

Our Strategy

EDB's strategic objectives and focus sectors

Every initiative EDB drives is anchored to four national priorities:

1



Fuel the UAE's industrial development strategy as a key financial engine.

2



Support five priority sectors critical to future economic resilience.

Through focused financing, ecosystem-building, and non-financial support, we direct our energy and expertise into five strategic sectors — the pillars of the UAE's next economic chapter:

5

KEY SECTORS



MANUFACTURING

- Petrochemicals
- Plastics
- Metal fabrication
- Machinery
- Electrical equipment




RENEWABLES

- Power renewables
- Bio-fuel energy
- Solar wind
- Tidal energy
- hydroelectric
- renewable energy equipment
- Renewable energy technology

Delivering on the mandate

EDB's third year of strategic execution

In 2024, EDB reached a defining point in its five-year strategy — a year where vision turned decisively into impact. The Bank closed 2024 with a net profit of AED 307 million, welcoming over 664 new customers, and recording a 218% year-on-year increase in industrial financing, reaching AED 8.6 billion. This momentum translated directly into the UAE's economy, driving a 68% increase in industrial GDP contribution and the creation of more than 14,000 new jobs — bringing ideas, factories, and ambitions to life across every emirate.



3

Raise EDB's contribution to national GDP to AED 10 billion by 2026.



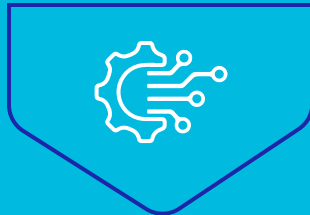
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Position the UAE as a global destination for industrial investment and innovation.



HEALTHCARE

- Pharmaceuticals
- Biotechnology medical equipment
- Hospital services



ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY

- Industrial robotics & automation
- Additive manufacturing
- Smart factories (Industry 4.0)
- Advanced materials & nanomanufacturing
- Advanced robotics
- Sustainable & green manufacturing technologies



FOOD SECURITY

- Agriculture
- Fisheries & aquaculture

Our Strategy Continued

A year of transformation

Strategic initiatives in 2024

In 2024, EDB delivered real change by launching seven flagship initiatives designed to extend our reach, deepen our capabilities, and strengthen our development impact:

- 1 Expanding cash management solutions by strengthening our digital infrastructure to improve customer experience.
- 2 Increasing trade finance offerings to support international trade and working capital needs.
- 3 Launching new private sector programs, including solar energy financing and agritech loans, to scale sustainable industries.
- 4 Attracting foreign direct investment through specialised offerings for both established companies and new entrants.
- 5 Launching the AgriX Accelerator, in line with the National Food Security Agenda.
- 6 Building a next-generation digital platform to provide seamless, innovative, and efficient banking solutions for businesses.
- 7 Extending the AI Wave initiative by deploying more Robotic Process Automation (RPA) to streamline operations and service delivery.

At the same time, the Bank streamlined its focus, divesting its home finance portfolio to ADIB to sharpen its developmental mandate.

Strategic partnerships

Throughout 2024, EDB continued to build and strengthen its network of strategic relationships, working closely with government ministries, government-related entities (GREs), industrial and free zones, and commercial banks across the country. This network is rooted in a shared ambition: to unlock opportunity, catalyse industrial growth, and drive national competitiveness.

The Bank sets itself apart by its willingness to fill critical lending gaps, supporting strategic projects that may be underserved by traditional financial institutions, and helping to mobilise investment where it matters most.

In 2024, EDB formalised its strategic focus by signing 10 new Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs), including one renewal, and by forging 33 new strategic partnerships designed to expand capabilities, deepen reach, and enhance client offerings.

These partnerships were backed by an active engagement programme, with 44 CEO roundtables and roadshows hosted across the Emirates — creating open dialogue with business leaders and helping to surface real-world industry needs and challenges.

The impact of these efforts has been tangible. Partner referrals generated a loan volume of AED 621 million in 2024 alone, and since the launch of EDB's strategy in 2021, the Bank has contributed AED 7.4 billion to the UAE's GDP, supporting the creation of 27,606 new jobs in the country's industrial sector as of 31 December 2024.

Every partnership, every roundtable, and every conversation reflects EDB's fundamental belief: that building a strong, connected ecosystem is essential to building a stronger UAE economy — today and for the future.

