



Government of the State of Kuwait & United Nations

**Strategic Cooperation
Framework**

2022-2025

A Partnership for Sustainable Development

November 2021

Foreword by the Government of the State of Kuwait

HH the late Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Jaber Al-Ahmad launched Kuwait Vision 2035 to transform Kuwait into a world class financial and commercial centre, with the private sector leading economic activities, fostering competitiveness, and increasing productivity, supported by viable public institutions. This must be achieved while maintaining the deep-rooted values and national identity for balanced economic and human development, supported by adequate infrastructure, legal framework, and enabling business environment.

The Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah confirmed that the role of the Kuwait Government to achieve this vision is shifting from implementer to that of enabler and facilitator and to be a clear vision of the work of the state institutions towards achieving them. The State is keen to enable the private sector, develop capital markets, and implement a technological reform system to promote equal opportunity, enhance transparency and fight corruption. The government and parliament have initiated a wide legislative reform process to provide a favourable environment to attract direct foreign investment, liberate market forces and enhance competition for a smart, efficient and equitable Kuwaiti market.

These aims are enshrined in New Kuwait vision 2035. The State puts Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals at the centre of the development plan with seven highly inter-linked pillars: Efficient government administration, diversified & sustainable economy, quality infrastructure, sustainable living environment, high quality healthcare, creative human capital, and a distinguished international status.

Kuwait also made great strides in the World Bank's Doing Business report for 2019 with a rank of 97 out of 190 countries. On the ease of starting a business, Kuwait moved to 133 from its past position of 173, on registering property it moved to 69 from 144, and on getting electricity installed it stepped up to 95 from 115. Kuwait's status as a secondary emerging market in the FTSE annual review was in recognition of market enhancements implemented by the Capital Markets Authority of Kuwait and Bourse Kuwait. Nonetheless, exponential dynamics of COVID-19 spread since January 2020 have affected hundreds of thousands of people and claimed thousands of lives. As a result, global and national recession have brought about unemployment, drop in public revenues, decline in profitability, long recovery, among others. Such negative consequences will likely limit the growth potential of socio-economic development in general and the transformative potential of shifting the economy into New Kuwait vision 2035 in particular.

In this regard, the Government of Kuwait aspires for renewed emphasis on a strengthened partnership with the United Nations Agencies, Programmes, and Funds under a new Strategic Cooperation Framework 2022-2025. Under this framework the Government and the United Nations commit to implementing the Kuwait National Development Plan and Kuwait Vision 2035 and to work together towards the Sustainable Development Goals, and to jointly enhance awareness and advocacy about Kuwait's international contributions to peacebuilding, humanitarian support, and development cooperation.

H.E Sheikh Dr. Ahmed Naser Al-Sabah
Minister of Foreign Affairs
State of Kuwait

Foreword by the United Nations Resident Coordinator

This is the first Strategic Cooperation Framework (SCF) between the Government of the State of Kuwait and the United Nations in a new era of the reformed United Nations Development System. Kuwait has been a model for active partnerships with the United Nations for over 57 years, working to maintain peace, humanitarian support, and development. In a new era where also COVID-19 outbreak overwhelmed the entire world and abrupted the whole system of economy, trade and health and social affairs, the UN and Kuwait partnerships, the innovations, ideas, collaboration, and ownership of Kuwait models of response, evident in the framework will provide models to the world.

Kuwait is positioning itself globally and regionally as a key and equitable actor in political assistance, peacebuilding and development fields. Kuwait is also preparing the ground internally to transform the economy, society, business models, infrastructure and social services in a democratic manner, in partnership with the interests of people, prosperity and peace on the planet.

The United Nations is also changing at the request of Member States. The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted a resolution on 31 May 2018 to redesign the United Nations development system to support the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This requires a new approach to strategic partnership at the national level with government leaders and partnerships with stakeholders, through which the UN can work with all players to support national development aspirations and plans and contribute to the seven pillars of the New Kuwait Vision 2035, Agenda 2030 and the SDGs.

This SCF is a result of extensive discussions with the Government of Kuwait, the private sector, civil society and academic institutions. It considered key issues (derived from the aspirations of Kuwait and Kuwaitis) and was based on future vision and theory of change analysis. The SCF with the Government of Kuwait aims to collaborate with Kuwaiti stakeholders to ensure that the priorities of Agenda 2030 are included in the objectives of the National Program for Development and the SDGs achieved through leaving no one behind and to ensure inclusion and equality in Kuwait's march towards fulfilling its following global and local promises.

I would like to emphasise that the priorities of the Strategic Cooperation between the government of the State of Kuwait and the United Nations are owned and traded by all partners who took part in the process, from Kuwaiti stakeholders and from UN Agencies, programs and funds, led by the Government, aligned with national priorities, informed by Agenda 2030, facilitated and coordinated by the UN, and implemented by all stakeholders. The SCF, in a repositioned development system, will facilitate the possibility of the government and national partners to benefit more from the expertise of the United Nations and provide multiple successful development experiences in several countries to provide realistic discourse to the priorities of Kuwait nationally and globally. The SCF will build on Kuwait's ongoing humanitarian efforts and its support and respect for the human right of vulnerable groups, gender equality, advancing new smart solutions for climate change, establishing national and community platforms to harness big data, and performance monitoring of priority sectors for the realization of SDGs targets.

Tarek El-Sheikh
United Nations Resident Coordinator
Representative of the Secretary General

Declaration of Commitment

The Government of the State of Kuwait and the United Nations are committed to working together with local communities, the private sector, academia, the civil society, through south-south cooperation and international partnerships, to achieve the expected results from this **Strategic Cooperation Framework (SCF)** for the period 2022-2025. The SCF describes the planned cooperation results and strategies supported by the UN system and how they will contribute to national development priorities. These include the pillars established in Kuwait Vision 2035, the Kuwait National Development Plan (KNDP), related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the country's human rights commitments and other internationally agreed development goals and treaty obligations to which H. H. the late Amir of the State of Kuwait has committed in statements to the General Assembly.

The SCF builds upon the successes and lessons of past cooperation efforts by UN system agencies. It harnesses the comparative advantages of the entire UN system to work jointly and more effectively with country partners. It consolidates the work of the UN system in a single coherent framework that provides a platform for **common policy work** and **stronger coordination and delivery** of results. The success of the SCF will be measured by Kuwait's equitable progress toward selected international KPIs, across targeted pillars.

The three expected outcomes of this SCF are linked with pillars from New Kuwait Vision 2035 and the KNDP 2020-2025. They are consistent with the Sustainable Development Agenda and its goals (SDGs). They were identified jointly by the Government, the UN, partners in civil society, including youth, and the private sector:

Pillars of Vision 2035: Pillars I, II and VI of Vision 2035: Effective Government Administration, Sustainable Diversified Economy, Creative Human Capital

Outcome 1. Advanced institutional and individual capacities for growth and economic diversification with modern systems of education, social protection, skills development and knowledge support for decent work for all in the private sector in line with international standards and enabling innovation and transparency.

Pillars of Vision 2035: Sustainable Living Environment and High-Quality Health Care

Outcome 2. Promote environmental awareness of institutions and communities to change behavior and consumption patterns of natural resources that reduce the risks of non-communicable diseases and environmental hazards and to achieve sustainable healthy cities.

Pillar of Vision 2035: International Positioning

Outcome 3. Broad Kuwaiti presence in global forums for peace building, stability and development with diplomatic, developmental, humanitarian, participatory and institutional support with strong information bases and effective Kuwaiti practices.

All outcomes and contributing outputs are achievable, relevant, and measurable. Together with effective mechanisms for steering, financing, results monitoring, evaluation, reporting, and communications, this SCF represents a **mutual accountability framework** between the Government and the UNCT.

Government of the State of Kuwait:

H.E. Sheikh Dr. Ahmed Naser Al-Sabah
Minister of Foreign affairs
State of Kuwait

United Nations Country Team:

Dr. Tarek Azmy El-Sheikh
Resident Coordinator
United Nations Kuwait

Signatures

In witness thereof the undersigned, being duly authorized, have endorsed this Strategic Cooperation Framework for the period 2022-2025 on _____, 2021, in Kuwait City to affirm their joint commitment to its expected outcomes and strategies.

UNDP

Ms. Hideko Hadzialic
Resident Representative

UNICEF

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Chief, ECD for the Gulf Area
Office

UNESCWA

Mr. Mounir Tabet
Deputy Executive Secretary

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Ms. Ruba Jaradat
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Mr. Dino Francescutti
Sub-Regional Coordinator

WHO

Dr. Asad Hafeez
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UN Women

Ms. Susanne Mikhail
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Mr. Alexander Trepelkov
Director (a.i) Division for
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Executive summary

The Government of Kuwait and the United Nations **Strategic Cooperation Framework** (SCF) describes three planned partnership outcomes and strategies supported by the UN system and how they will make a strategic and tangible contribution to the achievement of Kuwait's strategic priorities established in New Kuwait Vision 2035, the Kuwait National Development Plan (KNDP), and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

New Kuwait Vision 2035 is organized according to five themes and seven pillars that set the country's long-term development priorities: Diversify the economy, boost economic growth with a leading role for the private sector, reduce the size of the public sector and sharpen its regulatory and enabling roles, enhance education and human resource development, strengthen environmental conservation. The objectives of the National Development Plan, 2015/16-2019/2020 (KNDP) are driven by the seven pillars. Progress is measured by 20 KPIs, based upon a composite of internationally recognized indicators.

The three SCF outcomes emerged from a series of consultations that were held between July and October 2018, with over 150 participants representing the Government of Kuwait, civil society, including youth, academia, private sector representatives, and UN staff¹. The SCF consolidates the work of the UN system in a single coherent framework that provides a platform for common policy work, efficient financial budgeting and disbursement, and stronger coordination and delivery of results.

The main focus of the partnership is to support the government of Kuwait's efforts to enhance its performance against a set of global KPIs and the SDGs. The Government has the primary responsibility and accountability for achieving the planned outcomes. Based on their comparative advantages, UN system agencies will contribute policy advice, in accordance with international norms, standards, and best practices, and build multi-stakeholder capacities at national and local levels to strengthen the implementation and monitoring of country strategies, policies and plans. Emphasis is placed on those strategies, policies and plans that align strongly with the SDGs and targets.

To achieve the expected SCF outcomes and to ensure their contribution to Vision 2035 pillars and KPIs and SDG targets, the partners will employ a set of principles and approaches for integrated programming. The principles are: (1) Inclusion and equity to 'leave no one behind, (2) Human rights, gender equality and the empowerment of women, (3) Sustainability and resilience, and (4) Accountability, including the availability and use of quality data. The five mutually reinforcing programming approaches include:

- » **Results-focused programming:** based upon a high-quality results framework with indicators.
- » **Capacity enhancement and knowledge exchange** based on sound capacity assessments and innovative measures to strengthen skills and abilities for positive economic, social, and environmental change
- » **Risk-informed programming** to adapt to changes in the programme environment and to make informed decisions.
- » **Coherent policy support** to address complex multi-sector challenges with greater coordination for effective planning, budgeting, service delivery, and monitoring.
- » **Partnership** to sustain the mutual commitment of the Government and the UN system agencies to the partnership outcomes, in close collaboration with civil society, the private sector, local and international NGOs and regional development institutions.

The **three expected outcomes** of this SCF are linked with pillars from New Kuwait Vision 2035 and the KNDP. They are in line with the SDGs and reflect the overall principle of partnership, which is not to leave anyone.

¹ The consultations were iterative. They involved a high level of participation and discussion among participants to identify and test a set of outcomes and outputs expected from UN cooperation in Kuwait for the period 2020-2025. These included: A first Strategic Prioritization Workshop (SPW1) from 04-05 July with 60 participants; a series of 5 stakeholder consultations conducted from 30 Sept-04 Oct involving 104 participants, and a validation workshop with over 70 participants from 07-09 Oct. Note that some participants attended two or more consultations. For reference please see the following reports: (1) Government of Kuwait and UN Strategic Partnership Framework, 2020-2025: Report on a first consultation, July 2018. (2) Government of Kuwait and UN Strategic Partnership Framework, 2020-2025: Report on five stakeholder consultations, October 2018.

Pillars I, II and VI of Vision 2035: Effective Government Administration, Sustainable Diversified Economy, Creative Human Capital

Outcome 1. Advanced institutional and individual capacities for economic growth and diversification with modern systems of education, social protection, skills development and knowledge support for decent work for all in the private sector in line with international standards and enabling innovation and transparency.

Within **Outcome 1**, the Government and the UN will cooperate to provide capacity and institutional support to further enhance policy, regulatory environment and early warning for economic shocks. This cooperation initiative will inform policy options that envisage inclusiveness, equality, and sustainability, particularly in the context of COVID-19 and beyond. This will further support the integration of sector efforts and **increase private sector investment for** the implementation of KNDP. According to Vision 2035, the private sector will be a full and pioneering partner that ensures that new policies and laws are "smart"², strengthening transparency in decision-making. UN efforts will contribute to the achievement of the KNDP 2020-2025 programs, particularly “the promotion of a dynamic private sector” and “the development of a coherent and transparent government”. The UN will support the Government promotion of integrity, anti-corruption and equal opportunities; and the use of modern technologies to equip Kuwaiti Cadres with up-to-date capacities for wider private sector participation. Outcome 1 introduces international experiences for increasing urban investment in support of Kuwait’s Vision 2035 program of building a special international economic zone, while increasing employment opportunities for disadvantaged groups.

The partnership will provide procedures, operational guidance, material development and implementation plans **to strengthen education including distant and online learning and inclusive social protection systems**. Knowledge and skills development for individual and institutional development will equip and provide support to all segments of society, especially the less advantaged groups.³ UN support will involve regional and international strategic partnerships that transmit best practices for **quality in teaching and learning**; guidance and program material to better **match skills** with labor market needs, **provide more measures for the social welfare network**, support better coverage and increased access to healthcare, education, housing, social insurance, and social welfare. Cooperation in these priorities will contribute the Government's program on “strengthening the capacity of citizens and institutions”.

Pillars IV and V of vision 2035: Sustainable Living Environment and High-Quality Health Care

Outcome 2. Promote environmental awareness of institutions and communities to change behavior and consumption patterns of natural resources that reduce communicable and non-communicable disease and environmental hazards and achieve sustainable healthy cities.

Partnership under **Outcome 2** aims to promote awareness-raising of individuals and communities to increase **compliance with Kuwait's urban, health and environmental policies and to enforce plans, laws and regulations**. At present, the regulatory framework for environmental sustainability has some critical gaps to be addressed and aligned with ratified multi-lateral environmental agreements (MEAs)⁴ through intensive awareness-raising and capacity-building campaigns to develop environmental control to conserve natural resources and disseminate healthy lifestyles in cities and communities in coordination with the private sector institutions, health centers and cooperative societies. In addition to increasing efforts towards the development of cadres and guides to improve the quality and comprehensiveness of health services at the local level through: (1) intensive awareness campaigns in a stronger partnership between the public health sectors and for-profit ones in overall; and (2) effective dialogue and coordination between local/national authorities and global level mechanism (i.e., WHO Partners Platform) to catalyze preparedness and response, and anticipate recovery policy actions particularly concerning the COVID-19 situation. These series of partnership and communication initiatives are expected to lead to better lifestyle choices and reduce risks from both communicable and non-communicable diseases as well as environmental risks, comprehensively achieving resilience/sustainable living environment. The United Nations will support the capacity of the Government and civil society to achieve goals set force by the National Plan 2020-2025, in particular the

² This involves a shift away from ‘*regulate and forget*’ toward a regulatory framework that is **adaptive, open to experimentation, focused on results, and collaborative** with the private sector. Deloitte Insights, [The Future of Regulation – Principles for regulating emerging technologies](#), dtd Oct 2018.

³ For the most vulnerable population groups under the Strategic Partnership, it will include: children from low-income families, female-headed households, the unemployed, persons with disabilities, migrants, including low-skilled domestic workers, and persons of concern to UNHCR.

⁴ For example: (1) Implementation of the climate change convention (UNFCCC) requires enhanced knowledge about future impacts and vulnerabilities with tangible, costed policy measures, (2) Approved action programmes to combat desertification (UNCCD) require new government and non-state capacities for implementation; and (3) Numerous areas of concern for the biodiversity convention (CBD) have not received sufficient attention and funding and there are major gaps in data and information sharing among stakeholders.

KNDP programme on “foster a dynamic private sector”, “building connected and integrated infrastructure”, “Improve our health”, and “environmentally harmonious living areas”.

The seventh pillar of the 2035 Vision: Kuwait International Positioning

Outcome 3. Broad Kuwaiti presence in international fora for building peace, stability and development with diplomatic, developmental, participatory and institutional support with strong information bases and effective Kuwaiti practices.

The objective of **Outcome 3** is to document the cooperation between the UN institutions, the State institutions and the civil and human society to build on and expand Kuwait's diplomatic, developmental and humanitarian efforts based on a global information base and indicators that collects the efforts of the State of Kuwait and its participation in international forums through professionally prepared reports supported by national, regional and international awareness and informative publications and by increasing the presence and programs of the UN organizations and partnership with prestigious international institutions and the expansion of the organization of international development conferences in the State of Kuwait, which will strengthen the leadership status of the State as a regional, global center dedicated to peace-building and conflict prevention and development, and a platform for effective reporting on the impact of Kuwait's efforts in humanitarian and development of foreign aid. Such efforts by the United Nations will contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the eighth program in the National Plan 2020-2025 to achieve effective participation in the international community.

The UN takes into account the need for cost-effective mechanisms to better plan for the results of the Strategic Cooperation Framework and to explore innovative opportunities for funding, monitoring and reporting on its results, ensuring a clear and objective contribution to the priorities of Kuwait Vision 2035 and related sustainable development indicators.

Mechanisms and structure of follow up and reporting on achievements and management of the implementation to deliver SCF results will involve:

- » **The Steering Committee for Development Cooperation;** it is a committee established by Government of Kuwait that holds its meetings in a periodic manner, chaired by the Secretary-General of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development and with the presence of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and as needed a delegated representative of the U.N. Resident Coordinator in the State of Kuwait. They also have the right to vote, and in the presence of stakeholders whenever the need arises for their presence in the meetings.

The duties of the committee will be as follows:

- Approval of the work plan of the strategic cooperation framework between the government of the State of Kuwait and the United Nations.
- Provide technical opinions, suggestions, directives, and strategic guidelines for the projects required to be implemented.
- Approval of the framework projects related to the policies and programs of the national development plan 2020 - 2025.
- Approval of programs and projects budgets, and transfer mechanisms.
- Discuss and approve funding proposals.
- Follow up on achievements and progress in the cooperation programs and projects. Also, reflect and discuss the annual plan and progress according to the submitted technical and financial Reports.
- Adoption of Strategic Cooperation Framework (SCF) assessment plans and approval on assigning agencies and reporting.
- Review and approve the SCF periodic reports and achievements.
- Other matters related to the implementation of the SCF require approval.

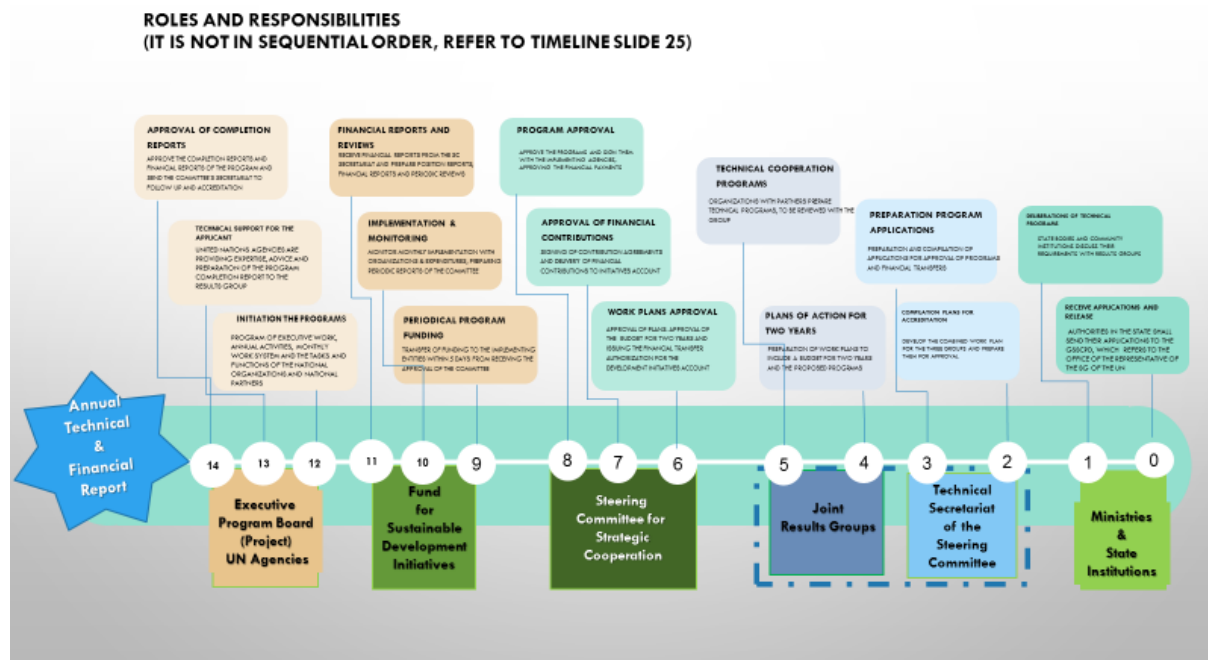
- » **The Coordination Forum for Development Cooperation:** It is an annual forum meeting held as needed in the presence of the Secretary-General of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development and in the presence of the Representative of the UN Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Resident Coordinator of the State of Kuwait to review the progress of the projects and discuss developments only and the forum does not issue any decisions or endorsements
- » **United Nations Country Team:** Its main task is to discuss projects prepared by the framework results group, and not to issue any approvals. The approvals will be done by the national steering committee for development cooperation only.
 - » **Ministries and state institutions** that will send their requests for cooperation with the UN (based on discussions with relevant UN institutions or new requests) to the General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development (GSSCPD), which in turn will forward them to the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator for relevant UN organizations to review and study the request for cooperation, in coordination with the International Cooperation Department at the GSSCPD.
- » **United Nations Strategic Cooperation Framework Programme Fund - Account**
Budget allocation will be based on the approved financial provision included within the budget of the General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development it will be transferred to the account as an annual instalment as requested by the Steering Committee.
- »
 - » **The Technical Secretariat of the Steering Committee**, consisting of representatives of Results Groups, RCO, monitoring and evaluation specialists, and the Department of International Cooperation of the Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development. The committee is responsible for compiling the work plans prepared by the Results Groups, and the technical programs prepared by the organizations collectively or individually, and submission for the Steering Committee's endorsement. It is also responsible for compiling technical and financial follow-up reports received from participating organizations for submission to the Steering Committee and State institutions at the times specified and agreed upon in the programs. Results Groups chairs in collaboration with member UN Agencies funds and programmes (APF) will avail necessary monitoring and evaluation capacities for timely and effective monitoring and reporting on KNDP priorities and Vision 2035 KPIs.
 - » **Results Groups** (UNRGs) are an internal UN structure for the development of UN Joint Action Plans and the adoption of individual UN Plans, chaired by one of the heads of the organizations within Kuwait, and are also concerned with technical reviews of the programs to be implemented by organizations within the inter-agency strategic framework.
 - » **Joint biennials Work Plans** for each agreed outcome showing detailed outputs, indicators, baselines, targets, means of verification, and risks, including a **Budget Framework** showing the contributions of each UN system agency.
 - » A Cooperation Framework Account will be administered by UNDP (on behalf of UN AFPs) as the preferred financial instrument by Government of State of Kuwait for depositing government of Kuwait Financial Contribution to the United Nations Strategic Cooperation Framework. The account allows pass-through funding to UN AFPs⁵. Upon the final decision on the joint work plans and project documents by the Steering Committee, the Steering Committee will instruct UNDP for the amounts of payments and recipient agencies. This financing mechanism will be subject to review and monitor regularly and as required by the Steering Committee.
 - » **Joint Operations** The UN organizations participating in the Framework will, after its adoption, develop a **UN Operational Strategy**⁶ for rapid delivery of services in a timely, efficient and cost-effective manner in terms of cost of procurement, finance, human resources, logistics, ICT after coordinating with representative from the government of Kuwait..
 - » **Program / Project Board** After the approval of the Steering Committee for Development Cooperation of the Program / Project Action Plan, the associated operational activities and the estimated budget, which includes the formation of the Program / Project Board, chaired by the National Director,

⁵ In this pass-through arrangement, 0.75 % service fee will apply.

⁶ Globally, [Business Operations Strategies](#) have enabled UNCTs to save on back-office expenses through reduced duplication of work processes and reduced transaction costs. Cost-benefit analysis has shown average benefits of USD \$4 for every \$1 invested in common services. Common procurement services, mainly through the use of common long-term procurement arrangements (LTA) are shown to generate benefits of up to \$25 per dollar invested.

nominated by a Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development and membership of the UN implementing organizations, beneficiaries and partners.

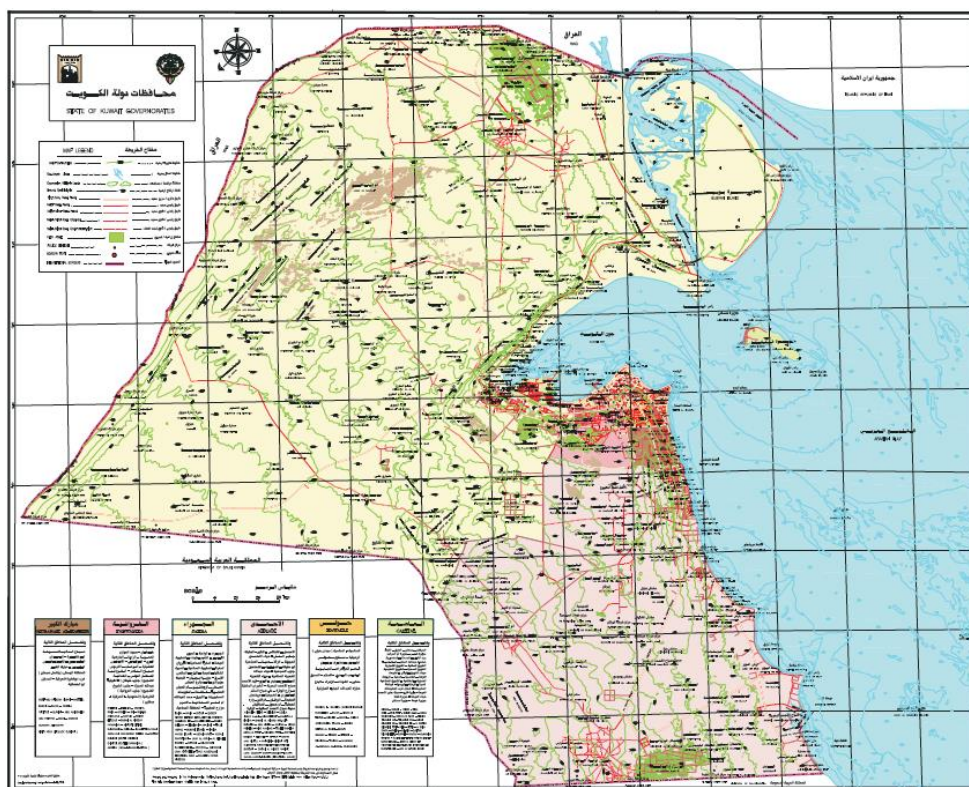
In order to ensure a high level of transparency and the adoption of systems of governance and in accordance with the regulations at the UN and the government of Kuwait, it is necessary to clearly separate the powers of all the above-mentioned administrative levels.



