



الإمارات العربية المتحدة
وزارة تنمية المجتمع



The National Policy for Autism

United for Persons with Autism

2021



إضطراب طيف التوحد
Autism Spectrum Disorder

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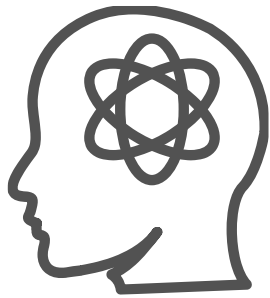
Concept of Autism



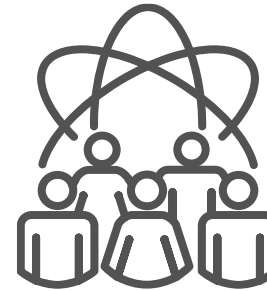
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Autism Spectrum Disorder

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and Autism are among the general terms for a group of complex neurodevelopmental disorders. These disorders are characterized by difficulties in social interaction, verbal and non-verbal communication, and stereotyped and repetitive behaviors with varying degrees.

There are two domains where persons with ASD must show persistent deficits:



Repetitive Stereotyped
Behaviors of Behaviour



Social Communication and Social Interaction

Concept of Autism

Prevalence

According to the Autism Spectrum Disorder Statistics of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), issued in 2020, in the USA, 1 in 54 children is diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder.

Research shows that such increase is due to the development of diagnostic methods. Studies also show that the autism spectrum disorder is more common in boys than girls. Thus, boys are four times more likely to be diagnosed with ASD than girls.

31% of children with ASD have an intellectual disability (intelligence quotient [IQ] <70), 25% are in the borderline range (IQ 71–85), and 44% have IQ scores in the average to above average range (i.e., IQ >85).



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Concept of Autism

This is the latest statistic of CDC site, that is issued on March 27, 2020, according to research conducted in 2016:

Estimated Autism Prevalence 2020



From 2004 to 2020, the rate of children with ASD has tripled.

2004	1 in 166 children have an ASD
2020	1 in 54 children have an ASD

* Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) prevalence estimates are for 4 years prior to the report date (e.g., 2020 figures are from 2016)





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Symptoms of Autism

Repetitive Behaviors:

- Such repetitive behaviors include hand-flapping, rocking, jumping, twirling, arranging and rearranging objects, and repeating sounds, words, or phrases.
- A child with autism may spend hours on end arranging toys instead of playing with them.
- Some adults with autism may get busy arranging objects in the house in a specific way and order, and they may get extremely distressed if any one disarranges their objects.
- Extreme preoccupation with a particular thing. Thus, persons with autism may get intensely interested in strange stuff, scientific matters, or detailed information on a particular subject.
- Older children and adults with autism may develop a tremendous interest in numbers, symbols, dates, or scientific topics.



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Symptoms of Autism

Social Symptoms

- During infancy, they show symptoms such as: Failure to respond to their names, reduced interest in and interaction with people, and delayed babbling.
- Difficulty with playing social games, along with not imitating the actions of others.
- Difficulty with participating in conversations and interacting with people on a daily basis.
- Difficulty with interpreting what others are thinking or feeling, or seeing and understanding things from another person's perspective.
- Difficulty with joint attention and shared enjoyment
- Lack of eye contact
- Interest and preoccupation with the parts of toys and objects instead of the object or the toy as a whole.
- Difficulty with regulating emotions.

Communication Difficulties

- Delay of babbling and making sounds prior to the child's first words, in addition to the delay in learning to use gestures.
- Delay and difficulty in verbal and non-verbal communication, such as gesturing, pointing, and understanding the facial expressions of others.
- Using speech in unusual ways.
- Some repeat what they hear verbatim as an echo, which is known as echolalia.
- Challenges in the social uses of language.
- Difficulties in understanding the body language, tone of voice and expressions that are not meant to be taken literally.
- Difficulty in pointing out toward things a child needs and the inability to share things with others.



The Current Situation

The State Legislative Position

- Federal Law No. (29) for the Year 2006 Concerning the Rights of Disabled and its Amendments
- Federal Law No. 3 of 2016 on Child Rights (Wadeema's Law)
- Cabinet's Decision No. (54) of 2020 concerning the system of non-government entities for the rehabilitation and welfare of the persons with disabilities "People of Determination"
- The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) of 2006
- The National Policy for Empowering People of Determination of 2017
- The Policy for Protecting People of Determination against Abuse of 2019

The Legislative Status in the UAE

The principles and core pillars that have been adopted in the comprehensive system for people of determination

