



EMERGING OPPORTUNITIES IN MIDDLE EAST HEALTHCARE



سلطة مدينة دبي الطبية
Dubai Healthcare City Authority

January 2023



“The health and wellbeing of citizens, residents, and visitors is one of our highest priorities. It is a duty we ensure to fulfill at all times and under all circumstances. We have highly qualified national talents, partnerships with leading global medical institutions, as well as clear plans to ensure all members of the community can receive world-class medical treatments.”

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum
Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai

FOREWORD

Strategic growth creates new opportunities

In 1975, just four years after the formation of the United Arab Emirates, there were 16 hospitals in the country, of which only one was a privately owned facility.

By 2022, in Dubai alone, the number of private medical facilities reached 4,482, including 56 hospitals, and 55,208 licensed medical professionals. The Dubai Health Authority projects a growth of 10-15% for medical professionals and 3-6% for facilities in 2023 and beyond¹.

Since its establishment in 2002, Dubai Healthcare City free zone has emerged as a catalyst and enabler of growth of the healthcare and wellness sectors, with 4,425 healthcare professionals employed in the free zone's 10 hospitals and 168 clinical facilities at the end of 2022. As many as 95 global healthcare companies have established their regional headquarters at DHCC.

Today, several factors, including reputation growth and demographic changes, continue to drive investments in the healthcare and wellness sectors in the UAE as well as the wider Middle East. With increased life expectancy, there is a clear shift to higher numbers of people over 60 years of age. At the same time, those below the age of 18 are also increasing in proportion to the total population.

Catering to the health needs of this evolving populace requires visionary and forward-thinking policymaking and regulation, at which the UAE has emerged as the clear leader. Translating policy into strategic action has positioned Dubai and the UAE as the most successful destinations for healthcare investment and business growth.

The incidence of medical conditions – from lifestyle issues such as diabetes and obesity to cancer, cardiopulmonary, and cardiovascular disease – has played a role in providing direction to governments and the private sector on the areas of excellence in which to invest.

The impact of the coronavirus pandemic, too, has been an eye opener for countries in the region in terms of the levels of preparedness for such black swan events. The pandemic also brought into focus the need for prevention, wellness, and mental health initiatives and facilities, with public and private sectors responding with alacrity.

Five major forces are expected to shape the immediate future of healthcare and wellness delivery: Holistic and preventative wellness, building resilience and agility, deploying emerging technologies, increasing public-private partnerships, and dealing with the long-term fallout of the COVID-19 virus.

The DHCC story continues

As Dubai's healthcare and wellness free zone ecosystem, DHCC contributed AED 2.8 billion to Dubai's GDP in 2021 and supported 15,760 jobs. In the two decades since its formation, DHCC has transformed Dubai's healthcare landscape by establishing a robust and thriving ecosystem that offers direct access to an unrivalled network of partners, complemented by ease of doing business in the heart of a future-focused city. The success story continues to unfold, as DHCC develops its second phase of expansion.

All this comes out of the vision to develop industry clusters where companies, corporations, entrepreneurs, and people can live, work, and play. This is the DNA of Dubai.

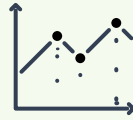
The presence of an ecosystem such as DHCC, the agility of policymaking and regulation, and opportunities inherent in its location continue to make Dubai one of the most appealing cities in the Middle East to establish a healthcare business and cater to the wellness needs of an entire region of over two billion consumers.

Jamal Ahmad Abdulsalam
CEO, Dubai Healthcare City Authority



KEY FINDINGS

GCC healthcare spending to reach USD 99.6 bn in 2023



Accelerated digitalisation, increasing usage of data and analytics, more empowered consumers, and proactive wellness policies have transformed healthcare.



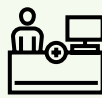
Healthcare spending in the GCC is forecast to grow at a CAGR of 4.9% to USD 99.6 billion in 2023 from USD 86.2 billion in 2020.



DHCC's total economic contribution to the GDP of Dubai – including the direct and indirect impact of its operations – was AED 2.8 billion in 2021.



With manufacturing as an area of focus, the UAE's medical device market is forecast to grow to USD 1.5 billion by 2025 at a CAGR of 4.4% from 2020.



Despite pandemic-related restrictions on global travel, Dubai doubled the number of health tourists in 2021. Spending by international patients reached nearly USD 198 million.



In the wider Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, the healthtech start-up ecosystem is valued at over USD 1.5 billion, a 22x increase since 2016.



Latest research estimates that the combined digital health market in Saudi Arabia and the UAE is likely to reach USD 4 billion by 2026.



During the pandemic, regulatory agility led to more efficient and future-proof regulatory systems. Expedited reviews and approvals increased clarity and led to special programmes.



The entry of non-traditional players in healthcare improved operational efficiencies, amplified affordable care, and strengthened clinical innovation and data security.



Direct and indirect impacts of the pandemic include heart, lung, kidney, and diabetes related problems, after a mild or even asymptomatic case of the coronavirus.



REGIONAL MARKET SNAPSHOT



Healthcare opportunities in the Middle East

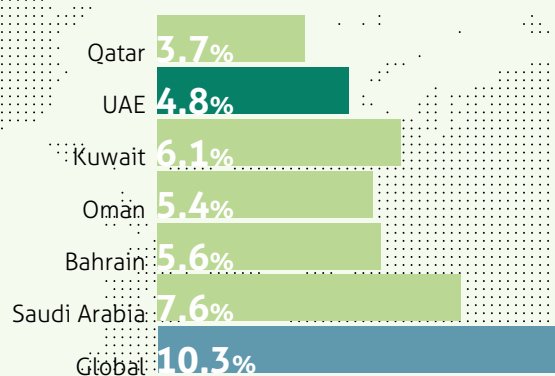
Three years on from the global pandemic, the healthcare sector has been transformed. Accelerated digitalisation, increasing usage of data and analytics, more empowered consumers, and proactive wellness policies have combined to effect a comprehensive transformation in the sector.

Clinically, operationally, and financially, the outlook for the healthcare and wellness sector has changed as a result. Disruption, accompanied by a multi-disciplinary approach to innovation, has led to a wave of investments from new entrants and leaders in the technology, telecommunications, and consumer industries².

Data from 2021 show that global spending on health innovation reached USD 44 billion, double the amount in 2020. In 2021, the acquisition of health and healthtech companies rose by 50%³. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) data show that the technology and healthcare sectors saw a greater number of deals in 2021 compared to pre-pandemic levels⁴.

The GCC region has a unique sector profile, as it is economically advanced. The outlook for the healthcare sector is aligned largely with global trends⁵.

