



مجلس الصحة  
لدول مجلس التعاون  
Gulf Health Council



# Annual Report 2023

of the Gulf  
Health Council



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# 01

## A Journey of Success

- Introduction
- General Manager's Speech
- Council Journey
- Organizational Chart
- About the Council



## Introduction

We proudly present to you the annual report for the year 2023 of the Gulf Health Council, shedding light on the significant successes achieved by the Council in its journey towards developing and constructing a unified Gulf health system. Throughout the past year, there have been continuous efforts and diligent work from all members and departments of the Council, driven by the Council's vision, mission, and ambitious objectives, which have played a crucial role in enhancing health cooperation in the Gulf.

### We hope that this report reflects:



Accomplishments



The dedicated efforts



Obstacles faced during the past year



Faced challenges

مجلس الصحة  
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Gulf Health Council



# General Manager's Speech

The Gulf Health Cooperation is a fundamental element in enhancing healthcare and achieving well-being within the Gulf Cooperation Council countries, representing a prominent aspect of solidarity among the member states in addressing common health challenges.

Health has been given top priority in the member countries, as the Gulf Health Council has made significant progress in focusing on the Gulf health sector, leading to notable achievements outlined in this report. This endeavor is driven by earnest efforts and strategic partnerships with health ministries through dedicated programs and technical committees to execute a comprehensive strategy based on five essential pillars: prevention, awareness, development, financial sustainability and health support, aiming to elevate the level of healthcare services and provisions in the member countries.

This report highlights tangible achievements of 2023, providing a comprehensive overview of the Gulf Health Council's performance and accomplishments in the past year, showcasing Gulf cooperation in facing challenges and meeting needs. The Council's efforts in prevention were evident through operating the Gulf CDC and activating the center's strategic and executive plan. The "Wafid" program was also expanded, and centers and countries were increased, limiting the entry of inappropriate cases.

In the field of awareness, the Council worked on enhancing awareness among citizens and residents of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries, aiming to promote the adoption of healthy behaviors and practices through launching a series of distinctive and impactful awareness campaigns.

Among the most notable were the following campaigns: Bullying: "shouldn't be ignored", "Your Imagination Distorts Your Beauty" and publishing episodes of children's educational program "Salamatak".

A Journey of Success

In terms of development, the council participated in the Arab Health Conference in the United Arab Emirates and the Global Health Forum in Saudi Arabia. Furthermore, several training programs were also conducted to develop Gulf healthcare professionals, building capacities and investing in Gulf workforce. Joint health studies were also successfully completed.

In the field of financial sustainability, the Gulf Health Council has been diligently working to secure continuous sources of income through various programs and initiatives it is engaged in. Furthermore, the Council is dedicated to devising innovative strategies aimed at enhancing its financial stability and supporting the achievement of its objectives.

In the field of health support through the Registration & Licensing, and Procurement Program, the Council achieved an increase in the number of pharmaceutical companies, medical devices, and veterinary preparations with the goal of opening multiple channels and options in the markets. The council also launched the «NashraTech» system to enhance patient access to pharmaceutical information by providing electronic drug leaflets through scanning the QR code printed on the external packaging of the pharmaceutical product. «NashraTech» system works to promote environmental sustainability by reducing the need for paper leaflets in the near future. Additionally, 14 tenders were launched for the Gulf joint procurement program to fulfill the healthcare sector's needs for medicines, supplies, and vaccines.

In conclusion, I extend sincere thanks to the honorable Health Ministers, Assistant Health Ministers, and the executive members of the member countries, as well as all the staff of the Council for their effective efforts in realizing the Council's objectives and highlighting its leading role in supporting the joint Gulf healthcare endeavors.



# Council Journey

The beginning: Establishment of the Gulf Health Council in February 1976 was an effective step in the health field for the Gulf Cooperation Council countries

Establishing the Health Council and starting Health Technical Committees

1976



Production of "Salamatak"

1995



Beginning of the actual implementation of centralized registration Program

2003



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

2021



Launching an awareness program for children, "Salamatak"

2023



1976

Starting Joint Procurement



1980

Starting Expatriate Workers Programs



2000

The Republic of Yemen joined the Health Gulf Council



2019

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

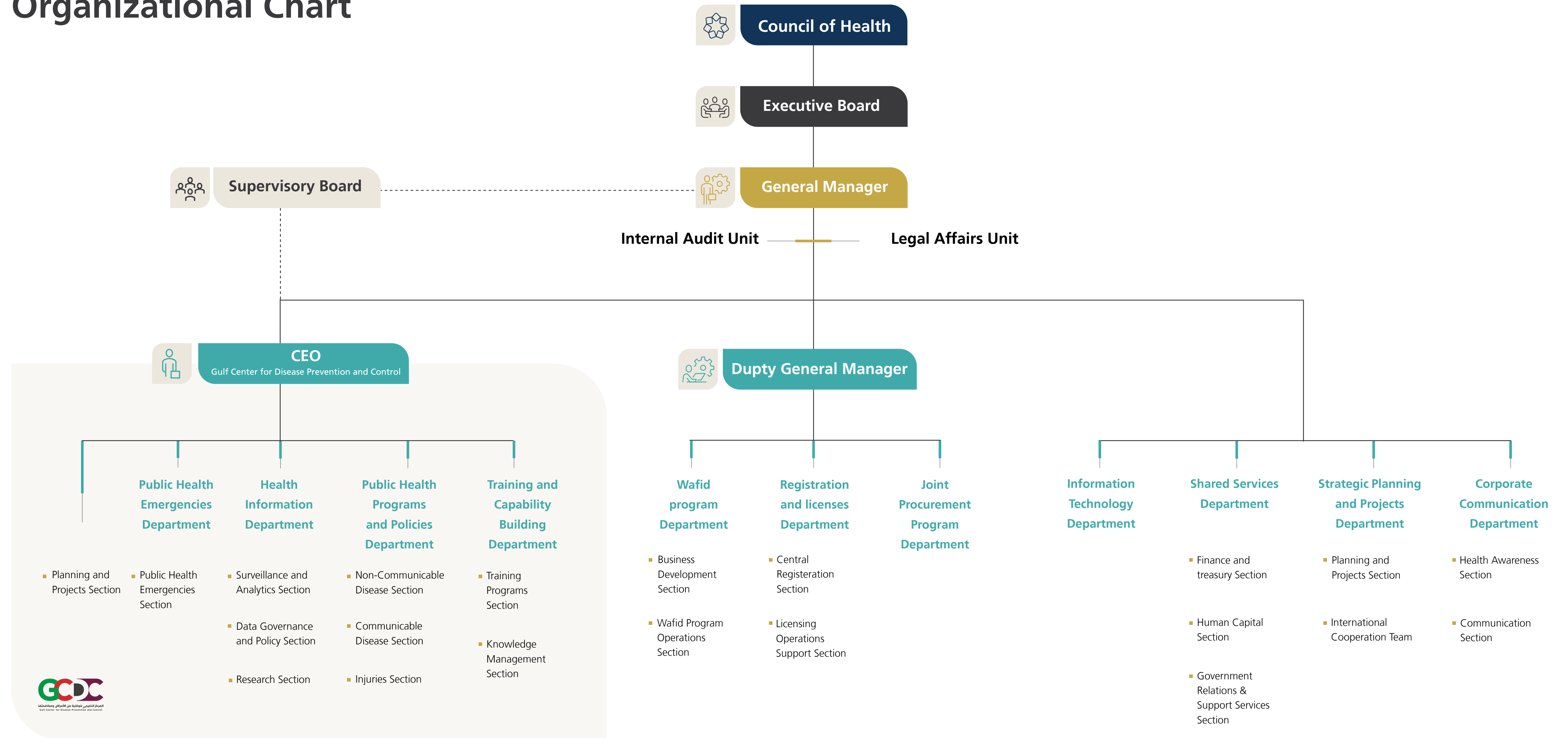


2023

Launching "NashraTech" System

A Journey of Success

# Organizational Chart



A Journey of Success

★ The operations of the GCDC provided by the GHC

# About the Council

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

## Vision

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

## Mission

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

A Journey of Success

## Tasks



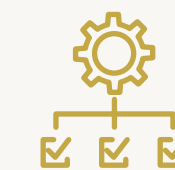
Reaching coherence, integrating, and strengthening features of collaboration amongst different health fields.



attempting to harmonize the laws governing this and shielding member states against diseases that are transmitted.



Selecting which technical committees to form in order to perform investigations, research, and program implementation.



Coordinating and integrating in the areas of Joint Procurement and Centralized Registration.



Creating a regional pharmaceutical policy that is cohesive.



Establishing and implementing focused health plans, regulations, and frameworks.



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



Making efforts to fight and eliminate infectious and transmissible illnesses in the GCC nations



Acceptance of the final account for the concluding year and the Council's draft yearly budget.



Organizing the exchange of experiences in the fields of health education and training.



# Strategic Plan

- Pillars and Strategic Objectives
- Indicators
- Meetings



# 02




# Pillars Strategic Objectives






## 1. Prevention

-  Advance public health via the Gulf CDC.
-  Maintain public health in Gulf societies.



## 2. Awareness

-  Promote healthy habits and practices and raise awareness

## 3. Development

-  Increase capacity and invest in Gulf health staff.
-  Empower and support collaborative Gulf health studies and research.
-  improve council partners' satisfaction.

## 4. Health Support

-  Enable the best technical services & solutions.
-  Raise the efficiency of the Council's outcomes.

## 5. Financial Sustainability


-  Improve financial sustainability.

