The government pursued a more dynamic, knowledge-driven economy by reinforcing protections for vulnerable labour groups and emphasising skill-building initiatives for Kuwaiti nationals. As part of the ceremony, the UN in Kuwait’s International Migration Law Specialist participated in a seminar “Highlighting the Efforts of the State of Kuwait to Promote the Right to Work,” organised by the Kuwait MOFA in commemoration of International Labour Day. During the seminar, the speakers delivered an insightful presentation, sharing best practices and reinforcing Kuwait’s commitment to promoting the right to work in alignment with international standards.

On October 22, the Public Authority for Manpower’s (PAM) Director of Inspection and Audit joined the UN in Kuwait’s eighth Thematic Working Group meeting on “Licensing and Oversight” under the Global Policy Network on Recruitment, emphasising PAM’s crucial role in protecting the rights of temporary workers in Kuwait and overseeing private intermediaries to ensure fair and ethical recruitment practices. In parallel, the UN in Kuwait assisted over 263 migrants through resettlement and family reunification services, providing comprehensive support from application processing to airport assistance. Additionally, the UN in Kuwait significantly advanced its counter-trafficking and migrant support initiatives. On July 26, the UN in Kuwait participated in an event hosted by the Embassy of Ghana, where it presented ethical recruitment practices to promote responsible and fair recruitment processes while safeguarding the rights of migrant workers.

ENHANCING CHILD WELFARE, MENTAL HEALTH, AND QUALITY EDUCATION

In 2024, the UN in Kuwait bolstered Kuwait's commitment to strengthening child protection systems and aligning national practices with global standards. The organisation facilitated capacity-building initiatives, including training programmes and a dedicated workshop on addressing violence against women and children within the health system. These efforts enhanced the professional skills of those working in child protection services and spurred discussions on refining national child protection frameworks and improving social services. Additionally, recognising the evolving digital landscape, the UN in Kuwait supported initiatives to enhance online child safety measures and national mental health programmes, thereby providing psychosocial support and raising awareness of child well-being in schools.

Significant improvements were made in Early Childhood Development (ECD) in 2024, with the UN in Kuwait playing a central role in policy reform, capacity building, and advocacy. The organisation supported national training workshops on ECD, child development, and parenting — led in collaboration with the Ministry of Health (MoH) and local NGOs — which equipped caregivers and educators with essential skills and reinforced the importance of responsive caregiving and early learning. UN in Kuwait's advocacy efforts further promoted an integrated approach to ECD through regional discussions and knowledge-sharing sessions focused on improving early learning environments and fostering child well-being.

In March 2024, UNESCO's Regional Office for the Gulf States and Yemen, in collaboration with the Arab Bureau of Education for the Gulf States (ABEGS), organised workshops in Kuwait City to strengthen national capacities in education data and statistics. The workshops emphasised the importance of data collection, availability, and usage in formulating effective education policies aligned with SDG 4 and the Education 2030 Framework for Action. Addressing household survey coverage and frequency gaps, the initiative aimed to improve monitoring and planning for

equitable, high-quality education. Complementary online sessions with the SDG 4 focal point further aligned these efforts with national education strategies. A key outcome of the workshops is the development of a mid-term report to track progress and identify challenges as Kuwait advances toward achieving its education targets by 2030.

ADVANCING GENDER EQUALITY AND COMBATING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Between 25 November and 10 December 2024, in the context of the global 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence campaign headed by the UN Secretary-General, the UN in Kuwait, in partnership with national and international stakeholders, organised a series of events that underscored Kuwait's commitment to eliminating violence against women. In partnership with the MOFA and the Embassy of France, the UN in Kuwait convened stakeholders to discuss the progress made by Kuwait in addressing violence against women and opportunities to further strengthen alignment with Kuwait's international legal commitments. Initiatives such as the "Art N Dine" painting experience not only raised public awareness of the pervasive issue of gender-based violence but also fostered critical dialogue among government officials, civil society, and UN agencies.



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FOSTERING SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AND COMMUNITY WELL-BEING



2.3 SUSTAINABLE LIVING ENVIRONMENT

In 2024, the UN in Kuwait advanced a comprehensive agenda to foster a resilient, inclusive, and sustainable urban environment. Through a series of collaborative initiatives spanning humanitarian support, climate resilience, and cultural heritage preservation, the UN and its partners worked to improve public health, enhance environmental stewardship, and drive sustainable economic growth. These efforts — from supporting migrant workers and raising awareness on migration and climate change to transformative greening campaigns and innovative heritage projects — demonstrate the UN's commitment to building a sustainable future for Kuwait.

STRENGTHENING CLIMATE DIPLOMACY AND PRIVATE SECTOR ENGAGEMENT

Additionally, the United Nations supported Kuwait's participation in global climate dialogues at COP16 by working closely with the Kuwait Environment Public Authority (KEPA) to promote climate diplomacy, land restoration, and the Water-Energy-Food Nexus. In April, the UN in Kuwait, together with the European Union (EU) Delegation to Kuwait and the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI), organised a high-level seminar titled "Supporting a Just Transition towards a Greener Economy in Kuwait: The Role of the Private Sector." The seminar, hosted by the KCCI, aimed to explore the role of the private sector in devising strategies to foster a Just Transition towards an environmentally sustainable society and a greener economy. The event participants concluded that the private sector plays a significant role in supporting Kuwait's efforts to reduce carbon emissions in strategic sectors such as energy, retail, banking, water and desalination, construction and circular economy.

