

An Overview of Non-Profit Sector in Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

1445 AH / 2023 AD

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Aleidi, Yousif Abdallah
An Overview of Non-Profit Sector in Kingdom of Saudi Arabia / Yousif Aleidi, Faisal
Alshumrani, Yousef Dahim
Dammam, 1445 AH
.. p.; ... cm
ISBN: 5-8323-04-603-978

Deposit No.: 7081/1445 ISBN: 5-8323-04-603-978

Dewey..,... 7081/1445

# IN THE NAME OF GOD, THE MOST GRACIOUS, THE MOST MERCIFUL

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# Introduction

"In the name of God, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful, and may blessings and peace be upon our noble Prophet and all his family and companions"

The Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 recognizes the impact of the Non-Profit Sector as a developmental partner in achieving its targets. Since its launch, efforts have resulted in significant advancements in all areas of work for the Non-Profit Sector, relying on effective institutional work, adopting best practices, and attracting the best national talents in over six thousand Non-Profit Organizations. This will have a significant impact on the society's development, the achievement of vision goals, and the increase in the Non-Profit Sector's contribution to the gross domestic production. This knowledge guide, entitled "An Overview of Non-Profit Sector in Kingdom of Saudi Arabia", serves as an extension and contribution to the advancement of the Non-Profit Sector. It defines its history, roles, organizations, laws and regulations, while also clarifying its contributions to Vision 2030. We express our sincere gratitude to the authors' team and all our dedicated youth for their invaluable contributions to knowledge dissemination and achieving impact.

### Dr. Saadoun bin Saad Al-Saadoun

Chairman of the Council of NGOs in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Member of the Board of Directors of the National Center for Non-Profit Sector



# Sponsor's Message

"Praise be to God, Lord of the Worlds, and prayers and peace be upon the most honorable of the prophets and messengers, our Master And our Prophet Muhammad and his family and all his companions."

In recognition of the importance of contributing to the **development of the Non-Profit Sector** through the adoption of knowledge-based products that can achieve its developmental goals, **Abdelrahman Bin Saleh Al-Rajhi & Family Charity Foundation** has expressed interest in sponsoring this guide. Initiated by the authors' team, the guide, introduces the **Non-Profit Sector** and its reliable sources by providing a historical narrative of its notable milestones. It highlights the sector's characteristics, goals, and areas of focus, as well as its organizations, supervisory bodies, and coordinating entities. Additionally, the guide addresses the laws governing the work of the **Non-Profit Sector** and concludes by discussing the strategic targets aligned with the programs aimed at achieving the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030.

The Foundation is pleased to extend its sincere thanks and appreciation to the authors' team for their tremendous effort in preparing this guide.

"We ask God Almighty to make this guide beneficial and bless it with valuable knowledge... Amen."



# **Preface**

In recent years, the **Non-Profit Sector** in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has experienced unprecedented growth, particularly following the launch of **Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030**. This vision aims at developing the non-profit sector to become active and contribute to the social development. Consequently, numerous individuals have been attracted to this sector, resulting in the employment of many national talented people across its diverse and expanding institutions. With this growth of this sector, there is a need for reliable sources that make the workers and stakeholders be aware of the non-profit sector, its components and laws.

The purpose of this guide is to provide a comprehensive overview of the **Non-Profit Sector** in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. It includes the definition of the **Non-Profit Sector**, its history, formation, organizations, and strategic directions. The guide consists of three chapters as follows:

**Chapter One:** "Concept and History of Non-Profit Sector" addresses the definition of the **Non-Profit Sector**, its related terminology, characteristics of its organizations, work goals and areas, and a brief historical overview of it.

**Chapter Two:** "Formation and Organizations of **Non-Profit Sector**" covers the definition of various types and forms of non-profit organizations, supervisory and coordinating bodies, and the laws governing **Non-Profit Organizations**.

**Chapter Three:** "Strategic Orientations in Non-Profit Sector" includes the targets of the Saudi Vision 2030 relating to the **Non-Profit Sector**, the strategic goals of Saudi Vision 2030 related to the **Non-Profit Sector**, and the correlation between the vision's programs and the **Non-Profit Sector**.

We hope that this guide will serve as a valuable reference for individuals who are interested in the non-profit sector and seek to comprehend its fundamentals and development in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The authors' team also aspires for this guide to contribute to raising awareness and knowledge about the **Non-Profit Sector**, further enhancing its significant role in building a better society.

# **Chapter One**

# **Concept And History of Non-Profit Sector**

**Definition of Non-Profit Sector** 





**Names of Non-Profit Sector** 



**Characteristics of Non-Profit Organizations** 

**Goals of Non-Profit Sector** 



Areas of Work for Non-Profit Organizations





A Brief Historical Narrative about Non-Profit Sector



# **First Axis:**

# **Definition of Non-Profit Sector**

Despite the originality of charitable work in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the concept of the **Non-Profit Sector** is relatively new to society. There are various forms of **Non-Profit Organizations** and diverse contributions addressing the societal and developmental needs. In addition, these organizations do not pursue financial gains or profits that benefit their owners, whether individuals or companies. As a result, the financial cycle within this sector flows from the society and back to it.

To ensure clarity and avoid any confusion or overlap in the meaning of the Non-Profit Sector, it has been defined as "a system of voluntary activities, services, and non-governmental organizations primarily aimed at achieving purposes related to benevolence, solidarity, cooperation, social development, public welfare, or other specific objectives."

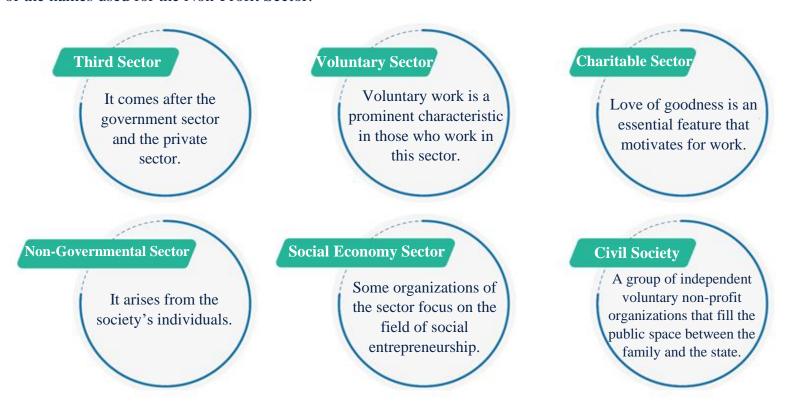




# **Second Axis:**

## Names of Non-Profit Sector

The **Non-Profit Sector** is referred to by different names around the world, with each name carrying meaning and significance that reflect the nature and organization of the sector in each country. In the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, prior to the unification of the aforementioned definition, there were various and diverse names associated with the Non-Profit Sector within society. These names are rooted in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's history of generosity and benevolence. Here are some of the names used for the Non-Profit Sector:





# **Third Axis:**

# **Characteristics of Non-Profit Organizations**

**Non-Profit Organizations** in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia have several key characteristics, including:

**1** Institutional Entity

They adopt the organized institutional structure rather than the random or individual one.

