



الجهاز المركزي للمعلومات
Central Informatics Organization

الأمم المتحدة
UNITED NATIONS



Millennium Development Goals

The Kingdom of Bahrain 2015







**HIS HIGHNESS
SHAIKH KHALIFA BIN SALMAN
AL KHALIFA**

The Prime Minister



**HIS MAJESTY
KING HAMAD BIN ISA
AL KHALIFA**

The King of
The Kingdom of Bahrain



**HIS HIGHNESS
SHAIKH SALMAN BIN HAMAD
AL KHALIFA**

The Crown Prince
First Deputy Prime Minister



Lt-General Shaikh Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa
Ministry of Interior
Kingdom of Bahrain



Fifteen years after the United Nations Millennium Development Goals Declaration, we are standing now in 2015 at the threshold of a final review of this report for the development ambitions achieved for Bahrainis in the view of the challenges and opportunities that lay ahead. Since the United Nations announced the Millennium Goals in 2000, the Kingdom of Bahrain has adopted the MDGs challenge to share the international community's concern and aspirations, in particular that these goals have been stood as priorities for which Bahrain is made efforts for development in line with its comprehensive vision 2030 .The Kingdom has not only honored its national commitments but it has also successfully managed to align with other States in their campaign to eradicate poverty by preserving its leading role in terms of full compliance with international economic and social instruments .The UN reviewed Bahrain's achievements in 2010 and honored His Royal Highness Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa for his pioneering role in furthering the global goal of sustainable growth.

Despite its rapid urbanization ,the Kingdom , however, like other countries around the world, is facing major challenges such as climate change, political and political upheavals , rapid growth in economic areas and all matters in relation to the national and international accomplishments made in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).In the middle of these challenges , this report points out that the Kingdom of Bahrain is on the right track to achieve the goals and maintain the milestone achievements ,of which some were achieved in full such as eradication of poverty or completely accomplished such as education and health.

Under the wise leadership of His Majesty the King Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa, the King of the country, the Kingdom of Bahrain will keep steadfast to its sustained efforts to provide decent living for its people, well-being and quality of life, and foster productivity –centered culture by creating programs designed for more opportunities to earn living in such a safe environment .The Kingdom will catch up with the States in its adoption of the post-2015 sustainable development goals (SDGS),recognizing that the next challenges requires synergy of wills coordination of regional and international efforts ,guided by its culture of peaceful coexistence and social security.

Peter Grohmann

United Nations Resident Coordinator

United Nations Development Programme Resident Representative



Over the last 15 years, the Government of Bahrain has been committed towards meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and improving the lives of its citizens. The MDGs framework has proven extremely valuable in focusing attention and efforts on addressing some of the most important development challenges facing Bahrain and the world.

With only a few months remaining till the deadline of the Millennium Development Goals, the 2015 National Millennium Development Goals (MDG) Report for the Kingdom of Bahrain is being issued at a critical time as world leaders take stock of past achievements and prepare to adopt the succeeding Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals at the 70th session of the UN General Assembly in September 2015.

Prepared by the Central Informatics Organization of Bahrain and with the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), and the United Nations Country Team in Bahrain, this fourth MDG national report takes stock of the progress made till date.

Over the last decade, the Government of Bahrain has made important strides to diversify its economy to help boost productivity, living standards, and create jobs opportunities for its citizens. Bahrain has also established a comprehensive social protection system to address social inequalities and support vulnerable segments of the population. With the establishment of the Supreme Council for Women, national efforts have been made to improve the economic and political participation of Bahraini women. The establishment of Bahrain's Supreme Council for the Environment and the Ministry of Energy's Sustainable Energy Unit is demonstrative of Bahrain's commitment to address climate change challenges and to ensure that Bahrain's development trajectory will be sustainable.

The United Nations in Bahrain would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Bahrain for its extraordinary achievements over the past 15 years and its commitment to international development goals. Going forward, the United Nations in Bahrain will use the information in this report to support national development planning and the implementation of the Government Programme 2015-2018, in addition to Bahrain's efforts to achieve the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals.

On behalf of the United Nations in Bahrain, let me reiterate our commitment to support the Government of Bahrain and national partners as the country prepares to implement the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

Acknowledgments

The General Directorate of Statistics of the Central Informatics Organization would like to extend their sincere gratitude to everyone who contributed in the preparation and publication of this report.

From Office of The First Deputy Prime Minister office,
Mrs. Nouf Jamsheer, Mrs. Lulwa Almuhana, Mr. Hassan Al Hassan

From Ministry of Social Development,
Mrs. Badriya Al Jeeb

From Sepreme Council of Women,
Dr. Dunia Ahmed

From Ministry of Education,
Mrs. Nawal Ebrahim AlKhater

From Ministry of Labour,
Dr. Muhamed Al Ansari

From Ministry of Health,
Dr. Maryam Aljalahma

From Sepreme Council of Environment,
Eng. Zahwa Alkuwari

From Ministry of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning,
Mr. Abdulkareem Radhi

From Ministry of Finance,
Mr. Hassan Al Jabal

From Bahrain Economic Development Board,
Mrs. Nada Azzmi

From Central Informatics Organization,
Mrs. Huda Al Shrooqi

Special thanks to those who prepared this report,

Mr. Adib Nehmah

Expert, Economic and Social Commission for West Asia (ESCWA)

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Millennium Development Goals

of The Kingdom of Bahrain 2015

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Table of Progress in Achieving General Goals



Achieve



Progress with Difficulties

	1 Eradicating extreme poverty and hunger	
	2 Achieving universal primary education	
	3 Promoting Gender Equality and Empowering Women	
	4 Reducing Child Mortality	
	5 Improving Maternal Health,	
	6 Combating HIV/AIDS, Malaria, and other Diseases	
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	8 Developing a global partnership for Development	

INTRODUCTION

After negotiating the final draft of the Millennium Development Goals 2000, the context necessitated the development of a national commitment list based on the first seven goals, to be matched by the eighth goal on the international partnership, which is considered as an assistive prime requirement to achieve the overall goals.