In March, the UN in Kuwait organised a screening under the Global Migration Film Festival umbrella, hosted by the American University of Kuwait (AUK), where a documentary on the links between climate change and migration was shown, followed by a panel discussion featuring experts from Art & Graphic Design, International Relations, Social and Behavioural Sciences, and Mathematics and Natural Sciences. This event deepened awareness of migration issues and highlighted the unique contributions migrants make to their new communities, supporting long-term goals of informed dialogue and education on migration and climate change.

Moreover, the UN in Kuwait, in partnership with Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) and other stakeholders, launched the sixth national greening campaign, "Kuwait Tazra" The Road to Cairo WUF12". This initiative aims to transform urban landscapes through extensive reforestation and the creation of vibrant green spaces. This initiative has planted thousands of trees, significantly contributing to the mitigation of dust storms and combating desertification. The campaign also played a critical role in improving urban air quality and enhancing public health. Furthermore, "Kuwait Tazra" The Road to Cairo WUF12", has mobilised strong community involvement, actively promoted sustainable urban development and set a new benchmark for environmental stewardship in the region. Emphasis has been placed on planting native trees and mangroves, the latter being particularly effective in improving sea quality and marine ecosystems. The UN in Kuwait also engaged in the Twelfth World Urban Forum (WUF12) and organised several Urban Breakfast events, including "The Road to Cairo WUF12," in partnership with the Egyptian Embassy. UN in Kuwait provided technical advice that contributed to the successful passing of legislation banning sugary and processed foods in school cafeterias, aligning with global efforts to promote child health and nutrition.



The UN in Kuwait also reinforced Kuwait's commitment to sustainable urban development and economic growth through the innovative "Food Atlas and Digital Platform for Safeguarding, Promoting, and Transmitting Foodways to Future Generations" project. Aligned with the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage and the Education 2030 Framework for Action, this initiative aims to preserve Kuwait's rich culinary heritage — a legacy that emerged from its historical reliance on agriculture, livestock, and fishing, prior to the oil boom reshaping its economy. Funded by Saudi Arabia, the project began in Q2 2024 with comprehensive mapping and identification of Kuwait's living food heritage, engaging key stakeholders such as the National Council for Culture, Arts, and Letters, the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources, and civil society organisations like the Kuwaiti Heritage Association, by fostering capacity-building and peer-to-peer learning.



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2.4 HIGH-QUALITY HEALTHCARE

In 2024, the UN in Kuwait contributed to Kuwait's goal of realising high-quality healthcare domestically and internationally by strengthening national health systems, contributing to human capital development for health, bolstering the health ecosystem to improve multisectoral contributions to the national health goals, and coordinating health emergency response across the region and globally.

STRENGTHENING THE NATIONAL HEALTH SYSTEM AND IMPROVING EVIDENCE- BASED POLICIES FOR HEALTH

Aligned with Kuwait's national development plan and health priorities, the UN in Kuwait collaborated across sectors to improve health outcomes. Notably, Sabah Al-Salem University City was designated as the nation's first "Healthy University City" under the Healthy Cities Programme, reinforcing its commitment to a health-focused and sustainable environment for students and staff. Leveraging data from the Global Youth Tobacco Survey, the UN assisted the MoH in formulating policy recommendations to curb youth tobacco use. The UN provided technical expertise for capacity-strengthening initiatives that enhanced data governance, promoted systems thinking within the MoH, and advocated policies to encourage physical activity.

With UN technical expertise and delivery support, the Ministry unified the Integrated Care for Older People (ICOPE) approach into Primary Health Care, including annual capacity-building for family physicians. The UN also aided in developing the Kuwait Older Adults Health Survey (KOAHS) to ensure a systems-wide needs assessment of elderly care.

Collaborating with HelpAge International, the UN developed the Elderly Profile for Kuwait, analysing the projected increase of the 60+ population from 7.6% in 2020 to 39.6% by 2050. Identifying challenges faced by the elderly, this profile examines social protection, healthcare, and economic participation, serving as a tool for policymakers to address inequalities and formulate a national ageing strategy, aligning with SDG Target 10.2.²¹

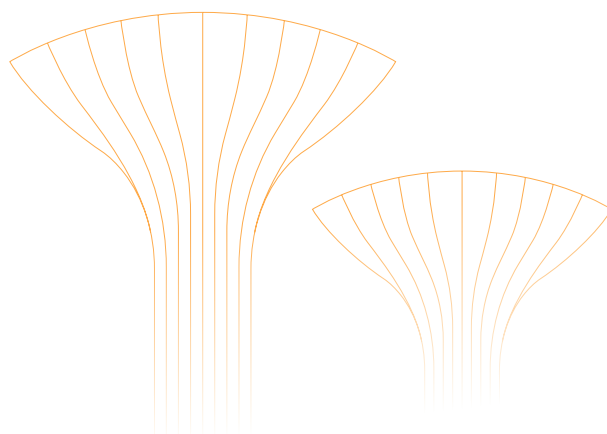
Despite challenges like limited data on elderly health and social services, developing the Elderly Profile presented opportunities to influence policy through evidence-based recommendations for older persons and leaving no one behind. More, it highlighted the need for robust data collection and stakeholder engagement to guide future policies.

CONTRIBUTING TO HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT FOR HEALTH

To enhance human capital as part of the New Kuwait Vision, the UN in Kuwait has implemented various capacity-building initiatives for senior public health officials. These include programmes aimed at strengthening institutional capacity for evidence-based policymaking, equipping participants with tools to effectively leverage data in policy formulation and implementation. Additionally, the Capacity Building on Governance and Leadership of Health Professionals' Education Institutions initiative provided senior government officials with contemporary best practices and tools to enhance leadership in the health sector.

COORDINATING HEALTH EMERGENCY RESPONSE ACROSS THE REGION AND GLOBALLY.

