

Introduction to the Role of Cultural Non-Profit Organizations in Society

- Industry
- Technologies
- Culture

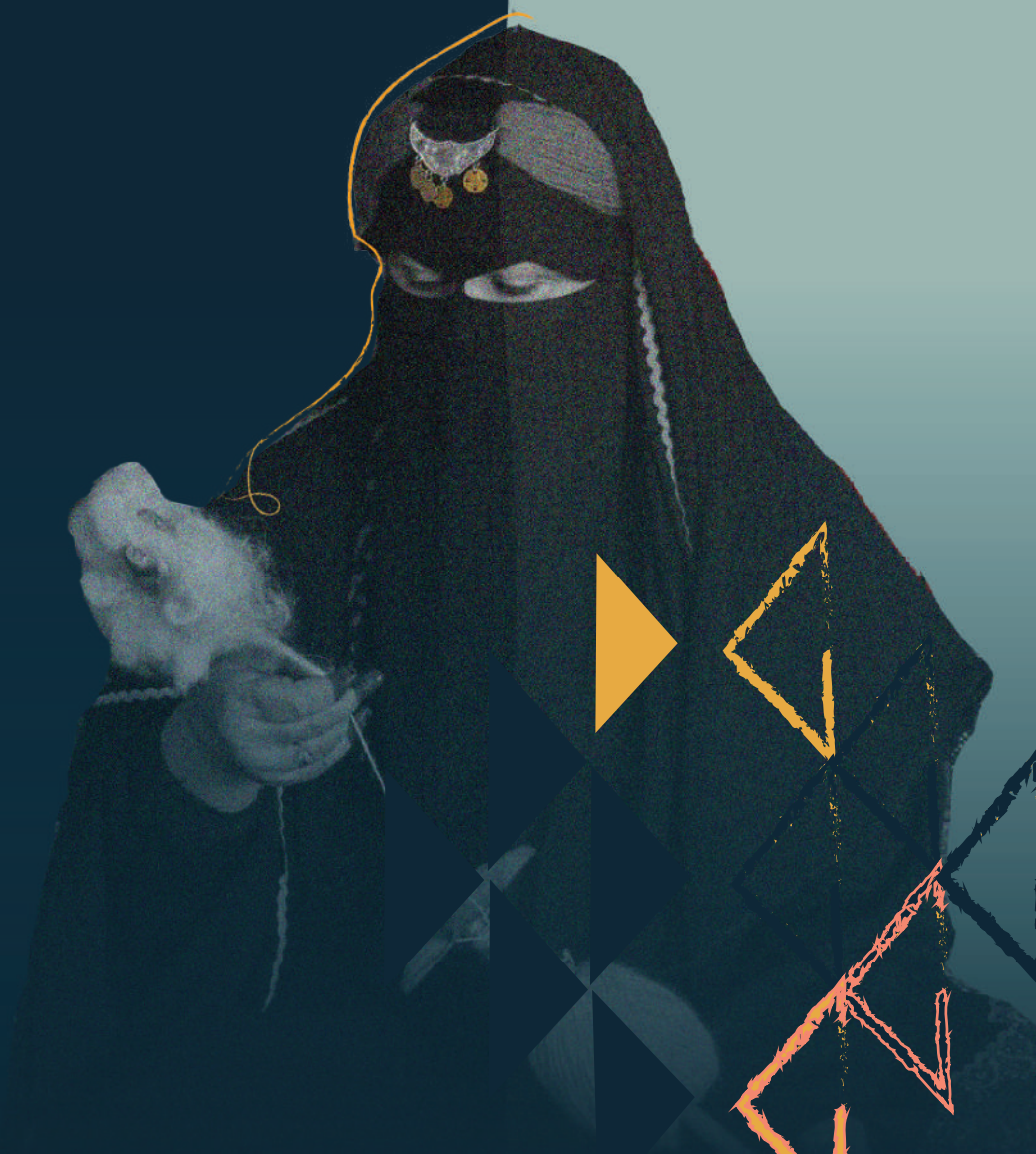


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Overview of the Non-Profit Sector

At its core, the non-profit sector is a humanitarian and community-oriented entity, deeply intertwined with the everyday lives of a multitude of individuals within society. These individuals encompass beneficiaries, donors, founders, grantors, administrators, staff, volunteers, and stakeholders.