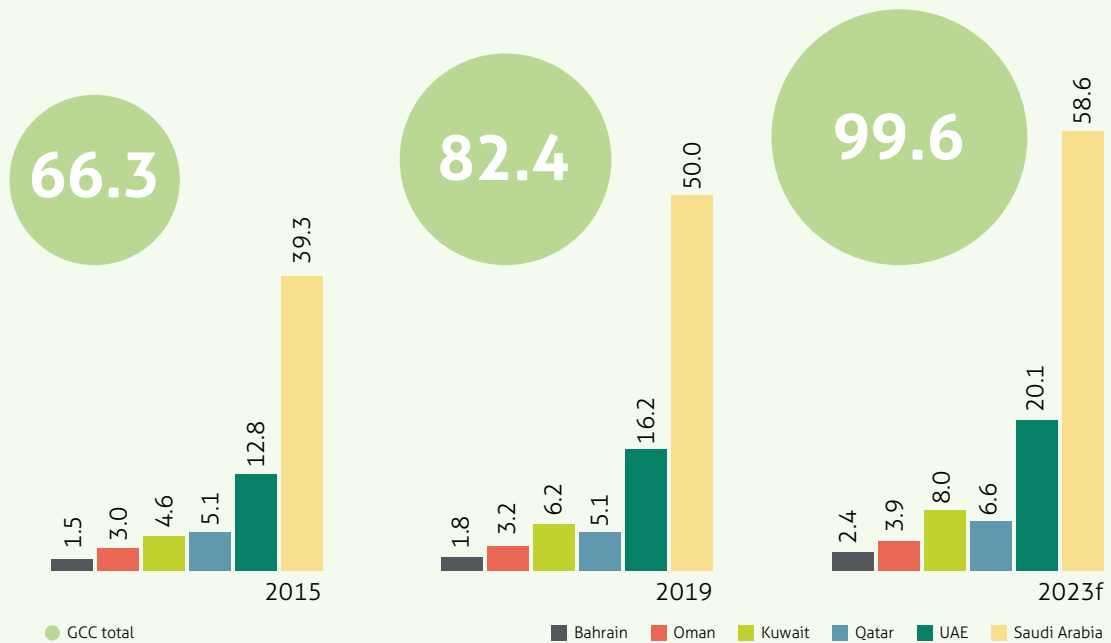
Healthcare spending (% of GDP, 2020)



Source: CCC Healthcare and Pharmaceutical Sector Report 2021, Ardent Advisory



Healthcare expenditure in the GCC (USD billion)



Source: GCC Healthcare and Pharmaceutical Sector Report 2021, Ardent Advisory

4.9%

is the CAGR of the GCC's health spend from 2020 to 2023

The region continues to invest in healthcare. The GCC's per capita spending on healthcare is higher than the global average of USD 1,225⁶. According to the latest World Bank data, the UAE spent 4.28% of GDP on healthcare in 2019⁷. With economic diversification as a priority, private sector involvement in healthcare delivery is expected to increase, especially in Dubai and the UAE. The Dubai Healthcare City Authority offers clarity on the locations most in need of medical services and the types of health services required, along with information on legislation, procedures, and available investment incentives to cater to the growing demand.

The World Bank projects that the UAE's population will grow from 9.4 million people in mid-2017 to almost 11.1 million by 2030, with an average life expectancy of 79.8 years. Residents aged 65-plus are expected to increase from 1.1% to 4.4% by 2030⁸.

Specific demographic factors affecting healthcare expenditure include population growth, higher life expectancy, and an increase in lifestyle illnesses and non-communicable diseases⁵.

These factors have contributed to the wider GCC's healthcare market growth at a CAGR of 5.4% to reach USD 86.2 billion in 2020, from USD 66.3 billion in 2015. Healthcare spending in the GCC is forecast to grow at a CAGR of 4.9% to USD 99.6 billion in 2023 from USD 86.2 billion in 2020, with the UAE and Saudi Arabia commanding about 80% share of the total⁶.



Investment in healthcare

Dubai's strategic approach to investment, backed by agile policymaking ensures continued opportunities in the health sector. A focused approach to developing primary care is helping GCC countries address the demand for secondary and tertiary care hospitals. There is an increasing use of public-private partnerships under clearly defined legal frameworks in the UAE and the GCC. Specifically in DHCC, Dubai has the world's largest healthcare and wellness free zone.

4.4%

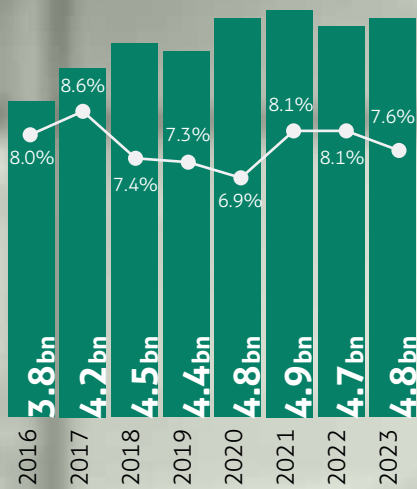
CAGR growth is predicted in the UAE's medical device market between 2020 and 2025

In terms of manufacturing, the UAE's medical device market is forecast to grow to USD 1.5 billion by 2025 at a CAGR of 4.4% from 2020⁹.

Health tourism

Despite pandemic-related restrictions on global travel, Dubai doubled the number of health tourists in 2021. Spending by international patients in 2021 reached USD 198 million.

UAE federal budget allocated for healthcare



■ Budget allocated for healthcare (AED)
● Percentage of total budget

Source: UAE Ministry of Finance





\$5bn

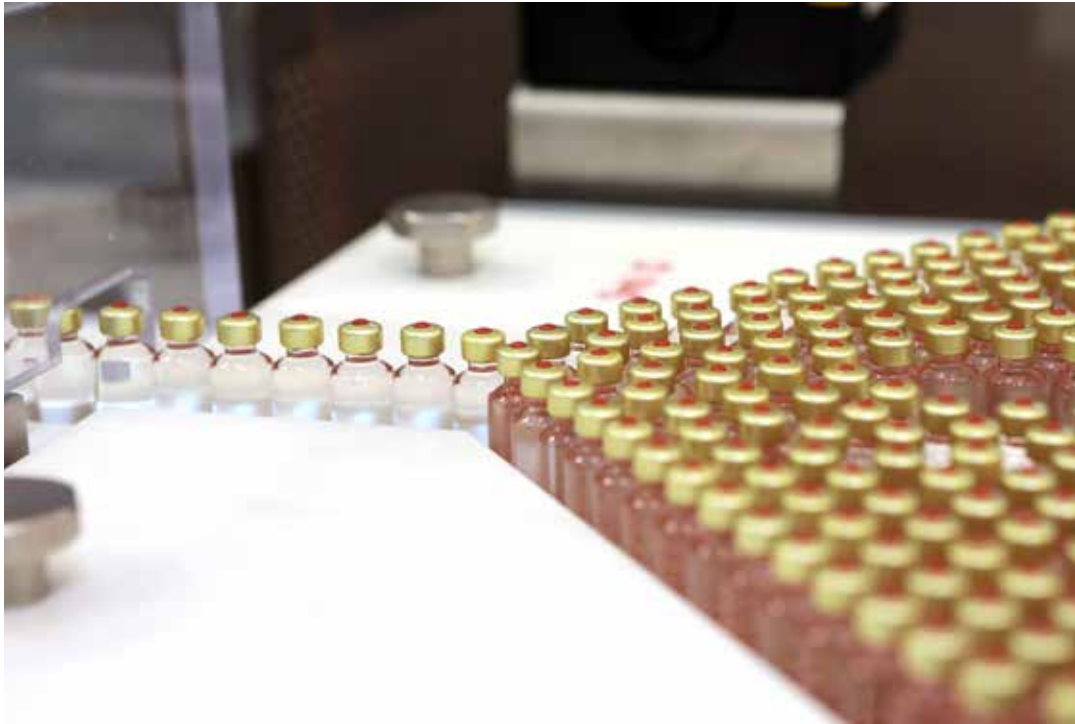
is the estimate of pharmaceutical sales in the UAE by 2026