UN in Kuwait made significant contributions to global health initiatives in 2024, beginning with its support for Kuwait's role in the Expanded Special Project for the Elimination of Neglected Tropical Diseases (ESPEN). Kuwait has supported national NTD programmes in over 40 countries, providing technical and financial resources to combat diseases such as Onchocerciasis, Lymphatic Filariasis, and Schistosomiasis. Additionally, the establishment of a regional pooled procurement mechanism for medical products optimised resources and ensured the timely delivery of essential supplies across Kuwait and neighbouring member states. UN in Kuwait also supported the Health Emergency Appeal 2024, addressing 41 ongoing global health crises by enhancing coordination among humanitarian actors, civil society groups, and data-sharing systems, improving healthcare delivery.

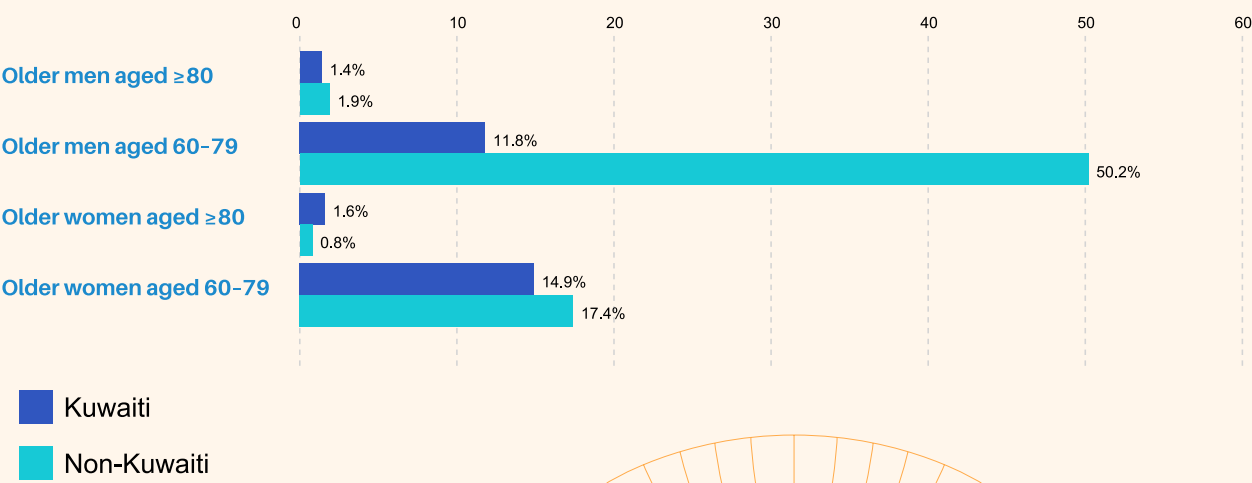


BOLSTERING THE HEALTH ECOSYSTEM TO IMPROVE MULTISECTORAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NATIONAL HEALTH GOALS

In collaboration with the embassies of Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Indonesia, the UN in Kuwait organised blood donation campaigns, attracting hundreds of donors and bolstering the national blood supply. These efforts enhanced community health services and

promoted sustainable urban health practices. Additionally, beach clean-up initiatives were conducted with private sector partners to raise public awareness about the importance of maintaining clean beaches for protecting marine ecosystems and public health. Collectively, These activities reflect the UN's commitment to improving health outcomes in Kuwait, expanding access to quality healthcare, and fostering partnerships that promote well-being, aligning with national development goals and the global health agenda.

PROPORTION OF KUWAITI AND NON-KUWAITI POPULATION AGED 60+



02

OVERVIEW OF
RESULTS

2.5 INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

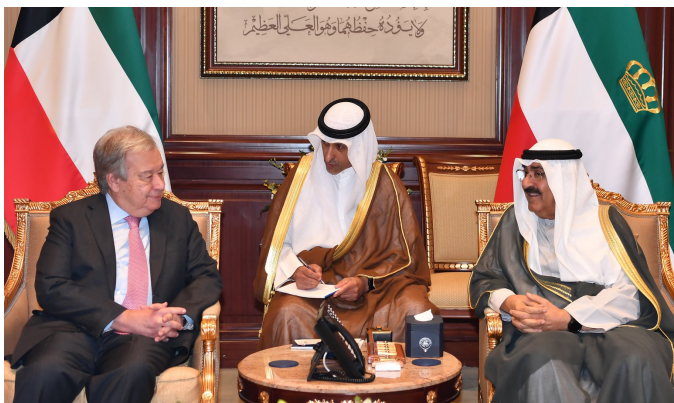
International cooperation is central to Kuwait's vision. The UN in Kuwait fosters partnerships with the Government, private sector, and civil society, aligning local and global efforts to promote peace, prosperity, and resilience while reinforcing Kuwait's leadership in humanitarian and development initiatives.

STRENGTHENING INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND DIPLOMATIC ENGAGEMENT

In May 2024, marking 61 years of Kuwait's UN membership, UN Secretary-General António Guterres visited Kuwait, welcomed by Amir Sheikh Meshaal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. During high-level meetings with the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Guterres praised Kuwait's mediation efforts in Syria, Gaza, and Yemen, highlighting its critical humanitarian support.

At a commemorative lunch, Mr Guterres received the Kuwait Medal of Excellence for a local humanitarian initiative, dedicating it to the nearly 200 UN staff who lost their lives in Gaza, honouring all who sacrificed for peace. His visit underscored that humanitarian action is essential for sustainable peace, celebrating Kuwait's global contributions while calling for stronger multilateral cooperation in a divided world.

