



EXPO 2020 إكسبو
دبي، الإمارات العربية المتحدة
DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

**For Immediate Release
26 September 2019**

Images and video available here: <https://expo2020dubai.sharefile.com/d-sb1457eac58a41afb>

Press Release

Celebrating best practice: Expo 2020 selects 25 development projects providing tangible solutions to the world's most pressing challenges

- **Global Best Practice Programme projects named at United Nations SDG Action Zone**
- **Selected approaches address issues including hunger, education and climate crisis**
- **Adaptable, scaleable solutions will be viewed by millions at the next World Expo**

NEW YORK/DUBAI, 26 September 2019 – A Norwegian programme to swap plastic waste for financial reward, an online software from Bhutan that calculates healthy, cost-effective school meals sourcing ingredients from local farms, and a Cameroonian project to build sustainable refugee camps are among the 25 projects selected in Expo 2020 Dubai's Global Best Practice Programme.

The 25 success stories – all simple, effective, local solutions to some of the world's biggest challenges – were selected during Expo 2020's search for pioneering projects that address the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), 17 key targets that form a global plan of action for the peace and prosperity of people and the planet.

Expo 2020's Global Best Practice Programme aims to advance our collective impact towards achieving these global goals by spotlighting tangible solutions that can be replicated, adapted and scaled for greater global impact, providing a platform for knowledge exchange so stakeholders from all over the world can be inspired and learn from each other.

The champion projects, which hail from 24 countries and include innovative approaches from individuals, communities, academia, businesses, international organisations and governments, will be showcased to the millions of visitors expected to attend the next World Expo.

The announcement was made at the SDG Action Zone, a space to engage partners for transformative SDG action in new and innovative ways, during an event jointly hosted by Expo 2020 Dubai and the Permanent Mission of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations.

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It was held alongside the United Nations General Assembly in New York and comes after a new Expo 2020-commissioned global survey showed that people around the world are united in their desire to create a happier, more inclusive, cleaner planet.

Under the theme 'Small Steps, Big Leaps: Simple Solutions for Sustainable Impact', Expo 2020's Global Best Practice Programme is founded on the belief that achieving the SDGs by the 2030 deadline requires local solutions to ensure no-one is left behind.

Each selected project tackles real world issues, from eradicating hunger to boosting health and wellbeing to tackling climate change, and uses approaches that can serve as solutions to people in other parts of the world.

Her Excellency Reem Al Hashimy, UAE Minister of State for International Cooperation, Director General of Expo 2020 Dubai Bureau and Chair of the UAE National Committee on Sustainable Development Goals, said: "The Sustainable Development Goals, universally adopted in 2015, reflect crucial issues that are relevant to us all, and it is truly inspiring to see so many tangible solutions to these most pressing challenges. I congratulate these 25 beacons of best practice and look forward to sharing their transformative projects with the world at Expo 2020 Dubai.

"Five years in, 10 years to go, the next World Expo – the first to be held in the Middle East, Africa and South Asia (MEASA) region – will provide an unprecedented opportunity to celebrate these achievements, amplify the message of the SDGs and galvanize further action. If we all step up and play our part, the 2030 deadline will be within reach."

Expo's Global Best Practice Programme received 1,175 submissions from 141 countries and presented a shortlist to a prestigious international selection committee that included representatives from the Bureau International des Expositions (the governing body of World Expos), the University of Cambridge, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, World Bank, UN-Habitat, UN-Water, UNDP, UNICEF, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Renewable Energy Agency, Abu Dhabi Fund for Development, and the Mastercard Center for Inclusive Growth.

A feature of every World Expo, the Global Best Practice Programme resonates with Expo 2020's theme of '*Connecting Minds, Creating the Future*' and its three subthemes of *Opportunity, Mobility* and *Sustainability*. The programme will have its own area to showcase at Expo 2020 Dubai, while the SDGs will cut across the event in all manner of ways, including at the Opportunity Pavilion, where visitors will explore how unlocking the potential of individuals and communities will enable a more prosperous and sustainable future for us all.

Vicente G. Loscertales, Secretary General of the Bureau International des Expositions (BIE) said: "Best practices are one of the most innovative and striking features of World Expos. They bring together the practical perspective of Expos, the central role of the theme and the educational responsibility of participants.

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“Best practices give us another way to help unravel the meaning of progress in our present time and to share solutions in a spirit of solidarity. We look forward to seeing the continued development of the Best Practices Area in this new edition at Expo 2020 Dubai.”

Expo is also working to positively impact areas related to the SDGs via its own Expo Live programme, a USD 100 million global social impact programme that backs creative solutions to pressing challenges that affect people’s lives or help preserve the planet. To date, it has supported 120 grantees from 65 countries, demonstrating that given the right opportunity, innovation can come from anywhere, to everyone.

The 25 selected projects, below, focus on five priority development areas identified by Expo’s Global Best Practice Programme. Full details can be found at www.expo2020dubai.com/en/programmes/best-practice-programme.

