



Kuwait News Agency (KUNA)

Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah
A Humanitarian Leader



A special edition on the occasion of
the United Nations honoring His Highness
(may Allah bless him) and awarding him
the title " A Humanitarian Leader"

(Kuwait - September 2014)

In the name of Allah the most
gracious most compassionate



His Highness Sheikh

Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah

Amir of the state of Kuwait



His Highness Sheikh
Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah
Crown Prince



His Highness Sheikh
Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah
The Prime Minister



Kuwait News Agency (KUNA)

Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah.. A Humanitarian Leader



PREFACE

The Humanitarian Amir

Forecast Honoring of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah as a «humanitarian leader» along with the proclamation of Kuwait as an «international humanitarian center» at the UN headquarters this month (September) affirms the explicit fact that has been well known for tens of years that our country has become an international icon promoting a humanitarian message of giving to the world; for sake of relieving those stricken with man-made or natural catastrophes.



In this respect, I note that His Highness the Amir has been chosen «the Arab world humanitarian personality of 2014» by the Arab Family Organization due to His Highness' great contributions at the humanitarian and relief levels, where almost all records of charitable and humanitarian activities at the Arab and international levels include His Highness' initiatives of aid within framework of a humanitarian message.

Therefore, it can be fairly stated that His Highness the Amir is the architect of a new diplomatic concept, «the humanitarian diplomacy,» that has become synonymous with Kuwait, in addition to His Highness' visionary outlook, based on «the economic diplomacy,» also a new, innovated diplomatic term, thus providing a special dimension to Kuwait's unique identity.

Our Kuwaiti society is graced by Allah with giving and generosity and historic record of the country is rich in diplomatic activities at the official and popular levels, initiatives by senior leaders and prominent figures. We note as an example His Highness the Amir's initiative to host the International Humanitarian Pledging Conference for Syria in response to a call by the United Nations Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon, two years ago (2013). A year later (2014), the second round of the conference followed, concluding with pledges worth 2.4 billion US dollars by the participating states including Kuwait which pledged half a billion dollars, which was fully paid.



These are just chosen examples of Kuwait's hefty giving, its contributions to construction and development, supporting scientific research, human resources' investments, witnessed by many communities worldwide. This is also due to efforts by Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, the Arab Development Fund, Kuwait Foundation for Advancement of Sciences, in addition to youth and voluntary and charitable foundations. Moreover, Kuwait was on top of states that backed the Iraqi people throughout their long plight and the Palestinian people vis a vis the latest Israeli aggression.

The United Nations' honoring of His Highness the Amir is also an honoring for the Kuwaiti people for their giving, their humanitarian values, support for the oppressed, the Amir's passion for giving help, support for development, combating poverty, illiteracy, diseases, catastrophes and endeavors so that he becomes messenger of peace among nations and that what has prompted the world to stand on our side during the invasion times, thus mobilizing their arms, media and institutions for our protection. Kuwait's generous giving has been free because we believe in this and that Allah rewards the good-doers.

The State of Kuwait, under its sagacious leadership, is proceeding with the humanitarian stance toward peoples of the world, out of its belief in the United Nations charter for it is the core of collective work to safeguard international peace and security, in addition to Kuwait's long record of humanitarian initiatives for stopping suffering of stricken peoples, supporting causes of the human race, coping with catastrophes afflicting states and peoples, through its official and grass-root institutions, to be faithful to our history, values, and our role as an «international humanitarian center.»

FOREWORD

Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah
The Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs

The Amir of compassion and bountiful Kuwait



The march of good deeds by the State of Kuwait throughout its history of copious giving and help for the needy and stricken around the world has been proceeding, regardless of borders or mere figures; it is rather a march of ideal values, spearheaded by faithful Kuwaitis and wise leaders. Such an enlightened approach is now being acclaimed by the United Nations which will honor His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah in September (this month), proclaiming His Highness a «humanitarian leader and the State of Kuwait an international humanitarian center.»

Kuwait has contributed with abundant initiatives and humanitarian aid in the East and the West, for the brothers and friends, under the eternal saying, «People are two kinds; a brother in religion or an equal human being,» motivated by such ideal values and leaders and men of solid principles and values for aiding those in need, regardless of any factional or political consideration. Therefore, Kuwait has in fact substantiated its status as «the humanitarian country and its Amir may Allah protect him as the humanitarian leader and a peace maker, whom we highly boast of and whose bountiful giving are recorded in history.»

Such an «institutional approach,» adopted Kuwait for the good deeds could not have materialized without such a visionary outlook and sincere will that guided humanitarian work to secure assistance for those in need, overcome difficulties and alleviate impact of catastrophes, whether caused by human beings or the nature.

Kuwait, namely Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, as it has become well known, has hosted conferences, such as the international donors' conference, held consecutively twice, in addition to the NGOs' symposium, preceded by its participation in operations to relieve the brothers and friends



in Iraq, Gaza Strip, as well as friendly peoples around the world, particularly in Africa and some Asian states.

The honoring of His Highness the Amir, may Allah protect him, at the United Nations in September (this month, 2014) and selection of His Highness as the Arab world humanitarian personality for 2014 by the Arab Family Organization is a source of pride for every Kuwaiti and anyone who loves this good land which has astonished the world with its giving and good messages year after another, thus making a bright record of compassion and giving that would not wither by the years.

Mubarak Duaij Al-Ibrahim Al-Sabah

The Board Chairman and Director General of (KUNA)

INTRODUCTION

Kuwait named a «global humanitarian center» and His Highness the Amir a «humanitarian leader».. Why?

Kuwait has practiced charitable work since it was established in 1613, when a host of families settled on that blessed land on the Arab Gulf coast. Sea has been essential for the life of the Kuwaiti people, as a source of livelihood, where values of interdependence and mercy flourished.



One of these great traits was rushing to save any one stranded at sea. The Kuwaiti people, with their love of Islam and adherence to Islamic humane values, would hurry and offer help should a ship break down or sink.

Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) said, «A Muslim is a brother of another Muslim. So he should not oppress him nor should he hand him over to (his satan or to his self which is inclined to evil). Whoever fulfills the needs of his brother, Allah will fulfill his needs; whoever removes the troubles of his brother, Allah will remove one of his troubles on the Day of Resurrection; and whoever covers up the fault of a Muslim, Allah will cover up his fault on the Day of Resurrection».

In the course of time the love of charitable work was deeply rooted in the Kuwaiti people, who had a great deal of humanitarian heritage passing to them from their ancestors, building schools, practicing awqaf (religious endowments) work, aiding neighbors whose families travelled abroad and showing solidarity in calamities and misfortune, in addition to caring for the poor and the needy.

Charity boom

The boom in humanitarian work in Kuwait would not have thrived without God's blessings, the benevolent instinct of the Kuwaiti people and encouragement by the country rulers.

Charity practices in Kuwait witnessed a boom after the discovery of oil, as people started to widen the scale of their charitable and voluntary work, hurrying to build schools, hospitals and dig wells for water, as well as supporting orphans. This all implied gratitude to Allah. They inaugurated several charitable institutions, committees and associations investing their inborn love for benevolence. Thus, Kuwaiti aid found its way to the most needy countries and peoples, after identifying the types of projects needed for those affected by catastrophes and plights worldwide.

In this way, charitable work converted from individual to institutional activities, that were manifested in establishing various charity associations such as the International Islamic Charitable Organization, the Kuwait Public AWQAF Foundation, the Zakat House, the Social Reform Society, the Revival of Islamic Heritage Society, the Abdullah Al Nouri Charity Association, the Direct Aid Society, the Kuwait Red Crescent Society, and the Patients Helping Fund Society, beside many others.

Charity activities, both official and non-official were soon extended abroad taking the form of relief, development and production projects.

One believes this introduction necessary before addressing the UN decision naming Kuwait «a global humanitarian center» and His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah - may God protect him- a «humanitarian leader.» It is believed a good introduction is deemed necessary for good results.

Kuwait's government and people built on the humanitarian and charitable work the ancestors had initiated, offering the world a role model for humanitarian work, with no discrimination whatsoever regarding religion, ethnicity, language, or geography. This bright image Kuwait offers has qualified the country for a leading humanitarian status.

Copious humanitarian history

Naming His Highness the Amir a «humanitarian leader» had essence and did not come from vacuum. It was based on a abundant past history of social

responsibility and charitable and voluntary work; A present full of plenty of humanitarian initiatives by the leader or the Kuwaiti people for the afflicted and the poor all over the world, and a future in which Kuwaitis look forward to achieving international peace and security.

Followers of Kuwait's humanitarian work will clearly realize that charitable activities under His Highness the Amir have witnessed a great progress, to the forefront. It was prompted by the Amir's belief in the noble humanitarian message, saving lives, bringing joy and happiness to the affected children and women, and picking up people from extreme poverty, ignorance and disease.

Two charity funds for Bedoun

When I was appointed Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs in June 2003, then a Minister of Justice and Awqaf and Islamic Affairs in February 2006, His Highness the Amir was then a prime minister. At that time, Kuwait set up two charitable funds for the health care and education of the Bedoun (with no nationality) and the needy. He always urged caring for this category and helping them, just like assisting the poor and the needy overseas. I am almost perfectly sure that His Highness does not hesitate for minute to respond to whoever seeks his help in a humanitarian matter, either at home or abroad.

Forgiveness and tolerance

His Highness the Amir's humane character has various facades. As he hurries to help the afflicted and the weak, the Amir has occasionally manifested, during the blessed last 10 days of the Muslim holy fasting month of Ramadan, his ability to forgive and pardon those who might have done him wrong. Though «His person» is «immune and inviolable» by the Constitution, the Amir, by means of his kind heart, fatherly forgiveness and tolerating soul, embodied the authentic values of the Kuwaiti people, in translation of Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) hadith, «The strong man is not the one who wrestles, but the strong man is in fact the one who controls himself in a fit of rage.”

This was received with great comfort by the Kuwaiti people, with all their social and political components, considering forgiveness is prompted by the Amir's magnanimity, love to his people and his generousities, forbearing the excesses of his sons.

Political and Humanitarian support to the Syrian people

In 2010, I was named chairman of the Board of the International Islamic Charitable Organization, set up by an Amiri decree from late Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah- may his soul rest in peace- in addition to my post as an Amiri Diwan Advisor. This gave me a chance to get closer to the official and the non-governmental humanitarian work, and closer to the Amir himself.

In many speeches and directives, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah expressed belief that God protected Kuwait and returned it to its people after the Iraqi brutal occupation within a short period thanks to the philanthropy deeply rooted in the hearts of the Kuwaitis and their aid diffusing worldwide, through the charity institutions and the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development.

This has provided more evidence of the Amir's belief in the noble message of charitable work.

In my capacity as an Amiri Diwan Advisor and a UN Secretary General's Envoy for Humanitarian Affairs, I confirm that His Highness the Amir has not spared the least political or humanitarian effort for the sake of the afflicted people, especially the Syrians, whose cause featured high on the agenda of the Amir's meetings with the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and other international officials. The Amir repeatedly wondered: «Isn't it high time yet to stop the Syrian bloodshed? Isn't it high time yet for the international community, with its organizations and senior states, to assume the responsibility of ending that bloody file?» His speeches always demanded an end to the horrible inhumane massacres.

Donors conferences

Kuwait has always proved that it is an oasis of abundance and peace, and it has hosted several development and humanitarian conferences and summits that mobilized efforts and funds, official and popular, for the afflicted.

Part of this, the country has hosted two conference for donors to the Syrian people, which collected USD 4 billion. Kuwait's share, USD 800 million, was fully paid to the relevant relief humanitarian organizations and bodies.

Following the success of the two conferences, and other similar two for the non-governmental humanitarian organizations for the same purpose, Kuwait continued its global humanitarian role, hosting meetings of the top donors to the Syrian refugees held every three months, under my chairmanship.

These meetings aim at developing a platform for the major donors to discuss the various issues related to the strategies of financing, as well as to the spending the collected funds aiming to enhance effectiveness and averting duality, in addition to following up the pledges made in the second donors conference.

