

Global Growth Hub

End-to-end relocation, structuring and deal advisory for ultra-high-net-worth individuals and family offices



The **Global Growth Hub** at Grant Thornton UAE provides tailored support for cross-border investment, expansion and mobility of Global Citizens, their assets and their capital. Our aim is to be a lifelong trusted partner to Global Citizens, delivering comprehensive services across the value chain.



Who are Global Citizens?

Ultra-high-net-worth individuals (UHNWIs) who have created wealth in their home country or overseas and are now looking to deploy it in the UAE — either directly or through their companies or investment arms (family offices).

We understand that every journey is unique. At Grant Thornton UAE, we support UHNWIs, family offices and entrepreneurs as they look to move to, establish or grow in the UAE — and we stay with them every step of the way.

From evaluating the move and structuring assets to executing deals, managing compliance and growing wealth — we offer an integrated, discreet and expert-led personalised advisory experience.

Our Services

1. Evaluating options and decision-making

Helping you assess countries and programmes that align with your business, lifestyle and legacy goals:

- ◆ Comparative analysis of the UAE versus other jurisdictions — exit and entry tax impact, business strategy, lifestyle and family priorities
- ◆ Residency and citizenship pathways

2. Market entry, structuring and setup

Designing and setting up the right structures for long-term success:

- ◆ Market entry strategy, feasibility study and competitor benchmarking
- ◆ Structuring wealth and assets in line with your goals
- ◆ Company setup, incorporation and regulatory compliance across mainland and free zones including set up of holding companies, special purpose vehicles (SPVs), trusts and foundations
- ◆ Securing employment visas and residency permits

3. Migration of wealth, assets and business interests

Bringing wealth and operations into the UAE, seamlessly:

- ◆ Asset migration strategy: Advisory and execution support to move businesses, real estate and portfolios into UAE structures

Our work in action

Jurisdictional shift for a UK-headquartered metal distribution and manufacturing group

We supported a UK-headquartered raw materials distributor with subsidiaries in Nigeria in evaluating a jurisdictional shift for its holding structure. Our team conducted a comparative analysis across European and UAE jurisdictions — not just from a tax efficiency perspective, considering corporate and withholding tax implications (keeping double taxation treaties in view), but also from an operational perspective. We delivered a tailored structuring report with actionable recommendations, enabling the client to align tax strategy with future investment flexibility.

Cross-jurisdictional structuring to support regional expansion and intercompany funding

We advised one of the world's top five food and beverage companies on establishing a UAE holding structure to support regional expansion and intercompany funding. The client sought clarity on tax implications across jurisdictions, including repatriation, shareholder exits and third-party financing. Our team delivered a comprehensive tax structuring analysis, engaged closely with legal advisers and ensured alignment with global tax and general anti-avoidance rule (GAAR) considerations. The result was a tax-efficient structure that enhanced cash flow visibility and supported timely decision-making.

4. Family office set up, governance and succession planning

Helping you maintain the legacy and plan for the future:

- ◆ Structure of family office, right tools and platforms
- ◆ Family governance frameworks including values and purpose, constitution or charter and family councils
- ◆ Separation of ownership and management, roles and responsibilities of family owners and professional managers, decision-making protocols and reporting lines
- ◆ Planning for leadership and ownership transition to next generation, and mentorship of next-generation leaders

5. Corporate governance and succession planning

Helping you grow and scale the business while maintaining transparency, accountability and performance:

- ◆ Board structure, board effectiveness assessment, training of members
- ◆ Policies and standard operating procedures to help businesses scale, delegation of authority matrices, risk management and compliance protocols
- ◆ Performance management: Designing, measuring and tracking key performance indicators (KPIs)
- ◆ Reporting, audit and disclosures aligned with regulatory and investor expectations
- ◆ Management succession planning and leadership development for business continuity

Our work in action

Governance framework for family-run conglomerate — hospitality and real estate

We advised a large family-run conglomerate on designing governance structures to clarify the roles of the family council, board, and C-suite. Our tailored super-structure options helped align expectations across generations and leadership tiers, ensuring clarity on decision rights, operational oversight and mentorship responsibilities.

This enabled the family to retain strategic control while enhancing transparency and organisational cohesion.

Governance and internal controls for a leading hypermarket chain in the UAE

A leading hypermarket and consumer cooperative in the UAE grappling with operational inefficiencies and compliance risks sought to formalise and streamline its real estate operations across 27 branches and seven malls.

We supported the client with development of comprehensive policies, standard operating procedures and internal controls across their key functions, embedding international best practices.

This not only enhanced their operational consistency and allowed better management of risk, but also supported their expansion into new smart retail formats.