In March 2024, the UN Deputy Secretary-General (DSG), Ms. Amina J. Mohammed, visited Kuwait, highlighting its growing role in regional diplomacy and global development. In meetings with His Highness the Amir, the Prime Minister, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the DSG praised Kuwait's commitment to the 2030 Agenda, humanitarian aid, and inclusive economic growth while discussing climate resilience, peace and security, and social reforms aligned with Kuwait's national priorities and the SDGs. She met the UN Country Team at the UN House to plan for data-driven implementation, public-private partnerships, and youth engagement. She also held a roundtable with women leaders to advance female leadership. Visiting the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED), she explored ways to expand cooperation on green financing and inclusive growth projects abroad. Concluding at the Kuwait Diplomatic Institution,



she pledged increased UN support for building diplomatic capacity. The visit yielded a roadmap to enhance cooperation on climate adaptation, conflict prevention, and gender equality, thereby reinforcing Kuwait's status as a key regional UN partner.



PROMOTING PEACE, SECURITY, AND HUMANITARIAN LEADERSHIP

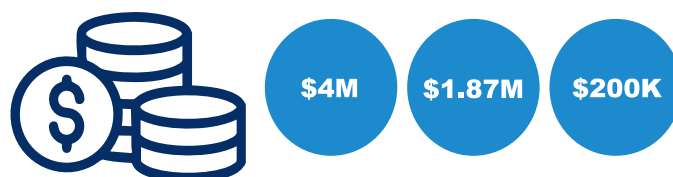
On Peace Day 2024, Kuwait celebrated the 24th anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 by hosting the forum “Showcasing the Power and Value of Women, Peace, and Security in Kuwait and Beyond” at the UN House. Organised in collaboration with the MOFA, the UN in Kuwait, the EU Delegation, and NATO’s Istanbul Cooperation Initiative, the forum gathered Kuwaiti officials, international organisations, and civil society leaders. Inspiring speeches by the UN Resident Coordinator, the Assistant Foreign Minister for Human Rights Affairs, and key international representatives highlighted Kuwait’s pioneering achievements on the Women, Peace, and Security agenda — the recent establishment of a dedicated National Committee and its strong regional ranking. The discussions emphasised the indispensable role of women in peacebuilding and national security, reinforcing the UN in Kuwait’s commitment to fostering inclusive dialogue and sustainable peace aligned with both local priorities and international standards.

In addition, in October 2024, Kuwait commemorated United Nations Day at the UN House under the theme “Sustainable Peace and Security.” This event, organised jointly with the MOFA, brought together government representatives, diplomats, and officials from diverse international organisations, showcasing Kuwait’s longstanding commitment to multilateralism since its UN membership in 1963. Keynote addresses by Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Abdullah Ali Al-Yahya and UN Resident Coordinator Ms. Ghada Eltahir presented Kuwait’s legacy of protective diplomacy, humanitarian engagement, and leadership in championing the SDGs. Extensive media coverage from various platforms, including the Ministry of Information, KTV Foreign News Department, and KUNA, reinforced the day’s message of collective accountability and unity, underscoring Kuwait’s role as a pillar of stability and its vision for a peaceful and inclusive world.

Moreover, On December 20, in celebration of International Migrants Day (IMD), the UN in Kuwait, in partnership with the Embassy of the Philippines, hosted a social painting event under the year’s theme, “Every Step”, which emphasises that every step in the migration process is crucial and deserves attention. The event brought together individuals from various sectors and walks of life, highlighting the diverse and inclusive spirit of the migrant community in Kuwait. Participants in the event included community members from multiple sectors, including medical, construction, retail, domestic, and other sectors. The social painting event not only celebrated the artistic talents of the migrant community but also served as a platform to raise awareness about the benefits of regular migration pathways.

KUWAIT’S EXPANDING HUMANITARIAN FOOTPRINT AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE

In 2024, the UN in Kuwait, in collaboration with the Government of Kuwait, significantly enhanced crisis response and humanitarian assistance, reinforcing Kuwait’s role as a key global humanitarian actor. Through strategic partnerships with MOFA and KFAED, Kuwait contributed USD 4 million to the oPt Humanitarian Fund, the Afghanistan Humanitarian Fund, and the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF). Additionally, USD 1.87 million was allocated to support primary healthcare in Yemen, while USD 200,000 was dedicated to addressing humanitarian needs in Pakistan, Iraq, and Lebanon.





Kuwait also secured a USD 2 million grant through KFAED to enhance the operational capacities of the Ports of Aden and Mukalla in Yemen, strengthening regional trade, economic recovery, and humanitarian supply chains. Another USD 2 million was allocated to improve the living conditions of over 140,000 Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh. Furthermore, an MoU with the International Islamic Charity Organization (IICO) launched new socio-economic and humanitarian initiatives, including a USD 750,000 flood recovery project in Pakistan.

Another major highlight of Kuwait's humanitarian engagement was its support for Gaza. In response to the humanitarian crisis, the Kuwaiti government strongly condemned airstrikes on Jabalia camp, and the National Assembly convened a special session to reinforce its commitment to providing urgent relief. Kuwait continued its humanitarian efforts by dispatching its 42nd relief plane to Gaza, carrying 10 tons of medical supplies and blankets under the directives of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. Additionally, the KFAED financed water and sanitation projects in Gaza, while the Kuwait Society for Relief allocated USD 1.29 million for an Emergency Water Desalination Project, ensuring access to clean water for 180,000 beneficiaries through solar-powered units.