The group comprises the countries that supported the humanitarian situation in Syria with more than USD 50 million. It is posed to have other members, in a bid to encourage more countries to join.

Three model villages for Syrians brothers

The State of Kuwait, with its official and non-official committees and authorities, has always been at the forefront of the donor countries and a producer of initiatives to allay the sufferings of victims and the afflicted people harmed by conflicts and catastrophes worldwide, working hard to reinforce the rules of sustainable development and support educational, health and social projects in poor communities.

In this context, Kuwait, through the International Islamic Charitable Organization, has set up three model villages for the Syrian refugees. One was constructed in Turkey's border province of Kilis, with 1,000 mobile

homes, four schools, two health centers and two fully equipped mosques. The village was offered as a present to our Syrian brothers at the behest of His Highness the Amir.

Other two model villages were built for the Syrian refugees in Jordan's Al-Zatri Refugee Camp, including 2,000 mobile homes, schools, mosques and health centers.

Work is underway for a fourth village for the Syrian refugees in Lebanon.

His Highness the Amir, a role model

His Highness the Amir set a role model when he donated, from his own money, USD 5.067 million for building and equipping a refugee model village in Jordan's Al-Zaatari. It includes fully equipped 1,000 mobile houses.

This reveals the Amir's deep feeling for the sufferings of the Syrian people living in the toughest conditions. The Amir's flowing generosity rises him to the post of a «prince of humanitarianism», already granted to him by the UN and the Secretary General Ban Ki-moon.

Unifying relief efforts for the Syrian people

In a bid to unify the relief efforts for the Syrian people, the Amir directed the International Islamic Charitable Organization since the eruption of the Syrian crisis in March 2011, to act as a humanitarian umbrella entrusted with launching popular donation campaigns for the relief of refugees, in cooperation with other charity organizations in the country.

Acting on the sovereign directives, the International Islamic Charitable Organization launched several media campaigns to mobilize official and popular efforts for the sake of alleviating the sufferings of the Syrian refugees in Jordan, Turkey, Lebanon and Armenia, through a batch of relief, health, education and psychological programs. These had a significant effect on lessening the sufferings of Syrian brothers.

Top donors group

In a later phase of the relief work for the Syrians, his Highness the Amir directed the formation of a higher committee for the relief of the Syrian people, including the heads of all the charity organizations and societies as members, for organizing and activating relief efforts.

The committee launched a popular campaign, among hospitable donors, marketing models of the mobile housing units, for the Syrian refugees in Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey.

With the eruption of the last Israeli aggression on Gaza, the higher committee turned into the Kuwaiti Higher Committee for Relief, to be in charge of all relief efforts targeting the afflicted regions.

Sovereign directives and prospects of humanitarian work

Sovereign directives have opened up fresh and broader prospects for the Kuwaiti humanitarian efforts, extending them to all corners of the world to help the poor people and allay sufferings of victims of catastrophes and crisis.

His Highness the Amir directed the launch of media and popular campaigns to provide relief for people affected by earthquakes in Pakistan, Turkey and the Philippines, as well as the victims of the armed conflict in Mali and victims of drought in Niger and Benin.

They also sought help for the victims of famine and desertification in Somalia and Mauritania, reconstruction in Eastern Sudan and assisting the victims of the abhorrent ethnic fanaticism in Burma, also known as Myanmar, and the Central Africa Republic (CAR).

His Highness the Amir has also launched other humanitarian initiatives, that include a fund for supporting small and medium businesses with a capital estimated by USD 2 billion during the Arab Economic Summit held in Kuwait in 2009, for backing projects by Arab youth.

Honoring pioneers of charitable work

His Highness the Amir has honored pioneers of charitable work, awarding them the highest orders in the country. He honored the former Chairman of the International Islamic Charitable Organization, Sheikh Yousef Jassim Al-Hajji - may God grant him speed recovery- and the Chairman of Charity Work Studies Center Abdulrahman Hamoud Al-Sumait, may his soul rest in peace. Both were awarded the Order of Kuwait-First Class for their distinguished efforts in the voluntary and charitable work on the local, Arab and international levels.

Honoring the two scientists was a certificate of confidence for the Kuwaiti charitable work worldwide, after both dedicated their lives to benevolence. They were also awarded the King Faisal Prize, one of the top prizes in the Muslim world, for their leading humanitarian roles.

Kuwait's leading role on the humanitarian map

His Highness the Amir's humanitarian record sets of a symbol of giving and feeling the sufferings of the poor, the afflicted, scholars, widows and divorced women, in a world dominated by materialistic frenzies, where wars, civil conflicts thrived, and the figures of victims, the displaced and the homeless doubled.

This honor, naming His Highness the Amir «humanitarian leader» proves how he enjoys appreciation of the international humanitarian organizations and officials, who keep on lauding his humanitarian role in public, as well as private meetings. I have attended many of these meetings that glorified Kuwait and His Highness the Amir.

The UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon consistently termed the Amir «Leader of Humanitarianism», and that Kuwait under his rule became a global center for humanitarian work.

Kuwait will always occupy a leading place on the map of the regional and international humanitarian work, by virtue of the Kuwaiti people's hospitality,

the country's renewable benevolence and consistent response to emergency situations worldwide.

The Amir's honoring comes to top that humanitarian role; It is an international acknowledgement of the importance of Kuwait's bright humanitarian role and commendation of the country's charitable work, both official and non-official. In addition, it is a message to all those involved in charitable work that their efforts are appreciated and respected by the world, and that the poor and the afflicted communities await more assistance.

It is my pleasure, on behalf of my colleagues at the International Islamic Charitable Organization and the Kuwaiti Higher Committee for Relief, to congratulate His Highness the Amir on this UN grand honoring and to thank him for his diligent humanitarian work and his keenness on supporting charity. This has granted Kuwait a key post on the world humanitarian level. Congratulations to His Highness the Amir and the Kuwaiti people.

«And whatever good you put forward for yourselves - you will find it with Allah . It is better and greater in reward. And seek forgiveness of Allah . Indeed, Allah is Forgiving and Merciful.»

May God help every body

Dr. Abdullah Matouq Al-Matouq

Chairman of the Board of the International Islamic Charitable Organization

Amiri Diwan Advisor

UN Secretary General's Envoy for Humanitarian Affairs

Chapter 1



HIS HIGHNESS THE AMIR.. HIS BIOGRAPHY AND HIS JOURNEY

When history tells the stories of great leaders, this is usually done with exaggeration. But when it comes to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the narration seems to be so humble. The Amir did not leap over to leadership. Instead, he experienced each and every stage, and lavished time and effort working hard till love of the nation dominated his heart, before he reached leadership.

The narration of His Highness the Amir and his achievements has to stop at every stage, crisis and stance of his. Since the Amir is a man of difficult situations, he has always been found when real men are needed and when it is time to face crises.

Every Kuwaiti or Arab, or whosoever involved in politics, knows the Amir well. He has always been found in each event, either involving the small nation, Kuwait, or the greater Arab world.

The Amir's attendance in each local, regional and international scene has always been a good omen. He always has a smile that he never loses. In the literature of politics, it means a lot, may be hope that any severe crisis will dissipate or a hard problem is about to come to an end. This smile, particularly in the world of politics has a significance, namely life is worthy of attempting to silence the sound of bullets, cannons, and instead sit for dialogue and negotiations. It is diplomacy that His Highness the Amir has



known, or is known by.

If the smile is a condition for diplomacy, the patience, vision and wise handling of matters, have always been qualities the Amir enjoys since he took part in managing the country affairs, and when he became at the helm.

It is a basic assumption that management and ruling require a character owning traits rarely found in others; only found in those who grow up and thrive in a «ruling seat». One's mission here is not an ordinary one, but it rather needs a different look of affairs, as one deals with different conditions and people who differ in their orientations and expectations. But after all, he has to give a balanced judgment considering the minute and most complicated details. Thus the ruling seat was the threshold where the Amir was prepared for an extraordinary mission.

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah was born in Al-Jahra, north of Kuwait City, in 1928, the fourth son of Sheikh Ahmad Al-Jaber, Kuwait's 10th ruler, who ruled from 1921 to 1950.



During the time till Kuwait's independence in 1961, the Amir gained plenty of experiences as well as methods of ruling and fruitful management. Being a son of a ruler who was at the helm for long years, he was well-acquainted with the domestic events and changes.

At that time, the world was going through great events, such as the WW II, with all its implications on the planet and the population. Kuwait was of course part of these events. During that time rich of historical events, the Amir had learnt a lot about ruling affairs.

Chance might have played a significant role then as he was developing political awareness. Kuwait was then on its initial steps for being a contemporary state after the discovery of oil and the influx of wealth.

In addition to the private tutors the Amir received at the ruling seat, Al-Mubarakiya School was his first step toward modern education based on developed methodology, according to the relevant criteria at the time. His mates at school were the late Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Father Amir Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, may God bless their souls, and Sheikh Jaber Al-Ali Al-Salem Al-Sabah. One needn't say that the Amri's mates came to be at vanguard of the leadership in Kuwait's modern renaissance.



Sheikh Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah was keen that his son be brought up with high culture, and this was why he sent him to many world countries to obtain more experience and skills, especially in politics of administering a country affairs.

In July 1954, His Highness the Amir actually took his first steps into the political arena, when an Amiri decree was issued by the Kuwait ruler Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah (1950-1965) appointing him a member in the High Executive Committee entrusted with organizing the government departments, designing their work plans and following up their implementation.

This committee constituted the major basis for modern Kuwait, as it paved the way at an early stage for the administrative and economic systems of the pro-independence Kuwait.

Thus, the Amir was a veteran leader, well-acquainted with his country's history, both past and modern. He witnessed the conversions that swept through all aspects of the country, and the changes that took place in the Kuwaiti society.

After the High Executive Committee accomplished its mission, the Amir was appointed Chairman of the Department of Social Affairs and Labor. Then in 1957, he chaired the Department of Press and Publications.



The Amir's major concern has been empowering citizens in the pre-independence Kuwait. Till that time, and even few years before, the Amir worked, through all posts he held, on developing the rules and regulations to provide proper job opportunities for the citizens, while securing a balance in the employer-employee relationship, as well as organizing foreign migration into the country which soared after oil was extracted.

The Amir then felt deeply for the worries of the citizens, considering the huge amount of changes that overwhelmed the society. At an early stage, he worked on setting up vocational training centers for girls, prompted by a strong belief in the great role Kuwaiti women will play later on. These centers provided girls with a share of culture and general information. Professional graduates later joined in ministries.

Moreover, the Amir encouraged women associations, in a bid to take women to their natural role in the society; a woman is half the society, and the major component of a family.



Young men also had their share from the Amir's thinking and concern as he worked on establishing centers and institutions to qualify them psychologically, socially and physically, in cooperation with the Education Department.



Within this framework, the Amir lavished distinguished efforts to establish clubs to encourage sports to flourish and to involve young men in useful activities likely to foster the country's reputation worldwide.

He also realized how caring for art and heritage is essential in life, for their role in promoting the society and refining the human soul. Therefore, he gave special care to developing a theatrical base, opening the door for Kuwaiti youth to join the field. He worked hard for setting the Folklore Preservation Center in 1956, to preserve the popular heritage.

The media industry was a top priority on the Amir's agenda s. The issuance of the official gazette «Al-Kuwait Al-Youm» (Kuwait Today) was among his several key achievements in the field.

During the time the Amir was in charge of the Press and Publications Department, the print house of the Kuwait government was established to meet the country's needs of the various publications in addition to books and copybooks for the Education Department.