Asia remains the top source market for Dubai with 38% health tourists, followed by Europe (24%), and the Arab and GCC nations (22%)⁹. Medical tourism is expected to grow at 17.1% CAGR between 2021 and 2025 with orthopaedics, dermatology, and ophthalmology being in high demand⁵.

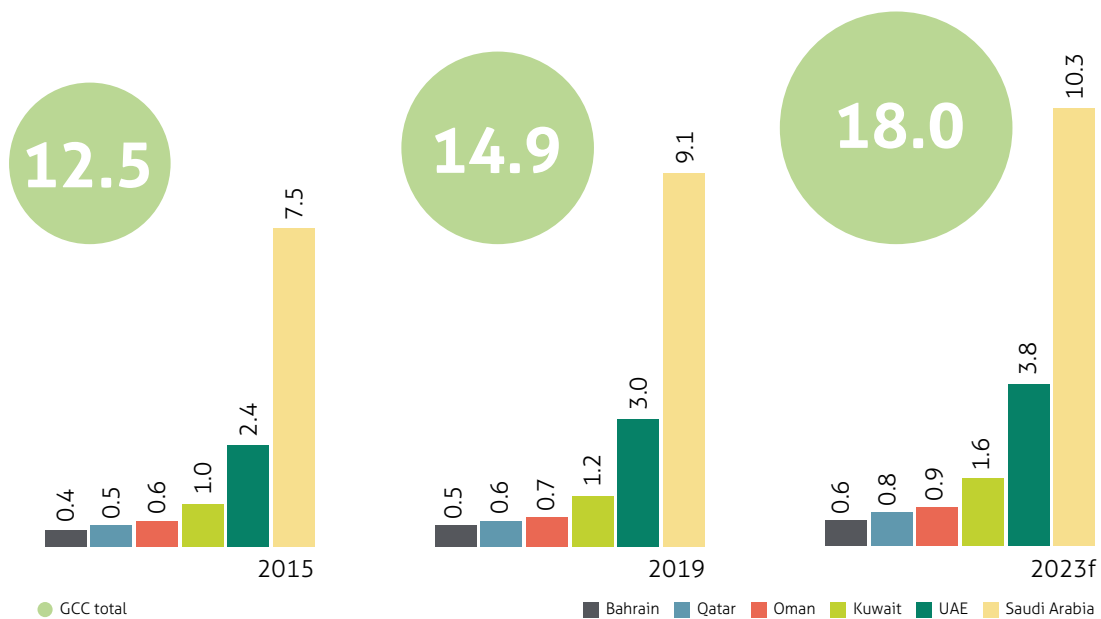
The UAE actively supports medical tourism initiatives. Dubai has launched 'Dubai Health Experience', or DHX, as the world's first medical tourism portal. In Abu Dhabi, the Abu Dhabi Medical Tourism e-portal is active. Both allow visitors to book medical procedures and offer information on discounted air fares, visa, medical insurance, hotel stays, and leisure activities, among other topics of interest⁸.

The sector is benefitting from accelerated digital transformation. Investments and policy frameworks in healthcare information technologies include telemedicine, digitisation of electronic medical and health records (EMRs/ EHRs), data analytics, and mobile applications for enhanced patient engagement.





Pharmaceuticals market in the GCC (USD billion)



Source: GCC Healthcare and Pharmaceutical Sector Report 2021, Ardent Advisory

An attractive pharmaceuticals market

With an increased policy focus on local manufacturing, the UAE's pharmaceuticals sector is attractive to local and multinational firms. At the same time, the growing demand will see UAE's pharmaceutical imports grow at a five-year forward CAGR of 9.2% and exports at a five-year forward CAGR of 7.3%. Pharmaceutical sales in the UAE are expected to reach AED 18.2 billion (USD 5 billion) in 2026, corresponding to a CAGR of 6.5%¹¹.





5

KEY TRENDS



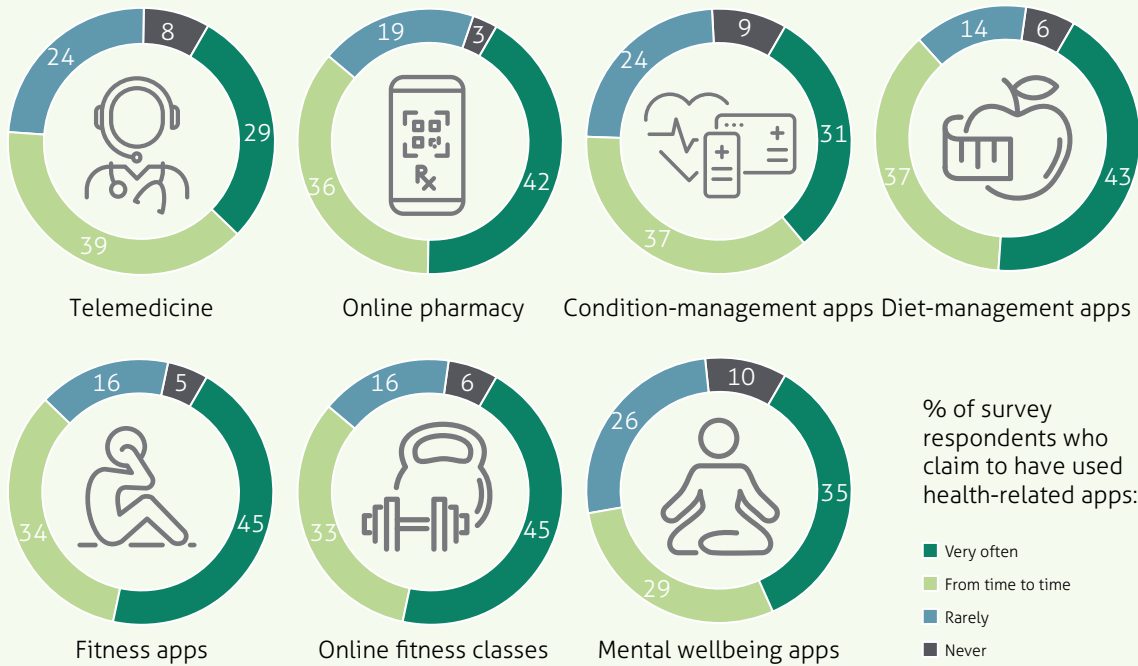
TREND
1

Healthtech comes to the fore

The GCC region has witnessed high healthcare infrastructure investments between 2010 and 2020, creating a foundation for using healthtech to deliver optimised care to the growing population. Most venture capital activity and value creation has centred on start-ups working on improving the patient experience with technological solutions such as digital care and remote monitoring.