6. Deal execution and investment advisory

Helping you invest, raise capital, grow or exit businesses within the UAE and globally:

- ◆ Valuation: Business, asset and share valuations for restructuring, deal, gifting, exits and compliance
- ◆ Buy-side advisory: Identify and assess investment opportunities across sectors, due diligence, valuations, deal structuring and negotiation support
- ◆ Sell-side advisory: Prepare and manage sale of portfolio businesses or UAE-based investments including information memorandum, private equity (PE)/venture capital (VC)/strategic investor outreach, negotiation and deal execution
- ◆ Capital advisory: Equity fundraising from PE, VC or strategic investors, pre-initial public offering (IPO) readiness and post-IPO advisory
- ◆ Debt advisory: Secure venture debt, structured loans, or refinance existing obligations and advise on optimal capital structure for UAE entities

Our work in action

Strategic buy-side support for leading family office

We enabled a leading family office to make a well-informed investment decision on a potential steel sector acquisition in the UAE. Our insights uncovered key financial risks and negotiation levers, directly influencing deal terms and valuation. The client gained clarity on critical balance sheet exposures and was empowered to negotiate from a position of strength.

7. Operations excellence, growth and expansion

Delivering operational efficiency, risk management and growth planning as the business matures:

- ◆ Business performance improvement, cost efficiencies and operating model design
- ◆ Transformation of functions including finance, human resources and procurement
- ◆ Commercial and growth strategy
- ◆ Internal audit and business risk services

8. Ongoing compliance and business support

Ensuring your UAE presence remains protected, efficient and future-ready:

- ◆ Accounting, financial reporting and payroll services
- ◆ Statutory audit and assurance services
- ◆ Corporate tax, value-added tax (VAT), transfer pricing, economic substance regulations (ESR), anti-money laundering (AML) and other local regulatory compliance support

Strategic advisory for family conglomerate — asset divestment and debt restructuring

We supported a prominent GCC-based family conglomerate in progressing a multi-vertical asset sale and restructuring its real estate debt portfolio. Acting as lead sell-side adviser, we helped position the assets for market, engaged potential investors and facilitated negotiations to drive transaction momentum. Our strategic insights and scenario-based modelling enabled the client to unlock liquidity, address balance sheet pressures and move toward long-term financial stability.

Why Grant Thornton UAE



At Grant Thornton UAE, we go beyond expectations — not just in what we do, but how we do it. Our clients consistently highlight our responsiveness, personal attention and deep local insight as reasons they choose to work with us. These promises define how we work: with clarity, confidence and a commitment to long-term value. We don't just deliver services — we build relationships that grow with your business.

◆ Seamless cross-border delivery

We are a seamless team of experts across key jurisdictions, including some of the largest global financial hubs, so you will have all the cross-jurisdictional expertise you need to manage your affairs comprehensively.

◆ Whole life-cycle support

With our extensive partner ecosystem — including private banks, law firms, immigration advisors, real estate advisers and education consultants — you don't need to go anywhere else for support on your relocation and growth journey.

◆ Partner-led service

You will have direct access to senior advisers within Grant Thornton — no layers, no delays. We keep it personal, high quality and very responsive to your needs.

◆ We have done this before

We have a successful track record of working with UHNWIs, including first- and second-generation promoters, tech entrepreneurs, and large family offices in India, the UK, the UAE, and Singapore.

◆ Sector-informed insight

We bring deep sector-informed insights tailored to your unique business challenges. By blending local context with global perspectives, we deliver solutions that are relevant and future-ready.

Grant Thornton UAE at a glance



Almost 60 years in the UAE

Supporting businesses through every economic cycle since 1966.



3 locations

Abu Dhabi, Dubai and Sharjah — serving clients across the Emirates.



Part of a multinational platform

Connected to 9,000+ professionals across 20 countries, enabling seamless cross-border support.



Partner-led model

Senior-level access, agile teams and personalised attention.



50+ nationalities

Reflecting the diversity and dynamism of the UAE market.



700+ professionals

Multidisciplinary teams across audit and assurance, tax and advisory.

Who we are

Grant Thornton UAE is a homegrown professional services firm with nearly 60 years of experience supporting the country's evolving business landscape. Founded in 1966 by our Chairman, Farouk Mohamed, we've grown alongside the UAE's economy, working with government entities, listed companies, family businesses and fast-growing start-ups.

With offices in Abu Dhabi, Dubai and Sharjah, our team of over 700 professionals represents more than 50 nationalities — united by shared values, deep local insight and global capabilities.

Grant Thornton UAE is part of Grant Thornton International Ltd (GTIL), a network of independent member firms spanning over 150 countries. In 2025, we joined a new multinational platform led by Grant Thornton Advisors LLC — bringing together member firms in leading financial centers such as the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Switzerland, the Cayman Islands and the Channel Islands.

Through this rapidly growing multinational platform, clients across three continents will have access to seamless and enhanced cross-border services, underpinned by investments in technology, people and quality.

Contact our team



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