Strategic partners

- Ministry of Industry & Advanced Technology
- Ministry of Economy
- Ministry of Climate & Environment
- Abu Dhabi Department of Economic Development
- Abu Dhabi Industrial Department Bureau
- Department of Agriculture & Livestock
- Ajman Department of Economic Development
- Fujairah Department of Industry & Economy
- Dubai Municipality
- Fujairah Municipality
- Abu Dhabi Exports Office
- Abu Dhabi Fund for Development
- Abu Dhabi Investment Office
- Sharjah Investment and Development Authority
- Dubai Healthcare City Authority
- Dubai Silicon Oasis Authority
- Expo City Dubai
- Abu Dhabi Port (KEZAD / Zonecorp)
- Abu Dhabi Global Market
- Masdar City Free Zone
- Abu Dhabi Airport Free Zone Authority
- Dubai Airport Free Zone Authority
- JAFZA (Jebel Ali Free Zone)
- Ajman Freezone
- Hamriyah FZA
- RAK Economic Zone
- Umm Al Quwain Free Trade Zone
- Fujairah Free Zone
- Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce & Industry
- Ajman Chamber of Commerce & Industry
- Sharjah Chamber of Commerce & Industry
- RAK Chamber
- Dubai Industrial City
- Dubai Science Park
- Tawazun Industrial Park
- National Industries Park
- Sharjah Research Technology and Innovation Park
- Abu Dhabi Waste Management Company
- ADNOC - ICV
- Abu Dhabi Businesswomen Council
- Khalifa Fund
- Dubai Industries & Exports
- Sharjah Entrepreneurship Center
- Invest in Sharjah
- Food Tech Valley
- Hub71
- Ruwad

2024 saw EDB increase their partnerships with the following:

- UAQ Industrial City Authority
- Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment and Development
- Canadian Business Council
- Australian Business Council - UAE
- Spanish Business Council
- AmCham Abu Dhabi
- Portuguese Business Council
- TA'ZIZ
- Turkish Business Council
- Etihad Water and Electricity
- Sharjah Book Authority
- British Chamber of Commerce Abu Dhabi
- German Emirati Joint Council for Industry & Commerce
- Dubai Internet City Freezone
- Shams Freezone
- Australian Business Group
- Ukrainian Business Council
- Chamber of Commerce Industry France - UAE
- Czech-Italian Chamber of Commerce
- In5 Innovation Centers
- Russian-Emirates Business Council
- Ministry of Investment
- Metal Park
- Ministry of Artificial Intelligence
- Benelux Business Council Abu Dhabi
- Tamimi Consultancy
- Arab Youth Center
- Sharjah Business Women Council
- Royal Danish Consulate General
- IFZA Business Park
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- RAK SME
- Abu Dhabi Registration Authority

Our Strategy Continued

Proposed new developmental KPIs

The Bank has identified a new set of developmental Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to better measure its progress and impact in 2025. The new KPIs focus on four critical areas of national strategic importance:



Industrial CAPEX — tracking the total value of industrial project investments.



Greenfield CAPEX — measuring investment in new, ground-up (greenfield) projects across the UAE.



Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) — capturing the total value of FDI-backed projects facilitated by the Bank.



Artificial Intelligence (AI) CAPEX — recording the total value of AI-driven industrial projects.

Each KPI will be calculated based on the total project value, defined as the sum of owners' equity plus debt financing provided by EDB and other participating banks.

By tracking these integrated metrics, EDB will gain a more holistic view of its developmental impact — not just in terms of direct lending, but in catalysing broader investments that drive industrial growth, technological advancement, sustainability, and long-term economic value for the UAE.



Industry impact and financing targets

In 2024, EDB allocated its total financing across three key strategic segments:

mSMEs Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

WIB Wholesale & Institutional Banking

CGS Credit Guarantee Scheme

Looking ahead to 2025, the Bank has set ambitious new financing targets to continue scaling its impact across the UAE economy:

AED 2.08 billion dedicated to empowering mSMEs

AED 5.5 billion allocated to support growth in the WIB segment

AED 700 million earmarked for the Credit Guarantee Scheme (CGS)