Usage of digital health and medical products in the UAE (2021)



Source: Growth opportunities for digital health in KSA and UAE, June 2022, McKinsey & Company

In the wider Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, the healthtech start-up ecosystem is valued at over USD 1.5 billion, a 22-fold increase since 2016. MENA healthtech start-ups have received more than USD 200 million in VC funding since 2016. Domestic and foreign VCs have raised USD 900 million for MENA-specific healthtech-dedicated VC funds since 2020¹².

The pandemic accelerated the use of technology to deliver healthcare in many ways, easing patient comfort with remote consultancy. Regulatory pathways were put in place to deliver services such as remote monitoring, telehealth, and electronic health records, among others.

At the same time, healthcare institutions have created systems to adopt cloud computing, automation, and artificial intelligence to streamline patient care, keeping in mind safety protocols. In addition, regtech has ensured that regulatory systems are digitised.

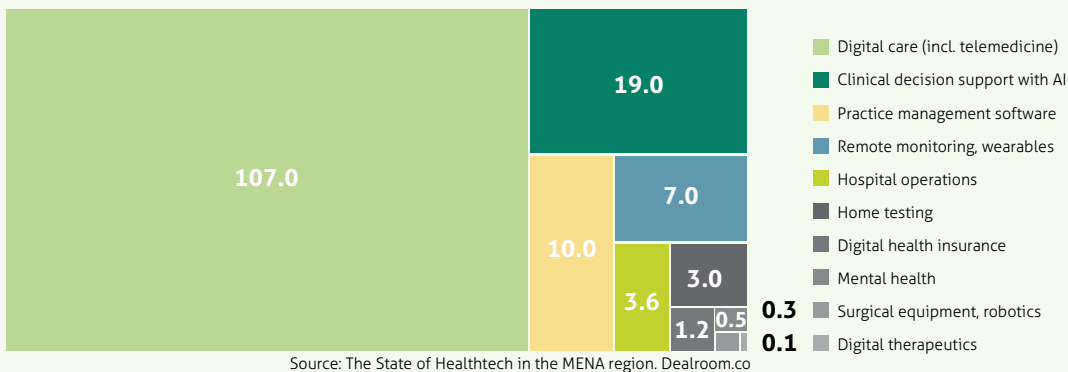
With digital transformation, regulators and healthcare professionals are more likely to use AI, cognitive assistance, robotics, and blockchain to ensure better outcomes, real-time response, and a higher degree of wellness. This trend is augmented by the implementation of smart city initiatives, which make possible the integration of various touchpoints to improve residents' quality of life. Dubai's Smart City vision is to be "the happiest city on earth."

\$900mn

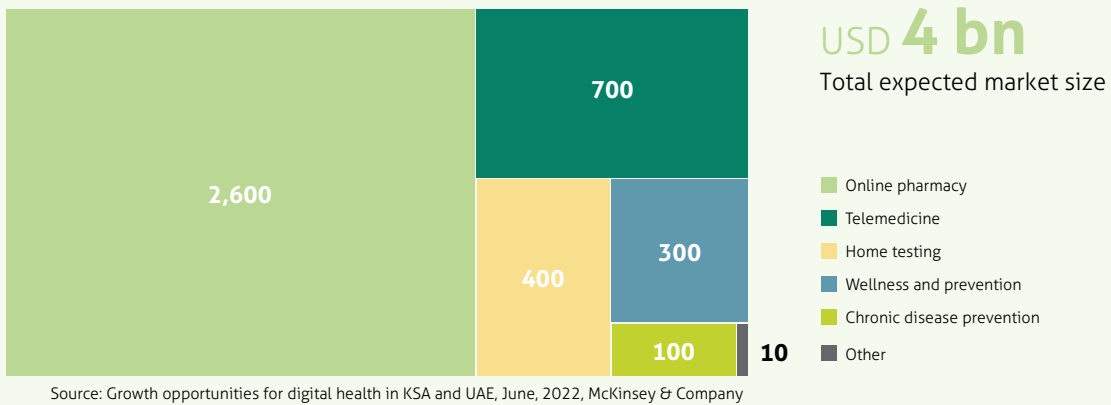
amount raised by
MENA-specific
healthtech-dedicated
VC funds since 2020



Digital consultation dominates VC funding globally (2021, USD million)



Digital health market segmentation in UAE + KSA (2026f, USD million)



One of the six targets of the Smart Dubai 2021 strategy is an interconnected society with easily accessible social services, which includes “improving individuals’ quality of life by embracing technology to streamline social, cultural, education, and healthcare experiences in the emirate.”¹³

Latest research estimates that the combined digital-health market in Saudi Arabia and the UAE could reach USD 4 billion by 2026. The biggest share in this is commanded by online pharmacy, enabled by online ordering and delivery of pharmaceutical products based on electronic prescriptions¹⁴.





TREND

2

The emergence of wellness: prevention and holistic healing

Integrated health, wellness, and a holistic approach are some of the ways to describe the renewed focus on treating healthcare as a whole rather than as a symptomatic issue. Governments are increasingly aligned to the World Health Organisation's approach.



Global wellness economy (2020, USD)

