

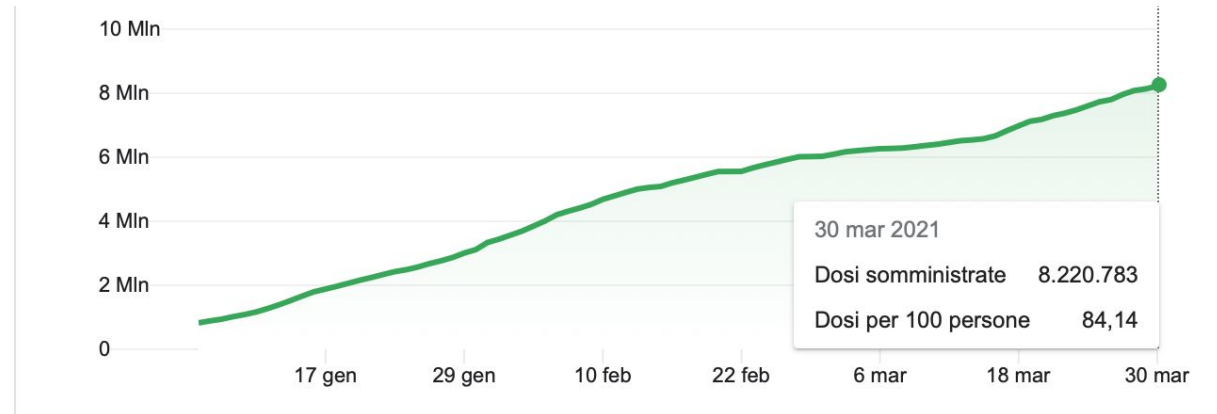


# Road To Expo Scenario & Updates

Dubai, March 2021

# News & topics from the UAE

# The UAE and Covid-19



The UAE are continuing their vaccination campaign: their ambitious goal of vaccinating 50% of the population within the first four months will probably not be reached (but not by far). **The numbers are really encouraging:** almost 8.22 million doses have been administered and 2.19 million people have received both doses. New infections throughout the month have been very fluctuating, ranging from 2700 to 1400 cases per day.

Source: <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/>  
<https://ourworldindata.org/covid-vaccinations>

# A vaccine made in the UAE / 1

A few days ago the news of a joint venture between the Chinese pharmaceutical company Sinopharm and the Emirates technology company G42 were released.

The vaccine is called **Hayat-Vax** (hayat in Arabic means "life"). It is actually the same Sinopharm vaccine registered by the Ministry of Health in December last year.

In a statement, G42 revealed that the joint venture is **already producing** Hayat-Vax with its partner Julphar, a pharmaceutical company based in Ras Al Khaimah, with an initial capacity of **2 million doses per month**.

Source: <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2021/mar/30/uae-covid-vaccine-global-leader-china>  
<https://www.khaleejtimes.com/coronavirus-pandemic/first-look-uae-made-covid-vaccine-production-begins-as-hayat-vax-is-rolled-out>

# A vaccine made in the UAE / 2

But there is a problem – the **lack of scientific transparency** in data and phase III clinical trials, which have not yet been released despite Sinopharm has already published the peer-reviewed phase I and II data in Lancet.

For the Emirates this is a move whose objective is to weigh even more at a **geopolitical level** and not only in the Middle East.

The production of vaccines is also part of a program developed to diversify the local industry by making it less and less dependent on hydrocarbons.

Source: <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2021/mar/30/uae-covid-vaccine-global-leader-china>  
<https://www.khaleejtimes.com/coronavirus-pandemic/first-look-uae-made-covid-vaccine-production-begins-as-hayat-vax-is-rolled-out>

# The Finance Minister passed away

**Sheikh Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum**, Minister of Finance, deputy leader of Dubai and brother of Sheikh Mohammed, died on March 13.

When the UAE formed their first cabinet in 1971, Sheikh Hamdan became finance minister and held the post until his death, **attracting foreign investment, managing the country's oil wealth** and, along with his brother, overseeing Dubai's transformation into a regional financial center.

He led the Emirates' delegations to the International Monetary Fund and the International Development Fund of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

His successor has not yet been named.