The UN will work with national partners in the State of Kuwait, and in line with the Government's expectations, will attract the best, most up-to-date and innovative development programs and networks to promote joint and more effective engagement with national partners based on the **five pillars (5Ps) of the sustainable development agenda**:

- » **People:** Supporting Kuwaitis with new skills and abilities to lead sustainable development, enhance education and health systems performance to tackle the social development agenda of Vision 2035, and support LDCs and countries in crisis to rise from poverty and recover from disasters.
- » **Prosperity:** Working in partnership to define world class models for legislative and institutional change that meet community aspirations for quality of life and that promote a diversified economy, knowledge transfer, and flourishing businesses and job creation.
- » **Planet:** Developing solutions and tools for the transformation of Kuwaiti society, helping people and institutions to embrace high-tech green development and new ways of managing Kuwait's abundant environment and energy resources that are climate-resilient and risk-informed.
- » **Partnership & Peace:** Kuwait's role as a humanitarian centre is a source of pride for the Government and people of Kuwait. The UN will support Government efforts to preserve and explore ways to build on this legacy and expand Kuwait's role and prominence, in relation to the sustainable development agenda, both abroad and at home. Building on the overall results of the SCF, and especially through outcome five, the UN system will support Kuwaiti efforts to facilitate and consolidate systems of international and regional partnership for peace, conflict prevention, development and stability.

Map of Kuwait and Basic Data



Basic Data

Area and borders	17.818 (sq. km, '000)
Capital	Kuwait City
Administrative units	6 Governorates: Assima, Farwaniya, Hawalli, Ahmadi, Mubarak Al Kabeer, Jahra
Government type	Constitutional monarchy
Political system	The Amir is head of state. Executive power is held by the Amir and cabinet. The Amir appoints the Prime Minister and the Prime Minister assigns the Ministers. Legislative power is vested in the National Assembly (<i>Majles Al-Ummah</i>). The Amir has the ultimate power to call the parliament for assembly and dissolve.
GDP (current)	USD \$139,835.54 billion (2018);
GDP per capita	USD \$29,618.87 (PPP, current international) (2018)
HDI	0.80; 51 out of 188 countries; very high human development category (2015)
Development status	High income, net contributing country
Population	4,226,920 million (2018); Expatriates comprise about 69.2% of the total
Population growth	4.6%; Urban 2.1% (2018)
Population density	237.2 people per sq. km of land area
Dependency ratio	31% (2017); 43% (2000)
Life expectancy at birth	80.90 years (2018)
Total fertility rate	2 births per woman (2016)
Religion	Islam (85%); Kuwait is open to and tolerant of followers of other religions who are protected under the law
Languages	Arabic
Labor force participation rate	Total: 73.8 %; Female 49.9 % (2017);
Inflation rate	16.6% GDP deflator (annual %) (2018)
Unemployment rate	Total: 2.2% (2019)
CO2 emissions	25.22 metric tons per capita (2014)
Government expenditure	Current: USD \$70,745.92 million
Public debt (% GDP)	26% (2017)*
Industries	Petroleum, petrochemicals, cement, shipbuilding and repair, water desalination, food processing, construction materials

Sources: Kuwait Central Statistics Bureau (CSB); UN; World Bank; *Economist Country Report (2018), Kuwait Municipality

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Acronyms and abbreviations

National institutions ⁷			
CoM	Council of Ministers	MoF	Ministry of Finance
CSB	Central Statistics Bureau	MoFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
EPA	Environment Public Authority	MoH	Ministry of Health
GPFA	Government Performance Follow-up Agency	MoHE	Ministry of Higher Education
GSSCPD	General Secretariat of the Supreme council for Planning and Development	MoI	Ministry of Interior
KACA	Kuwait Anti-Corruption Authority (Nazaha)	MoJ	Ministry of Justice
KCCA	Kuwait Chamber of Commerce & Industry	MoO	Ministry of Oil
KFAS	Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences	MoSAL	Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor
KISR	Kuwait Institute for Science Research	MoSY	Ministry of State for Youth Affairs
KMun	Kuwait Municipality	NCCAL	National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters
KNA	National Assembly	NCED	National Center for Educational Development
KPA	Kuwait Ports Authority	PAAET	Public Authority for Applied Education and Training
KPPC	Kuwait Public Policy Centre	PAAF	Public Authority for Agriculture and Fish Resources
KU	Kuwait University	PADA	Public Authority for disabled
MoAIA	Ministry of <i>Awqaf</i> and Islamic Affairs	PAM	Public Authority for Manpower
MoCI	Ministry of Commerce and Industry	PAS	Public Authority for Sports
MoE	Ministry of Education	YPA	Youth Public Authority
MoEW	Ministry of Electricity and Water		
United Nations Organizations			
DPPA	Department of Political Affairs	UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization	UNESCWA	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
ILO	International Labor Office	UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
IOM	International Organization for Migration	UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights	UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UN Habitat	United Nations Human Settlements Programme	UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women	UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS	UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
UNCT	United Nations Country Team	UNRC	United Nations Resident Coordinator
UNDG	United Nations Development Group	UNV	United Nations Volunteer
UNDGC	United Nations Division of Global Communications	WFP	World Food Programme
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme	WHO	World Health Organization
UNEP	United Nations Environment		
Other			
BF	Budget Framework	KRCS	Kuwait Red Crescent Society
CCA	Common Country Assessment		
CSO	Civil Society Organization	M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
DaO	Delivering as One	MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreement
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction	MSME	Micro, medium, and small enterprises
GDP	Gross Domestic Product	OMT	UNCT Operations Management Team
GHG	Greenhouse Gas	RBM	Results Based Management
GoK	Government of Kuwait	RG	Outcome Results Group for the SCF
HRBA	Human Rights-based Approach	SC	Government-UN Steering Committee for SCF
IFI	International Financial Institution	SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
JWP	Joint Work Plan	SCF	Kuwait-UN Strategic Cooperation Framework
KPI	Key performance indicator	UPR	Universal Periodic Review

⁷ <https://www.e.gov.kw/sites/kgoenglish/Pages/OtherTopics/KGD.aspx>

CHAPTER 1: COUNTRY PROGRESS TOWARDS THE 2030 AGENDA

1.1 BACKGROUND

1. The Government of Kuwait and the United Nations **Strategic Cooperation Framework (SCF)** describes the planned cooperation results and strategies supported by the UN system and how they will contribute to the pillars established in Kuwait Vision 2035, the Kuwait National Development Plan (KNDP), and related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

2. A series of consultations were held between July and October 2018, with **over 150 participants** representing the Government of Kuwait, civil society, including youth, private sector representatives, and UN staff.⁸ Learning from the consultations was in line with the review of key development issues and possible priorities for the support of the United Nations system in Kuwait. These produced the set of cooperation results – outcomes and outputs – expected from UN system partnership that will make a strategic and tangible contribution to the achievement of Kuwait’s strategic priorities.

3. The SCF consolidates the work of the UN system in a single coherent framework that provides a platform for common policy work, efficient financial budgeting and disbursement, and stronger coordination and delivery of results.

4. The main focus of the partnership between the State of Kuwait and the UN is to support Kuwait’s efforts in all sectors to enhance its performance against a set of global KPIs prioritized under the Vision 2035 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The ultimate result expected is to enhance Kuwait’s international positioning with a fully functional global center for peacebuilding, conflict prevention and development, and a platform for effective reporting on the impact of Kuwait’s efforts in external humanitarian and development assistance.

5. The Government has the primary responsibility and accountability for achieving the planned SCF results, which is in line with the achievement of KNDP 2020-2025. Based on their comparative advantages, UN system agencies will contribute policy advice, in accordance with international norms, standards, and best practices, and build multi-stakeholder capacities at national and local levels to strengthen the implementation and monitoring of country strategies, policies and plans. Emphasis is placed on those strategies, policies and plans that align strongly with the SDGs and targets. To ensure continuity, partnership results and strategies will be regularly reviewed and updated by the Government and UN system.

1.2 NATIONAL VISION 2035 FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

6. **New Kuwait Vision 2035**⁹ is organized according to five themes (see box) and seven pillars that set the country’s long-term development priorities: Diversify the economy, boost economic growth with a leading role for the private sector, reduce the size of the public sector and sharpen its regulatory and enabling roles, enhance education and human resource development, strengthen environmental conservation, and reduce the consumption of strategic natural resources, especially hydrocarbons. The vision aims to see government revenues more than triple by 2035 to USD \$164 billion, from \$44 billion for 2017.¹⁰

New Kuwait: Vision 2035 Five Themes



1. **Citizen participation & respect of the law**, including reducing corruption, and improving citizen participation in government
2. **Effective, fair, & transparent government**, with formalized rules and regulations and their proper implementation
3. **Prosperous & diversified economy**
4. **Nurturing & cohesive nation**, through high quality healthcare and education
5. **Globally relevant & influential player** with a strong presence in diplomatic, trade, and security fora, and raising humanitarian assistance by 1.5% of GDP.

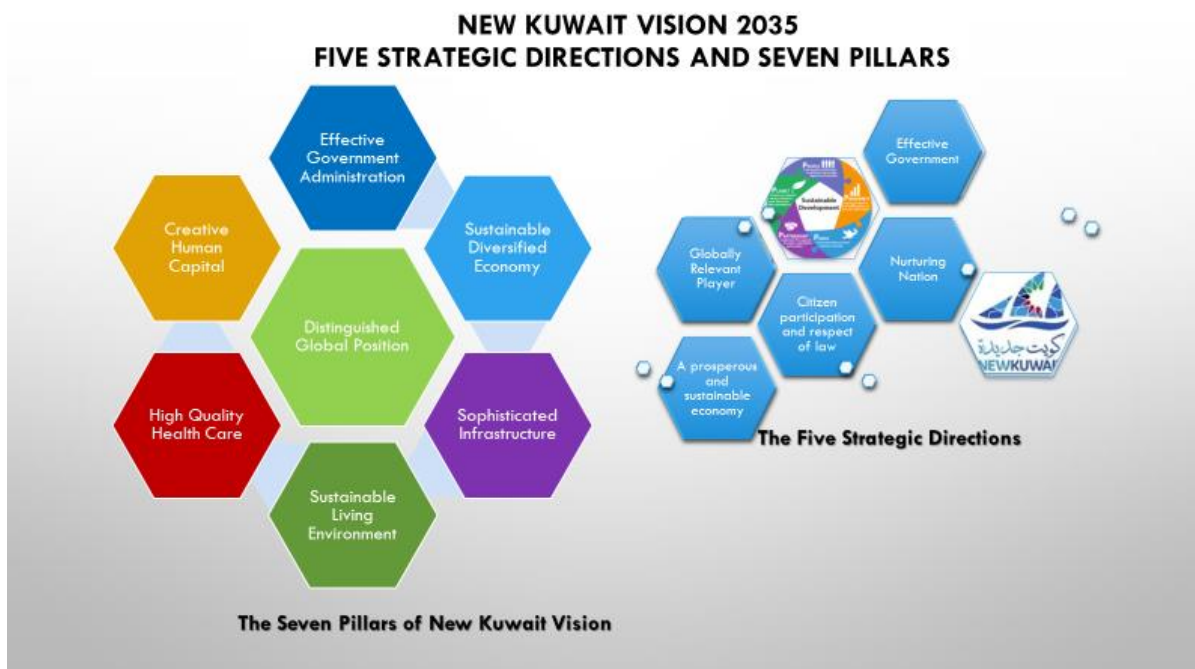
⁸ The consultations involved a high level of participation and discussion among participants to identify and test a set of outcomes and outputs expected from UN cooperation in Kuwait for the period 2020-2025. These included: A first Strategic Prioritization Workshop (SPW1) from 04-05 July with 60 participants; a series of 5 stakeholder consultations conducted from 30 Sept-04 Oct involving 104 participants, and a validation workshop with over 70 participants from 07-09 Oct.

⁹ Government of Kuwait, [Vision 2035](#), dtd. Oct 2017.

¹⁰ UNCT, Review of key issues for sustainable development in the State of Kuwait, CCA FINAL DRAFT-May 2018.

7. The short-to-medium terms objectives of the National Development Plan, 2020-2025 are driven by the seven pillars (see figure) and operationalized in eight national target programmes. Progress is to be measured with **key performance indicators (KPIs)**, based upon a composite of internationally recognized indicators.

Figure: Vision 2035 - Five Themes and Seven Pillars¹¹



8. In order to achieve the expected results of the UN Strategic Cooperation Framework for Sustainable Development and to ensure its contribution to the pillars of Vision 2035, the KPI objectives and the relevant Sustainable Development Goals, four principles and five approaches will be used. The principles are: (i) Inclusion and equity for inclusion without exception; (ii) Human rights, equality and women's empowerment; (iii) Sustainability and flexibility; and (iv) Accountability, including the availability and use of quality data.

9. **Inclusion and equity to 'leave no one behind':** The fruits of economic diversification and increased prosperity must be shared equally to ensure Kuwait's vision of a '*nurturing and cohesive nation*'.¹² The UN system will support the Government with nuanced policy analysis and advice, using disaggregated data, to ensure that vulnerable population groups¹³ are reached with quality services, meeting international standards.

10. **Human Rights, Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women:** These are instrumental to an overall focus on growth with equity and they are protected under the Constitution¹⁴ which guarantees the equality of citizens and equality of opportunity. As a signatory to seven main international human rights instruments, including 7 of 8 fundamental ILO conventions,¹⁵ Kuwait has taken progressive measures to meet its international human rights obligations. The UN system will work with the government and civil society partners to strengthen legal frameworks and to develop new capacities to

¹¹ Government of Kuwait, KUWAIT MID-RANGE DEVELOPMENT PLAN, (KNDP) 2015/2016 – 2019/2020. May 2015. 12.

¹² Government of Kuwait, *Ibid*.

¹³ For the SCF **vulnerable population groups** include: children from low income families, female headed households, unemployed persons, persons with disabilities, the *Bidoun* community, migrants, including domestic and low-skilled workers, and persons of concern to UNHCR.

¹⁴ [Kuwait's Constitution of 1962, Reinstated in 1992](#) dtd Oct 2017. Kuwait's constitutional guarantees of equality and non-discrimination are limited to **race, origin, language and religion** (article 29). While the omission of 'sex' deprives women of legal protection against gender-based discrimination, there are anti-discriminatory provisions in the Personal Status Act, Penal Code, Prisons Act, Civil Code, Nationality Act, Education Act, and Private Sector Labor Act.

¹⁵ <https://www.ohchr.org/en/countries/menaregion/pages/kwindex.aspx>. Kuwait has yet to ratify: The Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (CED); International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (CMW). In addition: the ILO migration instruments (C97 and C143), related instruments (C181 and C189), and C100 and the 2014 Protocol to the Forced Labour Convention

implement and monitor the recommendations of UN human rights mechanisms, such as the Universal Periodic Review,¹⁶ as well as recommendations from independent state oversight bodies.

11. **Sustainability and Resilience:** Vision 2035 places emphasis on environmental conservation and reduced consumption of strategic natural resources. Kuwait is a signatory to the main international environmental agreements, and the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and the Quito Declaration on Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements. In line with these commitments, the UN system will promote multi-sectoral, integrated approaches to reduce risks and vulnerabilities, and to enhance the resilience of communities and the ecosystems upon which they depend. This will involve measures to anticipate potential negative environmental and social impacts in the policy and programming process and to empower communities to withstand shocks and manage risks and uncertainties.

12. **Accountability, including the availability and use of indicators of sustainable development and performance measurement:** the UN system will work with the government to strengthen the institutional functioning of evidence-based planning and information, and to develop programs to improve information infrastructure at horizontal and vertical levels, horizontally (at the sectors of health, environment, energy, education, security, ...etc.) and vertically (at the central national and governorates levels). The Government (the National Committee for SDGs) works in collaboration with the UN to conduct a comprehensive planning to harmonize the performance indicators of the Kuwait Vision 2035 with the indicators of the Sustainable Development Goals, represented in the Voluntary Report on Sustainable Development of the State of Kuwait, which was presented at the High-level Political Forum for Sustainable Development in New York (July 2019).¹⁷ Particular attention will be given to supporting the Central Statistics Bureau (CSB) and the Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI) to produce data disaggregated by sex and sub-population groups and to promote the dissemination and use of data and statistics at the national and provincial levels for the formulation of evidence-based and indicator policies.

13. **Five mutually reinforcing programming approaches:**

- » **Results-focused programming:** Based on a high-quality results framework with indicators.
- » **Capacity-building and knowledge-sharing** based on sound capacity assessments and innovative actions to enhance skills and capacities to achieve positive economic, social and environmental change
- » **Recognition of implementation risks** to adapt to changes in the program environment and make informed decisions.
- » **Coherent policy support** to address complex multisectoral challenges with greater coordination for effective planning, efficient budgeting, service delivery and monitoring.
- » **Strengthened partnership** to sustain mutual commitment between the Government and UN Agencies to the results of the partnership, in close collaboration with civil society, the private sector, local and international NGOs and regional development institutions.

1.3 PROGRESS TOWARDS THE 2030 AGENDA¹⁸

14. Since September 2015, Kuwait development priorities have been harmonized with Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and aligned under the slogan “Towards Sustainable Development” towards achieving the 17 SDGs in an integrated, interdependent and indivisible manner. A permanent National Sustainable Development Committee (NSDC) was established to oversee and steer the implementation of the SDGs, in partnership with civil society organizations, the private sector, and regulatory bodies and observers from international organizations. The NSDC oversaw the production of Kuwait’s first Voluntary National Review (2019) for review by the esteemed HLPF.

15. Kuwait is also in the process of finalizing its National Human Development Report on education in partnership with GSSCPD and advisors from Kuwait and international organizations. These and other reports reflect the country’s efforts to achieve SDG4 on quality of education as well as strengthening its human capital, which is at the core of its third development plan (2020-2025).

¹⁶ UN Human Rights Council (HRC), Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review – Kuwait, April 2015, A/HRC/29/17.

¹⁷ Government of the State of Kuwait 2019 (Voluntary Report on Sustainable Development in the State of Kuwait), High-Level Political Forum for Sustainable Development in New York (July 2019)

¹⁸ Kuwait Voluntary National Review 2019

16. Recognizing the role of evidence based and rigorously tested public policies, the government of Kuwait, represented by the General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development (GSSCPD), established the “Kuwait Public Policy Center” (KPPC) to support a well-informed decision-making and national planning process backed with evidence-based public policy analysis. The KPPC provides a platform to bring academic research into public policy; through networking with local and international universities and research institutions. The KPPC plays an important role in reinforcing the position of the GSSCPD as the leading planning entity and reliable source for policy research and integrated advice. As such the KPPC functions as a place for exploring and testing existing and new policy ideas, researching their relevance and effectiveness in the development planning and offering evidence-based advice to policy makers.

17. Globally, Kuwait has always been keen to ensure its commitment to international treaties and conventions on the environment, immigration and other areas and to incorporate them into its development plans and economic programs. Kuwait has also been keen to shoulder its regional and international responsibilities towards achieving development in its various economic, social and environmental dimensions towards the implementation of His Highness the late Amir of Kuwait’s initiatives to promote international partnerships, which are in continuation of Kuwait’s long-standing legacy to supporting development and humanitarian work and development assistance to developing and least developed countries.

1.4 FINANCING LANDSCAPE AND OPPORTUNITIES

18. **The Steering Committee for Development Cooperation;** it is a committee established by Government of State of Kuwait to oversee the implementation of the Cooperation Framework outputs. It holds its meetings in a periodic manner, chaired by the Secretary-General of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development and with the presence of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, A delegated representative as needed of the Resident Coordinator to the state of Kuwait. They also have the right to vote, and in the presence of stakeholders whenever the need arises for their presence in the meetings.

19. The Strategic Cooperation Framework is implemented collaboratively with relevant government authorities and United Nations programmes and funds, within the agreed action plan and approved programme.

20. The proposed budget for the implementation of the programs and outputs of this framework is essentially an estimate and is not a financial commitment that must be fully provided by the Government, the private sector, the community, other donors or UN organizations and agencies, but is designed to motivate national partners to support the Government's efforts through their contributions to programs.

21. Sources of funding from UN Agencies include regular or core resources, or non-core resources that UN Agencies can mobilize from different sources (private sector, civil society organizations and mobilizing local community resources).

22. The Cooperation Framework Account will be administered by UNDP (on behalf of UN AFPs) as the preferred financial instrument by Government of State of Kuwait for depositing government of Kuwait Financial Contribution to the United Nations Strategic Cooperation Framework. The account allows pass-through funding to UN AFPs¹⁹. Upon the final decision on the joint work plans and project documents by the Steering Committee, the Steering Committee will request UNDP for the amounts of payments and recipient agencies. This financing mechanism will be subject to review and monitor regularly and as required by the Steering Committee.

23. Full implementation of the SCF will require an estimated total of USD \$ 159,000,000. The Government of the State of Kuwait will contribute USD \$75,000,000 with \$18,750,000 annually. Any other contribution will be discussed separately by the Steering Committee and Project Board. The resource requirements are summarized below by outcome:

¹⁹ In this pass-through arrangement, 0.75 % service fee will apply.

SCF Resource Requirements by Outcome (2022-2025) ²⁰

Outcomes	Agencies	Budget Framework ('000 USD)		
		Total [A]	Projected Available [B]	To mobilize [A-B]
Outcome 1. Advanced institutional and individual capacities for growth and economic diversification with modern systems of education, social protection, skills development and knowledge support for decent work for all and in the private sector in line with international standards and enabling innovation and transparency.				
	TOTAL	84,000	35,000	39,000
Outcome 2. Promote environmental awareness of institutions and communities to change behavior and consumption patterns of natural resources that reduce the risks of communicable and non-communicable diseases and environmental hazards and to achieve sustainable healthy cities.				
	TOTAL	35,000	20,000	15,000
Outcome 3. Broad Kuwaiti presence in global forums for peace building, stability and development with diplomatic, developmental, humanitarian, participatory and institutional support with strong information bases and effective Kuwaiti practices.				
	TOTAL	40,000	20,000	20,000
GRAND TOTAL		159,000	75,000	84,000

Efficient and dynamic financing of cooperation and results

24. **The Cooperation Framework Account to ensure efficient, effective use and pass-through of funds allocated by Government of State of Kuwait** intended to finance the effective implementation and biennial work plans in line with this UN Cooperation Framework, in support of the achievement of KNDP, whether implemented by several joint agencies or through one agency. Contributions to the account are provided for every fiscal year by the Government of Kuwait and other sources approved by the Steering Committee to ensure that implementation is not interrupted by delayed funding and is in accordance with the two-year work plan approved by the Steering Committee. The account is open to other contributors and non-UN organizations after discussing the suggested non-governmental contribution with Steering Committee for Development Cooperation. Implementation allocations are determined by the **Steering Committee of the Government of Kuwait**, based on the workplan presented by the Results Groups, the associated budget framework and the agreed funding allocation criteria. **The Cooperation Framework Account provides timely transfer services to the recipient AFPs upon the request by the GSSCPD (amount and the name of recipient AFP within three to five business days.**²¹

25. New sources of finance will be identified that the Government and UN can access and leverage, including options for blended finance and influencing the policy environment to facilitate greater resource flows to Vision 2035 pillars and related SDG priorities.

1.5 Challenges towards achieving the 2030 Agenda

26. Some of the major gaps and challenges Kuwait faces is in data and information sharing among stakeholders as well as simpler business regulations and effective monitoring. In education, there are well-recognized gaps that exist across basic skills: creative and independent thinking, problem-solving, and functional skills. The skills mismatch between graduates and the labor market is a concern to both employers and students.

²⁰ These figures are indicative only and will depend on the availability of regular and other resources from UN Agencies and contributions by the Government of Kuwait.

²¹ Recipient agency's indirect cost percentage (GMS) will apply, in addition to 0.75% of service fees + bank transfer fee.

27. There are some gaps in services for persons with disabilities as well as the lack of consolidated data which resulted in gaps in understanding about the coverage and educational progress for persons with disabilities. The major health challenges in Kuwait are related to non-communicable diseases (NCDs). Environmental challenges include the ones linked with climate change, the unsustainable use of natural resources, the regulatory framework for environmental sustainability which is not fully aligned with ratified multi-lateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and institutional capacity.

CHAPTER 2: UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM SUPPORT TO THE 2030 AGENDA

2.1 THEORY OF CHANGE

28. The UNSCF theory of change (ToC) is formulated by establishing linkages between the change that needs to happen (the challenges), the means to go about this change (the approach), and, the purpose and objectives behind it (the desired Results).²² The overarching objective of the ToC is therefore to enable strategic, outcome oriented and coherent UNCT support that is attuned to country conditions as they evolve. In particular, it provides a change in how the results of the UN-Kuwait partnership will lead to national strategic directions and contribute to the pillars of Vision 2035, performance indicators and sub-indicators, and relevant Sustainable Development Goals.²³

29. As part of the process of formulating the ToC, the UNCT applies four guiding principles and pursue five broad-based strategic approach of KNDP 2035 (see Section 1.2 above) to identify risks and assumptions, that lie between different levels of change. In this sense, the ToC is firmly based on the needs of the country and examined through the lens of such strategic approach, rather than just the immediately available capacities and resources available of the UNCTs and other development partners. In so doing, UNCTs in Kuwait are effectively integrated to contribute to the following inter-connected priority interventions that are fully aligned with the New Kuwait Vision 2035 and the KNDP 2020-2025.

» Under the Pillars I, II and VI of Vision 2035 – *Effective Government Administration, Sustainable Diversified Economy and Creative Human Capital*, stronger institutional and individual capacities are required for economic growth with modern systems of education, social protection, skills development, innovation, transparency and knowledge support for decent work for all following international standards.