The non-profit sector is dedicated to fulfilling societal needs and improving the social, environmental, and cultural quality of life for both individuals and communities. It strives to provide services and programs that promote sustainable development and address societal challenges.

In essence, the non-profit sector is an indispensable pillar of society, contributing to its growth, support, and advancement.

Evolution of the Non-Profit Sector in Saudi Arabia

With roots extending back thousands of years, the non-profit sector's history is as diverse as the nations it serves. Its origins can be traced to ancient times when mutual support and community collaboration were essential for survival.

Today, the non-profit sector is a cornerstone of modern society, addressing critical social, environmental, and cultural needs. Non-profit organizations have become indispensable in delivering public services and enhancing the quality of life for communities.

The non-profit sector, in its varied manifestations, has undeniably been an integral part of the Saudi Arabian landscape for centuries. Since the advent of Islam, the sacred cities of Makkah and Madinah have nurtured a rich tradition of endowments, with the earliest one being established by the third Caliph, Uthman ibn Affan.



Saudi Vision 2030 has made significant strides in empowering the non-profit sector to become a cornerstone of national development. Numerous programs and initiatives have been introduced to amplify the developmental impact of the non-profit sector, most notably:



Establishment of the National Center for Non-Profit Sector (NCNPS)



Establishment and rapid activation of supervisory units for non-profit organizations, overseen by NCNPS



Streamlining and organizing developmental social work



Qualifying the Workforce and Creating Jobs in the Non-Profit Sector.

The non-profit sector is still relatively small compared to the ambitious growth targets set out in Saudi Vision **2030**. The Kingdom has positioned itself as a regional trailblazer in cultivating and empowering non-profit organizations, with an aspirational target of a **5% GDP** contribution by **2030**.

In contrast to the robust private sector, the Saudi non-profit sector is still in its nascent stages with



More than **1,100,000**

business entities

compared to **36,151** non-profit organizations



Connection Between the Non-Profit Sector and Cultural Activities

The non-profit and cultural sectors stand as parallel forces, collaboratively elevating awareness, stimulating social development, and encouraging community engagement through their interplay within the Kingdom's cultural landscape. The significance of nurturing the non-profit sector within the cultural sphere is paramount, surpassing its importance in other domains. This is attributed to the non-profit sector's unique position as an ideal platform for the discovery of talents and the enhancement of cultural activities within local communities.

A benchmarking analysis of cultural non-profit sectors in the United States and Saudi Arabia reveals a significant disparity in terms of the number of organizations. The United States houses **126,213** non-profit organizations, compared to Saudi Arabia's **86** organizations overseen by MoC. To bridge this gap, the Saudi government has introduced numerous services, programs, and incentives to foster the growth of non-profit entities. As a result, the Kingdom has witnessed a historic surge in non-profit organizations, with a staggering **424%** increase in recent years.

The cultural non-profit sector is diverse and dynamic, primarily supported by a combination of donations, grants, government allocations, ticket revenues, memberships, sponsorships, and other financial contributions.

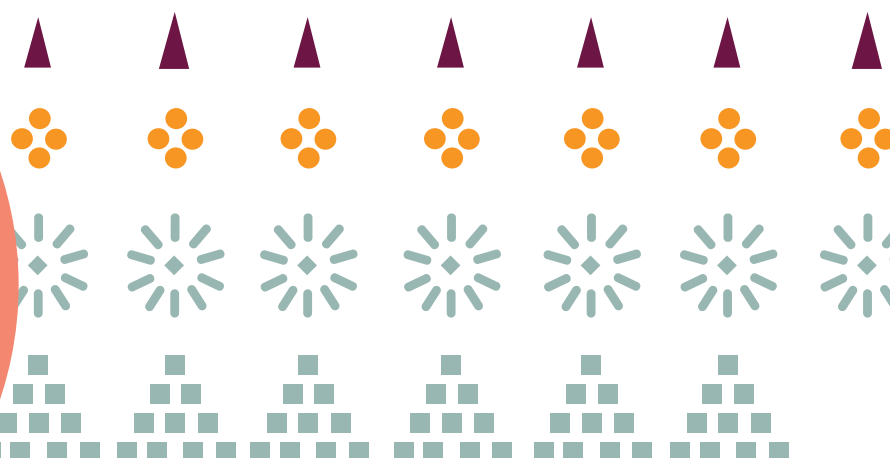
Non-Profit Cultural Organizations

Non-profit cultural organizations play a pivotal role in nurturing and building communities through a wide array of cultural and developmental initiatives that cater to individuals across all age groups and intellectual spectrums. The overarching objective is to foster a society that is both supportive and intellectually enriched.