**Source:** [https://gulfnews.com/uae/government/dubai-2040-urban-plan-60-of-dubai-to-be-turned-into-nature-reserves-1.1615625689842?utm\\_source=pic&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=5158&pnextid=jrd3p\\_BWDwCNAEDWZd8SvWxnbjWmzXKVOcep\\_60j](https://gulfnews.com/uae/government/dubai-2040-urban-plan-60-of-dubai-to-be-turned-into-nature-reserves-1.1615625689842?utm_source=pic&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=5158&pnextid=jrd3p_BWDwCNAEDWZd8SvWxnbjWmzXKVOcep_60j)

# Launch of the “Vision 2040”

Sheikh Mohammed continues the visionary development initiated by the late Sheikh Rashid bin Saeed Al Maktoum in the 1960s to **make Dubai the city with the best quality of life in the world.**

Vision 2040 is a plan focused on improving people's happiness and quality of life, based on strengthening Dubai's competitiveness as a global destination by providing a wide variety of lifestyle and investment opportunities for citizens, residents and visitors over the next 20 years.

Designed to realize Sheikh Mohammed's vision to make Dubai more sustainable, the plan aims to provide the **highest standards of urban infrastructure and facilities.**

**Source:** [https://gulfnews.com/uae/government/dubai-2040-urban-plan-60-of-dubai-to-be-turned-into-nature-reserves-1.1615625689842?utm\\_source=pio&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=5158&pnextid=jrd3p\\_BWDwCNAEDWZd8SvWxnbjWmzXKVOcep\\_60j](https://gulfnews.com/uae/government/dubai-2040-urban-plan-60-of-dubai-to-be-turned-into-nature-reserves-1.1615625689842?utm_source=pio&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=5158&pnextid=jrd3p_BWDwCNAEDWZd8SvWxnbjWmzXKVOcep_60j)

# UAE will require 'pink quota' for listed companies

The UAE are once again proving ambitious: the results published last month in the "Women, Business and the Law" (WBL) report by the World Bank were good but not good enough for the country's top management.

It was therefore decided to have at least one female director on the boards of all listed companies. This is meant to **empower women** in the Emirates and encourage them to play a greater role on boards.

Although women are on the corporate boards of 28 of the 110 listed companies in the UAE, **they account for only 3.5% of all board positions.**



# Rhetoric vs Reality

Although the UAE has spent a lot of time and money presenting itself as a reformer of women's rights and empowerment, there are **still many steps to be taken**.

As a great article by Human Rights Watch pointed out, the **UAE have made important women's rights reforms in recent years**, such as passing new protections against domestic violence (November 2020), but significant discrimination against women and girls remains.

In fact, laws still provide **male guardian authority over women**, and loopholes allow reduced penalties for men who kill a female relative.

# Artificial Intelligence Conference

The [AI Everything conference](#) (to be held as a spin-off of the more famous GITEX) was confirmed in March.

The **exhibition**, which has the patronage of the Ministry of Artificial Intelligence, will be held from **October 17 to 21** and will aim to showcase the UAE's expertise in artificial intelligence and share the latest developments from experts around the world, aiming to promote initiatives, collaborations, partnerships and discoveries in the field of AI.

## More selected news

[https://gulfnews.com/uae/government/uae-launches-dh30-billion-programme-to-stimulate-vital-sectors-1.1617613828121?utm\\_source=piano&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=5089&pnespid=kbA08KMCXBSN2ITpSMSM.IZ\\_Ei0buM5B6LBJ5NTp](https://gulfnews.com/uae/government/uae-launches-dh30-billion-programme-to-stimulate-vital-sectors-1.1617613828121?utm_source=piano&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=5089&pnespid=kbA08KMCXBSN2ITpSMSM.IZ_Ei0buM5B6LBJ5NTp)

<https://gulfnews.com/photos/news/look-test-printing-of-france-pavilion-stamps-for-dubai-expo-2020-1.1617446012060?slide=4>

<https://www.healthcareitnews.com/video/benefits-more-women-pitch-room>

<https://www.arabianbusiness.com/comment/461603-whats-next-for-health-insurance-in-the-middle-east-post-coronavirus>

<https://www.mobihealthnews.com/news/depth-female-led-startups-make-strides-venture-funding-lags>

# ExpoPills News & Updates from Expo 2020 Dubai

## ROAD TO DUBAI – MARCH

# Thematic Weeks

In the month of March no thematic weeks were held, but the topics that were covered took a slightly different look and were presented during a series of **Expo Talks** that began after the Health and Wellness Week.

The topics covered were: [travel and connectivity](#); [food, agriculture and livelihoods](#); [global goals](#) e [water](#).

# The Expo Site

The two thematic pavilions that aren't open to the public – **Alif, the Mobility pavilion,** and **Mission Possible, the Opportunity pavilion** – will not be unveiled before the official opening of the exhibition semester, contrary to what was previously announced.



Client Name Title of the presentation



**Creativity  
for humans**

**The Ad Store Dubai**  
adstore.com

All contents and proposals contained in this document are strictly private and confidential and all relevant usage rights are an exclusive property of The Ad Store. Any diffusion or usage of this material is expressly prohibited without the prior consent by The Ad Store.