» Under the Pillars IV & V of Vision 2035 – *Sustainable Living Environment and High-Quality Health Care*, environmental awareness should be enhanced by institutions and communities to change behavior and consumption patterns saving natural resources and reducing risks of non-communicable diseases and environmental hazards for sustainable healthy cities.

» Under the Pillar VII of Vision 2035 – *Kuwait International Positioning*, it is essential to support effective Kuwaiti practices and impact widely disseminated in global forums for peace building, security, stability, humanitarian and sustainable development drawn from verified Kuwaiti information, knowledge bases and stronger global performance.

30. The normative concept of the ToC emphasizes the interdependent nature, and the simultaneous pursuit of both short- and longer- term objectives under the seven pillars of the Vision 2025 pillars. The trajectory that the theory envisions is nonlinear, meaning that progress as well as setbacks are to be expected and may take place concurrently. Various risk factors will impact the prospects of promoting the priority areas (see annex 3)

²² Outcomes of GoK-UN cooperation are expected to make a strategic contribution for the achievement of Kuwait priorities in New Kuwait Vision 2035, the KNDP, and related SDG. **Outcomes are high level changes related to institutional performance or the behaviours of people and their communities.** They describe: (1) How people are acting differently to improve their lives and those of their families and communities or (2) How institutions are performing in new ways to support people in these efforts. **Outputs describe new skills and abilities, products or services.** These are the concrete results of GoK-UN cooperation and are expected to demonstrate innovation. The outputs, together, make a contribution toward the outcome and Vision 2035 pillars and KPIs.

²³ There is no specific partnership outcome for the Kuwait Vision 2035 pillar for Infrastructure. UN supported results related to infrastructure are focused on policy and regulatory changes to promote economic diversification and sustainable urban development, strengthened environmental assessment, and improved housing. These are reflected under pillars I, II, IV, and VI.

2.2 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES FOR THE UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM

31. The United Nations will partner innovatively with all relevant sectors and partners, and in line with the ambitions and objectives of the State of Kuwait and Kuwait Vision 2035 and the KNDP 2020-2025. The UN will commit itself to harnessing the comparative advantages of its organizations, programmes and departments to work in an innovative approach that coordinates the different efforts of governmental and non-governmental institutions through local adaptation of the Sustainable Development Goals to find cross-sectoral and multi-stakeholder solutions to the interrelated development challenges. In order to embrace new ways of thinking and accomplishment, building on **the five pillars (5Ps) of the UN Sustainable Development Agenda**, the strategic priorities will focus on:

- » **People:** Supporting Kuwaitis with new skills and abilities to lead sustainable development, enhance integrated systems performance to achieve Vision 2035, and support people in LDCs and countries in crisis to rise from poverty and recover from disasters.
- » **Prosperity:** Working in partnership to define world class models for legislative and institutional change that meet community aspirations for quality of life and that promote a diversified economy, knowledge transfer, and flourishing businesses and job creation.
- » **Planet:** Developing solutions and tools for the transformation of Kuwaiti society, helping people and institutions to embrace high-tech green development and new ways of managing Kuwait's abundant environment and energy resources that are climate-resilient and risk-informed.
- » **Partnership & Peace:** Supporting Kuwait's role as a humanitarian centre, as a source of justifiable pride for the Government and people of Kuwait. The UN will support Government efforts to build on this legacy and expand Kuwait's role and prominence, in relation to the sustainable development agenda, both abroad and at home. Building on the overall results of the SCF, and especially through outcome three, the UN system will support Kuwaiti efforts to facilitate and consolidate systems of international and regional partnership for peace, conflict prevention, development and stability, and to support LDCs and countries in crisis to rise from poverty and recover from disasters.

2.3 INTENDED DEVELOPMENT RESULTS

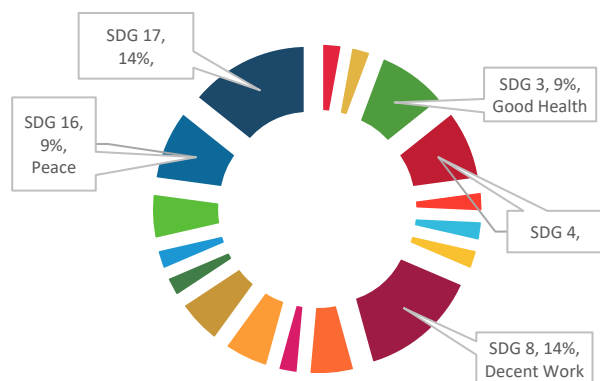
32. The UN system agencies will provide support to the development and implementation of activities within the SCF, which may include technical support²⁴. Part of the UN system agencies' support may be provided to Non-Governmental and Civil Society organizations as agreed within the framework of the result groups work plans (WPs) and outcome programme documents as long as they are in accordance with the rules and regulations between the State of Kuwait and the United Nations Programmes.

33. Additional support may include access to UN organization-managed global information systems, the network of the UN system agencies' country offices and specialized information systems, including rosters of consultants and providers of development services, and access to the support provided by the network of UN Specialized Agencies, Funds and Programmes.

34. Based on annual reviews and progress in the implementation of the programme, the UN system agencies' funds are dispersed by calendar year and in accordance with the SCF work plan. These budgets will be reviewed and further detailed in the work plans and project boards. By mutual consent between the Government (through the Steering Committee) and the UN system agencies, funds not earmarked by donors to the UN system agencies for specific activities may be re-allocated to other programmatically equally worthwhile activities.

²⁴ The technical assistance may include, cash assistance, supplies, commodities and equipment procurement services, transport, funds for advocacy, research and studies, consultancies, programme development, monitoring and evaluation, training activities and staff support

2.4 COOPERATION FRAMEWORK OUTCOMES AND PARTNERSHIPS



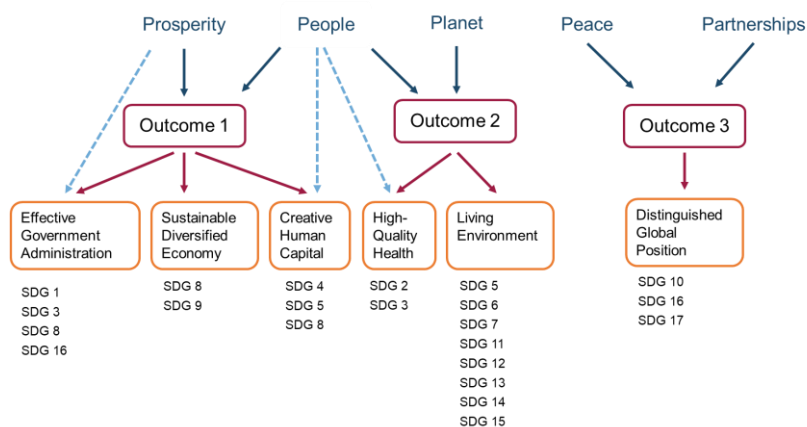
35. The SCF recognizes SDGs 8, 17, 16, 3, 4 as **strategic areas** to spearhead the achievement of the 2030 Agenda (see graph). Through an integrated approach that highlights the interdependences of different areas, the SCF Outcomes approach every SDG, and across the 5 pillars of the Sustainable Development Agenda

Outcome 1 uses a people-centered approach to prosperity, with Human Capital and Education as mutually reinforcing transformative areas. Institutional capacity as a channel to achieve economic transformation, making them mutually reinforcing.

Outcome 2 integrates the pillars of People and the Planet by highlighting

the interlinkages between the living environment – both natural and the built-environment with the health outcomes. These interdependences, that cross across several SDG goals are well captured by the concept of Nurturing environment Kuwait Vision 2030

36. Finally, Outcome 3 focuses in the connectivity between Peace and Partnerships, both at within and across Kuwaiti borders. The UN system will support Kuwaiti efforts to facilitate and consolidate systems of international and regional partnership, both in humanitarian and sustainable development effort.



Partnership strategy

37. The partnership strategy aims to facilitate the implementation of the SCF by identifying and actively incorporating the relevant stakeholders based on their mandates, capacity and available resources. Engagement is contemplated at two levels: for implementation (projects, diplomatic support and dialogue, logistics and expertise) and resource mobilization (through marked and non-earmarked financial donations). Governments and intergovernmental bodies will be key partners at both levels.

- » On the resource mobilization level, partnerships will include government of Kuwait. Any other contributions will be discussed with the government
- » On the implementation level, the SCF will eliminate duplication of bilateral agreements and facilitate a more focused collaboration through collective agreements and MoUs, reducing time, transaction costs and increasing a coordinated delivery of the UN as ONE.

38. Universities and research center will play an important role in supporting research, knowledge generation needed to create evidence-based policies. While NGOs and Civil society sectors will be mobilized to join or lead on awareness raising campaigns and the organization of joint global events to achieve and create local movement of behavioral change in towards a more sustainable and healthy lifestyles.

39. The UN can play a strategic role in supporting reporting on Kuwait humanitarian and development contributions to the United Nations. Through improved coordination of data collation of results (from government partners, private sectors, philanthropists, high net worth individuals and NGOs executing the contributions), Kuwait will be able to have a regular report of its development assistance, gaining more prominence in the global arena.

Vision 2035 Pillars I, II & VI: Effective Government Administration, Sustainable Diversified Economy, Creative Human Capital

Outcome 1: Advanced institutional and individual capacities for economic growth and diversification with modern systems of education, social protection, skills development, innovation, and knowledge support for decent work for all in the private sector in line with international standards and enabling innovation and transparency

Rationale for Public Administration and Economy

40. The oil and gas sectors accounts for 90% of total revenue and half of GDP. With surging oil prices, Kuwait's economy experienced high levels of economic growth and per capita incomes increased from USD \$65,260 in 2000 to USD \$83,310 in 2017.²⁵ Kuwait succeeded in converting this resource wealth into a high standard of living for its people. Kuwait's Human Development Index (HDI) value for 2018 is 0.808, positioning the country in the very high human development category with a rank of 57 out of 189 countries and territories.²⁶

41. Such socio-economic performance, however, has been heavily based on generated wealth from their abundant hydrocarbon resources and the export thereof, which has formed the basis of their potential growth in terms of building infrastructure and social services. Besides, their growth models that favour large public enterprises or the state-led development strategy may have not been clearly linked to the creation of more decent jobs nor does it render their economies more inclusive. It should thus be noted that resource-driven growth significantly increases dependency on volatile revenue, thereby hindering the establishment of a sound macroeconomic and fiscal framework.

42. Given the country's heavy reliance of oil exports account on government income, an anticipated drop in oil export revenue will seriously restrain the country's ability to sustain its fiscal performance. Couple with the fiscal challenges, the oil export-led deterioration in trade dynamics will further likely cause unfavorable terms of trade, while the COVID-19 is spreading rapidly, affecting most of Kuwait's key trade partners, notably Asian countries, including China, Japan and South Korea where nearly 80% of goods exported by Kuwait are destined to.

43. In this context, moving away from heavily dependent on oil-driven growth should sit at the forefront of the public policy agenda in Kuwait. It is thus imperative that the country takes bold steps to diversify its economy by scaling up their efforts to expand the private sector. By best capitalizing the potentials of the Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA), the world's oldest sovereign wealth fund, Kuwait can accelerate the transformational process that targets moving away from traditional views of development and make productivity-enhancing and public-private sector-led structural transformation a possibility.

44. Despite these strengths, major challenges remain:

- » *A lower-for-longer* price environment for oil and gas may continue to put pressure on Kuwait's fiscal balance
- » The needs for distinct fiscal consolidation measures, the lifting of subsidies, and the reduction of the inflated and unsustainable public sector²⁷.
- » Issue corrective decrees from the Kuwaiti Parliament through voting and accreditation as the legislation authority in the State of Kuwait
- » Regional political tensions, including ongoing conflicts in Syria, Iraq and Yemen, and more recently the economic embargo and escalation between the US and Iran that continue to negatively affect FDI flows, tourism, opportunities for trade expansion, and regional partnership projects.
- » High vulnerability to climate change and deteriorating groundwater quality, all of which create investment risks.²⁸

45. **Government Capacity:** Sustainable economic diversification requires strong cross-sectoral policy guidance, implementation support, and progress monitoring by government ministries and departments to provide the private sector

²⁵ World Bank, [Country Profile](#), GNI per capita based on purchasing power parity (PPP), Sept 2017. See also <http://www.forbes.com/places/kuwait/>

²⁶ Between 1990 and 2017, Kuwait's HDI value increased by 13%. Kuwait has a **gender inequality index (GII)** value of 0.270, ranking it 57 out of 160 countries in the 2017 index. Current gender-based inequalities are driven by: (1) low political representation of women who hold 3% of seats in the National Assembly; (2) and (2) low female participation in the labor market which is 47% compared to 84% for men.

²⁷ For example, the lifting of fuel subsidies in 2017 increased fuel prices from 40% to 80%. EIU, 6.

²⁸ WHO, [CLIMATE AND HEALTH COUNTRY PROFILE – Kuwait](#), 2015; EcoMENA, [Climate Change Impacts in Kuwait](#), dld. Oct 2017.

with the right signals and incentives to guide investment. The public sector is the primary employer in Kuwait, accounting for more than 300,000 Kuwaitis, or 80% of the total citizen workforce. However, the criteria of public sector employment is not fully based on functional job requirements and actual competencies. This contributes to inefficiencies and gaps in government policy coordination, implementation and responsiveness.²⁹ There is need for enhanced professional capacities and increased efforts to solidify the ongoing commitment to fight corruption across the branches of government and public enterprises.³⁰ The transformation of public administration to achieve the targets of the Vision 2035 pillars is a complex and lengthy process, requiring the development of new skills and abilities and the creation of new inventive and support systems (i.e Digital governance) to support the civil service to meet its obligations and show results.

46. Another critical factor affecting the pace of economic diversification is the imbalances of the **labor market**. The majority of the Kuwaiti workforce is employed by the public sector. In contrast, Kuwaiti nationals make up only 5 per cent of the private sector workforce. Over 70 per cent of Kuwaiti citizens are under the age of 34. ‘*Kuwaiti-ization*’ policies aim to reduce the proportion of expatriate workers within the next 15 years from 68% of the total population to under 60% of the national population within 15 years.

47. The status of women highlights a disconnect between education and employment opportunities. Significantly more women than men complete secondary and tertiary education. Yet, their participation in the economy and leaderships still presents a big gender gap. In 2005, the National Assembly passed the bill for women’s political rights and the country has demonstrated progress in narrowing gender gaps among professional and technical workers. Women underrepresentation in leadership offers the greatest challenge ahead.³¹ Cultural traditions and structural barriers continue to impede more rapid progress and existing laws and policies have not been able to adequately address the needs of women subjected to violence.

48. There are an estimated 600,000 foreign domestic workers in the labor market, the majority of whom are women. Most are job-dependent for their residence under the *Kafala* contract system, sponsorship system, in which all foreign workers have an in-country sponsor, usually their current employer. Reform of the *kafala* sponsorship system can have a number of positive impacts on the labour market, including increased worker productivity, and was outlined in the Kuwait National Development Plan 2020– 2025. Having an effective labour inspection system to ensure that the legal provisions relating to conditions of work and the protection of workers, both national and expatriate, and their rights are well implemented is of critical importance in this regard. Sustained economic diversification will require more agile labor market policies, and efforts to address the skills mismatch to better align recruitment with anticipated future needs.

Outcome and outputs

49. This priority area will strengthen institutional capacities for improved evidence-based policymaking across government institutions in general (Goal 16), public administration reform and anti-corruption (Goal 16), women’s and youth empowerment (Goals 5, 10), persons with disabilities (Goal 10), and environmental, urban, and energy sustainability (Goals 7, 11, 13).

50. The partnership outcome is to see **substantial, measurable improvements to the policy and regulatory environment that will enable more rapid and sustained economic diversification**. UN-supported collaboration is included to ensure closer integration of public sector efforts to create an enabling policy and regulatory environment and increase private sector investment in economic diversification. In line with Vision 2035, the private sector is expected to be a full and leading partner to ensure that new policies and regulations are ‘smart’³² and that they respond to concerns about transparency in decision-making, fair competition, and access to new technologies. This includes a focus on increased urban investment and livelihood opportunities through a responsive and a collaborative process.

²⁹ The country stands at the forty-ninth percentile for government effectiveness and ranks 41 of 193 Member States on the United Nations e-Government Development Index.

³⁰ Legislation was passed in 2014 to establish a Public Authority for Anti-Corruption. The Authority is now operational and has developed its Anti- Corruption Strategy with UNDP and UNODC cooperation. Thanks to the improved capacity, Kuwait improved its position in the Transparency International 2018 Corruption Perceptions Index, ranking 78 of 180 countries up from 85 in 2017.

³¹ On the World Economic Forum 2018 Global Gender Gap Index, Kuwait is ranked 74 of 149 countries for the educational attainment of women. Conversely, the country ranks 127 on women’s economic participation and opportunity. Kuwait is ranked 146 of 149 for women’s political empowerment, largely due to their underrepresentation in leadership; only 16 per cent of legislators, senior officials and managers are women.

³² This involves a shift away from ‘*regulate and forget*’ toward a regulatory framework that is **adaptive, open to experimentation, focused on results, and collaborative** with the private sector. Deloitte Insights, [The Future of Regulation – Principles for regulating emerging technologies](#), dld Oct 2018.

51. The **major changes expected** from UN-supported policy advice, capacity development and awareness campaigns to which the UN contributes are:

- » Increased number of international best practice experiences provide support to creative business incubators through provided, in line with KNDP goals;
- » Increased numbers of micro, medium and small enterprises (MSME) and startups, geared toward the promotion of non-oil sectors;
- » Increased number of public-private partnerships (PPP) and start-ups in emerging areas for the of the implementation of the KNDP. These include: health and educational services, vocational education, affordable housing, ports management and logistics, and safer public and recreational spaces, renewable energy, green building technologies, bio-tech to improve agri-food production and fisheries, and information and communications technologies (ICTs) for marketing and promotion and to facilitate trade and exchange;
- » Improved and fully functional Kuwait Knowledge Economy and Innovation Center with developed knowledge economy policy in place;
- » Increased use of digital platforms to facilitate day-to-day business and government transactions such as business registration, building permits, visas, and vehicle licensing with support from Kuwait National Knowledge Economy and Innovation Center;
- » Approved national framework for public and private investment in cultural heritage;
- » Enhanced and functional Kuwait Public Policy Center fully equipped with technical capacity with regional and international Partnerships;
- » Improved Government's capacity to monitor working conditions and secure the enforcement of relevant legal provisions through an effective labor inspection system;
- » Articulated vision of employment and labor market opportunities and challenges within a coherent policy framework;
- » Enhanced institutional capacity of the anti-corruption authority with an implemented anti-corruption strategy in compliance with the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC)³³ requirements; and
- » Increased medium and high tech value-added in manufacturing and industry (above from the latest available figure of 29 per cent),³⁴ in the framework of ongoing structural transition away from a hydro-carbon-based and lower technology economy.

52. The outputs contributing to this outcome concern: 1) Innovation and ideas, 2) a sound, transparent regulatory framework, with effective implementation, and 3) business development and investment promotion based on shared value opportunities for public-private partnership.

53. **Innovation and ideas: Evidence-based policies with impact assessment studies and effective plans and budgets.** Ongoing support to the **Kuwait Public Policy Centre (KPPC)** will result in the development of new policy options towards more enhanced transparency and cost-effectiveness in the health, education, labor, renewable energy in small business sectors. A National **SDG lab**, in support of the National Observatory for sustainable development, will provide a way to test these ideas, involving multiple stakeholders and sectors, and to provide actionable policy and programme solutions, feeding into government green and white papers.³⁵ These outputs will contribute to the KPI for effective policymaking with efforts to optimize public spending, reduce the burden of government regulation and increase transparency of decision-making

54. **Sound, transparent regulatory framework:** Civil service reform initiatives are instrumental to the design, implementation and monitoring of a regulatory framework that is fit to support the aims of Vision 2035 with greater public accountability, enforcement and reporting. In targeted ministries and departments, **civil servants will be able to demonstrate new skills**³⁶ for evidence-based policy innovation, cross-sector collaboration, and public consultation. For example, a pilot initiative will introduce **budgeting for innovation** with innovation incentives for middle managers.

³³ The UN Convention against Corruption is the only legally binding universal anti-corruption instrument. The Convention's far-reaching approach and the mandatory character of many of its provisions make it a unique tool for developing a comprehensive response to a global problem. The vast majority of UN Member States are parties to the Convention. Please also see: <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/corruption/uncac.html>

³⁴ UNIDO data from 2016 show that only 29.27% total manufacturing is attributed to medium and high-tech production. [UNIDO CIP database](#), dld Feb 2020.

³⁵ For example: Enhanced health promotion and monitoring for young people using mobile technology and applications

³⁶ See 6 characteristics of a ['high performing' civil service](#) M. Jarvis, Mowat Centre, Creating a High-Performing Canadian Civil Service Against a Backdrop of Disruptive Change, School of Public Policy & Governance, University of Toronto, 2016.

Standards for service delivery in health, education, and social protection will be independently assessed and evaluated and the UN system will support review and strengthening of public procurement processes for greater accountability, ensuring value for money. International legal experiences will be provided as references for best practices in **amendments to business laws and regulations**³⁷ to improve competition and fairness in key areas including: registrations and approvals to start a business, managing construction permits, improved access to credit, the export and import of goods, and insolvency procedures. Training programs will be provided at the highest international levels to develop **judicial practices** to improve transparency in decision-making and reduce the impact of power networks.³⁸

55. **Labor laws and regulations**, will be assessed and aligned with international labor standards to better address decent work deficiencies, including high skill labor shortages and skills mismatch, provide incentives for women to enter the labor market, and strengthen protections for expatriate workers, particularly domestic workers and the low-skilled work force, including support to design an employment registration system to replace the current sponsorship system. In addition to the KPI for policy-making these outputs will strengthen **government performance and oversight**, reducing favoritism in decision-making, and increasing trust in public officials. They will also improve **labor market performance**, particularly by redressing worker-employer relations that impede workers' freedom of movement and their right to terminate employment or change employers, and economic opportunities for women.

56. **Business development and investment promotion**: A joint Government-UN-international development forum will be held to **promote shared value investment opportunities** based on Vision 2035 pillars and related SDGs. This is expected to generate prospective investment deals and PPPs in targeted sectors: Energy, tourism and recreation, ports and logistics management, manufacturing, financial services, food and sustainable agriculture, and healthcare and pharmaceuticals. A new range of business and social services will be available on **e-government platforms** in quality **entrepreneurship and business development services** that will be made available and expanded through strengthened capacities for artificial intelligence pilots and 'one-stop-shop' service centers.

57. Finally, strengthened institutional capacities will generate new policy options to increase public and private investment in cultural and natural heritage and creative industries, including the re-use of urban heritage sites. These will generate quality, costed plans for the **rehabilitation of natural and historical heritage sites**, improved marketing and promotion that hold the potential for increased employment and domestic and international tourism revenue.

58. These outputs will make important contributions to the KPIs for: **2. Effective policy-making; 3. Ease of doing business; 4. Business sophistication; 5. Labor market performance; and 6. Exports of goods and services.**

Rationale for Education and Human Capital³⁹

59. The educational performance of young people is instrumental to the goals of Vision 2035. The right to education is guaranteed under article 13 of the constitution and Kuwait has nine years of compulsory education from ages 6 to 14.⁴⁰ Adult literacy is nearly universal. As in health care, education is delivered through a wide range of schools: public, fee-paying private, technical, adult, religious, and home schools.⁴¹

60. Kuwait is a regional leader in **pre-school education** and enrolment. Kindergarten (pre-primary) education is free for all Kuwaiti children between the ages of 4 and 6. While highly encouraged, it is not compulsory. In gross terms, pre-primary enrolment was 81% for the period 2010-2014, a small decrease from 2001 with a slight gender difference in favor

³⁷ These regulatory areas were highlighted for improvement in World Bank, [Doing Business 2019: Kuwait](#), dtd Dec 2018.

³⁸ P. Stevens, Chatham House, Economic Reform in the GCC: [Privatization as Panacea for Declining Oil Wealth?](#), 2016.

³⁹ This section was informed by: (1) UNCT, Review of key issues for sustainable development in the State of Kuwait, CCA FINAL DRAFT-May 2018; (2) UNICEF Gulf Area Office, The Situation Analysis of Children: Kuwait, Working document for consultation and discussion, Dec 2017.

⁴⁰ UNESCO Country Profile, [Kuwait](#), dtd Dec 2018.

⁴¹ In 2014/15 in the public school system overall there were 367,661 pupils at 840 schools, of which 196 were kindergartens, 259 primary schools, 211 intermediate schools and 143 secondary schools. Private schools account for about 40% of enrolled pupils in the country. Oxford Business Group, [Kuwait's new plan to move the education sector to the next level](#), dtd Oct 2017.

of boys.⁴² Data are not available for the early childhood development index (SDG 4.2.1).⁴³ Due to population growth pre-school enrolment is expected to reach over 85,000 by 2020.⁴⁴

61. Gross enrolment at the primary and secondary level is nearly universal. **Primary** net enrolment was 91% in 2016, down slightly from 2005 with a slight advantage for girls.⁴⁵ An estimated 96% of students starting grade one reached the last grade of primary education, with no gender differences.⁴⁶ **Secondary** net enrolment was 86% in 2015 down slightly from 2010, with a **gender gap**: Girls' enrolment was 89% compared with boys at 84%.⁴⁷

62. From 2010 to 2014 total education spending, in real terms, more than doubled from USD \$1.36 billion to USD \$3.56 billion, or about 3% of GDP.⁴⁸ This represented about 15% of total government expenditures. In purchasing parity terms, spending per student at secondary levels was USD \$13,529⁴⁹ in 2014, or nearly 45% more the OECD average of USD 9,487.⁵⁰ This substantial investment stands in contrast to **learning outcomes which are lower than those in the OECD**, with students scoring in the **bottom third** of internationally comparable assessments for science, and mathematics.⁵¹

63. Vision 2035 aims to equip young Kuwaitis for success as professionals and entrepreneurs in a diversified and dynamic knowledge economy. Even with a highly developed education system, Kuwait, like many high-income countries, faces the challenge to **improve educational quality and standards**. A strengthened curriculum and new active teaching and learning methods are needed to promote critical thinking, analytical skills, and problem solving.

64. Technical and vocational education and training must change rapidly to address well-recognized gaps that exist across basic skills: creative and independent thinking, problem-solving, and sector-specific and functional skills.⁵² Employers and student are aware of the skills mismatch, with only a third of students believing that they were adequately prepared to enter the workforce.⁵³ The education and training system also need well-defined and enforced monitoring systems to ensure that education quality standards are being met.