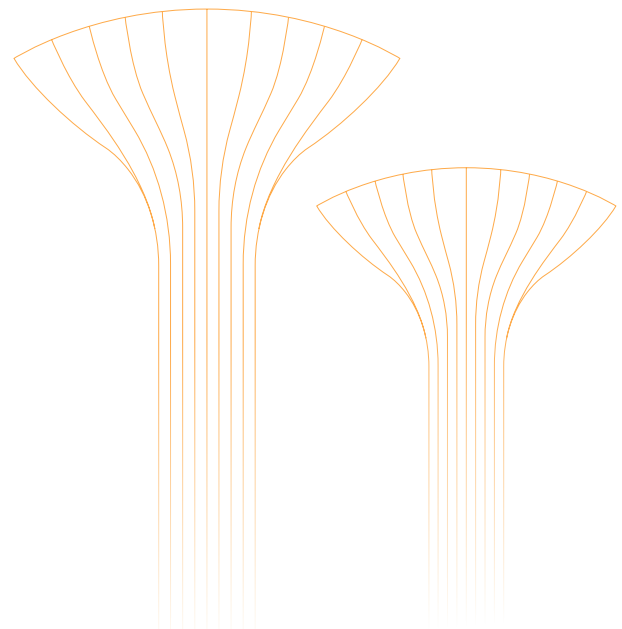
Between 17 November and 5 December 2024, the UN in Kuwait hosted a series of media interviews and the launch of the Global Humanitarian Overview (GHO) in partnership with the Government, reaffirming its leadership in international humanitarian diplomacy and highlighting the urgent need for assistance to 305 million people worldwide. Under the patronage of the MOFA, the event convened senior UN officials, humanitarian agencies, and key partners, including Assistant UN Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs Joyce Msuya, to present a USD 47 billion global appeal supporting 190 million crisis-affected individuals. In addition, multiple interviews with stakeholders

from international UN agencies reinforced Kuwait's distinction as a pivotal partner in global relief efforts. As the event concluded, government officials and international community members expressed optimism that Kuwait's proactive humanitarian stance would drive more profound and expansive responses to global crises, bolstering the UN's efforts to provide timely, life-saving assistance to the most vulnerable populations and make it more effective.



Further reinforcing this commitment, Kuwait hosted the "Ninth Conference on Effective Partnership for Better Humanitarian Aid", co-organised by the UN in Kuwait and the IICO. The conference focused on the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, gathering UN agencies, international and regional organisations, and humanitarian actors to explore urgent measures for civilian relief. USG Joyce Msuya delivered keynote remarks, calling for a unified global response to expand humanitarian support. The event highlighted the crucial role of partnerships in delivering timely and effective humanitarian assistance to Gaza and other crisis-affected regions.

Additionally, on October 6, a UN in Kuwait representative participated in a "Gaza in a Year" panel discussion at the Saud Al-Nasser Al-Sabah Diplomatic Institute. This event, which brought together representatives from the Kuwait MOFA and the Kuwait Society for Relief, provided a platform for discussing Gaza's future, emphasising the need for collaborative development and humanitarian support.



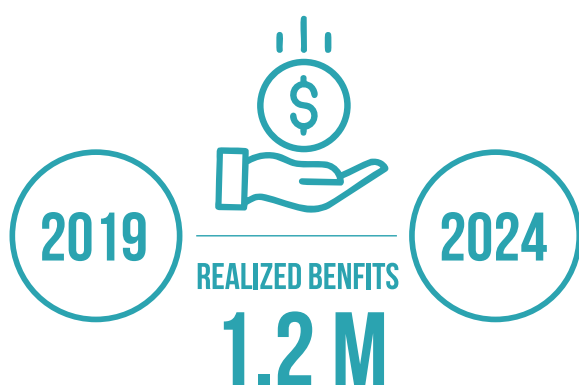


03 UN WORKING AS ONE



3.1 DELIVERING AS ONE

The UN House in Kuwait hosts 11 UN resident agencies (UNDP, UNHCR, RCO, IOM, UN-HABITAT, WHO, UNDSS, ILO, UNICEF, OCHA, and WFP) and 15 UN non-resident agencies (UN-Women, UNODC, UNDRR, UNESCO, The World Bank, UNFPA, ESCWA, UNICs, UNIDO, UNOPS, UNHRC, IMF, FAO, UNEP, and UNV). The Government of Kuwait is responsible for the structural maintenance of the UN House. Common services are covered through a pooled budget to which all the resident UN agencies contribute. Long-term agreements are in place for cleaning, security, IT services, and utilities. The contribution of agencies is determined according to the space they occupy. In 2024, the total budget for the common premises was USD 474,939, divided proportionally among all the resident agencies.



The total estimated cost avoidance using common services, starting from 2019, is expected to reach USD 1.4 million. Already, USD 1.2 million has been “saved” in cost avoidance. Notably, while the costs incurred have been reduced, the common services continue to improve. The Operations Management Team (OMT), meets periodically to discuss operational matters. OMT Working Groups were also established to explore further improvements and continuously evaluate the quality of services provided.

Throughout 2024, the UNCT in Kuwait strengthened its collaboration under the “Delivering as One” approach, enhancing coordination across agencies to optimise development impact. Notably, the UN Communications and Advocacy Strategy (2024 -2027) was developed to elevate public awareness of UN initiatives, reinforce credibility, and ensure consistent messaging. This strategy emphasises digital outreach, stakeholder engagement, and capacity-building efforts to create a more unified and impactful communication framework. Regular monitoring mechanisms will ensure the effectiveness of the strategy and align it with evolving national and global priorities.

03

UN WORKING
AS ONE

3.2 PARTNERSHIPS

The breadth of partnerships underpinning Kuwait’s development gains remained evident in every major initiative. At the governmental level, entities such as NAZAH, the MOFA, and the Mol engaged extensively with UN agencies. Civil society organisations, including the Human Development Society, provided the local expertise necessary to implement inclusive employment strategies, particularly for persons with disabilities. Diplomatic missions, exemplified by the British and Canadian Embassies, enriched youth engagement programmes through funding, mentorship, and policy dialogues.