- People of determination have access to information related to their human rights in ways that commensurate with the abilities, they are supported to exercise these rights, along with supporting them to exercise such rights.
- People of determination have the right to participate in and contribute to the social, cultural, political and economic life of society on an equal basis with others.
- People of determination have the right to live a decent life free from abuse, neglect, intimidation and exploitation.
- People of determination have the right to be respected in terms of respecting their value, dignity, individuality and privacy.
- People of determination have the right to realize their potential in intellectual, physical, social, emotional and spiritual development, and to have their sexual needs met in legitimate ways.
- People of determination have the right to receive appropriate assistance and support to enable them to develop their capacity to exercise choice, control in their daily life and to realize their potential.
- People of determination have the right to follow up on any complaints against disability service providers, without worrying about discontinuation of service provision, counter accusation, or penalty by disability service providers.
- People of determination have the right to determine their best interests, including the right to exercise informed choices and take calculated risks, according to their eligibility.
- People of determination's cultural and linguistic diversity must be respected.
- People of determination receive high-quality services.
- Intervention in the lives of people of determination is carried out with the least possible degree, and with the least infringements of rights.
- Services and support are based on evidence-based best practices with strong emphasis on a person-centered approach.

The Map of Concerned Entities

Main Entities

Federal Government

**Ministry of
Community
Development**

**Ministry of
Education**

**Ministry of Health
and Prevention**

**Ministry of Human
Resources and
Emiratization**

**Ministry of Culture
and Youth**

Supporting Entities

Local Government

**Zayed Higher
Organization for
People of
Determination**

**Community
Development
Authority-
Dubai**

**Sharjah City for
Humanitarian
Services**

**Department of
Community
Development - Abu
Dhabi**

**Civil Society
Sector**

**Emirates
Autism Society**



Numbers and Statistics



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Autism in the UAE

The database provided by the Ministry of Community Development, through the issuance of the People of Determination card, is the only statistic available in the State on the number of persons with autism. Although it does not reflect the exact situation of the prevalence of autism in the State due to social barriers such as lack of awareness and of appropriate diagnostic and survey tools, it can be relied on for identifying the prevalence of persons with autism. This is according to a set of variables related to gender, emirate, age and others.

In addition, the number of students with autism included in schools was submitted to reflect the current situation of educational inclusion for this category. However, it is unknown how many children who do not go to schools and instead are educated at home or through specialized centers, or those whose parents hesitate to register.



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Distribution of Cases

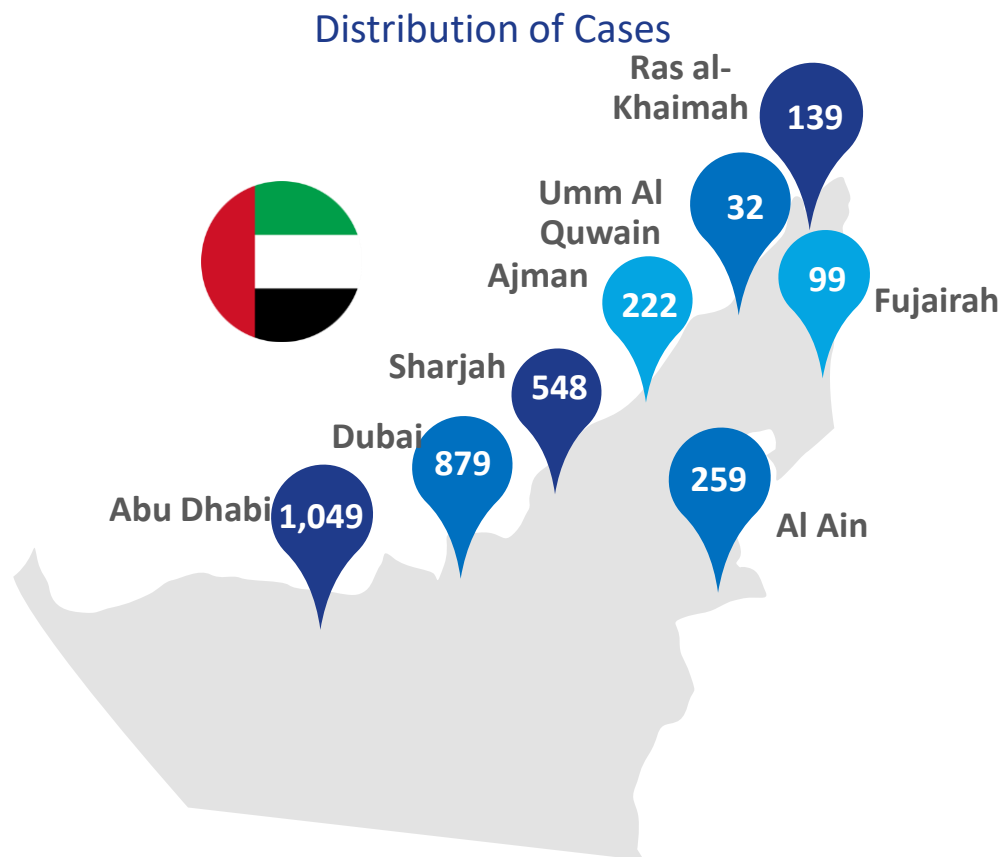
3,227 Number of Registered Cases

1,456 Citizens

1,771 Expatriates

2,593 Males

634 Females



The number of persons with ASD in the regions of the State





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Diagnosis of Autism in the State