Inclusive and sustainable service delivery: A reliable service provision in urban and rural areas, as well as in fluid environments such as informal, nomadic, post-disaster, emergency, and refugee settlements

- **Dispensers for Safe Water, Evidence Action, Kenya**
- **UNICEF Drones Programme, UNICEF, Vanuatu**
- **WADI Solar Powered Water Filtration, Helioz, Austria**
- **Big Box for the Calais Jungle Refugee Camp, Jangala, United Kingdom**
- **20,000 Suns, Hogan Lovells and Barefoot College, India**

Livelihoods and enterprise development: Promoting alternative employment and income opportunities, women in the workplace, competitive products and services, and improved market access

- **Global Plastic Waste Deposit and Tracking System, Empower, Norway**
- **Question Coffee 4 SDGs, Sustainable Growers, Rwanda**
- **The Mountain Partnership Products Initiative, The Mountain Partnership, Peru**
- **Digital Farmer Service, Esoko, Ghana**
- **Honey Production, Processing and Packaging into Value-Added Products from Rural Africa to Global Markets, Dytech, Zambia**

Resilient habitats: Better protecting human, economic and natural assets in urban, rural and fluid environments

- **Building a Green Refugee Camp, Land Life Company, Cameroon**
- **Conservation Cooperatives, Planet Indonesia, Indonesia**
- **Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus, FAO, Uganda**
- **The Sri Lanka Mangrove Conservation Project, Seacology, Sri Lanka**
- **Vulnerable in Vietnam, Buoyant Foundation Project, Vietnam**

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Social development: Reliable, affordable and appropriate healthcare and education systems and delivery

- **Creating Agents of Positive Change**, *The Citizens Foundation, Pakistan*
- **Hygiene Promotion through Routine Immunization**, *WaterAid, Nepal*
- **SDG Camps**, *UNDP, Tunisia*
- **Janma Clean Birth Kit**, *Ayazh, India*
- **Fighting Neglected Tropical Diseases with Mobile Phones**, *Sightsavers Nigeria*

Water, food and energy security: Smarter consumption and resource management to better meet increasing water, food and energy requirements for a growing global population

- **Plus School Menus**, *World Food Programme, Bhutan*
- **Eco Village**, *Bangladesh Environment and Development Society, Bangladesh*
- **Belize's First Cacao Agroforestry Concession within a Protected Area**, *Yaaxche Conservation Trust, Belize*
- **Agua Tica**, *FUNDECOR, Costa Rica*
- **Citizen Farm**, *Edible Garden City, Singapore*

Image credits:

IMAGE 1: Mountain Partnership / FAO, FAO Edson Vandeira ©

IMAGE 2: Sustainable Growers Rwanda, Clay Enos ©

IMAGE 3: Heloiz Austria 'Wadi Soroti', Annette Etges ©

IMAGE 4: WFP Bhutan, World Food Programme, Ngyuen Duc-Hoang ©

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About Expo 2020 Dubai

Expo 2020 Dubai will bring together millions of people for the World's Greatest Show, celebrating human brilliance and achievement under the theme '*Connecting Minds, Creating the Future*'.

- The six months from 20 October 2020 to 10 April 2021 will be a moment in time to be part of an unparalleled event. We are extending a warm Emirati welcome to the world:
 - 25 million visits are expected, with many visitors expected to come more than once
 - 70 per cent of visitors anticipated to come from outside the UAE, the largest proportion of international visitors in the 168-year history of World Expos
- An entertaining global celebration with something for everyone, Expo 2020 will wow visitors with 60 daily events across 173 days, showcasing the best of music, technology, creativity and culture, while 200 F&B outlets will feature famous chefs and cuisine from every corner of the world
- Expo 2020 will be an endless journey of discovery. Visitors will have access to the latest innovations and breakthroughs, with more than 200 participants – including 192 nations, multilateral organisations, businesses and educational institutions – coming together to highlight real-life solutions to the world's most pressing challenges

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- Expo 2020's sub-themes of *Opportunity*, *Mobility* and *Sustainability* will inspire visitors to make a conscious effort to think and live differently, and give them renewed optimism that, through collaboration, it is possible to make a lasting change to the world
- The first World Expo to take place in the Middle East, Africa and South Asia (MEASA) will be located on a 4.38 sqkm site adjacent to Al Maktoum International Airport in Dubai South

The Expo 2020 Dubai Media Information System, Tawassul, is now available by registering at <https://media.expo2020dubai.com>. Tawassul is your essential tool to access important information and updates on topics such as media accreditation, licences and permits, press releases and visual assets.

The Expo 2020 Global Media Briefing, taking place in Dubai from 20-22 October 2019, will provide hundreds of members of the media the latest updates and insights on the event. To register, email: media.services@expo2020.ae.

Visit: www.expo2020dubai.com

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About World Expos

In 1851 the Crystal Palace was the centrepiece of London's Great Exhibition – the first World Expo. It celebrated the man-made industrial wonders of a rapidly changing world. Architecture, contents and a theme, 'Industry of All Nations', were combined to create a big idea of nations meeting nations in shared technological and commercial progress. In more recent years, participants in World Expos, including governments, international organisations and companies, have gathered to find solutions to universal challenges and to promote their achievements, products, ideas, innovations, their national brand, and their nations as destinations for tourism, trade and investment.

World Expos are held under the auspices of the [Bureau International des Expositions \(BIE\)](#), the intergovernmental organisation responsible for overseeing and regulating international exhibitions ('Expos') and for fostering their core values of Education, Innovation and Cooperation. Today, four types of Expos are organised under the BIE's auspices: World Expos, Specialised Expos, Horticultural Expos and the Triennale di Milano.

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