

# **Classification Guide for Public Welfare Associations and their Public Welfare Activities**

## **Approved pursuant to Cabinet Resolution No. (159) of 2025 Regarding the Approval of the Classification Guide for Public Welfare Associations and their Public Welfare Activities**

### **1. Introduction:**

Within the framework of the efforts undertaken in the State to empower the Public Welfare Associations sector and to enhance its roles and responsibilities in supporting the national development process, a guide has been prepared for the classification of Public Welfare Associations and the activities conducted thereby, in accordance with the Public Welfare Activities and the various fields of work specified in Federal Decree by Law No. (50) of 2023 Regarding the Regulation of Public Welfare Associations. This Guide has been developed in light of international best practices and standards applied in the non-profit sector, and in a manner commensurate with the nature and characteristics of such Associations. The Guide sets out the controls, standards, and requirements applicable to the classification of Public Welfare Associations and the activities conducted thereby, in a way that enhances ease of access to data and information relating to groups of Public Welfare Associations that are similar in terms of activities and fields of work.

### **2. Objectives:**

The Guide aims to:

- Classify Public Welfare Associations.
- Unify the controls, procedures, conditions, and requirements for the classification of Public Welfare Associations and the activities conducted thereby.
- Adopt a unified framework and regulate the practical guidelines relating to the classification process and provide them to the various concerned authorities.
- Precisely identify the fields and activities of work of the Public Welfare Associations.

- Facilitate access to data and information pertaining to groups of Public Welfare Associations that are similar in activities and fields of work.

### **3. Scope of Application:**

The Guide shall constitute the reference document for the competent authority concerned with the licensing, supervision, and oversight of Public Welfare Associations, and shall apply to Public Welfare Associations subject to the provisions of the Decree by Law.

### **4. Definitions:**

For the purposes of applying this Guide, the following terms and expressions shall have the meanings assigned to each of them, unless the context requires otherwise:

<b>State</b>	: The United Arab Emirates.
<b>Ministry</b>	: The Ministry of Community Empowerment.
<b>Minister</b>	: The Minister of Community Empowerment.
<b>Decree by Law</b>	: Federal Decree by Law No. (50) of 2023 Regarding the Regulation of Public Welfare Associations.
<b>Local Authority</b>	: The local governmental authority concerned with the licensing, supervision, and oversight of Public Welfare Associations pursuant to the legislation in force therein, within whose scope of competence the headquarters of such Associations or any of their branches is located, insofar as the activity of such branch is concerned.
<b>Competent Authority</b>	: The Local Authority, or the Ministry in the Emirate in which no local authority is competent to license, supervise, and oversee Public Welfare Associations.

- Public Welfare Associations** : Private legal persons licensed in accordance with the laws in force in the State, established for the purpose of conducting one or more Public Welfare Activities, taking one of the forms stipulated in the Decree by Law and its Executive Regulations, and not primarily aiming to achieve profit.
- Public Welfare Activities** : The fields of work of Public Welfare Associations, including social, cultural, scientific, educational, professional, creative, artistic, entertainment, and environmental activities, the provision of humanitarian services, and the achievement of any purposes of charitable work or social solidarity covered by the provisions of the Decree by Law.
- Guide** : The Classification Guide for Public Welfare Associations and their Public Welfare Activities.
- Classification** : The description of Public Welfare Associations within categories and groups that are similar in terms of activities and fields of work.

## **5. Roles and Responsibilities:**

The Ministry, in coordination with the Local Authority, shall manage and oversee the process of classifying Public Welfare Associations. In order to ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of the classification, the roles, responsibilities, and competences of both the Ministry and the Local Authority in relation to the classification process have been determined as follows:

### **First: Roles and Responsibilities of the Ministry**

The Ministry shall play the principal role in the process of classifying Public Welfare Associations and the activities conducted thereby. The Ministry's functions shall commence with the establishment of the standards, controls, and conditions relating to the

determination of the main and sub-classifications of Public Welfare Associations, in coordination with the Local Authority. It shall be responsible for ensuring that Local Authorities comply with and implement such standards, controls, and conditions, through the deployment of its resources and the enhancement of its capacities across all processes covered by this Guide. The Ministry shall, in particular, undertake the following:

1. Establish the standards, controls, and conditions relating to the determination of the main and sub-classifications of Public Welfare Associations.
2. Conduct a comprehensive and unified classification process for Public Welfare Associations.
3. Periodically review and update the Guide, where required, in coordination with the Local Authority, and in accordance with the applicable controls and procedures.
4. Provide the necessary guidance, support, and empowerment to Public Welfare Associations, enabling them to formulate their objectives and determine their fields of work in a manner consistent with the provisions of this Guide.