955 bn

Personal care
and beauty



946 bn

Healthy eating, nutrition,
and weight loss



738 bn

Physical
activity



436 bn

Wellness
tourism



413 bn

Traditional and
complementary medicine



375 bn

Public health, prevention,
and personalised medicine



275 bn

Wellness
real estate



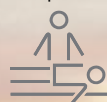
131 bn

Mental
wellness



68 bn

Spas



49 bn

Workplace
wellness



39 bn

Thermal/
mineral springs

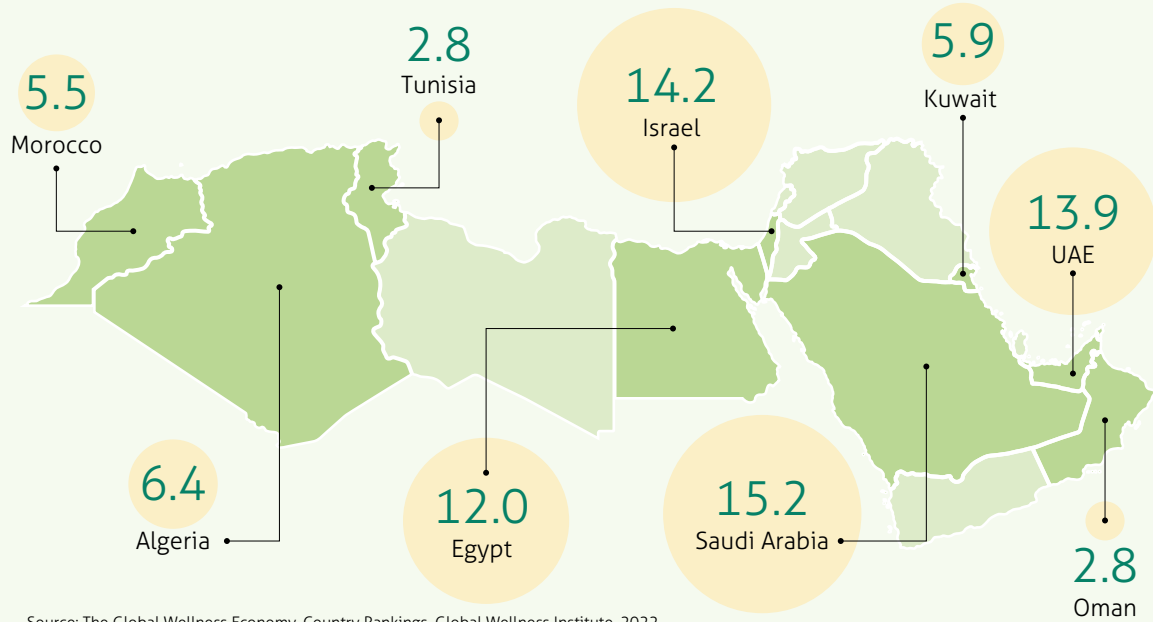


TOTAL
4.4tn

Source: Global Wellness Institute



Top wellness markets in MENA (2020, USD billion)



Source: The Global Wellness Economy, Country Rankings. Global Wellness Institute, 2022

WHO defines public health as: "An organised activity of society to promote, protect, improve, and – when necessary – restore the health of individuals, specified groups, or the entire population. It is a combination of sciences, skills, and values that function through collective societal activities and involve programmes, services, and institutions aimed at protecting and improving the health of all people."¹⁵

\$4.4 tn
is the size of the global wellness economy

The imperative "to treat the whole person" has led to patient-centric healthcare beyond medicine to understand how social determinants such as socioeconomic circumstances or work stress affect a person's health¹⁶. Preventive medical technology can proactively detect diseases or even predict them in some cases by assessing risk, shifting the focus to early discovery and prevention, instead of curing and mitigation.

Traditional and complementary medicine play an important role in this approach. In the GCC, the traditional and complementary market for anti-ageing and longevity comprise 67% of the total, including traditional alternative medicines/botanicals, body healing, mind healing, external energy healing, and sensory healing. This market segment is now expected to grow at 24% CAGR until 2027, surpassing the global growth forecast of 22% CAGR over the same period¹⁷.

In the UAE, a benchmarking survey showed an early adopter approach to complementary and alternative medicine, with close to 50% people saying they had tried these.



10.7

per cent CAGR in
medical and wellness
tourism investments in
the UAE (2022-2027)

DHCC, as a destination for healthcare and wellness, has been at the forefront of the integrated medicine approach, offering treatments in homoeopathy, ayurveda, traditional Chinese medicine, Unani medicine, osteopathy, therapeutic massage, naturopathy, guided imagery, tai chi, Pilates, and chiropractic, among other specialities, for over a decade¹⁸.

A person-centric approach means that people want to take charge of their health to ensure wellness, whether through a focus on preventative care, adoption of alternative healing therapies, or management of healthcare risks and chronic conditions.

Public health, prevention, and personalised medicine grew 4.5% in 2020, on the back of governments and healthcare systems accelerating their public health and prevention expenditures during the pandemic¹⁹.

The wellness market has expanded beyond spas and traditional medicine to include holistic health treatments, a focus on elderly care, rehabilitation, and mental health, mostly delivered digitally.

Among those who have used digital solutions, 80% said they use diet management apps, 79% said they use fitness apps, and 78% said they use online fitness classes often or intermittently¹⁴.

The global market for wellness tourism is estimated at USD 735.8 billion in 2020, and projected to reach USD 1.2 trillion by 2027, at a CAGR of 6.6% between 2020 and 2027. The global spa market is estimated to grow at a CAGR of 12.1% from 2021, to reach USD 117.9 billion by 2028²⁰.





TREND
3

Regulatory agility

Regulators were kept busy during the COVID-19 pandemic, as each country matched step with global best practice and advice to respond to the health emergency.

Regulations were adapted to facilitate emergency use authorisations for vaccines, create staff workflows, simplify data sharing, and enable use of new digital tools.





Regulatory agility could be classified into three categories:

- Facilitation of product management across the entire lifecycle, notably in expediting medical product use for COVID-19, ensuring the continuity of clinical trials, and addressing supply chain issues.
- Strengthened international cooperation; and
- Addressing the regulatory burden on the adoption of electronic and digital tools²¹.

The result is more efficient and future-proof regulatory systems. Expedited regulatory reviews and approvals increased clarity and led to special programmes. In addition to national regulators, the World Health Organisation provided guidance and facilitated global pathways. Inter-country collaboration meant that data from clinical trials being conducted across the world could be shared industrywide.

The global health emergency also saw regulators adopt electronic platforms and online submission of applications. The pandemic accelerated initiatives aimed at modernising regulatory processes through eliminating dated regulations and processes, and through the waiving of supplemental requirements²¹.

In the UAE, 2020-2021 saw innovation at the forefront as the country introduced regulations to meet the challenges.



10_{yr}

visas for investors
and professionals in
medical, scientific,
research and technical
fields in the UAE

In 2020, the Ministry of Health and Prevention (MOHAP) issued executive regulations to the federal law on information and communication technology in healthcare. A new resolution was passed detailing the exemptions to the restriction on the transfer of health data outside of the UAE. Vaccine patents and their legal frameworks have also been discussed²².

The Dubai Health Authority issued policy documents addressing or updating its guidance on many topics, including many that deal with technology and health. This includes the 'Telehealth policy, standards, clinical guidelines, and reporting indicators (2021)', which set out the regulatory requirements for licensing of telehealth services, including teleconsultation, telediagnosis, telemonitoring (remote patient monitoring), mHealth (mobile health), telerobotics and robot-assisted services, and telepharmacy, in compliance with relevant federal laws. Other innovations that came under regulatory purview include standards for Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy (HBOT) services, onboarding hospitals to the Health Information Exchange Platform (NABIDH), policy on Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare, and Healthcare Data Quality Policy²².

The UAE will chair the Agile Nations, a network of countries set up to foster cooperation on innovative regulatory practice between governments, comprising seven countries. These include UAE, UK, Canada, Denmark, Italy, Singapore, and Japan²³.

In addition, legislation now allows 100% foreign ownership of UAE-based companies and facilitates 10-year visas for investors and professionals in the medical, scientific, research and technical fields. These developments bode well for investors in the healthcare sector.