# Indicators

## Pillar: Prevention

Strategic Objective	Indicator	2023 Achievement
 <p><b>Maintain public health in Gulf societies</b></p>	Approved countries	<b>29</b>
	Approved centers	<b>570</b>
	Inappropriate cases of infectious diseases reported coming from approved centers and falling within the time frame of the violation	<b>1,673</b>
	Inappropriate cases that exceeded the reporting period	<b>380</b>
	Inappropriate cases that do not have a proper medical report	<b>58</b>
	Unfit expatriate workers who enter the GCC countries from outside the program	<b>1,137</b>
	Expatriate workers registered via the electronic system	<b>3.6 M</b>
	Medical Centers Evaluated Remotely	<b>110</b>

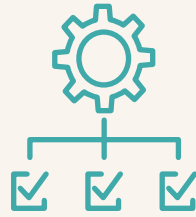
## Pillar: Awareness

Strategic Objective	Indicator	2023 Achievement
 <p><b>Promote healthy habits and practices and raise awareness</b></p>	Published episodes of different awareness programs	<b>8</b>
	Views of educational program episodes that were published	<b>71.6 M</b>
	Awareness campaigns	<b>3</b>
	Views of awareness campaigns	<b>77.8 M</b>
	Views of all awareness productions	<b>150 M</b>
	Organic awareness campaigns' views	<b>41.4 M</b>
	Followers of the council's accounts, Salamatak and Gulf CDC	<b>1.14 M</b>
	Published Awareness guides	<b>8</b>
	Launching a platform for knowledge enrichment (Your Health Guide)	<b>The platform was launched</b>
	Your Health Guide platform visits	<b>249K</b>
Obtained Pioneering Awards	<b>5</b>	


## Pillar: Development

Strategic Objective	Indicator	2023 Achievement
Increase capacity and invest in Gulf health staff	Scientific conferences and seminars	1
	Gulf Health Leadership Program "Harvard" trainees	42
Empowe and support collaborative Gulf health studies and research	Joint Gulf health studies and research	1
	Committee members satisfaction	87%
Improve council partners' satisfaction	Wafid Program customer satisfaction	97%
	Satisfaction of council employees	59%
	Centralized Registration Program customer satisfaction	60%
	Comply to repairs timeline - Records & Committees System	76%

## Pillar: Health Support

Strategic Objective	Indicator	2023 Achievement
 <p>Enable the best technical services &amp; solutions</p>	The internal E-newsletter project completion (NashraTech)	100%
	Drug traceability project study completion	50%
	Unplanned system glitch	23
	Comply to repairs timeline - Taawun System	100%
	Comply to repairs timeline – Wafid System	99.3%
	Comply to repairs timeline – SAP System	100%
	Comply to repairs timeline -Menaitech System	100%
	Comply to repairs timelineRecords & Committees System	100%

## Pillar: Health Support

Strategic Objective	Indicator	2023 Achievement
 <p>Raise the efficiency of the Council's outcomes</p>	Tendering average duration	<b>5 months</b>
	Pharmaceutical registration companies	<b>481</b>
	Pharmaceutical registration products	<b>1985</b>
	Veterinary products registration companies	<b>1</b>
	Medical Devices Habilitation Companies	<b>37</b>
	Medical Devices Reprocessing Companies	<b>51</b>
	Pharmaceuticals that have been re-registered	<b>126</b>
	Average medication registration duration	<b>27 months</b>

## Meetings

### Gulf CDC Supervisory Council Meetings

**4** meetings



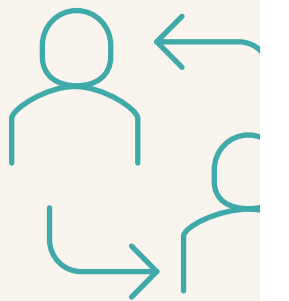
### Joint Procurement Meetings

**41** meetings



### Corporate Communication Meetings

**11** meetings



### Registration and Licensing Meetings

**41** meetings



### Wafid Program Meetings

**11** meetings



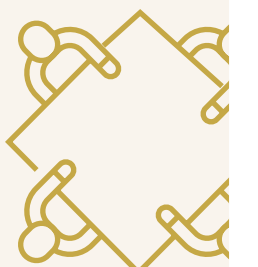
### Gulf CDC Meetings

**16** meetings



### Executive Committee Members Meetings

**7** meetings



# Achievements

- Registration and Licensing
- Joint Procurement
- Health Ministers Council Meetings
- Wafid Program
- Corporate Communication
- Information Technology
- Shared Services
- Internal Audit Unit

03



# Registration and Licensing

## Overview:



## Key Achievements

### Human Medicine

- Operational requests for pharmaceutical factories are addressed with the same level of attention as those for medicinal products, with visit schedules set directly and requests presented to the committee for determining the duration of the visit.
- Updated the Guidance on Changes.
- Updated the product deregistration form.
- Hosted a workshop for regulatory affairs stakeholders in member states to discuss initiatives aimed at expediting registration procedures and increasing centralized submission requests.
- Held a meeting for laboratory directors in member states to review peripheral experiences and foster collaborative efforts.
- Proposed the establishment of a central pharmacovigilance committee.
- Updated the registration form to include a request for the scientific evaluation report from regulatory authorities (EMA/FDA-US).
- Updated the Gulf Drug Barcode Specification Guide.
- Approved the Guide on Conditional Approvals in Pharmaceutical Product Registration.
- Updated the list for the Centralized Registration of pharmaceutical products.
- Approved drug re-exportation within the Gulf market in cases of shortages or urgent needs in a member state, with consent required from both the exporting and importing regulatory authorities.



Achievements

## 12 Committee Meetings:

Meeting ID	Meeting Date	Members
2-105	23 January 2023	11
3-105	21 February 2023	10
106 Policies	7-8 March 2023	12
1-106	21 March 2023	9
(2+3) -106	23 May 2023	12
107 Policies	21-22 June 2023	9
(1+2) -107	24 July 2023	11
3-107	23 August 2023	12
108 Policies	18-20 September 2023	11
1-108	26 September 2023	12
2-108	25 October 2023	13
3-108	27 November 2023	13
109 Policies	11 -13 December 2023	11
109-1	21 December 2023	11

## 13 Statistics on the total number of decisions made by the Gulf Central Committee for Pharmaceutical Registration for 2023 concerning the registration of pharmaceutical factories and their products

Meeting ID	Committee Decisions 2023					Total
	Approval	Conditional Approval	Postponed until Response	Postponed until Further Studies	Rejected	
2-105	5	0	1	58	9	73
3-105	13	6	18	60	1	98
1-106	12	6	10	61	0	89
(2+3) -106	29	3	13	76	0	121
(1+2) -107	9	3	25	102	2	141
3-107	13	4	44	86	2	149
1-108	19	2	20	65	23	129
2-108	29	2	15	58	1	105
3-108	27	1	22	49	2	101
1-109	18	1	9	54	0	82
<b>Total</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>669</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>1088</b>

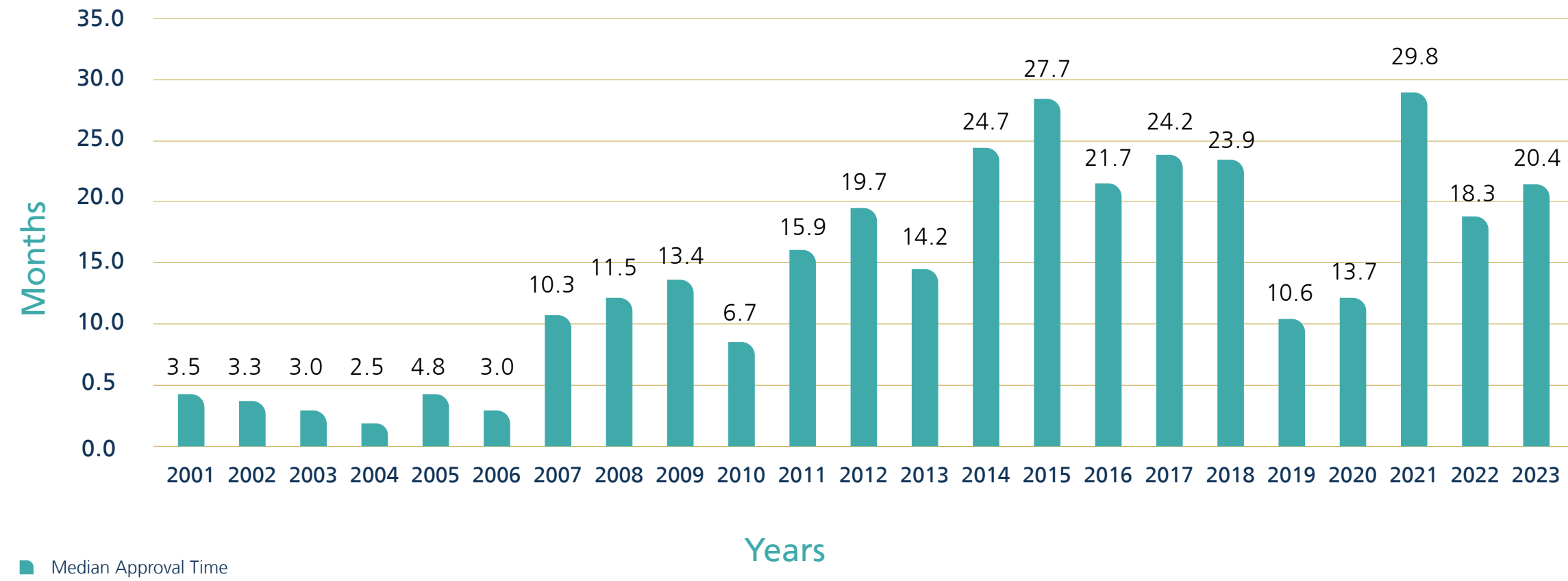
Item	2023 Received Requests	Approvals 2023
 New Human Medicines	21	51
 Companies /Bioequivalence Centers / Production Lines	11	27

\*Includes all approvals, whether by the committee or by authorization granted to the Centralized Registration Administration.