EXPANDING COOPERATION IN CHILD WELFARE, EDUCATION, AND HUMAN RIGHTS

The UN in Kuwait further strengthened partnerships with key Kuwaiti stakeholders and fostered discussions on expanding engagement and funding opportunities for 2025 through strategic networking and partnership development meetings, exploring new avenues for collaboration in child welfare, education, and protection initiatives. As an active participant in regional and global discussions on advancing child-focused policies and programmes, the UN in Kuwait has forged robust alliances with national institutions, including the Supreme Council for Family Affairs and the Supreme Council for Planning and Development.

Additionally, the UN in Kuwait actively participated in regional environmental and public health initiatives, such as advocating for children’s rights at COP16 and addressing childhood obesity in collaboration with the GCC Secretariat, demonstrating a holistic approach to advancing children’s rights and well-being.

STRENGTHENING THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND FINANCIAL PARTNERSHIPS FOR SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

The UN in Kuwait played a pivotal role in the UN Joint Committee on Partnerships under the Standing Committee on Finance (SCF), notably developing a joint curriculum for future Kuwaiti diplomats in collaboration with the Saud Al-Nasser Diplomatic Institute, set for delivery in 2025. Simultaneously, it expanded private sector engagement to advance mutual objectives.

03

UN WORKING
AS ONE

Kuwait's election to the UN Human Rights Council (2024–2027) was further highlighted by a joint workshop with the Ministry of Interior on the "Protection of Migrants and Individuals in Need of International Protection".

Innovative digital workshops featuring practical simulations enhanced participant engagement, efficiency, and effectiveness. The "Live Your Major" programme in partnership with GUST University offered students internships at the UN office, providing practical experience and deeper insights into migration issues.

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COP16
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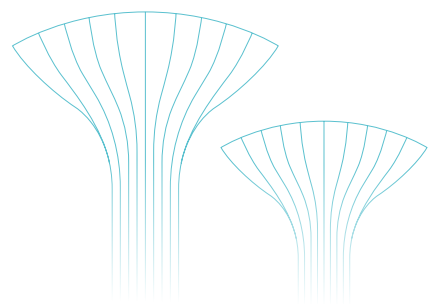
In addition, the UN in Kuwait strengthened its partnerships with government institutions, financial entities, and international organisations to advance sustainable development, economic diversification, and crisis response. In collaboration with Kuwait Finance House (KFH), the UN in Kuwait produced the report "The Potential Growth and Future Trends of Green Sukuk as a Tool for Sustainable Financing," which explores the potential of Islamic financial instruments to drive climate-aligned investments while partnering with Warba Bank to launch an online Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) course for Islamic financial institutions. Additionally, strategic partnerships with Borsa Kuwait and KNPC emphasised private-sector contributions to climate action. The UN also participated in the OECD Arab-DAC Dialogue and led key discussions before COP16 with the Kuwait Environment Public Authority on the Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystem nexus, sustainable land management, and Islamic finance.

ENHANCING REGIONAL COOPERATION IN COMBATING CRIME, TRAFFICKING, AND DRUG CONTROL

The UN in Kuwait advanced both South-South and international cooperation to combat human and drug trafficking while strengthening regional governance during the reporting period. In April, a high-level delegation led by His Highness Counselor Faisal bin Saeed Al-Gharib, Minister of Justice and Endowments and Islamic Affairs and Chairman of the Permanent National Committee to Combat TIP/SOM, participated in the Fifth Intergovernmental Forum on Combating TIP in the Middle East in Muscat under the theme "Through Legislation and Work Procedures." The Forum brought together ministers and national committee heads from the GCC, Jordan, and Egypt, as well as representatives from the United States Department of State, the African Union, and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, to review experiences and share innovative practices.

On July 30, the UN in Kuwait participated in a panel discussion organised by the British embassy on World Day Against Trafficking in Persons under the theme "Leave No Child Behind in the Fight Against Human Trafficking," which focused on raising awareness and promoting strategies to protect vulnerable children. In August, two officials from the Kuwait MoI also participated in a regional conference in Cairo titled Addressing Child Trafficking: "Promising Initiatives and Best Practices." Organised under the framework of the Africa Regional Migration Programme by Egypt's National Coordinating Committee for Combating and Preventing Illegal Migration and Trafficking in Persons (NCCPIM&TIP), the conference aimed to enhance the trafficking response mechanism, especially for children. The event brought together government officials from Africa, the Middle East, and the European Union, as well as UN agencies, academia, and civil society.

In February, the MoI, together with the National Arab University for Security Sciences (NAUSS), hosted a regional workshop on combating the trafficking of the drug "Lyrica," attended by delegates from the GCC countries and Türkiye and international experts from the UN in Kuwait and other international organisations. Additionally, the UN in Kuwait supported national participation at key international forums, including the 67th Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the 33rd Session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Vienna. Kuwaiti practitioners also participated alongside peers from nine Arab states in a workshop on "Mechanisms for Dealing with Modern Drug Trafficking Methods" organised with NAUSS in Vienna.



3.3 OPPORTUNITIES & CHALLENGES

In 2024, the UN in Kuwait, in partnership with the Government of Kuwait, created significant opportunities to advance migration governance, human rights, and international cooperation. This collaboration enabled active participation in regional conferences on child trafficking, extensive training on combatting human trafficking, and policy discussions on labour rights and regulatory frameworks. Kuwait's international standing has been further reinforced through humanitarian funding and strategic partnerships, reflecting its commitment to global cooperation and sustainable development. As a member of the UN Human Rights Council, Kuwait's focus on migrant rights and legal reforms has led to closer collaboration with UN agencies to align national policies with international standards.