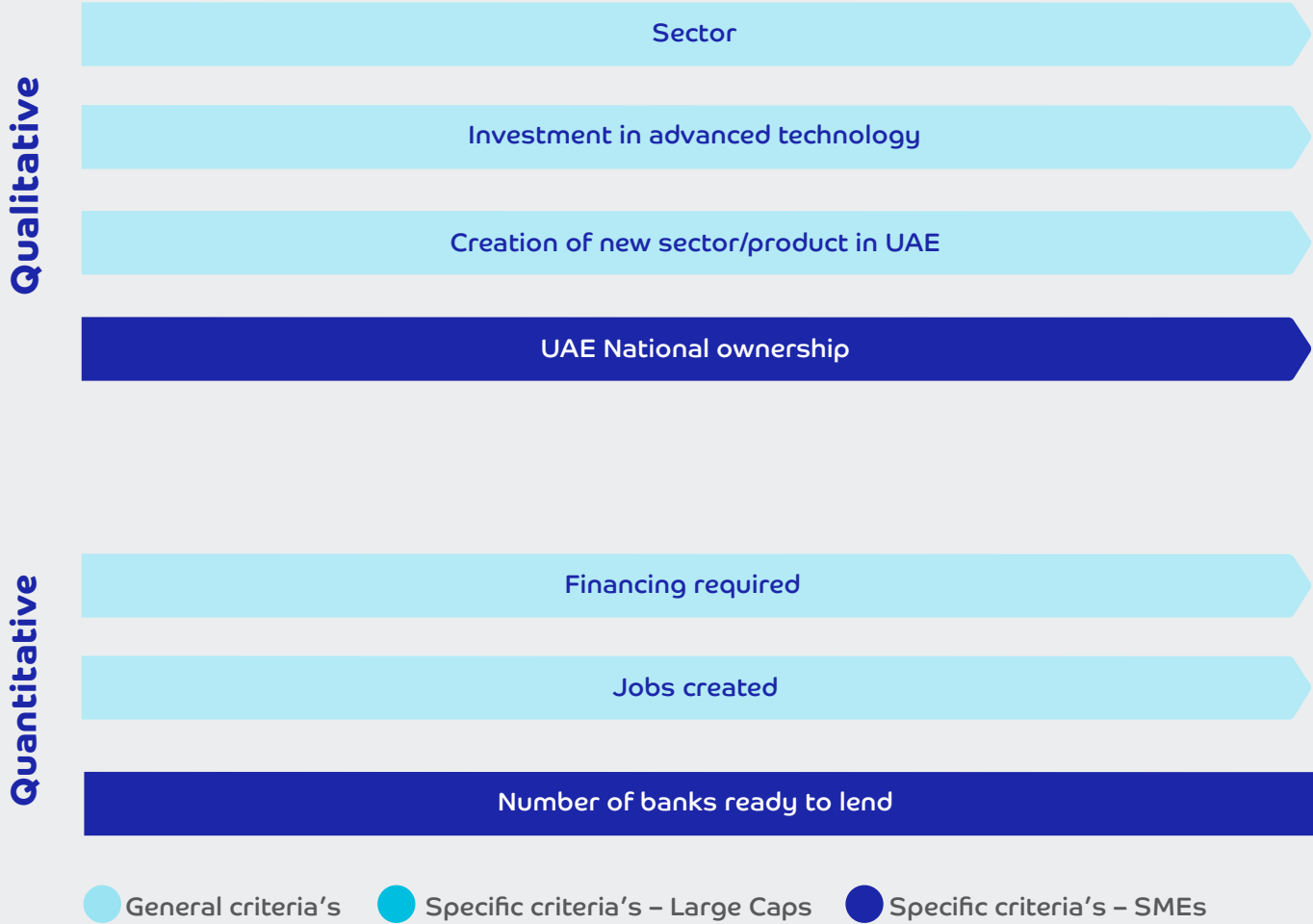
Through disciplined allocation, focused deployment, and strategic partnerships, EDB remains committed to ensuring that its financing creates long-term, sustainable value for the UAE's industries, entrepreneurs, and communities.