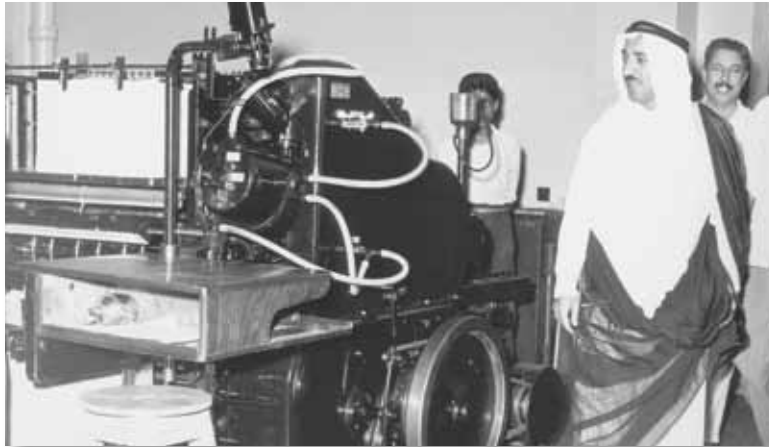


Another landmark achievement was the issuance of Al-Arabi Magazine, which is a top Kuwaiti ambassador to the Arab world with its intellectual articles, stories and surveys providing such interesting data and knowledge.

Reviving the Arabic heritage and republishing ancient Arab manuscripts were given significant attention by the Amir when he became Minister of Guidance and Information - later changed to the Ministry of Information.

He then then formed a special panel and entrusted it with preparing the «Kuwait History» book, aiming to present the history of the country through a scientific method highlighting historical facts, with full transparency and reliability, no confusion or fraud.

After the Press and Publications Department was changed into the Ministry of Guidance and Information, the Amir carried on with his efforts to develop the Kuwaiti media. The Ministry then included the radio and TV, the cinema, the theater and tourism. These sectors worked together in harmony for serving the public interests.



In fact, they played a prominent and effective national role refuting the slanderous claims of the former Iraqi regime against Kuwait and the country's sovereignty.

There is not doubt, having a career in diplomacy requires certain capabilities, the least of which is that a diplomat should enjoy special talents that allow him to enter that risky field, otherwise grave consequences lie ahead, just as global experiences have proved.

His Highness the Amir combined the talent of «diplomacy management» and the long experience he gained in the institutions that built modern Kuwait. In short, a skillful diplomat has the instinct of managing an event, in addition to the deep experience of life and its intricacies. He has to visit all walks of life, to probe its depths.

We, Kuwaitis, always recall the scene when the Amir was at the helm of the country's diplomacy. When a crisis worsened, which usually happened, the language of peace would be replaced by the rhetoric of war and the logic of hatred would simmer. The Amir would move with his usual smile to raise hopes.

He would embark on shuttle journeys between the conflicting parties, with a persevering will, until the crisis comes to an end and the agitated calm down. In terms of diplomacy, the Amir offers a profound experience, worthy to contemplate.

On January 18, 1963, the Amir took over the portfolio of the Foreign Ministry, in the second post-independence government. Under the Amir as foreign minister, Kuwait developed a foreign policy approach that the country has never deviated from. The essence of the policy is that it has to be in line with the constitution.



According to Article 1 of the Kuwaiti Constitution «Kuwait is an Arab State, independent and fully sovereign» and «The people of Kuwait are a part of the Arab Nation.»

According to Article 2 «The religion of the State (of Kuwait) is Islam». Thus, the Amir devoted his efforts to establish what the Kuwaitis had agreed upon by consensus, which is in fact the reflection of their religious values and national conventions.

Thus, Kuwait's foreign policy under the Amir sincerely fostered work to unify the Arab and the Islamic ranks.

On the ground, Kuwait supported the Palestinian cause, the cause of the Arabs, unifying ranks for the sake of achieving a just solution for realizing permanent peace in the Middle East.

This was prompted by Kuwait's backing for the struggle of the Palestinian people to obtain all their legitimate rights, topped with establishing a Palestinian state with Jerusalem a capital.

By the same token, the Kuwaiti diplomacy under the Amir played an effective and influential role to halt the civil war in Lebanon (1975-1989). Over the 14 years of the ill-omened war, Kuwait's diplomacy then focused on Lebanon's territorial integrity and empowering the country to recover full independence and sovereignty, in addition to offering the Lebanese people the chance to freely choose their political regime, with no foreign interference.



Based on this, the Amir then staunchly countered schemes that suggested dividing Lebanon on sectarian basis, as he realized well that was an Israeli plot, and that it was part of Israel's wider scheme to divide the Arab world, while it gets stronger.

The Amir's good efforts were remarkable for undermining any division in the Arab ranks. Worthy to mention in this regard, are his efforts to end the crisis in Yemen following the deterioration of relations between the Yemen Arab Republic (Sanaa) and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (Aden) and the ensuing clashes in 1972.

Thanks to his broad diplomatic capabilities, the Amir managed then to overcome the ideological differences between both parties. Following his visits to both countries, the crisis came to an end and the two Yemens then

signed a peace accord and a trade exchange pact.

The Amir also played a significant role to settle the row between the Sultanate of Oman and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, leading to a reconciliation agreement between them in 1984.

The parties then agreed to stop the media war between the two countries, not to interfere in the internal affairs of each other, respect good neighborliness and sovereignty, besides establishing diplomatic relations.

The Amir's diplomacy as Kuwait's Foreign Minister also acted as the spearhead in the Arab Gulf-European relations, since the Amir was very keen on boosting bilateral relations out of the concept that economic cooperation will lead to political cooperation, and consequently neutralizing the Gulf area from conflicts.

The Amir's belief in the vital role of the Arab nation sprang from his strong trust in the power of this nation once it gets united.

This is why he was so keen on activating the role by the Arab League, abiding by its charter, on the basis that if it is allowed to play due role, the Arab nation would be able to overcome the difficulties it faced and avert several problems and plights.

Kuwaiti mediation in Arab crises set models that revealed the diplomatic capabilities the Amir had. They also extended to the international level. The Amir was a Foreign Minister for nearly four decades, most of which was in the Cold War era, and the struggle was at its highest between the US and Western Europe on one hand, and the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe on the other. Amid such conflicts and polarization, the small state of Kuwait faced a harsh test.

However, the Kuwaiti diplomacy under the Amir sought to distance the country from polarization, without tending towards an axis or an ideology against another. The target was then a balanced foreign policy, establishing close ties with all peaceful states, regardless of their political orientations.

No wonder then that Kuwait was among the first states in the region to establish diplomatic ties with the then Soviet Union and East European countries, at the time when the country maintained close and flourishing relations with the US and West European countries.

Thanks to this policy, Kuwait gained great credibility as a neutral party, unwilling to get involved in the policy of political conglomerates that had no benefit for the world, or the communities.

According to several observers at that time, Kuwait's policy under the Amir brought the country international acceptance that qualified it for a neutral mediator in regional and the international crises.

A report by the Etijahat Research and Studies Centre earlier this year stated: «The Kuwaiti diplomatic role had several attributes that only expressed wisdom of the decision maker, that was according to a rational and organized approach seeking stability for the regional and external situation, settling Islamic and Arab rows and contributing to the integrity of security in the Gulf, as well as handling any threats to the internal scene. Officials, either foreign ministers or ambassadors, were able to make Kuwait's role neutral, balanced, rational and objective to the utmost extent, regarding the handling the different issues.»

Certainly, the policy of neutrality adopted by the Amir since then has fostered Kuwait's status and reputation on all levels. Thanks to the confidence and credibility the country gained on the political scene, it was able to launch investments and employ financial capabilities worldwide, with no cautions or restrictions. That policy also brought the country favorable investments.

Kuwait's foreign policy established by the Amir since the independence constitutes a base, capable of dealing with the changes the world has witnessed. For instance, if terrorism top the challenges facing the world today, the Kuwaiti diplomacy had warned of it long ago. This vision was based on the fact that unjust policies in the region were likely to create a favorable climate and proper haven for terrorism.

Though the Amir had on several occasions stressed Kuwait's stance against terrorism, supporting the world in the fight against it, he did not allow propaganda engines laying the blame on Islam. He always affirmed that Islam was a religion of forgiveness and tolerance.

By virtue of this wise policy, Kuwait was spared the danger of terrorism that hurt many countries. Kuwait's policy, since it was established , has always been

reliant on openness, tolerance and consultation, as well as undermining rows regardless of how hard they were. Thanks to this peaceful and reconciliatory approach, the Kuwait ruling system had realized an outstanding reputation on the regional and international scenes. On the domestic level, the policy had its roots in the ruler-ruled relation which produced a flourishing country that enjoys unique characteristics.

In that regard, a researcher in Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, wrote: «Kuwait has a remarkable political and cultural heritage. People there, by nature, do not like extremism or violence. From this angle, I do not think that the ruling institution in Kuwait is based on vacuum, but it rather has an integrated base.»

The Amir might have summed up the political approach of the country in his speech at the UN on the occasion of country joining the international organization, May 4, 1963, as he said, «Kuwait's participation in international activities clearly indicates that Kuwait's independence and membership of the UN are not an end by themselves, but are rather a means by which Kuwait can share responsibility in improving the lives of the people in our country and in other countries.»

The Amir has offered a clear example that a country's power is not defined by its geographical area or small population, but it lies in the ability to fulfil its vital role on the world arena. He might have realized that it is imperative got the rulers of a state with complicated geo-strategic location to draw up a foreign policy that considers the geographical conditions, the nature of the population and the complexities of the vicinity.

Consequently, the Amir has successfully consolidated the relation with the UN, its specialized organizations and member states, based on the principles of the Kuwait's policy that call for peace and believe in human rights, setting it as a goal. Based on this, Kuwait presents aid to all world countries, especially the most needy. This policy also adopts positive neutrality in handling the different issues, making decisions from a just base prompted by keenness on peace.

On July 13, 2003, the Amir was named Prime Minister, and during his term in office he established a new approach for the state's expectations, namely

activating the political and economic diplomacies for the sake of developing the country and boosting prosperity. He realized Kuwait's good reputation on the world level and the country's economic capabilities that could bring more to it and the people.

Since he took over as a Prime Minister until January 26, 2006, the Amir directed his efforts to push ahead the wheel of development, political and economic reform, developing laws and systems. He also employed part of his efforts for the social care institutions.

Named head of state on January 29, 2006, His Highness the Amir has since then made giant steps for Kuwait internal renaissance, topped with highlighting the importance of citizens and fortifying the country against sedition and division. «The all-inclusive national unity embracing sons of this land is the cornerstone of their integration, keenness on their constants and authentic values, reinforcing their belonging to a nation that knows no distinction between its sons, nor any other classification or division that harms the social fabric. Thus, it remains a nation for all, where clear hearts, goodwill and love of work are dominant,» His Highness the Amir said in one of his speeches.



Under His Highness the Amir, democracy thrived and media freedoms expanded as the number of newspapers increased and the space of constructive criticism broadened. Women's participation in politics soared.

The Amir's has a strong belief in youth and the importance of their role. In one of his speeches he stressed that «Kuwait's real wealth is its sons. It is an unmatched wealth. They are the base for the future, the hope of the nation. Their strength builds achievements.»

The Amir recommends the youth to get armed with modern science in the era of information revolution, and amid a race of nations seeking a place in the march of progress. Therefore, we must have our share of this progress, through a quantum leap in our education system.

Under His Highness the Amir, Kuwait has become a platform for making Arab decisions and international stances, as the country hosted and sponsored several regional and Arab conferences, political and economic.



On the level of the Arab Gulf, Kuwait has always stressed the necessity of working to achieve joint interests for the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). The Amir has played a distinguished role to undermine differences in the «single entity.» The Kuwaiti diplomacy has actively moved to achieve the target.

Under His Highness the Amir, Kuwait has adopted a policy revealing pure national soul, and the Arabs had a special political place for him. Moreover, the humane value that the Amir enjoys has granted Kuwait a special status on the international arena.

Chapter 2



HUMANITARIAN COUNTRY

«When first established in 1961, the Kuwait Fund was without precedent. Here was Kuwait, a tiny country, until recently among the poorest places in earth, establishing a development fund in the year of its political independence. While welcoming its new-found prosperity it was declaring willingness to share its future wealth with its Arab neighbors.»