Number of cases diagnosed from the People of Determination card system of the MOCD

Emirate	2017	2018	2019
Abu Dhabi	156	168	223
Sharjah	68	81	111
Al Ain	36	54	57
Fujairah	18	6	12
Umm Al Quwain	5	4	7
Dubai	126	177	198
Ras al-Khaimah	23	23	15
Ajman	37	39	50
Total	469	552	673



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Inclusion of Students with Autism

Students with ASD enrolled in public and private education schools

S/N	Emirate	Public Education	Private Education	Total
1	Abu Dhabi	180	557	737
2	Dubai	20	7	27
3	Sharjah	39	22	61
4	Sharjah / Eastern Region	10	0	10
5	Ajman	18	6	24
6	Umm Al Quwain	6	1	7
7	Ras al-Khaimah	11	5	16
8	Fujairah	16	0	16
Total		300	598	898

Number of Centers

The total number of public and private centers for People of Determination is 95 at the state level:

70 Comprehensive centers (61 centers for Autism

26 Services)

35 Government centers (federal / local)

25 Private centers


















Centers providing one-on-one sessions, including autism








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Services Provided by the Centers for People with Autism

Unavailable	
Limitedly available	
Partially available	
Available	
Fully available	

Available	Available Services		
	Early detection of autism in early childhood	Diagnosis	
	Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Assessment		
	Heath services	Health	
	Early Intervention	Rehabilitation	
	Inclusion in nurseries		
	Assistive technologies		
	Special education in people of determination centers	Education	
	Inclusion in school education		
	Inclusion in Higher Education		
	Inclusion in vocational education		
	Vocational interests tests	Vocational rehabilitation / Employment	
	Vocational rehabilitation programs		
	Supported employment		
	Workplace inspection		

Services Provided by the Centers for People with Autism

- Unavailable 
- Limitedly available 
- Partially available 
- Available 
- Fully available 

Available	Available Services		
	Detection of abuse	Social Protection	
	Self-Advocacy		
	Training for parents		
	Self-help support groups		
	Community awareness		



Global Best Practices



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Autism Spectrum Disorder

Global Best Practices



**World Autism
Awareness Day**

April 2



The United Nations General Assembly declared in 2007 that **April 2** of each year is **the World Autism Awareness Day**. This is in order to spread awareness and highlight the importance of providing a better life for persons with autism and enabling them to participate fully in society. Among the most famous campaigns on such day:

#lightitupblue



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Spectrum Disorder

Global Best Practices



England : The Strategy for Adults with Autism in 2010

- **The strategy focused on five key themes:**

- 1 Increasing awareness and understanding of autism among front-line professionals.
- 2 Developing a clear consistent pathway for diagnosis in every area, which is followed by the offer of a personalised needs assessment.
- 3 Improving access for adults with autism to the services and support they need to live independently within the community.
- 4 Helping adults with autism into work.
- 5 Enabling local partners to plan and develop appropriate services for adults with autism to meet identified needs and priorities.

Department of Health, 'Fulfilling and rewarding lives': the strategy for adults with autism in England', 3 March 2010.



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Autism Spectrum Disorder

Global Best Practices



In 2014, in the UK, the British government announced the “Autism Strategy”, under the title **(Think Autism)**:

- Launching **community awareness projects and campaigns** about autism, and introducing pledges and prizes for local organizations to contribute to these campaigns.
- Establishing a community fund **(Autism Innovation Fund)**, which finances projects that contribute to the development of innovative local services and projects to address autism.
- Creating a **unified data platform and better linking information** to modernize the ways health care staff use in knowing and diagnosing cases to more accurate ones, as well as to facilitate the autistic people’s access to the services provided to them by their government.

After the costs of autism doubled, the British government announced in November 2019 a new plan to reach all people with ASD and provide them with better health care. The plan includes:

- Establishing a mandatory training program in the field of autism for all health service staff, amounting to 1.4 million pounds.
- Re-diagnosing all cases of people with ASD who are in mental health hospitals, in order to provide specialized medical treatment programs for those cases.
- The annual cost of autism in the UK soars to £34 billion.



