

Traffic Safety in Arab Countries: Key Challenges and Insights (case of the UAE)

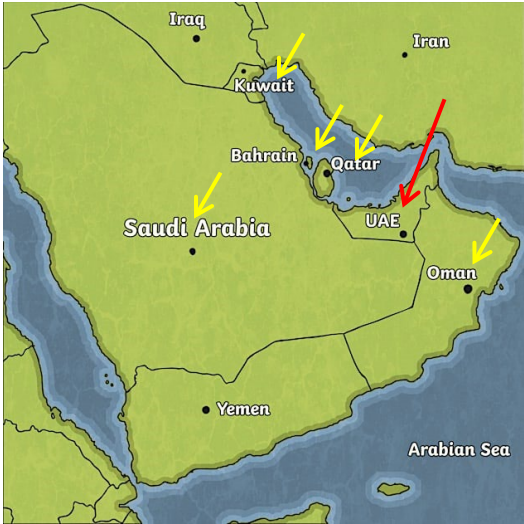
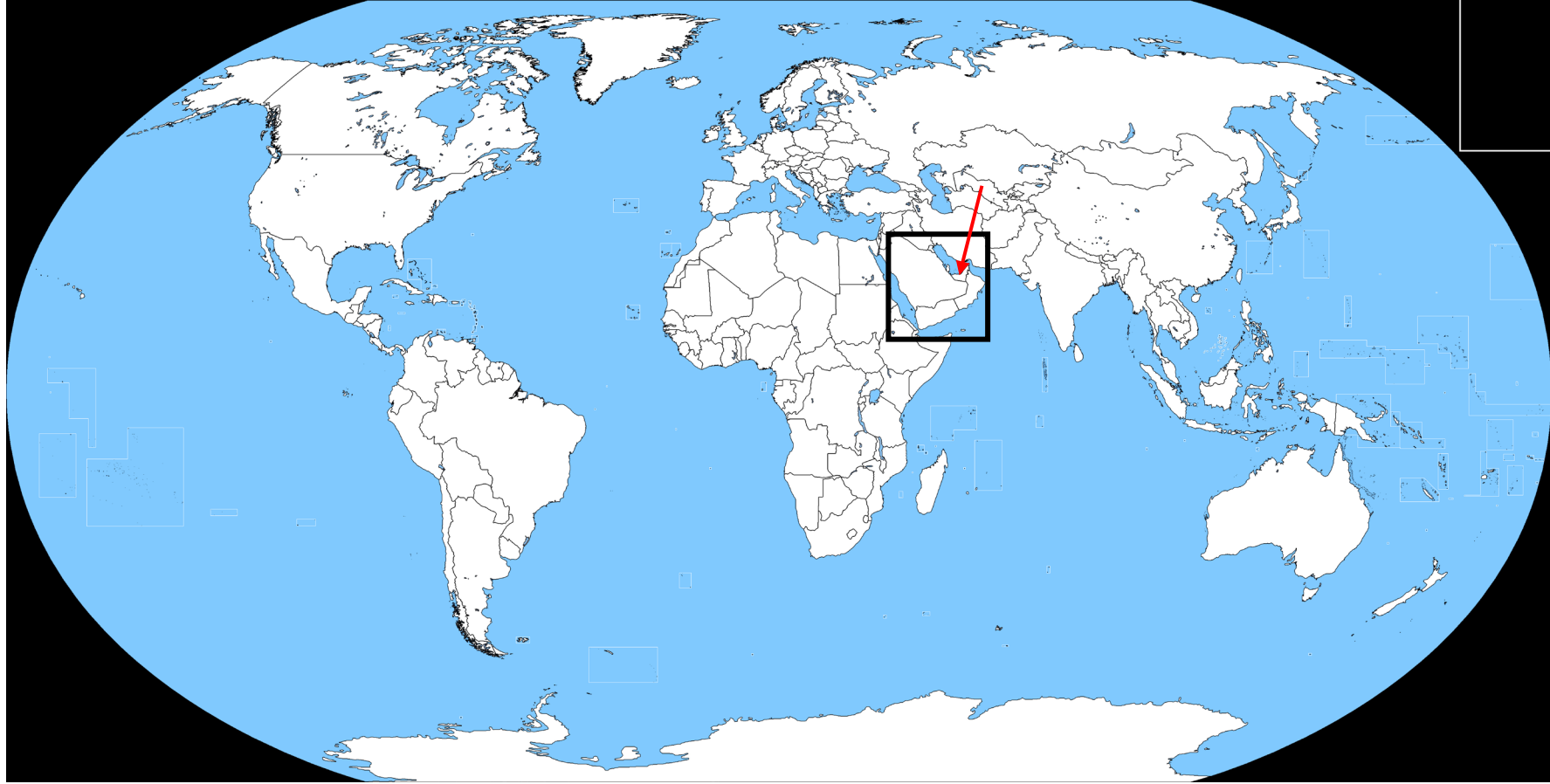
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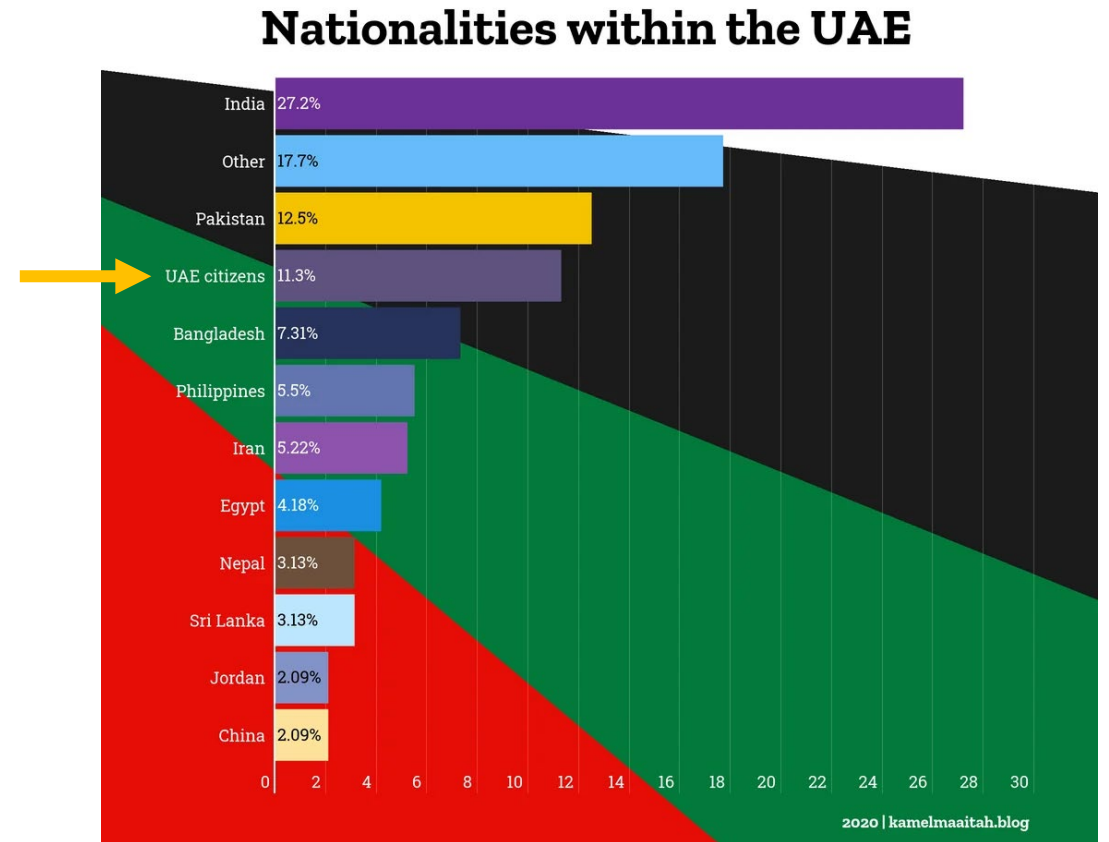
