



UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS



UAEU

جامعة الإمارات العربية المتحدة
United Arab Emirates University



**Her Highness
Sheikha Fatima bint Mubarak
Initiative to
Empower Africa's
Rural Women
in Agricultural Sector**

**UAE Foreign Aid Policy Focus on
Women's and Girls' Empowerment and
Protection**

The UAE has been always keen to integrate women's causes into the priority themes of its Foreign Aid Policy, and ensures their alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by mainstreaming issues of gender equality, empowerment and protection at the core of the UAE's Foreign aid priority programming and projects.

In 2018, the UAE launched the "100% Women Policy", based upon which the UAE foreign assistance policy will commit up to 100% of its bilateral and multilateral foreign aid to either target or mainstream gender equality, women and girls' empowerment in its activities. In the light of the UAE's direct and indirect foreign aid support of women and girls, this aid focused on projects in sectors of economic development, nutrition, shelter, healthcare, education, basic social services and agriculture, among other vital sectors.

As part of its international strategy aiming to eliminate the impacts of climate change, empower women and girls, enhance food security, and in alignment with the priorities of the UAE Foreign Aid Policy, the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs, General Women's Union (GWU), MBZ Academy for Agriculture and Environment, United Arab Emirates University (UAEU), UN Women, with support of the Emirati Red Crescent, launched H.H. Sheikhha Fatima bint Mubarak Initiative to Empower Africa's Rural Women in Agricultural Sector.





Overview on the current situation

- Africa has **around 60% of the uncultivated arable land worldwide**.
- While millions of people who live in Africa's rural areas are **struggling during the hunger seasons every year** (severe deprivation period between the harvesting seasons).
- The **smallholder farmers and their families are the most effected globally**.



Initiative's Objectives and Implementation Mechanism

The Initiative **aims to empower rural women in the agriculture sector through providing capacity building programs to increase the agriculture productivity and marketing of the agricultural products** in order to achieve self-sufficiency and provide sustainable income sources, given the challenges posed by the climate changes.



Mechanism of Implementation

First phase: Providing training programs to 30 expert trainees from Senegal and Ethiopia in the agriculture sector.

Second phase: Implement capacity building programs by those expert trainees in their countries to help build the capacities and share their skills with more than 20,000 rural women, and helping them make their living and be entrepreneurs in agriculture sector.



UAEU Program for Advanced Research

Carried out under the umbrella of HH Sheikha Fatima bint Mubarak Initiative to Empower Africa's Rural Women in Agricultural Sector, the United Arab Emirates University (UAEU) joined the Initiative after announcing the first phase, in collaboration with strategic partners, and launched the **"UAEU Program for Cooperation in Scientific Research in Agriculture"** in collaboration with two universities in Senegal and Ethiopia.



Program Objectives

The Program **aims to conduct research studies to support the rural women**, as producers who play a vital role in agriculture development.

The UAEU will focus its interest on topics primarily related to a number of the Sustainable Development Goals, namely **SDG 1: No Poverty, SDG 2: Zero Hunger, SDG 5: Gender Equality and SDG 13: Climate Action**.

The Program **aims to develop the research collaboration to support the rural women in Africa**, finding sustainable and innovative solutions for the various challenges in agriculture, increasing the African women's awareness, promote the best practices to achieve agricultural sustainability and explore the students' insights for flexible and sustainable agriculture, given the limited resources. **The Program's duration is 9 months**, and will be carried out under the supervision of pioneer Universities in Ethiopia and Senegal.



Partners

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- General Women's Union
- Emirati Red Crescent (ERC)
- Elite Agro Holding
- Mohamed Bin Zayed Academy for Agriculture and Environment
- United Arab Emirates University (UAEU)
- UN Women