

Law No. (3) of 2015
Establishing
UAE Water Aid Foundation (Suqia)¹

We, Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Ruler of Dubai,

After perusal of:

Decree No. (1) of 1992 Establishing the Dubai Electricity and Water Authority and its amendments,

Do hereby issue this Law.

Title of the Law
Article (1)

This Law will be cited as “Law No. (3) of 2015 Establishing UAE Water Aid Foundation (Suqia)”.

Definitions
Article (2)

The following words and expressions, wherever mentioned in this Law, will have the meaning indicated opposite each of them unless the context implies otherwise:

UAE:	The United Arab Emirates.
Emirate:	The Emirate of Dubai.
Ruler:	His Highness the Ruler of Dubai.
Government:	The Government of Dubai.
DEWA:	The Dubai Electricity and Water Authority.
Suqia:	The UAE Water Aid Foundation.

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¹Every effort has been made to produce an accurate and complete English version of this legislation. However, for the purpose of its interpretation and application, reference must be made to the original Arabic text. In case of conflict, the Arabic text will prevail.

Board of Trustees: The board of trustees of Suqia.

Chairman: The chairman of the Board of Trustees.

CEO: The chief executive officer of Suqia.

Establishment of Suqia

Article (3)

Pursuant to this Law, a public non-profit foundation named “UAE Water Aid Foundation (Suqia)” is established. Suqia will have legal personality, and the legal capacity required to undertake all acts and dispositions that ensure the achievement of its objectives. Suqia will be affiliated to DEWA.

Head Office of Suqia

Article (4)

The head office of Suqia will be located in the city of Dubai. Other branches and offices of Suqia may be established within and outside of the Emirate.

Objectives of Suqia

Article (5)

Suqia will have the following objectives:

1. to position the UAE as a pioneer, at the international level, in taking initiatives and providing humanitarian aid to improve the living conditions of the poor and distressed communities, and to achieve sustainable development;
2. to support the role of the humanitarian organisations and agencies in the UAE, and to enhance their capabilities to cope with the humanitarian emergencies around the world;
3. to participate in international efforts to ensure the availability of clean potable water, combat life-threatening water-related diseases, and protect water resources from biological and chemical pollutants;
4. to provide clean potable water and the basics of a decent life to the needy, distressed, and underprivileged persons around the world; and
5. to contribute to developing permanent and radical solutions to the water shortage crisis around the world through the use of modern technology; and
6. to contribute to providing innovative and creative solutions to the communities that are suffering from the shortage, scarcity, and pollution of potable water.

Functions of Suqia

Article (6)

For the purpose of achieving its objectives, Suqia will have the duties and powers to:

1. contribute to financing and supporting water technology projects to fight drought and water-related diseases;
2. develop sustainable water purification and desalination solar energy-based solutions;
3. promote social responsibility among public and private entities within and outside of the Emirate, and encourage them to support the humanitarian initiatives that contribute to providing clean potable water for those most in need of it around the world. For this purpose, Suqia may recognise such entities through the awards it sponsors, and which are granted to researchers in the field of development and innovation of solar energy-based water production systems and technology.
4. support partnership efforts among international, regional, Arab, local, civilian, and other foundations and organisations which share common objectives in the field of fighting and reducing water scarcity and shortage;
5. raise funds and donations within and outside of the Emirate, in coordination with the concerned entities, to finance research and studies on providing clean potable water; and invest the property of Suqia to help achieve its objectives;
6. contribute to establishing companies or undertake joint investments and ventures within and outside of the UAE;
7. form permanent or temporary committees and work teams to enable Suqia to perform its duties, and determine the functions and terms of reference of these committees and work teams; and
8. perform any other activities or acts required for the achievement of the objectives of Suqia.

Research Centres

Article (7)

To effectively and efficiently perform its duties and functions, Suqia may establish research centres to:

1. conduct studies and research and issue reports and publications on the latest practices and techniques to address the water crisis; and support the endeavours for solar energy-based clean and potable water production;

2. conduct research and field experiments to test the viability of solar energy-based water production and desalination technology;
3. coordinate with international, educational, and academic entities and institutions by entering into the relevant partnerships and agreements;
4. organise scientific conferences and sponsor those organised by institutions specialised in water-related scientific research within and outside of the UAE; and
5. perform any other duties that enable Suqia to perform the duties and powers assigned to it.

