**NATIONAL MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY SIGNS MOU WITH THE AUTHORITY OF SOCIAL CONTRIBUTION - MA’AN TO DRIVE TREATMENT, AWARENESS AND RESEARCH EFFORTS**

**Abu Dhabi, 20 February 2024:** The National Multiple Sclerosis Society (NMSS), a UAE-based NGO established under the Ministry of Community Development that leverages education, advocacy, and global cure-seeking efforts to improve the lives of people living with Multiple Sclerosis (MS), has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Authority of Social Contribution – Ma’an to establish NMSS’s first official fundraising campaign. The partnership was signed in the presence of Her Excellency Dr. Fatima Al Kaabi, Vice-Chair of the NMSS, Director General of Emirates Drug Establishment and Executive Director of Abu Dhabi Bone Marrow Transplant program at Abu Dhabi Stem Cells Center (ADSCC), and Her Excellency Salama Al Ameemi, Director General of the Authority of Social Contribution - Ma’an.

The fundraising campaign will unite the two entities’ resources and efforts in a bid to generate contributions from individuals and companies via the [Ma’an Social Contribution Platform](https://fundraise.maan.gov.ae/en/campaigns/multiple-sclerosis-program?campaignid=f86dcc41-8083-ee11-8179-6045bd6972de) – the official channel to receive contributions aimed at supporting social priorities in Abu Dhabi. 100% of the proceeds from the initiative will be used to improve the lives of people with multiple sclerosis living in the UAE through the provision of support, raising awareness, and advancing research efforts – all while working towards finding a cure for MS.

This partnership aligns with Ma’an’s mission of developing collaborative cohesive communities by enabling a strong and active Third Sector to address social priorities in Abu Dhabi. The fund will also help deliver support programs, improve healthcare services, and provide a community for people in the Emirates affected by MS.

Commenting on the MoU agreement, H.E. Dr. Fatima Al Kaabi, Vice Chair of the NMSS, Director General of Emirates Drug Establishment and Executive Director of Abu Dhabi Bone Marrow Transplant program at Abu Dhabi Stem Cells Center (ADSCC) said: “We’re delighted to be announcing the launch of our first official donation fund in partnership with Ma’an. Working in unison with a shared objective, utilizing contributions from organizations and individuals to help improve the lives of people living with MS in the UAE, supporting programmes and awareness campaigns to enhance wellbeing. All contributions received will assist people living with MS in a number of ways, and also fund today’s treatment and tomorrow’s research to achieve a future free of MS, in line with our society’s goals and vision.”

H.E. Salama Al Ameemi, Director General of the Authority of Social Contribution - Ma’an, added: “Ma'an recognizes the significance of partnerships in achieving sustainable social impact. The emphasis on both supporting programs for individuals with multiple sclerosis (MS) and raising awareness about the condition within the Abu Dhabi community reflects a holistic approach to addressing social priorities.

By fostering programs to support social initiatives aligned with the key priorities of Abu Dhabi residents, Ma'an enables the growth of a thriving Third Sector to drive social innovation and contribute to the overall well-being of the community to create a positive and lasting impact.

It's through partnerships and shared goals that organisations can amplify their impact and work towards building a more resilient and cohesive community by empowering the Third Sector to deliver sustainable solutions that address wide-ranging social priorities.”

Multiple Sclerosis is a disease of the central nervous system that affects over 2.8 million people around the world. **For more information on the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, visit** [**www.nationalmssociety.ae**](https://www.nationalmssociety.ae)**.**

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**About the National Multiple Sclerosis Society**

Established in 2022 under the Ministry of Community Development, the National Multiple Sclerosis Society (NMSS) is a UAE-based NGO created to better the lives of people living with Multiple Sclerosis (MS) and their communities in the UAE through education, advocacy and advancing global efforts to finding a cure for MS.

NMSS is governed by a board of trustees, advised by a local and international Strategic Advisory Committee and Medical Advisory Committee, and supported by MS ambassadors and volunteers. Together, they ensure that people living with MS have access to high quality care and get the guidance they need through reliable resources.

The National Multiple Sclerosis Society works with leading national medical institutions and renowned global partners to build a trusted network of healthcare providers and support organizations. The society aims to raise awareness of MS, create a holistic ecosystem for the MS community in the UAE, and provide support and resources for individuals affected by MS.

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**About Ma’an**

Founded in February 2019 by the Department of Community Development Abu Dhabi, the Authority of Social Contribution – Ma’an, generates genuine social impact by enabling the growth of a thriving Third Sector, including social enterprises, and voluntary groups – and creating collaboration with public and private organisations to drive social innovation.

Ma’an brings together the Government, private sector and civil society with the objective of supporting innovative solutions and contributing to the development of strong, active, collaborative and inclusive communities.

As the Government of Abu Dhabi’s official channel to receive contributions for social priorities, the Authority of Social Contribution – Ma’an ensures fundraising is distributed to causes across the entire

Abu Dhabi community in sectors including health, education, environment, the social sector and infrastructure.

Ma’an provides resources and support to seed and grow community-based organisations, raise and allocate funds towards community-based groups and social initiatives, and promote community engagement and a culture of volunteering.