65. Learning outcomes and attitudes demonstrate the **urgency** of this approach: a recent study found that **over 70% of young Kuwaitis aspire to work in the public sector** and only 20% were familiar with the legal and regulatory requirements to start their own business. The education system must find ways to boost the appetites of young people for the entrepreneurial challenge and to raise the profile of employment options outside the already outsized public sector.⁵⁴

66. Establishing a **foundation for success in the early years** is also essential for this shift. Research shows that investment in pre-school programmes generates a higher return than the same investment at the primary or secondary level. Depending on the scale and quality of programmes, this means that a dollar invested in quality early childhood programs yields a return of between \$6 and \$17 dollars.⁵⁵ However, these results are dependent on the quality of

⁴² UNICEF, 'P4C in MENA', *Ibid.*, 126. 12% not enrolled in 2013.

⁴³ The [ECD Index](#) measures the percentage of children age 36 to 59 months who are developmentally on track in literacy-numeracy, physical, social-emotional, and learning domains. UNICEF, 'P4C in MENA', *Ibid.*, 134-135.

⁴⁴ Oxford Business Group, [Kuwait's new plan to move the education sector to the next level](#), dld Oct 2017.

⁴⁵ World Bank, dld October 2018. See: https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SE.PRM.NENR?display=d&locations=KW&order=wbapi_data_value_1982-wbapi_data_value&page=1&sort=asc

⁴⁶ UNICEF, 'P4C in MENA', *Ibid.*, 130.

⁴⁷ At the lower secondary level, an estimated 11% of boys are out of school compared with just 2% of girls UNICEF, 'P4C in MENA', *Ibid.*, 132.

⁴⁸ This rough estimate based on 2006 education expenditure with growth of 15% per year to 2014.

⁴⁹ [UNESCO education and literacy data](#), dld Oct 2018. See also: Kuwait Times, [Efficient-use-of-budget-needed-to-enhance-educations-quality-ranking-in-Kuwait](#), dld. Oct 2017.

⁵⁰ Per student spending is based on World Bank data on spending as a percentage of GDP per capita in PPP terms. OECD comparator from: OECD, [Education at a Glance 2014: OECD Indicators](#), *Indicator B1 How much is spent per student?* OECD, 2014. 204.

⁵¹ In the [2015 Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study](#) (TIMSS), grade 4 and grade 8 students scored in the bottom third of participating countries for both mathematics and science (for example *vis.* TIMSS Scale Centerpoint of 500: Grade 4 Math: Avg. 353, M:347, F:359; Grade 8 Math: Avg. 392, M:389, F:396. Girls scored higher than boys in all assessments. Performance by both sexes in grade 4 declined from the 20011 results, but they improved for students in grade 8.

⁵² International Journal of Training Research, [Technical and Vocational Education and Training \(TVET\) in the Middle East – Issues, Concerns and Prospects](#), Volume 15, 2017.

⁵³ Ernst & Young, [How will the GCC close the skills gap?](#), EY-MENA, 2015, 24-25.

⁵⁴ Ernst & Young, *Ibid.*

⁵⁵ Economic analysis of ECD investments show estimated future returns on investment, through higher productivity and wages, amounting to 13% per annum. Short-term programme costs are more than offset by the immediate and long-term benefits through reduction in the need for special education, better health outcomes, reduced need for social services, lower criminal justice costs, and increased productivity See: (1) Lancet Series [Advancing Early Childhood Development: from Science to Scale](#), 2016; (2) [Invest in Early Childhood Development: Reduce Deficits, Strengthen the Economy](#), and [There's more to gain by taking a comprehensive approach to ECD](#), J.J. Heckman at the [Heckman Equation](#), dld Nov 2018; (3) UNICEF, [Evidence for ECD Investment](#), Dec 2015; (4) OECD, [Investing in high quality early childhood education and care](#), OECD, dld Oct 2017; (5) World Bank, [Investing in Early Childhood Development](#), Review of the World Bank's Recent Experience, 2015. 2-3, 32, 58., [Why invest in ECD?](#), dld Nov 2018.

programmes. Private provision is often concentrated in urban and higher-income areas and lacks a multi-sectoral approach. This can lead to disparities in services and outcomes.⁵⁶

67. In response to the context of COVID-19, Kuwait announced the closure of all schools and higher education institutions in February 2020 and schools reopened with distant learning in mid-September 2020. Such decision has already put a million of learners at risk, especially children and young people in Kuwait. It should also be noted that there is a lack of capacity within the public-school teaching workforce, as well as among parents of school children, to effectively use online platforms, whereas many non-government schools went ahead and began using their existing online and distance learning platforms despite the MoE's instruction. This further raises the question concerning how the less-privileged community schools are coping with the disruption to learning, particularly in terms of a potential lack of technology and challenges around parental supervision and capacity to use online platforms or distance learning.

68. **Persons with Disabilities:** Kuwait has made strides to implement articles 11 and 13 of the Constitution and laws No. 21 (child law) and No. 8 (persons with disabilities), in line with articles 28 of the CRC and 24 of the CRPD on the right to education. However, there are some gaps in services for all persons with disabilities, and especially with intellectual and sensory impairments.⁵⁷ The **lack of consolidated data** has resulted in gaps in understanding about the coverage and educational progress for persons with disabilities.⁵⁸

69. Vision 2035 and the KNDP address **social protection** concerns broadly, and they call for a '*nurturing and cohesive nation*' that provides '*a good quality of life for all citizens and residents*'. The right to social care and protection for children and women is affirmed in articles 9 and 10 of the Constitution, and in laws on child rights and child labor, human trafficking, and protecting persons with disabilities.⁵⁹

70. Kuwait has taken major strides to fulfil the rights of vulnerable groups:

» **Children:** The National Assembly has approved juvenile justice reforms that position Kuwait as a leader in the region⁶⁰ and the National Child Protection Programme, initiated in 2015, aims to prevent, respond to, and resolve cases of child maltreatment in all settings.

» **Women:** Amendment of the labor code to require equal pay for work of equal value, establishment of family courts in every governorate to mediate and resolve family conflicts, a service at the Ministry of Interior that provides counselling and assistance for cases of domestic violence. Kuwait had hosted missions by the *UN Special Rapporteur* on trafficking in persons and by the UN Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women in policy and practice.

» **Vulnerable groups:** The regularization of over 6,000 Illegal Residents,⁶¹ enabling their children to receive health and social services and attend school. Improved regulation of domestic work, in accordance with the ILO Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189), including establishment of minimum wages, fair recruitment systems, and regulation of working conditions.

⁵⁶ World Bank, [Investing in Early Childhood Development](#), Review of the World Bank's Recent Experience, 2015. 2-3, 32, 58.

⁵⁷ See: [Kuwait Times](#), dtd Oct 2017. Citing Under-Secretary of Health, *Khaled Al-Sahlawi*, based on statistics from the Public Authority on Disabled Affairs (PADA). Theme: '*Remove obstacles that prevent persons with disabilities from engaging in Kuwaiti society*'

⁵⁸ The UN Child Rights Committee has expressed concerns about the continued use of special schools and classes that segregate children, teachers with insufficient training and support to fulfil the learning needs of children with disabilities, the accessibility of buildings, and ongoing social stigma and misconceptions surrounding disabilities. A standard definition is needed, across concerned sectors, to diagnose disabilities, such as the [WHO \(ICF\) classification system](#). Committee on the Rights of the Child, Concluding observations on the second periodic report of Kuwait, CRC/C/KWT/CO/2, Oct 2013, para 55-56.

⁵⁹ Child rights law No. 21 (2015), law No. 91 to combating human trafficking, law No. 8 protecting persons with disabilities, and decree No. 125 protecting children from the worst forms of child labor. See Kuwait overview, see: [ILO-NATLEX](#) dtd. Oct 2018.

⁶⁰ Increasing the age of full criminal responsibility to 18 years (from 7), removing the death penalty and life imprisonment sentences for minors, and extending juvenile justice provisions and mechanisms to all children below 18 years. International Juvenile Justice Observatory (IJJO), [Kuwait's National Assembly amends juvenile law](#) dtd. Oct 2018.

⁶¹ In 2010, Kuwait established the Central Agency for Regularization of the Status of Illegal Residents aimed at resolving the issue of the *Bidoun*. Illegal residents as the Agency categorization.

71. The government spends generously on subsidies for fuel, food, housing, electricity, water and telecommunications.⁶² For the period 2007 to 2011, public spending on social protection, excluding health, was a healthy 9.2% of GDP per year or around USD \$13.5 billion in 2011, in real terms⁶³ Major initiatives include: (1) a school feeding programme to incentivize enrolment and improve children's nutritional status, (2) cash transfers from the Public Authority for the Disabled that provides disability grants to citizens, and (3) a General Assistance Programme that offers monthly cash benefits to vulnerable groups.⁶⁴ The *Zakat House*, is a government-run social welfare program with the participation of Kuwaiti citizens and not based on government contributions.⁶⁵

72. While the government provides valuable support, the lack of data and performance monitoring limit the Government's ability to evaluate, optimize, and strengthen these generous and potentially overlapping programmes. The Kuwait National Observatory full support with qualified national and international cadre and partnerships will help in addressing this gap. Kuwait has an active civil society sector with a wide range of committed organizations that deliver services and support for vulnerable groups. Recent SCF consultations⁶⁶ demonstrate the need for greater public understanding about Vision 2035, the SDGs, and related programmes, and improved dialogue and coordination with civil society and other community and voluntary groups to guide and optimize their efforts and expand their development contributions within the framework of the State Medium-Range Plan through the networking space provided by the UN with its various institutions.

73. Concerns for the full protection of children's and women's rights, in compliance with international standards, are:⁶⁷

- » Achieving more gender equality in laws, legislations and wages;
- » Emphasizing the equality of Kuwaiti women and men regarding the right of their children and spouses to enjoy the same rights and duties as men;
- » Increasing recognition of the special vulnerabilities among all resident and national women and children; and
- » Increasing efforts to understand the causes and respond to cases of violence against women and children.⁶⁸

74. **Education and Social Protection System challenges⁶⁹**

Education:

- » Strengthening the **quality of day cares and kindergartens**, especially in under-served areas, and ensure that teachers have early childhood development (ECD) qualifications and certifications;
- » Increasing the **quality of education at primary and secondary levels**, in line with Vision 2035, to strengthen teaching skills and learning approaches (including distant and online learning) that **stimulate creative and critical thinking skills**, and to promote learning and careers in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM);
- » Embracing the concept of **child-friendly schools**, with greater opportunities for cultural and sports activities, especially for girls; and
- » Expanding **advisory and counselling services and programs to support public health and behavioral change for students** at all levels and provide more structured **teacher-parent engagement** to stimulate learning and increase parents' contribution to school life.

⁶² Anna Carolina Machado et al., [Overview of Non-contributory Social Protection Programmes in the Middle East and North Africa \(MENA\) Region Through a Child and Equity Lens](#), International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth (IPC-IG), UNDP, UNICEF, 2018. For example: (1) A housing programme, started in 1954, provides an allowance for priority Kuwaiti families (martyrs, prisoners, orphaned minors and supporting persons with disabilities). In 2009 the programme covered around 40 per cent of Kuwaiti families (93,040 households); (2) Energy subsidies accounted for about 7% of GDP in 2016.

⁶³ UNICEF MENA, Oct 2017. Calculations based on World Bank CPI data (2010=100). At 2015 GDP levels, social protection spending at the same rate would be about USD \$9.6 billion.

⁶⁴ These are: Single, widowed and abandoned women, families with children of school age, orphans, elderly people, families whose main breadwinner has a chronic illness, families of imprisoned household heads, and Kuwaiti women who are married to expatriates and cannot cover the costs of basic subsistence. State of Kuwait, Periodic Report on the Implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. 2016.

⁶⁵ Managed by Zakat House, the fund has multiple components, including interest-free loans, social assistance (cash and in-kind transfers), building mosques, schools, hospitals, and orphanages as well as an international emergency relief component targeting countries such as Syria and Yemen. [Zakat House Kuwait](#), dtd. Oct 2018.

⁶⁶ A series of five consultations were held with different groups from 30 September to 4 October involving 104 participants: 1. Communities and Cooperatives, 2. Civil Society Organizations, 3. Private sector partners, 4. Youth groups and school, and 5. Universities and Research Institutions.

⁶⁷ UN Human Rights Council (HRC), Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review – Kuwait, April 2015, A/HRC/29/17.

⁶⁸ The UPR report urged greater efforts to address violence against women and children. UN Human Rights Council (HRC), Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review – Kuwait, April 2015, A/HRC/29/17. 157 (139-150). For example, a survey quoted in the Kuwait Times revealed that 22% of Kuwaiti adults had experienced physical harm when young, 16% were intimidated, and 13% were harassed sexually. Kuwait Times, [Health ministry opens conference child protection, violence](#). April 2016.

⁶⁹ UNICEF, The Situation Analysis of Children: Kuwait, Working document for consultation and discussion, December 2017.

Social protection:

- » Activating and strengthen shelter, medical counselling, social and legal aid services for victims of violence and other forms of crime such as trafficking in persons;
- » Improving the quality assurance and monitoring of social and child protection systems and services to **reduce exclusion error**⁷⁰ and **assess the effectiveness** of non-contributory social protection programmes;
- » Increase adequacy, coverage and financial sustainability of contributory **social insurance** and social security system, so to adapt to emerging risks and new trends in the world of labour with a focus on short and long term risk and particular attention to protection vulnerable workers;
- » Increasing awareness among children, women and other vulnerable groups about their legal rights to care and protection and rehabilitation; and
- » Collecting routine, data about the scale and prevalence of violence against women and children, including persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups.

Outcome and outputs

75. The partnership outcome is to see strengthened **education and social protection systems** that are equipping and supporting all people, and especially vulnerable groups, with the knowledge, skills, and support for personal growth and employment success. By 2025, the major changes expected from UN-supported policy advice and programmes are:
- » Higher scores are achieved by Kuwaiti **students** in international learning assessments (TIMSS: science & math);
 - » Increased number of schools having a full complement of qualified teachers, employing new methods to promote active learning and critical thinking;
 - » More employers report **recent hires with knowledge, skills, abilities** for job success;
 - » Limit school drop-out by directing students towards technical training;
 - » Increased coordination, effectiveness, coverage and financial sustainability of **contributory and non-contributory social protection** systems;
 - » Increased effectiveness and coverage of social protection systems;
 - » Establishment of a system to track public spending for children, gender equality and women's empowerment; and
 - » Decreased number of women and girls subjected to various forms of violence.

The following **major outputs** will contribute to these changes:

76. **Human Capital and Education:** A renewed focus on **quality in teaching and learning:** This will involve improved teacher training curriculum and programmes that will enable teachers to use *active* teaching and learning methods. These involve a shift away from traditional, passive methods that focus on rote repetition and the reproduction of knowledge toward higher-order thinking skills to gain insight, appraise critically, and apply new knowledge in team or group settings.⁷¹ More teachers will have completed the updated minimum teacher training requirements, especially at primary level, and new systems will be established to monitor qualifications as well ongoing professional development.
77. Pre-primary education is governed by international standards and best practices. This will involve updated quality standards for day-cares and nurseries (children under-4) and kindergartens (children 4-6), including cost guidelines for the private sector, and effective monitoring and evaluation⁷² of coverage, quality, and performance of all public and private pre-primary facilities.

⁷⁰ The proportion of eligible people who are omitted from a social transfer programme. Rachel Sabates-Wheeler et al., [Targeting social transfer programmes Comparing design and implementation errors across alternative mechanisms](#), UNI-WIDER Working Paper 2014.

⁷¹ **Active teaching and learning methods** promote critical thinking, analytical skills, and problem solving. They involve practical, hands-on, school-based activities that are student-centred, involving activities other than passive learning: watching, listening and taking notes. These are essential to equipping children and young people with the skills to tackle complex global challenges. See: (1) UNESCO, The Futures of Learning 3: [WHAT KIND OF PEDAGOGIES FOR THE 21st CENTURY?](#). Luna-Scott, C, EDUCATION RESEARCH AND FORESIGHT Working Paper 15, Dec 2015; (2) Michael, J, 'Where's the evidence that active learning works?', *Advances in Physiology Education*, Vol 30, Dec 2006.

⁷² ME system linked to metrics for the internationally comparable **early childhood development index** (SDG target 4.2)

78. The SCF will bring greater policy and programmatic attention to address the **skills mismatch** taking in consideration knowledge-based economy, new types of jobs and emerging market opportunities that will impact the performance of the labor market. Expected changes will involve:
- » A **skills certification and accreditation system** with special focus on women and young people,
 - » A **modernized TVET system** will provide new offerings and upgraded labs and workshops linked to market needs, and provide greater access for girls and women, lower socio-economic groups, including volunteer opportunities,
 - » New **Competency-based recruitment procedures** developed between government and industry partners for key growth sectors and professions,
 - » Informing these changes will be a comprehensive market needs assessment, designed and conducted in collaboration with the private sector.
79. To address gaps in education for children and young people with disabilities, new **inclusive education and training policies and plans** will be developed to ensure **stronger implementation of law No. 8** (Persons with Disabilities), more children and young people with learning challenges and disabilities will be enrolled in public schools, and TVET institutions, and all schools will have **costed plans for adapted infrastructure**.
80. **Social protection:** Innovative **social policy measures and a targeted action plan** will be designed to better identify vulnerable groups and increase their access to health care, education, housing, contributory and non-contributory social protection, and legal aid services. This will generate new green and white papers for gender equality and social inclusion, a pilot system to track public spending on vulnerable groups, more systematic consultation and engagement of CSOs, including workers' and employers' organizations, in drafting of laws, regulations, guidelines, and monitoring application and performance, and an increase in the numbers of children and women victims of violence receiving protection services (medical, social, legal).
81. A **Multi-stakeholder Advisory Forum** will inform and support the coordinated joint Government-CSO-Private sector initiatives. CSOs, including workers' and employers' organizations, and the private sector will enjoy a **web-based social protection platform** to track innovative initiatives, facilitate stronger government-CSO-private sector coordination and networking. New joint initiatives will be identified involving government, CSOs, the private sector in fields of social inclusion and protection.
82. Strengthen capacities for national child protection services to implement an **integrated national child protection system** with clear roles, responsibilities, targets and performance indicators for different child protection bodies. The **capabilities of social workers and caregivers** for child protection will be enhanced, with particular focus on case management, collaborative group skills, and setting clear therapeutic goals. Rehabilitation and training services for children in difficult circumstances will be strengthened to improve psychological, social, and educational guidance in schools.
83. **Communication, information, and education programmes** will be designed to increase the awareness of children, women and vulnerable groups, especially persons with disabilities about their legal rights to care and protection.
84. The institutional and technical capacity of the National Human Rights Institution - the **'Human Rights Diwan'**, established in 2018 will be enhanced and the National Human Rights Reporting and Coordination Mechanisms (NRCMs), led by MoFA, will be supported to prepare periodic reports to human rights treaty bodies and Human Rights Council in accordance with Kuwait's international and regional Human Rights commitments.
85. The **quality and quantity of data & statistics** need attention to measure and monitor progress of child well-being, gender equality, and social inclusion. The UN will work with all partners, and especially the CSB and the Public Authority for Civil Information, to collect and dissemination new SDG-related indicators, for example: *Gender wage gap; ECD index [SDG 4.2.1]; Adequacy of social assistance benefits*.⁷³ With the support to fully functional, equipped Kuwait National Observatory with staff, experts and partnerships, the data and statistics gap could be closed.
86. The UN will further support knowledge transfer and exchange in order to strengthen national stakeholders' capacities and skills for the application of national legal, policy and strategic frameworks in accordance with international human rights instruments as well as other relevant conventions, standards, norms and related best practices to prevent and combat trafficking

⁷³ For more examples see: World Bank, ASPIRE: [The Atlas of Social Protection Indicators of Resilience and Equity](#)

in persons, gender-based violence and violence against children, and uphold the rights of victims. Support will also include improving criminal justice responses in accordance with human rights.

87. The outcome and contributing outputs will make tangible contributions to four Vision 2035 KPI:
- » **Effective policy-making:** Optimize public spending; Transparency of decision-making.
 - » **Labor market performance:** Gender equality.
 - » **Workforce readiness:** Specialized vocational training and ‘matchmaking’; Staff training to ‘boost’ necessary skillsets.
 - » **Education quality:** Quality of primary education; Quality of education system; Quality of math and science education.

88. The UN in realizing the Kuwait National Development plan (KNDP) outcomes will support the programs attainment according to government request and priorities for cooperation.

Vision 2035 Pillars IV & V: Sustainable Living Environment and High-Quality Health Care

Outcome 2. Promote environmental awareness of institutions and communities to change behavior and consumption patterns of natural resources that reduce non-communicable diseases and environmental risks and achieve sustainably healthy cities

Rationale for Living Environment

89. Kuwait faces serious environmental challenges linked with climate change and the unsustainable use of natural resources. Rapid population growth and urbanization have increased demands on ecosystem services, stretching the terrestrial, coastal, and marine ecosystems beyond their carrying capacities. Reserves of fresh groundwater are a strategic asset that are being depleted faster than they can be replenished and current de-salination processes are carbon-intensive. Since 1975, Kuwait has experienced a 1.5 to 2 °C increase in temperature, which is significantly higher than the global average. Recent years have seen a sharp change in the rainfall pattern and a marked increase in dust storms, which may be attributed to climate change.

90. While agriculture is very limited with less than 1% of land considered arable, anticipated changes in temperature and precipitation are expected to reduce yields. Agriculture consumes around one-third of groundwater but accounts for less than 5 percent of GDP. Climate change along with economic diversification and increased industrial demands for water will make it more difficult to balance water supply and demand.

91. The path of unsustainable growth⁷⁴ is already evident with negative impacts on important sites for biodiversity,⁷⁵ the severe reduction of fish stocks in the Gulf, as well as increased emission and pollution, contributing to the rise in non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

92. In 2014, Kuwait enacted a new Environmental Protection Law⁷⁶ which aims to scale-up environmental protection across all sectors. An important turning point for environmental governance, the law provides the Kuwait Environment Public Authority (KEPA) with an enhanced regulatory mandate and authority to compel action by sectoral Ministries for stronger environmental compliance and enforcement.

⁷⁴ In comparison to the global average **ecological footprint** of 2.7 global hectares per capita, Kuwait's average footprint per person is 9.7, the second highest ecological footprint per capita in the world after Qatar, and 3.5 times more than the global average.

⁷⁵ Kuwait is endowed with rich biodiversity, however losses from climate change and un-sustainable use are a major concern. Desert areas contain many species of annuals, which make up about 90% of plant species of Kuwait. Kuwait is also endowed with rich marine biodiversity. Many endemic species can be found including crabs, which are found on biota-rich inter-tidal *Sabkha* zones. An increase in seawater temperature will affect the reproduction period of fish and shrimp and may result in large-scale migration of fish to other areas, having serious repercussions for the fish industry. Erratic rainfall and sand encroachment may lead to loss in plant cover thereby causing runoff and flooding.

⁷⁶ EPL Law No. 42 of 2014

93. On a per capita basis Kuwait has one of the highest energy consumption rates in the world.⁷⁷ In the mid-term, hydrocarbon revenue will continue to backstop progress towards the pillars and targets in Vision 2035. But the time is right for Kuwait to pursue and develop new technologies and comparative advantages in alternative sources of renewable energy,⁷⁸ including solar (Shegaya Project), wind, wave, and biomass. Along with helping to reduce Kuwait's carbon emissions, these could become a cluster of significant knowledge industries and a potential driver of exports.

94. Current urban expansion trends, as well as weak governance and sustainable management practices may lead to degradation and loss of ecosystem functions and services. There is urgent need to review, update and incorporate recent international treaty obligations concerning the environment into national legislation, strategies and costed action plans. Progress will depend on a range of cross-sectoral, multi-stakeholder interventions: Changing public attitudes and practices for energy and biodiversity conservation, providing economic incentives to change the national consumption culture, developing national strategies and policies to promote ecosystem-based management, and technological innovations to harness environmental resources in a more committed and informed manner.

Outcome and outputs

95. **The outcome of the partnership is demonstrated through enhanced awareness of individuals and communities to increase compliance with the implementation of Kuwait's urban energy, and environmental policies and the effective implementation of plans, laws and regulations.** At present, the regulatory framework for environmental sustainability has some critical gaps to be addressed and aligned with ratified multi-lateral environmental agreements (MEAs).⁷⁹ Concurrently, the general public and the private sector will be sensitized for energy and environmental issues. Also, capacity for compliance monitoring and reporting will be reinforced. The UN supported policy advice and programmes are supposed to achieve the following expected changes:

96. Achievement of the following national policy objectives under the KNDP will be supported:

- » Improved water resource management, including wastewater treatment and water-use efficiency,
- » Boosting the role of renewables (increased investments in energy efficiency by public and private entities),
- » Integrated solid waste management, including increase in national recycling rate,
- » Advancing innovation in low emission technology and promoting fuel efficiency standards and boosting the role of renewables,
- » The protection of sights supporting biodiversity as well as ecosystem resources management including national and sectoral planning in support of biodiversity conservation.

97. The following **major outputs** of UN policy and programmatic support will contribute to the following changes:

- » Ministries will have new **policy implementation skills** supported through the Kuwait Regional Air Quality Center to promote air quality and climate change agendas and sustainably manage energy and environmental resources and adapt to climate change. The UN will play a catalytic role in promoting regional technical collaboration for the acceleration of SDG 13. This will be seen in new **green and white papers, and costed action plans** for energy efficiency, green infrastructure, emissions reduction, and air pollution, and high **quality national climate change adaptation plans** and technical support for the preparation and submission of reports to international bodies. For example new services and support will involve the application of energy auditing systems and tools to reduce energy consumption, the introduction of community-based and 'green' wastewater systems for reuse of water for agriculture, support for municipalities to implement and manage sustainable tariff systems to recover costs for basic services (water, electricity, waste management), and enhanced assessment processes and plans for solid waste management and recycling.

⁷⁷ This is due mainly to the subsidized, ultra-low cost of electricity, its excessively hot season with outdoor temperatures often exceeding 50 °C, and rapid growth in population, at over 3% per annum. Asma'aAl-Mutairia et al., [The first carbon atlas of the state of Kuwait](#), Energy, Volume 133, 15 August 2017, p317-326.

⁷⁸ According to the International Energy Agency (IEA) scenarios, demand for oil will reach its peak in 2020 at 14.887 tons of oil equivalent. Additionally, uses of nuclear energy and gas will increase along with the growth of world population to 9 billion people by 2030.