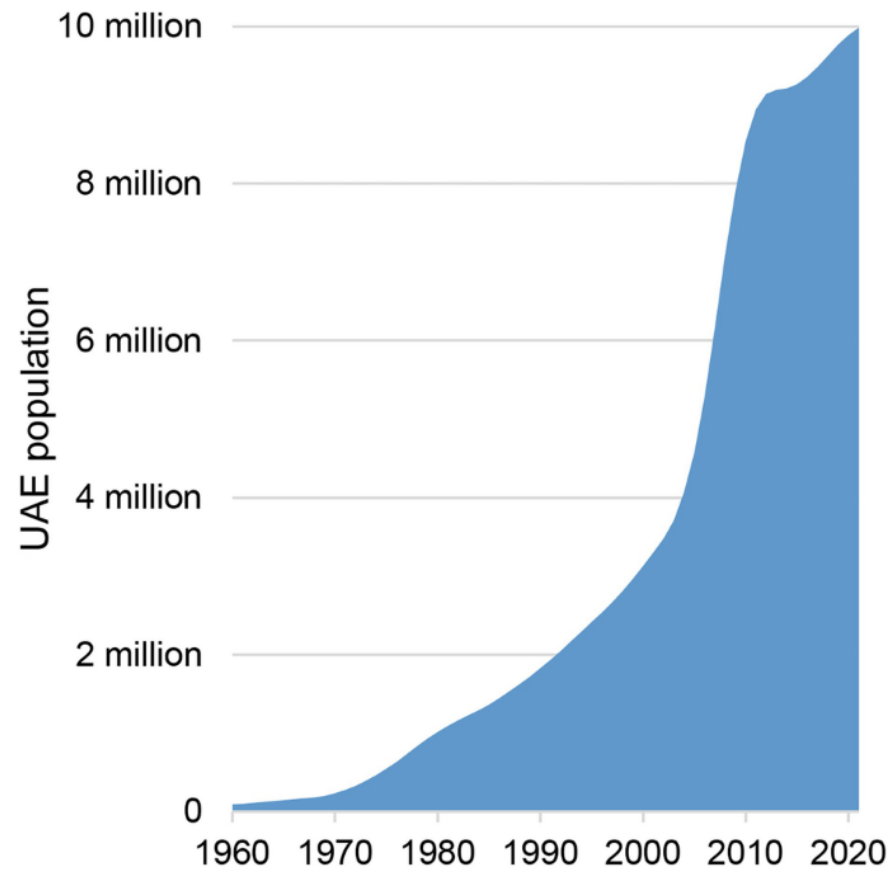
The 10th GIFTS 2024
International Perspectives on Traffic Safety Culture
Tokyo, Japan, Nov. 5-6