Official Entity

They are officially licensed and regulated in accordance with laws and legislation.

**3** Non-Profit Entity

The primary purpose of establishing these organizations is to serve the society or a part of it, rather than pursuing profit. They do not distribute profits, and all revenues are reinvested in activities, programs, and operational expenses.

4 Self-Management

These entities have full control over their management, decisions, choices, and activities through internal regulations that govern their work without conflicting with general laws and legislation.

Independence

They are legally independent entities with legal personality, enabling them to acquire rights and fulfill obligations.

6 Voluntary and Non-Compulsory Entity Membership or contribution to these entities through effort, financial means, or time is not compulsory by law, birth place, or considered a requirement for citizenship or practicing a specific profession.



# **Fourth Axis:**

# Goals of Non-Profit Sector

The **Non-Profit Sector** aims, in general, at improving the quality of life in society and enhance human, social, and religious values. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has its own uniqueness in this regard as it is closely tied to the teachings of Islam, the rich tradition of charitable work within its society and history that is full of giving and benevolences. The goals and areas of focus of the non-profit sector vary according to the needs and challenges faced by the society. These goals include, but are not limited to:

- Providing assistance to the most vulnerable groups, such as the poor, the sick, the orphans, the elderly, etc. by providing food, shelter, clothing, healthcare, and financial assistance.
- Educating, raising awareness, and building the capacities of individuals and communities by providing training courses, educational programs, and workshops, aiming at developing their skills, increase their knowledge, and empower them to benefit from educational and training opportunities.
- Providing psychological and social support to individuals and communities affected by wars, natural disasters, and other crises.
- Developing Communities and empowering them by providing financial, technical, educational, and developmental support.
- Protecting the environment and promoting the environmental awareness among individuals and communities.



# **Fifth Axis:**

# **Areas of Work for Non-Profit Organizations**

society.

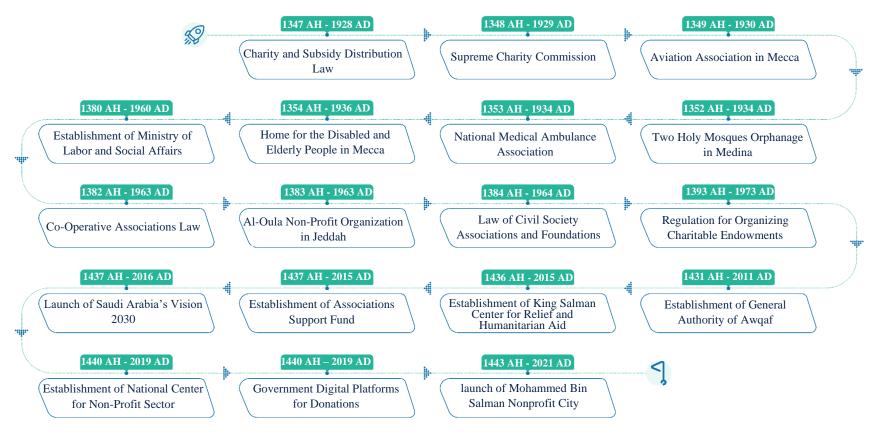
Non-Profit Organizations worldwide engage in various fields and types of work to achieve their developmental, social, and economic goals. The activities of non-profit organizations differ across sectors based on the nature and interests of each country in promoting community development and achieving their targeted values. In the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, non-profit organizations are active in (10) developmental fields, as recognized by the National Center for Non-Profit Development. These fields encompass over (100) sub-fields, and the main areas are as follows:

### **Culture and** Support and **Education and Development and Environment Entertainment Assistance** Research Housing Promoting and providing Providing services Promoting and providing services concerned with Providing specialized that lead, manage, programs and services to Providing legal environmental help improve activities in culture encourage and services and preservation, pollution communities and support educational and entertainment. control, prevention, enhancing public achieve the economic environmental and health and research safety. and social well-being of education, and animal programs. the society. protection. Preaching, guidance and Charitable Work **Professional Social Service** Health providing service to pilgrims **Organizations Connections** and Umrah performers Providing programs Providing services aimed Providing Providing programs Providing general aimed at religious at developing the spirit of humanitarian and and initiatives that rehabilitation and and specialized solidarity and cooperation social services to the guidance, and enriching and consolidating contribute to health care services the religious experience society or the communication and and health support supporting charitable in the program for interconnectedness targeted groups. work. services. serving the pilgrims and between individuals and Umrah performers.



# Sixth Axis: Brief Historical Narrative on Non-Profit Sector

The **Non-Profit Sector** in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has an ancient origin, starting with individual acts of goodwill performed by various benefactors. Over time, it has evolved into the institutional non-profit sector which gained momentum during the era of the founder of kingdom, King Abdulaziz, may God have mercy on him. Below is a brief historical narrative of the most significant milestones in the development of the non-profit sector:



### 1347 AH - 1928 AD

### **Charity and Subsidy Distribution Law**

With the aim of establishing a law for distributing charities and subsidies to the needy in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and defining the goals and areas of social care, King Abdulaziz Al Saud issued the Charity and Subsidy Distribution Law in (1347 AH - 1928 AD).

### 

### **Supreme Charity Commission**

To organize the process of collecting charities and zakat from the rich and distributing them to the poor, a charitable work commission was established in Mecca under the name of the Supreme Charity Commission.

### 1349 AH - 1930 AD

### **Aviation Association in Mecca**

The Aviation Association was established in Mecca Al-Mukarramah with the approval of His Royal Highness, the Attorney General of His Majesty King Abdulaziz, Prince Faisal bin Abdulaziz, in (1349 AH - 1930 AD). It is considered the first association established in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The association's aims include purchasing aircraft and preparing the required equipment for their repair, training Saudis to fly planes, and assisting in all legitimate ways to develop civil aviation in the kingdom. The honorary president of the association was Prince Faisal bin Abdulaziz.

### 1352 AH - 1934 AD

### Two Holy Mosques Orphanage in Medina

Sheikh Abdul Ghani Dada founded the first orphanage in (1352 AH - 1934 AD) under the name of the Two Holy Mosques Orphanage in Medina. It is located near Bab Al-Majidi which is one of the neighborhoods of Medina, north of the Prophet's Mosque.