⁷⁹ For example: (1) Implementation of the climate change convention (UNFCCC) requires enhanced knowledge about future impacts and vulnerabilities with tangible, costed policy measures, (2) Approved action programmes to combat desertification (UNCCD) require new government and non-state capacities for implementation; and (3) Numerous areas of concern for the biodiversity convention (CBD) have not received sufficient attention and funding and there are major gaps in data and information sharing among stakeholders.

» Students and civil society groups will benefit from new awareness campaigns and publications and **formal and non-formal education curricula and programmes** about sustainable development and new skills for environment and energy conservation.

» Private sector companies and convening bodies will have ready access to clear **information about Kuwait's regulatory framework and requirements** for ecosystem-based planning, environmental impact assessment (EIA) and protection. Institutional efforts to improve consultation and engagement practices with the general public and private sector will lead to new or strengthened **terrestrial and marine conservation plans** with private sector for SDG 14 and 15.

98. Combined, the outcome and contributing outputs will make a specific and valued added contributions three Vision 2035 KPI:

» **Effective policy-making:** Optimize public spending; Reduce burden of government regulation; Transparency of decision-making.

» **Resource & energy use:** Reduce oil consumption; natural resource depletion; and freshwater withdrawals.

» **Environment performance:** Reduce health impacts; Improve air quality; Protect biodiversity and habitat.

Rationale for Health Care⁸⁰

99. Vision 2035 aims to improve the quality of the public health-care system and to rapidly increase national capabilities at reasonable cost.⁸¹ The right to health is guaranteed under article 15 of the Constitution, the State is concerned with public health and means of prevention and treatment of deceases and epidemics. People in Kuwait enjoy a high standard of health according to health indicators and the burden of disease like many OECD countries. Kuwaitis receive care without charge in public hospitals, and healthcare abroad if the service is not available locally.⁸² By contrast expatriate workers must pay fees for a subsidized health insurance policy from the government to access basic services. Recent Covid19 global outbreak has shown that communicable diseases are not under control and it can highly strain the health system and abrupt economy and social safety nets. Although the country has an effective immunization programme, and access for urban and rural populations to sustainable safe water and sanitation is universal, this did not prevent the infection from newly unknown diseases.⁸³ UNAIDS reports fewer than 1000 adults and children are living with HIV.⁸⁴ The major health challenges in Kuwait are:

» The balance in the burden of illness and poor health between communicable (CDs) and non-communicable diseases (NCDs);

» Obesity among adults and children, which are further aggravated during COVID19 locked-down period;

» Increased tobacco smoking among young people, men and women;

» The demographic shift towards an ageing population and the vulnerability to be attacked more by harmful communicable deceases as COVID19; and

» The fiscal burden of health services which are not sustainable as the population ages and CD prevalence rises.

⁸⁰ This section was informed by: (1) UNCT, Review of key issues for sustainable development in the State of Kuwait, CCA Final Draft-May 2018; (2) UNICEF Gulf Area Office, The Situation Analysis of Children: Kuwait, Working document for consultation and discussion, Dec 2017.

⁸¹ Government of Kuwait, [Vision 2035](#), dld. Oct 2018.

⁸² In 2014, this was an estimated USD\$ 1.5 billion on overseas treatment costs for approximately 11,000 Kuwaitis. UNCT CCA Final Draft, ibid.20.

⁸³ WHO, Country Cooperation Strategy for WHO and Kuwait, 2012–2016. There are 92 primary health care centres in the country providing services to people in six health regions. The primary health care centres provide general, maternal and child, diabetic and dental clinics. WHO reports that data from 2009–2010 suggest a possible upsurge in the incidence of tuberculosis (TB) in Kuwait. WHO, Country Cooperation Strategy for WHO and Kuwait, 2012–2016.

⁸⁴ UNAIDS, [Country Factsheet-Kuwait 2018](#). International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC), [Regional advocacy – Middle East](#), dld Oct 2017. The high rates of HIV prevalence among people who inject drugs in middle-eastern countries has mainly been attributed to the lack of comprehensive and confidential HIV testing, prevention, and treatment services. Better data collection and surveillance is needed to inform effective HIV policy and programming.

100. **NCDs account for nearly 3 in every 4 deaths in the country.**⁸⁵ The prevalence of diabetes in the general population is 15%, with no gender differences. Kuwait has one of the highest rates of overweight and obesity in the region, with 3 in 4 adults classified as overweight, of whom 38% are obese. Obesity is higher in females (44%) than males (35%).⁸⁶

101. From 2010 to 2014 total health spending, in real terms, increased by 36% from USD \$3.19 billion to USD \$4.32 billion. This represented just over 3% of GDP, up from 1.9% in 2008. Over the same period total health spending *per capita* increased from USD \$1,992 to \$2,320, in Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) terms, and public health spending as a proportion of total government spending increased from 3.7 to 5.8%. The public sector accounted for the lion's share of health spending at 86%, up from 78% in 2008.⁸⁷

102. In line with Vision 2035, the Kuwait National Health Plan priorities are to: Reduce patient wait times, assess and establish performance incentives and measures to improve the quality of services, improve the referral and follow up system, deploy health promoters to address the lifestyle issues affecting the growth in NCDs, and develop home and community-based care.

103. In addition, there are specific challenges related to the health and wellness of children and women. Under-five mortality rate per 1,000 population under the age of five is 1.57% for the total population in 2017. The main causes are congenital anomalies (43%), prematurity (27%), injuries (10%), while communicable diseases account for just 8% of all deaths.⁸⁸

104. According to the data from the World Bank report 2017, **maternal anemia** has been on the rise in the State of Kuwait since 2000 and affects 1 in 3 pregnant women.⁸⁹ According to WHO report 2013, only 60% of pregnant women had four **ante-natal care** (ANC) visits.⁹⁰ For the period 2009 to 2013, according to UNICEF report 2018, an estimated 8% of infants had a **low birth-weight**,⁹¹ linked to maternal malnutrition.

105. According to UNICEF report 2017, **Malnutrition** data for Kuwait for the period 2010 to 2015 showed that 3% of children under-five years (U5) were underweight and 6% were stunted, a four-fold decrease from the period 2000-2006. Nearly 1 in 10 children under-5 years were moderately or severely **overweight** during the period 2010-2015.⁹² Regional or social group differences in nutrition status are not known. About 12% of infants under-6 months of age enjoy **exclusive breastfeeding**, with no change since the mid-1990s.⁹³ Information about minimum acceptable diets for young children is not available.⁹⁴ **Anemia** affects 16% of children under-five years.⁹⁵ This situation suggests that greater attention is needed in health policy and services to strengthen the **feeding practices of infants and young children** as these can have lasting, positive impacts on school performance and future productivity.⁹⁶

106. Adolescents and young people in Kuwaiti, between the ages of 15 and 24, account for 36% of the population.⁹⁷ Mirroring the situation with adults, obesity among children is a major concern. Using the WHO classification, in 2016 the prevalence of **overweight and obesity** among children 6 to 18 years was 22% and 31%, respectively. Boys had a higher percentage of obesity.⁹⁸ There are ongoing concerns about un-healthy lifestyle choices, including **smoking, alcohol and**

⁸⁵ WHO, National response for prevention and control of NCDs – Kuwait, 2016. Proportion deaths: Cardiovascular diseases (41%), cancers (14%), other NCDs (12%), diabetes (4%), and respiratory diseases (2%)

⁸⁶ WHO, Kuwait Country Profile, Diabetes mortality, 2016.

⁸⁷ WHO, Kuwait: Country Cooperation Strategy, 2016; World Bank health expenditure data, dld Oct 2018. Calculations based on World Bank CPI data.

⁸⁸ WHO, Kuwait: Health Systems Profile, 2013; UNICEF The State of the World's Children Statistical Tables 2017, dld Nov 2018.

⁸⁹ World Bank, dld Oct 2017. See: <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SH.PRG.ANEM?locations=KW>

⁹⁰ WHO, Kuwait: Health Systems Profile, 2013.

⁹¹ UNICEF, The State of the World's Children Statistical Tables 2017, dld Nov 2018.

⁹² UNICEF, 'P4C in MENA', *Ibid.*, 116-117.

⁹³ UNICEF, *Ibid.* 119.

⁹⁴ A consolidated indicator of minimum dietary diversity and minimum meal frequency on a daily basis. See: Indicators for assessing infant and young child feeding practices, WHO, UNICEF, et al. 2010.

⁹⁵ Sameer Al Zenki et al., Prevalence and Determinants of Anemia and Iron Deficiency in Kuwait, International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health, 2015 Aug; 12(8): 9036–9045.

⁹⁶ The World Bank estimates that the economic costs of malnutrition are significant, ranging from 2 to 3% of GDP. Preventing malnutrition delivers a **\$16 return for every \$1 spent**, taking into account: reduced mortality, reduced medical costs, intergenerational benefits and increased productivity. See: World Bank, Why invest in nutrition. dld March 2017. <http://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/nutrition/overview>; International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Global Nutrition Report 2016 FROM PROMISE TO IMPACT Ending Malnutrition by 2030

⁹⁷ UNESCO, dld Oct 2017. See: <http://uis.unesco.org/en/country/kw>

⁹⁸ N Elkum et al., Prevalence of childhood obesity in the state of Kuwait, Pediatric Obesity, Volume 11, Issue 6, Dec 2016, Pages e30–e34

drug use, bullying, and mental health problems including bulimia and depression.⁹⁹ There is a need to improve knowledge and awareness about **healthy eating and active lifestyles**.

107. In 2015, concerning women reproductive health and participation in labour market, an estimated 56% of Kuwaiti women who were married of reproductive age, used some form of contraception, including modern methods. Quality health services must be tailored to the specific challenges of the adolescents and young people who will drive economic growth in the next decade, including the **ability of women to participate equally in the labor market**, as stipulated in Vision 2035 and the KNDP.¹⁰⁰

108. **Persons with disabilities:** There are over 41,000 persons with disabilities in Kuwait, including an estimated 11,000 children under the age of 18,¹⁰¹ who benefit from a range of benefits and services to support their inclusion in Kuwaiti society. Disability Law No. 8 of 2010 provides for the education, protection, and rehabilitation of children with disabilities but there are still many challenges that limit their inclusion in mainstream health, education, decent work and cultural services. There is also a **lack of data** on persons with disabilities and in coordination and joint work between relevant parties. Major challenges are:

- » A lack of awareness of services of home-based care programmes, in favor of institutional, medicalized settings;
- » Weak collaboration and information sharing across sectors and between rehabilitation institutions and bodies providing health services;¹⁰² and
- » The need to institutionalize evidence-based practice, following best-clinical practices and continuous tracking of development and learning outcomes.

109. **Health system challenges:**¹⁰³

- » Insufficient integration of and communication between health care systems, quality standards, and performance targets for both public and private health care services;
- » A heavy reliance on expatriate workforce for over half of health workers;
- » Lack of specialised entities and training health workers to address major health challenges such as NCDs and needs of persons with disabilities;
- » Need for enhanced coordination of policy and planning between the Supreme Council for Planning and Development and the Ministry of Health. Improved cross-sectoral coordination is essential to address challenges, such as malnutrition (including obesity) and the promotion of healthy lifestyles;
- » A focus on hospital, curative-based services, rather than preventive and promotive health care; and
- » Increased public-private partnerships require a policy and regulatory framework to define the roles of private health providers and set and monitor standards of care for which they are accountable.¹⁰⁴

Outcome and outputs

110. The partnership outcome is for a tangible improvement in the **quality and inclusiveness of health services, based upon a stronger partnership between the public and for-profit health sectors**. This is expected to lead to better lifestyle choices and reduced risks from NCDs and environmental hazards.

111. UN-supported policy advice and programmes are expected to produce the following major expected changes:

- » **Reduced prevalence of non-communicable diseases**, consistent with SDG indicators, through national outreach and capacity-building programs at the community level;

⁹⁹ Abdesslam Boutayeb, et al., Multi-morbidity of non-communicable diseases and equity in WHO Eastern Mediterranean countries, *International Journal for Equity in Health* 2013, 12:60, 8.

¹⁰⁰ See: Strategic Direction 6/6.1 for gender equality - Ensure equal employment opportunities and non-discrimination in labor market. KNDP, *Ibid.*, 23

¹⁰¹ UNESCWA, *DISABILITY IN THE ARAB REGION* (2014). UNESCWA provides a disability prevalence rate of 1.1% for Kuwait. The estimated number of children with disabilities is based upon 1.1% of 997,000 children under the age of 18. UNICEF, 'P4C in MENA', *Ibid.*, 8.

¹⁰² Cross-ministry discussion and agreement is needed about what information to share to ensure inclusion and protect privacy.

¹⁰³ WHO, Kuwait: Health Systems Profile, 2013

¹⁰⁴ Brookings Institution, Center for Universal Education, Discussion Paper PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS IN EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT: THE ROLE OF PUBLICLY FUNDED PRIVATE PROVISION, November 2016, 24.

- » Increased **coverage of essential health services**, especially for vulnerable groups (SDG 3.8.1);
- » Established capacity building programs for the health sector to implement new policies and standards for the **Private For-Profit health sector**;
- » Improved capacity of a special consultative facility for the private sector through the **provision of international experiences to review performance**,¹⁰⁵ provide a bridge between public and profit-making health sectors, and ensure quality assurance in health services;
- » Improved occupational safety and health policies based on sound diagnosis of the national situation through programs that develop the executive capacity; and
- » Increased awareness about the national drug control strategy and action plan with distributed roles, time-bound targets and indicators in priority governorates.

The following **major outputs** will contribute to these changes:

112. In line with the national NCD policy, MoH will have a renewed, integrated approach to **promote health and wellness and prevent and control NCDs**, collaboration with the private sector. This will produce a set of high-quality green & white papers for **health promotion, prevention & control of NCDs**. Outreach programs in health centers in the governorates will include: Not smoking, healthy diet and weight, regular exercise, restorative sleep, low to moderate stress levels. Stronger regulatory enforcement and monitoring procedures and tools will be used to ensure food safety and restrict access to tobacco and other narcotics.

113. Complementing this new approach are three major changes that respond to the *National Health Review and Strategy 2018*:

- » A comprehensive, costed, awareness plan and **health workforce restructuring and capacity enhancement plan** to optimize health spending ensure the people with the right competencies are in place to deliver quality services and monitor their costs and benefits.
- » Provide best practices and successful experiences at the international level supporting a costed strategy and plan and a live pilot of the **National Health Information System**, and
- » The development of a **Health Financing Strategy for Universal Health Care (UHC)**, linking both public and for-profit health service providers.

114. **To enhance support for persons, including children, with disabilities, the UN system will advise on a regular survey about disabilities, their causes and geographical distribution, and support the development of effective programmes for early detection and referral, linking health, education, labor market and social services.** A national framework for the definition, assessment, and classification of disabilities will be developed in line with international standards, and programmes and associations will be strengthened to increase awareness of health service providers, persons with disabilities and their families and communities about their rights. The UN system will support concerned institutions in the cross-sectoral implementation of the National Disability Strategy, the National ICT and recruitment frameworks for the disabled.

115. Pregnant women and children under 2 years of age have access to enhanced health and nutrition services as **child-care strategies and approaches**¹⁰⁶ have been introduced at the national level by health-care providers. The Government will be supported in designing a national food survey to update baseline data on the current nutritional status of children and to promote programs to address **child malnutrition**, including excessive nutrition. This will include monitoring routine growth, **age-appropriate supplementary feeding practices**, reducing **childhood anemia**, and promoting and supporting **breastfeeding care**, especially in the workplace.¹⁰⁷

116. To address the drug related concerns UN system will support the GoK by providing technical support to the relevant ministries in development of a comprehensive, balanced and evidence- based National Drug Control Strategy as a **national** framework for building safe, healthy and resilient communities through preventing and minimizing drug related

¹⁰⁵ The concept of a Private Sector Advisory Facility in the health sector is described in: *Partnerships with the Private Sector in Health*, CGD, 2009.

¹⁰⁶ Alfadhli S. Al-Mazeedi S. Bodner M.E. Dean E, *Discordance between Lifestyle-related Health Practices and Beliefs of People Living in Kuwait: A Community-based Study*, Medical Principles and Practice, 2016.

¹⁰⁷ The approach includes an increased focus on breastfeeding and complementary feeding practices, and efforts to address micronutrient deficiencies.

health, social and economic harms among individuals, families and communities. Focusing on the demand-side concerns, especially for the health and wellness of young people, **age-appropriate awareness campaigns and education programmes**, in the governorates, youth gathering areas, schools and universities, will help young people (10-24 yrs) to develop stronger life skills and to be better prepared for productive careers. These will focus on practical lessons and tools for communication, decision-making, coping, self-management, goal setting, and avoidance of unhealthy behaviors.¹⁰⁸

117. The expected outcome and contributing outputs will make contributions to three Vision 2035 KPIs:

- » **Effective policy-making:** Optimize public spending; Reduce burden of government regulation; Transparency of decision-making;
- » **Environment performance:** Reduce health impacts; and
- » **Health care quality:** Increase life expectancy; Reduce prevalence of diabetes, cancers.

¹⁰⁸ Life skills are: 'abilities for adaptive and positive behavior that enable individuals to deal effectively with the demands and challenges of everyday life': **communication, decision-making, coping, self-management, goal-setting, and avoidance of unhealthy behaviors** WHO, Skills for Health, dtd Oct 2018.

Vision 2015 Pillar VII: Kuwait International Positioning

Outcome 3: Broad Kuwaiti presence in global forums for building peace, stability and development with diplomatic, developmental, participatory and institutional support with strong information bases and effective Kuwaiti practices

118. The UN in realizing the Kuwait National Development plan (KNDP) outcomes will support the programs attainment according to government request and priorities for cooperation. Kuwait is keen to assert its active and effective role in the GCC, wider Arab region and internationally through an open and constructive foreign policy intended to support peace-building and stabilization efforts in less developed and conflict-affected countries.¹⁰⁹

119. Kuwait was elected to serve on the UN Security Council in 2018-2019 as a representative of the Arab bloc. Kuwait is playing a key role as mediator within the GCC and has been instrumental in efforts to ease tensions between Qatar and other GCC member States and Kuwait hosted mediation efforts between the parties to the Yemen conflict. In recent years, Kuwait has advanced in its role as a humanitarian centre including the hosting of three international pledging conferences for the Syrian crisis and one for investment in Iraq. The Syria conferences raised a USD \$7.5 billion, of which Kuwait has contributed USD \$1.6 billion, making it the largest single donor.

120. Under the leadership of H.H., the late Amir,¹¹⁰ Kuwait has pursued a foreign policy of generous development and humanitarian assistance, both through the UN system and bilaterally. Recent contributions include: USD \$200 million for Iraq; USD \$200 million for the Gaza Strip; USD \$100 million for Yemen (all 2015) and USD \$5 million to fight Ebola in West Africa (2014). Five million barrels of oil were donated to Japan following the earthquake and tsunami of 2011.¹¹¹

121. Kuwait has also been supporting developing world in their efforts to fight poverty, develop their infrastructure, education, health and energy sector for sustainable development. Kuwait has ample potential to enhance its global positioning by more alignment of their global development efforts with the UN support for SDGs implementation worldwide and more working together to contribute to the achievement of Sustainable Development plans in the developing countries supported by Kuwait through close cooperation between the UN Development System represented by the Resident Coordinator System and the Kuwait Fund for Economic and Social Development and to work together towards a continuous and sustainable mechanism to document regularly the impact of the Kuwaiti development assistance on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in all Countries supported by Kuwait.

122. Kuwait's role as a humanitarian centre is a source of pride for the Government and people of Kuwait. The Government is now exploring ways to preserve and to build on this legacy and expand Kuwait's role and prominence, in relation to the sustainable development agenda, both abroad and at home.

Outcome and outputs

123. The partnership outcome is to develop a whole-of-government effort to position Kuwait as a **major player in global bodies and international cooperation efforts**, not only at the humanitarian level but also at the developmental level to document the improvement in the indicators of sustainable development in Kuwait and the transfer of Kuwaiti experiences abroad to other countries through the developmental economic and diplomatic programs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic and Social Development. By 2025, the expected changes from UN-supported policy advice and programmes are:

- » Increased focus and impact of official development assistance;
- » Increased focus and impact of foreign direct investment (FDI) for SDG related initiatives in partner countries;
- » Effective and efficient peacebuilding initiatives and internationally recognized capacity and infrastructure for conflict-resolution;
- » Kuwaiti development partnerships to spread local sustainable development initiatives globally; and

¹⁰⁹ For example, in 2016: (1) Kuwait donated USD 5 million to WHO to provide medical assistance to the population of Mosul; (2) Kuwait signed an agreement to host a regional centre for the NATO-Kuwait-Istanbul Cooperation Initiative and to allow movement of NATO personnel and equipment through Kuwait.

¹¹⁰ In 2014, the UN Secretary-General officially honoured HH the late Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah as a Humanitarian Leader

¹¹¹ The [Kuwait Fund](#). See geographic [distribution of technical assistance and grants](#), dtd Dec 2018.

- » Al-Sabah International Award for Sustainable Development and Climate Change Initiatives.

The following **major outputs** will contribute to these changes:

124. Kuwait will increase its **cooperation with international and regional organizations**, and encourage more UN Agencies, programs and funds to open offices in Kuwait in accordance with the priorities of the implementation of this framework for strategic cooperation for sustainable development, in order to contribute effectively to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda within the framework of Kuwait's international commitments within the new Kuwait Vision 2035 and to achieve a distinguished international position with innovative local practices in the areas of sustainable development published locally in a recurrent global forum for sustainable development and documented in relevant international forums. Focus areas include freedom, democracy, human rights, sustainable development, climate change and peacebuilding. Continued sponsorship of the UNV assignments will contribute to international development and peace efforts.

125. A **Centre for Preventive Diplomacy, Conflict Resolution, and Sustained Peace** will be supported. The Centre, will offer best practices, and in-depth analysis of Kuwait's development and humanitarian assistance, in coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Centre will build on track record of Kuwait's leadership in preventive diplomacy, conflict resolution and UN's experiences in multi-sectoral approaches; setting up an early warning system to give options for early intervention; and development of high-quality journals in that area.

126. The Government and all Kuwaitis will benefit from a **comprehensive communication strategy, with an International Sustainable Development Forum**, to be conducted every two years, involving all stakeholders, to promote Kuwait's international role and achievements the results of the Strategic Cooperation Framework programs, and to disseminate Kuwaiti progress in international indicators that improves international indicators for the State of Kuwait.

127. The outcome and contributing outputs will make tangible contributions to two Vision 2035 KPIs:

- » **Effective policymaking:** Transparency of decision-making,
- » **International relations index:** Country brand index; A united message internationally to support branding.

2.5 SYNERGIES BETWEEN COOPERATION FRAMEWORK OUTCOMES

128. The three SCF outcomes emerged from a series of consultations that were held between July and October 2018, with over 150 participants representing the Government of Kuwait, civil society, including youth, academia, private sector representatives, and UN staff.¹¹² The SCF consolidates the work of the UN system in a single coherent framework that provides a platform for common policy work, efficient financial budgeting and disbursement, and stronger coordination and delivery of results.

129. To achieve the expected SCF outcomes and to ensure their contribution to Vision 2035 pillars and KPIs and SDG targets, the partners will employ a set of principles and approaches for integrated programming.

130. The **three expected outcomes** of this SCF are linked with pillars from New Kuwait Vision 2035 and the KNDP. They are in line with the SDGs and reflect the overall principle of partnership, which is not to leave anyone.

2.6 SUSTAINABILITY

Commitments of the Government

131. The Government will support the UN system agencies' efforts by providing financial resources required to meet the needs of this SCF, and in reference to the Resolution 27/279 paragraph 5, reconfiguration of the UNCT in the country based on Cooperation Framework, it will cooperate with the UN system agencies for resource mobilization by: encouraging

¹¹² The consultations were iterative. They involved a high level of participation and discussion among participants to identify and test a set of outcomes and outputs expected from UN cooperation in Kuwait for the period 2020-2025. These included: A first Strategic Prioritization Workshop (SPW1) from 04-05 July with 60 participants; a series of 5 stakeholder consultations conducted from 30 Sept-04 Oct involving 104 participants, and a validation workshop with over 70 participants from 07-09 Oct. Note that some participants attended two or more consultations. For reference please see the following reports: (1) Government of Kuwait and UN Strategic Partnership Framework, 2020-2025: Report on a first consultation, July 2018. (2) Government of Kuwait and UN Strategic Partnership Framework, 2020-2025: Report on five stakeholder consultations, October 2018.

potential line ministries and Kuwaiti organizations/funds/institutions to make available to the UN system agencies the funds needed to implement the components of the programme; endorsing the UN system agencies' efforts to raise funds for the programme from other sources, including the private sector both internationally and in Kuwait; and by permitting contributions from individuals, corporations and foundations in Kuwait to support this programme which will be tax exempt for the contributors, to the maximum extent permissible under applicable law.

132. Cash assistance for travel, stipends, honoraria and other costs shall be set at rates commensurate with those applied in the country, but not higher than those applicable to the UN system (as stated in the ICSC circulars).

133. The UN system agencies responsible for the implementation of the programmes in Kuwait are committed:

- » To provide technical and financial reports related to each project (expenditure receipts and contractual documents for individuals, companies, and other expenses, bi-annual, annual and by end of programmes);
- » To give the priority in hiring Kuwaiti nationals upon successful passing of competitive tests (experts, employees...);
- » To maximize the utilization of the experts' data bank "Roster";
- » To ensure that all processes (hiring, procurement, bids...) shall be done in cooperation with national entities responsible of the implementation of the programmes according the UN rules and regulations and as agreed upon in programme documents;
- » To provide all necessary information as agreed upon in programme documents (technical and financial) as long as it doesn't contradict with the privileges and immunities of the United Nations and its employees and other agreements between the State of Kuwait and the United Nations;
- » To put in place be a unified media strategy that organizes and obligates all organizations, each in its field, to show results in the programs that it implements in cooperation with the state at the national, regional and international levels through indicators of achievement and its impact on Kuwait KPIs.

Cooperation with United Nations Organizations which fulfill the entities regulatory requirements of the State of Kuwait.

2.7 UN COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGES AND UNCT CONFIGURATION

134. The UN Country Team (UNCT) in Kuwait comprises 18 UN and affiliated entities with varied levels of country presence and operations. The UN system is transforming, with the leadership of member states, to develop a new approach for Strategic Cooperation at country level.

135. The UN system agencies will provide support to the development and implementation of activities within the SCF, which may include technical support¹¹³. Part of the UN system agencies' support may be provided to Non-Governmental and Civil Society organizations as agreed which does not contradict with the State of Kuwait regulations governing the cooperation with the United Nations programmes within the framework of the result groups work plans (WPs) and outcome programme documents.

