

مجلس الصحة
لدول مجلس التعاون
Gulf Health Council



Annual Report 2024

Gulf Health Council



CONTENTS

A Mark Shaping the Future of Gulf Healthcare

4

Introduction

6

The Health Ministers of the Member States

7

General Manager Message

8

About the Council

10

Organizational Structure

14

Strategic Plan

16

Pillars and Strategic Objectives

18

Council Programs and Departments

28

Strategic Planning and Project Management

30

Wafid Program

32

Joint Procurement

36

Registration and Licensing

40

Corporate Communication

50

Information Technology

69

Shared Services

72

Internal Audit Unit

82

Gulf Center for Disease Prevention and Control

86

A Mark Shaping the Future of Gulf Healthcare



Introduction



**The Health Ministers of the
Member States**



General Manager Message



About the Council



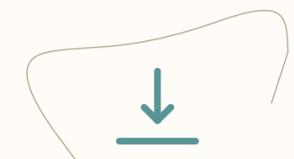
Organizational structure



Introduction

We are pleased to present the 2024 Annual Report of the GCC Health Council, highlighting key milestones and significant achievements in our journey toward a unified Gulf health vision. This report reflects continuous efforts and exceptional collaboration among departments and member states, driven by an ambitious vision to enhance healthcare integration and advance development toward a healthier and more prosperous future for the Gulf region.

We hope this report reflects



The efforts made



The Council's initiatives over the past year



The key achievements

The Health Ministers of the Member States



His Excellency Mr. Abdulrahman Mohammed Al Owais
Ministry of Health and Prevention,
United Arab Emirates



Her Excellency Dr. Jalila Al Sayyed Jawad
Ministry of Health, Kingdom of Bahrain



His Excellency Dr. Qasim Muhammad Qasim Bahibeh
Minister of Public Health and Population - Yemen



His Excellency Dr. Ahmed Abdel Wahab Al-Awadi
Ministry of Health, State of Kuwait



His Excellency Mr. Fahad Abdulrahman AlJalajel
Ministry of Health, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia



His Excellency Mr. Mansoor Ebrahim Al Mahmoud
Ministry of Public Health, State of Qatar



His Excellency Dr. Hilal Ali AlSabti
Ministry of Health, Sultanate of Oman

General Manager Message

Gulf Health Council: A Pillar of Integration and Public Health Advancement

The Gulf Health Council plays a pivotal role in shaping the region's healthcare landscape and enhancing the well-being of its member states. It stands as a testament to the commitment of GCC nations to solidarity and collaboration in tackling shared health challenges.

Health remains a top priority for member states, and the Council has made remarkable strides in advancing the Gulf's healthcare sector achievements that are showcased in this report. These successes stem from collective efforts and strategic partnerships with health ministries, implemented through specialized programs and technical committees. The Council operates under a comprehensive strategy based on five key pillars: prevention, awareness, development, healthcare support, and financial sustainability.

This report highlights the Council's outstanding achievements in 2024, emphasizing its essential role in promoting public health and addressing regional health challenges. A major milestone this year was the expansion of the «Wafid» program, extending its reach to more countries and centers, enhancing the efficiency of managing ineligible medical cases.

To foster health awareness and improve

quality of life, the Council launched several innovative public awareness campaigns, including "La Feek Wala Fe Al-Hadeed" (Neither You Nor the Iron), which gained widespread engagement by raising awareness of traffic safety behaviors, and "Raji' Lak" (up to you), known for its impactful messaging and creative approach. These initiatives reflect the Council's unwavering commitment to serving Gulf communities and advancing public health.

In 2024, the Council also made significant progress in health support initiatives. Gulf-wide Registration and Licensing and Joint Procurement programs enhanced the availability of pharmaceuticals, medical equipment, and veterinary supplies in regional markets. Additionally, seven major tenders were issued under the Gulf Joint Procurement Program to efficiently meet the healthcare sector's needs.

On the development front, the Council reinforced its commitment to enhancing healthcare expertise by actively participating in regional and global conferences, such as the Oman Lipid & Atherosclerosis Conference, the Global Ministerial Conference on Antimicrobial Resistance, Arab Health in the UAE, and the Global Health Exhibition in Saudi Arabia. Furthermore, the Council introduced advanced training programs to develop healthcare skills, completed a series of collaborative health studies, and contributed to key research efforts,

including the Gulf Public Health Research Priorities Report and the Gulf Emergency Preparedness Public Health Emergency.

In the area of financial sustainability, the Gulf Health Council continues to take confident steps toward long-term financial stability, leveraging innovative initiatives and strategic programs to ensure sustainable revenue streams and reinforce its objectives.

As this report concludes, I extend my sincere gratitude to Their Excellencies the Ministers of Health, the Executive Board Members of the Member States, and all Council staff for their dedication and hard work. Their collective efforts have been instrumental in achieving these milestones and strengthening the Council's leadership in advancing the Gulf's shared healthcare vision.



About the Council



1976

Establishing the Health Council and starting Health Technical Committees



1976

Starting Joint Procurement



1980

Launching Salamatak program



1995

Starting Expatriate Workers Programs Wafid



2000

Beginning of the actual implementation of centralized registration Program



2019

The Council launched the strategic plan for 2020-2022, which is based on four main pillars: prevention, awareness, development, and health support



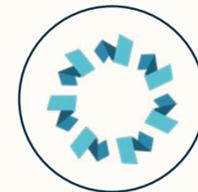
2021

Adoption by the leaders of the GHC countries to establish the Gulf CDC



2023

Launching an awareness program for children, "Salamatak"



2023

Launching "NashraTech" System

About the Council

The Health Council of the Cooperation Council States is an active Gulf organization in the health field, as it was established in Safar 1396 AH corresponding to February 1976 AD. It is organizationally linked to the General Secretariat of the Arab States of the Gulf Cooperation Council. It also enjoys a legal personality, financial and administrative independence, and the powers and competencies necessary to achieve all its objectives. Its membership is limited to the countries of the Cooperation Council, along with the Republic of Yemen, which joined it in 2003.



Vision

A Gulf organization with a prestigious regional and global position, which has a pivotal role, contributes effectively to advancing the process of cooperation and joint Gulf health action to achieve sustainable health.



Mission

Advancing and upgrading the level of the health sector in Member States by presenting constructive initiatives, responding to regional and global health issues and challenges, supporting decision-making and health policies, and coordinating joint Gulf action to enhance cooperation and integration among Member States in the health field, in order to achieve the goals of the Council.



Tasks and objectives of the Council



Achieving coordination and integration while deepening collaboration in various healthcare fields.



Promoting collaborative research and studies and offering advice in the health sector.



Cooperating with regional and international organizations in healthcare-related areas.



Developing and implementing unified healthcare strategies, policies, and regulations.



Facilitating the exchange of expertise in health education and training.



Promoting health awareness within Gulf communities.



Combating infectious and communicable diseases in member states and working toward their eradication.



Enhancing coordination and integration in joint procurement and centralized registration.

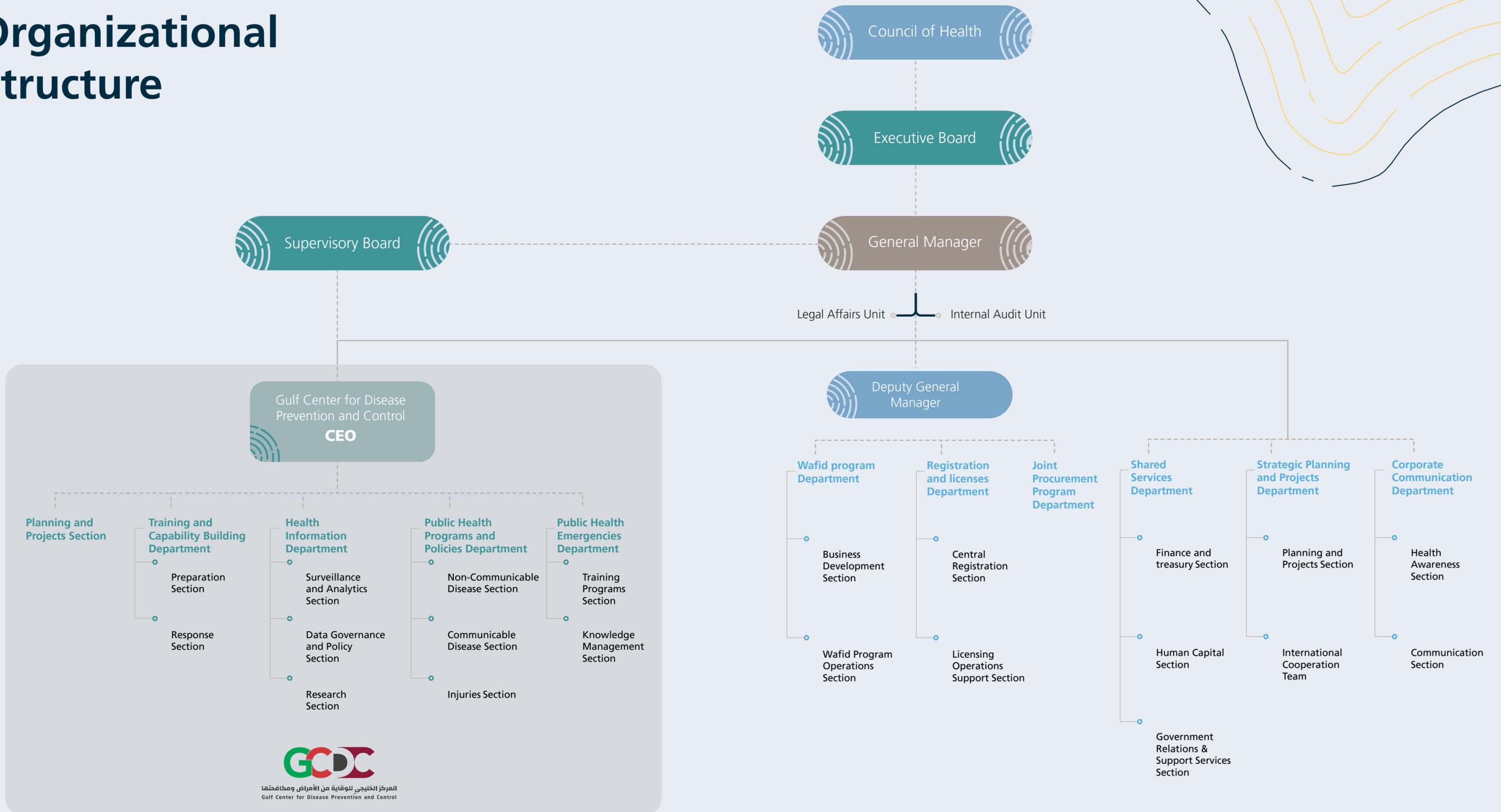


Establishing a unified pharmaceutical policy for the region.



Protecting member states from imported diseases and standardizing related health regulations.

Organizational Structure



Strategic Plan



Pillars and Strategic Objectives

Prevention

Awareness

Development

Health Support

Financial Sustainability

Prevention

Advance public health via the Gulf CDC and maintain public health in Gulf societies.

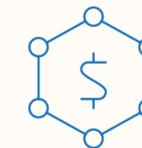


Awareness

Promote healthy habits and practices and raise awareness.

Development

Enhancing capabilities and investing in Gulf healthcare professionals, empowering and supporting joint health studies and research, and contributing to increased satisfaction among the Council's partners.



Financial Sustainability

Enhancing Financial Sustainability.

Health Support

Enabling optimal services and technical solutions while enhancing the efficiency of the Council's operations.