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Autism Spectrum Disorder

Global Best Practices



Ireland: Autism Strategy (2013-2020) was adopted

The eleven priority themes included in the Autism Strategy:

Children, Young People and Family

Accessibility

Awareness

Transitions

Education

Health and Wellbeing

Access to Justice

Independence, Choice and Control

Employability

Participation and Active Citizenship

Being Part of the Community



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Global Best Practices



Scotland: Scottish Strategy for Autism in 2011

The strategy was backed up with £10 million over 4 years.

The strategy included 26 recommendations, under the following cross-cutting themes:

- Improving the lives of people with autism by creating a strategic vision to develop services and support people with autism, their families and caregivers.
- Ensuring the effective utilization of targeted resources.
- Involve people with autism, their families and caregivers at all levels in decision-making.
- Developing the ability to work across organizations through stronger networks and best practices and training.
- A good diagnosis is the basis for understanding the cases and providing them with the best support.
- Supporting people with autism through training, creating opportunities and improving access to workplaces.

The updated strategy “**The Scottish Strategy for Autism**” has been published: Results and Priorities 2018-2021, in March 2018.

It includes the following outputs:

- **Healthy Life:** People with autism enjoy the highest attainable standard of living, health and family life and have timely access to diagnostic assessment and integrated support services.
- **Choice and Control:** People with autism are treated with dignity and respect and services are able to identify their needs and are responsive to meet those needs.
- **Independence:** People with autism are able to live independently in the community with equal access to all aspects. Services have the capacity and awareness to ensure that autistic people are met with recognition and understanding.
- **Active Citizenship:** People with autism are able to participate in all aspects of community and by successfully transitioning from school into meaningful educational or employment opportunities.

At the level of private organizations, we find many initiatives directed at autism, including (**Autism speaks**) to market solutions to all categories and stages of people ASD and their families, through:

- Increasing global awareness through global media events and campaigns.
- Contributing to advanced autism research (through genetic engineering) and contributing to investments amounting to hundreds of millions of dollars.
- Expanding and developing early intervention methods (along with providing them to low-income countries).
- Facilitating the transition of autistic persons to adulthood.
- Ensuring the autistic people's access to reliable information during all the stages of their lives.



Canada: Roadmap to a National Autism Strategy

On March 12, 2020, the Canadian Autism Spectrum Disorder Alliance (CASDA), made up of 200 associations and organizations working in the Autism field in Canada, prepared a work program for a vision towards a unified strategy for autism (2020-2026): The work program for the National Autism Strategy is based on five main aspects that have objectives at the short, medium and long-term levels:

Aspect	Short-Term Level	Medium-Term Level	Long-Term Level
Affordability and Access	<p>Reforming the Disability Tax Credit</p> <p>Ensuring consistency for ASD costs for the medical expense tax credit</p> <p>Funding the development of more Autism research that will be of assistance to professionals</p>	Enhancing the Child Care Expense Deduction	<p>Building leading Autism support into federal health systems</p> <p>Developing training for professionals to learn about Autism</p> <p>Exploring a user-centred model</p>
Information	Launching awareness campaign / public informative campaign to promote a better understanding and integration of people with autism	Building strategies to engage institutions and employers in promoting the best practices for inclusion	Building a learning network for practitioners and policy-makers to build evidence and consensus on promising practices and policy reform



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Global Best Practices

Aspect	Short-Term Level	Medium-Term Level	Long-Term Level
Employability	<p>Investing in labor market information about people with autism</p> <p>Supporting the launch of inclusive work environment initiatives</p>	<p>Ensuring the responding of federal training programs to the needs of people with autism</p> <p>Reinvesting in pre-employment programs for people with autism</p>	<p>Identifying obstacles to an inclusive work environment and developing legislative programs and policies</p>
Housing	<p>Prioritizing research, innovation and investment in autism housing options</p>	<p>Housing investment programs that respond to the needs of autism</p>	<p>Investing in creating more housing options appropriate to the needs of adults with autism</p>
Academic Research	<p>Involving local governments to renew the National Autism Monitoring system</p>	<p>Identifying research gaps in cooperation with the autism community to be acquainted with priorities of scientific research</p>	<p>Investing in world-leading research that are co-designed with people with autism from a health equity perspective</p> <p>Updating and expanding the National Autism Monitoring system</p>

Autism Society of America: Strategic Plan 2016-2020.