### Achievements

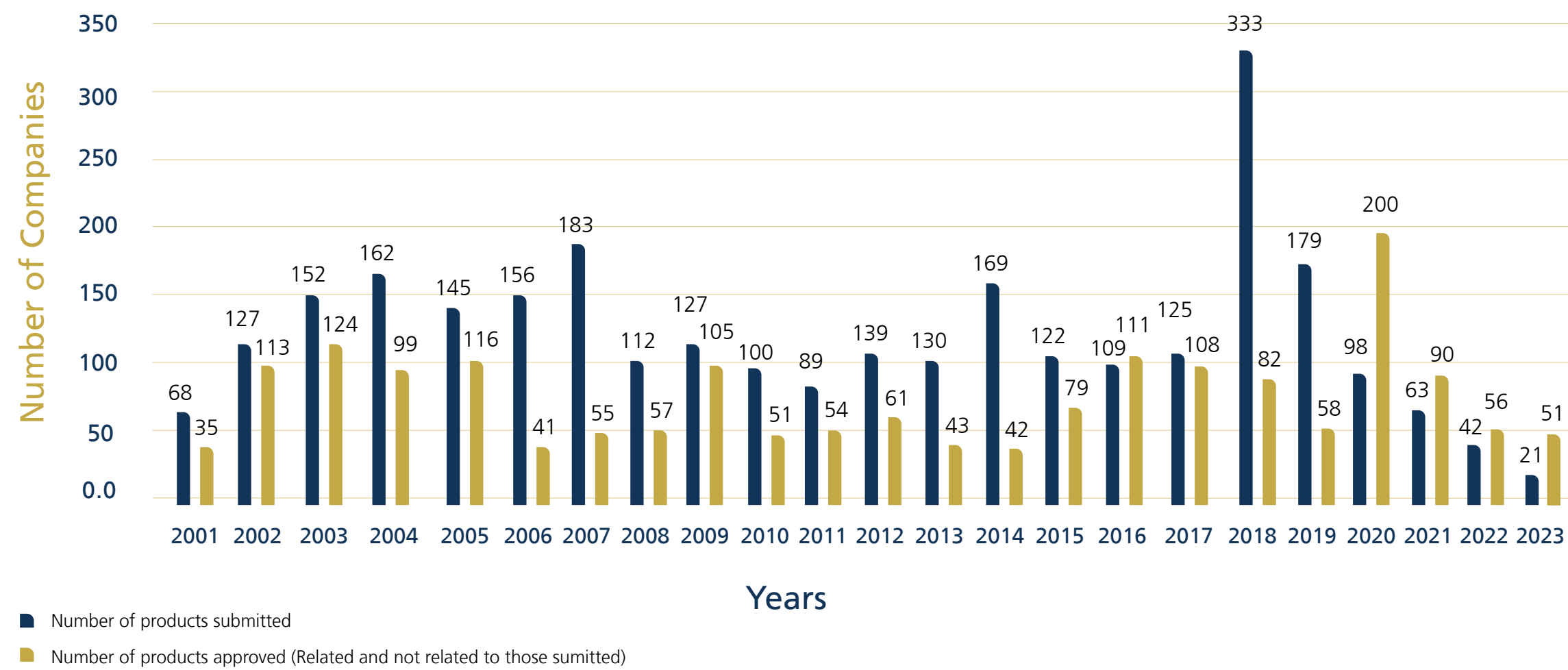


## 14 Yearly median approval time for Human Medicine



■ Median Approval Time

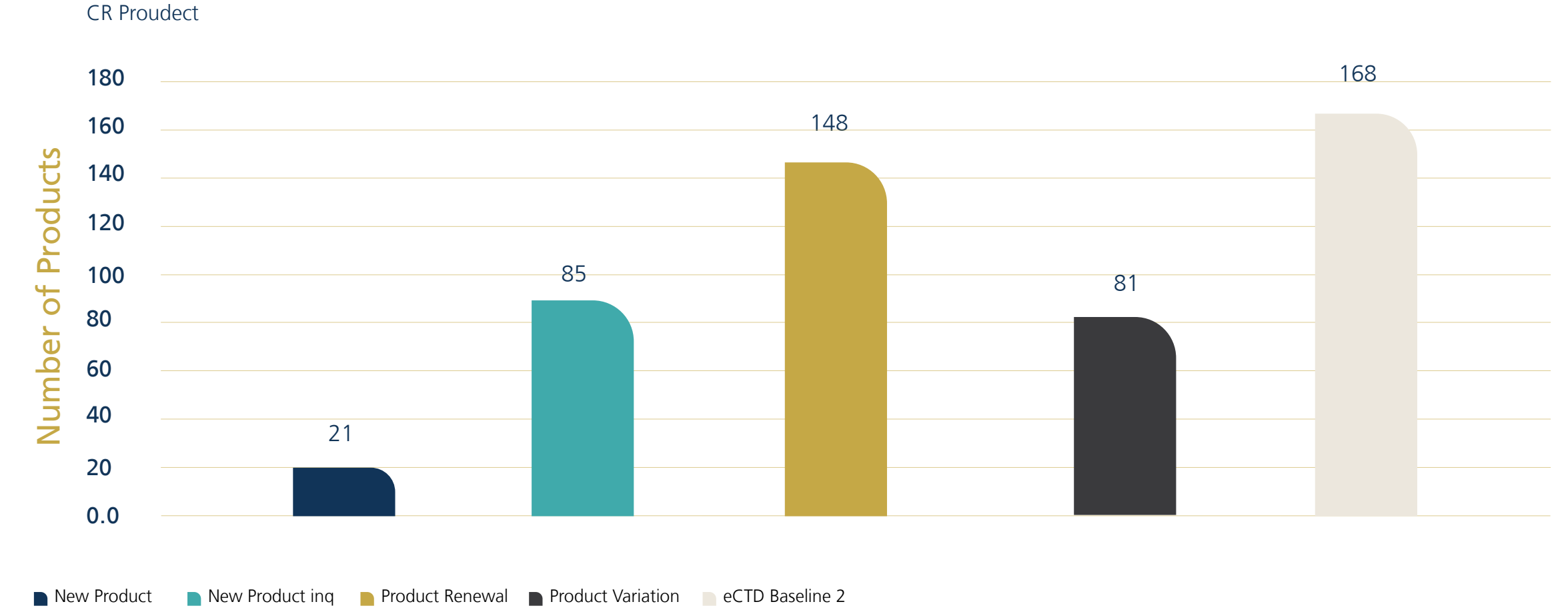
## 15 Number of new products submitted and approved annually



■ Number of products submitted

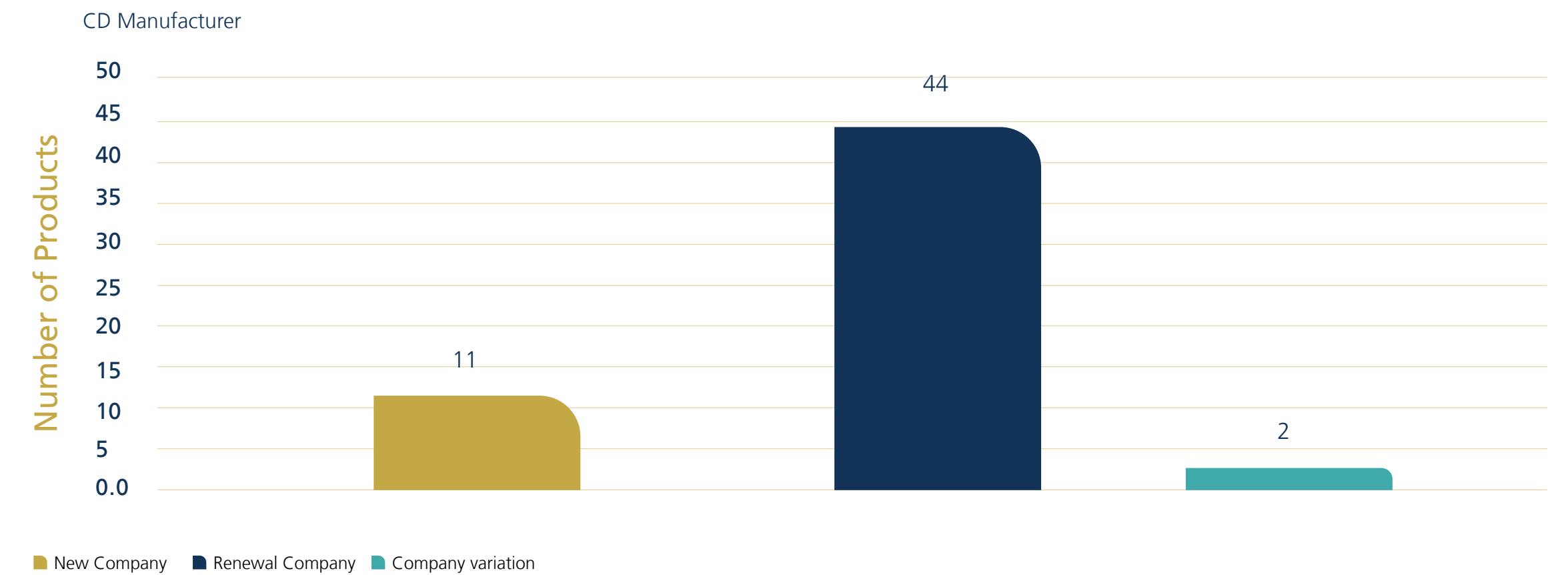
■ Number of products approved (Related and not related to those submitted)

## 16 Summary of applications received in 2023 for central pharmaceutical registry (of products), with a total of 503 applications:



■ New Product ■ New Product inq ■ Product Renewal ■ Product Variation ■ eCTD Baseline 2

## 17 Summary of applications received in 2023 for central pharmaceutical registry (of companies), with a total of 57 applications:



■ New Company ■ Renewal Company ■ Company variation

Chart 16 & 17 show how many applications were reviewed and arranged by the administration prior to getting submitted to the committee.