136. Additional support may include access to UN organization-managed global information systems, the network of the UN system agencies' country offices and specialized information systems, including rosters of consultants and providers of development services, and support provided by the network of UN Specialized Agencies, Funds and Programmes. After the approval of the steering committee on any new articles.

137. The technical managers and consultants will be assigned for project support, technical assistance, as well as monitoring and evaluation activities as stated in the project document.

CHAPTER 3: COOPERATION FRAMEWORK IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

3.1 IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY AND STRATGIC PARTNERSHIPS

¹¹³ According to Standard Basic Agreements between the UN and State of Kuwait, the technical assistance includes: cash assistance, supplies, commodities and equipment, procurement services, transport, funds for advocacy, research and studies, consultancies, programme development, monitoring and evaluation, training activities and staff support

138. The implementation strategy depends on an updated system to ensure transparency and speed of completion is based on a careful and clear segregation between different administrative levels according to functions and responsibilities at different levels of governance of the framework and its operational programmes.

139. In support of the seven pillars of Vision 2035, Agenda 2030, and the SDG, the UN system is responding, as a system, to the expectations of the Government with:

- » Steering and coordination that is *facilitative*, offering advice and support, without controlling or micro-managing cooperation,
- » A stronger focus on genuine, substantial, and measurable capacity enhancement to close gaps and support implementation, achievement and delivery by Government partners,
- » Increased emphasis on knowledge transfer AND exchange, leading to a fuller, peer-based partnership,
- » Reduced duplication and overlaps in UN system support and joint results based on clear comparative advantages and effective coordination, and

140. The UN system is mindful of the need for cost-effective and coherent mechanisms to plan, deliver, monitor and report on SCF results, ensuring a clear, substantive contribution to Kuwait's Vision 2035 priorities and KPIs.

141. The programme will be nationally executed under the overall oversight of the Steering Committee (SC) for Development Cooperation established by the Government of State of Kuwait to oversee the implementation of the Cooperation Framework operationalization.. The SCF will be made operational through the development of joint work plan(s) (JWPs)¹¹⁴ and/or agency-specific work plans and project documents as necessary which describe the specific results to be achieved and will form an agreement between the government of State of Kuwait represented by the Supreme Council for Planning and Development, UN system agencies and each implementing partner as necessary on the use of resources.¹¹⁵ Government Ministries, Civil Societies, INGOs and UN system agencies will implement programme activities

3.2 JOINT WORKPLANS

142. Outcome Results Groups (RGs), Communication Group and Operations Managements group are the operational mechanism for the delivery and monitoring of SCF results. Using **Joint Work Plans (JWP)**, they monitor the achievement of SCF results and their contribution to Vision 2035 KPI and they advise the Steering Committee for Development Cooperation and UNCT on opportunities and challenges in the evolving programme environment.

3.3 GOVERNANCE

Programme Management and Accountability Arrangements

143. The Cooperation Framework programmes will be nationally executed under the oversight of the Steering Committee for Development Cooperation and the direct operations of the General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development headed by the Secretary General (Annex 2 highlights the potential partners that will support achieving the results and outcomes of the Framework). The Cooperation Framework will be made operational through the development of joint work plan(s) (JWPs) and/or agency-specific work plans and programme/project documents as necessary which describe the specific results to be achieved and will form an agreement between the UN system agencies and each implementing partner as necessary on the use of resources. To the extent possible the UN system agencies and partners will use the minimum documents necessary, namely 1) a signed Cooperation Framework and 2) a signed joint or agency-specific work plans and 3) project documents to implement programmatic initiatives. However, as necessary and appropriate, project documents can be prepared using, inter alia, the relevant text from the Cooperation Framework and joint or agency-specific work plans and / or project documents.

The Steering Committee for Development Cooperation

¹¹⁴ As per the UNDG Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for countries adopting the "Delivering as One" approach.

¹¹⁵ In the case of UNDP, the Government Coordinating Authority will nominate the Government Co-operating Agency directly responsible for the Government's participation in each UNDP-assisted work plan. The reference to "Implementing Partner(s)" shall mean "Executing Agency(s)" as used in the SBAA. Where there are multiple implementing partners identified in an work plan, a Principal Implementing Partner will be identified as who will have responsibility for convening, co-ordinating and overall monitoring (programme and financial) of all the Implementing Partners identified in the work plan to ensure that inputs are provided and activities undertaken in a coherent manner to produce the results of the work Plan.

It is formed by Government of State of Kuwait. It is chaired by the Secretary General of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development and includes a delegated representative of the United Nations Resident Coordinator and the Representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The committee may call on Heads of the participating UN system Result Groups, or authorized representatives. As needed, the SC may include representatives of concerned parties and meet regularly. The committee in its oversight of the operationalization of the Cooperation Framework programmes and its outputs is supported by the Technical Secretariat

144. The responsibilities of the Steering Committee for development cooperation are to:

- » Approval of the work plan of the strategic cooperation framework between the government of the State of Kuwait and the United Nations.
- » Provide technical opinions, suggestions, directives, and strategic guidelines for the projects required to be implemented.
- » Approval of the framework projects related to the policies and programs of the national development plan 2020 - 2025.
- » Approval of programs and projects budgets, and transfer mechanisms.
- » Discuss and approve funding proposals.
- » Follow up on achievements and progress in the cooperation programs and projects. Also, reflect and discuss the annual plan and progress according to the submitted technical and financial reporting.
- » Adoption of Strategic Cooperation Framework (SCF) assessment plans and approval on assigning agencies for implementation and reporting.
- » Review and approve the SCF periodic reports and achievements.
- » Other matters related to the implementation and financing of the SCF require approval.

The Coordination Forum for Development Cooperation:

145. It is an annual forum meeting held as needed in the presence of the Secretary-General of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development and in the presence of the Representative of the Secretary of the United Nations and the Resident Coordinator of the State of Kuwait to review the progress of the projects and discuss developments reports presented by the United Nations annually or as needed and the forum is not a decision-making body on programmes or finance but a review of progress and results forum.

Outcome Results Groups

146. Results Groups are led by the Head of a UN system agency, or delegated senior agency official, who acts on behalf of the UNCT to ensure effective coordination and implementation of the JWP. The RGs Head is responsible for the overall performance of the RG and is accountable to the UNCT and SC for the achievement of results in the JWP.

147. The responsibilities of the RG are to:

- » Prepare biennial **Joint Work Plans (JWP)** with programme partners for each outcome including a budget framework showing the contributions of each UN system agency,
- » Undertake policy dialogue and joint analysis with programme partners to identify key implementation issues and emerging trends and opportunities,
- » Mainstream the programming principles and approaches during policy and programme support
- » Produce sector or thematic needs and **capacity assessments** for the achievement of SCF results,
- » Monitor the achievement of SCF outputs and their contribution toward outcomes and Vision 2035 KPI and report twice per year to the SC and UNCT,
- » Align monitoring and evaluation activities for the SCF with those of the Government and other partners, and
- » Contribute to the development of common SCF advocacy and communication products.

148. In addition, the UNCT may establish other Results Groups in thematic areas such as (1) Gender Equality, (2) Youth, and (3) HIV and AIDS or others as needed. These groups will share information and support the integration of thematic concerns during SCF implementation, monitoring, and evaluation.

149. A UN Communication Group (UNCG) will work to increase awareness and visibility of SCF results. It pools communication expertise and resources and enhances joint communication in full coordination with government representative. It is chaired by a representative from UNRCO responsible for media and communication and membership of communication representatives of UN Agencies, who reports directly to the UNCT on the group's planned activities and results. Communications focal points are appointed for each RG. Priorities for joint communications and advocacy will be identified by the two chairs of the Steering Forum for Development.

150. Specific responsibilities of the UNCG are to:

- » Jointly implement a communication strategy and common communication calendar for the SCF,
- » Develop key messages about SCF results in consultation with country partners,
- » Harmonize the timing of common UN system and UN agency events,
- » Develop common communication products and draw up joint plans for key events and campaigns,
- » Prepare contributions to annual SCF Country Results Report and any other strategic reports, and
- » Share information about key developments with country partners and the general public.

Project Board

The project board includes - the general secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development - the beneficiary - and those responsible for implementing the project from the organization - and the Secretary-General or his representative will preside over the management of the project board meeting, and the board of directors will be responsible for monitoring progress in completing the project and achieving the final results.

Project Board Responsibilities:

- Approval of the start of the project through acceptance of the project document.
- Agreeing on project management responsibilities.
- Evaluate and approve project plans submitted by the project manager.
- Allocate project resources required under the project plan.
- General guidelines and directions are provided in the project, which ensures that the project is implemented according to the resources allocated to it.
- Reviewing each completed stage of the project and approving progress to the next stage.
- Provide directives and instructions regarding exceptional situations in which the agreed financial limits are exceeded.
- Evaluation and decision making regarding changes that occur in the project.
- Ensure satisfactory delivery of all planned accomplishments during each stage, in addition to reviewing financial reports for expenditures and future plans.
- Controlling and mitigating the risks facing the implementation of the project.

Operations Management Team and Business Operations Strategy

151. The Operations Management Team (OMT) provides support and advice to the UNCT and the Steering Committee for Development Cooperation about efforts to harmonize business operations and contribute to the delivery of SCF results. The OMT will implement **common back office services, common premises operations and maintenance,**

guided by a **UN Business Operations Strategy (BOS)**,¹¹⁶ ensuring timely and cost-effective services in procurement, finance, human resources, logistics, ICT. The OMT is chaired by a head of a UN system agency or delegated senior agency official. Members are drawn from each agency's senior operations and procurement officers.

152. OMT responsibilities are to:

- » Implement common business solutions (using the mutually recognized agreements between the UN AFPs for Operations) in coordination with the beneficiaries, such as common procurement systems for tendering and bidding, long term agreements (LTAs) for joint procurement, common ICT platforms, banking arrangements, office security and cleaning services,
- » Monitor and report to the UNCT and the Steering Committee for Development Cooperation about progress to achieve higher quality, more effective, and cost-efficient business support services, and
- » Communicate effectively about the aims and expected results of common business solutions to all UN staff and partners from government representative.

3.4 OTHERS

153. Subject to annual reviews and progress in the implementation of the programme, the UN system agencies' funds are distributed by calendar year and in accordance with the SCF. These budgets will be reviewed and further detailed in the work plans and project documents. By mutual consent between the Government and the UN system agencies, funds not earmarked by donors to the UN system agencies for specific activities may be re-allocated to other programmatically equally worthwhile activities.
154. All cash transfers to an Implementing Partner are based on the Work Plans agreed between the Implementing Partner and the UN system agencies. Cash transfers for activities detailed in the joint work plans can be made by the UN system agencies using the following modalities:
1. Cash transferred to a local implementing partner:
 - a. Prior to the start of activities (direct cash transfer), or
 - b. After activities have been completed (reimbursement).
 2. Direct payment to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by the Implementing Partners on the basis of requests signed by the designated official of the Implementing Partner.
 3. Direct payments to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by UN system agencies in support of activities agreed with Implementing Partners.
155. Direct cash transfers shall be requested and released for programme implementation periods not exceeding three months. Reimbursements of previously authorized expenditures shall be requested and released quarterly or after the completion of activities. The UN system agencies shall not be obligated to reimburse expenditure made by the Implementing Partner over and above the authorized amounts.
156. Following the completion of any activity, any balance of funds shall be refunded by mutual agreement between the Implementing Partner and the UN system agencies.
157. Cash transfer modalities, the size of disbursements, and the scope and frequency of assurance activities may depend on the findings of the evaluation of the public financial management capacity in the case of a Government Implementing Partner, and of an assessment of the financial management capacity of the non-UN¹¹⁷ Implementing Partner. The evaluation will be part of the work of each project by assigning a consultant (individual or company)

¹¹⁶ Globally, [Business Operations Strategies](#) have enabled UNCTs to save on back-office expenses through reduced duplication of work processes and reduced transaction costs. Cost-benefit analysis has shown average benefits of USD \$4 for every \$1 invested in common services. Common procurement services, mainly through the use of common long-term procurement arrangements (LTA) are shown to generate benefits of up to \$25 per dollar invested.

¹¹⁷ For the purposes of these clauses, "the UN" includes the IFIs.

specialized in general accounting in accordance with the rules and regulations of the UN after the approval of the project board on conducting the evaluation.

158. Cash transfer modalities, the size of disbursements, and the scope and frequency of assurance activities may be revised in the course of programme implementation based on the findings of programme monitoring, expenditure monitoring and reporting, and audits.
159. In case of direct cash transfer or reimbursement, the UN system agencies shall notify the Implementing Partner of the amount approved by the UN system agencies and shall disburse funds to the Implementing Partner within specified period stated in the project document and in coordination with the project board.
160. In case of direct payment to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by the Implementing Partners on the basis of requests signed by the designated official of the Implementing Partner; or to vendors or third parties for obligations incurred by the UN system agencies in support of activities agreed with Implementing Partners, the UN system agencies shall proceed with the payment within specified period stated in the project document and in coordination with the project board.
161. The UN system agencies shall not have any direct liability under the contractual arrangements concluded between the Implementing Partner and a third-party vendor.
162. Where the UN system agencies provide cash to the same Implementing Partner, programme monitoring, financial monitoring and auditing will be undertaken jointly or coordinated with those UN system agencies.
163. A standard Fund Authorization and Certificate of Expenditures (FACE) report, reflecting the activity lines of joint work plans approved by the project board will be used by Implementing Partners (IPs) to request the release of funds, or to secure the agreement that the UN organization will reimburse or directly pay for planned expenditure. IPs will use the FACE to report on the utilization of cash received. The Implementing Partner shall identify the designated official(s) authorized to provide the account details, request and certify the use of cash. The FACE will be certified by the designated official(s) of the IP. Cash transferred to Implementing Partners should be spent for the purpose of activities and within the timeframe as agreed in the WPs only.
164. Cash received by the Government and national NGO IPs shall be used in accordance with established national regulations, policies and procedures consistent with international standards, in particular ensuring that cash is expended for activities as agreed in the WPs and ensuring that reports on the utilization of all received cash are submitted to the relevant UN organization within six months after receipt of the funds. Where any of the national regulations, policies and procedures is not consistent with international standards, the UN system agency financial and other related rules and system agency regulations, policies and procedures will apply.
165. In the case of IPs that are international NGOs, CSOs, and IGOs, cash received shall be used in accordance with international standards in particular ensuring that cash is expended for activities as agreed in the WPs and ensuring that reports on the full utilization of all received cash are submitted to the UN organization within six months after receipt of the funds.
166. To facilitate scheduled and special audits each IP receiving cash from a UN system agency will provide the UN system agency or its representative with timely access to:
- » All financial records which establish the transactional record of the cash transfers provided by a UN system agency, together with relevant documentation
 - » All relevant documentation and personnel associated with the functioning of the Implementing Partners' internal control structure through which the cash transfers have passed

167. The findings of each audit will be reported to the IP and UN system agency, and that the results of all types of technical and financial audits will be presented to the steering committee for review and approval. Each IP will furthermore:
- » Receive and review the audit report issued by the auditors,
 - » Provide a timely statement of the acceptance or rejection of any audit recommendation to the UN organization that provided financial support, and to the SAI, before submitting it to the UN system agency,
 - » Undertake timely actions to address the accepted audit recommendations,
 - » Report on the actions taken to implement accepted recommendations, to the UN system agencies and to the SAI, on a quarterly basis (or as locally agreed).

The audits will be commissioned by the UN system agencies and undertaken by private audit services.

CHAPTER 4: MONITORING AND EVALUATION

4.1 MONITORING PLAN

168. Arrangements for monitoring and evaluation (ME) will enable the SCF partners to compare actual progress against expected results. The primary responsibility for assessing performance rests with the SC and UNCT based on routine monitoring and reporting by Results Groups (RG). At each step in the ME process, ownership and leadership by the Government is essential to sustain the demand for SCF performance information and to use that information for learning, managing, and adjusting strategy and resources for greater impact.
169. The UN system will develop the capacity of Government and other partners to assess, localize, produce, and monitor the indicators for SCF results. As far as possible data will be disaggregated by sex and sub-population groups, including: children, female headed households, unemployed persons, persons with disabilities, and other vulnerable groups.¹¹⁸ The UN system will work to strengthen the dissemination and use of data and statistics for evidence-based policy formulation and planning.¹¹⁹ Once UN information is available, a new global online system will be used to enhance planning, monitoring and reporting.

4.1.1 Risks and opportunities

170. The major assumption for all SCF outcomes is that planned target programmes under each of the Vision 2035 pillars are fully budgeted and implemented, as this principle will be the basis for the technical cooperation of the UN in the light of the existing administrative agreements and arrangements signed between the UN and the State of Kuwait, and in particular the arrangements for the financing for Sustainable Development activities in Kuwait, established specifically to provide the necessary funding to implement the programs of this Framework. In addition, the Government and the UN system should continue to work closely with civil society and private sector partners to achieve the pillars of Vision 2035 and the relevant Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2030.
171. The key risks for effective implementation of the planned SCF results are:
- » Limited inter-sectoral coordination in policy, planning, and programme implementation, especially between the human services and environmental sectors and the finance and macroeconomic ones;
 - » The issuance of some legislation affecting the outputs of the framework sometimes may require a long period of time which may negatively affect the implementation efforts;
 - » Weakness in some institutional and individual capacities of implementing partners, which may slow decision-making in implementing the framework's outputs;

¹¹⁸ Efforts will be made to strengthen data collection and reporting processes and systems involving non-Kuwaitis.

¹¹⁹ The classification of data at the governorate level for selected outcome indicators will be explored with the Central Statistics Bureau and other relevant national entities.

- » Financial and administrative systems of varying capacity and speed for UN organizations that may not be in line with the requirements of implementing partners and delays in the start-up of the UN Joint Operations System and the Monitoring and Evaluation Team;
- » Regional tensions and ongoing conflicts in Syria, Iraq and Yemen further reduce FDI inflows.

172. The risk management strategy involves:

- » Stronger, more sustained cross-sectoral policy and programme coordination, led by the specialized account of the SCF implementation between UN and the Government including other platforms such as the National Commission for Sustainable Development (NSDC). This will help to sustain links between the planned SCF results and Government policies and programmes and to ensure that data and evidence are being used to influence delivery.
- » Efforts to operationalize *existing* Government policies, strategies and service delivery frameworks and build new capacities for effective, cross-sectoral approaches at local levels, with a focus on vulnerable groups.
- » Consistent, impartial advocacy and policy dialogue, based on the SDG, to develop cost-effective models and options to enhance the quality and coverage of essential services, within existing budgetary constraints.
- » A strong UN Communication Strategy and advocacy campaign to promote the importance of the SCF and expected results for the country among stakeholders including the National Assembly, government, CSOs including workers' and employers' organizations, the private sector, and communities.

4.1.2 Cooperation Framework Review and Reporting

167. Implementing Partners agree to cooperate with the UN system agencies for monitoring all activities supported by cash transfers and will facilitate access to relevant financial records and personnel responsible for the administration of cash provided by the UN system agencies. To that effect, Implementing Partners agree to the following:

1. Periodic on-site reviews and spot checks of their financial records by the UN system agencies or their representatives, as appropriate, and as described in specific clauses of their engagement documents/ contracts with the UN system agencies'
2. Programmatic monitoring of activities following the UN system agencies' standards and guidance for site visits and field monitoring,
3. Special or scheduled audits. Each UN organization, in collaboration with other UN system agencies (where so desired and in consultation with the respective coordinating Ministry) will establish an annual audit plan, giving priority to audits of Implementing Partners with large amounts of cash assistance provided by the UN system agencies, and those whose financial management capacity needs strengthening.

4.2 EVALUATION PLAN

168. The main steps involved in monitoring, reporting, and evaluation of the SCF:

- » Routine progress monitoring and twice-yearly reviews to share information, and track the achievement of SCF outputs and their contribution toward outcomes and Vision 2035 KPI,
- » Preparation of one annual SCF results report¹²⁰ that describes actual outputs delivered against those planned in JWP and *progress towards* the SCF outcomes and Vision 2035 KPI.
- » An evaluation in 2023 (*tbd*) to measure achievements and to support the formulation of the next SCF. The evaluation will assess the relevance of the SCF outcomes, the effectiveness and efficiency of implementation by UN system agencies and partners, and the sustainability of results and their contribution to Vision 2035 pillars and KPI. The evaluation report will be presented to the Steering Committee.

¹²⁰ The progress update will follow the UNDG Standard Operational Format and Guidelines for Reporting Progress on UNDAF.

ANNEX 1: THE COOPERATION FRAMEWORK LEGAL ANNEX

This Legal Annex refers to the cooperation or assistance agreements or other agreements that are the already existing legal basis for the relationship between the Government of Kuwait and each UN organization supporting the country to deliver on the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (2020 to 2025).

Basis of the Relationship

Whereas the Government of the State of Kuwait (hereinafter referred to as 'the Government') has entered into the following relationships:

Agency	Agreement
Resident Coordinator System in Kuwait	Revised Standard Agreement Between UN and State of Kuwait signed on 13 February 1962 and the Special Fund agreement signed between the UN and Kuwait on November 1960. Relevant and applicable General Assembly resolutions
UNDP	With the United Nations Development Programme (hereinafter referred to as UNDP) have entered into a basic agreement to govern UNDP's assistance to the country (Standard Basic Assistance Agreement (SBAA) originally signed with special fund in 1960 and revised in 1962 with the technical board which later further revised with UNDP in 1968) Based on Article I, paragraph 2 of the SBAA, UNDP's assistance to the Government shall be made available to the Government and shall be furnished and received in accordance with the relevant and applicable resolutions and decisions of the competent UNDP organs, and subject to the availability of the necessary funds to the UNDP. In particular, decision 2005/1 of 28 January 2005 of UNDP's Executive Board approved the new Financial Regulations and Rules and along with them the new definitions of 'execution' and 'implementation' enabling UNDP to fully implement the new Common Country Programming Procedures resulting from the UNDG simplification and harmonization initiative. In light of this decision this SCF together with an work plan (which shall form part of this SCF, and is incorporated herein by reference) concluded hereunder constitute together a project document as referred to in the SBAA.
FAO	Revised Standard Agreement Between UN and State of Kuwait signed on 13 February 1962 and the Special Fund agreement signed between the UN and Kuwait on November 1960.
IOM	Agreement between IOM and the Government for cooperation in the field of migration signed on ___ .
UNESCO	Revised Standard Agreement Between UN and State of Kuwait signed on 13 February 1962 and the Special Fund agreement signed between the UN and Kuwait on November 1960.
UNEP	Revised Standard Agreement Between UN and State of Kuwait signed on 13 February 1962 and the Special Fund agreement signed between the UN and Kuwait on November 1960.
UNFPA	Revised Standard Agreement Between UN and State of Kuwait signed on 13 February 1962 and the Special Fund agreement signed between the UN and Kuwait on November 1960.
UN HABITAT	Host Country agreement signed between UN Human Settlement Programme and the Government of State of Kuwait in 2002.
UNHCR	With the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) a Country Co-operation Agreement concluded between the Government and UNHCR on ___ and revised on___.
UNICEF	Revised Standard Agreement Between UN and State of Kuwait signed on 13 February 1962 and the Special Fund agreement signed between the UN and Kuwait on November 1960.
UNIDO	Revised Standard Agreement Between UN and State of Kuwait signed on 13 February 1962 and the Special Fund agreement signed between the UN and Kuwait on November 1960. And exchange of letters between UNDP and Kuwait in November 1968.
UNODC	Revised Standard Agreement Between UN and State of Kuwait signed on 13 February 1962 and the Special Fund agreement signed between the UN and Kuwait on November 1960. UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Three Protocols Thereto. UN Convention against Corruption. Convention against the Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. Convention on Psychotropic Substances. Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs.
UNOPS	Revised Standard Agreement Between UN and State of Kuwait signed on 13 February 1962 and the Special Fund agreement signed between the UN and Kuwait on November 1960.

Agency	Agreement
UN WOMEN	Revised Standard Agreement Between UN and State of Kuwait signed on 13 February 1962 and the Special Fund agreement signed between the UN and Kuwait on November 1960.
ILO	Host country agreement for representative office signed between ILO and Government of State of Kuwait in 1970.
WFP	With the World Food Programme a Basic Agreement concerning assistance from the World Food Programme, which Agreement was signed by the Government and WFP on ___.
WHO	Revised Standard Agreement Between UN and State of Kuwait signed on 13 February 1962 and the Special Fund agreement signed between the UN and Kuwait on November 1960.

For all agencies: Assistance to the Government shall be made available and shall be furnished and received in accordance with the relevant and applicable resolutions and decisions of the competent UN system agency's governing structures [Add in references to other UN system agencies as appropriate].

The Cooperation Framework will, in respect of each of the United Nations system agencies signing, be read, interpreted, and implemented in accordance with and in a manner, that is consistent with the basic agreement between such United Nations system agency and the Host Government.

The Government will honour its commitments in accordance with the provisions of the cooperation and assistance agreements outlined in paragraph on the Basis of the Relationship.

Without prejudice to these agreements, the Government shall apply the respective provisions of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations (the "General Convention") or the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies (the "Specialized Agencies Convention") to the Agencies' property, funds, and assets and to their officials and experts on mission. The Government shall also accord to the Agencies and their officials and to other persons performing services on behalf of the Agencies, the privileges, immunities and facilities as set out in the cooperation and assistance agreements between the Agencies and the Government. In addition, it is understood that all United Nations Volunteers shall be assimilated to officials of the Agencies, entitled to the privileges and immunities accorded to such officials under the General Convention or the Specialized Agencies Convention. The Government will be responsible for dealing with any claims, which may be brought by third parties against any of the Agencies and their officials, experts on mission or other persons performing services on their behalf and shall hold them harmless in respect of any claims and liabilities resulting from operations under the cooperation and assistance agreements, except where it is any claims and liabilities resulting from operations under the cooperation and assistance agreements, except where it is mutually agreed by Government and a particular Agency that such claims and liabilities arise from gross negligence or misconduct of that Agency, or its officials, advisors or persons performing services.

Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, the Government shall insure or indemnify the Agencies from civil liability under the law of the country in respect of vehicles provided by the Agencies but under the control of or use by the Government.

(a) "Nothing in this Agreement shall imply a waiver by the UN or any of its Agencies or Organizations of any privileges or immunities enjoyed by them or their acceptance of the jurisdiction of the courts of any country over disputes arising of this Agreement".

(b) Nothing in or relating to this document will be deemed a waiver, expressed or implied, of the privileges and immunities of the United Nations and its subsidiary organs, including WFP, whether under the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations of 13th February 1946, the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies of 21st November 1947, as applicable, and no provisions of this document or any Institutional Contract or any Undertaking will be interpreted or applied in a manner, or to an extent, inconsistent with such privileges and immunities.