It contains five strategic goals - key objectives for each goal - key expected outputs for each goal - key initiatives to achieve the goals

#	Strategic Goals	Key Objectives
1	Lifespan Programs and Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Screening, Diagnosis and Intervention • Opportunities in Education • Family and Community Support • Quality of Life and Success in Adulthood • Meaningful Employment • Independence and Self-determination
2	Effective Advocacy and Public Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A unified, Society-wide voice for specific legislation, bills and issues • Increased coordination and integration of state-level and national legislation providing more consistent access and service delivery across the nation • The Society has influence with peer organizations over national agendas • State and local affiliates can access support services required to affect change in their local/state context



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Global Best Practices

#	General Goals	Key Objectives
3	Expanded Education and Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dissemination of information and topics not currently supported within the broader ecosystem• Effective partnering with local and national community stakeholders• Rich and robust clearinghouse / body of knowledge repository capabilities for the community, families, affiliates, educators, and other professionals• Increased number of Individuals, families and family members who understand how to translate concepts into real-life applications integrated across home, school, work, and community• Providing services in a culturally appropriate manner
4	Integrated Information and Referral	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increased number of individuals with autism who seek assistance, and serve as a conduit to other relevant sources• The ability to have access to the relevant entities as “first call, go-to” resource and a trusted guide across the lifespan• Delivery of actionable and timely high quality information as reflected in satisfaction surveys• Local Affiliates provide information and referral as a “core” service
5	Enabling Effective Operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increasing sustained revenue generation• Increasing affiliate capacity and improving operational efficiency and effectiveness required to deliver strategic outcomes• Increasing human capital skills, expertise, and professionalism



Challenges



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Analyzing the Current Situation



- Support the realization of SDGs, being a part of the UAE government goals, which is represented in Good Health and Well-Being, Quality Education, and Reducing Inequality
- UAE's ratification of Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- Existence of Autism NGOs

- Lack of clear and enforcing transitional plans between the early intervention stage and the educational inclusion stage.
- Non-readiness of sports and cultural clubs to receive persons with autism.
- The scarcity of rehabilitation and training programs and those in charge of them for families of persons with autism.
- Lack of vocational and professional rehabilitation programs for persons with autism.
- Lack of educational career streams suitable for persons with autism after the age of 18.

- An index in the National Agenda that ensures family and social cohesion
- Federal Law No. (29) for the year 2006 concerning the rights of Disabled
- Policies that reflect the UAE vision for empowerment of people of determination
- Development of a Parent's Guide in UAE Early Intervention Program
- "Nemo" application for early detection of symptoms of autism

- Lack of a unified national framework for procedures and tools for diagnosis, assessment and early detection in the pre-diagnosis stage
- Lack of qualified staff for the diagnosis and rehabilitation of persons with ASD
- Lack of a general unified institutional framework to provide services for persons with ASD
- Poor ASD community awareness
- Insufficient family support provided to the families of persons with autism
- Poor health system provided to persons with autism according to their individual needs
- Lack of support provided to students to ensure their access to school and higher education institutions, and to meet their educational needs



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Analyzing Challenges

- Lack of clear screening and diagnosis processes
- Poor diagnosis quality for some cases in the early stages of life
- Lack of a unified framework for early detection and diagnosis procedures
- Lack of evidence-based practices

- Human Resources is currently suffering insufficiency, incompetency and lack of experience, whether in the field of diagnosis or rehabilitation, in the public and private sectors
- There are no local universities offering specialized and accredited programs in the field of autism

- Health insurance does not cover autism services.
- Inadequacy of the medical services environment for the needs of persons with autism, including the waiting times, waiting places, etc.
- Poor skills of the medical staff in dealing with persons with autism.
- The disparity in the quality of the services provided.

Diagnosis



Human Resources



Healthcare





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Autism Spectrum Disorder

Analyzing Challenges

- Lack of clear and enforcing transitional plans between the early intervention stage and the school education higher education inclusion stage.
- Lack of academically and professionally qualified assistant teachers and specialists in the field of autism.

Inclusive Education



- Lack of a reliable and official family reference on proper community culture and awareness.
- The existence of misconceptions on autism, and the mechanism of dealing with autism.
- Insufficiency of training programs provided to families of persons with autism.
- Non-readiness of sports and cultural clubs to receive persons with autism.
- Lack of vocational and professional rehabilitation programs for persons with autism.

Community Empowerment





Pillars of the Policy



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Autism Spectrum Disorder

Pillars of the Policy

Pillars of the Policy

Diagnosis



Healthcare



Human Resources



Inclusive Education

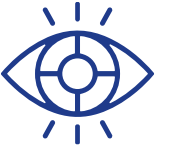


**Awareness and Community
Empowerment**



Vision

United for Autism



Mission

Support and empower persons with autism spectrum disorder and their parents at all ages, through high quality early diagnosis and clear educational paths that support their individual needs at various stages of education, work and public life in preparation of their inclusion and adaptation in the society and raising their wellbeing standards.



