

MOH sets its ten-year anti-diabetes strategy into motion

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Dubai, (WAM): Minister of Health HE Humaid Mohammed Al Qatami has launched the ministry's strategic plan for 2009-2018 to combat diabetes in the country.

Earlier last week, the Ministerial Council for Services, at a meeting chaired by HH Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Minister of Presidential Affairs, had approved the 10-year national strategy for primary and secondary prevention and combating of diabetes.

The strategy entails improvement of facilities, services and research aimed at stemming diabetes prevalence. Launching the strategy at a press conference in Dubai, the minister said that the national strategy for combating the disease is evolved within the directives of President HH Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan and Vice President and Prime Minister of UAE and Ruler of Dubai HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum. He noted that the ministerial council for services adopted the strategy as the national programme for preventing and combating the disease and called for observing 2009 as the 'anti-diabetes' year.

The disease has become a formidable health threat in many world countries, especially in the gulf region, the minister said.

A recent report released by the [Ministry of Health](#) confirmed that 24 percent of the UAE citizens suffer from diabetes.

Al Qatami said that the ministry is dealing with the situation as it is a national issue, which calls for concerted efforts to tackle it. The ministry will soon start wide awareness creation programmes for primary and secondary prevention of this malady, he added.

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