### Achievements



## Drug Pricing



## Committee Meetings

Meeting ID	Meeting Date	Members
53	24-26 March 2023	12
54	13-14 March 2023	12
55	29-31 May 2023	12
56	11-13 September 2023	12
57	4-6 December 2023	12

The following are the most significant outputs:

Meeting ID	Meeting Date	Members	Observed Objections
53	267	24	15
54	125	74	12
55	152	117	16
56	192	63	50
57	216	103	63
<b>Total</b>	<b>952</b>	<b>675</b>	<b>156</b>



## Medical Devices and Supplies

- 1 Accrediting the Gulf regulation for medical devices and supplies registration.
- 2 Accrediting Assembling Medical Devices and Supplies Guide.
- 3 Accrediting the Updated Guide on Changes.
- 4 Preparing a Guide to categorize the level of risk associated with medical supplies and devices.
- 5 Meetings held in 2023:

Meeting ID	Meeting Date	Members
40	6 June	11
41	4-5 September	11
42	6-7 November	11

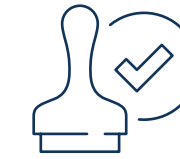
Achievements

**6** 2023 GHC qualification requests to be eligible for tenders:

Tender Type	Qualification Requests	Requalification Requests
Hospital Supplies	24	18
Heart	11	13
ENT	1	0
Dental	1	1
Clothing	0	2
Kidney	0	3
Bones	0	7
Laboratories	0	6
Habilitation	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>51</b>



**Monitoring Medications and Medical Equipment Post-Marketing**



The Guideline for recalling medicines and pharmaceutical products in the Gulf Cooperation Council state members was adopted.



The GHC states maintained the current practice regarding drug alerts and safety reports.

**Statistics of Circulars Issued by GHC**



Achievements



## Product Classification



Accrediting Central classification certificate form.



Adopting standardized controls for product classification in the Gulf and adding products to the lists that are not under the jurisdiction of health regulatory institutions in the Gulf member states.



Committee Meetings:

Meeting ID	Meeting Date	Members
14	1-2 March	7
15	19-20 December	9



## Meetings of Herbal Health Registration Committee



Starts this year **2024**



## Inspection of Pharmaceutical Factories and Bioequivalence Centers:



Implementing a modernized inspection system.



44 visits were conducted during 2023.



5 companies were excluded from visits in 2023.



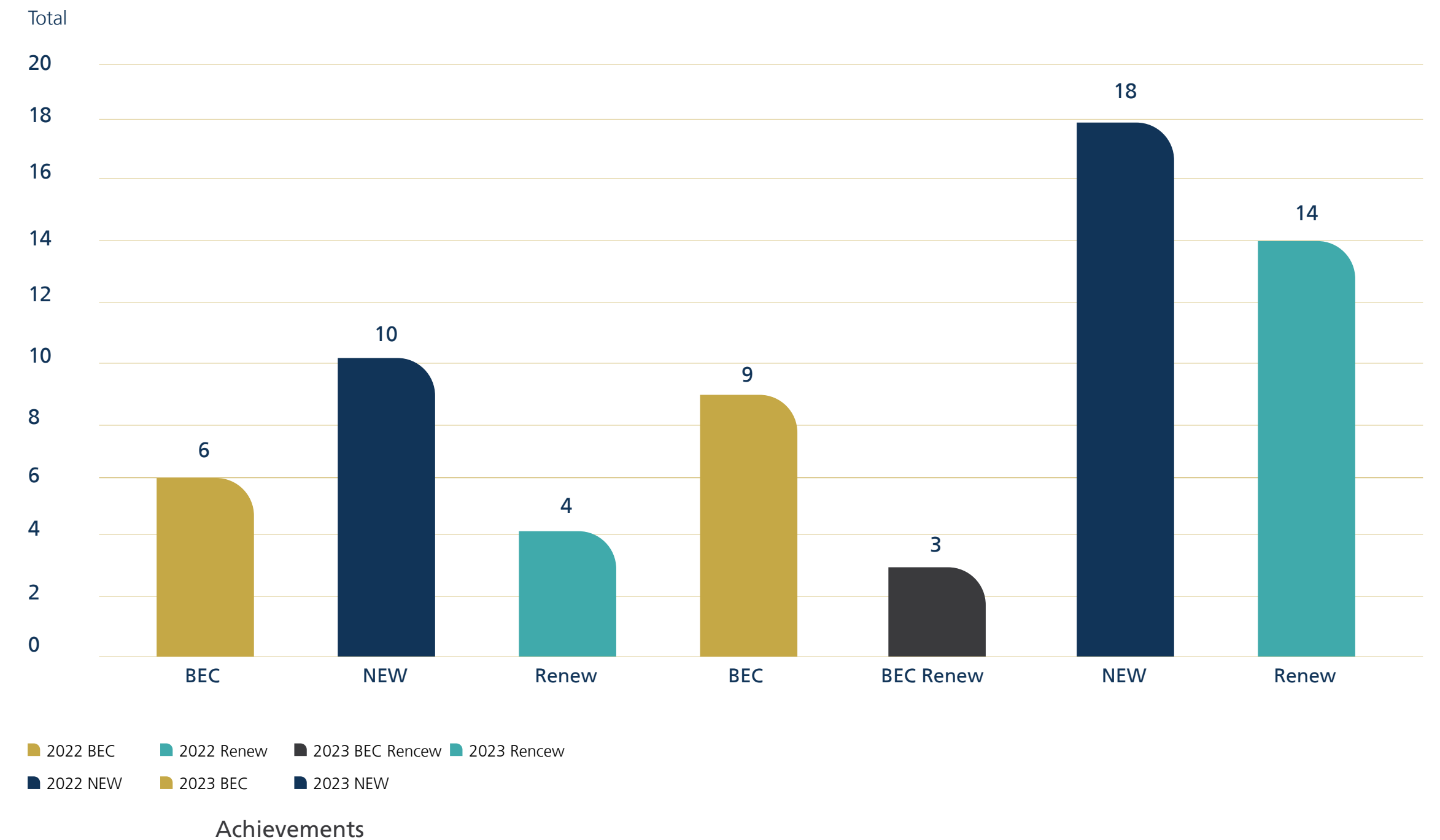
64 visits were scheduled in 2023.



60 visits were expected in 2023.



## A summary of the most significant requests from companies for the years 2022–2023





## A summary of the most significant requests from companies for the years 2022–2023

Request Type	2023 Scheduled Visits
New Registration for Human Pharmaceutical Factories	10
Registration Renewal for Human Pharmaceutical Factories	42
New Registration for Bioequivalence Centres	7
Registration Renewal of Bioequivalence Centres	3
New Production Line	0
Veterinary Medicine Factories	2
Device Production Factories	0



## Veterinary Medicines

1. Updating registration fees and regulatory services provided to match human pharmaceutical registration.
2. Updating the registration certificate for factories and preparations.
3. Adopting draft protocols for member states following the registration of veterinary factories and preparations in the Gulf.
4. Accrediting the following guides:



Summary of the Product Characteristics (SPC) for Veterinary Immunological Products.



Summary of the Product Characteristics (SPC) for Veterinary Pharmaceutical Products.



Labeling Information and Package Leaflet for Veterinary Medicinal Products.

## 5. Committee Meetings

Meeting ID	Meeting Date	Meeting Date
Vet. 012	15 / 02 / 2023	7
Vet. 013	15-16/05/2023	11
Vet. 014	16-17/08/2023	12
Vet. 015	26-28/11/2023	9

## 6. Statistics



Registered Veterinary Pharmaceutical Preparations

1



Registered Veterinary Pharmaceutical Factories

1

Achievements



## 2023 Key Achievements



The GCC Health Council, in collaboration with member states, introduced the “NashraTech” system for businesses in 2023. The system’s goal is to improve patient access to pharmaceutical information by offering electronic medicine leaflets that can be scanned using a QR code found on the pharmaceutical preparation’s outer packaging. The system eliminates the need for paper patient leaflets in the near future and also contributes to environmental sustainability.



The Council clarified the process for extracting the QR code for the electronic leaflets and discussed the system in three workshops that were conducted in both Arabic and English, with the attendance of more than 200 local and international .



Updated the GCC guidelines for Variation Requirements version 6.1 & Addition of Electronic patient leaflet variation- Variation 47 Page 55.



Launching a marketing campaign on LinkedIn to reach pharmaceutical businesses for NashraTech System.



Reviewing the project schedule and sending it to the targeted companies.