### **Second: Roles and Responsibilities of the Local Authority**

The Local Authority shall undertake the following:

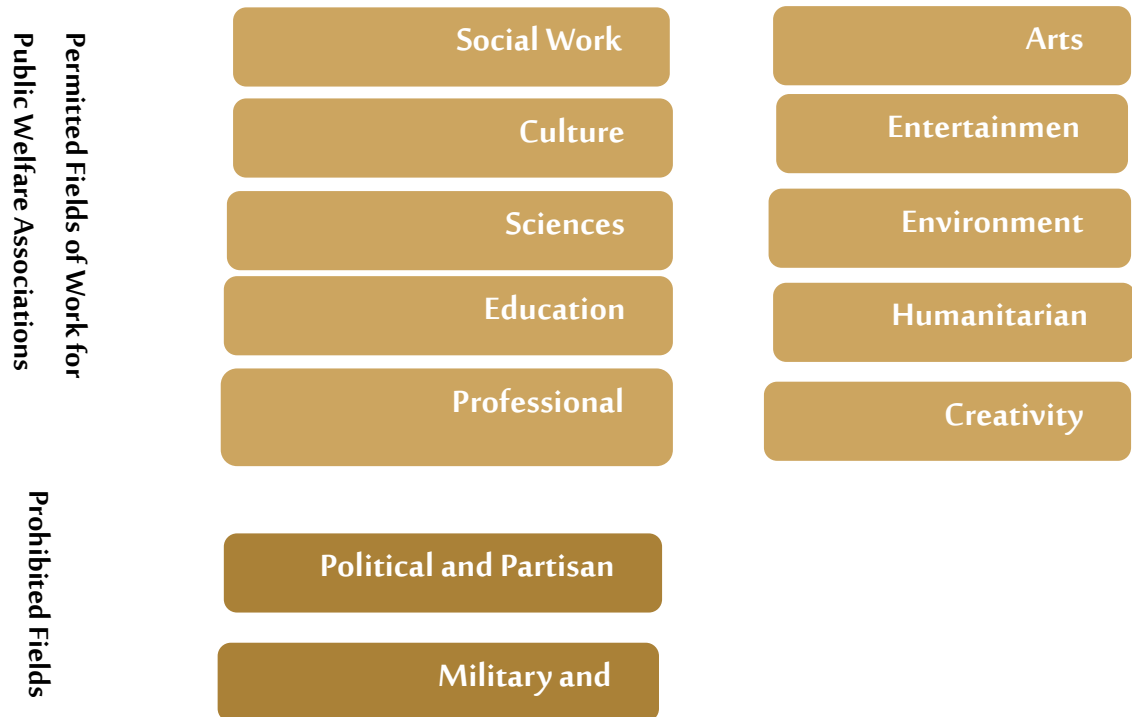
1. Provide the necessary guidance, support, and empowerment to Public Welfare Associations licensed thereby, enabling them to formulate their objectives and determine their fields of work in a manner consistent with the provisions of this Guide.
2. Conduct a preliminary classification of Public Welfare Associations.
3. Ensure the compliance of Public Welfare Associations licensed thereby with the approved classification issued thereto by the Ministry.

### **Third: Roles and Responsibilities of Public Welfare Associations**

Public Welfare Associations shall be obligated to align their activities and objectives in a manner consistent with the fields of work specified in accordance with this Guide.

