University Consortium for Quality Online Learning (UCQOL)

Program Overview & Reflections
Seminar on eLearning, 9th of June 2022

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

مؤسسة عبدالله الغرير للتعليم
Abdulla Al Ghurair Foundation for Education

Project Purpose

Developing and delivering high quality accredited online learning programs at UAE's leading universities

Partners

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

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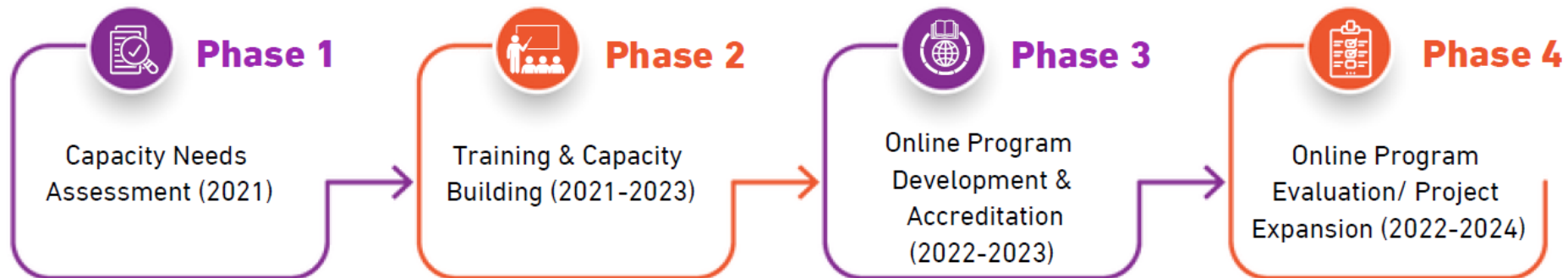Abdulla Al Ghurair Foundation for Education

Consortium of 9 UAE universities

Project Goals

1. Making high quality accredited online programs available to wider pool of students

2. Cultivating public private partnerships

3. Creating university consortium to strengthen collaboration among UAE universities

4. Building capacity of leading UAE universities in online learning

5. Serving as a model in online learning for other countries

Consortium University Partners & Project Phases

➢ In the first chapter of the project, **9 leading UAE universities** were selected to begin development of online courses & programs

➢ In following chapters, we hope to expand **to more universities within the UAE** and beyond

➢ Below is an overview of the **4 phases of the program**

Phase 1
Capacity Needs Assessment (2021)

Phase 2
Training & Capacity Building (2021-2023)

Phase 3
Online Program Development & Accreditation (2022-2023)

Phase 4
Online Program Evaluation/ Project Expansion (2022-2024)

Project Progress (Phases 1 & 2)

Project Phase 2A
Kick-off & Design
- Joint Consortium & CAA meeting
- Design thinking workshops with university leadership
- 1st Design intensive faculty training

Project Launch & Signing Ceremony

First online courses planned to go live

June – Dec 2020

June – Dec 2021

Fall 2022

Jan – June 2021

Jan 2022 – 2024 (Ongoing)

Project Phase 1
Capacity Needs Assessment*

A 3-month intensive process to identify strengths, opportunities and the way forward. This included:

(1) Stakeholder identification
(2) Inventory Resources Survey
(3) Collection of Documents & Evidence
(4) Interviews & focus groups

Project Phases 2 & 3
Institutional Capacity Building

- At least 8 design sprints in support of 100+ faculty
- Ongoing course design & production support
- Program development and accreditation applications
- Topic-specific webinars with expert guest speakers

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*A full summary will soon be co-published by AGFE & IDEL

Capacity Needs Assessment* Overview

Each university completed a 3-month intensive capacity needs assessment, organized into 8 distinct areas, each with a critical role in a university's readiness to achieve its e-learning vision.

This culminated in a report for each university identifying strengths, opportunities, and recommendations for the way forward.

University Vision

- Preferred Structure
- Intended Market
- Changes to vision due to Needs Assessment

Stakeholders & Inventory

University Findings

- University-level Support
- Online learning Policies, Faculty Training, Online Learner Journey

Department / Program-level Findings

Technology Infrastructure

- Managing & Scaling Infrastructure
- Tech Support

Online Course Production

Learning Management System (LMS)

Strengths

Opportunities

Needs

Summary & Recommendations

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*A full summary of the results will soon be co-published by AGFE & IDEL

From our experience, many of the key factors for success already exist here in the UAE, and there is momentum after Emergency Remote Teaching (ERT). Below are key takeaways and actionable next steps for institutions serious about transforming their students' experiences online.

Importance of **institutional alignment and a vision** that includes online, open learning

A **conducive environment** (Ministry support, collaborative private sector, knowledge sharing across HEIs) is key to drive progress forward sustainably

A **market analysis** will ensure alignment with market needs, target population and help identify types of programs to deliver online

Existing **online policies and practices** are a good starting point for review, refinement, and further development

Investing resources in support of **course production personnel and processes** will go a long way for course quality and sustainability

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