Introducing the modified NashraTech System website, which includes enhancements to the system’s user interface.



Introducing an updated English and Arabic versions of the patient page’s.



## Team Meetings

# 11

### Meetings



## NashraTech Registration Statistics



**Companies Registered in the System**

# 77 Companies



**Products Registered in the System**

# 250 Products



**Products with Generated QR Code**

# 7 Products

Achievements

# Joint Procurement

## Overview:



The GHC Joint Procurement Administration offers scheduled tenders to secure the member states' needs for medical supplies, pharmaceuticals, and veterinary preparations. Major international and national manufacturing companies are invited to participate. The procedures for updating the evidence of these tenders, launching them, opening their envelopes, and awarding them are carried out through Gulf committees formed for this purpose by experts from GHC states.

## Key Achievements

### 2023 Launched Tenders Statistics

Total Awards 2023  
**813** Million Dollars

Issued Tenders  
**14** Tenders

Tender Items  
**9365** Items

Participated Companies  
**403** Company

Committee Members  
**268** Members  
100 in person and 168 virtual

In-person Meetings  
**9** Meetings

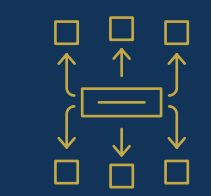
Video Call Meetings  
**24** Meeting

Medical Supply Items Evaluated by Member States  
**61** Items  
51 accepted and 5 rejected

2023 Archived Transactions  
**38** Approximately



## Coding Medical Devices Directories and Developing Their Specifications



### Coding Medical Devices Directories and Developing Their Specifications

2023 Review Teams

**8**

Team Name	Members	Guide Items Approved by Team	Guide Items Amended by Team	Guide Items Omitted by Team	Guide Items Added by Team	Items Total (Final Guide)
Orthopedic and Spine Supplies Team	11	1345	503	201	56	1345
Oral and Dental Supplies Team	9	1815	689	49	121	1815
ENT Supplies Team	11	350	250	109	54	350
Optics Supplies Team	9	187	130	166	15	187
Hospital Supplies Team	17	2253	881	151	181	2253
Renal Dialysis Task Force	17	80	47	36	4	80
Cardiovascular Supplies Team	15	722	426	250	66	722
Medical Rehabilitation Supplies Team	12	2745	1636	2202	406	2745
Medical Scrubs & Uniforms Team	7	123	111	0	2	123

Achievements



## Joint Procurement Participations in External Events

### Participations in External Events

# 3

Conference Name	City
Arab Health 2023	Dubai
Global Health 2023 A REGIONAL POOLED PROCUREMENT FOR VACCINES AND SPECIFIC TYPES OF ESSENTIAL MEDICINES dated 23 Nov 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Riyadh</li> <li>■ World Health Organization Egypt</li> </ul>



Achievements



# Wafid Program

The Ministers of the Gulf Health Council, in their conference number 38, dated Sha'ban 1415H in January 1995, decided that the Executive Office of the Council of Ministers of Health (Gulf Health Council) should supervise the centers of examination of incoming expatriate workers in their countries before obtaining a work visa in the GCC States to ensure that expatriates are free from diseases—in particular, infectious diseases—or other diseases. They also get tested again in one of the GHC states.

## Program Departments

### Operations Department:

Wafid Program's Operations Department is responsible for putting the program's recommendations into practice, processing and managing all Wafid operations, including:



Accrediting medical centers, setting up technical visits, hosting monthly meetings of the Gulf Central Committee, and monitoring the program's recommendations.



Providing customer service to all Wafid Program clients, including centers, expatriates, ministries, bodies, and organizations.



Handling all financial operations, such as receipt of income and expenditures.

## Key Achievements



Visited the Kingdom of Thailand, the Republic of Indonesia, the Republic of India, and the Arab Republic of Egypt to strengthen communication with the embassies and understand the challenges they face.



Held three training workshops for the technical committees after the regulations are approved by the ministers.



Added the Guide for the evaluation process and accreditation requirements.



Successfully completed 20 technical visits, both in-person and virtual.



Issued over 90 reports during the year.



Conducted 11 meetings.



Established a mechanism to respond to refund requests for booking vouchers of ten dollars and providing supporting evidence. Over 516 refund requests were responded to, totaling \$5,160 prevented from refunding.



Evaluated 110 medical centers remotely through virtual visits.



Achieved a high customer satisfaction rate of 97%.



Developed the regulatory framework for Wafid Program.



Accredited 58 centers during the year 2023.

### Achievements



## Business Development Department

In accordance with the program's strategic objectives, the department is working on developing the electronic system to keep up with digital development. It is also researching, evaluating, and developing improvements that are compatible with the electronic work approach.



Technical Committees Training Workshops 2023



## Key Achievements



An agreement has been reached with the UAE to activate the integration, and technical meetings are currently being scheduled.



A project to correct data in the databases of the electronic «Wafid» system has been launched.



Improvements have been made to the feature of art visits and their adjustment.



Work is underway to complete the second phase of integration with Kuwait.



A filtering service has been added to the visit feature in the electronic system.



A pilot service for Hajj pilgrims has been launched in 9 countries.



Enhancements have been implemented on the system infrastructure.



A new identity has been adopted for the «Wafid» program.



The website has been launched with its new identity.



Work is ongoing to open accreditation for all countries.



Business Development Department policies have been developed and approved.







### Achievements

# Corporate Communication



The Corporate Communication Department is responsible for overseeing communication with internal and external stakeholders. They develop and implement media and public relations plans for the Council, aiming to present a positive image of the Council's activities. They also focus on coordinating efforts among the Council's member states to enhance health awareness by safeguarding the health and safety of citizens and residents in the Council's countries. The management plays a key role in achieving the vision and goals of the GHC.

## Accounts in Numbers:






### GHC Statistics 2023

Platform	Followers	New Followers	Posts	Total Engagement	Impressions
	293K	-3.77K	297	115.4K	14.85M
	6.4K	2.29K	101	3.74K	189.25K
	147K	1.53K	208	26.27K	12.89M
	36K	2.82K	155	17.36K	1.23M
	20.6K	2.89K	39	19.71K	3.19M
	236.8K	38.2K	32	146.85K	55.54M

### Gulf CDC Statistics 2023

Platform	Followers	New Followers	Posts	Total Engagement	Impressions
	774	+549	22	122	14.85M
	1K	+1.07K	11	347	189.25K

### Salamatak Statistics 2023

Platform	Followers	New Followers	Posts	Total Engagement	Impressions
	110.1K	-3.51K	119	35.7K	65.46M
	69.1K	-4.17K	127	3.63K	37.52M
	7K	+180	136	4.64K	25.9M
	48.8K	+6.63K	19	20.37K	12.44M
	166.4K	+16.2K	29	84.06K	24.78M

Achievements

# Key Achievements



## Communication Department



Participating in the Arab Health in Dubai.



Participating in The Global Roadmap for Healthy Longevity Conference.



Launching the Joint Gulf Health Studies.



Releasing 4 Gulf Health magazines.



Publishing over 120 press releases.



Broadcasting 8 episodes of Salamatak Program.



Participating in the Global Health Exhibition in Riyadh.



Participating in a campaign to raise awareness about the dangers of drugs at Al-Hilal Club.



Issuing 12 monthly internal newsletters for council employees and executive members.



Holding 11 meetings for media and digital media managers of member states.



Launching Salamatak Program.



Achievements



### Bullying: Shouldn't Be Ignored Campaign



The campaign got **+20M** Views

**Campaign Overview:** Bullying: Shouldn't Be Ignored Campaign is one of Shouldn't be Ignored Initiative campaigns which aims to raise awareness about bullying and provide information to those who see it, encouraging them not to laugh at or reinforce bullying because the general public has a significant impact on the issue. It also aims to empower parents by providing information that will support them case their children experienced bullying.

### Your Imagination Distorts Your Beauty Campaign



The campaign got **+23M** Views

**Campaign Overview:** GHC was eager to launch the awareness campaign "Your Imagination Distorts Your Beauty," which aims to raise awareness about dysmorphic body image disorder and its adverse effects. According to statistics, 1 out of every 50 people has this disorder, and the campaign aims to empower the target group by offering them life skills and awareness messages that improve their ability to embrace themselves.

### Draw the Line Between You and Occupational Burnout



The campaign got **+40M** Views

**Campaign Overview:** As one out of every three employees in the Gulf countries exhibits symptoms of occupational burnout, it is regarded as one of the most common professional issues. Thus, by teaching workers about the symptoms, equipping them with adaption skills, and teaching them how to handle work-related stress appropriately, "Draw the Line Between You and Occupational Burnout" awareness campaign hopes to raise awareness of the issue in the Gulf countries.

 Awards

Drug-use Prevention Awareness Campaign Obtained 3 Awards:



Titan Awards



Muse Awards



The Creative Floor Awards

“Draw the Line Between You and Occupational Burnout” Campaign Obtained:



Kotler Awards



Titan Awards



Muse Awards

Bullying: Shouldn't Be Ignored" Campaign": Obtained 2 Awards

 Guides



BDD Guide



Occupational Burnout Guide



Bullying: Shouldn't Be Ignored Guide



Rumor Correction Guide



Celiac Guide



Antimicrobial Resistance Guide



Screen Time Guide



Back Pain Prevention Guide

Achievements



Videos and different graphics were used to activate each of the 11 GCC events.