Robert McNamara

Former president of the World Bank

Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development

Since its foundation, Kuwait faced huge challenges at the internal and external levels and in spite of the difficulties it has undergone or the burdens it has been bearing while moving to achieve comprehensive development after getting its independence, it has never forgotten the Arab world nor other developing countries in their struggle to develop their societies and economies.

When it achieved budget surpluses with growing revenues of oil, Kuwait immediately allocated some of these surpluses to contribute to development projects in the whole world, and especially in the Arab world.

The first initiative in this regard was in 1950s when Kuwait founded the Authority for the South and Arabian Gulf which played a great role in meeting educational, health and development needs and aspirations of Gulf countries such as Yemen, Oman, Bahrain and United Arab Emirates and to non-Gulf Arab countries such as Sudan. Through this body, Kuwait financed the establishment of schools, institutes, universities, hospitals and medical centers in many sisterly countries.

The financial aid given by Kuwait was closely linked to goals of economic and social development, raising the living standards of beneficiary countries and creating job opportunities. The Kuwaiti aid was also unconditional and characterized by low interest rates and repayment facilities. Its main goal



was to support beneficiary countries and help them achieve welfare to their people as well as to strengthen friendship bonds between Kuwait and other world countries.

The State of Kuwait was always concerned with the suffering and agony of developing countries and was pioneering in taking serious actions and in working relentlessly to support development issues.

Though Kuwait considers itself a developing country, it never hesitated to deduct a considerable part of its national income, about a third of it, to help other countries. Based on this principle, it established the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development to be the first official Kuwaiti channel for providing help and support for developing countries, and assisting them in performing their development programs.

KFAED from idea to reality

The foundation of the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) was announced on December 31, 1961, to be the first development organization in the Middle East, founded by the State of Kuwait immediately after its independence for providing development assistance for Arab and non-Arab developing countries.



KFAED foundation law

On this day law No. 35 of 1961 was issued to entitle the prime minister to issue the foundation charter of KFAED.

Upon a proposal from the head of finance and economy department, I, the Amir of the State of Kuwait Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, approved the following law.

Article 1

Establishing a public entity based in Kuwait and named «Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development,» affiliated to the department of finance and economy.

Article 2

The purpose of the KFAED is to assist Arab and other developing countries in developing their economies, particularly by providing them with loans required for the implementation of their development programs as per the charter adopted by the head of the finance and economy department.

Article 3

The KFAED authorized capital would be KD 50 million to be paid by the government.

Article 4

The KFAED could receive loans or issue bonds as per the conditions defined by the head of the finance and economy department upon a proposal from the KFAED board of directors.

Article 5

The KFAED is run by a board of directors appointed as per the foundation charter.

Article 6

Head of the finance and economy department shall issue the foundation charter to clarify the board formation mechanism and its powers and the Fund's technical, administrative and financial regulations as well as all requirements for ensuring the high efficiency of the work in the fund.

Article 7

Head of the finance and economy department shall put the law into effect as of the day of publishing it in the official gazette.

Amir of Kuwait Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah

issued at Seif Palace on December 31, 1961
correspondent to 23 Rajab 1381 of the Islamic lunar calendar

In July 1974, the KFAED was reorganized by law No.25 of 1974 and its charter was amended so as to include the provision of assistance to developing countries in general, in addition to Arab countries. Also, the Fund's authorized capital was increased by virtue of this law from KD 200 million to KD 1,000 Million (about USD 3,400 million to expand its activities to cover the biggest number of countries worldwide).

By law No.18 of 1981, issued in March of that year, the Fund's authorized capital was doubled to become KD 2,000 million, which is now fully paid-up. The Fund's charter was also amended to provide expressly that its mandate includes subscription to capital stocks of development finance institutions as well as capital stocks of corporate bodies which are of a developmental nature.

Since then, the KFAED is extending its activities to every part of the world. It finances development projects in Arab, African, Asian, European, South American and Caribbean countries. The scope of its activities expanded from financing development projects only to financing projects in several sectors including transport, communications, agriculture, energy, industry, drinking water and sanitary drainage.



KFAED Activities

The objective of the KFAED as set forth in its reorganizing law is to assist Arab and other developing countries in developing their economies and to provide such countries with loans required for the implementation of their development programs. To achieve this objective, the Fund may adopt such means as its board of directors deem appropriate within the limits set forth in its law and charter. Such means may include the following:

- Providing direct loans and guarantees
- Providing grants-in-aid to finance technical, economic and financial studies whether in relation to projects financed by the Fund or otherwise.
- Subscription to the capital of eligible developmental enterprises.
- Subscription to capital stocks of international and regional development finance institutions and other development institutions and representing the State of Kuwait in such institutions.

The Fund may extend its assistance to different types of entities which include:

- Central and provincial governments, public utilities and other public corporations.
- Development institutions, whether international, regional or national and, in particular, development finance institutions.



KFAED in figures

«By the end of March 2014, the total number of loans extended by the KFAED, since its establishment reached 860 loans, at an accumulative value of about KD 5,177 million or about USD 17,602 million. The total number of countries benefiting from these loans reached 103 countries.

«Arab countries got the line's share of the KFAED's loans with about 327 loans, followed by East South Asian & Pacific countries with 162 loans, then West African countries with 153 loans. At the third place came Central, South and East African countries with 120 loans, at the fourth place came Central Asian and European countries with 58 loans and the bottom of the list came the Caribbean countries with 40 loans.

Geographic Distribution of Funds Loans up to 31 March, 2014

Countries	No of Countries	No of Loans	Loans Commitments Million	
			US \$	KD
Arab Countries	16	327	2,918	9,920
Central Asia & European Countries	17	58	300	1,019
Central, South & East African Countries	21	120	375	1,274
East, South Asia & Pacific Countries	19	162	950	3,229
Latin American & Caribbean Countries	11	40	128	437
West African Countries	19	153	506	1,723
Total	103	860	5,177	17,602

«As to the sectoral distribution of the total loans committed, the transport and communication sector ranks first, followed by energy sector, then agriculture sector. The water and sewerage sector ranks fourth and the industrial sector ranks fifth.

«As for the amount of loans till the end of March 2014, the Arab countries got loans at a total value of KD 2,918 million or USD 9,920 million. East South Asian & Pacific countries received loans at total value of KD 950 million or USD 3,229 million and West African states got loans worth KD 506 million or USD 1,723 million.

«Morocco topped the list of beneficiary Arab countries with regard to the number of loans. It received 37 loans worth KD 387.8 million. Egypt came second in terms of the number of loans, 36, but first in terms of the value of received loans with a total of KD 600.58 million. Yemen came third in terms of number and amount of loans with 33 loans worth KD 118.95 million.



«China topped the list of beneficiary among East South Asian and Pacific countries with 35 loans at a total value of KD 260.99 million, followed by Bangladesh with 22 loans worth KD 152.82 million and Pakistan with 16 loans valuing KD 120.62 million.

«Senegal ranked first among beneficiary West African countries receiving 27 loans at a total value of KD 95.35 million. Burkina Faso came second with 15 loans valuing KD 50.13 million and came Guinea with 12 loans at a total value of KD 48.57 million.

Grants and technical assistance

In addition to loans, the KFAED also extends technical assistance to help countries and institutions to strengthen and accelerate their development efforts. The technical assistance includes, among other things, the preparation of project feasibility studies, expertise services for assisting in the planning and execution of development projects and programs, and in training, especially for upgrading technical skills and capacities of staff assigned for management and operation of projects, as deemed necessary during project appraisal.

«By the end of March 2014, the number of technical assistance grants extended by the KFAED reached 153 grants with cumulative value of about KD 91.23 million. «Topping the list of beneficiaries were Arab countries with 77 grants, followed by West African countries with 25 grants and then Central, South and East African countries with 17 grants.

Geographical Distribution of Grants and Technical Assistance up to 31 March 2014

Countries	No	Grants Million		No	Technical Assistance Million	
		KD	US \$		KD	US \$
Central Asia & European Countries	16	5,31	18,05	3	0,77	2,62
Latin American & Carribean Countries	3	0,21	0,71	5	1,22	4,15
East, South Asia & Pacific Countries	15	11,27	38,32	8	1,54	5,24
Arab Countries	77	67,72	230,25	18	5,95	20,23
West African Countries	25	3,32	11,29	9	1,92	6,53
Central, South & East African Countries	17	3,40	11,56	5	0,75	2,55
Total	153	91,23	310,18	48	12,15	41,32

«As for technical assistance grants, the KFAED had given 48 grants at an accumulative value of KD 12.15 million or USD 41.32 million. Arab countries got the biggest share with 18 technical assistant grants. West African countries ranked second with nine grants and East, South Asia and Pacific countries ranked third with eight grants.

Supporting development institutions

In addition to grants and loans, the KFAED extended its activities to contribute, on behalf of the State of Kuwait, to development institutions to help them better deliver on their missions.

Among the major development institutions to which KFAED contribute are the following:

- Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development
- Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa
- African Development Fund
- Inter-Arab Investment Guarantee Corporation
- African Development Bank
- International Development Association
- International Fund for Agricultural Development
- The Gulf Program for Development (AGFUND)

Kuwait government grants

KFAED also supervises the implementation of projects funded by the State of Kuwait grants in support of development activities. In this regard, KFAED continues its cooperation with its partners in development providing advice on how best to achieve their development goals.

The number of grants, extended by the State of Kuwait to developing countries and development institutions, under KFAED's supervision, reached 73 with a total value of KD 969.28 million or USD 3,295.6 million.

Arab countries got 41 grants topping the list of beneficiaries while West African countries came second with 21 government grants.

Geographical Distribution of the Kuwaiti Government grants Administrated by KFAED up to 31 March 2014

Countries	No of Countries	Commitments Million	
		KD	US \$
Central Asia & European Countries	2	5,28	17,95
Latin American & Carribean Countries	1	2,60	8,86
East, South Asia & Pacific Countries	3	6,98	23,75
Arab Countries	41	917,66	3120,05
West African Countries	21	30,87	104,97
Central, South & East African Countries	5	5,89	20,02
Total	73	969,28	3295,60

Humanitarian role in fighting epidemic diseases

KFAED effectively contributes to epidemic and endemic diseases control programs and healthcare services in developing countries. One of the main programs financed by the KFAED, particularly in West African states is Onchocerciasis disease control program.

Onchocerciasis, commonly known as «river blindness,» is caused by the parasitic worm *Onchocerca volvulus*. It is transmitted to humans through exposure to repeated bites of infected blackflies of the genus *Simulium*. Symptoms include severe itching, disfiguring skin conditions and visual impairment, including permanent blindness.

According to the World Health Organization, more than 99 percent of infected people are infected live in 31 African countries; the disease also exists in some parts in Latin America and Yemen.

Photo Onchocerciasis or river blindness disease

In July 1968, a joint international technical meeting on (feasibility of Onchocerciasis Control), held in Tunisia, recommended that a large scale control program should be implemented in West Africa, and the operation commenced in 1974, as Onchocerciasis Control Program (OCP).

The number of people infected by the parasite at that time was estimated at over two million. Thanks to relentless efforts, the OCP was successfully completed in 2002. The OCP helped more than 50 million children to be spared the risk of blindness. Moreover, the OCP also protected about 100 million people from Onchocerciasis or river blindness.

Due to the success of the OCP, an on-going program is implemented with the ultimate goal of eliminating river blindness as a major disease threatening public health throughout Africa, by the end of 2015.

The African Program for Onchocerciasis Control (APOC) was initiated in December, 1995. It is a unique partnership that brings together inter-tropical African countries, donors, NGOs, the private sector and the affected communities. The aim of APOC is to establish effective and sustainable systems of distributing the needed treatment drugs, to protect over 100 million people at risk in 20 countries, which fall outside OCP.



Moreover, the KFAED joined the international efforts to control and eliminate Guinea worm disease. Since 1986, when an estimated 3.5 million people were infected annually, the international campaign eradicated much of the disease. The number of cases went down to only 10,000.