Objectives

1. Unifying Governance Frameworks of centers and institutions providing services to persons with autism and their families
2. Enhancing community awareness to empower and refine the skills of families to support persons with autism
3. Ensuring clear paths for persons with autism, including early diagnosis, rehabilitation, education and employment processes, leading to comprehensive community inclusion





إضطراب طيف التوحد
Autism Spectrum Disorder

Pillar: Diagnosis

Objective 1: Early detection and accurate diagnosis of autism according to specific and reliable diagnostic tools by qualified specialists

Initiatives	Initiative Description	Target	Period			Entity in Charge	Supporting Entities	Mechanism of Supporting Entity
			2021	2022	2023			
Autism Diagnosis Guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The initiative includes a guide that contains standardized procedures for early detection and diagnosis of autism, including the diagnostic team, the most important procedures followed and the tools adopted to reach a comprehensive assessment of autism cases, which leads to the identification of the necessary educational and rehabilitation needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">100% completion of the Autism Diagnosis Guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Drafting the Guidelines	Launching the Guidelines		Ministry of Community Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Ministry of Health and Prevention (MOHAP)Ministry of EducationCommunity Development Authority in DubaiAbu Dhabi Department of Community DevelopmentZayed Higher Organization for People of DeterminationSharjah City for Humanitarian Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Adopting the necessary diagnostic tools and approving the diagnostic staff of autismDrawing a standardized diagnostic course that takes into account unified diagnostic criteria among the entities according to the UAE Unified National Classification of Disabilities



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Pillar: Diagnosis

Initiatives	Initiative Description	Target	Period			Entity in Charge	Supporting Entities	Mechanism of Supporting Entity
			2021	2022	2023			
National Developmental Screening Program	Circulating the developmental screening that contains the initial developmental signs of autism to primary health care centers, nurseries and kindergartens in the country, in order to keep pace with the developmental updates of children at the periodic vaccination appointments, for early detection of any initial indicators of autism, then refer them to early intervention centers to provide comprehensive diagnosis and necessary rehabilitation services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Circulating the developmental screening by 100% of primary health centers, nurseries and kindergartens in the UAE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adoption of screening examination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communication and referral channel agreements Training of representatives from medical centers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of staff training with a regular training plan for new employees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Health and Prevention (MOHAP) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Community Development Ministry of Health and Prevention (MOHAP) Community Development Authority in Dubai Abu Dhabi Department of Community Development Abu Dhabi Department of Health Dubai Health Authority 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adoption of early screening measures and mechanisms of their application at primary health centers Staff training on application mechanisms Approval of referral mechanisms after early detection
Launching Early Intervention Centers All Over the UAE,	Early intervention centers include services provided to children with autism or children with developmental delays who show initial developmental indicators of autism, and thus they are diagnosed very early, and provided with rehabilitation services through specialists, and counseling services for their parents in order to train them in natural environments	<p>Inaugurating one fully integrated early intervention center/unit</p> <p>Referring 100% of the children identified through the screening to early intervention centers</p>	Connecting "Nomow" App with primary healthcare centers	Launching an early intervention center in Ajman		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Community Development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Community Development Ministry of Health and Prevention (MOHAP) Sharjah City for Humanitarian Services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determining the centers and departments to be inaugurated, their capacity, and the areas in which they can provide services Coordinating about mechanisms of referral to early intervention centers Adopting a rehabilitation program for the parents and family of children with autism

Objective 2: Providing comprehensive health services for persons with autism according to their individual needs, by specialists trained on how to deal and communicate with them

Initiatives	Initiative Description	Target	Period			Entity in Charge	Supporting Entities	Mechanism of Supporting Entity
			2021	2022	2023			
Healthcare Wellbeing Standards for Persons With Autism	The initiative aims to continuously evaluate the health of persons with autism through periodic medical examinations in various medical specializations, improve the medical services in line with the behavioral and sensory needs of persons with autism, in addition to training persons with autism and their specialists and supervisors on proper healthcare practices, such as safety and prevention of diseases measures , risks, healthy nutrition, etc., to ensure that they enjoy a healthy and high-quality life, as that the rest of society enjoys	Full connection of healthcare services with the People of Determination Card	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Considering adoption of healthcare wellbeing standards Listing study information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Issuing and applying standards 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Health and Prevention (MOHAP) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Community Development Abu Dhabi Department of Health Dubai Health Authority 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinating to link data of the People of Determination Card to the health record Collecting and providing data and information to support the study



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Pillar: Human Resources:

Objective 3: Providing qualified specialists to provide education, rehabilitation and treatment services for persons with autism in terms of quantity and quality in each specialty