Prevention



Strategic Goal

Preserving public health in Gulf communities

Indicators for Public Health Preservation in Gulf Communities Through the Wafid Program

4

Number of Gulf countries integrated with the WAFID system

5M

Number of expatriates registered through the electronic system

18

Electronically evaluated centers

306

Unfit cases exceeding the penalty period

93

Unfit cases without valid medical fitness reports that were re-examined in accredited centre

844

Unfit expatriates entering GCC countries from outside the program's coverage

360

Unfit cases reported more than 90 days after re-examination in GCC countries

35%

Completion of the medical examination form project for European and American countries

747

Unfit cases with infectious diseases reported from accredited centers and classified as violations

29

Accredited countries

613

Accredited centers

94%

Wafid Program Customer Satisfaction

Awareness



Strategic Goal

Enhancing healthy behaviors and practices while raising awareness

Enhancing healthy behaviors and practices while raising awareness

3.4M

Organic views of awareness campaigns

92M

Awareness campaign views

1.13M

Followers of the Council's accounts, Salamatak, and the Gulf CDC

1.2M

Visits to the Health Guide Platform

9

Awards Achieved

2

Published episodes of diverse awareness program

2

Awareness campaigns

Development



Strategic Goal

Building capacities and investing in Gulf healthcare professional

Indicators for Capacity Building and Investment in Gulf Healthcare Professionals

2

Scientific conferences and symposiums attended by the Council

74.1%

Recruitment efficiency

2

Joint Gulf health studies and research

14.3%

Employee turnover rate

1

Scientific conferences and symposiums sponsored by the Council

7.5%

Turnover rate of high-performing talents

52%

Employee satisfaction within the Council

33.5 Days

Average hiring duration

Health Support



Strategic Goal

Enhancing the efficiency of the Council's operations

Indicators for Enhancing the Efficiency of the Council's Operations

790

Number of pharmaceutical products that met standards

2008

Number of registered pharmaceutical products

493

Number of pharmaceutical registration companies

9

Number of medical device qualification companies

21

Number of medical device requalification companies

71

Number of re-registered pharmaceutical products

4-3 Month

Average tender issuance duration: 3-4 months

100%

Establishment of the Gulf Tracking System's foundations and requirements

99.9%

Compliance with the specified repair time

75%

Gulf joint procurement program customer satisfaction

Council Programs and Departments



Strategic Planning and Project Management

Strategic Planning and Project Management

Strategic planning serves as a fundamental tool for shaping the future path, aiming to define long-term objectives, allocate resources efficiently, and enhance coordination among various departments and centers. Based on this approach, Project Management plays a pivotal role in transforming plans into tangible achievements by overseeing implementation and ensuring institutional integration.

Within this framework, a series of regular meetings were held to ensure effective coordination, strengthen collaboration among different entities, and monitor progress in line with a unified strategic vision.



وافيد
Wafid



The rapid development and economic boom witnessed by GCC countries over the past decades have continuously required an influx of workforce from other countries to support ongoing growth and expansion. Given this necessity, GCC nations have prioritized implementing appropriate measures to screen expatriates in their home countries before granting them work permits. This screening aims to assess their medical fitness for the nature of work they are entering, ensuring they are free from infectious diseases or other serious health conditions that might pose a threat to public health and safety in the Gulf region. Expatriates impact not only the health sector but also the psychological, economic, and social aspects of society, along with their job performance. All these factors are directly or indirectly linked to public health.

In light of this, the GCC Health Ministers Council, during its 38th session in Sha'ban 1415H (January 1995), passed a resolution mandating the GCC Health Council to oversee the health screening centers for expatriate workers in their home countries before they are issued work permits for GCC nations.

Program Sections

The Operations section

The Operations section is responsible for executing, managing, and overseeing all processes related to the accreditation of medical centers, organizing technical visits, and holding monthly meetings of the GCC Central Committee while ensuring the implementation of its recommendations. Additionally, it provides customer service to all program stakeholders, including medical centers, expatriates, ministries, authorities, and organizations. It also manages all financial operations, covering both revenue and expenditures.

The Business Development section

The Business Development section focuses on enhancing the electronic system to align with the program's strategic objectives, ensuring it keeps pace with digital transformation. It also analyzes and optimizes digital workflows, identifying improvements that enhance operational efficiency.

As part of strengthening cooperation and communication with embassies, visits were conducted to gain insights into challenges faced by GCC embassies abroad, explore ways to support them, and identify potential solutions.



Development Department

The Business Development Department oversees key programs within the Council, ensuring the achievement of strategic objectives, performance enhancement, and fostering efficiency and innovation in the execution of projects and initiatives.

Achievements



Blocking service

Implementing the ban service for re-examining expatriates based on a diagnostic scoring system within the WAFID program, specifically for expatriates traveling to the State of Kuwait.



Electronic assessment

Enhancing the electronic evaluation service for newly accredited centers under the WAFID program.

Electronic connectivity

Developing the second phase of electronic integration with the State of Kuwait.



Quality of electronic services

Inspecting and monitoring the quality of electronic services through participation in field visits with technical committees.



Wafid Program Development

Establishing an executive committee to develop the Wafid Program's activities and holding nine meetings during 2024.



Wafid Program Development

Multiple enhancements at the system and account levels within the WAFID Program.



Technical Support

Empowering the technical support team.



Electronic connectivity

Integration with the United Arab Emirates.



Electronic connectivity

Second phase of electronic integration with the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Operations Department



Training Workshop

A training workshop was held in Saudi Arabia to train and qualify technical committee members from all GCC countries on the updated evaluation mechanism for newly accredited centers.



400 Accreditation Requests

More than 400 accreditation requests were received and reviewed through the WAFID electronic platform.



Visits to 100 Medical Centers

100 new medical centers were visited during 2024.



Accreditation of 84 Centers

84 new centers were accredited during 2024.



17 Technical Visits

17 technical visits were successfully conducted, both on-site and virtually.



Issuance of Over 70 Reports

More than 70 reports were issued throughout the year, including annual reports, monthly financial reports, monthly program performance reports, and weekly reports, all within the designated reporting timeframe.



Evaluation of 18 Medical Centers

18 medical centers were evaluated remotely through virtual visits



94% Customer Satisfaction

Customer satisfaction reached 94%.



أي منظمة الصحة العالمية خالية من التدخين The WHO premises is a smoke-free environment

L'Organisation mondiale de la Santé est un espace non fumeur



تعاون
Taawon

Joint Procurement



Joint Procurement

The Joint Procurement Department is responsible for issuing tenders for medical and veterinary products, serving the ministries of health and agriculture across GCC countries. The department ensures these entities receive their required supplies at the best prices and with efficiency by managing tenders and strengthening relationships between manufacturers and beneficiary organizations through the automated "Taawon" platform.

Figures and Statistics for 2024

1.350 

Billion QAR
Total awarded contracts for 2024

7 

Number of tenders issued

3205 

Total tender line items

2552 

Number of line items with price offers

2153 

Number of awarded line items

75 

Number of participating companies

35 

Number of committees

338 

Number of committee members

160 

Number of archived transactions

Key Achievements in 2024

01

Expansion of the Gulf Unified Procurement scope with the inclusion of the following sectors:

- Sidra Medicine Center
- King Hamad University Hospital
- King Faisal Specialist Hospital
- Research Center

02

Conducting workshops with manufacturing partners to overcome challenges preventing their participation in tenders.

03

Designing a dashboard for the Gulf Joint Procurement Program to facilitate access to updated data.

04

Introducing and training countries on the new features of the Taawon platform:

- Supplier evaluation
- Product quality

05

Introducing new tenders for medical devices:

- Veterinary diagnostics
- Veterinary diagnostic devices
- Cardiovascular and blood vessel surgery equipment





تعاون
Taawon

Registration and Licensing

The program aims to standardize the registration of human and veterinary pharmaceutical companies, medical devices, and supplies across GCC countries. It seeks to unify regulatory systems and procedures for company and product registration while ensuring a standardized export price for human pharmaceuticals within GCC markets. Additionally, it promotes integration and coordination among member states in the medical product sector, streamlining information and documentation during the registration process.

Manufacturing Practices (GMP) by pharmaceutical companies, monitoring product quality and side effects, and optimizing the use of medical products at minimal cost.

36 Meetings

Held by the Registration and Licensing Department during 2024

12 Meetings

Held by the Human Medicines and Manufacturing Committee, covering the following topics:

- Conducting a training workshop titled “Vaccine Manufacturing Methods and Biologics Comparability Assessment and Analysis” at Saudi Food and Drug Authority headquarters, with the participation of nominees from member states.
- Approval for issuing certification for bioequivalence centers.
- Holding a workshop for specialists from member states’ laboratories to review procedures and mechanisms for pharmaceutical product analysis, along with a field visit to the Central Laboratory of Saudi Food and Drug Authority.
- Approval for drafting a Service Level Agreement (SLA) to outline procedures and timelines for reviewing (registration – modification – renewal) requests for manufacturers and their pharmaceutical products referred from the GCC Health Council to member states.

Registration & Licensing

Decisions and Preparations

62 Approved	1 Conditional approvals	121 Decision postponed pending response	420 Decision postponed for further study	1 Rejected	605 Total
-----------------------	-----------------------------------	---	--	----------------------	---------------------

New Human Pharmaceuticals

Requests received in 2024 **47**

Approvals in 2024 **23**

Number of Companies / Bioequivalence Centers / Production Lines

Requests received in 2024 **8**

Approvals in 2024 **12**

6 Meetings

Held by the Human Pharmaceuticals Pricing Committee, with key outcomes including:



