



For Immediate Release

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**Noor Dubai Contact in Dubai: Reem Jubain,
reem.jubain@noordubai.ae, +971-50-4818356**

Carter Center Contact in Atlanta: Paige Rohe, prohe@emory.edu, +1-404-420-5129

Noor Dubai and The Carter Center sign an MoU to Eliminate Blinding Trachoma in Ethiopia

United Arab Emirates, Dubai, January 20, 2014: H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, UAE Vice President and Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai, welcomed the former U.S. President Jimmy Carter. President Carter is visiting Dubai for the launch of the first phase of the "Trachoma Elimination in Ethiopia" program in collaboration with Noor Dubai Foundation.

The Noor Dubai Foundation, a Dubai-based nongovernmental organization that specializes in global blindness prevention, treatment and education signed today a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with The Carter Center to eliminate blinding trachoma in Ethiopia.

"We welcome Noor Dubai Foundation's partnership in Ethiopia's fight against the terrible blinding disease trachoma," said President Carter. "The Carter Center has helped the Ethiopian people pioneer trachoma prevention during the last decade."

His Excellency Engineer Essa Al Maidoor, Chairman of Noor Dubai Foundatio, former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, and Dr. John Hardman, President and CEO of The Carter Center signed the memorandum today in the presence of Dr. Manal Taryam, CEO and board member of Noor Dubai Foundation.

Al Maidoor emphasized on the significance of this three-year partnership that aims to make meaningful contribution towards eliminating blinding trachoma, a devastating but easily preventable disease. Trachoma is highly prevalent in Ethiopia's Amhara Region, and The Carter Center implements a set of World Health organization-endorsed strategies, known as the SAFE strategy to reduce the disease including: antibiotics to treat active infections, encouraging hand and face-washing through health education, building latrines to improve environmental sanitation, and surgeries to save the sight of people suffering from the advanced, blinding stages of the disease.

Noor Dubai's new funding will support the distribution of approximately 54 million doses of donated antibiotics to treat active trachoma by 2017 and help address the severe backlog of thousands of surgeries needed to prevent immediate blindness from trachoma.

Al Maidoor said that Noor Dubai will contribute USD 1,200,000 to support this cause in Ethiopia in partnership with The Carter Center, which is a nongovernmental, not-for-profit organization that has helped to improve the quality of life for people in more than 70 countries and we are proud to associate with them for this cause.

As per the MoU the two sides will provide treatment to 18 million individuals who are facing the risk of developing trachoma in Ethiopia.

Al Maidoor reiterated the Foundation's dedication towards blindness prevention, treatment and education for patients in need around the world.

He said since Noor Dubai's inception in 2008, the Foundation has worked with various international charities to alleviate the suffering of the blind globally and to serve those in most need of their services.

Al Maidoor said this project is of significant importance and will greatly improve both the social and economic conditions of families who will receive treatment for trachoma.

The Carter Center works in Ethiopia at the invitation of the Federal Ministry of Health to control and eliminate the blinding form of trachoma in the Amhara Region, the most endemic of the 10 regions in Ethiopia. Carter Center-supported surveys of the area several years ago found trachoma affected 39 percent of children, and the advanced stage of the disease, trichiasis, which requires surgery to prevent blindness, affected an estimated 5 percent of people.

Since 2007, the Carter Center-assisted program has reached the entire at-risk population in the Amhara Region through partnerships with local organizations, which play a key role in the implementation and advocacy for trachoma control in the country.

About Noor Dubai

To date, Noor Dubai has restored the vision of more than 6 million people in Pakistan, Sudan, Yemen, Chad, Niger, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Ethiopia, Ghana, Burkina Faso, Mali, Uganda, Palestine, Iraq, Jordan, Oman, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates. This non-governmental, non-profit organization has performed cataract surgeries for thousands of individuals, and provided medication and corrective eyewear to many more through eye camps.

PO Box 4545 Dubai UAE Toll Free 800 633 Fax +971 4 311 3166

Dubai Islamic Bank Account: 001520022518601 IBAN Num: AE11 0240 0015 2002 2518 601

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His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, founded the Noor Dubai initiative in September 2008 with the aim of healing more than one million men, women and children around the world in one year. In October 2010, His Highness issued a decree to establish the Noor Dubai Foundation turning the initiative into an independent foundation to continue the noble cause and the fight against avoidable and treatable forms of blindness.



The Carter Center

The Carter Center is a nongovernmental, not-for-profit organization founded in 1982 by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter and his wife Rosalynn Carter. In partnership with Emory University, The Carter Center works to advance human rights and alleviate human suffering. The Atlanta-based center has helped to improve the quality of life for people in more than 70 countries.

In 2002, President Carter received the Nobel Peace Prize for his work “to find peaceful solutions to international conflicts, to advance democracy and human rights, and to promote economic and social development” through The Carter Center.



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