KFAED also financed Korle Lagoon Restoration Project to remove contaminated material and disposal of all organic material out of the water stream. The project aimed at improving the ecological, environmental and hydrological conditions of the Korle Lagoon and its immediate environs.

Furthermore, KFAED contributed to the «Chernobyl Fund» which was launched to deal with the grave impacts of Chernobyl power plant explosion disaster in 1986.

Chapter 3



KUWAIT AND THE SYRIAN CRISIS

Introduction

The four-year Syrian crisis has drastically escalated, at various levels, with number of deaths, particularly among children and women, sharply mounting, along with increasing number of refugees, in shadow of lack of any initiative to end the Syrian people's plight.

In absence of prospected settlements, the humanitarian tragedy in Syria deepens with recurring genocides and breaches of modern-time conventions and charters.

The crisis, according to UN estimates, had resulted, till end of 2013, in more than 130,000 deaths, 100,000 wounded, more than three million refugees as well as thousands of fled Syria without being recorded.

Kuwait had taken appropriate stances at each turning point of the Syrian crisis. In August 2011, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Bahrain, following Qatar's suit, called back their ambassadors in Damascus as an expression of protest. On September 28, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Libya, Jordan and Morocco submitted a draft resolution to the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva, calling for extension of the relevant inquiry panel, which documented the Syrian regime's violations.

Kuwait took part in the first meeting of the UN-backed Action Group for Syria, held in Geneva on June 30, 2012. The conference statement called on the Syrian Government and the opposition to cooperate, fully, with the international observers on the field, to grant them access to detainees, in addition to allowing free movement for journalists, respecting people's right to demonstrate peacefully, while affirming necessity of delivering humanitarian aid to Syrians in need for such help. The conferees agreed on broad-lines for resolving the Syrian crisis politically; holding free elections for establishing a pluralistic-democratic system, with full respect for human rights, rule of law, equality to all and rights for minorities.

Moreover, Kuwait hosted, in 2013 and 2014, the first and second International Humanitarian Pledging Conferences for Syria.

The State of Kuwait has also urged the international community, namely states

of permanent membership in the United Nations Security Council, to renounce differences and unify their stances to resolve the protracted catastrophe in Syria.

The Syrian crisis developments

The year 2011 witnessed popular uprisings in a number of Arab states, namely Egypt, Tunisia and Libya, before they spread to Syria, thus opening a new chapter in history of this ancient Arab country. The popular action started as peaceful demonstrations calling for reforms, flaring up first in the southern province of Daraa and later spreading to other governorates and cities.

However, the Syrian regime clamped down on these demonstrations, inflicting deaths on daily basis. At start of the events, the regime denied that the people were staging protests against it, accusing the media of fabricating lies and misleading the public. But later, when human rights organizations' criticisms snowballed and the media shed further light on pictures of annihilation, killings, repression and detentions, President Bashar Al-Assad declared planned reforms.

Regional and international stances

United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, in May 2011, called on the Syrian Government to cooperate to investigate circumstances of killing protesters. European states agreed on imposing new sanctions on the regime, freezing funds of a number of senior Syrian officials. Washington, for its turn, imposed sanctions on President Al-Assad and six officials for breaching human rights, but later European Foreign ministers agreed on tightening the curbs on the regime, namely President Al-Assad.

On June 1, the Syrian opposition in exile held the first conference in Antalya, Turkey, forming a coalition, calling on President Al-Assad to step down immediately and hand over powers to his deputy.

On July 29, the Free Syrian Army was proclaimed. The opposition military organization was formed by a number of breakaway officers, headed by Colonel Riad Al-Assaad.

A number of states withdrew their ambassadors from Damascus and the Syrian Government restricted movement of some diplomats in Syria, amid mounting Arab and international efforts aimed at resolving the crisis and growing sanctions on the regime.

In August, the Arab League called on the Syrian regime to cease immediately all acts of violence and security campaigns and later the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva voted in favor of a resolution condemning the Syrian authorities' practices against the protesters, declaring planned dispatch of a commission to Syria to investigate reported atrocities, deemed as tantamount to crimes against humanity.

On October 4, the United Nations Security Council had witnessed major diplomatic action, unprecedented since flare-up of the protests. Britain, France and Portugal tabled a draft resolution condemning the Syrian regime for suppressing peaceful protests and demanded that it halt the repression, respect human rights, commence political reforms immediately, however Russia and China vetoed it.

The Arab League took a resolution by a landslide majority, suspending Syria's membership in the Arab organization, giving it three days to sign a protocol for dispatch of Arab observers to the country but Syria abstained from signing it, thus the Arab League imposed economic curbs on it on November 27.

On December 19, the Syrian Government, after a month and a half of debates and moratoria, agreed to sign the Arab initiative, thus vanguards of the Arab observers arrived in the country on December 22. The mission was headed by General Mohammad Mustafa Al-Dabbi.

Mounting massacres

The first four months of 2012 were very much similar to the previous months in terms of the number of deaths, the injured, the detainees, the displaced and the refugees. Rather, the events in these months were bloodier and more violent. Cases of deserting the Syrian Army and official institutions mounted, along with increasing Arab and international initiatives for seeking

a settlement to the aggravating crisis. However, these efforts were futile due to the regime's intransigence, favoring use of force. Internationally, Russia and China vetoed several proposed resolutions against the Damascus regime.

On February 7, Gulf Cooperation Council states asked Syrian ambassadors to leave their territories immediately and declared their ambassadors' withdrawal from Damascus. On March 15, Saudi Arabia and Italy shut down their embassies in Damascus and were followed by a number of Arab and foreign states.

Number of deaths increased to 100 per day and the government forces and the paramilitary squads, locally called «Al-Shabbiha,» committed massacres. Some of the ugliest ones happened in Al-Houla, the Homs countryside, on May 26, where throats of 108 persons, mostly children, were slit with knives, and «Al-Trainseh massacre» that occurred in Hama's rural region on July 12, when some 200 people perished in aerial and artillery attacks. Moreover, Syria witnessed a wave of explosions that inflicted heavy losses. One of the bloodiest blasts occurred in Al-Qazaz district in Damascus, on May 10, killing 55 people and wounding more than 350 others.

Arab and international initiatives

On March 29, 2012, Arab leaders, at conclusion of their summit in Baghdad, called for dialogue between the Syrian Government and the opposition, urging the latter to unify the ranks and demanding that the authorities halt crackdown and human rights breaches.



At the international level, Russia and China vetoed a UNSC draft resolution condemning the clampdown on the opposition in Syria. On February 16, the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution by a majority of 137 votes, against 13 opposition votes and 17 abstentions, calling for an instant cessation of the regime suppression of the opposition activists.

On February 23, the United Nations assigned Kofi Annan as a joint UN-Arab League envoy for Syria. Annan shuttled among Syria, regional and influential states holding talks with senior officials and leaders of the Syrian internal and external opposition. On March 21, the UNSC unanimously adopted a Presidential Statement supporting Annan's efforts.

On March 27, Syria declared acceptance of Annan's plan aimed at ending the bloodshed. On April 14, the UNSC unanimously endorsed a draft resolution calling for deployment of international observers to monitor a cease-fire in Syria. On April 21, the UNSC adopted a resolution stipulating dispatch of 300 observers to Syria to oversee the cease-fire.

At the internal political level, parliamentary elections were held on May 7, however the polls were boycotted by the internal opposition. The government declared results of the elections on May 15, saying number of voters who cast their ballots reached 50 percent.

On September 1, mission of Lakhdar Brahimi as the UN-Arab League envoy for Syria officially got started, after end of his predecessor's mandate. On October 21, after meeting President Al-Assad in Damascus, he called on all parties of the Syrian strife to halt the fighting on Eid Al-Adha. The next day, he declared the Syrian Government's acceptance of a cease-fire during the eid, and the armed and political opposition agreed to it. However, the truce was breached on the eid's first and scores of people were killed.

Deployment of the Free Syrian Army and formation of the National Coalition

On September 22, 2012, the Free Syrian Army announced transferring its central command headquarters from Turkey, where it had been based since

more than a year earlier, to the «liberated regions» in Syria. During that time, a number of army officers declared desertion and diplomats abroad also announced defection from the Damascus Government. Scores of breakaway officers fled to Turkey and Jordan.

The National Coalition for Syrian Revolution and Opposition Forces was established on November 9, when opposition groups reached an agreement in Doha, Qatar, on forming the coalition to lead the opposition and Ahmad Muath Al-Khatib was elected president and Riad Saif his deputy.

On November 12, the GCC countries and the Arab League recognized the coalition as the sole legitimate representative of the Syrian people. On November 19, Al-Khatib was granted a permit to establish a temporary headquarters for the coalition in Cairo, Egypt. On November 20, the European Union recognized the coalition as the sole representative of the Syrian people. On December 11, the United States followed suit.

The Geneva conference

Geneva hosted, on June 30, 2012, a meeting of the UN-backed Action Group for Syria, during which conferees affirmed that any political settlement to the Syrian crisis should include a transitional phase involving all Syrians of diverse trends, drawing up a decisive timetable for the nation's future, ensuring security, calm and stability to all and that these objectives be attained speedily without further bloodshed and violence.

The Geneva-two conference, held on January 2, 2014, was fruitless and was only marked with participation of delegations representing the regime and the opposition.

The chemical attack on Damascus' Al-Ghouta

On August 21, 2013, the world awoke to news of a horrific massacre, perpetrated by the Syrian regime forces against civilians in Al-Ghouta on eastern outskirts of the Syrian capital. Hundreds of residents perished due to

toxic gases, namely nerve gas.

The attack took place three days after arrival of the international investigation commission in Damascus. Troops of the Syrian Army's 155th Brigade started launching, as of 2:31 a.m., salvoes of missiles on various regions in eastern Al-Ghouta, eastern sector of Zamalka town, Ain Terma and Mouaddamia.

Following the attack, many states and international organizations called for investigating the massacre and punishing those responsible for it. On September 16, 2013, a report released by the UN panel indicated that these regions were targeted with Sarin gas, launched by the rocket launchers. It was timed with intention of killing the largest number possible of people, noting that temperature would drop between 2:00 a.m. and 5 a.m., thus air would move downward.

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon said, «Those responsible for this dangerous crime must be brought to justice as soon as possible.» He reiterated that President Bashar Al-Assad had «perpetrated a lot of crimes against humanity and must be brought to account for his crimes.»

Syria, as a result of international pressures, became a full member of the UN Chemical Weapons Convention and the Damascus Government started submitting detailed reports to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) in The Hague about its chemical arms arsenal, as part of a Russian-American accord to dismantle Damascus' arsenal of these arms. On September 28, the UNSC unanimously endorsed a resolution compelling the Syrian Government to dismantle its arsenal of the chemical weapons.

Presidential elections

On October 21, 2013, Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad declared in a televised interview that «there was nothing» that could prevent him from his nomination for the presidential elections.

The Syrian regime announced presidential election would be held on June 3, 2014, despite continuous killing, daily bombardment and flee of millions of Syrians to neighboring states.

The Syrian opposition warned against holding the presidential poll in shadow of the current circumstances in the country. The opposition National Coalition asked how the elections could be held while half of the people became refugees and 60-70 percent of the country's territories were no longer under the regime control.

The Chairman of the Syrian People's Assembly (parliament), Mohammad Al-Lahham, declared that President Al-Assad won the elections by a landslide, garnering up to 88.7 percent of the votes.

However, the EU declared that these elections were illegitimate and would undermine political efforts aimed at settling the conflict. The United States, which had repeatedly said that Al-Assad lost his legitimacy when he employed force to clamp down on the protests, asserted that the elections brought no changes.

The Kuwaiti policy toward the Syrian crisis

Prologue: The successful Kuwaiti diplomacy

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, due to his sagacious perspective, has tackled issues that concern Kuwait on basis of serving interests of the state and the people, employing his rich expertise in diplomacy and strong bonds with states of the world to bolster Kuwait's external relations, thus placing it aloft among regional and foreign nations.