## **6. Fields of Work of Public Welfare Associations**

Pursuant to Article (4) of the Decree by Law, the fields of work and activities of Public Welfare Associations are structured as follows:



## 7. List of Fields of Work of Public Welfare Associations<sup>1</sup>:

List of Fields	Description
Culture and Creative Arts	Promoting cultural, artistic, and creative expression, preserving heritage, and disseminating knowledge.
Scientific Research	Enhancing knowledge and understanding in scientific fields.
Education	Supporting and empowering individuals by providing learning opportunities and skills development.
Professional Development	Safeguarding the interests of specific professions and supporting their advancement.
Entertainment and Sports	Promoting entertainment and leisure activities and encouraging sports.
Environment	Protecting and conserving ecosystems and natural resources (excluding animals).
Charitable and Humanitarian Work	Providing assistance and support to communities in need, especially those affected by crises.
Family and Community Empowerment	Enhancing the quality of social care provided to the community.
Animal Welfare	Ensuring the protection of animal rights and safety.
Health	Advancing healthcare standards and overall quality of life.
Volunteering	Promoting and facilitating community engagement and volunteerism.

<sup>1</sup> A Public Welfare Association shall operate within only one of the specified fields of work.

## **8. List of Public Welfare Activities Associated with the Fields of Work of Public Welfare Associations<sup>1</sup>:**

Culture and Creative Arts	Scientific Research	Education	Professional Development	Entertainment and Sports	Environment
Cultural Heritage	Technology and Engineering Research	Early Childhood Education	Science and Engineering	Entertainment Activities	Sustainability and Climate Change
Cultural Education	Biological Research	Public School Education	Healthcare	Supporters of Sports and Clubs	Recycling
Arts	Environment and Earth Sciences	Higher Education	Teaching		Marine Environments
Design	Space Exploration and Astronomy	Vocational Education and Training	Business and Management		Terrestrial Environments
Audio-Visual Media	Physics and Chemistry Research	Technical and Vocational Education	Legal Affairs		
	Humanities and Social Sciences	Continuing Education and Literacy	Social Fields		
	Mathematical and Statistical Sciences		Industry and Agriculture		
			Tourism and Culture		
			Alumni and Colleague Networks		

<sup>1</sup> A Public Welfare Association may engage in one or more activities within its primary field of work.

Charitable Work	Family and Community Empowerment	Health	Animal Welfare	Volunteering
	Children	Physical Health and Therapeutic Measures	Protection of Pets	Empowerment and Capacity Building
	Women	Mental Health Services and Therapeutic Measures	Wildlife Conservation	Volunteering
	People of Determination	Preventive Health Services	Veterinary Services	
	Senior Citizens	Quality of Life and Healthy Nutrition	Other Specialized Animal Welfare Services	
	Communities	Mother and Child Care		
	Youth			
	Family Cohesion			
	National Identity and Citizenship			
	Human Rights			
	Vulnerable Groups			

## **9. Public Welfare Activities Conducted by Public Welfare Associations According to Their Approved Field**

The importance of this section lies in highlighting the description of public Welfare activities associated with the approved fields of work. The inclusion of examples for each activity is intended as a reference to guide and facilitate the classification process.

## 1. Culture and Creative Arts:

Level Two – Activities	Description / Definition	Examples (Non-Exhaustive)
Cultural Heritage	Promoting traditions, artworks, and authentic traits passed down from generation to generation within the community or group.	Safeguarding intangible cultural heritage.
		Protecting cultural heritage.
Cultural Education	Learning about different cultures and heritage, including studying their history and the development of craft skills.	Cultural academies, schools, and institutes.
Arts	Promoting various forms of art and artistic expression.	Literary arts museum.
		Visual arts exhibitions.
		Performing arts.
Design	Supporting engagement with various forms of design.	Cultural products crafts (jewelry, fashion, etc.).
Audio-Visual Media	Promoting audio-visual media.	Journalism services.
		Public broadcasting.
		Development of social media.

## 2. Scientific Research:

Level Two – Activities	Description / Definition	Examples (Non-Exhaustive)
Technology and Engineering Research	Research in the field of technology and engineering.	Research and development in robotics.
		Machine learning.
		Application of artificial intelligence in various industries.
Biological Research	Research in the fields of biology and medicine.	Medical research.
		Research in microbiology.
Environment and Earth Sciences	Research in the fields of environment and earth sciences.	Stratigraphy and Paleontology.
		Research in climatology.
Space Exploration and Astronomy	Research in the fields of astronomy and space exploration.	Research in astrophysics.
		Study of stars and galaxies.
Physics and Chemistry	Research in the fields of physics and chemistry.	Research in nanoscience.
		Research in thermodynamics.
Humanities and Social Sciences	Research in the fields of humanities and social sciences.	Study of philosophy.
		Research in sociology.
Mathematical and Statistical Sciences	Research in the fields of mathematics and statistics.	Theory Development.
		Promoting the application of mathematics in science and industry.