### **National Medical Ambulance Association**

The reason that made people of thought and action form this association was the outbreak of war between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Yemen in the mountains of Asir and the coasts of Tihama. The National Medical Ambulance Association is the first independent ambulance health body because no ambulance organizing body had existed in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia before (1353 AH - 1934 AD). Then, the Charitable Ambulance Society was established in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in (1354 AH - 1935 AD) to provide first aid, health services, and transport for the sick and injured people. The Charitable Ambulance Society was the starting point of the Saudi Red Crescent Society, which was later established in (1383 AH - 1963 AD) by royal decree. It was internationally recognized in the same year and became the ninety-first member of the Federation of International Red Crescent and Red Cross Societies, with its headquarters located in Riyadh. The name of the association was changed to the Saudi Red Crescent Authority by the decision of the Council of Ministers in (1429 AH - 2008 AD).

1354 AH - 1936 AD

### Home for the Disabled and Elderly People in Mecca

With the aim of accommodating the elderly and disabled pilgrims who were stranded, the first Home for the Disabled and Elderly People was opened in Mecca in (1354 AH - 1936 AD).

1380 AH - 1960 AD

### **Establishment of Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs**

The Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs was established in Saudi Arabia in (1380 AH - 1960 AD). It was concerned with the development of local communities, community committees, governorate councils and centers, immigration, and youth and family care. Its goals included contributing to directing social development in the Kingdom in a balanced manner with the aim of raising the citizens' awareness, improving their standard of living, and preparing the elements of a decent life for them within the framework of preserving spiritual and moral values, and strengthening them to build an integrated, emerging society. In (1425 AH - 2004 AD), the Ministry of Social Affairs was separated from the Ministry of Labor. Then, they were re-merged in (1437 AH - 2016 AD) under the name of the Ministry of Labor and Social Development. In (1441 AH - 2020 AD), a royal order was issued to merge both the Ministry of Civil Service and the Ministry of Labor and Social Development under the name of the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development.

### 1382 AH - 1963 AD

### **Co-Operative Associations Law**

The Co-Operative Associations Law was issued in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in (1382 AH - 1963 AD). It aims to clarify the provisions for establishing cooperative societies and show their nature, components, and duties. On the same day of the issuance of this law, the first cooperative society was established under the name of Multi-Purpose Cooperative Association in Ad Diriyah.

### 1383 AH - 1963 AD

### Al-Oula Non-Profit Organization in Jeddah

It is the first charitable organization in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia that was registered in the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs under No. (1) in (1383 AH - 1963 AD). All of its founding members were women aiming at meeting many social needs and making a tangible difference in the lives of thousands of people. The name of the organization was chosen based on the desire of King Faisal bin Abdulaziz.

### 1384 AH - 1964 AD

### Law of Civil Society Associations and Foundations

The Law of Civil Society Associations and Foundations was issued in (1384 AH - 1964 AD) in order to regulate the work of civil society associations and foundations in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and ensure the safety of their funds and the effectiveness of their work. Before that date, the associations were dealt with according to the Companies Law (1347 AH - 1928 AD). Accordingly, any association had to apply to the Registrar of Companies within a month starting from the date of its founding. In (1410 AH - 1990 AD), the Charitable Associations and Foundations Regulation was issued, including specifying the conditions and procedures for registering charitable associations and foundations and their duties. The regulation also identifies the penalties to be imposed on charitable associations and foundations that violate the registration conditions, procedures or duties.

### 1393 AH - 1973 AD

### **Regulation for Organizing Charitable Endowments**

The Regulation for Organizing Charitable Endowments was issued by Council of Ministers Decision No. (80) dated on 29/01/1393 AH. It aims at defining the public and private endowments and the provisions for their inventory, audit and registration.

### 1431 AH - 2011 AD



### **Establishment of General Authority of Awqaf**

The General Authority of Awqaf was established by Council of Ministers Decision No. (160) dated on 12/05/1431 AH. The decision included the abolition of the Deputy Ministry of Awqaf Affairs in the Ministry of Islamic Affairs, Awqaf, Da'wah, and Guidance, and the transfer of tasks related to endowments from the Ministry, the Supreme Council of Endowments, and the sub-councils to the General Authority of Awqaf. The General Authority of Awqaf is considered a general authority with an independent legal personality, having financial and administrative independence, and it is linked to the Prime Minister. The Authority aims to organize, preserve, develop, and invest the endowments in a way that fulfills the conditions of the endowment holders and enhances its role in economic and social development and social solidarity, in accordance with the purposes of Islamic Sharia and laws.

### 1436 AH - 2015 AD



### Establishment of King Salman Center for Relief and Humanitarian Aid

It was established under the direction of King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud on 27/07/1436 AH. It is an international center dedicated to providing aid to the needy and relief to the afflicted people everywhere in the world through an accurate monitoring mechanism and advanced and rapid transportation methods that are carried out through the assistance of United Nations and the international and local non-profit organizations in the beneficiary countries with high reliability. The aid includes all sectors of relief and humanitarian work, and the Center is considered one of the leading global models in the field of relief and humanitarian work. In addition, it is the only body authorized to deliver donations outside the Kingdom and issue licenses to associations according to specific conditions.

### **Establishment of Associations Support Fund**

In order to keep the sustainability of the civil associations, the Associations Support Fund was established based on Article (7) of the Civil Associations and Foundations Law issued in (1437 AH - 2015 AD), and it was opened in (1444 AH - 2023 AD). The Fund aims to support programs and projects that help develop the institutional, financial, and internal capabilities of associations. It also supports research and studies that help develop the work of associations and their programs through coordination with the relevant authorities, and voluntary initiatives that contribute to improving the level of voluntary work in associations, helping the emerging associations in building their institutional capabilities and achieving their goals, supporting the social innovation and helping to develop the tools that can achieve the goals.

1437 AH - 2016 AD

### Launch of Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030

With the support and care of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, may God protect him, Saudi Vision 2030 has been launched. It is the vision of His Highness the Crown Prince for the future of this great nation, and it seeks to invest in its strengths. The vision identifies three main axes: "Vibrant Society, Prosperous Economy, and Ambitious Nation." Since its inception, Saudi Vision 2030 has contributed to supporting the non-profit sector, which is a pillar of development. Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 states the following:

"The nation we seek will not be completed unless we integrate our roles. We all have roles to play, whether we work in the government sector, private sector, or non-profit sector."

The vision supports the non-profit sector as a pillar of development. It also ensures that the non-profit sector has a clear contribution to the domestic product of up to 5%. Additionally, there have been other qualitative contributions that have and will continue to shape the non-profit sector. Taken together, these contributions are considered the most significant achievements and outcomes of Saudi Vision 2030 in empowering the non-profit sector, such as the National Center for Non-Profit Sector and the Board of Directors of the main and subsidiary civil associations and foundations.