In addition to his success at the internal level and his desire to press ahead with development, His Highness the Amir has been keen on rendering the state external policy of humanitarian nature, distinguished with moderation and impartiality, thus it has gained a good external reputation with strong links with various states.

His Highness the Amir has laid solid foundations for the Kuwaiti diplomacy since 50 years ago, since he took portfolio of the foreign affairs in 1963, making it moderate at various levels and contributing to efforts to resolve many local, international, Arab and regional crises. The Kuwaiti diplomacy was also successful due to credibility.

The Kuwaiti foreign policy is based on a regulated strategy based on balance, cementing regional and international ties with states or organizations, bolstering international and regional cooperation on issues of joint concern, joining treaties, taking part in forums and events that contribute to strengthening world's peace, security and stability as well as enduring development.

Moreover, the Kuwaiti diplomacy is characterized with efforts to maintain regional and international stability, resolving inter-Arab and pan-Islamic disputes, contributing to the efforts to safeguard the Arabian Gulf region security, tackling threats against the internal front and adopting balance in addressing various issues.

Kuwait contributes with major support for the efforts to maintain global peace and security abide by the international legitimacy, cooperate at the regional and international levels through the UN, its affiliate agencies, the Arab Gulf Cooperation Council, the Arab League, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the Non-Aligned Movement and others. Furthermore, it contributes and cooperates with international associations and organizations for economic and humanitarian development.

The Kuwaiti diplomacy, foundations of which had been laid by His Highness the Amir, was prominent at international, Arab and Gulf summits and conferences, with the approach of taking resolutions useful for mankind, particularly the Arab peoples. This diplomacy did not only concern Kuwaiti causes and files but also those of poor nations, the cause of peace, other issues such as economic development and serving common interests of the Arab and Gulf states.

Kuwait and the Syrian people

The State of Kuwait, since flare-up of the Syrian crisis, has repeatedly declared full support for the Syrian people, rejected massacres, clampdown and aggression on the innocent people and their relocation.

Kuwait was not tightlipped regarding employment of the chemical arms in Al-Ghouta in August 2013, hurriedly backed any legitimate, international action to serve justice for breaching the law, punish the perpetrators, while affirming necessity of resolving the crisis for safety of the Syrian people and realization of their legitimate aspirations.

Due to the fact that charitable action constituted one of the effective fundamentals of the country's foreign policy, Kuwait was the first among nations with respect of hosting humanitarian conferences for aiding the Syrian people. Such initiatives and efforts drew international applause and UN's praise, in addition to the philanthropic activities by the Kuwaiti Red Crescent Society and Kuwaiti charities that acted to relieve the Syrian refugees in Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey and other countries.

Meeting of Friends of Syria

The State of Kuwait, since holding the first Friends of Syria's Conference in Tunisia in February, 2012, has expressed hope such meetings will contribute to realizing the Syrian people's aspirations.

The Friends of Syria conventions, which grouped a number of states and authorities, sought to find a solution to the Syrian crisis, outside the UNSC's framework, after Russia and China vetoed several proposed resolutions against the Syrian regime.

During these conferences, foreign ministers of the United States, the European Union, Arab and Islamic states discussed supporting the Syrian opposition and offering humanitarian aid to the damaged regions in Syria, however they examined no plans for military intervention, focusing instead on humanitarian aid.

In January 2014, final communique of the Friends of Syria's conference, held in Paris upon an initiative by Kuwait, praised it for hosting the second conference for pledging aid for Syria. It appealed to nations to pool financial resources to meet the Syrians' humanitarian needs, particularly those in the liberated, contested and besieged regions as well as those hosting a mounting number of relocated civilians.

Kuwait hosts the International Humanitarian Pledging Conference for Syria

Kuwait's hosting of the First and Second International Humanitarian Pledging Conferences for Syria underscored the humanitarian role of the Kuwaiti foreign policy. His Highness the Amir, during the 33rd Gulf Summit held in Manama in December 2012, announced that Kuwait would host the first convention.

On January 30, 2013, His Highness the Amir inaugurated the conference, with participation of 59 states at the level of top leaders, heads of state, their representatives, premiers, ministers and officials representing 13 UN-

affiliated organizations and agencies, specialized in humanitarian affairs, relief work and refugees.

His Highness the Amir declared donation of USD 300 million for securing humanitarian aid for the Syrian people. In his inaugural address, he appealed to the UNSC to give priority to the humanitarian tragedy, regardless of any other consideration.



Pledged donations by the participating states exceeded USD 1.5 billion, including USD 30 million offered by the State of Kuwait.

Kuwait also hosted the second conference at this level. Ahead of its inception, His Highness the Amir appealed to citizens, residents, welfare associations, the private sector and dignitaries to take part in the campaign to relieve the Syrian people inside and outside Syria.

International non-governmental organizations pledged USD 400 million for the Syrian refugees and contributions by Kuwaiti charities, raised during the conference, reached USD 142 million.

On January 15, 2014, the second donors' conference got underway in Kuwait, upon a graceful initiative by His Highness the Amir and in response

to an appeal by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon.



His Highness the Amir announced a USD 500 million donation, raised from the public and private sectors, to help the brotherly Syrian people cope with the humanitarian plight. He praised in the opening statement the generous contributions by the faithful citizens for relieving stricken peoples worldwide, namely the Syrians. He also hailed the residents, the associations and the prominent personalities for their contributions and urged them to continue giving such aid.

For his part, Ban declared that total financial donations raised at the second conference reached USD 2.4 billion and expressed gratitude to the State of Kuwait for its contributions.

His Highness the Amir stated that the Kuwait-hosted conference depicted human beings' cooperation and the mankind concern for future of the region and the world. He explained that the raised money would be disbursed for securing urgent needs, namely medicines, food and offering medical treatment for psychological trauma suffered by many Syrians, in addition to securing shelters, vaccinations and drinking water.



Kuwait as an international humanitarian center

Following the enormous efforts, exerted by Kuwait namely its (His Highness) the Amir at the humanitarian level worldwide, including its hosting of the two aid conferences for Syria, the UN chief announced that Kuwait has turned into «an international humanitarian center and its Amir is the humanitarian leader,» affirming the country's positive and leading role for humanitarian help.

Ban applauded the government and people of Kuwait, announced anew his deep gratitude, thanked the Arab League, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the Gulf Cooperation Council countries, the European, the United States and many other donors, humanitarian agencies, Non-governmental Organizations, namely the Red Crescent and the Red Cross, for aiding the afflicted in the Syrian crisis.



Forms of the Kuwaiti aid

The Syrian crisis revealed extent of the solidarity among the charitable Kuwaiti associations for relieving the Syrian people, for they dispatched relief expeditions to countries neighboring Syria, namely Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey. The aid included food, educational and health programs in addition to iftar meals in Ramadan and clothes offered on eids' occasions.

These associations continuously coordinate with international organizations and UN agencies to secure delivery of the relief supplies to those who are really in need for help.

The Kuwaiti Red Cross Society, in February 2012, affirmed that it was in continuous touch with national and international societies for coordinating efforts to relieve Syrians suffering from hard conditions in their country.



It affirmed necessity of following up on the humanitarian situation in Syria, delivering the aid supplies to all parties in Syria and neighboring countries, particularly to the refugees, victims of the regretful events in their country.



The Kuwaiti society said it was committed to heed calls by the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Red Crescent and other humanitarian associations to help nations cope with catastrophes.

When the International Islamic Charitable Organization called for a popular campaign to relieve the Syrian people, His Highness the Amir declared, in March 2012, a donation in his name and on behalf of Al-Sabah Family, amounting to USD five million to relieve the Syrian crisis victims. The money, raised as a result of the campaign, reached some USD 11.75 million.

In December 2012, the same organization announced that His Highness the Amir ordered the Cabinet to earmark USD five million for relieving the Syrians. Therefore, upon His Highness' guidelines, a large number of relief, health and education programs were implemented in the refugees' regions in Jordan, Turkey and Lebanon.



Donations by the international charity organization reached USD 30 million between 2011 and 2012, including material and financial help given by Kuwait. The Kuwaiti support was not restricted to countries neighboring Syria. The Kuwait-based charity offered USD 1,000 for Syrians who immigrated to Armenia due to the events in their country.

In January 2013, the international organization launched a plan to set up caravans for Syrians who fled to Jordan, at a cost amounting USD 4.2 million. The project included two schools, a health center and a mosque. It was to be executed in coordination with Jordanian authorities and the Kuwaiti Embassy in Jordan.

In the same month, Kuwait gave the UN financial contributions amounting to USD seven million in support of the organization and its affiliates, with aim of alleviating suffering of the Syrian refugees in and outside Syria. These contributions were given in implementation of the Kuwaiti Cabinet resolution, in late November 2012, where Kuwait announced a donation of more than USD 20 million, including five USD million for the Kuwait Red Crescent Society, the same amount to the International Islamic Charity Organization, USD 10 for international organizations and agencies, three USD million for the ICRC and other international organizations.

Ahead of the first donors' conference, Kuwait hosted, on January 29, 2013, a symposium grouping NGOs to aid the Syrian people. They pledged USD 183 million, including USD 100 million vowed by Kuwaiti charities that serve under umbrella of the Kuwaiti Relief Society.

On February 20, 2013, Kuwait donated USD two million to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in support of the Syrian children who became relocated or refugees.

In March 2013, Dr. Hamad Al-Duaij, the Kuwaiti Ambassador to Jordan, opened two clinics for the Syrian refugees in Jordan. He delivered to Syrian families cash and material aid, offered by the Students Union of Kuwait University's Faculty of Medicine, in coordination with the Kuwaiti «al-bunyan campaign,» as part of a program launched by the Kuwait-based Al-Rahma International Society.

Dr. Abdullah Al-Maatouq, Chairman of the International Charity Organization and the UN Secretary General's Envoy for Humanitarian Affairs, declared a project to build 2,000 pre-fabricated housing units, six schools, four mosques and three clinics for Syrian refugees in Syria and Jordan.



In April 2013, Kuwait donated USD 53 million to the UNICEF to aid the Syrian children who became refugees, USD 15 million to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) to help Palestinians, residing as refugees in Syria. This was in implementation of a pledge made by His Highness the Amir at the first international donors gathering hosted by Kuwait.

In May 2013, the international charity organization opened a physiotherapy makeshift hospital in the northern Lebanese city of Tripoli to treat Syrian refugees. The facility was established with Kuwaiti donations amounting to USD 320 million.

In June 2013, the Kuwait model village was inaugurated in the Turkish town of Kalas to host Syrian refugees. It was built with a donation by the Kuwaiti Government, upon directions of His Highness the Amir, under supervision of the Kuwaiti Embassy, in coordination with the international charity and the Turkish Humanitarian Relief Foundation.

In October 2013, the international charity inaugurated Al-Zaatari refugee camp, with grants by His Highness the Amir. On January 13, 2014, His Highness the Amir appealed to citizens, residents, associations and notables to speedily



take part in the national campaign for relieving the Syrian people, hoping to see an end to their suffering, security and stability back to their country.

The response was swift and His Highness the Amir's appeal was widely applauded at the local, regional and international levels, particularly that it came ahead of the second international donations' congress.

In this respect, the international charity, 165 humanitarian and philanthropic organizations, 70 charities in and outside Kuwait called for participation in the NGOs' symposium, organized on sidelines of the second donors' conference. The participants vowed to pay some USD 400 million and Kuwaiti charities' contributions amounted to USD 142 million.

Kuwaiti government and non-governmental organizations called for donations to build 10 makeshift towns for the Syrian refugees in countries neighboring Syria, at a cost of USD 142 million, in addition to the international charity's project to build 2,000 housing units, equipped with medical and educational services, upon guidelines of His Highness the Amir.

In response to His Highness the Amir's appeal, the Union of Kuwaiti Banks donated USD two million as a contribution to the national relief campaign, while Kuwait Petroleum Corporation declared organizing a philanthropic festival in support of the refugees.



On January 21, 2014, the Kuwaiti Relief Committee declared that total donations, raised as a result of the national campaign, carried out in coordination with the Ministry of Information and Kuwait Television, amounted to USD 9.49 million.