The evolution of public-private partnerships

The trend that began with the public and private sector partnering to deliver healthcare to communities has expanded to include organisations that were not part of the traditional healthcare ecosystem. This includes partnerships and alliances that cut across sectoral divides so that expertise, data, experience, investment, and scale can be harnessed.



Private healthcare expenditure share in the GCC (%)



2015



2017



2020



2023f

Source: GCC Healthcare and Pharmaceutical Sector Report 2021, Ardent Advisory

The introduction of new players has resulted in operational efficiencies, improved and affordable access to care, and strengthened data security, cyber controls, and clinical innovation with the ultimate goal of improving community health outcomes. With social and behavioural health determinants taking prominence, it is natural that multi-disciplinary teams deliver integrated and personalised health care plans to lower risks of lifestyle diseases such as heart disease or diabetes.

According to the International Diabetes Foundation (IDF), the number of adults (between 20 and 79) living with diabetes in the MENA region grew to 73 million in 2021. This figure is estimated to increase to 95 million by 2030 and 136 million by 2045. A total of 38% of them are yet undiagnosed and a further 48 million are living with Impaired Glucose Tolerance (IGT), which puts them at risk for developing diabetes²⁴.

In Dubai and the UAE, private sector participation is likely to continue growing, with a clearly charted roadmap that enables meeting the business objectives of investors. The Dubai Healthcare City Authority offers clarity on the locations most in need of medical services and the types of health services required, along with information on legislation, procedures, and available investment incentives to cater to the growing demand.

73mn

adults (between 20 and 79) are living with diabetes in the MENA region in 2021





TREND
5

Post-pandemic healthcare systems

There are many ways in which COVID-19 has disrupted the healthcare system. The long-term effects of the virus are still emerging and the healthcare system has changed fundamentally. The development of vaccines and boosters, healthcare infrastructure, and policy have pivoted not just for immediate needs but for future needs as well.



Impact of the pandemic on mental health in the UAE (2020)



55%
Negative



23%
No impact



14%
Positive

Source: A 2021 YouGov survey of respondents who were asked to indicate the impact of the pandemic on their mental health

Mental health has emerged as a priority. And digital health tools are prioritised. These have an impact on how health investments will evolve.

However, other direct and indirect impacts of the pandemic include heart, lung, kidney, and diabetes related problems. One of the key areas of concern is heart inflammation after COVID-19, particularly among young athletes returning to their sports after a mild or even asymptomatic case of the coronavirus²⁵.

54%

participants reported that the pandemic has had an adverse impact on their mental health in 2021

Type 2 diabetes, already considered a risk factor for serious cases of COVID-19, also may have other complications with cases showing that some survivors of the illness develop Type 2 diabetes after they recover from COVID-19²⁵.

Already, multidisciplinary clinics have been set up to offer a combination of helpful therapies including breathing exercises, physical therapy, medication, and other treatments^{25, 26}.

The COVID-19 pandemic has also brought mental health into sharper focus. More than half of the UAE residents surveyed in an international study reported that the pandemic has had an adverse impact on their mental health. Conducted in 2020 as well as 2021, the survey showed that the negative effect of the pandemic on mental health remained the same – at 54% in 2021 and 55% in 2020²⁷.

One of the recommendations to emerge recently is for the private sector to participate in efforts towards health equity. At the World Economic Forum in January 2023, the upside of aligning corporate influence with the interests of health equity was discussed as a means to scale up healthcare globally.





While public policy is limited by national borders, businesses can act with agility, innovate quickly, and use newer ways to approach the problem²⁸.

Already, the race is on to be ready for the next pandemic. The Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) is working towards accelerating the development of vaccines and facilitating equitable distribution during outbreaks²⁹.

Local capacity building is also increasingly being focused on, after the supply chain disruptions faced during the pandemic. The UAE's Ministry of Industry and Advanced Technology (MoIAT) hosted the 'Make it in the Emirates' forum in June 2022. Pure Health signed an agreement with MoIAT to invest AED 10 billion (USD 2.72 billion) over the next 10 years to stimulate local industrial capacity, capitalise on opportunities within the healthcare sector and conduct training programmes to upskill the national workforce. This is part of the National Strategy for Industry and Advanced Technology and the In-Country Value (ICV) Programme, which aim to attract investors and manufacturers to the UAE's pharmaceutical and medical equipment sectors, among others³⁰.

10_{bn}

dirham will be spent by Pure Health to stimulate local industrial capacity in the UAE over 10 years





Dubai Healthcare City مدينة دبي الطبية

THE DHCC ADVANTAGE

A thriving and robust ecosystem

Dubai Healthcare City (DHCC) is a key contributor to Dubai's goal of becoming a global leader in advanced sciences, research, and healthcare and wellness excellence. It is also a hub for healthcare entrepreneurship.

DHCC was established in 2002 by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, as the emirate's healthcare and wellness free zone ecosystem.

In two decades, DHCC has transformed Dubai's healthcare landscape by establishing a robust and thriving ecosystem that offers direct access to an unrivalled network of partners, complemented by ease of doing business in the heart of a future-focused city.

"Investing in easing the pain points of our business partners is equivalent to investing in DHCC's growth. We will do whatever we can to support their sustainability."

Allae Almanini
CFO, Dubai Healthcare City Authority

DHCC in numbers (end-2022):

- 4,425 healthcare professionals
- 453 business partners
- 168 clinical facilities
- 10 hospitals
- 36 recreational facilities
- 95 regional HQs of global healthcare companies

DHCC has a strategic alignment with Dubai's health strategy to position the city as a leading healthcare destination by providing the highest quality of accessible and specialised care to residents and visitors alike and to further develop a highly efficient and dynamic health sector. DHCC plays an integral part in the success of this strategy by:

- Ensuring an excellent patient experience by providing world-class healthcare services.
- Promoting public-private partnerships in the healthcare sector with a focus on medical infrastructure development.
- Fostering innovation and artificial intelligence systems in the healthcare sector.

95

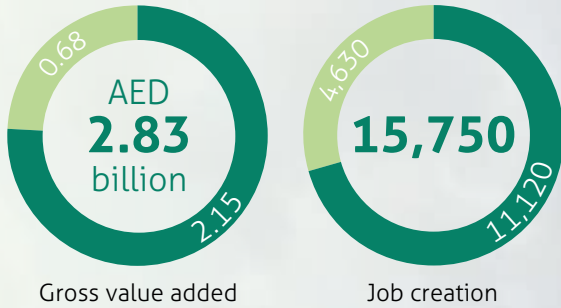
regional HQs of global healthcare companies have been set up in DHCC