### **Establishment of National Center for Non-Profit Sector**

To organize and develop the non-profit sector and achieve the goals of Saudi Vision 2030, the National Center for Non-Profit Sector has been established by Council of Ministers Decision No. (459) dated on 11/08/1440 AH. This center has the legal personality and the financial and administrative independence. It reports directly to the Prime Minister. The National Center for Non-Profit Sector aims to organize, activate and expand the role of non-profit sector organizations in development fields. It also seeks to integrate the government efforts in providing licensing services to these organizations, the financial and administrative supervision of the sector, and increasing coordination and support.

### **Government Digital Platforms for Donations**

Based on the role of the non-profit sector in achieving Saudi Vision 2030 by increasing its contribution to the gross domestic product, the utilization of digital platforms has been activated to collect financial donations. This form of electronic crowdfunding serves as an ideal solution to connect donors with those in need, assisting civil society organizations in fulfilling their humanitarian cases, care programs, and development initiatives. These platforms meet the diverse needs of targeted individuals based on each platform's respective field. They are characterized by reliability, governance, and supervision from different government agencies depending on their area of operation. The most prominent digital platforms for collecting donations include the following:





Jood Eskan Platform: Established in 2019, this platform specializes in providing housing units for the neediest families in society. It is supervised by the National Sakan Foundation affiliated with the Ministry of Housing.





Ehsan Platform: Established in 2020, this platform focuses on various fields and operates under the supervision of the Saudi Data & AI Authority.





Waqfy Platform: Established in 2020, this platform specializes in supporting endowments and is supervised by the General Authority of Waqf.





National Donations Platform: Established in 2020, this platform operates across various fields and is supervised by the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development.





Shefaa Platform: Established in 2021, this platform specializes in the health sector and is supervised by the Health Endowment Fund of the Ministry of Health.





Sahem Platform: Established in 2022, this platform enables online donations to the programs provided by King Salman Center for Relief and Humanitarian Aid worldwide. It is supervised by King Salman Center for Relief and Humanitarian Aid.

### launch of Mohammed Bin Salman Nonprofit City

His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz, Crown Prince – may God protect him – has launched Prince Mohammed bin Salman Nonprofit City project which is considered the first non-profit city in the world. It is located in Riyadh District. It is considered an inspiring model for developing the non-profit sector globally, and an incubator for many youth volunteer groups, as well as local and international non-profit organizations.



# **Chapter Two:**

# Formation and Organizations of Non-Profit Sector





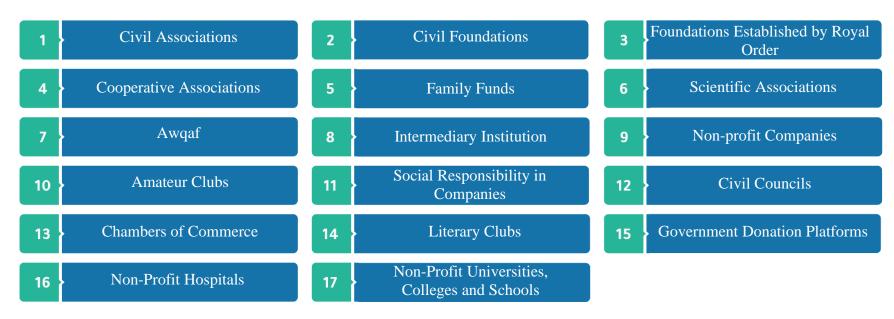




# **First Axis:**

# **Types and Forms of Non-Profit Organizations**

Non-profit sector organizations are defined as non-governmental groups or entities that have continuous organization and aim to achieve non-profit purposes. This definition clarifies that non-profit organizations do not primarily intend to make a profit. It includes endowments, cooperative associations, and other organizations that primarily focus on social impact or economic solidarity while also generating profits. In the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, **Non-Profit Sector Organizations** are diverse in terms of their shape, size, and types of interventions and activities. These organizations vary in their establishment and organizational affiliation, with more than **thirteen government bodies** involved. Regarding the types of non-profit organizations that provide services to society in **Saudi Arabia**, they can be categorized into the following organizational forms:



See below for more information about each type of non-profit organization:

### **Civil Association**

It is a continuously organized group consisting of persons of natural and/or legal status, and essentially non-profit. It aims to achieve a purpose of good or solidarity, a religious, social, cultural, health activity, or other activities. It is licensed by the National Center for Non-Profit Sector.

### Foundation Established by Royal Order

Any continuing entity, established by a person(s) of a natural and/or legal capacity that is essentially non-profit. It aims to achieve one or more purposes of general or specific benefit. It depends on the money, endowments, gifts or wills allocated to it by the founder(s). It is licensed by royal order and is considered a non-governmental organization.

### **Family Fund**

It is a continuing non-profit entity established by a person(s) of a natural and/or legal capacity in order to achieve one or more purposes of benefit allocated to the family. It depends on what is allocated to it by the founder(s) such as money, endowments, gifts, wills, or contributions from the fund's members. It is licensed by the National Center for Non-Profit Sector.

### **Civil Foundation**

It is a continuing entity established by a person or persons of a natural and/or legal capacity that is essentially non-profit. It aims to achieve one or more purposes of general or specific benefit. It depends on the money, endowments, gifts or wills allocated to it by the founder(s). It is licensed by the National Center for Non-Profit Sector.

### **Cooperative Association**

It is an association formed by individuals in accordance with the provisions of the Cooperative Associations Law, with the aim of improving the economic and social condition of its members, whether in the aspects of production, consumption, marketing or services, through the joint efforts of its members, following cooperative principles. The name of the association must include evidence of its cooperative status and type of work. It is licensed by the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development.

### **Scientific Association**

It is a scientific association specialized in one of the branches of scientific knowledge established in Saudi universities. It includes specialists and those who are interested in the field of specialization. Its work is regulated by the regulation governing scientific societies in Saudi universities. It is licensed by the Council of Universities' Affairs.

### Waqf

It is any asset that is allocated and its benefit is granted, whether it is based on certain general charitable aspects, specifically or descriptively, or conditional upon a specific descendant and relative, specifically or descriptively, or shared among them. It is considered a non-profit organization that has activities. Waqf is registered with the Ministry of Justice and the General Authority for Awqaf.

