

<b>SAUDI ARABIA</b> <b>KEY FACTS AND FIGURES</b>
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**I – COUNTRY PROFILE** (*source: UNDP Human Development Report 2020*)

- Population, total (million): 39.3
- Human Development Index: 0.854; Rank: 40 (out of 189 countries)
- Life expectancy at birth (years): 75.1
- Expected years of schooling (years): 16.1
- Gross national income (GNI) per capita (2011 PPP\$): 47,495
- Internet users (% of population): 93.3
- Carbon dioxide emissions per capita (tonnes): 18.4

**II – SAUDI ARABIA/UNESCO COOPERATION**

1. **Membership in UNESCO:** since 1946
2. **Membership on the Executive Board:** yes (2019-2023)
3. **Membership on Intergovernmental Committees, Commissions, etc.:**
  - Intergovernmental Council of the “Management of Social transformations” Programme (term expires in 2021).
  - Intergovernmental Council of the International Programme for the Development of Communication (term expires in 2021).
  - Legal Committee (term expires in 2021).
  - Intergovernmental Council for the Information for All Programme (IFAP) (term expires in 2023).
  - Intergovernmental Committee on World Heritage (WHC) (term expires in 2023).
  - Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) (term expires in 2024).
4. **Your visits to Saudi Arabia:** 1
  - 29 January- 1 February 2020: Al Hegra conference in the city of Al Ula
5. **Former Director-General visits to Saudi Arabia:** 7
  - 21 May 2017: Arab-Islamic-American Summit in Riyadh.
  - 4 May 2017: 7<sup>th</sup> International Forum of NGOs – Meeting with the King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud.
  - 20-22 January 2013: Youth Volunteering and Dialogue International Conference of Jeddah.
  - 2-5 December 2013: International Youth Conference on Volunteering and Dialogue, within the cooperation agreement between UNESCO and the Abdulla Bin Abdulaziz International Programme for a Culture of Peace and Dialogue.
  - 20-23 April 2012: Visit of the first women’s university in Saudi Arabia, Princess Nora bin Abdulrahman University.
  - 11-12 December 2011: 9th Learning and Technology Conference, Learning by Design: Purpose, Art and Motion.
  - 16-17 March 2010: Festival of Al Janadriyah.
6. **Permanent Delegation to UNESCO:**
  - Ambassador, Permanent Delegate: H.H. Princess Haifa Al-Mogrin (since 9 January 2020).
  - Former Ambassador, Permanent Delegate: H.E. Mr Ibrahim Albalawi (from May 2017 to December 2019).

7. **UNESCO Office:** Saudi Arabia is covered by UNESCO Office in Doha (Qatar)
  - Date of establishment: 1976
  - Member States serviced: Qatar, Oman, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Bahrain, Kuwait and Yemen
  - Name of Head: Ms Anna Paolini (Italy)
8. **National Commission for UNESCO:**
  - Date of establishment: 1964
  - Chairman: H.H. Prince Badr bin Abdullah bin Farhan Al Saud (since November 2019)
  - Secretary-General: Mr Hattan Muneer bin Samman (since January 2020)
9. **Personalities linked to UNESCO's activities: 1**
  - Dr Hayat Sindi: Goodwill Ambassador, since 1 October 2012.
10. **UNESCO Chairs: 2**
  - UNESCO Chair for Research on Giftedness, Creativity and Learners with Special Needs, established in 2014 at King Faisal University.
  - UNESCO Chair for Health Education and Teacher Education, established in 2001 at Sebai Institute for Development.
11. **Associated schools: 4**
12. **Category 2 Centres: 2**
  - Regional Centre for Quality and Excellence in Education (ED) – Created in 2014.
  - Regional Centre for Dialogue and Peace (SHS) – Approved in 2019 at the 40th session of the General Conference.
13. **Biosphere Reserves:** none – Saudi Arabia is not a member of the MAB Programme.
14. **UNESCO Global Geoparks:** none
15. **World Heritage sites: 5 cultural sites**
  - Al-Hijr Archeological Site (Mada'in Saleh) (2008)
  - At-Turaif District in ad-Dir'iyah (2010)
  - The Historic City of Jeddah, the Gate to Makkah (2014)
  - Rock Art in the Hail Region of Saudi Arabia (2015)
  - Al-Ahsa Oasis, an evolving Cultural Landscape (2018)
16. **Tentative list: 11 properties**
  - Darb Zubayda (Pilgrim Road from Kufa to Makkah) (2015)
  - Hejaz Railway (2015)
  - Syrian Hajj Road (2015)
  - Egyptian Hajj Road (2015)
  - Al-Faw Pre-Islamic City in Central Arabia (Qariah) (2015)
  - Rijal Almaa Heritage Village in Assir Region (2015)
  - Zee Ain Heritage Village in Al-Baha Region (2015)
  - Hima a rock art site in Najran (2015)
  - Dûmat Al-Jandal Historical Oasis in Al-Jawf Region (2015)
  - 'Uruq Bani Mu'arid Protected Area (2019)
  - Farasan Islands Protected Area (2019)
17. **Intangible Heritage lists: 8 elements**
  - Arabic coffee, a symbol of generosity (2015)
  - Majilis, a cultural and social space (2015)
  - Alardah Alnajdiyah, dance, drumming and poetry in Saudi Arabia (2015)

- Falconry, a living human heritage, jointly with United Arab Emirates, Belgium, Czech Republic, France, Hungary, Republic of Korea, Mongolia, Morocco, Qatar, Austria, Spain, and Syrian Arab Republic (2016)
  - Al Mezmar, drumming and dancing with sticks (2016)
  - Al-Qatt Al-Asiri, female traditional interior wall decoration in Asir (2017)
  - Date palm, knowledge, skills, traditions and practices (2019)
  - Traditional weaving of Al Sadu (2020)
- 18. Memory of the World Register:** 1 inscription
- Earliest Islamic (Kufic) Inscription (2003)
- 19. Creative cities:** 1
- Al-Ahsa – Crafts and Folk Art (2015)
- 20. Legal instruments:** 14 ratified, 28 non-ratified
- Convention on the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage: ratified on 10 January 2008
  - Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions: non-ratified
  - International Convention against Doping in Sport: ratified on 22 May 2008
  - Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage: ratified on 13 November 2015
  - Global Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education. Paris, 25 November 2019: non ratified
- 21. Anniversaries with which UNESCO is associated in 2020-2021:** none
- 22. Participation Programme:**
- 2020-2021: no projects were submitted
  - 2019-2020: no projects were submitted
  - 2018-2019: no projects were submitted
- 23. Fellowships:** no fellowships since 2010.
- 24. Intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) maintaining relations with UNESCO:** 7
- Arab Bureau of Education for the Gulf States.
  - Arab Gulf Programme for United Nations Development Organizations.
  - Arab Satellite Communications Organization.
  - Co-operation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf.
  - Islamic Development Bank.
  - Islamic States Broadcasting Services Organisation.
  - Organization of Islamic Cooperation (formerly Organization of the Islamic Conference).
- 25. Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) maintaining relations with UNESCO:** 5
- Herfah Multi-Purpose Women's Cooperative, NGO in official partnership with UNESCO with consultative status (2011).
  - Saudi Heritage Preservation Society (SHPS), NGO in official partnership with UNESCO with consultative status (2016).
  - In addition, 2 requests are currently under evaluation:
    - King Faisal Foundation: dedicated to serving Islamic civilization, supporting continuing research, and encouraging cultural and scientific activities.
    - King Khaled Foundation: funds social and economic development projects including training, capacity building, research, and policy development programs.