344
objections were reviewed

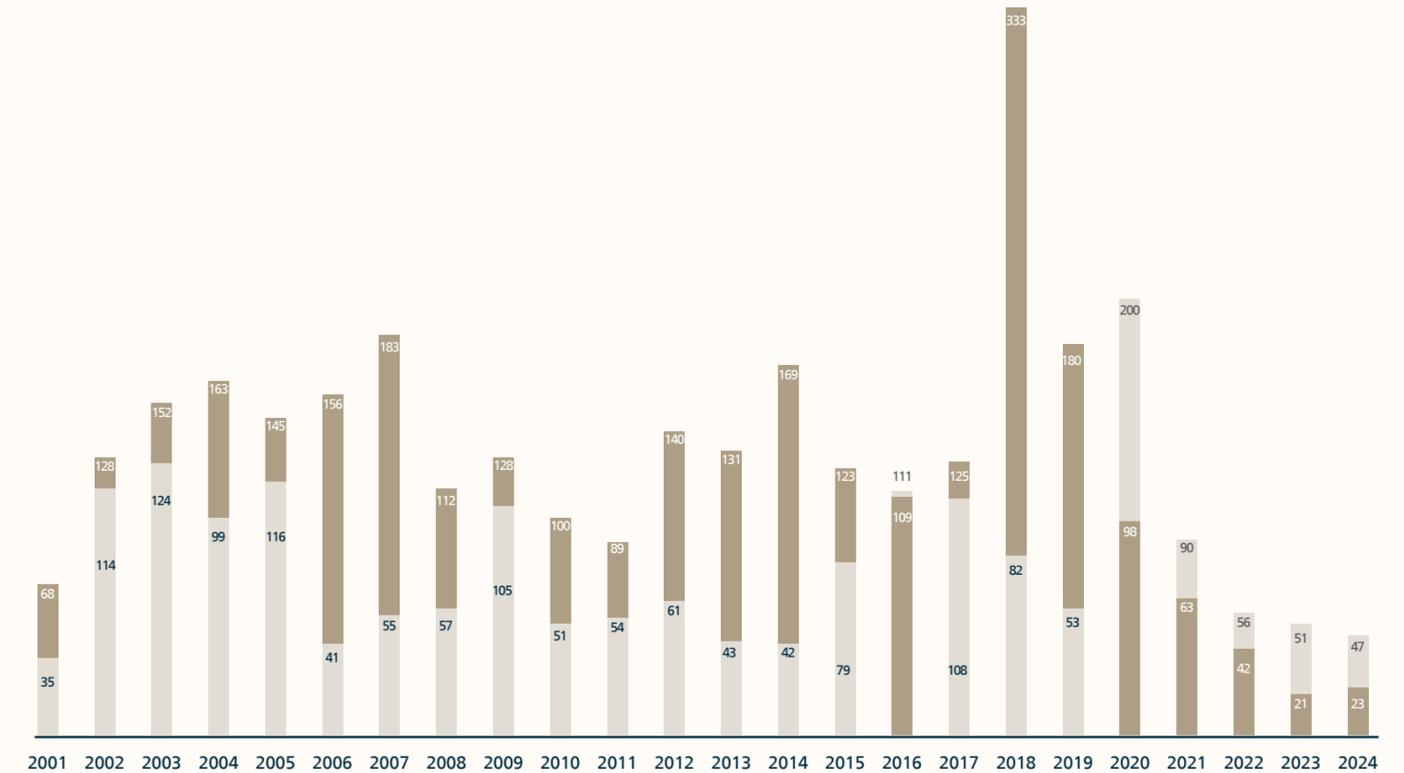


436
pharmaceutical products had their prices standardized



1128
pharmaceutical products had their prices assessed

Number of new submitted and registered pharmaceutical products per year



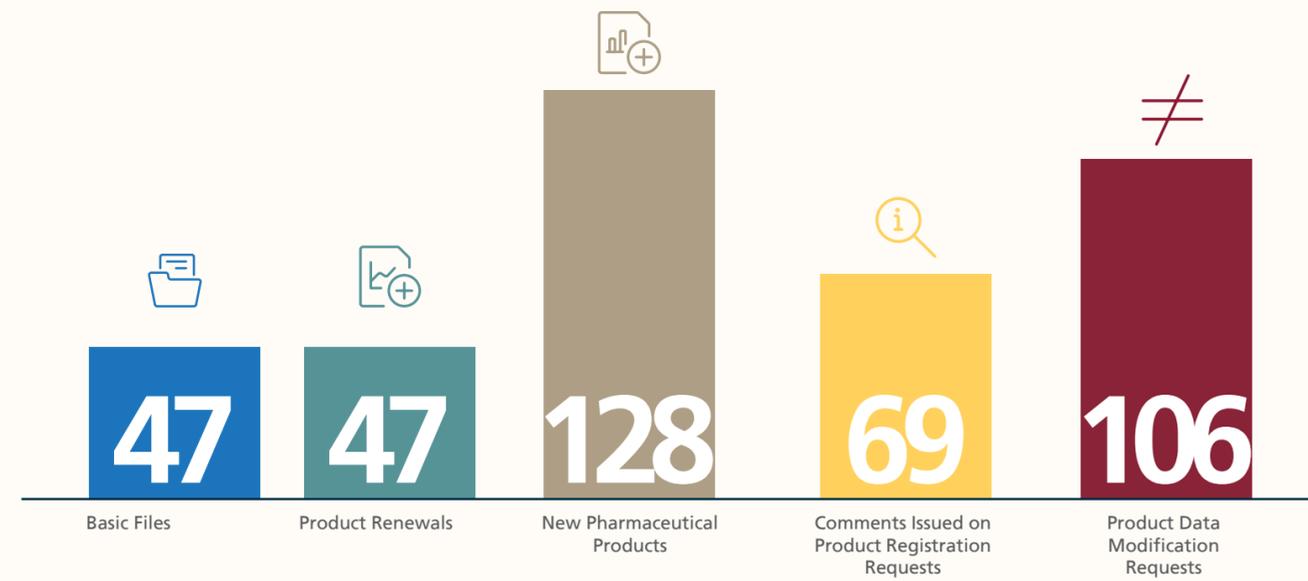
Number of submitted products.

Number of registered products.

Registration & Licensing

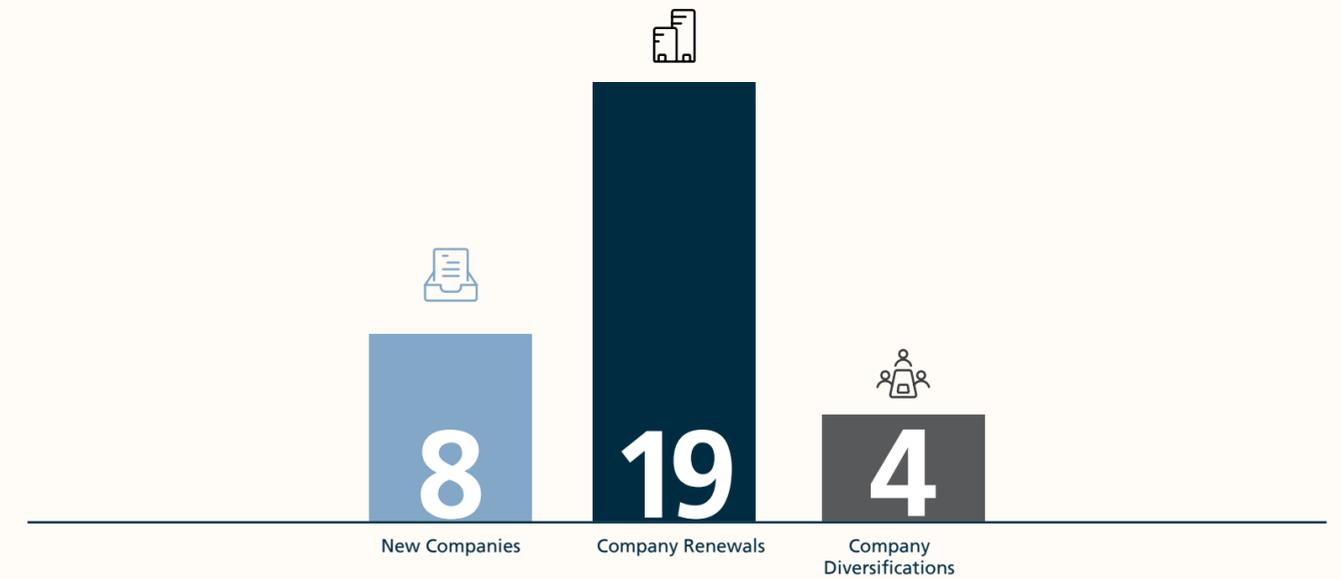
Summary of Requests Received for Centralized Pharmaceutical Registration in 2024, with a Total of

397 Requests



Summary of Requests Received for Centralized Pharmaceutical Registration (Companies) in 2024, with a Total of

31 Requests



Registration & Licensing

Medical Devices and Equipment

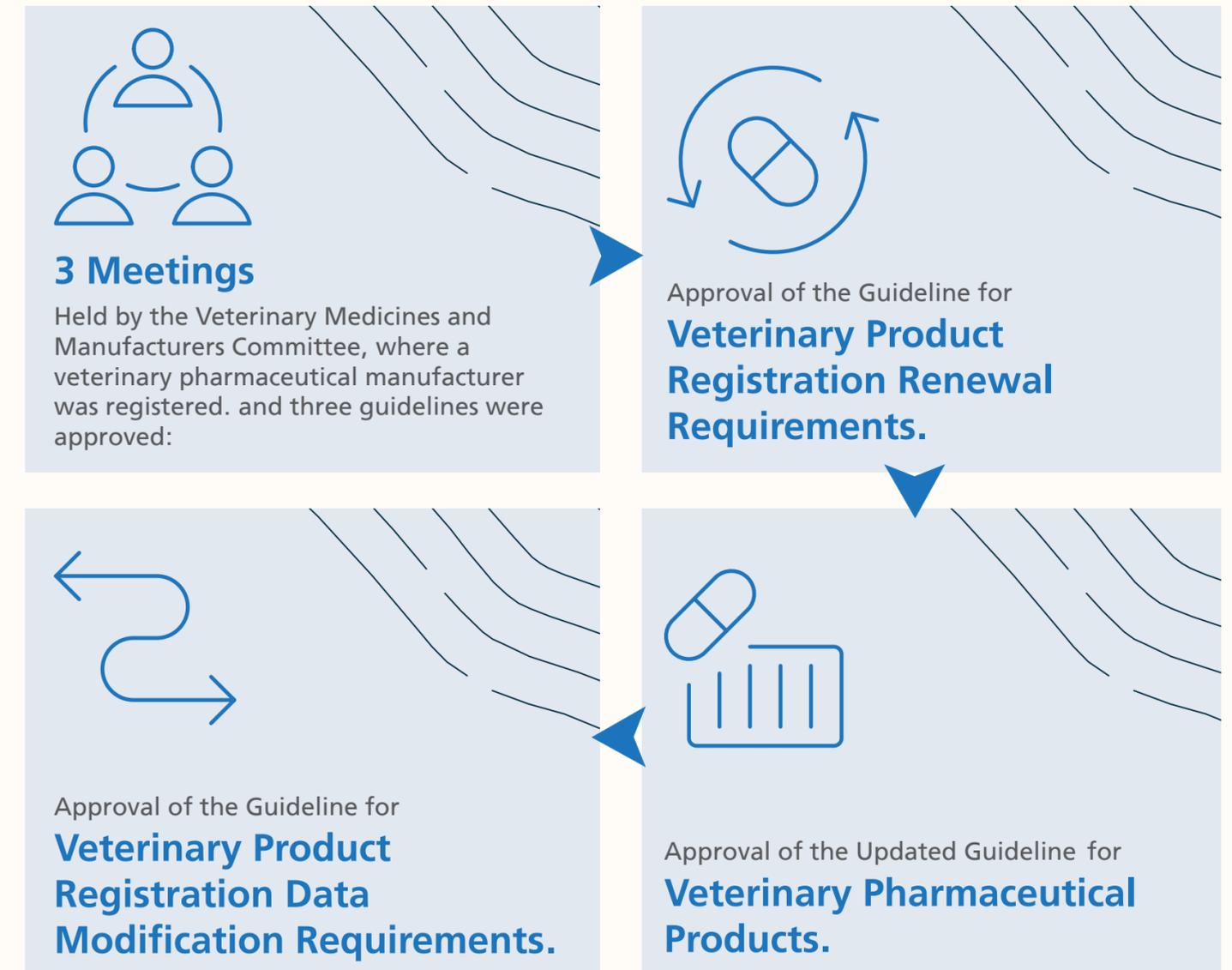
A unified system for the registration of medical devices, equipment, and manufacturing companies is centrally managed by the GCC Health Council. A medical device is only registered after ensuring it meets quality, safety, and efficiency standards, along with accurate related information. It must also comply with international specifications and standards. The committee has continued its work until the completion and approval of the relevant guidelines and regulations.

4 Meetings

- Approval of medical device and equipment registration requirements.
- Approval of the Registration Certificate for Medical Devices and Equipment.
- Continued acceptance of qualification requests for participation in tenders throughout the year under the GCC Health Council.

Number of Qualification Requests	Tender Type	Number of Requalification Requests
5	Hospital Supplies	3
1	Cardiology	0
1	Dentistry	1
0	Uniforms	1
1	Nephrology	0
0	Ophthalmology	0
1	Orthopedics	2
0	Laboratories	0
22	Other Tenders	0
31	Total	10

Veterinary Medicines and Their Manufacturers



Electronic Internal Bulletins Project (NashraTech)

Registration Statistics in the NashraTech System



Products Issued with a QR Code.

781



Companies Registered in the System.

103



Products Registered in the System.

837

11

Meetings held by the NashraTech Task Force, covering the following topics:

- Issuance of a ministerial decision to expand the NashraTech system beyond GCC countries.
- A workshop was conducted by the Council with the attendance of the GCC Central Pharmaceutical Registration Committee and over 300 local and international companies, where the system was explained, and the QR code extraction process for electronic bulletins was demonstrated. The latest project updates and system enhancements were also reviewed.
- Updating the project timeline and sharing it with companies.
- Completion of the launch of the system's data dashboard.
- Showcasing the system at the Arab Health Conference in Dubai and the Global Health Conference in Riyadh.
- Releasing more than 15 system versions with over 70 updates and improvements to enhance user experience.
- Launching the adverse reaction reporting service for diseases through the patient page in the Nashratak system.
- Introducing the bulk payment service in NashraTech, allowing companies to process multiple payment requests in a single transaction.
- Updating the patient page design to improve user experience.