### **Non-profit Company**

It is a company that takes the form of a limited liability company, joint stock company, or simplified joint stock company. It spends the profits generated from practicing its activity in any of the banks and public non-profit fields that aim exclusively to serve society as a whole. The Ministry of Commerce, in coordination with the National Center for Non-Profit Sector, determines those banks and related areas and provisions. It is also prohibited for a non-profit company to offer its shares for public subscription. It is licensed by the Ministry of Commerce.

### **Social Responsibility in Companies**

It is a department or division in the commercial company/ institution through which the company optionally contributes to the economic and social development by providing cash and/or in-kind contributions to implement economic, social, environmental, and other development projects and programs in the country. It also maintains the development of the quality of life for its employees, their families, the local community, and the society in general.

### **Intermediary Institution**

It is a commercial company/ institution that mainly aims to provide various services to non-profit organizations such as training, strategic building, consulting, development, initiative creation and other services. It is also commercial and has profits. It is licensed by the Ministry of Commerce.

### Amateur Club

It is a group composed members with natural status, practicing non-profit social work for the purpose of enjoyment or comfort as an individual or group in an independent non-profit entity that is organizationally linked to the Amateur Clubs Association. It is licensed by the Amateur Clubs Association through "Hawi" platform.

### **Civil Council**

A civil council aims to organize, empower, evolve and develop non-profit work. It seeks to achieve cooperation, integration and coordination in non-profit organizations. It also aims to achieve development goals according to their specializations. Civil councils include Council of Foundations and Council of NGOs. A civil council is licensed by the Board of Directors of the National Center for Non-Profit Sector.

### **Chamber of Commerce**

A chamber of commerce is a non-profit entity that represents, according to its specialization, the interests of the business sector in the relevant authorities. It seeks to develop this sector, deals with the challenges facing it, and participates in decision-making. It has a legal status and is licensed by the Ministry of Commerce.

### **Literary Club**

A literary club is a foundation with independent legal status, both financially and administratively. Its focuses primarily on literature and culture, aiming to publish classical Arabic literature, shed light on the reality and history of literature to enhance national identity, and foster stronger literary connections among writers. It aims also to attract, care about, and encourage young literary talents, and support literary and cultural initiatives. The Literary Club is licensed by the Ministry of Culture.

### **Government Donation Platforms**

Government digital donation platforms are interactive websites dedicated to facilitating donations from individuals and organizations. These platforms offer specialized services according to their fields. Established by government entities, these platforms act as intermediaries between donors and associations, overseeing spending money for programs and services through civil associations. The platform manages the support provided to the association, starting from the submission of donation requests and ending with the electronic transfer of approved funds, accompanied by all necessary documents. The government donation platforms include Jood Housing Platform, Ehsan Platform, Waqfy Platform, National Donations Platform, Shefaa Platform, and Sahem Platform.

### Non-Profit University, College and School

A non-profit university, college, and school are academic educational institutions that seek to achieve their primary goal which is to provide education. They do not aim for profit. They have their own independent legal status, contribute to the implementation of the state's educational policy, and is administratively affiliated with the Ministry of Education.

### **Non-Profit Hospital**

A non-profit hospital is a healthcare organization committed to its primary goal of caring for public health, emphasizing prevention and providing medical services. These hospitals operate without profit motives. They have independent legal status. They are administratively affiliated with the Ministry of Health.



# **Second Axis:**

# **Supervisory and Coordinating Bodies**

The **National Center for Non-Profit Sector** holds administrative and financial oversight over all civil society associations and foundations. Civil councils play a crucial role in representing these associations in public affairs at the national level before the National Center, governmental bodies, and non-governmental organizations to foster cooperation, integration, and coordination. Additionally, relevant authorities technically supervised these associations and foundations, aiming to empower and develop civil society organizations. Currently, there are **27 government bodies** responsible for technical supervision and they oversee the specialized associations related to their respective supervisory roles. The list of these supervisory bodies is as follows:









# **Third Axis:**

# **Laws of Non-Profit Organizations**

In the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, laws are issued by a royal order or decree after the approval of the Bureau of Experts at the Council of Ministers. The approved laws are then kept by the Bureau of Experts at the Council of Ministers. Subsequently, an executive regulation is typically issued by the concerned minister. All related documents, including the executive regulations, are archived at the National Center for Archives & Records. These laws and regulations are published in Um Al-Qura Newspaper. They become applicable after publication, as stipulated by the designated time frame specified in the respective law or regulation. Below is a compilation of the laws and regulations concerning the non-profit sector:



### Law of Civil Associations and Foundations

The regulation governing charitable associations and foundations, issued in (1410 AH - 1990 AD), was cancelled with the introduction of this law in (1437 AH -2015 AD). This updated law has various aspects, including the procedures for establishing civil associations and foundations, the authority responsible for issuing licenses, the powers of the general assembly, the administratively, financially, and technically supervisory bodies, as well as the relevant bodies involved. The law also includes the process for forming the Council of NGOs and the Council of Foundations. Additionally, it establishes the Associations Support Fund, which operates under the administrative oversight of the National Center for Non-Profit Sector. The primary goal of this fund is to provide support and develop the associations' programs, ensuring the continuity of their operations.



### **Executive Regulation for Law of Civil Society Associations and Foundations**

This Regulation was issued in (1437 AH - 2016 AD) by decision of the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development. It includes details of the mechanisms for establishing associations and foundations, the responsibilities of the General Assembly and the Board of Directors, the mechanism for establishing branches and offices, the method of electing Board of Directors' members and the requirements for that, and the resources of the association and the foundation. It also includes how to dissolve and merge the association and the foundation. Then the regulation was amended by the Board of Directors of the National Center for Non-Profit Sector and published in (1445 AH - 2023 AD), and their implementation took effect in the third quarter of the same year. The amendment included a change in the requirements of the founders, and the inclusion of mechanisms in establishing government agencies for civil society associations and foundations. It also includes amending the requirements for establishing branches, and allowing the establishment of offices apart from the association's administrative scope.



### **Governance Rules for Civil Society Organizations and Foundations**

These rules were issued by a decision of the Board of Directors of the National Center for Non-Profit Sector and were published and implemented in (1444 AH - 2023 AD). They explain the executive regulation of the law and clarify its provisions. They aim to develop the performance of the association and the foundation, enhance the contribution of individuals in the management of the association, and motivate supporters to contribute to developing the association and its governance, and enhancing transparency and disclosure in the association and the foundation. These rules included specifying the conditions for membership in the General Assembly and adding a "supporting member". It also clarified the mechanism for calculating votes when there is a "supporting member," the mechanism for nomination, elections, and voting, and the mechanism for forming committees emanating from the Board of Directors, memberships and remunerations for the Board of Directors and committees.