### 3. Education

Level Two – Activities	Description / Definition	Examples (Non-Exhaustive)
Early Childhood Education	Providing and improving educational opportunities and resources available to young children (pre-kindergarten stage).	Nurseries.
Public School Education	Providing and improving educational programs, resources, and support offered to students in primary education stages.	Schools.
		Kindergartens.
Higher Education	Developing educational services provided at colleges and universities, and enabling beneficiaries to access them.	Universities.
Capacity Building and Knowledge Transfer	Enhancing capacity building and knowledge transfer through specialized training programs.	Training academies for high-potential talents.
		Online career skills courses.
Technical and Vocational Education	Promoting learning based on skills-enhancement programs and training to prepare students and individuals for technical and vocational career paths.	Vocational education academies.
		Online technical learning courses.
Continuing Education	Providing continuous learning opportunities and encouraging their utilization.	Adult literacy programs.
		Training courses and online resources for all age groups.

#### 4. Professional Development:

(1/2):

Level Two – Activities	Description / Definition	Examples (Non-Exhaustive)
Science and Engineering	Supporting interests and developing professionals in the fields of science and engineering.	Physicists and earth science specialists.
		Mathematicians and statisticians.
		Life science specialists.
		Engineers (excluding electrical engineering).
		Electrical engineers.
		Architects, planners, surveyors, and designers.
Health	Supporting interests and developing professionals in the field of healthcare.	Physicians.
		Nurses.
		Traditional and complementary medicine specialists.
		Allied health practitioners.
		Veterinarians.
		Other healthcare specialists.
Teaching	Supporting interests and developing professionals in the field of teaching and academic services.	University professors and higher education instructors.

	Vocational education teachers.
	Secondary education teachers.
	Primary and early childhood schoolteachers.
	Other schoolteachers.

(2/2):

Level Two – Subcategories	Description / Definition	Examples (Non-Exhaustive)
<b>Business and Management</b>	Supporting interests and developing professionals in the fields of business and management.	Finance and accounting specialists.
		Management specialists.
		Sales, marketing, and public relations specialists.
		Information and Communication Technology (ICT) specialists.
		Software and application developers, and analysts.
Database and network specialists.		
<b>Legal Affairs</b>	Supporting interests and developing professionals in the legal fields.	Legal affairs specialists (judges and lawyers).
<b>Social Fields</b>	Supporting interests and developing professionals in social fields.	Librarians, archivists, and exhibition curators.
		Social and religious affairs specialists.
		Authors, journalists, and linguists.

<b>Industry</b>	Supporting interests and developing professionals in the industrial fields.	Factory and machinery operators and assemblers.
<b>Agriculture</b>	Supporting interests and developing professionals in agricultural fields.	Skilled agricultural workers.
		Skilled fisheries workers.
<b>Tourism</b>	Supporting interests and developing professionals in tourism fields.	Travel agents.
		Tour operators.
<b>Culture</b>	Supporting interests and developing professionals in the cultural field.	Creative artists and performing arts professionals.
		Traditional Arts Practitioners
<b>Alumni and Colleague Networks</b>	University alumni associations and federations.	

## 5. Entertainment and Sports:

Level Two – Activities	Description / Definition	Examples (Non-Exhaustive)
Entertainment Activities	Providing and promoting entertainment and leisure activities.	Cooking clubs.
		Reading and writing clubs.
		Yacht clubs.
		Motorcycle and car groups.
		Travel guidance.
		Bird-watching groups.
Supporters of Sports and Clubs	Supporting and enhancing experiences and community engagement in clubs and fan associations.	Professional sports fan associations.
		Sports club fan associations.

## 6. Environment:

Level Two – Activities	Description / Definition	Examples (Non-Exhaustive)
Sustainability and Climate Change	Developing sustainable energy solutions, promoting the efficient use of resources, and taking necessary measures to address climate change.	Clean energy infrastructure (solar and wind).
		Climate change mitigation and awareness-raising.
		Promoting efficient resource use.
Recycling	Promoting efficient resource use, waste reduction, and adoption of environmentally friendly production mechanisms.	Recycling facilities.
		Organic fertilizers.
		Awareness-raising on the importance of reducing food waste and loss.