Corporate Communication

The Corporate Communication Department manages engagement with internal and external stakeholders, oversees the development and execution of the Council's media and public relations strategy, and ensures a strong public image for the Council's activities. It also coordinates efforts among GCC countries to enhance health awareness initiatives, aiming to safeguard the health and safety of citizens and residents across the region. Additionally, the department plays a key role in supporting the strategic vision and objectives of the GCC Health Council. As part of its efforts to strengthen regional and international presence and amplify the Council's role in various health and media sectors, the Council participated in several major events, including the Arab Health Exhibition & Conference in Dubai and the Global Health Exhibition in Riyadh. On the media front, the Council prioritized internal communication by launching a monthly internal bulletin for Council employees and Executive Board members, issuing a total of 12 bulletins. Furthermore, the Council intensified its media outreach, publishing over 150 press releases highlighting its achievements and milestones.



Corporate Communication

Gulf Health Council Social Media Statistics for 2024



+119M

Total Impressions on Social Media Platforms



+1M

Followers on Social Media Platforms



+323,000

Posts on Social Media Platforms



+1,800

Total Engagements on Social Media Platforms



Awareness Campaign Statistics

Environmental Health Campaign

+100
Media Appearances

311k
Campaign Page Visits

56M
Reach on Social Media Platforms



Traffic Safety Campaign

+100
Media Appearances

265k
Campaign Page Visits

36M
Reach on Social Media Platforms



On-Ground Activation for Awareness Campaigns



Awareness lecture for Council employees on food waste behaviors



Awareness lecture for Council employees on environmental health



Awareness lecture for Council employees on environmental health



3

Awareness Guides



Traffic Safety Guide

Launched under the slogan “La Feek Wala Fe Al-Hadeed”, emphasizing the importance of adhering to traffic rules and practicing safe driving behaviors to reduce accidents and enhance road safety.

Environmental Health Guide

“Raji’ Lak”, highlighting best environmental practices such as water conservation, indoor air quality improvement, and proper use of cleaning products to help create a healthier and more sustainable environment.

Food Waste Guide

Council employees about the importance of responsible consumption and reducing food waste through simple behaviors that ensure food sustainability.

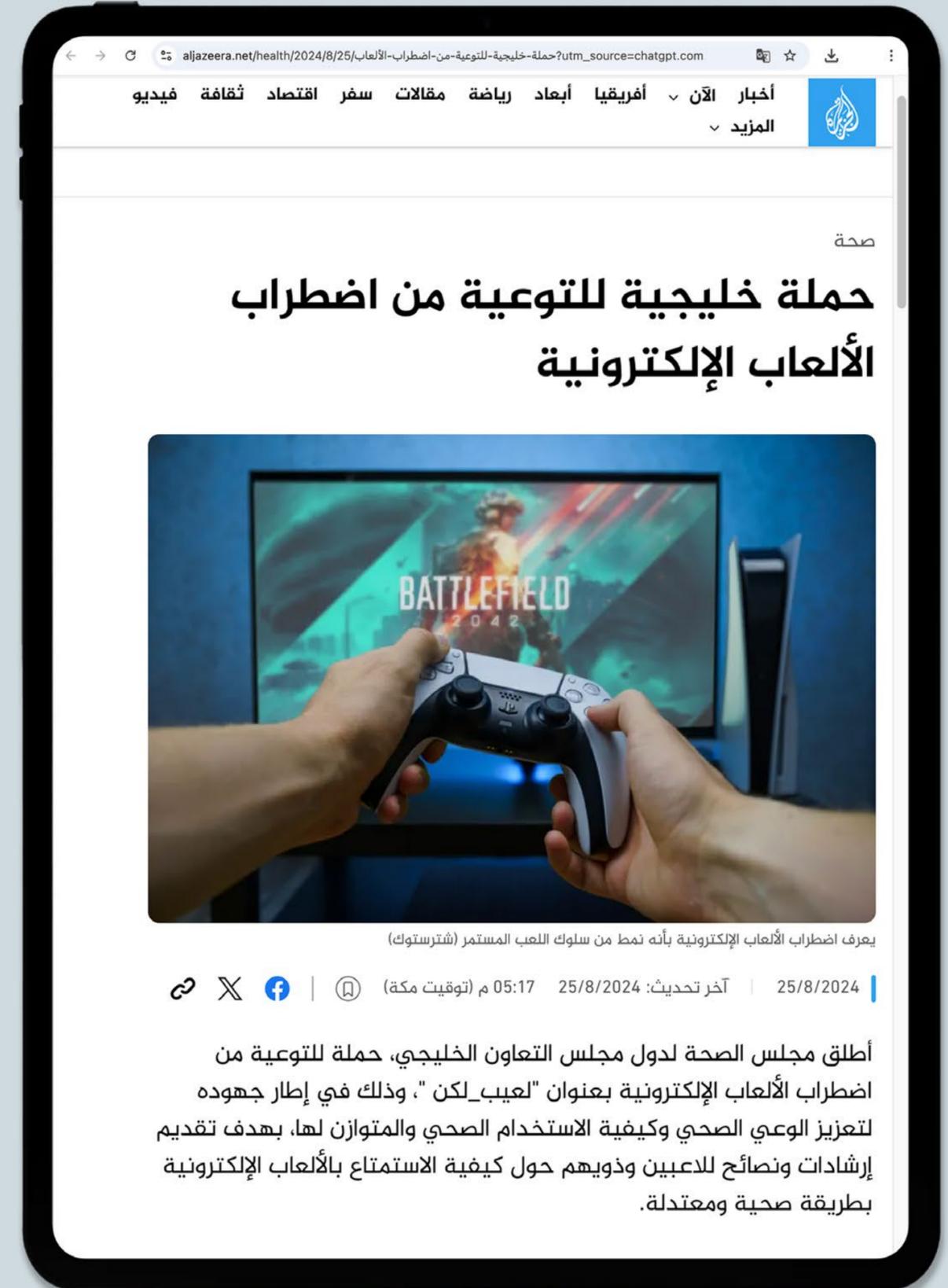
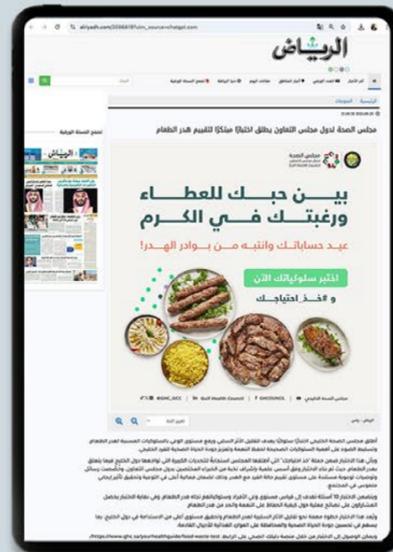
Corporate Communication Bulletins & News

12

Bulletins Published
Throughout the Year

+150

Press Releases



يعرف اضطراب الألعاب الإلكترونية بأنه نمط من سلوك اللعب المستمر (شترستوك)

25/8/2024 | آخر تحديث: 25/8/2024 05:17 م (توقيت مكة) | [🔗](#) [📄](#) [📌](#) [📧](#)

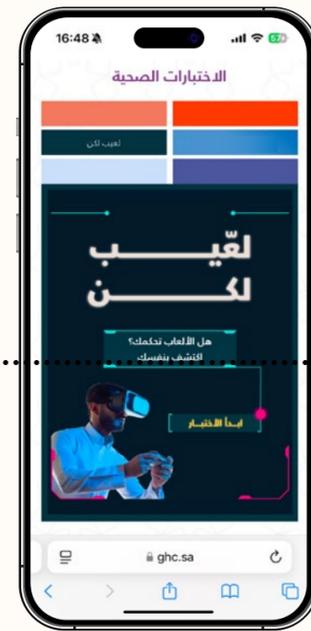
أطلق مجلس الصحة لدول مجلس التعاون الخليجي، حملة للتوعية من اضطراب الألعاب الإلكترونية بعنوان "لعيب_لكن"، وذلك في إطار جهوده لتعزيز الوعي الصحي وكيفية الاستخدام الصحي والمتوازن لها، بهدف تقديم إرشادات ونصائح للاعبين وذويهم حول كيفية الاستمتاع بالألعاب الإلكترونية بطريقة صحية ومعتمدة.

Corporate Communication

The Corporate Communication Department organized a series of health awareness tests aimed at promoting awareness of healthy and responsible lifestyles. These tests included a traffic safety test to highlight the importance of adhering to safe driving rules, an electronic gaming test, a food waste test to educate the community on responsible consumption, and an environmental health behavior test.



Raji' Lak
16,168
Participants



La'ib Lakin
23,445
Participants



Food Waste
12,924
Participants



Traffic Safety
14,324
Participants

Total **66,861** Participants

Corporate Communication



Achieving over
100
prominent
media
appearances on
traditional TV
channels and radio
stations to effectively
deliver media
messages to a wide
audience.

Dr. Abu Bakr Al-Tom
Researcher in Sustainability
and Social Responsibility



Dr. Hamed Al-Qarni
Environmental Health
Specialist



Samira Al-Shamrani
Director of Awareness
Department at the GCC
Health Council



Dr. Reem Al-Awadhi
Faculty Member, Department
of Earth and Environmental
Sciences - Kuwait University



Radio

Aljawhara Alfaris
Public Health Specialist at
the GCC Health Council



Dr. Maryam Al-Shamlan
First Environmental Inspector, nominated
by the Qatar Ministry of Health



Dr. Reem Al-Awadhi
Faculty Member, Department
of Earth and Environmental
Sciences - Kuwait University



Dr. Abu Bakr Al-Tom
Researcher in Sustainability
and Social Responsibility



سلامتك

مجلس الصحة لدول مجلس التعاون
المملكة العربية السعودية



The Council has achieved a remarkable milestone by securing 8 awards across various fields, reflecting its excellence and leadership on both regional and international levels.



Awards in Various Fields



جائزة Titan Awards

3 International Awards

- Bullying Is No Joke" Campaign
- "Put a Line" Campaign
- "Your Imagination Distorts Your Beauty" Campaign



Muse Awards

4 International Awards

- Bullying Is No Joke" Campaign
- "Put a Line" Campaign
- "Your Imagination Distorts Your Beauty" Campaign