# **Basic Regulation of Civil Association / Foundation**

The basic regulation of civil associations and foundations is issued after the National Center approves the establishment of the organization and the issuance of its license. The basic regulation is considered the statute of the organization which regulates its basic operations. Then, the organization's Board of Directors issues detailed internal regulation, policies, and procedures. The basic regulation of the organization includes the founders' data, the administrative bodies of the association, and the provisions for memberships (in associations), and the responsibilities of the Board of Directors, its affiliated committees and the executive management. The regulation also explains the mechanism of nomination, elections, the establishment of branches, the financial resources of the organization, the final accounts, and the mechanism for dissolving the organization. The basic regulation is not amended except after the approval of the National Center for Non-profit Sector in accordance with the procedures stipulated in the executive regulation of the law of civil



### **Regulation of Fundraising for Charitable Purposes**

This regulation was issued in (1396 AH - 1976 AD). It aims to control the mechanism of collecting donations for civil associations. It includes the mechanism for requesting a license to collect donations, the conditions for collecting donations, the mechanism for using funds, the supervision of the regulatory authorities, and the penalties resulting from violating this regulation.



associations and foundations.



### **Executive Instructions for the Fundraising Regulation**

These instructions were issued in (1444 AH - 2023 AD) by decision of the Board of Directors of the National Center for Non-Profit Sector. They explain the regulation of fundraising for charitable purposes and clarify its provisions. The instructions included the mechanism for obtaining a license for fundraising and the mechanism for revoking it, how to practice the activity of collecting financial and in-kind donations, and calling for and announcing these donations. The instructions also included a table of violations and penalties.



### **Volunteer Work Law**

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This law was issued in (1441 AH - 2020 AD). It aims to spread the culture and organization of volunteer work, enhance the values of national belonging, and develop the capabilities of volunteers. According to this law, a national committee called the National Committee for Volunteer Work was established, headed by the Minister of Human Resources and Social Development and representatives from all sectors. The law also specifies mechanisms for supervising the implementation of volunteer work strategies, mechanisms for agencies dealing with volunteers, and provisions for volunteering and volunteers.



### **Executive Regulation for Volunteer Work**

This regulation was issued in (1443 AH - 2022 AD) by decision of the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development. It includes details in the rights and obligations of volunteers and the mechanism of work of volunteers, in addition to the mechanism of forming volunteer teams and their rights and obligations. The regulation also indicates the agencies that activate volunteer work, whether in the government sector or non-profit or private sectors. The regulation clarifies the support and sponsorship mechanism, as well as complaints, grievances, etc.



### Law of National Center for Non-Profit Sector

This law was issued in (1442 AH - 2021 AD). It aims to clarify the legal status of the National Center for Non-Profit Sector, its administrative affiliation, headquarters, and objectives. The law also clarifies the powers and competencies of the center, the responsibilities of its board of directors, the appointment of the CEO, his/her responsibilities and competencies, the career system for the Center's employees, its budget, financial year, resources, etc.



Regulation Governing the Relationship between Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development and the Bodies that Technically Supervise Civil Associations and Foundations / Supervisory Units Guide

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The regulation governing this relationship was issued in (1439 AH - 2019 AD) by a decision of the "temporary" coordinating committee assigned to study this regulation. It aims to regulate the relationship between the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development (the administrative and financial supervisory body at that time) and the bodies that (technically) supervise the civil associations and foundations. It also aims to direct the bodies concerned with the technical supervision of associations and foundations to establish a unit for civil associations and foundations to facilitate and accelerate them. This regulation clarifies the roles of the technical supervisory bodies, the mechanism for exchanging information, the method of fundraising, and the mechanism for dealing with violating associations.

Then, upon the transfer of administrative and financial supervision to the National Center for Non-Profit Sector, the Guide for the Establishment and Supervision Unit of Non-Profit Sector Organizations was issued. It aims to accelerate the establishment of supervisory units and aspects of the relationship among the Center, the supervisory bodies and the non-profit organizations, and clarify their roles, tasks and job descriptions of their team, in addition to the most important work and governance procedures.



### **Regulation for the Associations Support Fund**

This regulation was issued in (1444 AH - 2022 AD) by a decision of the Board of Directors of the National Center for Non-Profit Sector. It includes clarification of the Fund's legal status and independent financial liability. It also clarifies the mechanism for forming its board of directors, and the connection of its strategy to the development strategy and the strategy of the non-profit sector. The regulation clarifies the headquarters of the Fund, its objectives, tasks, and administrative bodies. The regulation also specifies the tasks and responsibilities of the Fund's board of directors, its meetings, and the committees emanating from it, and the tasks and competences of the Fund's CEO. It organizes the Fund's resources, investments, and expenses, including support for associations and blocking and prevention mechanisms.



### **Regulations of Board of Directors of Civil Associations/ Foundations**

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These two regulations were issued by a decision of the Board of Directors of the National Center for Non-Profit Sector in (1444 AH - 2022 AD). They aim to clarify the legal status and financial and administrative independence of the Board. They also aim at clarifying the mechanism for establishing regional and specialized sub-councils, defining the council's objectives and powers, its administrative bodies, and the relationship between the main council and the regional and specialized sub-councils, the CEO and his/her competences, the nomination mechanism for the councils' boards of directors, etc.



### **Cooperative Associations Law**

The Cooperative Associations Law, that was issued in (1382 AH - 1963 AD), was replaced by the law issued in (1429 AH - 2008 AD). The updated law aims to clarify the provisions for establishing cooperative associations, their nature, components, and duties, in addition to the provisions for managing cooperative associations through the Board of Directors and the General Assembly. It also clarifies the monitoring system of cooperative associations, distributing profits, and dissolving cooperative associations and liquidating their businesses.



### Law of General Authority for Awgaf

This law was issued in (1437 AH - 2015 AD). It aims to organize the Authority's work in supervising, preserving, evolving, and developing Awqaf in a way that fulfills the conditions of the donors and enhances its role in the economic and social development and social solidarity, in accordance with the objectives of Islamic Sharia and laws.



### Regulation for Organizing Work of Waqf Supervision

This law was issued by a decision of the General Authority for Awqaf in (1443 AH - 2022 AD). It aims to control and regulate the supervision work in a way that achieves the goal of the endowment owner, enhance the developmental role of endowments, raise the professional competence of the supervisors to protect the endowment and the rights related to it. It also aims to strengthen the principles of transparency and oversight of the supervisors' work, control the rights and obligations of the supervisor. This law stipulates the protection and development of endowments, in addition to the enhancement of their developmental role in accordance with the conditions of the endowments' owners and the relevant regulation.