ANNEX 2: THE COOPERATION FRAMEWORK RESULTS MATRIX. OUTCOME LEVEL

Government of Kuwait-UN Results Framework [2020-2025]									
Outcomes & Outputs		Indicators, Baselines, Targets, Data source							
<p>Vision 2035 Pillars I, II & VI: Public Administration & Economy, Education & Human Capital</p> <p>Public Administration: Reforming administrative and bureaucratic practices to reinforce integrity, transparency, and accountability throughout the government. Improving effectiveness and efficiency in policy implementation and service delivery</p> <p>Economy: Creating a business environment for the private sector and improving the mechanisms of the country's labor market, encouraging FDI investments, and stimulating the SME market in order to reduce the country's dependence on hydrocarbon revenues</p> <p>Education & Human Capital: To better prepare young people to become competitive and productive members of the workforce and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of education spending</p> <p>Contribution to KPIs for Vision 2035: Labour market performance index*, Government ICT usage*, Business sophistication index, Ease of doing business index, Government spending index, Education quality index*, Ethical government index *</p> <p>SDGs:</p> <p>SDG 1, No Poverty, 7%; SDG 3, Good Health and Well-being, 7%; SDG 4, Quality Education, 21%; SDG 5, Gender Equality, 7%; SDG 8, Decent work & Economic Growth, 36%; SDG 9, Industry, Innovation and infrastructure, 14%; SDG 16, Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, 7%</p>									
	Indicator Number	Topic	Baseline	Baseline year	Ranking (Top %)	Target	Indicator Source	SDG Code / Series	
<p>SCF Outcome 1:</p> <p>Advanced institutional and individual capacities for growth and economic diversification with modern systems of education, social protection, skills development and knowledge support for decent work for all in the private sector in line with international standards and enabling innovation and transparency.</p>	01.01.01	Institutional capacities	Effective Policy Making	61	2014	61	33	KNDP - KPI	--
	01.01.02	Institutional capacities	Public salaries spending as proportion of total government spending	52	2019	--	44 ¹	KNDP - KPI	C010a02
	01.02.01	Economic growth	Labour force participation gender parity ratio	67.24	2019	130/189 (69%)	70.4 ²	KNDP - KPI	C080502
	01.02.02	Economic growth	Annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person	-1.10	2019	184/209 (88%)	0.1 ³	SDG - GLOBAL FRAMEWORK	C080201/ SL_EMP_PCAP
	01.03.01	Economic diversification	Proportion of medium and high-tech industry value added in total value added	29.27	2016	55/152 (36%)	38 ⁴	SDG - GLOBAL FRAMEWORK	C090b01 / NV_IND_TECH
	01.04.01	Education systems	Participation rate in organized learning (one year before the official primary entry age), by sex (%)	76.13 Both sex	2017	92/139 (66%)	96.7 ⁵	SDG - GLOBAL FRAMEWORK	C040202 / SE_PRE_PARTN
				76.94 Female					
				75.35 Male					

01.04.02	Education systems	Harmonized tests results	383.00	2017	112/157 (71%)	459	KNDP - KPI	C040101
01.05.01	Social protection	Coverage of essential health services	76.00	2017	44/187 (24%)	80 ⁶	SDG - GLOBAL FRAMEWORK	c030801 / SH_ACS_UNHC
01.06.01	Skills development	Proportion of youth and adults with information and communications technology (ICT) skills, by type of skill	53.00 Email	2017	16/40 (40%)	59 ⁷	SDG - GLOBAL FRAMEWORK	C040101
			60.00 CMFL		33/68 (49%)	67		/ SE_ADT_ACTS
			60.00 COPA		22/62 (35%)	67		
01.06.02	Skills development	Tertiary education gross enrollment rate	54.36	2018	54/147 (37%)	68 ⁸	KNDP - KPI	c080601
01.07.01	Decent work	Number of fatal and non-fatal occupational injuries, by sex and migrant status	2,419	2016	N/A	1,935 ⁹	SDG - NATIONAL FRAMEWORK / *VNR	c080801
01.08.01	Private sector	Ease of Doing Business Score	67.00	2019	83/190 (44%)	71.00 ¹⁰	KNDP - KPI	
01.08.02	Private sector	Proportion of women in managerial positions	13.60	2016	47/51 (92%)	19.30 ¹¹	SDG - GLOBAL FRAMEWORK	C050502 / IC_GEN_MGTL
01.09.01	Enabling Innovation	Research and development expenditure as a proportion of GDP	0.08	2017	97/104 (93%)	0.99 ¹²	SDG - GLOBAL FRAMEWORK	C090501 / GB_XPD_RSDV
						0.83 ¹³		
01.10.01	Transparency	Corruption Perception Index	40	2019	85/180 (47%)	50 ¹⁴	KNDP - KPI	c160501

¹ Target value based on Government of Kuwait, Kuwait mid-range development plan, (KNDP) 2015/2016 – 2019/2020. May 2015. 12-14.

² Target value based on a 10% improvement from baseline and analysis of trend for Kuwait (projection 5% improvement)

³ Target value based on the average performance of the Western Asia region (2019)

⁴ Target value based on projection of indicator trend for Kuwait

⁵ Target value based on 33rd top percentile of baseline values

⁶ Target value based on projection of indicator trend for Kuwait

⁷ Target value based on a 12% improvement for each skill, the 12% improvement was the improvement needed for the lowest skill to reach the 66% ranking value

⁸ Target value based on the best performance of the region (Saudi Arabia, 2018)

⁹ Target value based on a 20% reduction from baseline

¹⁰ Target value based on 33rd top percentile of baseline values

¹¹ Target value based on the best performance of the region (Iran, period 2016-2017)

¹² Target value based on 33rd top percentile of baseline values

¹³ Target value based on the average performance of the Western Asia region (2016)

¹⁴ Target value based on 33rd top percentile of baseline values

Government of Kuwait-UN Results Framework [2020-2025]

Outcomes & Outputs

Indicators, Baselines, Targets, Data source

Vision 2035 Pillars IV & V: Living Environment and Health Care

Living Environment: Ensuring availability of living accommodation for Kuwait's inhabitants and achieving sustainable development through environmental conservation and reduced consumption of strategic natural resources such as water and oil.

Health Care: Healthcare institutions in Kuwait play a vital role in achieving the desired quality of life for the people of Kuwait, including: Improving service quality; Developing a healthcare system able to resolve growing public health issues at reasonable cost.

Contribution to KPIs for Vision 2035: Environment performance index, Resource & energy use*, Healthcare quality index*, Quality of transport infrastructure*

SDGs: SDG 2, Zero Hunger, 8%; SDG 3, Good Health and Well-being, 15%; SDG 6, Clean Water & Sanitation, 8%; SDG 7, Affordable and Clean Energy, 8%; SDG 11, Sustainable cities and communities, 15%; SDG 12, Responsible Consumption & Production, 15%; SDG 13, Climate Action, 8%; SDG 14, Life below water, 8%; SDG 15, Life on Land, 15%

	Indicator Number	Topic	Indicator/ Baseline	Baseline year	Ranking (Top %)	Target	Indicator Source	SDG Code / Series	
SCF Outcome 2: Promote environmental awareness of institutions and communities to change behavior and consumption patterns of natural resources that reduce the risks of noncommunicable diseases and environmental hazards and to achieve sustainable healthy cities. (Emphasis on renewable energy, water usage, biodiversity protection, waste management, and recycling)	02.01.01	Environmental Awareness	Total Waste generated per capita (kg/daily)	7.8	2013	185/186 (99%) ¹	1.20 ²	CBS, EPA	--
	02.02.01	Consumption of natural resources	Amount of fossil-fuel subsidies per unit of GDP (production and consumption)	1.81	2015	120/153 (78%)	1.45 ³	SDG - GLOBAL FRAMEWORK	C120c01 / ER_FFS_PRTSPR
	02.03.01	Consumption of Renewable energy	Renewable energy share in the total final energy consumption	0.00	2016	151/155 (97%)	4.07 ⁴	SDG - GLOBAL FRAMEWORK	C070201 / EG_FEC_RNEW
	02.04.01	Water usage	Rate of sewage water treatment	70%	2018	N/A	79% ⁵	KNDP - KPI	--
	02.05.01	Biodiversity protection	Proportion of land that is Degraded	64.00	2015	103/107 (96%)	51 ⁶	SDG - GLOBAL FRAMEWORK	C150301 / AG_LND_DGRD
	02.05.02	Biodiversity protection	Red List Index	0.84	2019	94/155 (61%)	0.84 ⁷	SDG - GLOBAL FRAMEWORK	C150501 / ER_RSK_LSTI
	02.05.03	Biodiversity protection	Average proportion of Marine Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) covered by protected areas (%)	32.08	2018	107/180 (59%)	60.07	SDG - GLOBAL FRAMEWORK	C140501 / ER_MRN_MPA
	02.06.01	Risk of non-communicable diseases	Mortality rate attributed to cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes, or chronic respiratory disease						

			17.40 Both sex	2016	77/184 (42%)	14.99 ⁸	SDG - GLOBAL	C030401 /
			14.70 Female		80/184 (43%)	11.83	FRAMEWORK	SH_DTH_NCOM
			19.10 Male		71/184 (39%)	17.17		
02.06.02	Risk of non-communicable diseases	Proportion of children moderately or severely overweight (%)						
			6.00	2015	46/69 (66%)	4.74 ⁹	SDG - GLOBAL	c020202 /
							FRAMEWORK	SH_STA_OVRWGT
02.06.03	Risk of non-communicable diseases	Age-standardized prevalence of current tobacco use among persons aged 15 years and older, by sex (%)						
			19.8 Both Sex	2016	62/147 (42%)	16.0 ¹⁰	SDG - GLOBAL	C030a01 /
			37 Female		47/149 (32%)	-	FRAMEWORK	SH_PRV_SMOK
			2.7 Male		92/147 (63%)	24.7		
02.07.01	Risk of environmental hazard	Score of adoption and implementation of national DRR strategies in line with the Sendai Framework						
			0.50	2017	61/101 (60%)	0.75 ¹¹	SDG - GLOBAL	C200304 /
							FRAMEWORK	SG_DSR_LGRGSR
02.08.01	Waste management	Rate of Diversion from Landfill						
			0.00	2018	N.A.	30.00 ¹²	KNDP -KPI	--
							SDG - GLOBAL	
							FRAMEWORK	
02.09.01	Sustainable and Healthy cities	Air pollution: PM2.5 air pollution concentration, mean annual exposure (micrograms per cubic meter)						
			57.17	2016	174/195 (89%)	35 ¹³	SDG - GLOBAL	C110602 /
							FRAMEWORK	EN_ATM_PM25
02.09.02	Sustainable and Healthy cities	Death rate due to road traffic injuries						
			18.70	2013	94/197 (48%)	15 ¹⁴	SDG - GLOBAL	C030601 /
							FRAMEWORK	SH_STA_TRAF

¹ Ranking based on WB data available <https://ourworldindata.org/grapher/per-capita-municipal-waste-generation?tab=table&time=2010>

² Target value based on average of GCC excluding Kuwait

³ Target value based on a 20% reduction from baseline

⁴ Target value based on the average performance of the Western Asia region (2016)

⁵ Target value based on required trend towards achieving KNDP target of 90% by 2035

⁶ Target value based on a 20% reduction from baseline

⁷ Target value based on achieving a stop of decline from baseline

⁸ Target value based on projection of indicator trend for Kuwait

⁹ Target value based on the best performance of the region (Jordan, period 2012-2015)

¹⁰ Target value based on 33rd top percentile of baseline values

¹¹ Target value based on required trend towards achieving KNDP target of 80% by 2035

¹² Target value based on 33rd top percentile of baseline values

¹³ Target value based on WHO interim target-1, in a 3-step progression towards the WHO air quality guideline of 10 µg/m³ (interim Target-2 is 25 µg/m³, and interim Target-3 is 15 µg/m³)

¹⁴ Target value based on a 20% reduction from baseline

Government of Kuwait-UN Results Framework [2020-2025]

Outcomes & Outputs	Indicators, Baselines, Targets, Data source								
Vision 2035 Pillar VII: Kuwait's International Positioning									
Globally relevant and influential player: Distinguished international positioning: Maintaining strong political and diplomatic influence internationally; Developing significant international economic influence, through investment abroad									
Contribution to KPIs for Vision 2035: International relations index*; Net inflows of FDIs*									
SDGs: SDG 16, Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, 17%; SDG 17, Partnerships for the Goals, 83%									
	Indicator Number	Topic	Indicator	Baseline	Baseline year	Ranking (Top %)	Target	Indicator Source	SDG Code / Series
SCF Outcome 3: Wide Kuwaiti presence in global forums for peace building, stability and development with diplomatic, developmental, humanitarian, participatory and institutional support with strong information bases and effective Kuwaiti practices.	03.01.01	Kuwaiti presence in global forums	Number of international organization where Kuwait has voting rights	9	2015 - 2018	N/A	TBD ¹	SDG - GLOBAL FRAMEWORK	C200205 / SG_INT_VRTDEV
	03.05.01	Support effective Kuwaiti practices	Number of resident and non-resident UN Agency organizations with presence in Kuwait	9 Resident 10 Non-Resident	2020	N/A	13 ² 10	UN OUTPUTS	--
	03.02.01	Peace building	No. international peacebuilding, prevention and conflict resolution efforts initiated by the Kuwait UN Partnership in Peacebuilding, Resilience, and Development	7	2014-2019	N/A	4	UN OUTPUTS	--
	03.04.01	Development	Net official development assistance provided (as percentage of GNI)	0.24 ³	2017	17/30 ⁴ (57%)	0.7% ⁵	SDG - GLOBAL FRAMEWORK	c170201/ DC_ODA_TOTG
	03.10.01	Information bases	SDG Voluntary National Review produced with support of UN	1	2019	N/A	3	UN OUTPUTS	

¹ Target to be discussed with Government

² Target value based on a 30% increase from baseline

³ Calculation based on OCHA Financial Tracking Service for 2017 and WB GNI in current US\$

⁴ Analysis based on data from OECD DAC member countries

⁵ Target value based on SDG Target 17.2.1

ANNEX 3: THE COOPERATION FRAMEWORK RESULTS MATRIX. OUTPUT LEVEL

Government of Kuwait-UN Results Framework [2020-2025]

Outcomes & Outputs	Indicators, Baselines, Targets, Data source	Partners
Vision 2035 Pillars I, II & VI: Effective Government Administration, Sustainable Diversified Economy, Creative Human Capital		
121		
<p>Public Administration: Reforming administrative and bureaucratic practices to reinforce integrity, transparency, and accountability throughout the government. Improving effectiveness and efficiency in policy implementation and service delivery</p> <p>Economy: Creating a business environment for the private sector and improving the mechanisms of the country's labor market, encouraging FDI investments, and stimulating the SME market in order to reduce the country's dependence on hydrocarbon revenues</p> <p>Education & Human Capital: To better prepare young people to become competitive and productive members of the workforce and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of education spending</p> <p>Contribution to KPIs for Vision 2035: 1. Ethical Government Index (Transfer of public funds, favoritism in decision-making). 2. Effective policy-making index, effective decision-making, burden of government regulation, transparency in government decision-making. 3. Facilitation of doing business (starting a business). 4. Business development (scope of value chain; product process evolution); 5. Labor market performance (gender equality; ability to retain talent; relations between employers and workers); 6. Exports of goods and services; 7. Government use of ICTs; 15. Labor force readiness index; 16 Education quality index</p> <p>SDGs: 4. Inclusive, high-quality education and lifelong learning; 5. Gender equality; 8. Decent work and economic growth; 9. Industry, innovation, infrastructure; 16. Peace, justice and strong institutions</p>		

Outcome 1. Advanced institutional and individual capacities for growth and economic diversification with modern systems of education, social protection, skills development and knowledge support for decent work for all in the private sector in	1.a Existence of new/revised regulations to facilitate key aspects of business regulations and enforcement (<i>e.g. starting a business, construction permits, credit access</i>) <u>Baseline:</u> No (2018)	<u>Target:</u> Yes (2025)	<u>Source:</u> MoF, MoCI reports	<u>Government:</u> » SCPD » KFAS » Ministries: Finance, Commerce and Industry, Labour and Social Development, » EPA
	1.b N ^o New MSMEs registered (non-hydrocarbon sectors) <u>Baseline:</u> Total TBD	<u>Target:</u> TBD	<u>Source:</u> Project reports [Note: No data for % Firms with female participation in ownership]	

¹²¹ Government of Kuwait, KUWAIT MID-RANGE DEVELOPMENT PLAN, (KNDP) 2015/2016 – 2019/2020. May 2015. 12-14.

Government of Kuwait-UN Results Framework [2020-2025]					
Outcomes & Outputs	Indicators, Baselines, Targets, Data source			Partners	
line with international standards and enabling innovation and transparency.	1.c N ^o . New PPPs ¹²² and start-ups in emerging sectors (<i>Renewable energy, Green building, Agri-food, Bio-tech, ICT, urban investment and livelihoods</i>)	<u>Baseline:</u> Total TBD	<u>Target:</u> TBD	<u>Source:</u> Project reports	» Central Statistical Bureau (CSB)
	1.d 1% increase in monthly usage of e-government websites or the number of government services provided on e-government websites	<u>Baseline:</u> TBD	<u>Target:</u> TBD	<u>Source:</u> Project reports	<u>Civil Society/NGOs:</u> » Private sector employers and workers organizations; Chambers of Commerce; NGOs
	1.e % Medium and High-tech industry value-added in total value added (targeted sectors) (SDG 9.b.1)	<u>Baseline:</u> 27% (2015)	<u>Target:</u> TBD	<u>Source:</u> UNIDO CIP database	<u>UN:</u> » FAO, ILO, IOM, UNDP, UNESCO, UN Habitat, UNHCR, UNODC
	1.f Presence of an approved national framework for public and private investment in cultural heritage (Proxy SDG 11.4.1)	<u>Baseline:</u> No (2018)	<u>Target:</u> Yes (2025)	<u>Source:</u> NCCAL reports UNESCO reports	
	1.g Presence of new urban strategies and regulations to promote econ. diversification in Kuwait 4 th Master Plan	<u>Baseline:</u> No (2018)	<u>Target:</u> Yes (2025)	<u>Source:</u> Kuwait Munic. reports Project reports	
	1.h % Improvement in Kuwaiti students' scores in international learning assessment (TIMSS: science, math)	<u>Baseline:</u> Gr. 4 Math	<u>Target:</u> TBD	<u>Source:</u>	<u>Government:</u> » SCPD

¹²² PPP: Public-Private Partnerships

Government of Kuwait-UN Results Framework [2020-2025]			
Outcomes & Outputs	Indicators, Baselines, Targets, Data source		Partners
	353 (2015)		TIMSS ¹²³
	<u>Baseline:</u> Gr. 8 Math 392 (2015)	<u>Target:</u> TBD	
	<u>Baseline:</u> Gr. 4 Science 337 (2015)	<u>Target:</u> TBD	
	<u>Baseline:</u> Gr. 8 Science 411 (2015)	<u>Target:</u> TBD	
1.i Education performance % Children and young people (a) in Grades 2-3; (b) End of primary (Grade 5); and (c) End of lower secondary (Grade 9) achieving minimum proficiency in (i) reading and (ii) mathematics, by sex (SDG 4.1.1)			
Gr. 3 Reading			
	<u>Baseline:</u> Total NA (2015)	<u>Target:</u>	<u>Source:</u> UNESCO GEM
	<u>Baseline:</u> Male NA (2015)	<u>Target:</u>	National learning assessments
	<u>Baseline:</u> Female NA (2015)	<u>Target:</u>	
Gr. 3 Mathematics			
	<u>Baseline:</u> Total NA	<u>Target:</u>	
	<u>Baseline:</u> Male NA	<u>Target:</u>	
	<u>Baseline:</u> Female NA	<u>Target:</u>	
	End of primary (Gr. 5) Reading		<u>Source:</u> UNESCO GEM National learning assessments

» Ministries:
Education,
MoSAL, Youth
Affairs, Health,
Housing, Justice
» CSB
» PAM
» CSC

Civil
Society/NGOs/Others:

» KFAS
» Trade Union
(KTUF), KCCI
» Schools,
Universities
» NGOs
» Private sector

UN:
» ILO, IOM,
OCHA, UNDP,
UNESCO,
UNFPA, UN
Habitat, UNHCR,
UNICEF,
UNODC,
UN Women

¹²³ [2015 Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study](#) (TIMSS), grade 4 and grade 8 student assessments vis. TIMSS Scale Centerpoint of 500. Girls scored higher than boys in all assessments.

Government of Kuwait-UN Results Framework [2020-2025]																																
Outcomes & Outputs	Indicators, Baselines, Targets, Data source	Partners																														
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td><u>Baseline:</u> Total NA</td> <td><u>Target:</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td><u>Baseline:</u> Male NA</td> <td><u>Target:</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td><u>Baseline:</u> Female NA</td> <td><u>Target:</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>End of primary (Gr. 5) Mathematics</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><u>Baseline:</u> Total 33</td> <td><u>Target:</u> TBD</td> </tr> <tr> <td><u>Baseline:</u> Male NA</td> <td><u>Target:</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td><u>Baseline:</u> Female NA</td> <td><u>Target:</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>End lower secondary (Gr. 9) Reading</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><u>Baseline:</u> Total NA</td> <td><u>Target:</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td><u>Baseline:</u> Male NA</td> <td><u>Target:</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td><u>Baseline:</u> Female NA</td> <td><u>Target:</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>End lower secondary (Gr. 9) Mathematics</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><u>Baseline:</u> Total 45</td> <td><u>Target:</u> TBD</td> </tr> <tr> <td><u>Baseline:</u> Male NA</td> <td><u>Target:</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td><u>Baseline:</u> Female NA</td> <td><u>Target:</u></td> </tr> </table>	<u>Baseline:</u> Total NA	<u>Target:</u>	<u>Baseline:</u> Male NA	<u>Target:</u>	<u>Baseline:</u> Female NA	<u>Target:</u>	End of primary (Gr. 5) Mathematics		<u>Baseline:</u> Total 33	<u>Target:</u> TBD	<u>Baseline:</u> Male NA	<u>Target:</u>	<u>Baseline:</u> Female NA	<u>Target:</u>	End lower secondary (Gr. 9) Reading		<u>Baseline:</u> Total NA	<u>Target:</u>	<u>Baseline:</u> Male NA	<u>Target:</u>	<u>Baseline:</u> Female NA	<u>Target:</u>	End lower secondary (Gr. 9) Mathematics		<u>Baseline:</u> Total 45	<u>Target:</u> TBD	<u>Baseline:</u> Male NA	<u>Target:</u>	<u>Baseline:</u> Female NA	<u>Target:</u>	
<u>Baseline:</u> Total NA	<u>Target:</u>																															
<u>Baseline:</u> Male NA	<u>Target:</u>																															
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<u>Baseline:</u> Male NA	<u>Target:</u>																															
<u>Baseline:</u> Female NA	<u>Target:</u>																															
		<p><u>Source:</u> UNESCO GEM National learning assessments</p>																														
	1.j Extent to which global citizenship education including gender equality and human rights are mainstreamed in the education policies and curriculum (SDG 4.7.1)																															

Government of Kuwait-UN Results Framework [2020-2025]				
Outcomes & Outputs	Indicators, Baselines, Targets, Data source			Partners
	<u>Baseline:</u> Not fully included (2018)	<u>Target:</u> Fully included (2025)	<u>Source:</u> - Country reports ¹²⁴ - MoE reports	
	1.k % Young people (15-24 years) not in education, employment, and training (SDG 8.6.1) (NA) ILOSTAT			
	<i>1.k (i) Youth unemployment (% labor force ages 15-24) (modeled ILO estimate) (proxy)</i>			
	<u>Baseline:</u> Total 16 (2017)	<u>Target:</u> TBD	<u>Source:</u> - ILOSTAT	
	<u>Baseline:</u> Male 7.3 (2017)	<u>Target:</u> TBD		
	<u>Baseline:</u> Female 34.3 (2017)	<u>Target:</u> TBD		
	1.l Government spending on education and training (% total government spending)			
	<u>Baseline:</u> Total TBD	<u>Target:</u> TBD	<u>Source:</u> Financial data from ministries of finance and education ¹²⁵	
	1.m Education expenditure per student by level of education and source of funding (<i>constant 2014 PPP US\$</i>)			
	<u>Baseline:</u> Pre-primary \$13,128 (2015)	<u>Target:</u> TBD	<u>Source:</u> UNESCO GEM	
	<u>Baseline:</u> Primary \$11,248 (2015)	<u>Target:</u> TBD		
	<u>Baseline:</u> Secondary \$13,530 (2015)	<u>Target:</u> TBD		
	1.n Total government spending in social protection programmes (SSN) as a proportion of total spending (SDG 8.b.1)			
	<u>Baseline:</u> Total 0.80	<u>Target:</u> TBD	<u>Source:</u>	

¹²⁴ In response to UNESCO questionnaire which monitors the status of implementation of the 1974 Recommendation concerning Education for International Understanding, Cooperation and Peace and Education relating to Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms

¹²⁵ In addition, International expenditure from governmental financial systems or other international sources, such as the OECD-DAC database or the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI).

Government of Kuwait-UN Results Framework [2020-2025]			
Outcomes & Outputs	Indicators, Baselines, Targets, Data source		Partners
			World Bank, Social Safety Nets, 2018 ¹²⁶
	1.o % Women and girls (15+) subjected to physical, sexual, psychological violence, past 12 mos (SDG 5.2.1)		
	<u>Baseline:</u> TBD ¹²⁷	<u>Target:</u> TBD	<u>Source:</u> UNSD ; UN Women Global Database
	1.p Existence of a working system to track public spending for children, gender equality and women's empowerment (5.c.1)		
	<u>Baseline:</u> No	<u>Target:</u> Yes	<u>Source:</u> MoSAL, MoF reports Project reports

Public Administration and Economy Outputs:¹²⁸

1.1 Policy makers have access to **evidence-based policy advice** for sustainable development (KPPC)

1.2 A National **SDG innovation lab** provides new cross-sectoral, multi-stakeholder solutions for complex challenges

1.3 New **regulations and monitoring protocols** for business development developed with private sector partners in targeted sectors (media & entertainment, national tourism and IT)

1.4 National policymaking is developed and tested with the support of a **Nudge unit**¹²⁹

1.5 **Knowledge economy and innovations from scientific research** are applied more effectively in government policy and programmes and made available to the private sector

1.6 **Civil service reform initiatives** identified and implemented to strengthen public accountability, enforcement and reporting.