Gulf Radio and Television Festival

Gulf Award

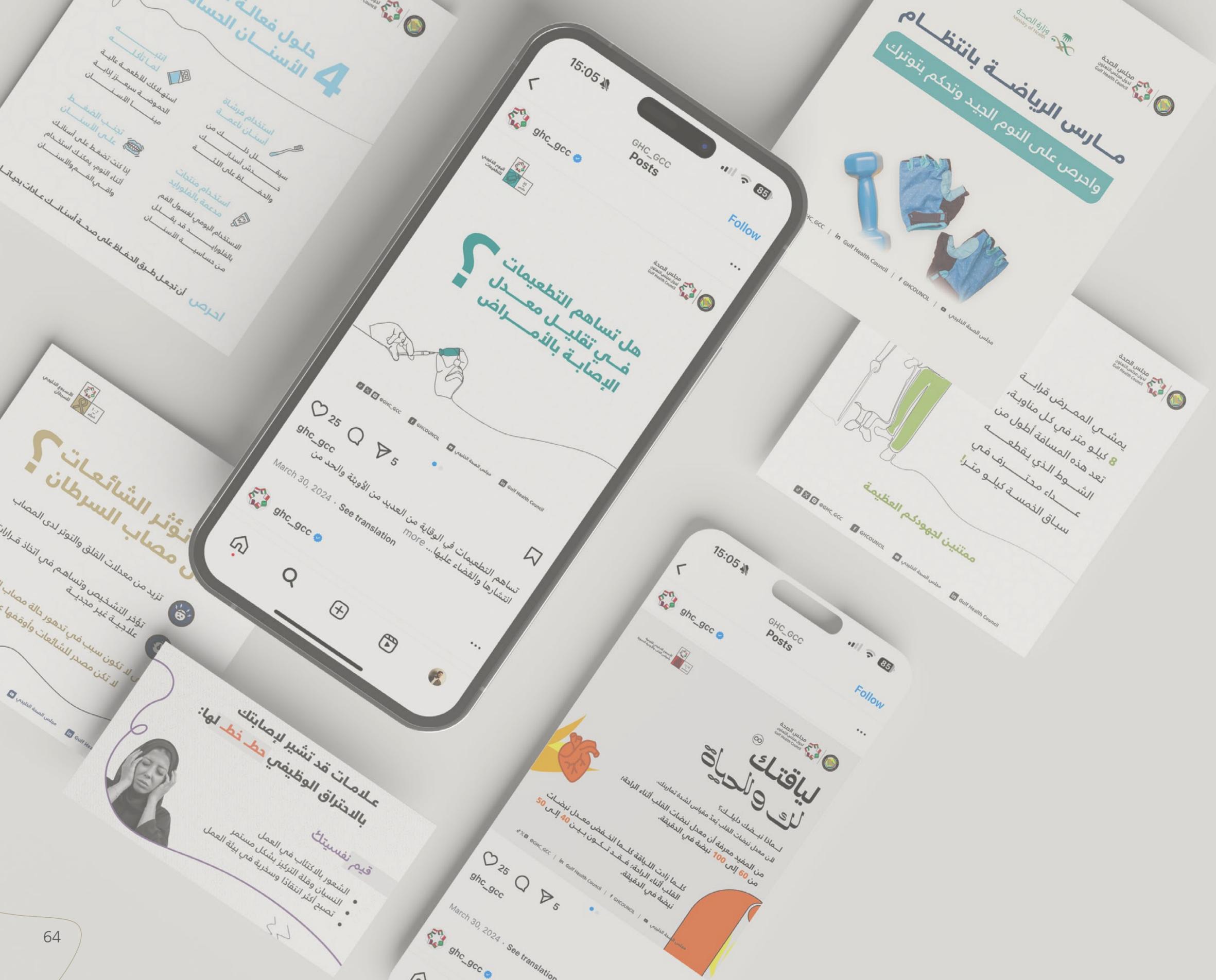
For the "Salamatak" Program

Corporate Communication Gulf Events

In 2024, 11 Gulf health and awareness events were activated as part of the GCC Health Council's efforts to enhance community awareness and promote a culture of health and prevention across various fields. These events aim to highlight key health issues and encourage individuals and communities to adopt healthier and safer lifestyles.

These Events Include:

- Gulf Child Day
- Gulf Oral and Dental Health Week
- Gulf Vaccination Day
- Gulf Cancer Awareness Week
- Gulf Nutrition Week
- Gulf Heart and Cardiovascular Disease Awareness Week
- Gulf Occupational Safety Week
- Gulf Nursing Day
- Gulf School Health, Youth, and Adolescent Health Day
- Gulf Environmental Health Day
- Gulf Diabetes Awareness Week



Corporate Communication

Participation in Key Community Partnerships

As part of its efforts to enhance collaboration and exchange expertise, the department participated in several important community partnerships. This included attending a workshop on best practices for public awareness campaigns and physical activity education, organized by the Public Health Authority in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO).

Additionally, members of the Executive High Committee for Health Promotion visited the General Directorate of Health Services at the Saudi Ministry of Defense.

As part of awareness initiatives, the Environmental Health Campaign was activated in partnership with Al-Nassr Club, aiming to promote environmental awareness and encourage sustainable practices. Furthermore, the department participated in a Traffic Safety Workshop, which focused on raising awareness about the importance of adhering to safety measures to reduce accidents and promote a culture of safe driving.

Meetings to Strengthen Relations with Relevant Entities



Your Health Guide | The meetings aim to introduce the “Your Health Guide” platform to relevant entities, in addition to enhancing accessibility to the platform and its awareness products for target audiences through these entities.



Information Technology



This is a user registration form titled 'منصة تعاون +' (Cooperation Platform +). It includes a 'username' input field and a 'password' input field. The form is in Arabic.

Information Technology

The Information Technology Department is responsible for providing, managing, and supporting all technical services for Council employees and the Gulf Center for Disease Prevention and Control. It also oversees the operation and development of technical systems for various Council programs, including WAFID, Taawon, Unified Procurement, Registration & Licensing, the Gulf Center for Disease Prevention, and Nashratak. The department aims to ensure seamless operational continuity with high efficiency by providing advanced technological solutions, enhancing information security, and supporting daily core program operations in alignment with the Council's strategic objectives.

Achievements in 2024



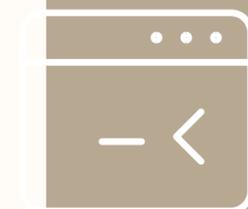
SAP System Upgrade

Aligned with the latest global system updates to enhance stability and scalability.



Activation of Leadership Dashboards for Various Systems

Includes financial, human resources, and core systems (WAFID, Taawon) within the Council to monitor performance and accelerate decision-making.



Oracle System Upgrade for the Taawon Program

The backbone of the Gulf Unified Procurement Program, upgraded to align with the latest Oracle systems and updates, enabling instant system development and technological adaptation.



Activation of the Cybersecurity Center

Enhancing the Council's security and protecting its data while minimizing the impact of security incidents. It also contributes to risk management by defining and periodically assessing standards to ensure compliance with regulations and policies.



Shared Services

Shared Services Departments

01

Government Relations & Support Services

02

Finance & Treasury

03

Human Capital

Government Relations & Support Services Department

The Government Relations & Support Services Department acts as a supporting division to the Council's administration, ensuring the fulfillment of the needs of various departments and sections

Main Sections

Internal Procurement Unit:

Responsible for issuing purchase orders, monitoring contracts, and handling financial claims for all Council departments and divisions.

Support Services:

Responsible for securing and coordinating internal and external meetings, providing logistical support for Council departments, including hospitality, accommodations, and transportation.

Internal Procurement Unit Achievements

Ensuring the procurement of supplies, materials, furniture, and various essentials for departments and divisions, while overseeing the purchasing process until delivery, ensuring quantities, types, and specifications match the requested orders.

600K Total Cost

2 Tenders on the Forsah Platform

53M Purchase Order with Total Cost

Support Shared Services Achievements

40 Meetings
Coordinated internally and externally

Government Relations & Support Services Achievements

434 Number of Visitors

1475
Incoming Letters

1455
Outgoing Letters

Managing correspondence operations, including receiving, distributing, and tracking both incoming and outgoing letters, ensuring proper documentation in official records.

Providing departments and divisions with necessary supplies and requirements.

Shared Services

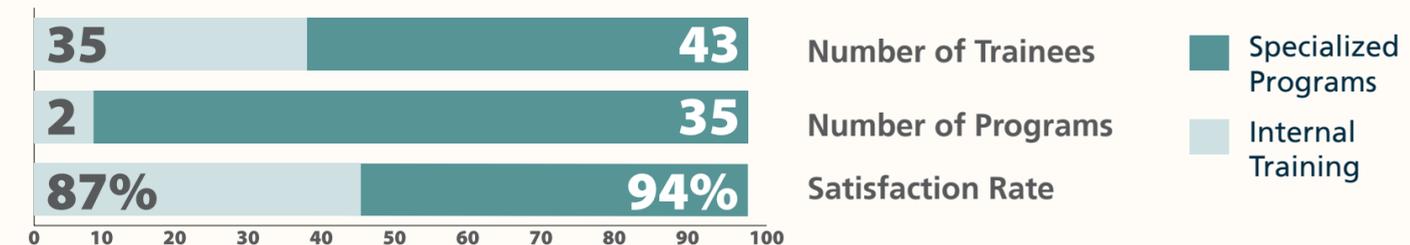
Human Capital Department

The Human Capital Department focuses on human resources as the most valuable asset of the Health Council and the most influential in achieving its objectives. It aims to enhance organizational practices, attract and qualify Gulf talents with essential leadership and technical competencies, and contribute to the efficiency of joint Gulf operations while keeping pace with future developments



Training & Development

Implementation of numerous specialized courses and internal training programs in collaboration with various local and international training centers. These initiatives have been successfully received, as reflected in the chart below, which shows the overall satisfaction rate of the training programs.



43 Trainees
35 Programs

Specialized Training Programs

36 Trainees
2 Programs

Internal Training

Local and International Training Centers



Shared Services

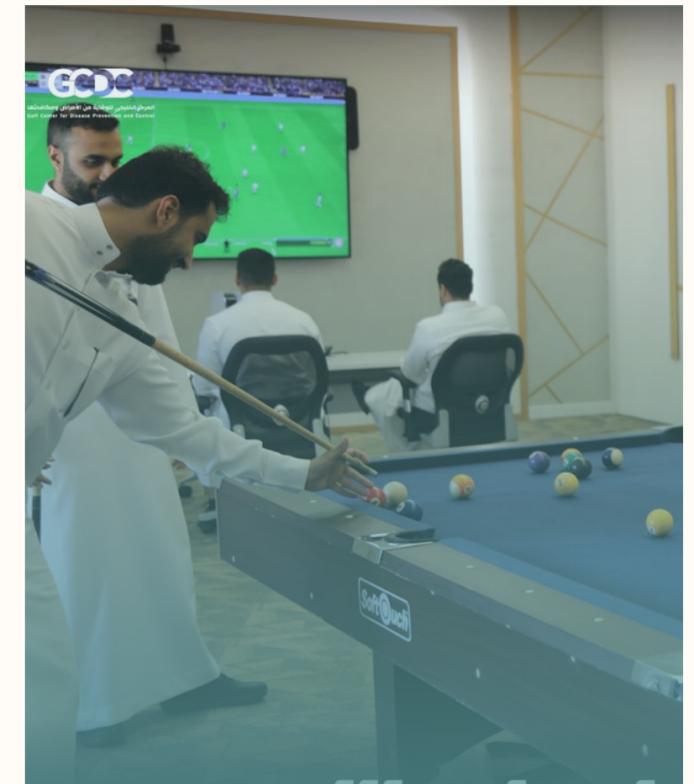
Internal Communication

The Shared Services Department – Internal Communication Section organized a diverse range of interactive events and activities throughout the year, aimed at enhancing the work environment, motivating employees, and strengthening team spirit and communication. These activities covered health, social, and entertainment aspects, contributing to a more positive and engaging work experience.



These Activities Include:

- Employee Health Promotion
- Business Lunch
- Movement is Blessing Initiative
- Best Office Competition
- Business Breakfast
- World Children's Day
- International Women's Day
- International Men's Day
- World Ice Cream Day
- Happy Weekend
- Who Am I? Activity
- Employee Wellness Promotion
- Elite Thursday
- GHC Derby
- Gulf Information Session
- AFC National Teams Cup
- Baloot Challenge
- Council Monday Gathering



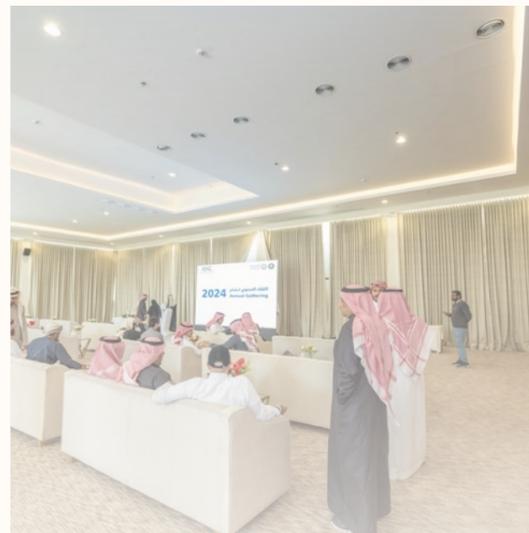
Shared Services Internal Communication



Shared Services

Annual Meeting

The GCC Health Council organized the annual employee gathering, providing an opportunity to strengthen communication and collaboration among employees while celebrating their efforts and achievements. The event aims to establish a positive and motivating work environment by recognizing outstanding employees and appreciating their contributions, which helps enhance institutional loyalty and improve performance levels. The gathering also featured various interactive activities, including the "Create Your Own Perfume" event, along with entertaining competitions designed to foster team spirit and encourage engagement among participants.