### Law on Combating Terrorism Crimes and Financing

This law was issued in (1439 AH - 2017 AD). It aims at combating terrorism crimes and financing in all sectors in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, including the non-profit sector. The law defines civil society associations and foundations as (non-profit organizations). It includes the importance of identifying, understanding and documenting the risks of terrorism, establishing and activating policies and procedures related to them, in addition to the penalties that are applied in the event of violating this law. The regulations related to (non-profit organizations) are mentioned in Articles No. (6, 7, 50, 63, 67, 70, 71, 82, 83, 86, 92).



### **Executive Regulation of Law on Combating Terrorism Crimes and Financing**

This regulation was issued in (1440 AH - 2018 AD) by a decision of the Council of Ministers. It includes details of the mechanisms for providing records, documents and information upon receiving a disclosure request. It also clarifies the mechanism for identifying and understanding terrorism risks and documenting them, as well as the mechanism for setting policies, procedures and controls. The regulation confirms the importance of using forms prepared by the Saudi Arabia Financial Investigation Unit (SAFIU). Details of non-profit organizations are included in Articles No. (6, 16, 18, 23).



### **Anti-Money Laundering Law**

This law was issued in (1439 AH - 2017 AD). It aims to combat money laundering in all sectors in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, including the non-profit sector. The law defines civil society associations and foundations as (non-profit organizations). It includes a mechanism for reporting to the SAFIU immediately upon suspicion of money laundering operations, in addition to mentioning the penalties in the event that any entity violates this law. The regulations related to non-profit organizations are mentioned in Articles No. (14, 15, 16, 18, 24, 25, 43).



### **Executive Regulation of Anti-Money Laundering Law**

The regulation was issued in (1439 AH - 2017 AD) by a decision of the Council of Ministers. It includes details of the mechanism for reporting to SAFIU and responding to the SAFIU's requests. It also prohibited alerting the client about submitting a report. It clarifies that there is no responsibility towards the person reported to SAFIU. The regulation also clarifies the obligation to provide information to the regulatory authorities, ensures compliance with the measures stipulated in the regulation, and the mechanism for warning the violator. The details related to non-profit organizations are mentioned in Articles No. (15, 16, 24, 25, 39).

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#### **Labor Law**

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This law was issued in (1426 AH - 2005 AD). It targets all sectors in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, including workers in the non-profit sector. It aims to clarify general definitions and provisions, regulate recruitment processes, employ non-Saudis, training and qualification, labor relations, terms and conditions. It also clarifies part-time work, prevention of work risks, major accidents and work-related injuries, health and social services, employment of minors, maritime labor contract, work in mines and quarries, labor inspection, labor dispute settlement bodies, penalties, and other provisions related to labor.



#### **Records and Archives Law**

This law was issued in (1409 AH - 1989 AD). It targets all sectors in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. It aims to preserve, maintain, index and classify records and archives in a way that ensures quick finding of what is needed. It also organizes their circulation, taking into account what is decided regarding the duration of archiving. It shows sections of records and archives, their classification plan, and how to archive them.

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# **Chapter Three:**

# **Strategic Orientations in Non-Profit Sector**

Saudi Vision 2030 Targets for Non-Profit Sector Strategic Goals of Saudi Vision 2030 Related to Non-Profit Sector

Relationship of Vision Programs and Non-Profit Sector



Since its launch in (1437 AH - 2016 AD), Saudi Vision 2030 has sought to support the non-profit sector and make it a pillar of development. The vision stipulates, "The nation that we seek is completed with the integration of our roles. We all have roles to play as workers in the governmental, private or non-profit sectors."

The vision document states, "Non-profit associations and foundations will be enabled to attract the best talents capable of transferring knowledge and applying the best management practices. We will also work to ensure that the non-profit sector has greater effectiveness in the sectors of health, education, housing, research, social programs, and cultural events".

As a reflection of Saudi Vision 2030, goals, indicators and initiatives were carried out by launching 11 programs to achieve this vision. They are as follows:



Human Capability Development Program



National Industrial Development and Logistics Program



Privatization Program



Public Investment Fund Program



National Transformation Program



Pilgrim Experience Program



Financial Sector Development Program



Health Sector Transformation Program



**Housing Program** 



Financial Sustainability Program



Quality of Life Program

These programs aim to support, develop, and enhance the effectiveness of the non-profit sector to be a key participant in development. Saudi Vision 2030 programs have direct or indirect relationship and partnership with the non-profit sector. The following is a list of the most important goals of Saudi Vision 2030 for the non-profit sector, as well as the required contributions from the non-profit sector and the related vision programs.



### **First Axis:**

# Saudi Vision 2030 Targets for Non-Profit Sector:

### Saudi Vision 2030 targets include the following:

- Raising the non-profit sector's contribution to 5%.
- Raising the percentage of development projects with a social impact to 33%.
- Raising the Kingdom's ranking in the social capital index to tenth place.
- Reaching one million volunteers.

### The commitments of Saudi Vision 2030 include the following:

- Facilitating the establishment of non-profit organizations for the wealthy people, which contributes to the growth of the non-profit sector.
- Motivating the non-profit sector to implement good governance standards.
- Enabling the non-profit sector to transform to institutionalization.
- Creating the appropriate technological environment.
- Strengthening cooperation between non-profit sector foundations and government agencies.
- Facilitating the process of attracting talent, training them, and building their capabilities.
- Instilling the culture of volunteering among the society's individuals.



# **Second Axis:**

# Strategic Goals of Saudi Vision 2030 Related to Non-Profit Sector:

Referring to the areas of work of the non-profit sector, we find that there are six strategic goals of Saudi Vision 2030, of which the non-profit sector contributes to achieving five of these goals directly or indirectly, according to the following:

Strategic Goal: Promoting Islamic Values and National Identity

All associations working in the field of memorizing the Holy Qur'an, Da'wah and guidance seek to achieve their goal by spreading moderate thought and confronting extremist ideas. Many organizations concerned with caring for morals and societal values contribute to strengthening the national identity and belonging.

Strategic Goal: Enabling a Healthy Life Style Non-profit organizations working in the health and environmental field contribute directly to achieving this goal through their programs and initiatives that raise the level of health and environmental awareness, in addition to providing health care and building non-profit hospitals, centers and health facilities.

Strategic Goal: Development and Diversification of Economy

Civil and cooperative associations and civil foundations play a direct role in improving training and development, providing all financing services, supporting productive families, and social investment concepts.

Strategic Goal: Increasing Employment Rates The non-profit sector plays an important role in providing suitable job opportunities for wide segments of Saudis. It also provides the necessary training and qualification opportunities that enable male and female citizens to join the labor market.

Strategic Goal: Empowering Social Responsibility The non-profit sector is considered the main outlet for achieving citizen responsibility semi-officially through volunteering in non-profit work. The private sector's contribution to supporting non-profit work is considered one of its most prominent forms of social responsibility.