<b>Marine Environments</b>	Conservation of marine environments and promoting sustainable practices aimed at maintaining and safeguarding the health of marine habitats.	Ensuring water pollution prevention.
		Conservation of coastal areas.
<b>Terrestrial Environments</b>	Preserving terrestrial environments and promoting sustainable practices aimed at maintaining and safeguarding the health of terrestrial habitats.	Protection and restoration of mountainous areas and water-scarce regions
		Conservation of various plant species.

### 7. Family and Community Empowerment:

<b>Level Two – Activities</b>	<b>Description / Definition</b>	<b>Examples (Non-Exhaustive)</b>
<b>Children</b>	Improving the standard of living of children and ensuring their care (under 14 years of age).	Child protection programs.
		Child rights groups.
<b>Women</b>	Providing equal opportunities for women and ensuring the availability of enabling conditions to empower and support.	Women support programs.
		Women’s rights groups.
<b>People of Determination</b>	Empowering People of Determination and enhancing their quality of life.	Providing care for People of Determination.
		Providing opportunities for integration into society.
<b>Communities</b>	Enhancing quality of life and supporting community development.	Promoting social cohesion.

		Capacity building.
<b>Youth</b>	Empowering youth through programs and services that support their growth, education, and health (within the age group of 15–24 years).	Mentorship and guidance activities.
		Summer camps.
<b>Family Cohesion</b>	Strengthening family relationships and promoting a supportive family environment.	Family counselling programs.
		Parental support initiatives.
<b>National Identity and Citizenship</b>	Promoting a sense of pride and citizenship and encouraging the adoption of customs and traditions.	Delivery of training programs that foster pride in national identity and the adoption of customs and traditions.
<b>Human Rights</b>	Promoting and protecting individuals' fundamental rights and freedoms (excluding women and children).	Legal aid and justice programs.
<b>Vulnerable Groups</b>	Enhancing quality of life and providing opportunities for vulnerable groups.	Reintegration of marginalized individuals into society.
		Prisoner rehabilitation programs.

## 8. Charitable and Humanitarian Activities:

Level Two – Activities	Description / Definition	Examples (Non-Exhaustive)
Charitable and Humanitarian Activities	Providing assistance and support to communities in need, particularly those affected by crises.	Charitable activities.
		Humanitarian assistance.

## 9. Health:

Level Two – Activities	Description / Definition	Examples (Non-Exhaustive)
Physical Health Services and Therapeutic Interventions	Providing and improving access to healthcare and therapeutic programs addressing physical health conditions.	Hospitals and primary healthcare facilities.
		Health rehabilitation services.
		Health support services.
		Public health programs.
		Public health services and their funding.
		General nursing services.
Mental Health Services and Therapeutic Interventions	Providing support, resources, and therapeutic programs for mental health conditions, and ensuring the promotion of mental health care and well-being for all.	Prevention and treatment of alcohol and drug abuse, and addiction.
		Crisis hotlines and intervention services.
		Counseling support groups.

		Organizations concerned with mental health disorders.
		General or multi-activity mental health associations.
<b>Preventive Health Services</b>	Providing and promoting the use of programs and resources dedicated to disease prevention and the enhancement of public health.	Disease control and awareness-raising.
<b>Quality of Life and Healthy Nutrition</b>	Improving public health through awareness of proper nutritional practices, providing programs to promote healthy lifestyles, and offering supportive resources.	Management of food allergies and intolerances.
		Nutritional services.
<b>Maternal and Child Care</b>	Improving health outcomes and providing support for expectant mothers, infants, and young children.	Pre- and postnatal care.
		Family planning and reproductive health.

