**EXPO LIVE FACTSHEET**

* Now in its 10th year, Expo Live, the global innovation and partnership grant programme initiated under Expo 2020 Dubai, has expanded as part of Expo City Dubai
* The first programme of its kind as part of a World Expo, Expo Live is helping innovators from around the world develop their solutions to our greatest challenges, connecting ambitious minds that are, today, creating the future
* Expo Live was inspired by a promise that His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of UAE and Ruler of Dubai, made when the UAE was bidding to host the World Expo: that Expo 2020 Dubai would be inclusive and host innovations and ideas from around the globe, not only from traditional hubs of innovation. His Highness dedicated a fund and entrusted Expo 2020 to find innovators, fund them and bring them to the World Expo.
* Expo Live backs projects with creative solutions to pressing challenges, helping to improve people’s lives or preserve the planet
* Announced in 2013, Expo Live continues as part of Expo City Dubai and embodies the belief that a broad coalition of people, working together, can find innovative solutions to some of the world’s most pressing challenges
* Expo Live’s latest round reflects Expo City Dubai’s commitment to making a positive, sustainable impact on the planet and on communities, with selected global start-ups each receive funding, support and exposure at COP28, which will be hosted at Expo City Dubai in November 2023
* Expo Live comprises the Global Grants Programme and the University Innovation Programme
  + **Global Grants Programme:** 
    - Six cycles
    - 176 grantees from 90 countries have secured funding, guidance and exposure to date, demonstrating that innovation can come from anywhere, to everyone
    - More than 12,200 applications received from 186 countries
    - In line with the UAE’s ‘Year of Sustainability’ in 2023 and a reflection of Expo City Dubai’s long-term commitment to deliver positive social, economic and environmental change, the sixth edition of Expo Live officially launched on 1 February 2023, inviting social entrepreneurs from around the world to submit their ideas for climate-related interventions that can be shared and replicated for wider impact
  + **University Innovation Programme:**
    - Incentivises creative thinking and collaboration between UAE-based university students to solve problems relevant to the UAE and the region
    - Its third cycle launched in September 2023 with a call for climate-related solutions
    - The first two cycles have provided 46 teams of students in the UAE with grants, exposure and support to help turn their creative ideas into real-life solutions
* Expo Live is supporting social entrepreneurs across all over the world, these include innovators that help solve global challenges set down in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
* Expo Live is committed to female-led entrepreneurship and building on the major contribution of women in the delivery of Expo 2020 Dubai and Expo City Dubai. To date, 33 per cent of all Global Innovators – 58 out of 176 in the Global Grants Programme – are led by female entrepreneurs
* Expo 2020 Dubai joined forces with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to support grassroots innovators that are improving the lives of people around the world. The initiative enabled Expo Live to expand its reach to projects that address a range of complex humanitarian challenges, particularly in the areas of water, sanitation, health, agriculture and financial inclusion
* All aspects of the Expo Live programme came together in the Expo Live Pavilion – The Good Place, where the stories of the Global Innovators were showcased, providing a global platform to amplify their voices and personal stories and inspire visitors to Expo 2020 to become the change-makers of the future
* Expo Live continues to create an eco-system that helps connect grantees with each other and with multinational and government organisations

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