# **Third Axis:**

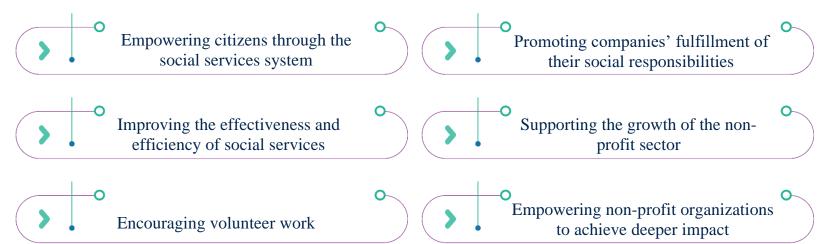
# Relationship of Vision Programs and Non-Profit Sector:



### **National Transformation Program**

The National Transformation Program aims to develop the necessary infrastructure and create the enabling environment for the public, private and non-profit sectors to achieve the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030. This is done by focusing on achieving excellence in government performance, supporting digital transformation, contributing to the development of the private sector, developing economic partnerships, promoting community development, and ensuring the sustainability of vital resources. It is directly linked to the non-profit sector in the dimension of promoting community development and developing the non-profit sector. This dimension aims to achieve an active non-profit sector that contributes to community development through a number of axes. It also aims to achieve the following strategic goals:





#### The program includes 34 initiatives directly related to the non-profit sector, including the following:



Initiative of
Establishing National
Center for Non-Profit
Sector



Initiative of Governance and Classification of Non-Profit Organizations



Initiative of Assigning Government Services to Non-Profit Sector



Initiative of modeling, equipping and assigning social care services provided to orphans in centers, orphanages and institutions in partnership with the private and non-profit sectors



Initiative of establishing and accelerating the operation of supervisory units for non-profit organizations in the relevant authorities



Initiative of organizing and enabling community contribution



Creating investment and financing packages and models that have a social impact



Qualifying the workforce and providing job opportunities in the non-profit sector



Organizing and empowering social development work



Strengthening the developmental role of the non-profit sector through endowments



Empowering and organizing volunteer work in the non-profit and governmental sectors



Digital transformation of social services



Encouraging companies to adopt and develop social responsibility programs



### **Quality of Life Program**

Non-profit sector foundations contribute to supporting various entertainment sectors such as sports, culture, heritage, entertainment and tourism. The Quality of Life Program enhances effectively communication with the non-profit sector and other sectors to achieve the program's ambitions and the obligations assigned to it. The program includes one initiative that is directly related to the non-profit sector:



Initiative of Increasing Community
Participation

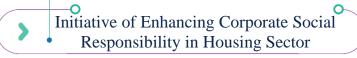
The initiative aims to increase and activate community participation with its various paths by involving volunteer work, municipal councils, civil foundations and associations, non-profit companies, and corporate social responsibility. This is achieved by obtaining several inputs from residents such as complaints, development proposals, evaluation of municipal services, as well as attracting ideas from beneficiaries of the municipal services to raise the efficiency of municipal work.



### **Housing Program**

Non-profit organizations contribute to providing housing for the needy groups by building social houses or providing material or moral support to those in need to obtain adequate housing. One of the most important housing sector initiatives related to the non-profit sector is as follows:





It is an initiative that searches for the most important opportunities through which companies can practice their social responsibility in a way that will reflect positively on the housing sector programs and get beneficiaries benefit from the programs it provides to facilitate access to housing and ensure its sustainability.



### Human Capability Development Program

The Human Capability Development Program aims to develop the basic and future skills and knowledge of citizens and enhance their values in an effort to meet the requirements of the local and global future labor market. One of the most important program's initiatives that the non-profit sector contributes to achieving is as follows:





This initiative includes programs to develop basic digital skills for adults in partnership with the private sector and the non-profit sector. Providing a framework for the participation of the private sector and non-profit foundations in developing human capabilities is considered one of the most important enablers of the program. This is achieved by providing a framework for the participation of the private sector and non-profit foundations, encouraging their investments in curricula, technology, and innovation, as well as developing distance learning platforms.



### **Health Sector Transformation Program**

The Health Sector Transformation Program seeks to enhance the participation of the non-profit sector in providing health care services by strengthening legislation that supports and motivates donors to provide health care services. One of the most important program's initiatives that is related to the non-profit sector is as follows:





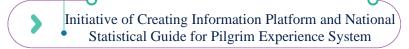
This initiative aims to create an enabling environment that supports and motivates the components of society for enabling them to participate in providing health care services. The initiative's scope of work includes creating and developing the motivational and enabling laws and regulations for donations, endowments, and volunteering in the health field, establishing entities at the national level and at the level of the Ministry of Health, and designing channels concerned with directing the community resources and capabilities to address priority health challenges.



### **Pilgrim Experience Program**

The program aspires to activate the role of the non-profit sector in serving the Pilgrims and Umrah performers. This is included in a strategic dimension and pillar: enhancing the participation of the private and non-profit sectors by directing the funds of the non-profit system to finance projects serving the Pilgrims and Umrah performers. The most important initiatives related to the non-profit sector are as follows:









### **Financial Sector Development Program**

The Financial Sector Development Program intersects directly with the non-profit sector in increasing the diversification of available alternative financing sources, especially for specific active economic segments such as startups, entrepreneurs, and non-governmental organizations. The program focuses on further stimulating the growth of private equity funds, venture capital, financing investment funds, and endowment funds. One of the most important related initiatives is as follows:







### **National Industrial Development and Logistics Program**

Non-profit sector organizations can contribute to the National Industrial Development and Logistics Services Program directly by qualifying and training workers in the field of promising industries and contributing to nationalization in partnership with the Human Capability Development Program. They can also participate indirectly in achieving the following program's indirect objectives:

- Reducing various types of pollution
- Enhancing companies' focus on their social responsibilities

The non-profit sector can intersect with this program through the following initiative:





Initiative of Developing Business Models in Cities and Special Economic Zones

This initiative aims to deepen the impact in the field of social responsibility and improve the quality of life within cities and special economic zones.



# **Conclusion**

The development journey is endless as the non-profit sector organizations are growing and increasing. This guide is considered an **Overview of Non-Profit Sector in Kingdom of Saudi Arabia**, through which the team of authors have sought to contribute to defining the non-profit sector, its characteristics, goals and history. They also address its organizations and supervisory and coordination bodies, introduce its laws and regulations, and its relation to the strategic orientations of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

For completing the development journey, you can learn more about the non-profit sector through the various attached sources of knowledge.

We have the pleasure to receive your feedback and suggestions