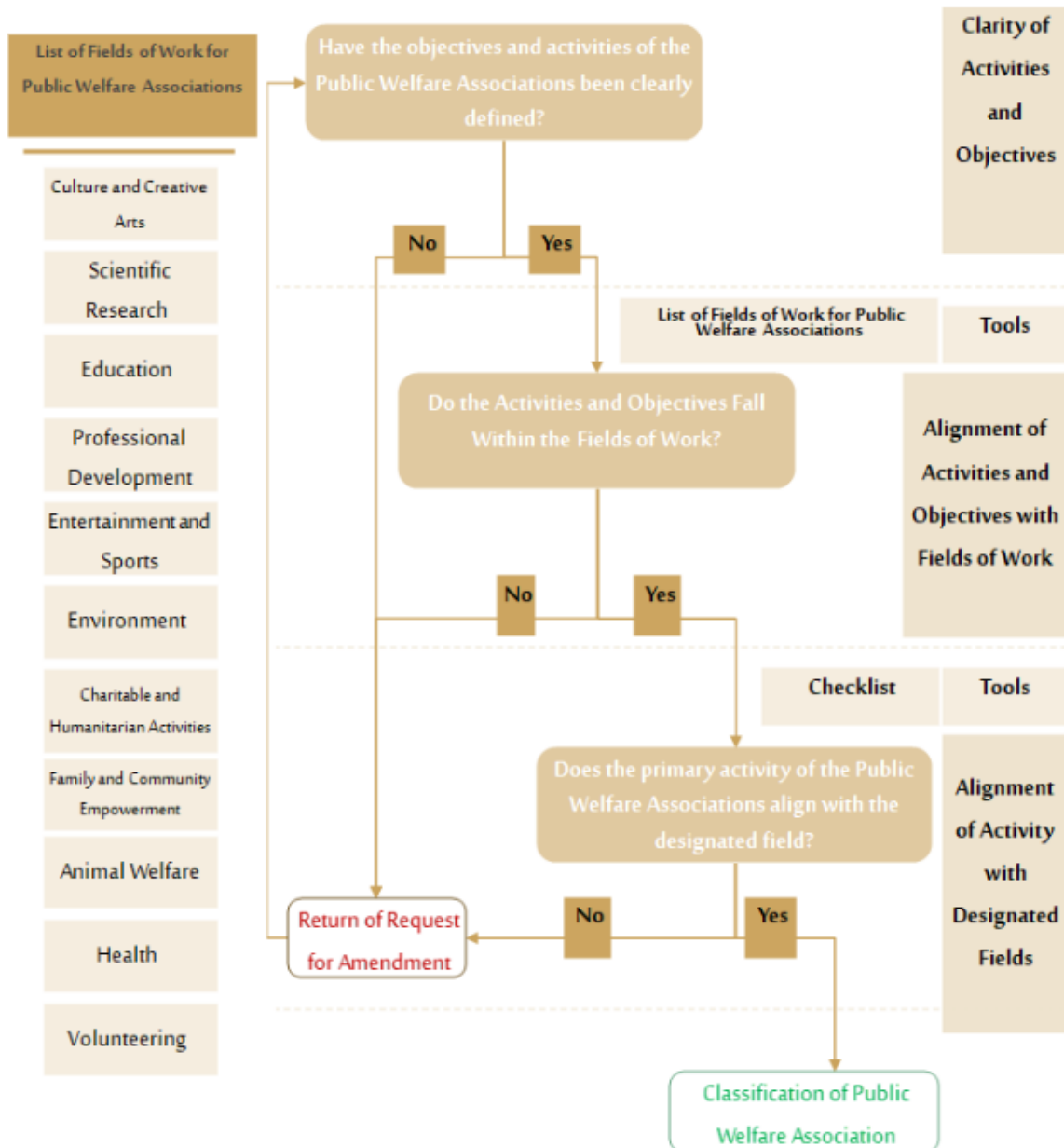
## 10. Animal Welfare:

Level Two – Activities	Description / Definition	Examples (Non-Exhaustive)
Protection of Pets	Protection of animals and their welfare, including pets and farm animals.	Shelters for abandoned pets.
		Raising awareness of the importance of humane treatment of farm animals.
Wildlife Conservation	Protection and conservation of wildlife and their natural habitats.	Protection of endangered species.
		Rescue and release services.
Veterinary Services	Providing medical and therapeutic care for animals.	Free veterinary clinics.
Other Specialized Animal Welfare Services	Providing specialized care and support for animals with special needs or conditions, beyond conventional veterinary services.	Shelters for blind pets.
		Care for aging pets.
		Mobility solutions for animals with disabilities or impairments.

