

## KSA Country Analysis 2011-2015

United Nations Country Team

### Development Status

- High human development: 55<sup>th</sup> out of 169
- On track for all MDG targets
- Welfare state, fueled by oil revenues
- NCC, but demand for international advisory support remains high

### Continuing Challenges

- High population growth
- Sustainability of development results
- Equity and lack of social inclusion
- Low institutional and human resource capacities

### Root Causes of Development Challenges

- Overdependence on oil
- Inequities in socioeconomic indicators
- Shortage of qualified domestic human resources
- Underdeveloped human rights culture
- Socio-cultural traditions
- Culture of unsustainable resource use

### Overall Ninth Plan Priorities

- Improve standard of living and quality of life
- Diversified national economic base
- Balanced development among regions
- Toward a knowledge-based economy
- Enhancement of competitive capacities
- Human resources development

### UNCT Priority Areas for Cooperation

- Inclusive Growth and Employment
- Governance and Human Rights
- Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment
- Quality Social Services
- Energy, Environment and Climate Change

### Crosscutting Themes

- South-South cooperation
- Capacity development
- Youth and adolescents

### National Priorities the UNCT Can Support: Inclusive Growth

- Diversification and Liberalization
  - Move beyond oil
  - More competitiveness, especially for SMEs
- Generating National Employment
  - Saudis still less than half the labour force
  - Women's participation very low
  - Female and youth unemployment

### Governance and Human Rights

- Increasingly open to addressing some specific socio-political issues
- Progress in other areas requires additional strengthening
- Balance need for continued reform with security imperatives

### National Priorities the UNCT Can Support: Governance

- Democratization and Civil Society Participation
- Effective Government
- Human Rights and Justice

### Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

- "Equivalence" vs. "equality"
- Some changes are occurring
- Women still disproportionately affected by poverty in its broadest sense
- CEDAW Committee recommendations

### National Priorities the UNCT Can Support: Gender Equality

- Women's Political Empowerment
- Women's Achievements in Education
- Economic Participation of Women

### **Quality Social Services**

- Sustainability of welfare state
- Strengthened quality education
- Health sector also requires improved quality

### **National Priorities the UNCT Can Support: Quality Social Services**

- Poverty
- Education and Training
- Health Care
- HIV/AIDS

### **Energy, Environment and Climate Change**

- Highly vulnerable to issues of sustainable development, climate change
- Steady increase in demand for limited natural resources

### **National Priorities the UNCT Can Support: Environment**

- Climate Change and Energy
- Water Resources and Agriculture
- Air Pollution and Solid Waste Management
- Biodiversity Protection and Conservation of the Marine Environment

### **The Way Forward: The UNCCSF**

- UNCT must maintain relevance in dynamic environment
- Focus on development of human capital
- From “training” to institutional/systems strengthening