Internal Audit Unit

Internal Audit Unit

The Internal Audit Unit was established within the Council in 2020 with the aim of assessing the efficiency and effectiveness of governance practices, risk management, and control systems within the Council. Based on the findings, relevant reports are then prepared and submitted accordingly.

Tasks



**Internal Audit Unit
Annual Report – 2024**



**Internal Audit of
the Shared Services
Department**



**Follow-up on the
implementation of the
recommendations included
in previous reports**



**Internal Audit of the
Corporate Communication
Department**

The First Annual Internal Audit Forum – May 2024

In May 2024, the Internal Audit Unit organized the second Annual Internal Audit Forum, which was held over three consecutive days under the theme #Excel_Professionally. The forum was attended by members of the Internal Oversight Department of the General Secretariat of the Gulf Cooperation Council, along with representatives from the Internal Audit Department of the Saudi Ministry of Health. The event featured practical applications of the latest professional practices in performing internal audit tasks.



Gulf Center for Disease Prevention and Control



المركز الخليجي للوقاية من الأمراض ومكافحتها
Gulf Center for Disease Prevention and Control

About the Gulf Center for Disease Prevention and Control	88
Strategic Planning and Projects	92
Training and Capacity Building	94
Public Health Programs and Policies	98
Public Health Emergencies	104
Public Health Information	110

About the Gulf Center for Disease Prevention and Control



Vision

A Gulf community where every individual enjoys optimal health throughout all stages of life.



Mission

Strengthening coordination, advancing knowledge, and generating evidence to support the prevention of communicable and non-communicable diseases, mitigate public health emergencies, and promote healthy communities across the Gulf region.

 <p>Strategic Goals</p>	<p>Public Health Development Supporting and developing programs, policies, and practices in the field of public health.</p>	<p>Health Data Enhancement Enabling the collection, utilization, and quality of public health data through surveillance and research</p>
	<p>Public Health Capacity Building Strengthening regional training in public health and capacity building.</p>	<p>Advanced Health Response Enhancing preparedness, early detection, and rapid response to health risks in the Gulf region.</p>

Role of the Gulf Center for Disease Prevention and Control



Enhancing quality of life through the alignment and coordination of policies, procedures, and protocols.



Prevention of communicable and non-communicable diseases.



Enhancing health systems at the regional and national levels.



Expanding training programs and facilitating knowledge exchange.



Improving preparedness and response to public health emergencies.



Strategic Planning and Projects

Strategic Planning and Projects

Key Sections

Strategic Planning

Responsible for defining the center's future vision, setting long-term objectives, and developing plans to achieve these goals, while also evaluating the center's overall performance.

Projects

This department oversees the implementation of projects that align with the center's strategic plan, from initial planning to execution, ensuring the achievement of related objectives in coordination with all center departments.



Achievements in 2024

Collaboration with the Kingdom of Bahrain



To develop a public health program and reduce communicable and non-communicable diseases.

Collaboration with the Health Security Agency



In the United Kingdom, with the aim of exchanging expertise and enhancing health surveillance skills to combat epidemics in the Gulf region."

Held 4 Supervisory Council Meetings



To discuss the center's executive plans.

Participation in the Annual Meeting



At the Network of Public Health Institutes' Annual Meeting on health promotion, resilience, and sustainability.

Participation in the 77th General Assembly Meeting



To discuss amendments to the International Health Regulations (2005), the International Pandemic Prevention Agreement, and antimicrobial resistance.

Review and Evaluation of the Strategic Plan



The center is working on establishing clear and measurable evaluation tools.

Collaboration with the Republic of Singapore



In the field of communicable diseases, with the aim of exchanging expertise in disease control and public health.

Held 6 Technical Committee Meetings



To discuss the center's annual projects.

Held Two Meetings for the Strategic Partnerships Council



To review achievements and develop innovative strategies to tackle future public health challenges.

Providing technical support for the ASEAN



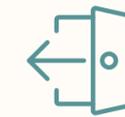
Providing technical support for the ASEAN regional meeting and showcasing the center's experience in strategic planning, successful initiatives, and the mechanisms adopted to address various public health challenges.

Training and Capacity Building

Training and Capacity Building

The Training and Capacity Building Department aims to develop the skills and capabilities of individuals in institutions through planning, designing, implementing, researching, and evaluating various training programs. The primary objective of this process is to enhance the functional efficiency of both internal and external employees in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, supporting the achievement of the strategic goals of the Health Council of the GCC.

Key Sections



Training

The Training Department serves as a fundamental pillar in strengthening the training of public health practitioners and improving their performance levels. The department focuses on developing regional training programs that emphasize building the capacities of public health professionals through comprehensive educational resources, integrating theoretical knowledge with practical applications. Additionally, it provides effective mechanisms for professional advancement, enabling healthcare workers to tackle public health challenges and enhance their performance. Through these efforts, the department seeks to promote regional integration and elevate the overall level of public health in the region.

Knowledge Management

The Knowledge Management Department is an organizational unit responsible for collecting, organizing, disseminating, and utilizing institutional knowledge. The department works on building a comprehensive knowledge infrastructure that facilitates the exchange of knowledge and expertise among institutional members, contributing to improved performance and increased innovation capacity. It also focuses on facilitating access to information, providing user-friendly research tools and programs, enabling knowledge-sharing, and offering critical data analysis to support innovation and decision-making.



Training and Capacity Building

Achievements in 2024

Organizing 4 Internal Training Programs



In etiquette and protocol, professional communication, Microsoft Teams usage, and first aid.

Training 13 Employees



To attend short-term training courses.

Holding 5 Meetings with the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control



To exchange expertise in knowledge management.

Epidemiology



A meeting with Sultan Qaboos University and the Arabian Gulf University to discuss future collaboration on training programs in field epidemiology and public health.

Collaboration with the Oman Association



Participation in the 20th International Atherosclerosis Society Conference held in Muscat.

Organizing 8 Internal Seminars



For the center's employees in 2024.

Collaboration with King Saud University



Training a trainee in the field of field epidemiology in collaboration with King Saud University.

Meeting with Platform Developers



To discuss the development of a dedicated platform at the center to enhance collaboration among GCC countries.

Meeting with Liaison Officers



To review the strategic training plan for public health in GCC countries.

Enhancing Collaboration with the Regional Office of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)



A meeting was held with the regional office in Muscat to explore potential collaboration opportunities with the center.

Visit of the Gulf Center for Disease Prevention and Control to the Public Health Academy (Wiqaya) in Riyadh



To strengthen collaboration in public health training.

Collaboration with Departments to Conduct Two Training Courses for Public Health Specialists



As part of the established collaboration with the Health Affairs Department at the Ministry of National Guard Health Affairs, a training course on epidemic preparedness and response, as well as public health risk management in GCC countries, was conducted in Riyadh. Additionally, an occupational health program in healthcare facilities was held in Muscat.





Public Health Programs and Policies

Public Health Programs and Policies

The Gulf Center for Disease Prevention and Control works to support the development of collaborative programs, policies, and practices in public health based on the current health priorities of GCC countries.

The Gulf Center for Disease Prevention and Control, after reviewing the best available evidence and data, identifies the necessary activities to address health priorities in the region. This includes identifying and addressing health gaps while assessing and enhancing healthcare capacities.

Sections



Brief Overview of Departmental Responsibilities

- Collaborating with Gulf-wide communication networks that include representatives from all member states to address public health threats.
- Organizing and overseeing regional collaborative programs in priority areas.
- Working with regional program teams to identify, develop, adapt, and implement relevant policies and practices in priority areas.

Key Achievements in 2024

Meetings of the Permanent GCC Communication Networks



The Public Health Programs and Policies Department held several in-person and virtual meetings with the permanent GCC communication networks for communicable diseases, non-communicable diseases, and health promotion. These meetings aimed to monitor the progress of ongoing Gulf projects and programs, discuss future plans, identify challenges, and explore appropriate solutions.

Conducting Workshops and Training Programs



The Public Health Programs and Policies Department organized several training programs and workshops to achieve key targets and implement projects as part of the 2024 action plan, including:

- In collaboration with the Gulf Expertise House for Infection Control and Antimicrobial Resistance, two regional workshops were held:
 - A workshop on epidemic preparedness and response to public health threats in GCC countries was held in Riyadh.
 - A training program on occupational health services in healthcare facilities across GCC countries was conducted in Muscat.
- In collaboration with the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) of the World Health Organization (WHO), the Gulf training program to improve the quality of early cancer detection was launched in Riyadh, along with a "Training of Trainers" program on the fundamentals of designing and evaluating early cancer detection programs.
- In collaboration with the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) of WHO, the final in-person phase of the Gulf training program for improving early cancer detection was conducted in Riyadh.
- To analyze the current state of traffic accident prevention programs in GCC countries and develop a regional strategy, a workshop titled "Traffic Accident Injuries in GCC Countries" was held in Riyadh.



Public Health Programs and Policies

Meetings and Exploring Collaboration Opportunities



- The Public Health Programs and Policies Department conducted several in-person and virtual visits and meetings with various entities to implement ongoing projects or explore future collaboration opportunities. These meetings included:
- A visit to the Chronic Diseases Department and the Antimicrobial Resistance Program at the World Health Organization (WHO) headquarters in Geneva.
- A visit to the GCC Standardization Organization (GSO) headquarters in Riyadh to discuss support for public health policies in the Gulf region.
- A visit to the Assistant Secretary-General for Legal and Legislative Affairs at the GCC General Secretariat in Riyadh to discuss the Secretariat's role in implementing and enforcing public policies.
- A meeting with the Technical Officer for Surveillance at the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office's Non-Communicable Diseases and Mental Health Department to discuss current and future projects.
- A meeting with the Deputy Representative of the UNICEF Gulf Area Office to explore collaboration opportunities on childhood obesity and discuss key challenges and opportunities.

Awards and Recognition



The Public Health Programs and Policies Department, represented by the Non-Communicable Diseases Section, was recognized among the top three participants at the annual "Ta'zeez" Conference held at King Saud University in Riyadh. The recognition was awarded for the scientific poster titled: Mapping Public Health Policies and Strategies for Non-Communicable Disease Prevention and control in the Gulf Region.

Representation of the Gulf Center for Disease Prevention and Control



- The Public Health Programs and Policies Department represented the Gulf Center for Disease Prevention and Control in various conferences and workshops by presenting scientific papers and publications. These participations included:
- A workshop on the importance of antimicrobial resistance data and the effective utilization of data sources related to antimicrobial consumption in Doha.
- A World Health Organization (WHO) meeting in Riyadh to standardize traffic safety terminology among GCC countries.
- The launch event of the Regional Road Safety Report for the Eastern Mediterranean Region in Abu Dhabi.
- The 2nd Bahrain International Conference on Antimicrobial-Resistant Microbes and Infectious Diseases in Bahrain.
- The 3rd Annual Saudi Infectious Diseases Conference in Riyadh.
- The 4th High-Level Global Ministerial Conference on Antimicrobials in Jeddah.
- The 2024 Immunization Forum in Riyadh.
- The International Conference on Tobacco Control on Smoking Epidemic and Conflicts of Interest in Kuwait.
- The 20th International Symposium on Atherosclerosis in Muscat.
- The Annual Ta'zeez Conference in collaboration with King Saud University in Riyadh.
- The World Cancer Congress in Geneva, Switzerland.