Achievements

# Information Technology

Achievement	Overview
Completing the transfer of SAP platform to cloud service provider	Aims to improve the productivity and consistency of the platform's operations
Launching a system for monitoring systems	A system was launched to monitor the effectiveness and operation of the several systems on clouds including Wafid, NashraTech, and Taawun
Activating and launching a program for Veterinary Rroducts Registration on Taawun platform	All forms have been developed and designed to obtain registration requests and enable council representatives to work on them with the necessary authority
Completing the companies qualification program on Taawun platform	All forms have been created and designed to receive registration requests, as well as to enable council representatives to work on them with the necessary authority
Transferring Taawun platform to the cloud service provider	Aims to improve the productivity and consistency of the platform's operations
Qualifying the infrastructure for the collaboration database at the council	Contracted with a third party to create and renovate the infrastructure to be up-to-date and capable of development and improvement
Automating Gulf tenders	Continue developing and automating the Gulf Purchasing Committee processes



Achievements



# Shared Services

## Departments

1

Governmental Relations and Support Services

2

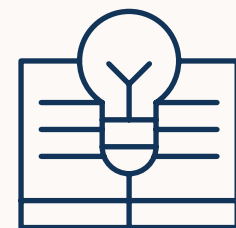
Finance and Treasury

3

Human Capital



### Governmental Relations and Support Services



- **Overview:** This department provides crucial support to Gulf Health Council (GHC) management, ensuring the needs of its various administrations and departments are met.
- **Key Units: Internal Procurement Unit**  
This unit is responsible for issuing purchase orders and overseeing contracts and financial claims for all GHC administrations and departments.



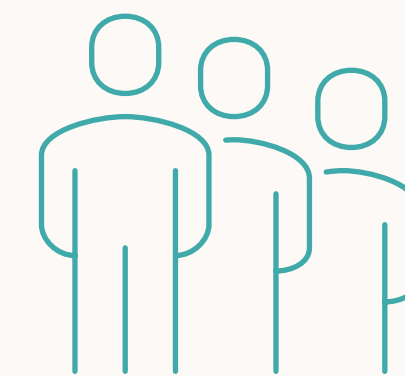
### Key Achievements

#### ■ Achievements of the Governmental Relations and Support Services Department:

1. Managing all correspondence, including receiving, distributing, and documenting both outgoing and incoming communications in official records.
2. Meeting the needs of GHC administrations and departments.

921

Number of Queries

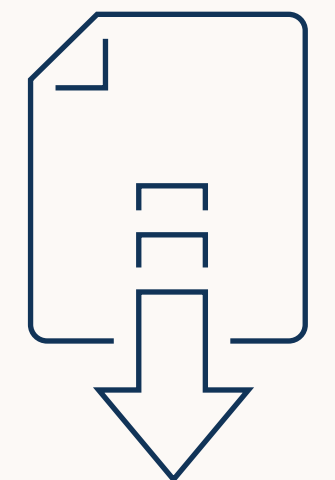


171

Outgoing Correspondence

899

Incoming Correspondence



Achievements

## Achievements of the Internal Procurement Unit:

Meeting the needs of administrations and departments through the procurement of materials, furniture, and various supplies. This involves overseeing the end-to-end purchasing process, ensuring that the supplies meet the specified quantities, types, and specifications outlined in the purchase orders (PO).

Number of POs

**52** Total cost:  
**SAR 36 million**



**9**

RFPs launched on Forsa  
Total cost: **SAR 1.5 million**



Number of invoices

**426**



## Human Capital

### Key Achievements

#### 1. Attracting Top GCC Talents

As part of its commitment to preventing diseases and improving public health, GHC established the Gulf Center for Disease Prevention and Control (Gulf CDC) and successfully recruited 15 professionals in 2023 to assume leadership and specialized roles. These positions include:

Leadership Roles

**7**

Specialized Roles

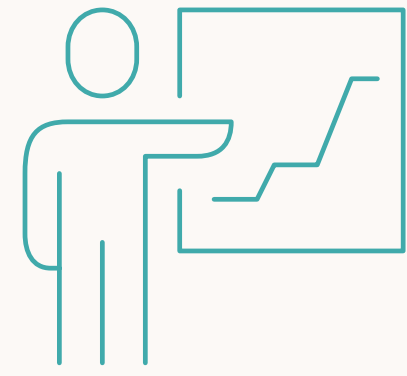
**6**

Support Roles

**2**

Achievements

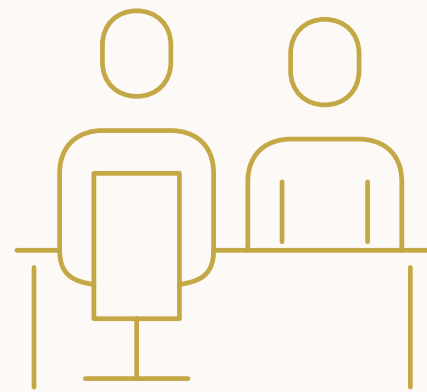
## 2. Training and Development



### Specialized training programs

Number of programs **27**

Number of trainees **27**



### Internships

Number of programs **4**

Number of trainees **51**



### Professional certification

Number of programs **11**

Number of trainees **10**



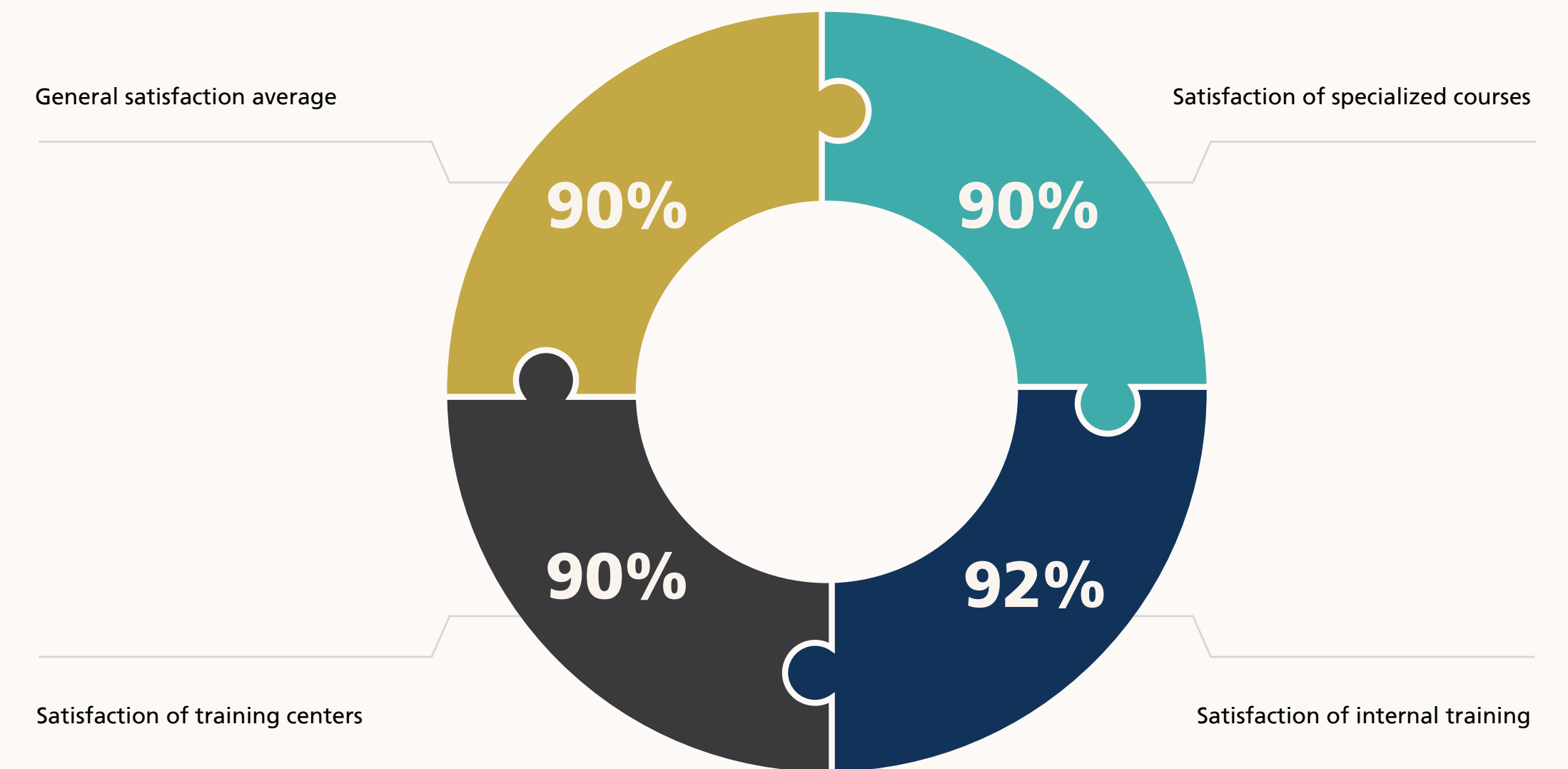
### Trainings for the design team

Number of programs **3**

Number of trainees **4**

## Achievement Overview

Numerous specialized courses, internal programs, and professional certificates have been successfully implemented through collaborations with approximately 25 local, regional, and international training centers. The success of these initiatives is highlighted by the positive feedback from trainees, reflecting their overall satisfaction as shown below:



Achievements

### 3. Development and Training Initiatives for GCC Staff

- Leadership Development in Health Sector Training Program, 3rd edition (5 - 9 November 2023 - Jeddah)

were trained

**45** health personnel



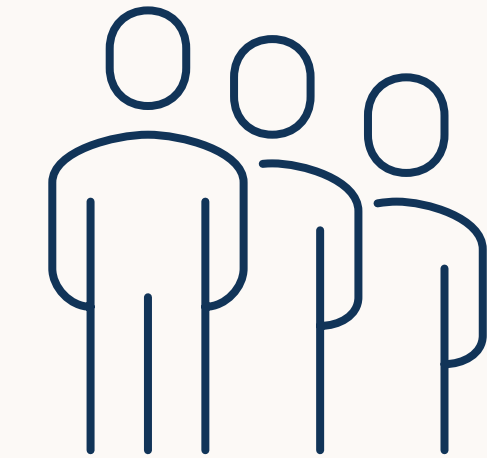
with the participation of

**42** trainees



were trained

**4** trainees



#### Achievement Overview

In continuation of the partnership with Harvard Medical School, the Leadership Development Program concluded its 3rd edition - aimed at **training 45 healthcare professionals** from various GCC countries. Held in Jeddah, KSA.