Board of Trustees of Suqia

Article (8)

- a. Suqia will have a Board of Trustees comprised of a Chairman and at least six (6) experienced, competent, and specialised members, appointed pursuant to a decree issued by the Ruler.
- b. At its first meeting, the Board of Trustees will elect, from among its members, a vice chairman who will act as the Chairman in case of his absence or any other impediment.
- c. The Board of Trustees will convene at the invitation of the Chairman, or the vice chairman if the Chairman is absent, at least once every three (3) months and where necessary. Meetings of the Board of Trustees will be valid if attended by the majority of its members, provided that the Chairman or vice chairman is in attendance.
- d. The Board of Trustees will pass its resolutions and recommendations by majority vote of attending members, and in the event of a tie, the chair of the meeting will have a casting vote.
- e. Resolutions and recommendations of the Board of Trustees will be recorded in minutes signed by the chair of the meeting and attending members.
- f. The Chairman will appoint a rapporteur who will be responsible for sending invitations for the meetings of the Board of Trustees to its Chairman and members; preparing the agenda of meetings; drafting minutes of meetings; following up the implementation of resolutions and recommendations; and performing any other duties assigned to the rapporteur by the chair of the meeting.
- g. For the purpose of considering the issues and matters referred to it, the Board of Trustees may seek assistance from the experts and specialists it deems appropriate from within and outside of the Emirate, provided that they do not have the right to vote in its deliberations.

Functions of the Board of Trustees
Article (9)

The Board of Trustees will undertake general supervision of the work of Suqia and its performance of assigned duties and powers, and may in particular:

1. approve the work plans and programmes which are in line with the objectives of Suqia;
2. approve the general policy, and strategic and operational plans of Suqia;
3. approve the draft annual budget and final accounts of Suqia;
4. approve the organisational structure of Suqia, and the resolutions, bylaws, and regulations which regulate its administrative, financial, and technical work;
5. approve the terms of reference of the Board of Trustees;
6. appoint auditors and specialist consultants, and determine their remuneration; and
7. perform any other duties related to the objectives and functions of Suqia.

CEO
Article (10)

- a. A CEO will be appointed to Suqia by a resolution issued by the Chairman. This resolution will also determine the salary and other financial benefits of the CEO.
- b. The CEO will, pursuant to the resolutions and directives issued by the Board of Trustees or the Chairman, have the duties and powers to:
 1. propose the strategic, development, and operational plans, work programmes, and general policy of Suqia, and submit the same to the Board of Trustees for approval;
 2. implement the general policy of Suqia and the resolutions passed by the Board of Trustees;
 3. propose the annual draft budget and final accounts of Suqia, and submit the same to the Board of Trustees for approval;
 4. prepare the organisational structure of Suqia, and draft the resolutions, bylaws, and regulations which regulate the administrative, financial, and technical work of Suqia, and submit the same to the Board of Trustees for approval;
 5. supervise the daily work of Suqia and its executive body, and appoint specialist and competent employees;

6. supervise the implementation of the projects, programmes, and initiatives supported by Suqia or to whose implementation it contributes;
7. represent Suqia before third parties, and conclude, upon the approval of the Board of Trustees, the contracts and agreements required for the achievement of its objectives;
8. achieve the required performance outcomes and submit performance reports to the Board of Trustees; and
9. perform any other duties assigned to him by the Board of Trustees or the Chairman.

Executive Body of Suqia

Article (11)

- a. The executive body of Suqia will be comprised of a CEO and a number of administrative, financial, and technical employees.
- b. The CEO will be directly responsible to the Board of Trustees for performing the duties assigned to him pursuant to this Law and the regulations and bylaws adopted by Suqia, and for performing the duties assigned to him by the Board of Trustees.
- c. Employees of the executive body of Suqia will be appointed, and the terms of their appointment and dismissal, their rights and duties, and other relevant matters will be determined pursuant to the regulations and bylaws approved by the Board of Trustees in this respect.

Financial Resources of Suqia

Article (12)

The financial resources of Suqia will consist of:

1. the support allocated to Suqia in the budget of DEWA;
2. gifts, donations, grants, bequests, and endowments awarded to Suqia and accepted by the Board of Trustees;
3. returns on the investment of the property of Suqia; and
4. any other financial or in-kind resources approved by the Board of Trustees.

Budget and Accounts of Suqia

Article (13)

- a. In regulating its accounts and records, Suqia will apply the rules and principles of commercial accounting in accordance with the internationally recognised standards.

Accounts and records of Suqia will be audited by an audit firm appointed by the Board of Trustees.

- b. The financial year of Suqia will commence on 1 January and will end on 31 December of each year, except that the first financial year will commence on the date this Law comes into force and will end on 31 December of the following year.

Liability of the Government and DEWA Article (14)

Neither the Government nor DEWA will be held liable to third parties for any debts or obligations claimed from Suqia.

Issuing Implementing Resolutions Article (15)

The Board of Trustees will issue the resolutions required for the implementation of the provisions of this Law.

Repeals Article (16)

Any provision in any other legislation will be repealed to the extent that it contradicts the provisions of this Law.

Commencement and Publication Article (17)

This Law comes into force on the day on which it is issued, and will be published in the Official Gazette.

Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum
Ruler of Dubai

Issued in Dubai on 3 February 2015
Corresponding to 14 Rabi al-Thani 1436 A.H.