The Kuwaiti Red Crescent Society, in February 2014, launched the second dialysis project for the displaced Syrians and refugees, securing treatment for patients for six months.

With Kuwaiti contributions, the Kingdom of Jordan opened Al-Azraq camp for the Syrian refugees in April 2014. Its construction cost USD 45 million.

In May 2014, the Kuwaiti Center for Relieving Syrian Refugees, an affiliate to Mosques Waqf, launched in coordination with Al-Zakat House the mega project of securing education for 8,000 Syrian children in Lebanon. The international charity opened a model village at Al-Zaatari camp in Jordan, with 7,000 caravans, with His Highness the Amir's grant.

The International Al-Rahma declared opening a camp for the refugees in Al-Rihania in northern Lebanon, costing some KD 60,000. Dr. Al-Maatouq declared Kuwait would provide fully-equipped residential units for the refugees.

The list of Kuwaiti aid for the Syrians is too long and such relief efforts have been proceeding upon guidelines of His Highness the Amir.



International praise for Kuwait's humane stances

The Kuwaiti humanitarian campaigns for relieving the Syrian people drew great praise at the regional and international levels. The State of Kuwait, namely His Highness the Amir, state authorities and NGOs, was ahead of other nations in this realm.

Valerie Amos, the UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, expressed deep gratitude to His Highness the Amir, the Kuwaiti Government and people for honoring their pledges at the international donors' conventions, contributing generously to the UN agencies that were in bad need for financial support to bolster their humanitarian operations in Syria and neighboring countries.

For her part, Sima Bahous, the UN Assistant Secretary-General, Assistant Administrator and Director of the Regional Bureau for Arab States, stated that Kuwait, among the donors, was most generous and played a leading role in coordinating international humanitarian operations for Syria in recent years, hosting the two international gatherings for raising donations, contributing with USD 300 million to the UN in 2013 and USD 500 million in 2014.

Richard Wright, the Director of the UNRWA New York Representative Office, hailed Kuwait for hosting the donors' symposiums and voiced gratitude for His Highness the Amir's humanitarian initiatives, affirming that the UN agency benefited significantly from the Kuwaiti donations, particularly those destined for Gaza.

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees considered Kuwait, along with the United States and the European Union, a top donor for the Syrian refugees.

Maria Calvis, the UNICEF Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa, described as exemplary the Kuwaiti efforts for resolving the Syrian crisis, extending thanks to the State of Kuwait on behalf of the agency's staff, the children and their families who benefited from the Kuwaiti support.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) branded as «most successful» in the UN history Kuwait's bids to nudge potential donors deal with the humanitarian situation in Syria, ranking among the top international donors for the Syrians.

IOM Director General William Lacy Swing expressed gratitude to His Highness the Amir for his international leadership of humanitarian causes, namely his great support for efforts to settle the Syrian crisis. He indicated that the IOM honored His Highness in 2012, awarding him the organization's top medal.

The regional director of the World Health Organization (WHO), Dr. Alaa Eddine Al-Alwan, said Kuwait was a major contributor to the WHO operations for combating diseases among the Syrians, providing vaccinations, medicines and medical equipment to hospitals and health centers that are not easily accessible.

The UN Secretary General addressed a cable to Dr. Maatouq thanking him for the key role he had played for ensuring success of the NGOs' convention, hosted by Kuwait in January 2014.

The International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent hailed the Kuwaiti Red Crescent Society as one of Kuwait's most important humanitarian authorities, noting its substantial role at the regional and international levels, particularly its contribution to securing aid for the Syrian refugees.

EXTENSION



His Highness the Amir's speech at inauguration of the First International Humanitarian Pledging Conference for Syria:

In the name of Allah the most gracious most compassionate

Praise be to God, prayer and peace be upon the honorable Prophet Muhammad and his family and companions

Your Royal Highness, Your Highness and Your Excellency

Your Excellency the United Nations Secretary General Mr. Ban Ki-moon

Your Excellency the Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation

Your Excellency the Secretary General of the Arab League

Your Excellency the Secretary General of the Arab Gulf Cooperation Council

May peace, mercy and blessings of God be upon you

I would like, in the beginning, to welcome you in the State of Kuwait, thanking His Excellency the United Nations Secretary General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, for his initiative to call for holding this significant high-level international conference for nations pledging humanitarian support for Syria, coming as part of relentless international efforts to alleviate humanitarian suffering of the brotherly Syrian people, in shadow of the crisis that has continued for more than 22 months, appreciating your response to the invitation and wishing success for the conferees.

Your Royal Highness, Your Highness and Your Excellency

My country Kuwait hosts this important conference, in cooperation and coordination with the United Nations, in response to an appreciated initiative by the UN Secretary General, in line with its belief in supporting all international efforts to face challenges and dangers threatening international stability and undermining socio-economic conditions in many countries.

We note with appreciation the UN Secretary General's appointment of his predecessor, Kofi Annan, and Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi, as senior envoys tasked with contacting all parties in Syria and influential regional countries. This appointment was also shared by the Arab League, thus they became as envoys of the two organizations.

However, we note with deep regret that despite all their sincere efforts, hardships of the Syrians people have proceeded.

While we hold this conference today, the humanitarian catastrophe in Syria escalates continuously, where number of deaths increases and destruction has turned into a landmark in various districts in Syria, without discrimination.

The horrific reports, figures and documented facts broadcast by international agencies prompt us to be concerned about Syria's future, its security and territorial sanctity as well as about the region's security and stability.

We have been horrified by the latest report by the UN Commissioner for Human Rights which confirmed death of more than 60,000 innocent civilians, including women and children. Number of the missing, detainees and injured has doubled reaching hundreds of thousands, in addition to more than 600,000 refugees in neighboring countries, suffering from tragic living conditions and hard climatic conditions.

We praise efforts of states hosting the refugees, namely the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the Republics of Lebanon, Turkey and Iraq. They have been offering enormous humanitarian and relief services for the refugees' communities. We also hail the great efforts, exerted by the

Higher Commissioner for Refugees, the UN office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and other involved agencies. However, volume of the catastrophe is grand, thus it warrants rallying collective international efforts and coordinating humanitarian aid for our Syrian brothers in and outside Syria to secure housing, food and clothing.

Your Royal Highness, Your Highness and Your Excellency

The latest report released by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) affirmed that the agricultural sector in Syria sustained massive damage, that reconstruction would warrant a long time and great efforts, where the wheat output dropped by less than 50 percent and that many farmers could not harvest their crop due to insecurity and fuel shortage.

In view of such facts, there are heavy responsibilities on our shoulders that should nudge us to spare no effort to face this catastrophe and act hastily to halt the blood spilling and preserve what has been left of the country's infrastructure.

This humanitarian disaster, the horrific facts and the painful reality are caused by the regime's negligence of the people's just demands, its rejection of international and regional initiatives designed to end the catastrophe.

Kuwait, as a state, government and people, has spared no effort to help the Syrian people with the overall contributions amounting to USD 60 million. Out of our belief in the necessity of ensuring this conference's success, I declare allocation of USD 300 million worth aid for the brotherly Syrian people.

Finally, I extend gratitude to the UN Secretary General and his aides for their efforts to hold this significant meeting, praying to His Almighty to end this humanitarian catastrophe.



His Highness the Amir's speech at inauguration of the Second International Humanitarian Pledging Conference for Syria

In the name of Allah the most gracious most compassionate

Praise be to God, prayer and peace be upon the honorable Prophet Muhammad and his family and companions

Your Royal Highness, Your Highness and Your Excellency

Your Excellency the United Nations Secretary General Mr. Ban Ki-moon

Your Excellency the Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation

Your Excellency the Secretary General of the Arab League

Your Excellency the Secretary General of the Arab Gulf Cooperation Council

I would like to welcome you as dear guests in the State of Kuwait, taking part in the Second International Humanitarian Pledging Conference for Syria, also thanking the UN Secretary General for the initiative of holding it, as we share with him the enormous size of the responsibility due to the continuing bloody strife in Syria, as well as our relentless bids to alleviate our brothers' hardships in addition to the major challenge; the issue of the refugees in the neighboring countries.

Your Royal Highness, Your Highness and Your Excellency

Kuwait responded to the UN Secretary General plea to hold the second donors conference, one year after holding the first convention, objectives of which were realized.

Your Excellency, the second international conference is being held while the catastrophe in Syria remains ongoing claiming tens of thousands of innocent lives, destroying all manifestations of life and making millions as refugees, with employment of various types of weapons including internationally banned arms against an unarmed people.

The number of deaths has reached 140,000, double the number since our first conference, in addition to the relocation of millions, living in very hard conditions, aggravated with the winter onset.

FAO's latest report affirms drastic deterioration of Syria's agricultural resources, namely livestock. Educational sector has been paralyzed, teaching has stopped and schools have been shut down, thus threatening the next generations.

Moreover, deterioration of health services that led to spread of diseases and the WHO report about spread of polio illustrated size of the tragedy and the Syrian people's suffering.

Your Royal Highness, Your Highness and Your Excellency

Our religion and values compel us to work diligently to try stop or taper off efforts of the tragedy. I appeal to you to offer donations and help for the Syrian brothers.

My country, since start of the catastrophe in Syria, has exerted maximum efforts to reach a political settlement and halt the war and has worked to alleviate the humanitarian disaster.

The State of Kuwait, at the first donors' conference, honored its pledges and paid its contribution of USD 300 million to the UN and its agencies, thus the total Kuwaiti payments till now has reached USD 430 million, in addition to the work of Kuwaiti charities to aid thousands of refugees.

In shadow of the continuing catastrophic conditions suffered by our brothers in and outside Syria, I am pleased the donation of USD 500 million from the public and private sectors to aid the Syrian people.

I also would like to express appreciation for my brothers, the Kuwaiti citizens, as well as the residents and the associations, for responding to the appeals to relieve the Syrian brothers and continue aiding and helping them. My deep thanks are also extended to the concerned regional and international institutions.

Your Royal Highness, Your Highness and Your Excellency

The international community is now facing a historic, moralistic, humanitarian and legal responsibility that warrants rallying efforts and relentless action to resolve this catastrophe and spare the blood of a whole nation.

From this stand, I appeal to the UNSC to focus attention on efforts to resolve this catastrophe. I also call on the parties in Syria to consider destiny and safety of their people. I wish this conference all success in the hope security and stability may be restored to the sisterly Syria.

In conclusion, I thank His Excellency the secretary general and hope this conference would end with attained goals.

Chapter 4



**KUWAIT'S AID TO IRAQ ...
A HUMANITARIAN GESTURE WHICH
TRANSCENDS ALL WOUNDS**

Kuwait is always keen on having strong and close relations, based on cooperation and solidarity, with its neighbors for the interest of whole region. Thus, Kuwaiti leadership and people are clearly committed to good-neighborliness principles and even are ready to face bad deeds with good ones in the full sense of the phrase which typically applies to Kuwait's relation with Iraq.

Out of its responsibility towards the Arab nation, Kuwait, under its wise leadership, was very responsive to international appeals to give a helping hand to Iraq and rushed to offer humanitarian aid to Iraqi people and to contribute to Iraq's rebuilding operations after the liberation of Iraq from despotic and tyrannical regime of Saddam Hussein.

Kuwait's extraordinary stance caught the world by surprise. In his visit to Kuwait in November 2006, the then-principal deputy assistant of US secretary for Near Eastern affairs, James Jeffrey, commented on Kuwait's role in assisting Iraq by saying «Kuwait is a good neighbor of Iraqis. We wish everybody play the role Kuwait plays in (helping Iraq).» He noted that «Kuwait was very helpful from the beginning in providing badly needed services and supplies to the Iraqis and moving out on humanitarian projects and generally being a good neighbor.»

This chapter highlights some aspects of the Kuwaiti support to Iraq since His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's assumption of power till now. The Kuwaiti assistance to Iraq was very diverse including financial, service and in-kind aid.

