



ARAB CENTER *for*  
HEALTHCARE  
SUSTAINABILITY

LEAD. EMPOWER. TRANSFORM

## 1- INTRODUCTION

In the context of achieving the AHF Strategic Plan, We launched the Arab Center for Healthcare Sustainability (ACHS) in the aim of leading the Healthcare sector towards sustainability and to face the Climate Change challenges of today and tomorrow.

As per the vital call of COP26, Many Heads of State from Arab Countries expressed the great interest to contribute to confronting climate change through their commitment to reducing carbon emissions and supporting clean and renewable energy initiatives and projects. Research shows that Health sector contributes to the global climate crisis and the Hospitals and Healthcare services must play a dynamic role in leading Healthcare towards sustainability.

Climate change is a critical challenge ... The need for action to protect our planet from the impact of climate change is urgent and it is time to think differently about the future. Hundreds of millions of people across the globe are experiencing the impact of climate change that affects our health, both physical and mental.

The World Health Organization has stated that climate change is “the greatest threat to global health in the 21st Century”. Global warming has clear links with health, from pollution, heatwaves and flooding to infection and allergies.

Cutting carbon through healthier lifestyles and reducing resource use reduces climate change and also has direct health benefits.

From its side, Healthcare is a major emitter of environmental pollutants that adversely affect health therefore the health sector has a critical role to play in leading the sustainability transformation and addressing climate and ecological breakdown, both through adapting to serve populations most affected by environmental change, but also through tackling its own contribution.

## 2- OVERVIEW

The vision of World Health Organisation (WHO), for an environmentally sustainable health system is a health system that improves, maintains or restores health, while minimizing negative impacts on the environment and leveraging opportunities to restore and improve it, to the benefit of the health and well-being of current and future generations.

For the Arab Hospitals Federation, the aim is to drive hospitals' role in creating incentives for change, fostering healthy communities, enhancing environmental impact, supporting the economy and promoting innovative models of care. Healthcare must undergo a systemic transformation to a sustainable model of care to achieve Health for all. This includes mitigation of ongoing environmental impacts, as well as adaptation of healthcare infrastructure and a new vision for Healthcare facility design that promote safe, green and smart Hospitals...

We believe that joining efforts to face this new challenge, as well to commit the Healthcare leaders in driving this transformation will let us reach the goal to confront this future crisis and spare the patients, hospitals, health systems and community from its consequences. This is what we learned from Covid -19 pandemic that has had a profound impact on humanity and the world economy in 2020, and it has taught us that it is possible for the world to come together for an important cause.

From our side, the Arab Hospitals Federation spread a new vision for Healthcare facilities design that aims to play an important role in tackling the climate crisis in order to reach the SDG3, SDG7 & SDG13 by creating the Arab Center for Healthcare sustainability to have a vital contribution to reach Healthcare sustainability in our Countries.

The Arab Center for Healthcare Sustainability will lead and accelerate change in the Healthcare sector to an essential transformation in the system, Institutions, facilities, leaders thinking and decision making, in addition to launching Assessment tools for Healthcare sustainability, to spreading approaches and initiatives to reach sustainability.

It will constitute a cross-sectoral arena involving stakeholders from Ministries, Organizations, Hospitals, universities, companies, NGOs, projects and actors in the area of Healthcare, sustainability, Environment, Energy Efficiency, Green Buildings and other fields , all sharing the same goal.

Together they generate collaborations, projects, business, knowledge and new innovative ideas to reach sustainability in the Arab Healthcare sector.

### 3- MISSION

- Encourage dialogue with all concerned people to adopt an environmental sustainability policy for health systems.
- Develop the Sustainability Tools for Healthcare Institution.
- Assess the Healthcare Institution according to the Sustainability tools.
- Raise the status and awareness of Healthcare sustainability.
- Commit and Develop leadership skills to respond effectively to climate change.
- Boost the dialogue between the Healthcare Leaders to share information.
- Engage the health workforce as an advocate of sustainability.
- Boost innovation and investments in healthcare sustainability by having green hospitals, Managing Healthcare & Pharma waste, Reducing Water Consumption ...
- Lead the efforts in the development of Energy Efficiency & Renewable energy to help Healthcare Institutions to implement it.
- Promote sustainable procurement.
- Initiate cooperation and partnerships between the various stakeholders to face this challenge.
- Bring world class solutions and ideas to the Healthcare Sector.
- Provide Consultancy from AHF Experts about the various aspect of Healthcare sustainability
- Educate & provide capacity building on sustainability issues.

### 4- VISION

The vision of the Arab Centre for Healthcare Sustainability is to be a prominent center of Excellence to transform healthcare towards sustainability, build a resilient healthcare future for all, encourage, educate and empower the healthcare community to ensure the health and wellbeing of the population which is profoundly impacted by global climate change, as well to commit the Healthcare leaders to lead this transformation and to have sustainable institutions.

### 5- AIM

The Arab Hospitals Federation has created the Arab Center for Healthcare Sustainability to offer an independent and unique platform bringing together all stakeholders to enhance partnerships, Assess Healthcare Institutions, provide consultancy & solutions, connect with the related organizations for funding, create networks and facilitate meetings, events or other activities, support initiatives, programs and collective action to reach the goals.

The aim of this platform is to help healthcare institutions, companies, Universities, researchers and others to meet, discuss challenges and find opportunities for cooperation in reaching sustainability for healthcare sector. It is necessary to give all stakeholders a broader view of Healthcare Sustainability and help them identify their own roles, as well to build awareness, anchor leadership role for sustainability and provide capacity building.

## 5- GOALS

The goals of this program are:

- **BUILDINGS** : Support Green and Healthy Hospital Design and Construction
- **LEADERSHIP** : Prioritize the Healthcare sustainability as a Strategic Imperative
- **ENERGY** : Implement Energy Efficiency and Clean, Renewable Energy Generation
- **WASTE** : Reduce, Treat and Safely Dispose of Healthcare Waste
- **WATER** : Reduce Hospital Water Consumption and Supply Potable Water
- **TRANSPORTATION** : Improve Transportation Strategies for Patients and Staff
- **PHARMACEUTICALS** : Safely Manage and Dispose of Pharmaceuticals
- **PURCHASING** : Buy Safer and More Sustainable Products and Materials

## 6- STRATEGIC ACTIONS

- Develop & set assessment Sustainability tools to evaluate the ability of each healthcare institution to be a green, smart and safe hospital.
- Disseminate universal protocols and guidelines related to Green Buildings principles, Energy efficiency and renewable energy uses, waste management, water conservation and treatment.
- Ensure high authority commitment for healthcare sustainability through relevant legislation, rules, regulations and resources.
- Improve capacity building and resources through continuous trainings and educational programs on Sustainability in healthcare for different categories of health care providers and other specialties working in healthcare facilities.
- Provide consultancy to interested facilities about the various aspects targeted in the healthcare sustainability.
- Support Leadership for sustainable hospitals in creating long-term organizational culture change; realizing widespread hospital worker and community engagement and fostering public policy that promotes environmental health.
- Equip healthcare leaders to have information, tools and skills.

## 7- GOVERNANCE

The Arab Center for Healthcare Sustainability is headed by a Director and supported by a steering committee & operational team chosen by the AHF Executive Council .  
The ACHS team regroups experts from different backgrounds from Healthcare, Engineering & Architecture, Environment Specialists and others,....



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## CONTACT US

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