In recent years, Ministry of Culture has spearheaded a strategy to cultivate a robust and diversified non-profit sector encompassing various cultural domains. Currently, there are **86** non-profit cultural entities operating under Ministry of Culture purview, spanning a broad spectrum of cultural disciplines, including film, museums, publishing, natural heritage, fashion, visual arts, architecture and design, music, cultural and archaeological sites, theater and performing arts, culinary arts, heritage, festivals and cultural events, language and translation, literature, and libraries.

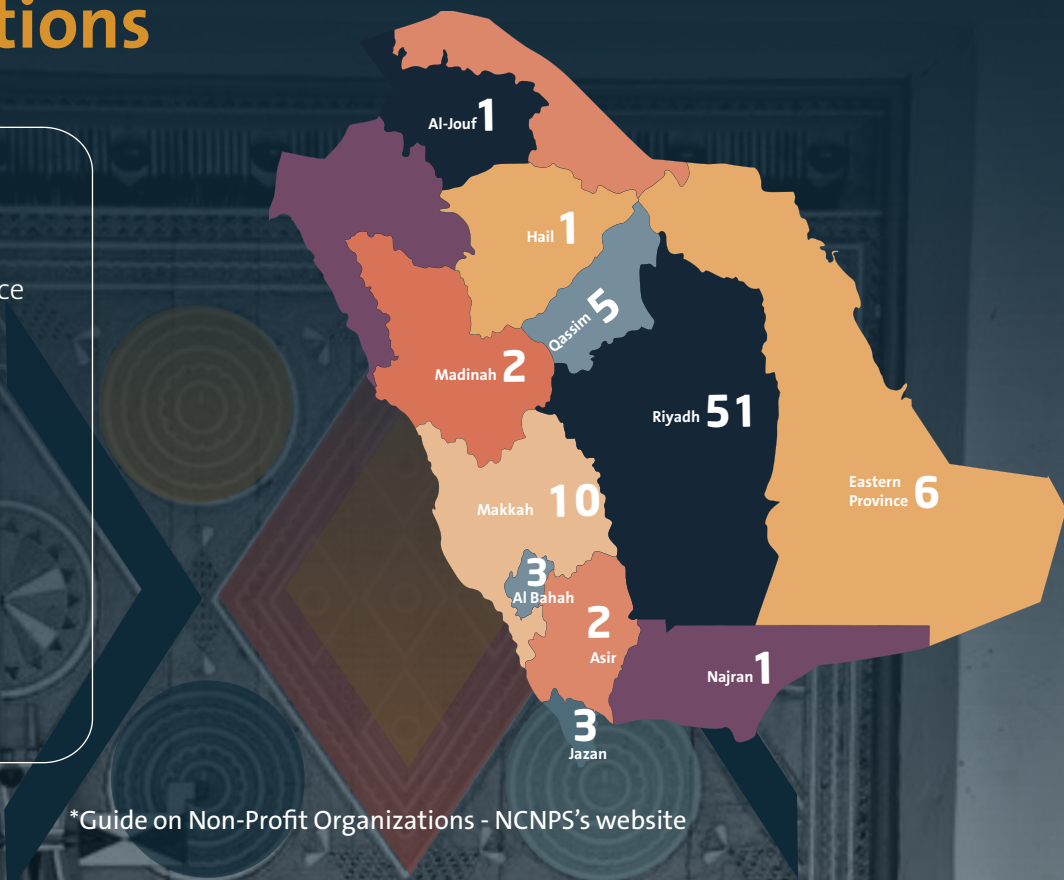
As a result of the tireless efforts dedicated to this ambitious strategy, unveiled by the Minister of Culture, HRH Prince Badr bin Abdullah bin Farhan Al Saud in March **2021**, the non-profit sector has experienced unprecedented growth. With the continuous establishment of professional and specialized associations, non-governmental organizations, and the transfer of technical supervision over cooperative societies, coupled with the growing demand for amateur clubs dedicated to cultural activities, constituting approximately **56%** of amateur cooperative clubs, we can envision a promising future wherein non-profit cultural organizations proliferate, significantly enhancing their contributions to the growth of cultural sectors and fostering a more engaged community of practitioners. This vision aligns seamlessly with the government's increased focus on the cultural sector and the strategic goals articulated by Ministry of Culture.