Our Strategy Continued

EDB’s development impact scorecard

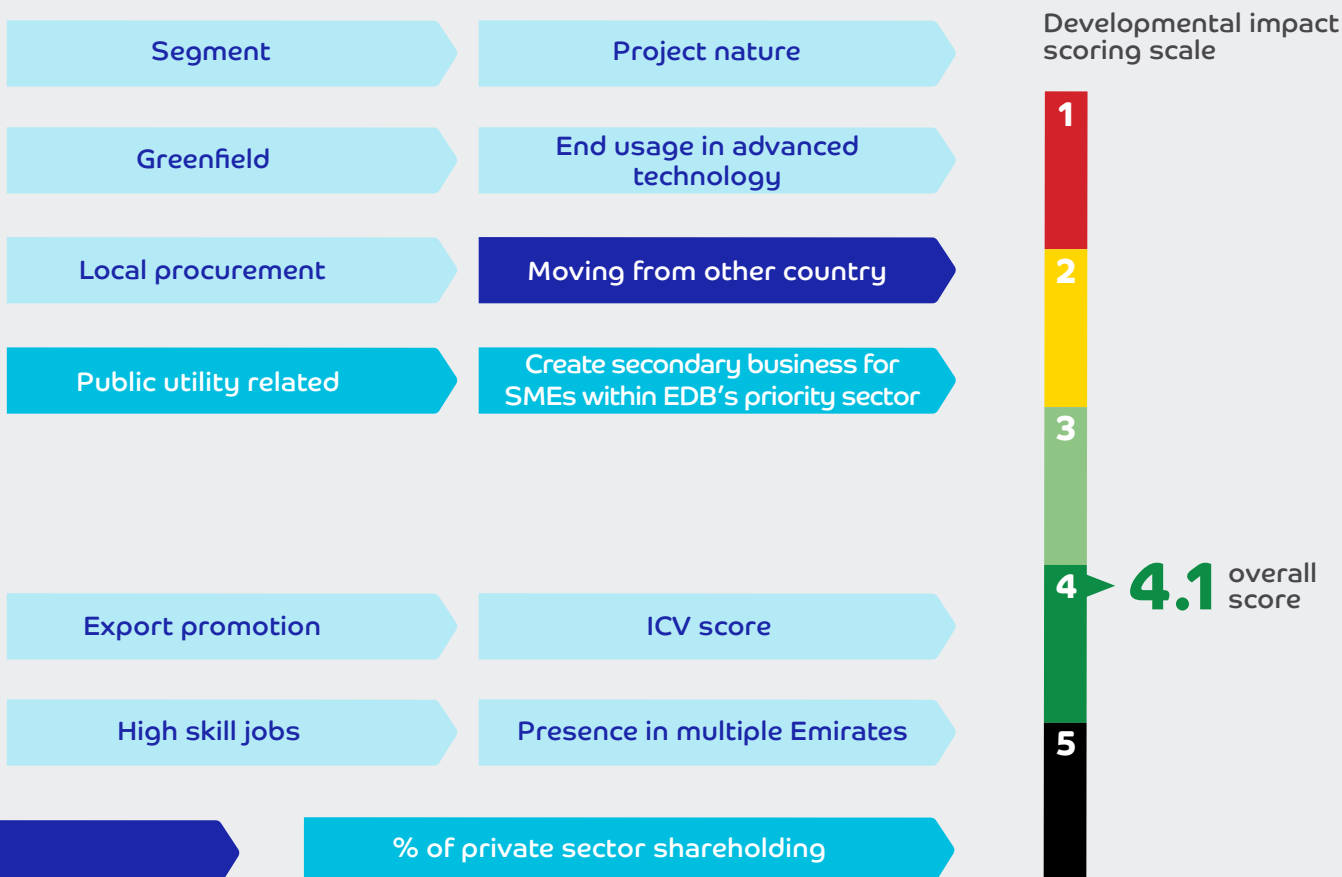
As part of its assessment process, EDB evaluates every loan through its proprietary Development Impact Scorecard, a robust framework designed to ensure that each project the Bank supports delivers real developmental value.

The Scorecard measures 20 quantitative and qualitative factors, capturing both the economic and social contribution of each project. Qualitative criteria include factors such as whether the project is a greenfield development, the extent of local procurement, UAE national ownership involvement, and whether the project creates new business opportunities for local SMEs.



Quantitative metrics assess areas such as the number of high-skilled jobs created, and the percentage of private sector ownership involved.

By applying this rigorous, forward-looking framework, EDB ensures that its financing actively contributes to industrial growth, entrepreneurial development, employment generation, and the UAE’s broader economic diversification goals.



Our Strategy Continued

Looking ahead

As EDB looks ahead to 2025, a clear set of strategic priorities will guide its next chapter of impact, focused on accelerating economic development, fuelling innovation, and strengthening the UAE's industrial resilience.



At the heart of these efforts is EDB's commitment to driving investments that directly contribute to national growth. The Bank will prioritise initiatives that:



Foster the creation of high-skill, sustainable jobs



Stimulate export growth



Promote local content and import substitution



Invest in cutting-edge technologies to boost innovation and global competitiveness

Anchored within EDB’s financing framework, the Bank will continue to focus on supporting business expansion and investments in productive assets, particularly through Capital Expenditure (CAPEX) financing that powers real industrial growth.

Equally, EDB remains committed to strengthening the financial resilience of underbanked mSMEs, helping them unlock greater access to growth opportunities and integrate more fully into the UAE’s evolving economic landscape.

To drive these ambitions forward, EDB has refreshed its 2025 strategic initiatives, placing a greater emphasis on expanding engagement with key private sector clients, setting ambitious deployment targets aligned with its national development objectives, and accelerating capital deployment.

In parallel, the Bank will deepen its focus on funding diversification, ensuring a sustainable and flexible funding base for future growth.

Operational excellence will also remain a key pillar, with greater integration of AI and automation to improve cost efficiency, streamline decision-making, and optimise turnaround times across core functions.

Focus on funding diversification



a sustainable and flexible funding base for future growth

Operational excellence



integration of AI and automation

By focusing on these priorities, EDB will continue to expand its offerings, strengthen its role as a national enabler, and promote sustainable, inclusive growth that delivers on the UAE’s long-term economic vision.



2024 Awards and Recognition