Health
tion

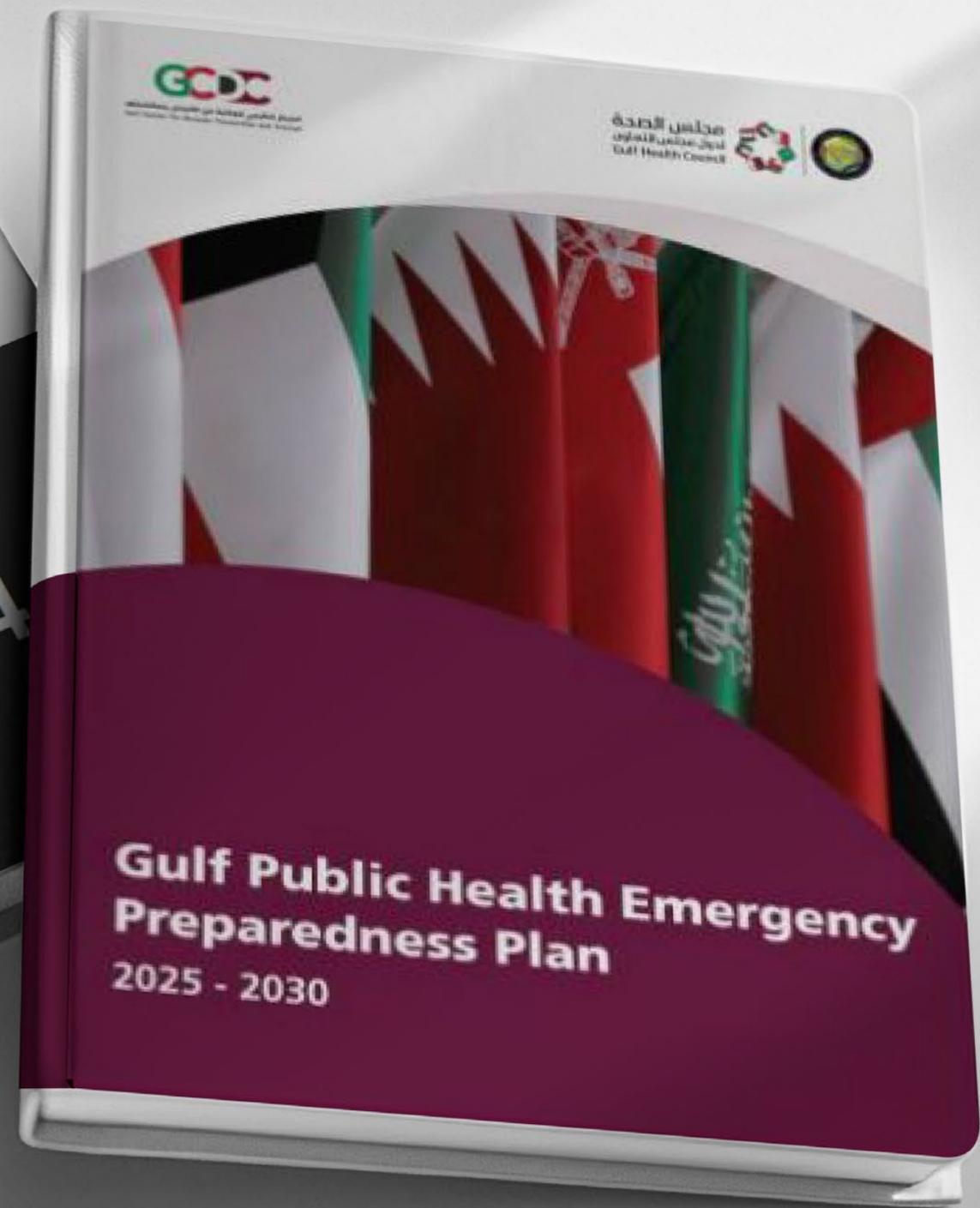


Public Health Emergencies

2024
EIOS GLOBAL
TECHNICAL
MEETING

10-12 DECEMBER 2024
The Future of
Public Health Intelligence





Public Health Emergencies

The Public Health Emergency Department and its related programs work to enhance preparedness, early detection, and rapid response to health threats in the Gulf region, as well as assess recovery from past public health emergencies. Public health emergencies include biological, chemical, nuclear, and environmental hazards that pose a threat to public health.

Objectives

The department's programs aim to enhance preparedness and support emergency response by monitoring regional health threats, providing early warnings, regular updates, and communication channels among GCC countries to facilitate information exchange and the implementation of best practices for public health emergencies. Additionally, the department contributes to developing and activating joint initiatives in this area. The department also provides the latest preparedness tools for public health threats in GCC countries and serves as an emergency center to coordinate public health emergency response activities. One of the department's key responsibilities is deploying and mobilizing rapid response teams to support containment efforts for regionally significant public health emergencies.



Achievements in 2024

Organizing a Field Visit and Workshops

 In collaboration with the Public Health Authority in Saudi Arabia, a field visit and workshops were organized to explore the Kingdom's experience in combating dengue fever.

Issuing and Publishing Risk Assessment Reports on Certain Epidemics

 Covering diseases of regional concern, including: yellow fever, measles, Marburg virus, monkeypox, avian influenza, and Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever.

Issuing 3 Public Health Emergency Alerts

 For various health-related incidents.

Issuing 11 scientific reports and 53 weekly reports on epidemiological intelligence

 contributing to enhanced information sharing and rapid response.

Public Health Emergency participated in meetings and workshops

 to enhance health cooperation and published a proactive report on epidemiological intelligence. It also monitored preparations for the Olympics and visited the King Salman Humanitarian Aid Center in support of humanitarian efforts.

Issuing a dashboard and reference capabilities report.

 for Public Health Laboratories in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries for the year 2024.

Organizing 34 Roundtable Meetings

 For the Public Health Emergency Network (PHEN) and Technical Working Groups (TWG)

Organizing the Annual Simulation Exercises

 For Public Health Emergencies.

Participation in the national simulation exercise

 for Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV) in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Developing the Gulf Cooperation

 Council Public Health Emergency Preparedness Plan for 2030-2050, and obtaining its approval by Their Excellencies the Ministers of Health.