Initiatives	Initiative Description	Target	Period			Entity in Charge	Supporting Entities	Mechanism of Supporting Entity
			2021	2022	2023			
Creating Specialized Autism Programs, such as Professional Diplomas in Autism and Training Programs for Teachers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Providing support specializations for the diagnosis and rehabilitation of ASD in local universities and colleges, which helps providing staff working with autism to rehabilitation centers for people of determination, and enhances the quality of diagnosis and rehabilitation provided to persons with autism and their parents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Creating specializations or academic streams related to autism in three local universities and collegesCreating an educational course on autism in two local universities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Launching a program on autism, language and speech	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Launching an occupational therapy programCreating an educational course on autism in two local universities		<ul style="list-style-type: none">The Ministry of Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Ministry of Community DevelopmentKnowledge and Human Development Authority in Dubai	Coordinating to determine the required support specializations, their number and geographical distribution across the Emirates

Pillar: Awareness and Community Empowerment

Objective 4: Providing a reliable source for provision of information on autism to the community, and an interactive means to respond to public inquiries

Initiatives	Initiative Description	Target	Period			Entity in Charge	Supporting Entities	Mechanism of Supporting Entity
			2021	2022	2023			
Autism Awareness Platform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishing an e-platform for community in general and for parents and specialists, through which reliable scientific information on autism, and a communication channel with subject-matter specialists is provided to respond to the questions and inquiries of the public, as a part of the e-platform of People of Determination. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full completion of the autism awareness platform 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launching the platform 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Community Development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ministry of Education Ministry of Health and Prevention (MOHAP) Abu Dhabi Department of Health Dubai Health Authority Knowledge and Human Development Authority in Dubai Zayed Higher Organization for People of Determination Sharjah City for Humanitarian Services Emirates Autism Society 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Listing the graphic, text, and video media materials to be included in the platform Adopting a system for communication with specialists through the platform Suggesting providing the e-platform with educational materials periodically
Family Empowerment Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A program to empower families of persons with autism to obtain specialized information on their children, through training them on dealing with persons with autism and how to face the challenges faced by families, including alleviating psychological pressures and exchanging experiences between families. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivering one family program in each Emirate 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training 50 families 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training 50 families 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Community Development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ministry of Education Community Development Authority in Dubai Abu Dhabi Department of Community Development Zayed Higher Organization for People of Determination Sharjah City for Humanitarian Services Emirates Autism Society 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborating on training program content Identifying the families benefiting from the program

Pillar: Inclusive Education

Objective 5: Facilitate the access of persons with autism to public and private education at all stages, and ensure the provision of necessary support for their educational adaptation

Initiatives	Initiative Description	Target	Period			Entity in Charge	Supporting Entities	Mechanism of Supporting Entity
			2021	2022	2023			
Inclusive Education Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The initiative includes the necessary measures to ensure that students with autism have access to public education schools through clear referral frameworks, ensuring that they receive educational services appropriate to them according to their individual abilities, providing inclusive and supportive educational environments for them throughout their educational path, in addition to enabling high-performers among them to access higher education stage by providing continuous and individual support at all educational stages. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full activation of autism-related initiatives in the Inclusive Education Policy 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adopting persons with autism section in the Inclusive Education Policy and starting its implementation 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ministry of Education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Community Development Knowledge and Human Development Authority in Dubai Zayed Higher Organization for People of Determination Sharjah City for Humanitarian Services Emirates Autism Society 	Adopting frameworks for referring persons with autism to public education, and the special arrangements to ensure their educational stability
Inclusive Transition Guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Guidelines include the journey of a student with autism since his transition to public education, whether through early intervention programs or through other channels, so that the Guidelines include the work system, the individual educational plans provided, and the support provided by the surrounding educational environment to ensure the development of his educational skills that ensure advancing in the educational system according to his capabilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full completion of the Inclusive Transition Guidelines 		Drafting the Guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adoption and application of the Guidelines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ministry of Education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Community Development Knowledge and Human Development Authority in Dubai Zayed Higher Organization for People of Determination Sharjah City for Humanitarian Services Emirates Autism Society 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposing an effective referral system between early intervention programs and private and public education

Pillar: Inclusive Education

Objective 5: Facilitate the access of persons with autism to public and private education at all stages, and ensure the provision of necessary support for their educational adaptation