## 11. Volunteering:

Level Two – Activities	Description / Definition	Examples (Non-Exhaustive)
Capacity Building and Empowerment	Enhancing the capabilities and supporting other Public Welfare Associations by mobilizing necessary resources, including providing in-kind or financial support.	Financial support.
		Provision of pro bono services (e.g., legal advice, consultancy, graphic design preparation, website development, etc.).
Volunteering	Supporting volunteers and enhancing their capacities.	Connecting volunteers with volunteering opportunities.
		Volunteering training.

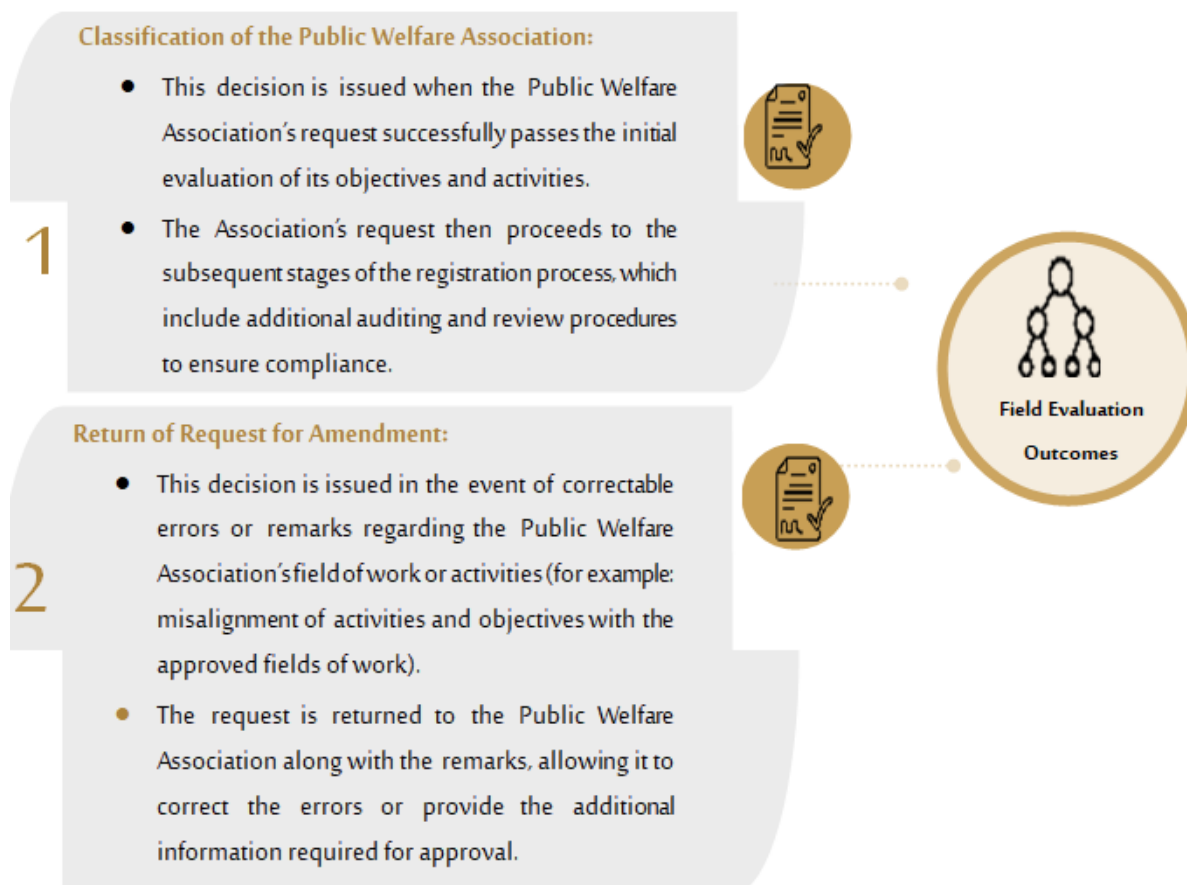
## 10. Mechanism for Classifying Public Welfare Associations within Fields:



## 11. Outcomes of the Decision-Making Process

The decision-making process results in one of the following outcomes:

- a. Approval of the Public Welfare Association's classification.
- b. Requesting the Public Welfare Association to amend its activities and field of work to align with one of the approved fields.



## 12. Assessment of the Current Status of the Classification Process:

The Ministry shall review and evaluate the current classification of Public Welfare Associations in accordance with the new classification system, as follows:

