UAE Golden Visa (Dubai) — Investment-Linked Residency Behind a Surge in High-Net-Worth Relocation

City Innovation Library · Good practice · United Arab Emirates

Quality score: 52/100

Evidence strength: Moderate

Summary

Dubai's Golden Visa approvals grew from 47,150 (2021) to 158,000 (2023), a 3.4x jump, after eligibility criteria for property- and business-investment residency were progressively widened.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Evidence of impact / measured results	2/3
Transferability / demonstrated replication	1/3
Scalability	3/3
Sustainability / continuity	3/3
Innovation	1/3
Inclusiveness / equity	0/3
Multi-stakeholder collaboration	1/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

C-NAPSE web research — accessed 2026-08-20

General Directorate of Residency and Foreigners Affairs (GDRFA) – Dubai — accessed 2026-08-20

IMI Daily: UAE Golden Visa Approval Volume Doubles to 158,000 in 2023 — accessed 2026-08-20

Fast Company Middle East: How is the UAE's Golden Visa program reshaping the nation's community and economy? — accessed 2026-08-20

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