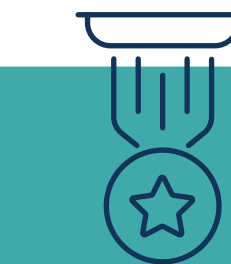
**During**

**November 2023**



With the attendance of

**42** participants



#### Achievement Overview

Through joint GCC efforts and in collaboration with the College of Medicine at King Saud University (KSU) and the Saudi Ministry of Health:

**4**

Medical doctors from the Sultanate of Oman were awarded scholarships by the Ministry of Health



**Diploma Program**

To participate in the 2023 Field Epidemiology



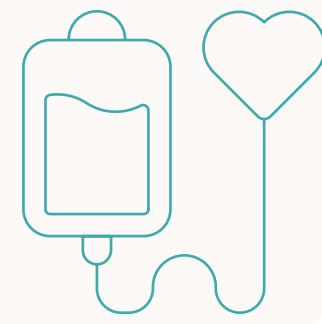
Achievements

## 4. Internal Communication

Acknowledging that genuine change starts from within, we have placed emphasis on cultivating an engaging and mindful work environment. This was achieved through a variety of events and activities organized at both GHC and Gulf CDC levels. These initiatives are as follows:

### Blood Donation Campaign

An annual event dedicated to raising health awareness, a cornerstone of GHC's mission, encouraging employees to prioritize their well-being and practice acts of kindness.



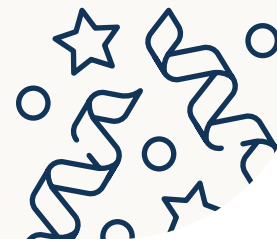
### Moving Is A Blessing

A monthly event dedicated to raising health awareness, a cornerstone of GHC's mission.



### National and Official Holidays

A periodic event dedicated to fostering loyalty, team work, and mental well-being among employees from all member states.



### Thursday Breakfast

A monthly event to foster a positive work environment.



### Best Office Competition

A biannual event that recognizes and rewards employees whose offices are the neatest and most visually appealing.



### Cycling Trip

An annual event designed to promote health awareness by motivating employees to engage in physical activity and exercise.



### Seasonal Vaccination

An annual event designed to promote prevention, a cornerstone of GHC's mission. It is held in partnership with the Ministry of Health to provide employees with the necessary annual vaccinations.



### Welcoming New Employees

A periodic event where 24 new employees and 20 interns are onboarded through an introductory tour of GHC and Gulf CDC.



### "Salamtak" Premiere Screening

An annual event dedicated to raising health awareness, a cornerstone of GHC's mission, by inviting employees to the premiere and exclusive screening of the new, animated cartoon edition of the "Salamtak" series.



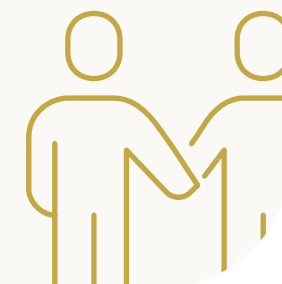
### Business Lunch

An annual event for each administration designed to improve employee's mental and physical well-being.



### 2023 Annual Gathering

An annual end-of-year gathering where employees and the General Director celebrated the achievements of the year 2023.



### Celebrating Employees' Achievements and Special Occasions

An ad hoc event designed to celebrate and recognize employee's professional and social achievements.



\*For more information, click on the icon

Achievements

# Internal Audit Unit

## Overview:

Formed within GHC in 2020, the Internal Audit Unit's role is to evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of GHC's controls and supervisory systems. Upon completing these assessments, the unit is responsible for submitting pertinent reports based on its findings.

### Key 2023 Roles include

- 1 Developing the GHC internal audit plan for FY 2023-2024.
- 2 Conducting an internal audit of the strategic planning.
- 3 Conducting an internal audit of the governance procedures.
- 4 Conducting an internal audit of Wafid program.
- 5 Conducting an internal audit of Information Technology Department.
- 6 Conducting an internal audit on Registration and Licensing.
- 7 Conducting an internal audit on Centralized Registration.
- 8 A special audit of the Registration and Licensing Department and the Joint Procurement Department is not scheduled in the audit plan.
- 9 Monitoring the application of the suggestions made in earlier reports. Of the total number of recommendations, 12 have been fully implemented (the implementation rate is 57%), and efforts are in progress to monitor the application of the remaining recommendations.
- 10 Launching the 2023 Annual Internal Audit report.

## Key Achievements

### First Annual Forum on Internal Audit - May 2023

### Achievement Overview:

In May 2023, the Internal Audit Unit effectively organized the inaugural Annual Forum on Internal Audit, which extended over three consecutive days. Themed #Innovate\_Professionally, the forum attracted key figures including the Director of the Internal Audit Department at the Secretariat General of the Gulf Cooperation Council, the Head of the Internal Audit Unit at the GCC Standardization Organization (GSO), and professionals from the Internal Audit Department at the Saudi Ministry of Health. The forum served as a platform for exchanging practical applications of the latest professional practices in internal audit.



Achievements



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


# Gulf CDC

- About Gulf CDC
- Strategic Goals
- Role of Gulf CDC
- Departments

# 04




# About



## Vision





A Gulf community where all individuals enjoy good health to the best extent possible at every stage of life.



## Mission

Enhancing coordination, building knowledge, and generating evidence to empower prevention of infectious and non-infectious diseases, alleviating public health emergencies, and strengthening healthy local communities throughout the Gulf.

## Strategic Goals

-  Supporting program development and practices.
-  Amplifying regional training and capacity building.
-  Enabling data integration, observation and research.
-  Improving the Gulf region's readiness, early identification, and quick response to health risks.

## GCDC role

- 1 Creating institutional work and applying the best global practices in diseases prevention and control.
- 2 Improving quality of life by aligning and coordinating policies, procedures and protocols.
- 3 Preventing contagious and non-contagious diseases.
- 4 Strengthening regional and national health systems.
- 5 expanding training programs and facilitating knowledge exchange.
- 6 Improving preparation of public health emergencies.



## Divisions

- 1 Communicable Diseases
- 2 Non-communicable Diseases
- 3 Injuries





## Key Achievements

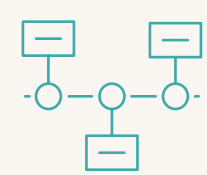
**1** Established Permanent Communication Networks in the GCC region under the Public Health Programs and Policies Department, including:



Permanent communication network for communicable diseases



Permanent communication network for non-communicable diseases



Permanent communication network for the promotion of health and healthy lifestyles

**2** Signed a joint cooperation agreement between GHC, represented by Gulf CDC, and the Ministry of National Guard Health Affairs.

**3** Prioritized public health programs in GCC countries.

**4** Formed a partnership with WHO's International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC).

**5** Represented the Gulf CDC at the World Health Forum in Riyadh.

**6** Organized meetings of the GCC Permanent Communication Network.

**7** Conducted visits to member states.

**8** Engaged in international visits.

**9** Participated, as part of a delegation, in WHO's annual meeting in Geneva.

## Planning and Projects



### Overview



The department is responsible for developing an annual implementation plan for projects approved by the Supervisory Board and setting up a timeline for execution. It oversees project progress against the established plan, identifies potential obstacles that may impede success, and suggests viable solutions to overcome them.



### Key Achievements

**1**

Conducted official visits to the GCC ministries of health.

**2**

Facilitated a workshop to develop Gulf CDC's 2024 plan in order to discuss projects previewed for the year 2024.

**3**

Organized meetings with the Supervisory Board, partnerships, and liaison officers.

# Public Health Emergency (PHE) Department


## Department Overview

The department and its associated programs aim to:



**Enhance** Enhance prevention, preparedness, early detection, and rapid response to health risks in the GCC region.

**Evaluate** the recovery from previous health emergencies. The scope of 'emergencies' includes biological, chemical, nuclear, and environmental health threats, as well as natural disasters and mass migration events.




**Have programs** that operate across two core functions: Preparedness and Response. This involves monitoring risks and threats to the region, issuing early warnings, and delivering regular insights. Additionally, these programs provide a confidential platform for GCC countries to exchange information, expertise, and best practices on emergencies to facilitate the development and implementation of collaborative events.

**Ensure** access to and availability of state-of-the-art tools for preparedness against health risks.




**Mobilize** and deploy a regional rapid response team to investigate and contain public health events of regional significance.

## Divisions






**Preparedness**



**Response**

## Key Achievements

-  Produced three technical reports for GCC countries regarding the International Convention for Epidemics and Pandemics.
-  Produced two reports for the legal review of the International Convention for Epidemics and Pandemics to assist GCC countries.
-  Set up and launched an epidemic intelligence system to provide early warnings on public health risks and threats in GCC countries.