Ministry of Culture is striving to attain greater heights in fostering the Saudi non-profit cultural sector, thereby contributing significantly to the realization of Saudi Vision **2030**.



Regional Distribution of Non-Profit Cultural Organizations

- 51 in Riyadh
- 10 in Makkah
- 6 in Eastern Province
- 5 in Qassim
- 3 in Jazan
- 3 in Al Bahah
- 2 in Asir
- 2 in Madinah
- 1 in Al-Jouf
- 1 in Hail
- 1 in Najran



*Guide on Non-Profit Organizations - NCNPS's website

Types of Non-Profit Cultural Organizations

01

Civil society associations
(professional associations)

02

Civil society associations
(specialized Associations)

03

Civil society institutions

04

Cooperative societies

05

Amateur clubs

Non-profit sector contribution to cultural empowerment can be summarized in several key points



1. Enhancing Education and Cultural Enrichment: Non-profit organizations and initiatives can provide educational and cultural avenues for community members, such as courses, workshops, and community libraries.



2. Safeguarding Cultural Heritage: Non-profit cultural organizations can protect cultural heritage by gathering and preserving historical and cultural artifacts, as well as organizing heritage-focused events.



3. Nurturing Arts and Culture: Non-profit organizations can support artists and creators, offering platforms for showcasing and promoting local arts and culture through exhibitions, performances, and cultural activities.



4. Fostering Cultural Dialogue: Non-profit cultural associations can facilitate understanding and interaction between diverse cultures and communities by organizing intercultural programs and exchanges.



5. Raising Cultural Awareness: Non-profit organizations can increase awareness of cultural, social, and historical matters through research, conferences, and media initiatives. Through these endeavors, the non-profit sector plays a crucial role in promoting and empowering culture and heritage within communities, thereby contributing to their growth.

Ministry of Culture has demonstrated its commitment through several initiatives



01

Establishing the Cultural Development Fund (CDF) in January **2021**, with the objective of activating the role of small and medium enterprises in the cultural sector besides forming effective strategic partnerships with several bodies in the governmental, private and non-profit sectors, aiming to achieve sustainable development and enhance the positive impact on the cultural industry and its practitioners to benefit the Kingdom's economy and the public interest

02

The Minister of Culture, HRH Prince Badr bin Abdullah bin Farhan Al Saud, approved a strategy in March **2021** to establish sixteen professional associations across thirteen cultural sectors. These associations will facilitate collaboration, knowledge exchange, skill development, and innovation within these diverse fields.

03 Simplifying the process for non-profit organizations to establish and operate.

04 Streamlining and strengthening partnerships between MoC and non-profit organizations.

05 Equipping non-profit organizations with the necessary resources and capacities to succeed.

06 Leveraging data and partnerships to accelerate the development of initiatives for the non-profit cultural sectors.

07 Discontinuing support for literary clubs in early **2023** and mandating that club heads register with NCNPS to ensure administrative efficiency and financial stability.



Examples of Non-Profit Cultural Organizations in Saudi Arabia



1. Saudi Heritage Preservation Society (SHPS)

This Society focuses on managing cultural and natural heritage, as well as registering and managing creative cities. Its objectives include developing administrative performance, investing in human resources, and developing financial resources to realize the society's vision of a "preserved, sustainable, and intergenerational heritage."



2. Red Sea Film Foundation

The Foundation supports aspiring filmmakers through training programs and incubators designed to hone their skills and facilitate the launch and growth of their projects.



3. HERFA

This Society is dedicated to empowering, employing, and supervising artisans while organizing their work and offering them mentorship and guidance. It is also committed to safeguarding, documenting, and transmitting traditional crafts across generations.



4. Saudi Arabian Society for Culture and Arts

This Society is committed to cultivating young talents and providing them with ample opportunities, while striving to enrich their cultural, artistic, and social horizons, ultimately aiming to enhance the overall cultural and artistic landscape of the Kingdom.



References



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