Iraqi Airways debts settlement deal

Following the footsteps of his predecessor late Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad and continuing Kuwait's march of forgiveness, generosity and giving, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah agreed, in October 2012, on a deal to settle Iraqi Airways' debts to Kuwait.

On October 23, His Highness the Amir's Decree No. 23 of 2012 was published in the Kuwaiti official Gazette. The decree approved a agreement

reached with the Iraqi Government on settling Iraq Airways' debt dispute on July 18, 2012.

Under the deal, Iraq committed itself to repaying Kuwait USD 300 million in cash and to invest another USD 200 million in a joint Iraqi-Kuwaiti airline venture. In return, Kuwait lifted all legal actions against Iraqi Airways.

Kuwait National Assembly endorsed the settlement deal with absolute majority on January 22, 2013. Out of 48 MPs, who attended the session, 46 voted for the deal and two abstained. Thus, the two countries resolved one of their outstanding disputes and opened a new chapter in relations.

Backing Iraqi national unity

As sectarian tension ran high in Iraq particularly after repeated terrorists' attacks on holy shrines and worship places, His Highness the Amir launched several initiatives to help the Iraqi Government and people foster national unity, social peace and ease off sectarian tension.

On February 27, 2006, His Highness the Amir donated USD 10 million for rebuilding and renovation of the attacked holy shrines and mosques, half of the sum was allocated to rebuild the destroyed Shiite holy shrines of Imams Al-Hadi and Askari in the city of Samaraa. The other half, USD 5 million, was allocated to renovate other damaged mosques. The then- Kuwaiti deputy prime minister, minister of state for cabinet affairs and minister of state for National Assembly Affairs, Mohammad Sharar, said «the donation is meant to show Kuwaiti people's solidarity with the Iraqi people and their support to the Iraqi efforts to strengthen national unity.»

The Kuwaiti donation was well received from the Iraqi leadership and people who highly appreciated Kuwait's eagerness to boost Iraq's unity and stability. Head of the Iraqi Sunni Endowments Authority Ahmad Abdulghafar Al-Samaraie praised the Kuwaiti donation and vowed to do all in power to eradicate terrorism and sectarianism from Iraq.



Treatment of injured Iraqis in Kuwait

Kuwait left no stone unturned in its endeavors to save humanity and serve sisterly and friendly countries. While doing this, it did not stick to a certain kind of assistance but always developed its tools and diversified its approaches to meet the needs of people in distress. From this perspective, His Highness the Amir has taken several initiatives to offer medical treatment to many Iraqi patients and victims of the violence in Kuwaiti hospitals.

For example, a tumor-removal surgery was conducted for an Iraqi boy in Ibn Sinai Hospital in Kuwait. The 15-year-old Satar Mousa Aboud was suffering from a big tumor in his brain and Iraqi doctors failed to handle it due to the lack of proper medical equipment at Iraqi hospitals. The tumor caused severe headache, growth and vision problems. In Iraq, doctors decided that Aboud needed urgent surgery abroad to remove the tumor. His father presented an application to the UN mission in Iraq to treat his son abroad. The UN asked the Kuwaiti Government if it was possible to conduct the surgery in one of Kuwaiti hospitals and Kuwait was responsive and the surgery was conducted and succeeded.

In September, 2009, His Highness the Amir ordered treatment of 17 Iraqis who were injured in explosions in Baghdad. A Kuwaiti military helicopter transferred the patients to specialized Kuwaiti hospitals where they received

highest level of care. The then-interim Iraqi charge d'affaires Mohammad Azawi expressed gratitude to His Highness the Amir's initiative and his support for the Iraqi people.



In December, 2009, about 20 Iraqis, who were critically wounded in violent incidents, were airlifted to Kuwait to receive medical treatment at its hospitals upon instructions from His Highness the Amir.

In August 2010, Kuwait received more 10 patients who were seriously injured in a bombing in Basra city. His Highness the Amir's initiatives were meant to alleviate the suffering of Iraqi people and ease the sectarian tension in the neighboring Arab country. The Iraqi Embassy had applauded His Highness the Amir well gestures which embodied all meaning of love, mercy and solidarity with the Iraqi people. The embassy also thanked all Kuwaiti bodies which well-received and well-treated Iraqi patients.

Aiding Iraqi refugees

Kuwaitis, both leaders and ordinary people, were always leading in helping people in distress.

This was clearly expressed by representative of the UN Commission for Refugees in the Gulf Cooperation Council Ahmad Abdulwahab Jabarallah who stated Kuwait is always pioneering in responding to the UN Commission for Refugees' appeals to deal with humanitarian crises across the globe. He also described Kuwait as an important partner to the UN refugee agency.

The Kuwaiti aid to displaced Iraqis and refugees comes to show the solidarity between the two neighboring Arab countries. In this regard, Kuwait repeatedly granted donations to the international agencies serving Iraqi refugees inside and outside Iraq to secure a dignified life for them.

In April 2008, Kuwait donated one million dollars to the UN Commission for Refugees to finance its operations inside Iraq and to offer internally displaced Iraqis with their basic needs.

In November 2010, Kuwait contributed one million dollars to the UN Refugees agency operations serving displaced Iraqis. Kuwait has also underlined during the 65th meeting of the social, humanitarian and cultural committee of the UN General Assembly the importance of addressing the humanitarian aspects of the Iraqi refugees' ordeal and called for mobilizing international efforts to provide them with protection and to meet their needs and ensure their security.

As the security situation worsened and the number of displaced skyrocketed, Kuwait donated on July 14, 2014, USD 3 million to the UNHCR in Iraq. The Kuwaiti move was hailed by the world. The UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Valerie Amos said that the Kuwaiti donation would help expand the UN relief operations in Iraq.

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Antonio Guterres also lauded the move and expressed the UNHCR's appreciation for the Kuwait support to its operations in Iraq especially which came after the surge in violence which forced 5.1 million Iraqis to flee their homes.

Building Kuwaiti Hospital in Basra

In January, 2010, the then-deputy prime minister and foreign minister Sheikh Mohammad Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah unveiled Kuwait's plan to finance the building of a hospital in the southern Iraqi city of Basra to offer world-class healthcare service to citizenry and residents. A few days after the announcement, deputy governor of Basra Nazer Al-Jabari announced the allocation of a plot of land in a special area in the governorate for building the Kuwaiti hospital. Al-Jabari voiced gratitude for Kuwait's unforgettable stances in support of the Iraqi people.

The World Health Organization on August 12, 2014, warned against the worsening health situation in Iraq due to the growing number of displaced people especially from minorities and the acute shortage of medical supplies.

Humanitarian Operations Center

In January 2003, the Kuwaiti cabinet issued a resolution on establishing Humanitarian Operations Center (HOC) to deal with the humanitarian repercussions of Iraq liberation war particularly the coordination between the international humanitarian organizations and the Kuwaiti Government and non-government charitable, humanitarian and relief organizations.

The HOC, chaired by Lieutenant General Ali Al-Mumin (ret), closed and reopened several times according to the humanitarian situation in Iraq. Immediately after the Iraq liberation war, the HOC hosted over 65 humanitarian organizations and provided them all facilitates to accomplish their mission in Iraq. The HOC, in cooperation with the civil organizations of the international coalition which liberated Iraq, sent humanitarian aid to the Iraqi people amid difficult security circumstances. The HOC aid had reached most Iraqi cities in four years. It received support and cooperation from Iraq Red Crescent Society and officials of Iraqi governorates and international forces.

The HOC was helping international organizations to offer medical care services to Iraqis inside and outside Iraq. In 2007, the HOC coordinated overseas treatment trips for three Iraqi youngsters who were in dire need for surgical operations to save their lives.

The Kuwaiti Government funded the transfer and treatment of some Iraqi patients, in coordination with the HOC, in Kuwaiti hospitals. The HOC offered healthcare training courses for ordinary Iraqi people and medical staff. It also organized a number of medical conferences and events to raise the efficiency of Iraqi medical teams.

The HOC sent medical and relief aid to Iraqi people and transported the international organizations' aid into Iraq due to the security situation.

In October 2006, the HOC sent hundreds of medicines' collections used in first aid training and in December of the same year, it dispatched USD 400,000-worth medical supplies to the Iraqi city of Falluja.

Early 2007, the HOC distributed 2,000 wheelchairs across Iraq. In October, 2007, the HOC said it received a number of wheelchairs donated by Free Wheelchair Mission charity and containers that included stationaries and children toys donated by Operation Iraqi Children charity and containers of clothes, sports equipment, blankets and medical materials donated by Operation Give charity to be distributed to relevant bodies in Iraq. In September, 2007, Global Operations charity handed the HOC three containers to be distributed to facilities of medicine in Basra and Sulaimaniya.

The HOC did not content itself with distributing humanitarian aid, but it also provided services and financed development projects such as establishment of new power plants, water desalination stations and bakeries across Iraq.

In an interview with the Kuwaiti daily Al-Jarida, Lieutenant General Al-Mumin estimated the total value of the aid distributed and projects executed by the HOC at one billion dollars, a third of it was financed by Kuwaiti.

The HOC has attracted world attention and admiration due to its great contributions to the humanitarian action in Iraq. The HOC was honored by the UN journalists association in November 2006 in appreciation of its humanitarian role in Iraq.

Chairperson of the Global Medical Relief Fund Elissa Montani hailed Kuwait's very rich experience in humanitarian action across the globe in Iraq in particular. She also spoke highly about Kuwait's support to non-government organizations worldwide, especially those caring for child and people with special needs.

INDEX



Preface	11
Foreword	15
Introduction	19
Charity boom	21
Copious humanitarian history	22
Two charity funds for Bedoun	23
Forgiveness and tolerance	23
Political and Humanitarian support to the Syrian people	24
Donors conferences	25
Three model villages for Syrians brothers	25
His Highness the Amir, a role model	26
Unifying relief efforts for the Syrian people	26
Top donors group	27
Sovereign directives and prospects of humanitarian work	27
Honoring pioneers of charitable work	28
Kuwait's leading role on the humanitarian map	28
Chapter 1: His Highness the Amir.. His Biography and His Journey	31
Chapter 2: Humanitarian Country	49
Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development	51
KFAED from idea to reality	52
KFAED foundation law	53
KFAED Activities	56
KFAED in figures	57
Geographic Distribution of Funds Loans up to 31 March, 2014	57
Grants and technical assistance	59
Geographical Distribution of Grants & Technical Assistance up to 31 March 2014	59
Supporting development institutions	60



Kuwait government grants 60

Geographical Distribution of the Kuwaiti Government grants Administrated by KFAED up to 31 March 2014 61

Humanitarian role in fighting epidemic diseases 61

Photo Onchocerciasis or river blindness disease 62

Chapter 3: Kuwait and The Syrian Crisis 65

Introduction 67

The Syrian crisis developments 68

Regional and international stances 68

Mounting massacres 69

Arab and international initiatives 70

Deployment of the Free Syrian Army and formation of the National Coalition ... 71

The Geneva conference 72

The chemical attack on Damascus' Al-Ghouta 72

Presidential elections 73

The Kuwaiti policy toward the Syrian crisis 75

Prologue: The successful Kuwaiti diplomacy 75

Kuwait and the Syrian people 76

Meeting of Friends of Syria 77

Kuwait hosts the International Humanitarian Pledging Conference for Syria 77

Kuwait as an international humanitarian center 80

Forms of the Kuwaiti aid 81

International praise for Kuwait's humane stances 88

Extension 91

His Highness the Amir's speech at inauguration of the First International Humanitarian Pledging Conference for Syria 93

His Highness the Amir's speech at inauguration of the Second International Humanitarian Pledging Conference for Syria 97

Chapter 4: Kuwait's Aid to Iraq 101

Iraqi Airways debts settlement deal 103

Backing Iraqi national unity 104

Treatment of injured Iraqis in Kuwait 105

Aiding Iraqi refugees 106

Building Kuwaiti Hospital in Basra 108

Humanitarian Operations Center 108



Prepared by: The Research & Information Center

Kuwait News Agency (KUNA)

(September 2014)