Developing ICT infrastructure

1.7 **Laws, regulations and judicial practices** are reviewed and updated to promote fair competition and transparent decision-making

1.8 **Stronger labour market regulations** and operations, in line with international standards, to address critical *high skill* labour shortages, skills mismatch, and issues of expatriate workers and to increase women's participation in the labour market

¹²⁶ World Bank, [The State of Social Safety Nets](#), 2018. See Kuwait data: 140.

¹²⁷ Efforts will be made to identify a proxy indicator during the first year of implementation. As reported in the [Kuwait Times in 2017](#), and according to the Ministry of Justice, the number of domestic violence cases was 368 in 2010. One in three women in Kuwait has experienced domestic violence, according to a study conducted by the ministry.

¹²⁸ Outputs are provisional. They illustrate the main types of programme results supported UN system agencies. These outputs will be reviewed and revised as needed by the GoK and UN system agencies to prepare detailed programme and project proposals and biennial Joint Work Plans

¹²⁹ Nudge units in government seek to understand and apply **behavioural insights** to policy making. This approach combines insights from psychology, cognitive science, and social science with empirically-tested results to discover how humans actually make choices. See: BI at [OECD](#), [UNDP](#), and [World Bank](#)

Government of Kuwait-UN Results Framework [2020-2025]

Outcomes & Outputs	Indicators, Baselines, Targets, Data source	Partners
1.9 A joint GoK-UN investment and Development forum with international partners to promote shared value opportunities in targeted sectors/ industries based on Vision 2035/ SDGs. <i>Application of UNOPS Social Impact Investing Initiative (S3I) in sectors such as: renewable energy, green building, infrastructure, housing and smart cities, agri-food, bio-tech, ICT</i>		
1.10 New e-Gov platforms developed and operational to implement policies and SOPs and enhance access to essential business and social services (MoCI, CSC, MoI)		
1.11 Quality entrepreneurship and business development services provided through ‘one-stop-shop’ service centres		
1.12 Kuwaiti cultural heritage services and programmes are strengthened to generate employment opportunities and promote domestic and international tourism		

Education and Human Capital Outputs

1.13 Improve quality of education
1.14 A certification and accreditation framework and system developed and operational to improve matching of jobs and job seekers, with a special focus on youth welfare and empowerment
1.15 Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for competency-based recruitment are developed and implemented for key growth sectors/ professions
1.16 The TVET system is modernized with new offerings and upgraded labs and workshops linked to market needs* and promoting entrepreneurship and lifelong learning * <i>For example: Applied computing, electronics, AI</i>
1.17 Persons with learning challenges and disabilities have new opportunities for education and training that is responsive to their needs, including adapted infrastructure
1.18 School-to-work transition strategy and programs are developed and implemented
1.19 CSC & MGRP are better equipped to provide career guidance & job matching in line with market needs and aspirations of Kuwait Vision 2035

Social Protection Outputs

1.20 Key institutions have new capacities to strengthen legal framework and related regulations and services for women, children and vulnerable groups, in accordance with international standards*
* <i>For the SCF vulnerable population groups include: children from low income families, female headed households, unemployed persons, persons with disabilities, the non-Kuwaitis community, migrants, including domestic and low-skilled workers, and persons of concern to UNHCR.</i>
1.21 Innovative social policy measures and tools are developed to identify vulnerable groups increase their access to health care, education, housing, contributory and non-contributory social protection services
1.22 A multi-stakeholder advisory facility developed to coordinate joint Government-CSO-Private sector projects and oversee financing decisions

Government of Kuwait-UN Results Framework [2020-2025]

Outcomes & Outputs

Indicators, Baselines, Targets, Data source

Partners

1.23 **Civil society organizations and the private sector** have new capacities and tools to *engage effectively with government* to deliver social inclusion and protection services for vulnerable groups

1.24 **Positive attitudes and behaviours** are promoted at community and individual level to promote gender equality and social inclusion

1.25 The **quality and quantity of data & statistics** are improved to measure and monitor progress of child well-being, gender equality, and social inclusion

Government of Kuwait-UN Results Framework [2020-2025]

Outcomes & Outputs	Indicators, Baselines, Targets, Data source	Partners												
<h3>Vision 2035 Pillars IV & V: Sustainable Living Environment and High-Quality Health Care</h3>														
<p>Living Environment: Ensuring availability of living accommodation for Kuwait's inhabitants and achieving sustainable development through environmental conservation and reduced consumption of strategic natural resources such as water and oil.</p> <p>Health Care: Healthcare institutions in Kuwait play a vital role in achieving the desired quality of life for the people of Kuwait, including: Improving service quality; Developing a healthcare system able to resolve growing public health issues at reasonable cost.</p> <p>Contribution to Vision 2035 KPIs: 2. Effective policy-making; 11. Resource & energy use; 13. Environment performance index; 14. Healthcare quality index</p> <p>SDGs: 2. Improved nutrition; 3. Healthy lives; 5. Gender equality; 6. Clean water and sanitation; 7. Affordable and clean energy; 8. Decent work and economic growth; 9. Foster innovation; 14. Sustainable use of ocean resources; 15. Sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems</p>														
<p>Outcome 2.</p> <p>Promote environmental awareness of institutions and communities to change behavior and consumption patterns of natural resources that reduce the risks of non-communicable diseases and environmental hazards and to achieve sustainable healthy cities. *</p> <p><i>*Emphasis on renewable energy, water usage, biodiversity protection, waste management, and recycling</i></p>	<p>2.a Change in water-use efficiency over time (SDG 6.4.1)¹³⁰</p> <p>2.a Annual water withdrawal per capita (proxy)</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Baseline: 375 m3 /yr (2008)</td> <td>Target: TBD</td> <td>Source: FAO AQUASTAT</td> </tr> </table> <p>2.a Water consumption per capita (litres per day) (proxy)</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Baseline: 447 litres (2015)</td> <td>Target: TBD</td> <td>Source: FDI</td> </tr> </table> <p>2.b Investments in energy efficiency (public and private) as % GDP (SDG 7.b.1)</p> <p>2.b Energy intensity level of primary energy (MJ/\$2011 PPP GDP)¹³¹ (proxy)</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Baseline: 5.32 (2015)</td> <td>Target: TBD</td> <td>Source: World Bank (SE4ALL database)</td> </tr> </table> <p>2.c Urban solid waste regularly collected and adequate final discharge as a proportion of total urban solid waste (municipal) (SDG 11.6.1)</p> <p>2.c(i) Municipal solid waste generation per capita (kg/capita/day) (proxy)</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Baseline: 5.72</td> <td>Target: TBD</td> <td>Source: World Bank</td> </tr> </table>	Baseline: 375 m3 /yr (2008)	Target: TBD	Source: FAO AQUASTAT	Baseline: 447 litres (2015)	Target: TBD	Source: FDI	Baseline: 5.32 (2015)	Target: TBD	Source: World Bank (SE4ALL database)	Baseline: 5.72	Target: TBD	Source: World Bank	<p>Government:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » SCPD, KEPA, KISR » Ministries: Electricity and Water, Oil, Public Works Transportation, » Central Statistics Bureau (CSB) » Investment authorities » Municipalities <p>Civil Society/NGOs/Others:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Parliament » Kuwait Banking Institute » Cooperatives » Private sector » KFAS » NGOs
Baseline: 375 m3 /yr (2008)	Target: TBD	Source: FAO AQUASTAT												
Baseline: 447 litres (2015)	Target: TBD	Source: FDI												
Baseline: 5.32 (2015)	Target: TBD	Source: World Bank (SE4ALL database)												
Baseline: 5.72	Target: TBD	Source: World Bank												

¹³⁰ Defined by FAO as the change in the ratio of the value added to the volume of water-used, over time. This is the value added per water used, expressed in USD/m3 of a given section, division or group of divisions of the economy (showing over time the trend in water-use efficiency). See: <http://www.unwater.org/publications/step-step-methodology-monitoring-water-use-efficiency-6-4-1/>

¹³¹ Energy intensity level of primary energy is: The ratio between energy supply and gross domestic product measured at purchasing power parity. Energy intensity is an indication of how much energy is used to produce one unit of economic output. Lower ratio indicates that less energy is used to produce one unit of output.

<p>2.c(ii) <i>No. landfill sites that meet international sanitary standards (proxy)</i></p> <p><u>Baseline:</u> 0/3 (2014)</p> <p><u>Target:</u> 3/3</p> <p><u>Source:</u> IPCBEE¹³²</p>	<p><u>UN:</u> IOM, UNDP, UNEP UNESCO, UN Habitat, UNICEF</p>
<p>2.d Air pollution: PM2.5 air pollution, mean annual exposure (micrograms per cubic meter) (SDG 11.6.2)¹³³</p> <p><u>Baseline:</u> 111 (2016)</p> <p><u>Target:</u> TBD</p> <p><u>Source:</u> World Bank</p>	
<p>2.e National recycling rate/ tons of material recycled (SDG 12.5.1)</p> <p><u>Baseline:</u> 0¹³⁴ (estimate)</p> <p><u>Target:</u> TBD</p> <p><u>Source:</u> IPCBEE</p>	
<p>2.f % Land area designated as nature reserves/ protected areas for biodiversity preservation (proxy SDG 15.1.2)</p> <p><u>Baseline:</u> 2</p> <p><u>Target:</u> 20</p> <p><u>Source:</u> EPA reports UNEP reports</p>	
<p>2.g Availability of data for public expenditure on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity (proxy SDG 15.b.1)</p> <p><u>Baseline:</u> No (2018)</p> <p><u>Target:</u> Yes (2025)</p> <p><u>Source:</u> EPA reports UNEP reports</p>	
<p>2.h Availability of a national Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) strategy with costed action plans at municipal level (SDG 11.b.1)</p>	
<p><u>Baseline:</u> No (2018)</p> <p><u>Target:</u> Yes (2025)</p> <p><u>Source:</u> GSSCPD, MoI, KRCS reports Project reports</p>	

¹³² [An Integrated Solid Waste Management System in Kuwait](#) Abdalrahman Alsulaili, Bazza AlSager, Hessa Albanwan, Aisha Almeer and Latifa AlEsa Civil Engineering Department, Kuwait University, Kuwait, 2014 5th International Conference on Environmental Science and Technology IPCBEE vol.69 (2014)

¹³³ Population-weighted exposure to ambient PM2.5 pollution is defined as the average level of exposure of a nation's population to concentrations of suspended particles measuring less than 2.5 microns in aerodynamic diameter, which are capable of penetrating deep into the respiratory tract and causing severe health damage. Exposure is calculated by weighting mean annual concentrations of PM2.5 by population in both urban and rural areas.

¹³⁴ A recent study showed that there is no segregation of urban solid waste (USW) and the waste is delivered directly to the disposal sites. There are only a few recycling companies in Kuwait, and these deal with a **small portion** of the discarded materials. The study also found that 76% of Kuwait's waste are recyclable. Projected revenue from the recycling of materials is estimated at \$134 million USD annually. [An Integrated Solid Waste Management System in Kuwait](#), 2014, *ibid*.

<p>2.i Presence of operational multisectoral national strategy/action plan for major NCDs and shared risk factors (<i>including education and awareness initiatives</i>) w. time-bound national targets, indicators based on WHO guidance</p>	<p><u>Baseline:</u> No (2019)</p>	<p><u>Target:</u> Yes (2025)</p>	<p><u>Source:</u> MoH reports; WHO reports</p>	<p><u>Government:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » SCPD, Ministries: Health, Education, Social Affairs, Interior, Youth Affairs, Justice » PAM » Central Statistics Bureau (CSB) » Hospitals and Health Clinics
<p>2.j Coverage of essential health services (SDG 3.8.1)</p>	<p><u>Baseline:</u> 77 (2018)</p>	<p><u>Target:</u> TBD</p>	<p><u>Source:</u> MoH reports; WHO Global Health Observatory (GHO)</p>	<p><u>Civil Society/NGOs/Others:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Parliament » Schools, Universities » NGOs
<p>2.k % Population who currently smoke tobacco</p>	<p><u>Baseline:</u> Total (15+) 22.5 (2016)</p>	<p><u>Target:</u> TBD</p>	<p><u>Source:</u> WHO, GHO</p>	<p><u>UN:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » UNDP, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNFPA, WHO, UNODC
<p><u>Baseline:</u> Male 37 (2016)</p> <p><u>Baseline:</u> Female 2.7 (2016)</p>	<p><u>Target:</u> TBD</p> <p><u>Target:</u> TBD</p>	<p><u>Source:</u> WHO, GHO</p>		
<p>2.1 % Population with insufficient physical activity (<i>defined as < 150 minutes of moderate-intensity activity per week, or equivalent</i>)</p>	<p><u>Baseline:</u> Total (18+) 67</p>	<p><u>Target:</u> TBD</p>	<p><u>Source:</u> WHO, GHO</p>	
<p><u>Baseline:</u> Male (18+) 61</p>	<p><u>Target:</u> TBD</p>			
<p><u>Baseline:</u> Female (18+) 75</p>	<p><u>Target:</u> TBD</p>			
<p><u>Baseline:</u> Youth (11-17) Total 85</p>	<p><u>Target:</u> TBD</p>	<p><u>Source:</u> WHO, GHO</p>		
<p><u>Baseline:</u> Youth (11-17) Male 77</p>	<p><u>Target:</u> TBD</p>			
<p><u>Baseline:</u> Youth (11-17) Female 93</p>	<p><u>Target:</u> TBD</p>			

	<p>2.m Existence of approved national policy and standards to achieve Universal Health Coverage, including the private (for profit) health sector</p> <p><u>Baseline:</u> No (2018)</p>	<p><u>Target:</u> Yes (2025)</p>	<p><u>Source:</u> MoH reports Project reports</p>	
	<p>2.n N^o. Health compacts, plans, agreements with private sector providers (PPP), aligned with international standards for quality and coverage</p> <p><u>Baseline:</u> TBD</p>	<p><u>Target:</u> TBD</p>	<p><u>Source:</u> Project reports</p>	
	<p>2.o Presence of a Private-Sector Advisory Facility to review performance and provide quality assurance in health services¹³⁵</p> <p><u>Baseline:</u> No (2018)</p>	<p><u>Target:</u> Yes (2025)</p>	<p><u>Source:</u> MoH reports Project reports</p>	

Living Environment Outputs

2.1 Targeted ministries have new **policy implementation skills** to promote and manage water security, environmental, and energy resources and adapt to climate change: (1) *Improve Air Quality and adverse effects of Climate Change for the protection of human health and quality of life*, (2) *Apply energy auditing systems and tools to reduce energy consumption*, (3) *Introduce community-based and ‘green’ wastewater treatment systems for reuse of water for agriculture*, (4) *Increase capacity of municipalities to implement and manage tariff systems to recover costs for basic services (water, electricity waste and waste management)*, (5) *Enhance assessment processes and plans for solid waste management and recycling*.

2.2 Targeted ministries are able to implement national plans for air quality including awareness raising and capacity development through newly established Kuwait Regional Center on Air Quality. This center will also serve Arab States (West Asia).

2.3 Students and civil society groups have increased **awareness about sustainable development** and new skills for environment and energy conservation and to safeguard the environment

2.4 There is increased **private sector engagement** in sustainable use and conservation of energy and environmental resources (*e.g. marine spatial planning, marine ecosystems MPAs & NTAs, Law of the sea, fisheries & coral reefs*)

Health care Outputs

2.5 New policies and regulations developed in collaboration with private sector providers to address health promotion, prevention & reduce NCDs and its associated risk factors

2.6 New health policy developed to strengthen the integrated delivery of quality health services

¹³⁵ The concept of a Private Sector Advisory Facility in the health sector is described in: [Partnerships with the Private Sector in Health](#), CGD, 2009.

2.7 Target groups (young people and children) have new skills¹³⁶ to make healthy lifestyle choices

4.3 A comprehensive health workforce restructuring, and capacity enhancement plan developed and costed

2.9 A National Health Information System strategy and plan developed to enhance policy and budgeting

2.10 An evidence-based Health Financing Strategy for UHC* developed and piloted, in collaboration with private sector providers

*Strategy based on existing health care delivery system. Spending priorities in order: Primary, Secondary, Tertiary, Treatment abroad

2.11 International experiences and partnerships to develop a national strategy and operational plans to reduce environmental risks from water and air pollution

Government of Kuwait-UN Results Framework [2019-2025]

Outcomes & Outputs

Indicators, Baselines, Targets, Data source

Partners

Vision 2035 Pillar VII: Kuwait International Positioning

Globally relevant and influential player: Distinguished international positioning: Maintaining strong political and diplomatic influence internationally; Developing significant international economic influence, through investment abroad

Contribution to Vision 2035 KPIs: 19. International relations index

SDGs: 16. Peaceful, inclusive societies; 17. Global partnership for sustainable development

Outcome 3.

Broad Kuwaiti presence in global forums for peace building, stability and development with diplomatic, developmental, humanitarian, participatory and institutional support with strong information bases and effective Kuwaiti practices.

3.a Net official development assistance (total USD million; % GNI) (SDG 17.2.1)

Baseline: Total
\$ 304 m

Baseline: % GNI¹³⁷
0.23%

Target:
TBD

Target:
TBD

Source:
[OECD](#)

3.b Extent of change in global perceptions of Kuwait' International Role (Country Brand Index)

Baseline:
61

Target:
TBD

Source:
Country Brand Index

Government:

- » SCPD, GSSCPD
- » Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- » Ministry of Information and Kuwaiti Media
- » KEPA, KISR,
- » Related ministries for sectoral policy & technical matters
- » GoK Investment authorities and bodies

¹³⁶ Life skills are: 'abilities for adaptive and positive behavior that enable individuals to deal effectively with the demands and challenges of everyday life': **communication, decision-making, coping, self-management, goal-setting, and avoidance of unhealthy behaviors.** Life skills are a group of psychosocial competencies and interpersonal skills that help people make informed decisions, solve problems, think critically and creatively, communicate effectively, build healthy relationships, empathise with others, and manage their lives in a healthy and productive manner. WHO, [Skills for Health](#), dtd Oct 2018.

¹³⁷ [GNI for Kuwait 2017](#), Atlas method (current US\$)\$ 130.04 billion

	<p>3.c N^o international peacebuilding, prevention and conflict resolution efforts initiated by the Kuwait UN Partnership in Peacebuilding, Resilience, and Development</p> <p><u>Baseline:</u> TBD</p> <p>3.d. Number of Junior Professional Officers deployed to various UN organizations</p>	<p><u>Target:</u> TBD</p>	<p><u>Source:</u> Project reports</p>	<p>» Ministry of Interior, National Security Agency, Istanbul Agreement NATO-Regional Center</p> <p><u>Civil Society/NGOs:</u></p> <p>» Parliament » KFAS » Universities, Policy Think-tanks » Arab Planning Institute.</p> <p><u>UN:</u></p> <p>» UNDP, DPPA, OCHA, UNHCR, IOM, UNODC, UNICEF</p>
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Outputs

3.1 Kuwait offers **tangible aid, trade, and conflict prevention/ peacebuilding solutions** and support to countries in need*

* *Adhering with the principles of accountability, transparency, and sustainability*

3.2 Kuwait has increased **collaboration* with international and regional organizations** to advocate for and achieve shared common approaches to sustainable development and humanitarian assistance in various context.

**Areas related to: Humanitarian support, prevention of conflict, tolerance and justice, human rights, while maintaining its int'l neutrality, non-partisanship and respect for national sovereignty*

No. of UN Agencies, funds and Programmes establish presence in Kuwait

3.3 Established UN Centre for Preventive Diplomacy, conflict Resolution and Sustained Peace with integrated support provided by UN entities

3.4 UN supports a web-based **Knowledge Portal** that offers a repository and reporting about the impact of Kuwait's development and humanitarian assistance

3.5 A UN vibrant a **comprehensive communication strategy**, involving all stakeholders, to promote Kuwait's international role and achievements

3.6 **Kuwaiti culture and arts** are promoted and have greater exposure and prominence on the international stage

ANNEX IV



Impact Level Alignment

Vision 2035 Pillars IV & V: Sustainable Living Environment and High-Quality Health Care



Promote environmental awareness of institutions and communities to change behavior and consumption patterns of natural resources that reduce the risks of noncommunicable diseases and environmental hazards and to achieve sustainable healthy cities.

Intermediate Results

- Improved water-use efficiency over time and investments in energy efficiency (public and private)
- Urban solid waste regularly collected and disposed (municipal)
- Reduced air pollution and improved national recycling rate
- Important sites for biodiversity covered by protected areas
- Kuwait Regional Center on Air Quality and Climate Change plan, rules and regulations prepared leading to the launch of the Center
- A national Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) strategy with costed action plans at municipal level
- National NCD strategy and action plan, including education and awareness initiatives (costed, time-bound targets, indicators)
- Increased coverage of essential health services
- New policy and standards to achieve Universal Health Coverage, including the for-profit health sector
- New health compacts, plans, agreements with private sector, meeting standards for quality, coverage
- Establish a Private-Sector Advisory Forum to review performance and provide quality assurance in health services
- Support the Ministry of Health to regulate the sector responsible for services provided by private hospitals
- Development and implementation of a national occupational safety and health policy and programme in line with the International Labor Standards
- A National Drug Control Strategy and related action plan (distributed roles, time-bound targets, indicators)

Risks and Assumption

- Risk**
- Lack of political willingness for environmental conservation initiatives
 - Cross-border disease (e.g. COVID-19) that would have a significant implication to implementing the plans.
 - Cultural practices and attitudes / Climate change impact
 - Heavy dependence of oil sector driven growth model
 - Geopolitical instability, causing unpredictable investment climate

- Assumption**
- Ministries can collect segregated data and inter-ministrial coordination for data exchange is effective
 - Public participation and engagement increases with technology connectivity
 - Civil society and other partners will continue to raise resources and operate scale up interventions
 - Private sector buy-in and investment in health industry
 - Country will be stable for implementing the NDP/SDGs

Potential UN Outputs (Cross Cutting Issues)

- Living Environment**
- New/innovative policy implementation skills supported through the Kuwait Regional Climate Change platform to promote air quality and climate change agendas and sustainably manage energy and environmental resources and adapt to climate change
 - Application of energy auditing systems and tools to reduce energy consumption, the introduction of community-based and 'green' wastewater systems for reuse of water for agriculture, support for municipalities to implement sustainable tariff systems to recover costs for basic services, and enhanced assessment processes and plans for solid waste management and recycling with new awareness campaigns for students / CSOs
 - Private sector companies and convening bodies will have ready access to clear information about Kuwait's regulatory framework and requirements for ecosystem-based planning, environmental impact assessment (EIA) and protection

- Health Care**
- A renewed, integrated approach to promote health and wellness and prevent and control NCDs, collaboration with the private sector
 - A national framework for the definition, assessment, and classification of disabilities will be developed in line with international standards, and programmes and associations
 - Design of a national food survey to update baseline data on the current nutritional status of children and to promote programs to address child malnutrition
 - Drug related technical support in development of a comprehensive, balanced and evidence-based National Drug Control Strategy as a national framework for building safe, healthy and resilient communities through preventing and minimizing drug related health, social and economic harms among individuals, families and communities.

Duty Bearers

- Government:** SCPD; KEPA; KISR; Ministries of Electricity and Water, Oil, Public Works Transportation, Health, Education, MoSAL, Interior, Youth Affairs, Justice; Central Statistics Bureau (CSB); Investment authorities; Municipalities; Hospitals and Health Clinics
- Civil Society/NGOs:** Parliament; Kuwait Banking Institute; Cooperatives; Private sector; KFAS; NGOs; Schools; Universities

Impact Level Alignment

Vision 2035 Pillar VII: Distinguished Global Position



Wide Kuwaiti presence in global forums for peace building, stability and development with diplomatic, developmental, humanitarian, participatory and institutional support with strong information bases and effective Kuwaiti practices

Intermediate Results

- Presence in diplomatic, cultural, trade and philanthropic spheres
- Engaging in regional and international conferences and symposia to promote Kuwait's ODA initiative
- Expanding young professional Kuwaitis contribution to SDGs globally by the UN Young Professional Programme
- Positioning as a leading humanitarian partners for UN global initiative in finding solutions for such crisis and emergencies
- Strengthened impact assessment on official development assistance as well as impact of FDI for SDG related initiatives in partner countries
- Internationally recognized capacity for peacebuilding and conflict-resolution
- Fully functional UN Center for Peacebuilding, Conflict Preventive Diplomacy and Sustainable Development/ Development and Humanitarian Aid Impact Monitoring Platform
- Strengthened Kuwaiti engagement and partnerships in International Sustainable Development, Political and Economic arenas promoting its innovation in SDGs
- Periodic documentation and dissemination of Kuwaiti initiatives and practices for sustainable development on a regional and international scale

Risks and Assumption

- Risk**
- Geopolitical instability and humanitarian crisis situation
 - Lack of political willingness and commitment
 - Limited collaboration with development and humanitarian assistance partners
 - Negative norms
 - Global and regional economic shocks, particularly vulnerable to oil prices dynamics
 - Ineffective institutional architecture and arrangement

- Assumption**
- Government plays active role in the GCC, wider Arab region and internationally through constructive foreign policy intended to support peacebuilding
 - Risk informed and evidence-based impact assessment on ODA and FDI
 - Sustained financial resources to support development assistance initiative
 - Country will be stable for implementing the NDP/SDGs

Potential UN Outputs (Cross Cutting / Issues)

- Strengthened capacity of the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic and Social Development to invest in crisis countries and LDCs, offering enhanced aid, conflict prevention/ peacebuilding solutions
- Increased contributions to the UN Fund for Sustainable Development, encouraging more UN agencies, programs and funds to open offices in Kuwait
- Work to expand the UN to be a smart building to adopt the principle of green architecture within the framework of Kuwait's international commitments within the new Kuwait Vision 2035 and to achieve a distinguished international position with innovative local practices in the areas of sustainable development published locally in a recurrent global forum for sustainable development and documented in relevant international forum
- Supporting development of strategic focus areas, including freedom, democracy, human rights, climate change and peacebuilding
- Continued sponsorship of the UNV assignments, contributing to international development and peace efforts
- A UN Centre for Peacebuilding, Conflict Prevention Diplomacy and Sustainable Development established in the expanded UN smart and green premises to garner lessons and promote best practices along with an open-access Development Portal that offers a repository and reporting
- The Centre build on track record of Kuwait's leadership in conflict resolution and UN's experiences in multi-sectoral approaches; setting up an early warning system to give options for early intervention; and development of high-quality journals

Duty Bearers

- Government:** SCPD; GSSCPD; Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Interior, Information and Kuwaiti Media and related ministries for sectoral policy & technical matters; KEPA; KISR; KFAED; Investment authorities and bodies; National Security Agency; Istanbul Agreement NATO-Regional Center
- Civil Society/NGOs:** Parliament; KFAS; Universities; Policy think-tanks; Arab Planning Institute