Economic contribution

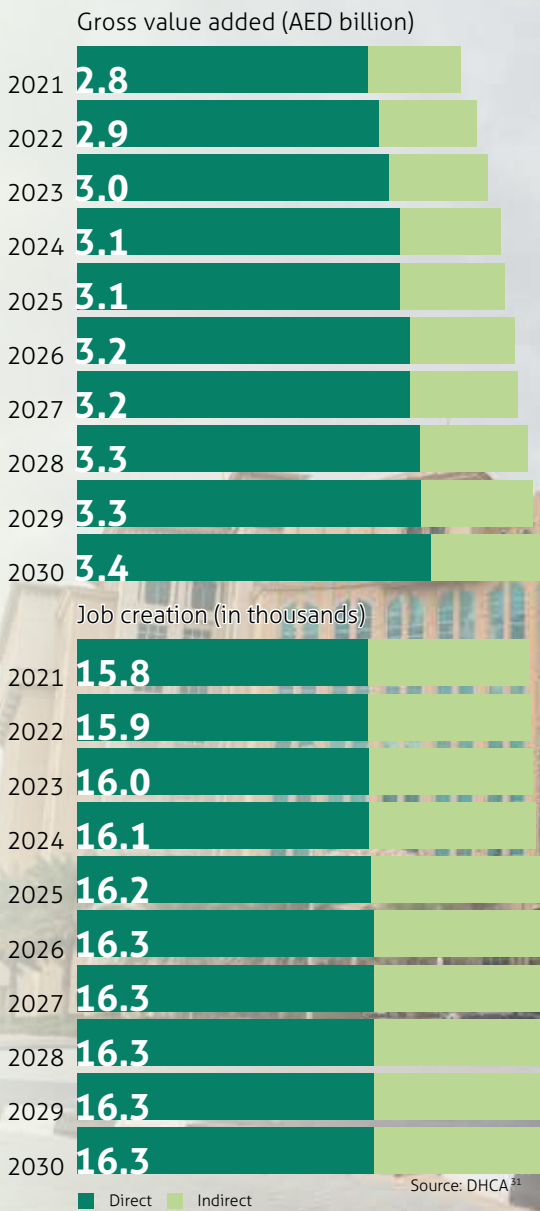
DHCC's total economic contribution to the GDP of Dubai – including the direct and indirect impact of its operations – was AED 2.8 billion in 2021. The free zone's contribution to the GDP of the UAE in the same year was AED 3.6 billion.



Contribution of DHCC to Dubai's economy (2021)



Contribution of DHCC to Dubai's economy (2030-2021)



"Agility is at the core of our decision-making process related to the future of DHCC. We want to remain open to new ideas, new sciences and new developments."

Kawthar Kazim
Vice President
Business Support, DHCA

This is equivalent to 0.7% of Dubai's economy and 0.2% of the UAE's economy.

Additionally, DHCC supported 15,760 jobs in Dubai and 19,960 jobs across the UAE in 2021. The value of all trade within the DHCC free zone in the year was AED 155 million³¹.

By 2030, DHCC's total economic impact is expected to increase to AED 3.4 billion of Dubai's GDP. The free zone is forecast to support 16,330 jobs in Dubai in 2030, with 45.8% held by women³¹.

DHCC also contributes to the UAE Government's tax revenues. DHCC and its business partners directly collected and paid AED 18.8 million in taxes in 2021. The majority of this – 84% – came from VAT on purchases of supplies, and the rest from social security contributions of Emirati nationals and their employers³¹.

Doing business in DHCC

DHCC is a growing community in the heart of the Middle East's commercial and medical tourism capital. With wellbeing high on the national agenda, DHCC offers access to a rapidly growing population, with an increasingly ageing demographic, who will make up 29% of the country's residents by 2050 and who demand in excellence of care and cutting-edge treatments.

Phase 1: The 4.1 million square foot DHCC Phase 1 in Oud Maitha, Dubai, is home to multiple accredited hospitals and single- and multi-specialty clinics, maximising the ability of qualified healthcare professionals and optimising the latest in healthcare technology. It offers direct access to an extensive network of knowledge and expertise.

Phase 2: DHCC Phase 2, which spans more than 19 million square feet and overlooks the historic Dubai Creek and Ras Al Khor Wildlife Sanctuary, will be an urban oasis. It is already home to several prestigious institutions and is a community that encourages healthy living, promotes sustainable design, and welcomes innovative healthcare and wellness concepts.

A focus on innovation and excellence

DHCC is committed to realising Dubai's vision of developing a leading international destination for smart and sustainable healthcare through the digitalisation of healthcare services, development of research centres, and developing effective partnerships. By integrating the latest technology into its services and facilities, DHCC plays a pivotal role in providing cutting-edge care, efficient e-services, and a seamless patient experience. Some of the recent initiatives that promote innovation are:

3.4bn

dirham is DHCC's estimated total economic impact to Dubai's GDP by 2030



C37

is a flexible, private medical workspace designed for doctors to establish a part-time, independent practice

Dubai Healthcare City Accelerator: DHCX was established to enable healthcare companies to grow and accelerate their businesses. DHCX comprises a business centre with a range of private service office and executive desk solutions enabling local, regional, and international companies, SMEs, start-ups, and freelancers to leverage a sector-focused business network and accelerate their growth.

C37: The first of its kind in the UAE, C37 is an innovative, flexible, private medical workspace designed for overseas and UAE-based doctors seeking to establish a part-time, independent practice. C37 provides cost-effective, customised, and state-of-the-art medical co-working spaces and services with a dedicated team to handle the operational processes, visa processing, and licensing.

Masaar: An e-services platform designed to improve the ease of doing business, Masaar aims to transform DHCC's customer service experience into an all-inclusive journey by bringing all services and transactions under one roof, including:

- Residency visa and medical fitness test
- Engineering services
- Customer services
- Licensing services
- Leasing services

Masaar, also physically located in Ibn Sina Medical Complex (Building 27), is designed to improve performance efficiency.

Licensing options

Commercial licences within the DHCC free zone include:

Free Zone Limited Liability Company (FZ-LLC): A company formed as an independent legal entity with shareholders as individual(s) and / or corporate(s). To set up an entity as FZ-LLC, a minimum of one shareholder and a minimum of one director is required.

Branch of UAE Company/Establishment: Any company established outside the DHCC in the UAE, either licensed as company or as an establishment, can obtain a branch licence within DHCC. The branch company should be fully owned by the parent company.

Branch of Foreign Company: A branch of a foreign company is a legal depended company of its parent company outside the UAE, even if its place of business is not in the parent company's headquarters.

Full ownership of a business – both clinical or non-clinical – is one of the hallmarks of the DHCC free zone. Specialists in the medical, scientific, research, and technical fields have the option to apply for 10-year residency visas.



A 20-year timeline of excellence

2002

H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, establishes DHCC.



2004

- The Centre for Healthcare Planning and Quality (CPQ), DHCC's independent regulatory body is launched.
- DHCC receives the ISO 9001:2000.



2005

Belgium Medical Centre, the first DHCC clinic, starts medical operations.



2006

CPQ is the first in the region to become a member of the International Association of Medical Regulatory Authorities (IAMRA).



2007

- DHCC enters Guinness Book of World Records for creating the world's largest breast cancer ribbon, measuring 29m, as part of a public awareness campaign.
- DHCC receives the ISO 14001:2004.
- DHCC receives the World Quality Commitment Award.