### The outputs of the system for the year 2023 include:

**1.** Number of red flags detected on public health threats: **1022**

**2.** Number of red flags reported by countries within seven days of detection: **19**

**3.** Number of potential threats identified: **79**

**4.** Number of reports completed and disseminated within 72 hours of identifying a potential regional health threat: **6**



Conducted a workshop titled «International Methodologies for Assessing Public Health Emergency Risks.



Created a database of international experts specializing in epidemic intelligence, communicable diseases, and public health emergency risks.



Produced a risk assessment report on avian influenza.



Produced a risk assessment report on malaria.



Participated in a panel discussion on One Health - Infectious Diseases Conference - Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.



Participated in a workshop on the Preparedness and Resilience Initiative for Emerging Threats - Geneva, Switzerland



Produced a risk assessment report on diphtheria.



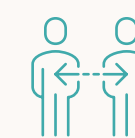
Attended the Quadripartite Global Technical Meeting on MERS-CoV and Other Emerging Zoonotic Coronaviruses



Established and implemented a comprehensive public health risk assessment system.



Established and launched a community listening system to track and analyze epidemiological indicators.



Collaborated with the GCC Emergency Management Centre.



Established partnerships and appointed liaison officers with regional and international organizations specializing in public health emergencies.



Delivered a speech at the seventh international meeting on the stance of countries and GHC on the International Convention for Epidemics and Pandemics.



Produced 42 weekly epidemic intelligence reports.



Hosted an international workshop to discuss international methodologies for assessing public health risks, with the participation of various global and regional organizations.



Report on best international practices in preparedness for public health emergencies.



Facilitated 34 meetings of the PHE Network at the Gulf CDC.



Produced a risk assessment report on Marburg virus disease (MVD).



Survey report on the preparedness capabilities of Gulf countries for public health emergencies.



Developed electronic dashboards for daily tracking of epidemic intelligence signals.



Produced a risk assessment report on Nipah virus (NiV) disease.



Produced a risk assessment report on dengue fever.



Participated in a conference on zoonotic diseases and One Health - Amman, Jordan.



Participated in a genetic monitoring and surveillance workshop - Amman, Jordan.

# Training and Capacity Building Department

## Overview



Facilitating knowledge exchange through the development of networks and partnerships among member states.

Creating programs that enhance health capacity, provide access to a network of global public health experts.

## Key Divisions



**Training Programs Division**



**Knowledge Management Division**



Gulf CDC

## Training Programs Division:

Training activities and programs are designed to enhance public health capabilities at the regional level. This is achieved by:



Initiating graduate programs in public health at local universities to offer specialized education and training opportunities for aspiring public health professionals.



Developing and delivering trainings in public health, with a focus on specialized areas such as epidemiology, communicable disease control, and public health.



Conducting virtual sessions on key public health topics to offer learning and training opportunities for public health professionals across the region.



Promoting public health education opportunities at leading international universities to raise awareness about the importance of public health and encourage healthy behaviors in society.



Establishing an inter-institutional fellowship program and a virtual public health institute to offer specialized learning and training opportunities for public health professionals.



Implementing regional training programs to build health capacities, fostering cooperation in public health between countries and facilitating the exchange of experiences and best practices.

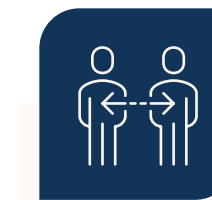
Participating in international scientific conferences on epidemiology and communicable diseases to discuss recent research and advancements in public health, as well as to exchange experiences with international partners.



These activities and programs are aimed at achieving several key outcomes, including



Enhancing organizational and individual capabilities in public health in the GCC.



Strengthening collaboration in public health between countries.



Improving the health of individuals and communities in the GCC.

### Key Achievements



Completed the training course “Cancer Survival Rate: Principles, Methods, and Applications” in collaboration with Weqaya.



Organized and hosted the Academic and Research Forum in Riyadh, KSA, on December 6-7, 2023.



Visited to the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare (THL) and the Public Health Agency of Sweden to exchange experiences, knowledge, and foster a collaboration between organizations.

# Knowledge Management Department



The department focuses on enhancing capacity and knowledge in public health and disease prevention and control in the GCC, by leveraging the IT infrastructure and creating tools that facilitate the dissemination, sharing, and exchange of knowledge. Fostering a culture where knowledge is actively built, shared, and exchanged will drive impactful outcomes that improve public health through the implementation of tools, policies, and programs.

## Key Achievements

1

Developed a strategic plan and roadmap for knowledge management, sharing, and implementation.

2

Implementation of a project to establish a knowledge management and sharing platform.



## Public Health Information Department



### Overview:

The Public Health Information Department and its associated units strive to facilitate the timely collection, integration, and utilization of public health data across key indicators. This is achieved through the implementation of intelligent disease surveillance, health and behavioral surveys, health and injury registries, as well as collaborative research initiatives spanning the six GCC member states.



### Key Divisions:

1

Surveillance and Analysis

2

Research

3

Data Governance and Policies

## Division Overview



### Surveillance and Analysis

Aims to oversee the development and management of a standardized integrated monitoring system that provides easy access to monitor diseases, health events, and risks across the GCC countries.



### Research

Seeks to utilize access to data, advanced technologies, and relevant methodologies alongside researchers, public health experts, and decision-makers in the GCC countries, with the aim to facilitate public health research addressing significant threats and risks, guiding timely decision-making processes.



### Data Governance

The Data Governance and Policies department is responsible for designing and implementing strategies, policies, and procedures for the management, protection, and usage of data across the Gulf CDC. In addition to ensuring rigorous adherence to policies by internal and external users, the department is tasked with formulating guidelines, enforcing policies, and collaborating with stakeholders to establish a robust framework for data governance.

## ■ Key Achievements of the Surveillance and Analysis Division



Regional workshop for calculating the Healthy Life Expectancy Index in the GCC countries.



Guide to data visualization.



Gulf CDC Surveillance Public Health Information Workshop, Riyadh, June 13-14, 2023.



Meetings of the Permanent Surveillance Network.



Interactive dashboards.

## ■ Key Achievements of the Research Division



Workshop for setting research priorities.



Project to study behavioral risk factors.



In-person meeting with the Permanent Communication Networks.



Kick-off meetings for the microbial resistance research project.

## ■ Key Achievements of the Data Governance Division

**1.** Developing the regional data exchange policy for GCC countries.

**2.** Surveillance and Analysis workshop.

**3.** Strategy Project:

The Data Governance and Policies Unit engaged an independent contractor to develop this strategic plan. The project was initiated in June 2023. The department worked closely with “Ascend” to develop a strong framework in line with best international practices and organizational goals. The engagement is ongoing to enhance the strategic plan and ensure its successful implementation. To date, **two of five agreed components have been implemented:**

### Component 1

Current state assessment of the GCC region.

### by conducting 14 in-depth interviews, as follows:

- **6** in-depth interviews with the supervisory board in each member state.
- **6** technical interviews with the relevant persons in each country.
- **One** interview with Dr. Pasi Penttinen, CEO of the Gulf CDC.
- **One** interview with GCC Stat.



### Component 2

Benchmarking of global public health organizations.



Another noteworthy outcome of this cooperation is the **process flowchart for handover and signature.**

## 4. Implementation of the data exchange policy

including:



Developing the data collection tool.



Developing the technical instructions.



Creating the automatic data retrieval system.



Developing and conducting user orientation sessions.



Creating the automatic data retrieval system.



Microsoft Teams communication channel.

## 5. Developing the data exchange procedure document.

## 6. The Cancer Registry:

### International Agency for Research on Cancer

In an effort to advance cancer control and increase awareness in the GCC region, the Gulf CDC and the International Agency for Research on Cancer achieved the following:



Sign a crucial agreement. Focus was placed on enhancing the cancer registry and programs in order to promote research and awareness across the GCC member states.



A cooperation center has also been established with IARC GICR in the GCC to promote cooperation in providing technical support and specialized training. Initiated on November 1, 2023, this crucial collaboration with the relevant stakeholders stands as a top priority.



Set an active workplan that involves developing and expanding the scope of cancer registration activities based on population data in the GCC region.



Promote the role of cancer registries in cancer control and research within each country, facilitating the exchange of knowledge and expertise among partners to mitigate the impact of this grave disease.

### Outcomes of Periodic Meetings:



Data collection tool for the registration of cancer patients.



List of data collection candidates in each country.



Cancer data retrieval protocol and specifications.



Mandates.



Non-disclosure agreement.



Regional cancer center document in cooperation with the public health programs department.



Agreement with the International Agency for Research on Cancer.

### Cancer registries for GCC countries at King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Center - Handover

The cancer registries for GCC countries and associated roles and responsibilities have been successfully handed over to King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Center. This significant accomplishment, along with related efforts, has played a pivotal role in the Department's success in fulfilling its obligations.

#### The handover involved:



Reports on the achievements of the GCC executive plan for cancer control and implemented training programs.



GCC 1998-2007 cancer registry and related guidelines.



Produced scientific publications and research.

Gulf CDC



## Conclusion

The annual report of the GCC Health Council for the year 2023 has been compiled to highlight the accomplishments of the preceding year. The report delineates the Council's vision for establishing a Gulf health organization that is recognized regionally and globally for its role in fostering health cooperation, attaining sustainable health, and enhancing the infrastructure of health systems across the member states.



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