Initiatives	Initiative Description	Target	Period			Entity in Charge	Supporting Entities	Mechanism of Supporting Entity
			2021	2022	2023			
Creating Assistant Teacher Position in Public Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The assistant teacher plays a vital role in students with autism benefit from the education provided in public education schools, as the assistant teacher serves as a supportive element in customizing the classroom environment and individualizing the learning process to suit each student. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Issuing a ministerial resolution for creation of assistant teacher position for students with autism in public education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drafting and approving the resolution 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ministry of Education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge and Human Development Authority in Dubai 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishing specific roles for the assistant teacher, and his role in working with administrative and educational entities and the parents to facilitate the access of students with autism to the necessary knowledge
Providing Support Services for Students with Autism Through Partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This initiative aims to develop partnerships with the entities concerned with providing support services such as occupational therapy, speech therapy and language communication for students with autism who need to receive such services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing support services for (60%) of students who need to receive support services such as (speech therapy, occupational therapy) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing support services for (60%) of students who need to receive support services such as (speech therapy, occupational therapy) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ministry of Education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Community Development Ministry of Health and Prevention (MOHAP) Zayed Higher Organization for People of Determination Sharjah City for Humanitarian Services Emirates Autism Society Sharjah Social Services Department Abu Dhabi Department of Health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adopting an effective referral system between partner entities for cases that need to receive support services

Pillar: Awareness and Community Empowerment

Objective 6: Facilitating and ensuring the access of persons with autism to various areas

Initiatives	Initiative Description	Target	Period			Entity in Charge	Supporting Entities	Mechanism of Supporting Entity
			2021	2022	2023			
Vocational Rehabilitation Program for Persons with Autism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designing vocational programs suitable for students with autism at the age of vocational rehabilitation, so that students can possess a set of vocational, social and behavioral skills that help them merge with the public life, by granting them accredited certificates after the end of the training period 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementing three accredited professional programs for persons with autism 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designing three accredited vocational programs for persons with autism 	Implementing three accredited vocational programs for persons with autism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ministry of Education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Community Development Knowledge and Human Development Authority in Dubai Zayed Higher Organization for People of Determination Sharjah City for Humanitarian Services 	Collaborating to design appropriate vocational programs for students with autism, and granting them vocational certificates for such programs
Cultural and Sports Inclusion Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing facilitating arrangements that ensure access of persons with autism to sports, cultural and social facilities and clubs, by modifying admission policies and services provided, making them suitable for their abilities, and providing programs that meet their individual needs to ensure their inclusion in recreational, social, cultural and sports life like others. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitating the access of persons with autism to one club in each Emirate 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitating the access of persons with autism to clubs in three Emirates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitating the access of persons with autism to clubs in all Emirates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure Ministry of Culture and Knowledge Development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Community Development Community Development Authority in Dubai Abu Dhabi Department of Community Development Local Sports Councils Local Cultural Authorities and Departments Zayed Higher Organization for People of Determination Sharjah City for Humanitarian Services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cooperating to design sports and cultural programs that serve the autism category Making reasonable accommodations in clubs to suit the needs of persons with autism and facilitate exercising sports and using sports, cultural and social services and facilities for them

Pillar: Awareness and Community Empowerment

Objective 6: Facilitating and ensuring the access of persons with autism to various areas

Initiatives	Initiative Description	Target	Period			Entity in Charge	Supporting Entities	Mechanism of Supporting Entity
			2021	2022	2023			
Job Empowerment Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing employment opportunities for persons with autism by providing them with inclusive training in actual work environments under support and supervision when needed, and providing reasonable accommodations that support their job stability and ability to carry out the work assigned to them, to allow them enjoy the maximum level of independence in work environments . 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enrolling 10 persons with autism in the Supported Employment Program 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enrolling 10 persons with autism in the Job Empowerment Program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Human Resources & Emiratisation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry of Community Development Federal Authority for Human Resources Knowledge and Human Development Authority in Dubai Dubai Government Human Resources Department Community Development Authority in Dubai Abu Dhabi Department of Community Development Zayed Higher Organization for People of Determination Sharjah City for Humanitarian Services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparing institutions and the business sector to follow reasonable accommodations arrangements to support persons with autism in their work environments Training of trainers in the public and private sectors to be able to support trainees and employees of determination according to their needs



إضطراب طيف التوحد
Autism Spectrum Disorder

Policy Outcomes



- A clear national policy that guarantees the empowerment of persons with autism and enhancing their quality of life in community.
- Unified procedures between relevant entities and service providers for persons with autism to ensure accuracy of diagnosis and quality of rehabilitation.
- Trained and qualified national staff to diagnose and rehabilitate persons with autism at all ages.
- Clear educational and career paths for persons with autism.
- Providing accommodations for persons with autism to access health, education, vocational rehabilitation, employment, and public life on an equal basis with others.
- Families of persons with autism are empowered and able to deal with the needs of their children at all ages.
- Specific awareness channels to obtain reliable and updated information about autism, whether for families or community in general.



Thank you.