2008

DHCC receives the Dubai Quality Award from H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid in recognition for business excellence.



2009

DHCC receives accreditation from the International Society for Quality in Healthcare (ISQua) for outpatient clinical standards.



سلطة مدينة دبي الطبية
Dubai Healthcare City Authority

2011

H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid establishes the Dubai Healthcare City Authority (DHCA) by royal decree.

2010

- DHCC launches Patients' Rights Charter.
- The Mediclinic City Hospital and American Academy of Cosmetic Surgery Hospital at DHCC achieve Joint Commission International (JCI) accreditation.

2012

Dr Sulaiman Al Habib Medical Centre announces a new 200-bed hospital at DHCC.



2013

- DHCC is home to a thriving healthcare community of 4,000 professionals, 2 JCI accredited hospitals, over 100 medical centres and more than 180 support services.
- Mediclinic City Hospital at DHCC announces expansion with a new oncology unit.
- Khalaf Ahmad Al Habtoor Medical Simulation Centre (KHMSC) opens.
- Al Maktoum Medical Library (AMML) opens its doors to patrons.
- DHCC receives the OHSAS 18001: 2007.





2014

- The Mohammed Bin Rashid University of Medicine and Health Sciences (MBRU) is established.
- Occupancy across DHCC main buildings reaches 94%.
- The number of medical specialties exceeds 90.
- The number of clinical facilities exceeds 124.



2015

- Phase 2 expansion project is launched.
- Swiss International Scientific School Dubai opens in Phase 2.
- MOU to open Mediclinic City Hospital is signed.
- The number of business partners exceeds 300.
- The number of medical specialties exceeds 152.
- The number of clinical facilities exceeds 159.

2020

- Barraquer UAE Eye Hospital opens.
- Clemenceau Medical Centre opens.



2017

The Masaar online regulatory service is launched.



2022

- The Dubai Healthcare City Accelerator (DHCX) is launched.
- Society is launched.
- MOU to open Asan Gastroenterology Hospital is signed.
- MOU to open Prime Heart and Lung Hospital is signed; construction begins.
- ISO/IEC 27001:2013 Information Security Management System.

2021

- C37 is launched.
- Vita Care is launched.
- ISO 14001:2015 – Environmental Management System.
- ISO 45001:2018 – Occupational Health & Safety Management System.
- ISO 41001:2018 – Facility Management System.
- Green Clean Hospital Management System.



References

1. Nashar, Khoder. [Dubai's private health facilities hit record 4,482 in 2022](#). WAM. January 23, 2023
2. McCain, Kelly. [Predictions 2022: What are the biggest healthcare shifts?](#) Here's what health experts think. January 17, 2022. WeForum.org
3. Startup Health. [2021 Year-End Insights Report: \\$44B Raised Globally in Health Innovation, Doubling Year Over Year](#). January 8, 2022.
4. OECD. [FDI in figures](#). Global FDI flows surge 88% in 2021, rising above pre-pandemic levels. April 2022.
5. Mashreq. [CC healthcare industry report](#). Emerging Trends and Recoveries Post-COVID-19. March 2022
6. Ardent Advisors. [GCC healthcare and pharmaceutical sector report](#). Healthcare Sector at the Fore. June 2021.
7. World Bank. [Current health expenditure \(% of GDP\) - United Arab Emirates](#).
8. UAE International Investors Council. UAE, Ministry of Economy. [Investing in healthcare in the UAE](#). 2021.
9. alfaham, Tariq. [UAE medical device market to top AED5.6 billion by 2025](#). WAM. June 14, 2021.
10. alfaham, Tariq. [Dubai receives 630,000 health tourists in 2021](#). WAM. May 09, 2022.
11. Fitch Solutions. [The UAE's Pharmaceutical Trade Balance Will Continue To Widen Despite Increased Local Manufacturing Capacity](#). November 2, 2022.
12. Rodriguez Bernate, Laura. [The State of Healthtech in the MENA region](#). April 8, 2022. Dealroom.co
13. U.ae. [Smart Dubai 2021 Strategy](#).
14. AlBasri, Mahdi; Elwan, Hani; Georgiev, Panco; and Ustun, Ali. [Growth opportunities for digital health in KSA and UAE](#). McKinsey & Company. June 16, 2022.
15. WHO. [Health Promotion Glossary of Terms 2021](#). World Health Organisation.
16. Sayess, Dima; Schmitz-Hubsch, Jan; Tohme, Walid Dr; Azizova, Leyla. [The future of healthcare has arrived](#). Strategy&. 2021.
17. Faiyaz, Ahmad. [Five trends driving investments in UAE's healthcare sector](#). KPMG. May 02, 2022.
18. DHCC Press Statement. [DHCC's Centre For Healthcare Planning And Quality To Host Integrated Medicine Conference](#). September 05, 2011.
19. Yeung, Ophelia; Johnston, Katherine; Callender, Tonia. www.globalwellnessinstitute.org. [The Global Wellness Economy: Looking Beyond COVID](#). December 2021.
20. [Investing in medical and wellness tourism in the UAE](#). Ministry of Economy, UAE. 2022.
21. Rei Bolisli Winona; Luciade, Maria; Felipe Dolz, Lucia; Mo, Runyi; Nagaoka, Makoto; Rodriguez, Heraclio; Li Woon, May; Yu, Wei; C.Kühler, Thomas. [Regulatory agilities in the time of COVID-19: Overview, trends, and opportunities](#). Therapeutics. Volume 43, Issue 1, January 2021, Pages 124-139. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.clinthera.2020.11.015> Clinical
22. Sochacki, Christina. [The 2021 heartbeat of healthcare in the Middle East](#). Al Tamini and Company. 2021.
23. Saleh, Amjad; Nashar, Khoder. [UAE to chair Agile Nations network to foster new era of intra-governmental cooperation and regulation](#). WAM. March 29, 2022.
24. International Diabetes Foundation. [Diabetes in MENA](#). December 14, 2021.
25. Johns Hopkins Medicine. [Long COVID: Long-term effects of COVID-19](#). June 14, 2022
26. [Survivor Corps](#). United Arab Emirates
27. Choubey, Sonika. [More than half of UAE residents say the pandemic has negatively impacted their mental health](#). YouGov. April 07, 2022.
28. Choucair, Bechara; Galea, Sandro. Health equity: [Your health outlook depends on where you live](#) - but the private sector could change that. World Economic Forum Annual Meeting. January 19, 2023.
29. WEF. [100 days to outrace the next pandemic](#). World Economic Forum. January 19, 2023.
30. WAM. [Pure Health joins National In-Country Value Program and signs agreement with MolAT](#). June 22, 2022.
31. Received from DHCC. Oxford Economics. Dubai Free Zone Council. Dubai free zones' economic impact consolidated report- For Dubai Healthcare City. December 2022.

Stock images used in this publication are for representational purposes only.

Content and design by





سلطة مدينة دبي الطبية
Dubai Healthcare City Authority