- Arab Countries
- UAE case
 - Wealthy, modern, young, diverse, dynamic
 - **Representative** of Arabian/Persian Gulf countries
 - **Not representative** of Arab Counties



UAE

- Highly diverse & dynamic population



UAE

- Highly diverse & dynamic population
- Rapid development



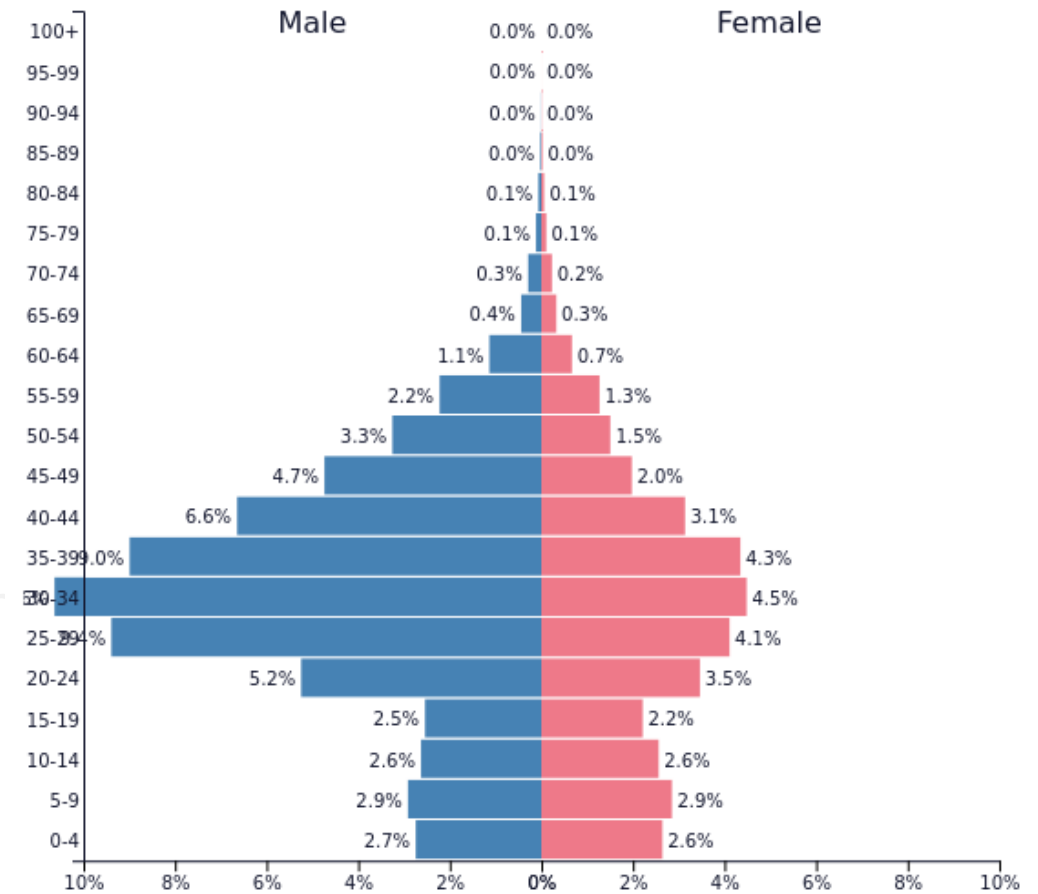
UAE

- Highly diverse & dynamic population
- Rapid development
- Thriving economy & job opportunities
- **88%** of the population **expatriates**
- **Emirati** nationals (~12%): robust social **welfare programs**, free education, healthcare, and housing support



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- Emirati nationals (~12%): robust social welfare programs, free education, healthcare and housing support
- Youthful demographic
- Gender ratio is heavily skewed



United Arab Emirates - 2023
Population: **10,642,080**

UAE

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- Youthful demographic
- Gender ratio is heavily skewed
- High urbanization rates

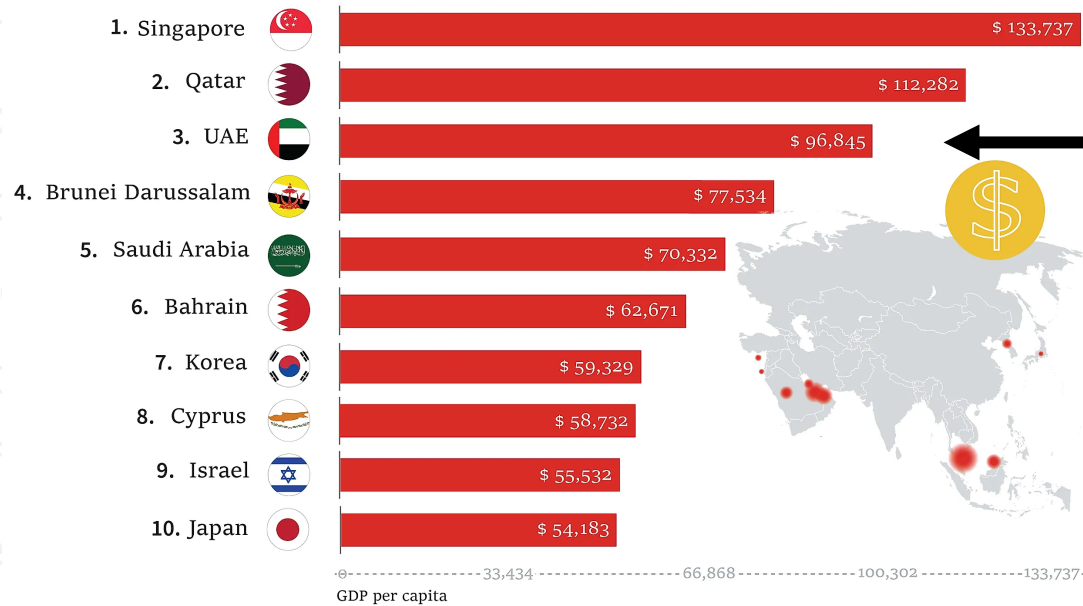


UAE

- Highly
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- High standard of living