CHALLENGES AND RESPONSES IN 2024

The UN in Kuwait faced several challenges that hindered the full implementation of its initiatives. A primary obstacle was the delay in signing the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) with the Government of Kuwait, limiting the UN's operational capacity and restricting comprehensive technical support.

National political developments, including the dissolution of the National Assembly and subsequent cabinet reshuffle, further delayed critical agreements, notably the MoU with the Ministry of Justice on combating trafficking in persons (TIP) and allocation of funds for the National Strategy. Additionally, constraints related to financial resources and staffing limited the impact and reach of major initiatives, such as economic policy reforms and the Kuwait Knowledge Index.

Geopolitical tensions, notably the Gaza conflict, strained relations between Member States and the UN, leading Kuwait, traditionally a significant humanitarian donor, to rebalance its priorities between emergency relief and development programmes. This shift delayed essential projects, including those addressing anti-corruption and anti-trafficking legislation.

Economic challenges arose in balancing Kuwait's oil sector dominance with urgent needs for renewable energy investment. The private sector's varying readiness levels regarding sustainability frameworks such as Impact Measurement and Management (IMM) and ESG also presented barriers. Furthermore, substantial resources were required to coordinate multiple stakeholders in climate action and urban resilience, further complicated by regional geopolitical tensions affecting diplomatic and logistical efforts.

Despite these hurdles, the UN in Kuwait continued to leverage the country's political will and philanthropic culture, collaborating closely with local stakeholders to advance long-term development goals.

OPPORTUNITIES AND FUTURE OUTLOOK IN 2025

The UN in Kuwait capitalised on a range of emerging opportunities to advance sustainable development, climate action, and regional cooperation. Strategic partnerships with financial institutions such as Kuwait Finance House and Warba Bank supported the development of Islamic finance solutions, including Green Sukuk and ESG reporting frameworks. These efforts reinforced Kuwait's net-zero commitments and supported resilience-building initiatives, particularly in the Water-Energy-Food Nexus. Kuwait's pledge at COP29 also opened new pathways for strengthening environmental sustainability.

Regionally, the UN expanded its crisis response role by securing a USD 2 million grant from the Kuwait Fund to support Yemen and formalising a partnership with the IICO to enhance humanitarian outreach. Following the FATF Mutual Evaluation, Kuwait formally requested UN technical assistance to strengthen counter-terrorism financing measures in line with UN Security Council resolutions.

Diplomatic training also continued to evolve, with the UN in Kuwait and the Saud Al Nasser Al-Sabah Diplomatic Institute formalising their partnership to deliver training programmes for junior diplomats for the second consecutive year.

As part of UN reforms, joint proposals created new opportunities for inter-agency collaboration, particularly under the Development-Humanitarian-Peace Nexus, enabling UN agencies to engage with the MOFA in addressing challenges such as the security crisis in Lebanon.

Domestically, Kuwait's increased focus on youth and disability programming provides scope to scale successful initiatives in education, employment, and social inclusion. The country's growing participation in regional dialogues — such as the Dushanbe Process and various sustainability forums — further positions Kuwait as a proactive contributor to sustainable development and diplomacy in the Gulf. In 2024, Kuwait effectively leveraged its diplomatic, financial, and institutional strengths to pursue dynamic opportunities that enhanced its regional and global leadership in sustainable development.

LESSONS LEARNED AND STRATEGIC ADAPTATIONS IN 2024

UN in Kuwait gleaned several key lessons that will shape its future strategies. The importance of adaptive planning and diversified funding streams was underscored as the private sector emerged as a critical development partner, necessitating more targeted engagement strategies. These experiences have reinforced the need to leverage lessons learned to inform future programming and partnership approaches. Additionally, the State of Kuwait's strong commitment to advancing its human rights portfolio presents significant opportunities for expanded cooperation.

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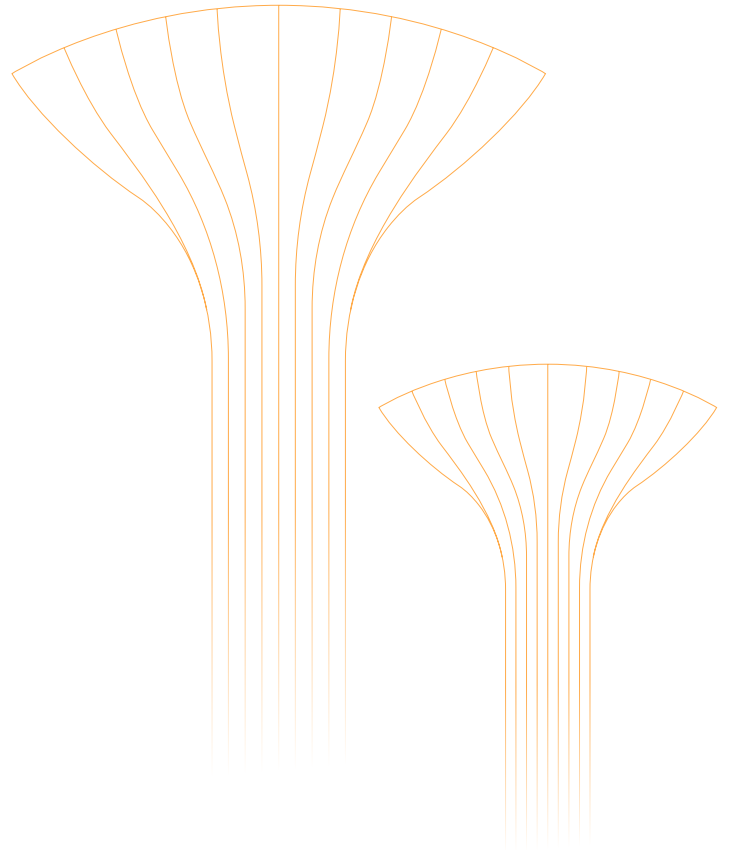
UN WORKING
AS ONE