Public Health Information

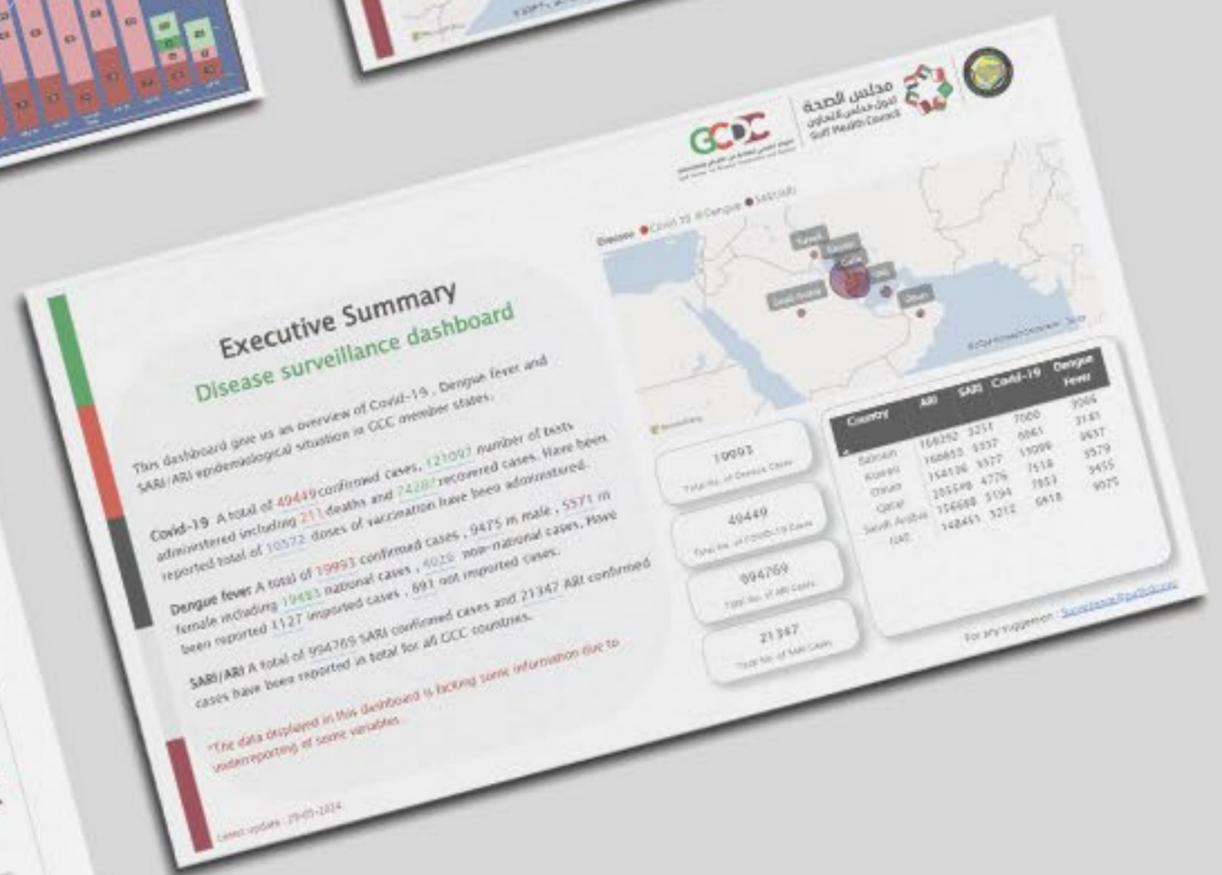
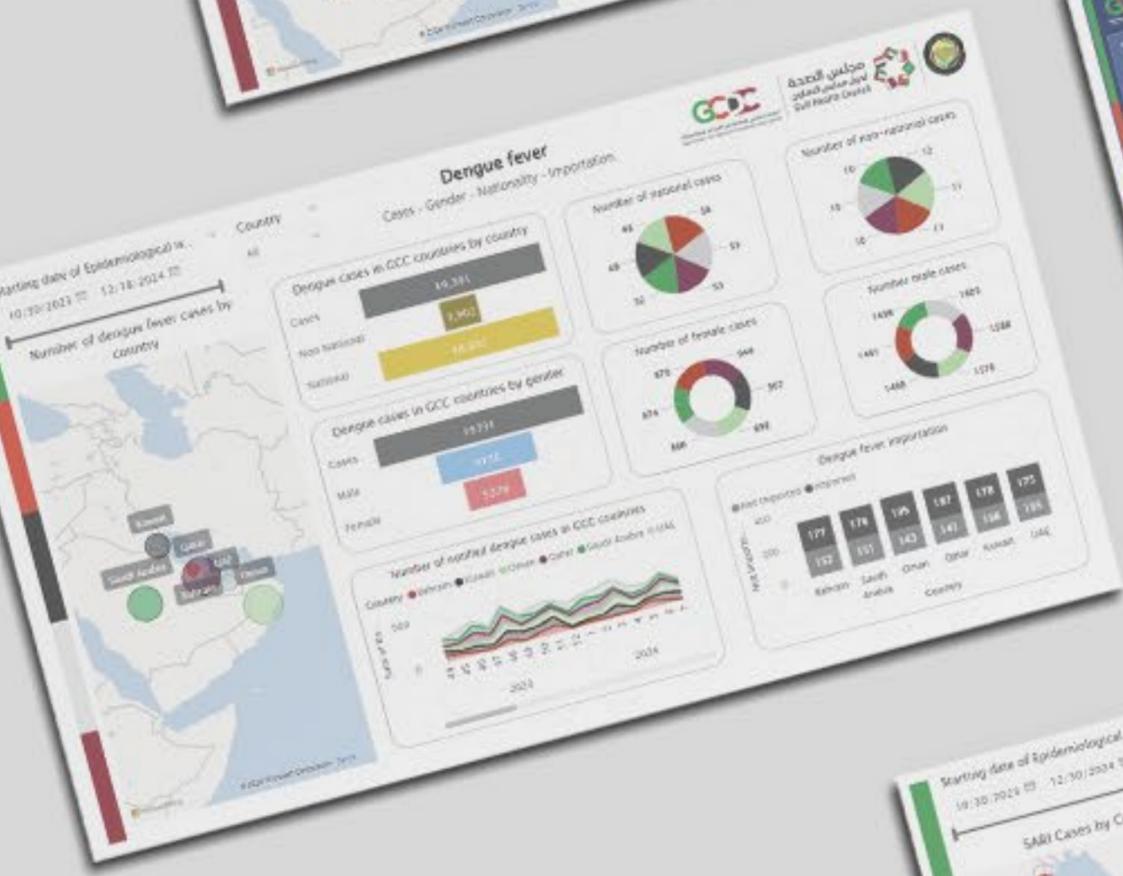
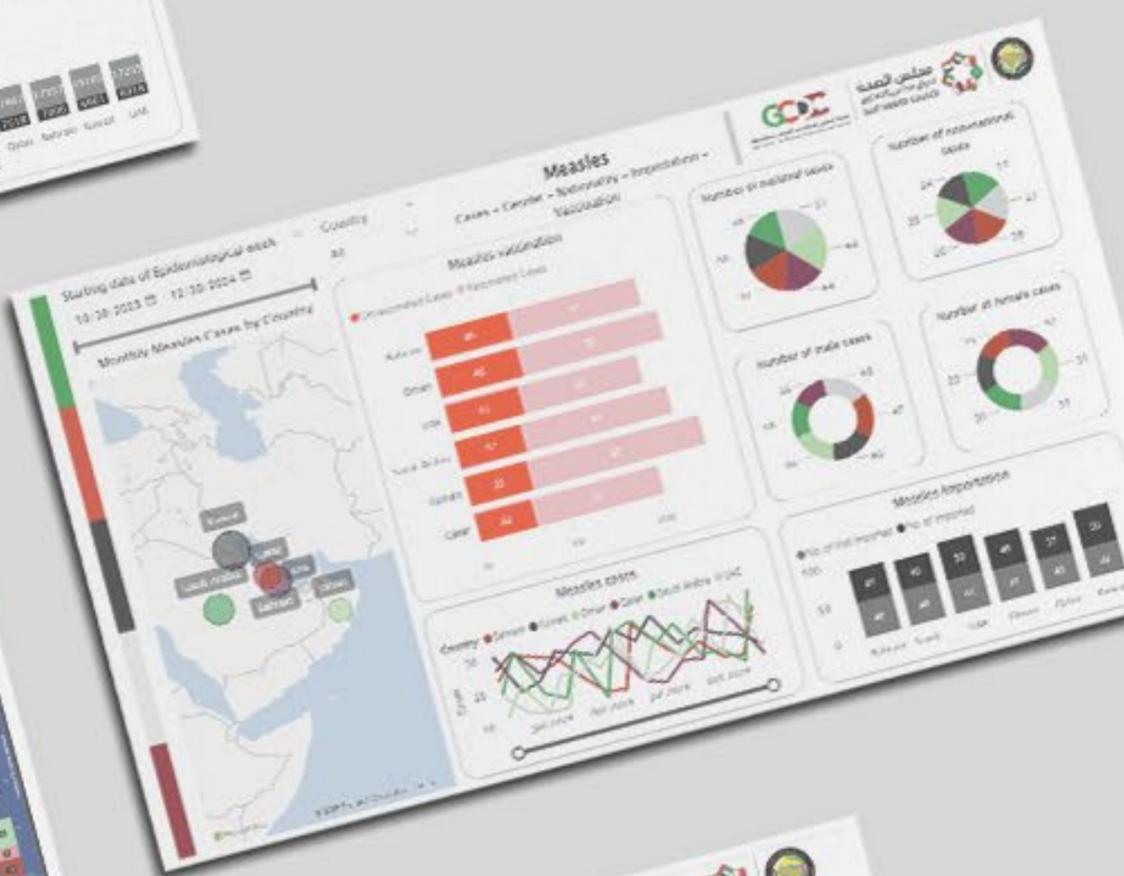
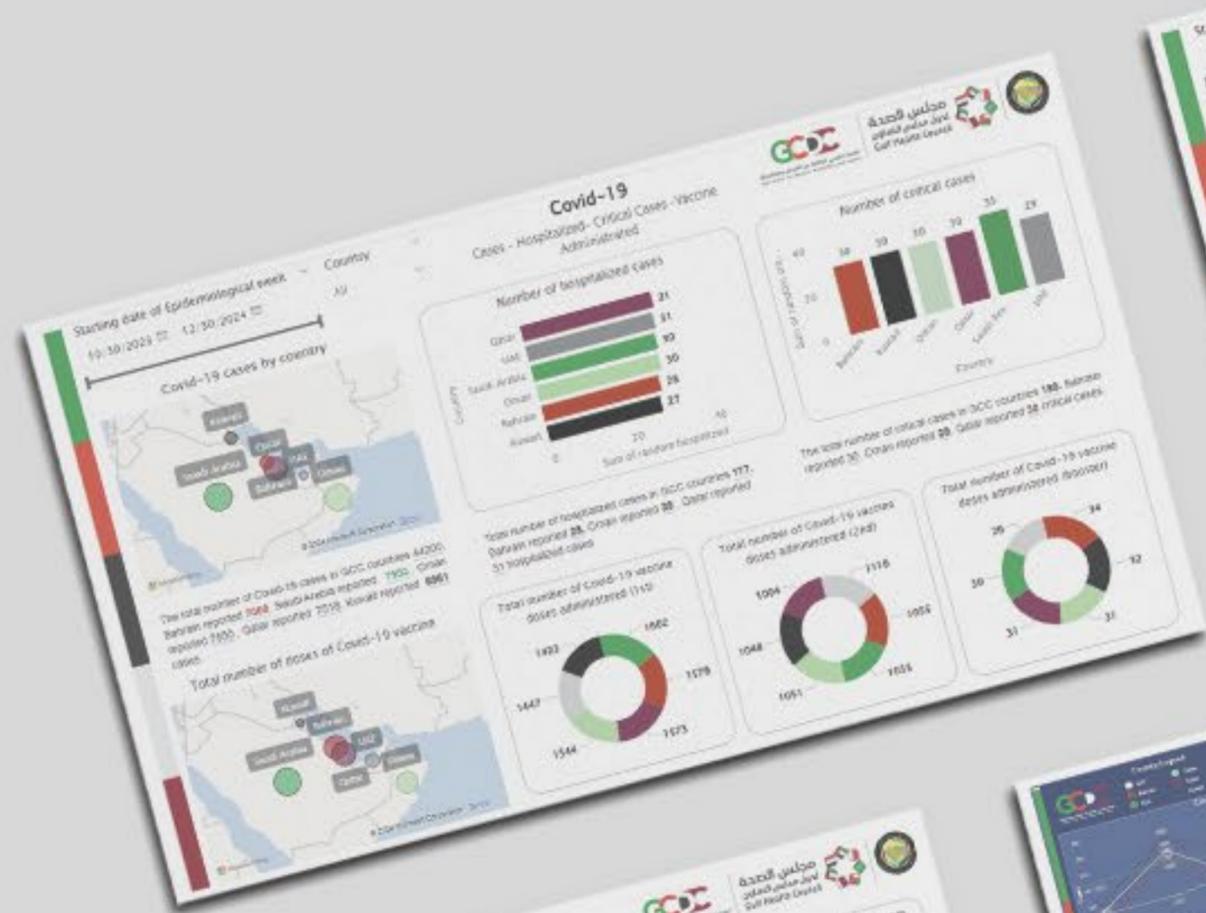
ESCAIDE

European Scientific Conference on
Applied Infectious Disease Epidemiology

20 - 22 November 2024

HYBRID **Stockholm and online**





The information and figures provided are for illustrative purposes only and do not represent actual data

Public Health Information

The Department of Public Health Information aims to enable the collection and utilization of public health data through key indicators by implementing epidemiological surveillance, surveys, disease and injury registries, as well as collaborative health research with Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries.

Key Sections



Research:

Aims to leverage advanced data and technologies to enhance public health research within the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, thereby supporting timely decision-making. It focuses on understanding disease patterns to adopt effective prevention and control strategies, in addition to strengthening collaborative research on both infectious and non-infectious diseases.



Surveillance and Analysis

Aims to develop and manage a unified surveillance system to monitor diseases and health risks across GCC countries. This includes utilizing information systems and technology, standardizing data sources, facilitating research and analysis, and issuing predictive reports to support member states in making informed health decisions.



Data Governance

Responsible for designing and implementing strategies, policies, and procedures for managing, protecting, and utilizing data within the center. It also ensures strict compliance with established policies by internal and external users, creates guidelines, enforces policies, and collaborates with stakeholders to establish a robust data governance framework.

Achievements in 2024

Two key reports



were published, including the Age Report and the Training Guidebook, aimed at improving work quality and providing essential information for development.

21 meetings



were conducted within the Public Health Information Department, in addition to one workshop.

12 monthly reports



and quarterly reports were issued for surveillance and monitoring purposes.

Launch of a dashboard



to measure data quality across the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries.

A standardized guideline



was developed to enhance data visualization and sharing across GCC countries.

Field visits



to cancer centers in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Kingdom of Bahrain to exchange expertise and best practices.



Public Health Information

Achievements in 2024:

Organizing a basic training
course for cancer registrars from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), held in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Conducting a training workshop
on the burden of infectious diseases and healthy life expectancy.

Offering an advanced training
course on predictive analytics for diseases.

Participating in the Conference
on Research Prioritization and Public Health held in Dubai during May.

Participating in organizing Forum
and delivering the Regional Forum on Data and Community Development, including presenting two full scientific sessions, held in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates, in October.

Implementing an intensive
eight-week fellowship program with the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) in France.

Delivering a training course
on the statistical programming language R, titled "Developing Public Health Data Analysis Skills."

Preparing the Public Health Information
Strategy following approval by the Ministers of Health.

Participating twice
in the Global Health Forum in Riyadh during October.

Participating in the European Centre
for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) Conference held in Stockholm, Sweden, in November.

Developing a policy
for authorship and publication of research at the Gulf Center.

Publishing a scientific paper titled
"Towards a Unified Regional Surveillance System: The Gulf CDC First Initiative."

Developing and launching
a compliance-monitoring dashboard across the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries.

Publishing three quarterly reports
on data-sharing compliance.

Preparing a Dengue Fever
Data Simulation Report with predictive analytics.

Attending a workshop
on Dengue Fever analytics in Berlin.

Developing and launching an influenza monitoring
dashboard for Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries.

Preparing Standard Operating
Preparing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for data requests.

Preparing two reports
with recommendations for the cancer registries of Bahrain and Saudi Arabia.

Launching and sharing a report
on Public Health Research Priorities with member states.

Public Health Information

Achievements in 2024:

Establishing an early warning system



to detect any unusual increase in disease data using defined thresholds.

Preparing a report outlining the technical specifications required



to enhance operational mechanisms at the Gulf Center for Disease Prevention and Control, along with a report evaluating the effectiveness of the data-sharing policy.

Issuing a user manual



for the periodic survey project on disease-related behaviors.

Developing data-sharing guidelines



Developing data-sharing guidelines and establishing a protocol to define data specifications, based on policies from the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC).



Conclusion

The 2024 Annual Report reflects the achievements of the past year and highlights the Council's ambitious vision to establish a Gulf health organization recognized regionally and internationally. The report aims to enhance health cooperation among member states and achieve comprehensive, sustainable health. The Health Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) extends its sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Ministers, members, and everyone who contributed to the Council's successes during 2024.

مجلس الصحة
لدول مجلس التعاون
Gulf Health Council



GHC_GCC