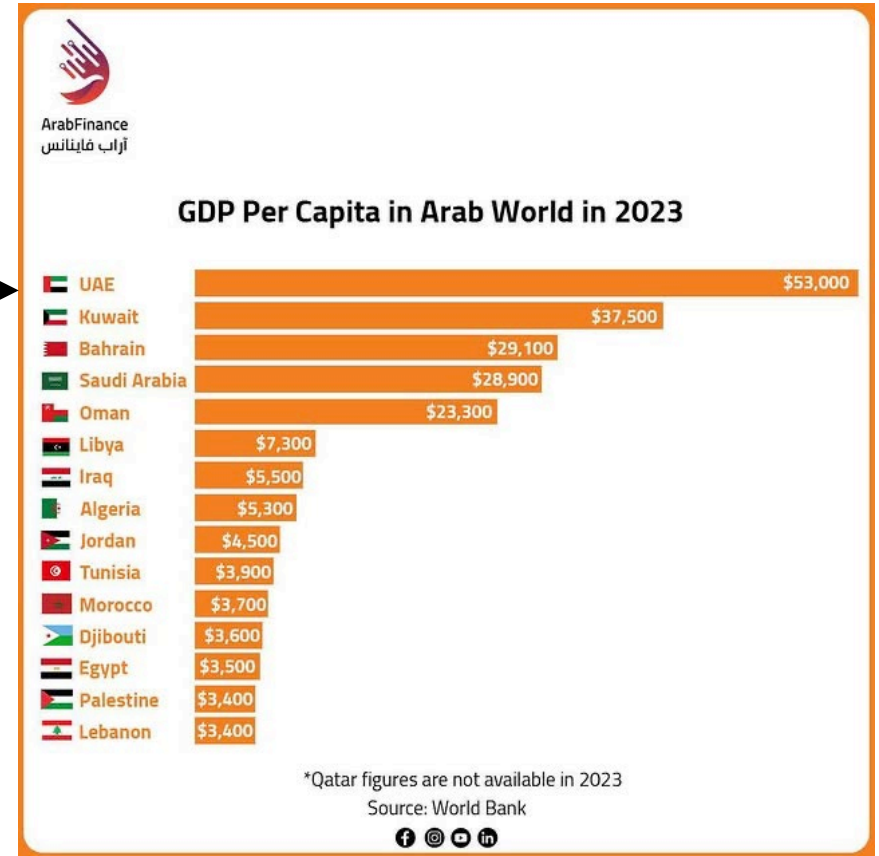
The 10 Richest Countries in Asia

In terms of GDP per capita (PPP) as of 2024



WorldAtlas

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UAE

- High
- Rail
- The
- 88
- Emirati nationals (12%)



- Extensive investment in infrastructure and public services

Road Safety

- Significant strides in enhancing road safety over past two decades,
- Notable decline in road traffic injuries
- Progress is attributed to
 - Modern road infrastructure,
 - Stringent traffic laws,
 - Effective enforcement mechanisms
 - Use of technology
- Challenges remain, mostly soft



Safety Challenges Remain, mostly soft ones:

- Extreme **diversity in safety standards**, driving practices, and training cultures
- A significant **disconnect** between modern infrastructure & and safety trends
- Modern infrastructure and **technology offset by socioeconomic** & cultural influences
- A framework and culture for **civic service missing**; hamper efforts to address safety issues.
- Absence of a framework for engaging **expatriate** communities in **civic service** and community initiatives.

Significant Safety Challenges, mostly soft ones (cont.):

- Political and cultural **barriers** exist within and between institutions.
- **Data** availability & use is challenging
 - Confidentiality is prioritized,
 - Overprotecting privacy
 - Hampering efforts to identify and address safety issues
- Georeferenced **data** integration is feasible but underutilized
- Adopting a **systems approach** that incorporates culture, education, intention, and public policy is needed for advancing transport and safety