An online retreat of the UN Communications Community of Practice further highlighted the importance of crisis communications, the emerging use of AI in public messaging — particularly in conflict zones like Yemen and Gaza — and the value of coordinated strategies. These efforts enhanced global outreach and strengthened Kuwait's visibility and engagement in multilateral development forums. These experiences have also informed the development of the UN in Kuwait's Communications Strategy for 2025–2028, ensuring more integrated, impactful messaging in the years ahead.

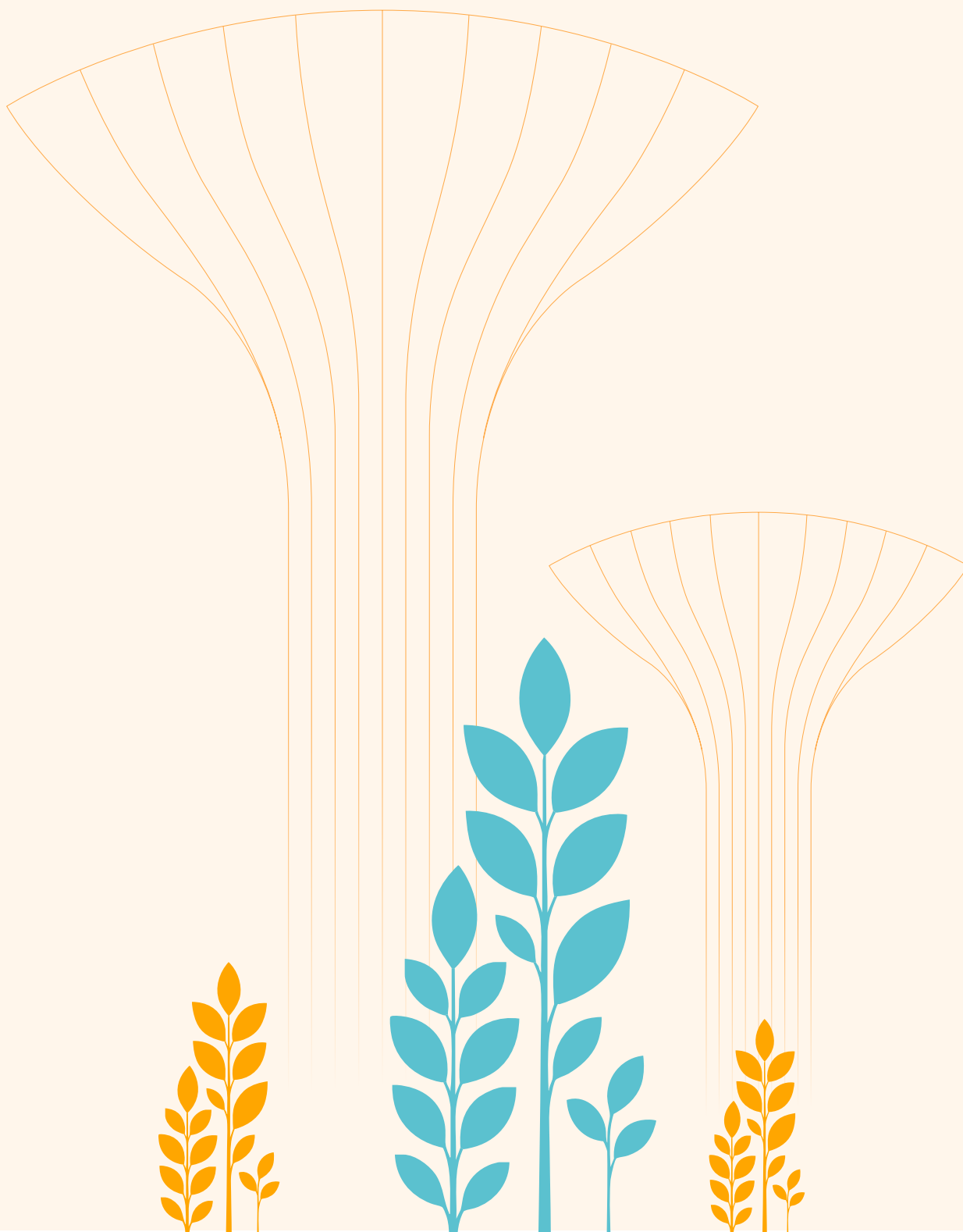
3.4 COMMUNICATING AS ONE

In 2024, the UN in Kuwait strengthened its communication efforts through a unified strategy that amplified achievements across development and humanitarian sectors. By leveraging both traditional and digital platforms — such as KTV, KUNA, YouTube, X, and Instagram — the UN reached a wide public audience and ensured timely dissemination of key messages. Campaigns like the Red Bench Initiative during the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence sparked critical dialogue around safer communities, especially for women. Additional campaigns covered youth empowerment, disability rights, education, climate action, and health — reinforcing the UN's commitment to Kuwait's humanitarian and development priorities.

The “Communicating as One” approach ensured alignment across all UN agencies, supporting the adoption of human rights frameworks in line with Kuwait's strategic goals and international commitments. It also contributed to promoting good practices across government institutions and fostering a whole-of-government approach, particularly in areas such as migration governance and the rights of displaced persons, while integrating gender equality into both development and humanitarian programming.



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