In fact, if we pass the narrow definition of being merely a set of specific international obligations in the technical sense, the eighth goal is emphasizing that real sustainable development goals can only be achieved in light of an enabling environment. In such an environment; there should be an assistive and supportive international and regional climate, and on the other hand, a framework for national holistic policies should be also available, including macro economic development policies, in addition to the prevalence of peace, security, stability and sound governance of the development process internationally, regionally and nationally.

This organic interdependence is noticeable among all these elements of the Millennium Declaration and its associated reports and mechanisms, including the Millennium Development Goals, as the many reports that have been released in the extended period since 2000, including the five year revisions 2005 and 2010, as well as a number of critical studies in this regard.

The achievement of the major development goals and ensuring their sustainability in the broader context of development, depend on a number of factors, which in turn require a comprehensive approach from a systematic perspective, it is essential here that the following elements are available:

1. Recognize the importance of the five non-derogable dimensions of development. In this sense, the conceptual framework for sustainable human development is based on five equally important components or dimensions: the economic dimension, the social dimension, the environmental dimension (the three pillars of the concept of sustainable development, according to recent literature), the political-institutional dimension (with its two folds of peace and security and good governance), and the cultural dimension (with its two folds of, knowledge and skills, values and behaviors). Starting from these quintet components of the concept of development is crucial in order to understand the complex reality, carry out effective planning and achieve the desired outcomes.
2. Ensuring sustainability through the conscious actions of the development parties in linking between planning and action within a short-term, medium-term and long-term framework and based on a forward-looking progressive vision. Development is not a temporary localized achievement in a sector or an area which its impact soon diminishes before the expansive dynamics of recession and degradation; but achieving development goals rather means to achieve steady and stable progress, a progress which is more than having direct impact on space or time, but rather to generate positive self-advancing dynamics in the community and expands to include other areas as well.

Report Design

This report has been prepared in a manner that combines:

- Providing an overall assessment of progress achieved in the Millennium Development Goals in Bahrain.
- Highlight national priorities beyond the global goals and targets.

The report's design follows the same parts and sequence as in the Millennium Development Goals. There is a chapter for each goal with all the health goals in one chapter. The chapters follow a unified design comprising the following:

1. Summary of the status of indicators.
2. The national developments and priorities in the period extending from the previous report (2010) and current one



1

**ERADICATE
EXTREME POVERTY
AND HUNGER**



Goal : 1

Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger

1- Summary of the situation

The previous national report (2010) stated the status of the first goal in its universal form, for the Kingdom of Bahrain. This can be summarized in the following points:

a) The universal definition of extreme poverty and hunger, does not apply to the Kingdom of Bahrain (as it applies to a number of countries with medium or high development level). Therefore, the first target was disregarded (Reduce by half the proportion of people living on less than a dollar a day), and the third target (Reduce by half the proportion of people who suffer from hunger), while the second target on achieving full and productive employment, was included due to its suitability to the situation of Bahrain.

b) The previous national report identified three axes forming alternative national targets as follows:

- First: Improving the living standard of the lower income groups in the community.
- Second: Reducing social inequalities.
- Third: Enhancing employment policies and working conditions on an ongoing basis.

The following is a review of the most significant developments that took place after the preparation of the previous report in accordance with the three axes referred to above.

2- The most significant national developments since the previous report

First: Improving the living standard of the lower income groups

Bahrain is a small country in terms of area and population. It is among the countries with high level of development and income. Government policies of the Kingdom in this regard is characterized by combining stimulation of economic growth and giving a primary role for the private sector coupled with a moderate degree of legislative supervision to ensure the necessary limit of social responsibility, in addition to the government's (state) major responsibility in providing public utility services, infrastructure, social services (especially health and education), a relatively extensive system of social assistance dedicated to the most needy groups in the society, and development programs to empower them. These elements collectively constitute what could be considered the outline of the government's strategy in the field of improving the standard of living and combating economic destitution.



On this basis, the traditional methods of calculating the poverty lines are not suitable for Bahrain, because the concept of extreme poverty means severe and absolute deprivation from basic needs and absence of any form of protection and capacity, which does not apply to the people of the Kingdom of Bahrain. The same applies to hunger when dietary intake is inadequate and there is severe deprivation from basic nutrition requirements as expressed in calories.

This is based on a study carried out in 2006 to identify eligible households to take advantage of the social assistance system provided by the Ministry of Social Development, which is added to the calculation of income level, as well as the update of the study carried out by the ministry in cooperation with the World Bank in 2008. This System is providing direct financial aid to families whose income is less than 337 Bahraini dinars (US \$ 894) for a family of five members. About 8.5% of the total population of Bahrain are benefiting from this system. This is the closest definition of what can be considered the minimum income for individuals and families. The system also provides assistance to some social groups due to considerations relating to the characteristics or social conditions in isolation from the state of poverty (such as persons with disabilities, divorced women and widows, as well as unmarried girls ... etc).

The total number of families benefiting from the overall social assistance system has reached 15,445 families in 2014, distributed among categories of beneficiaries, as shown in the following Table (1):

Table (1)
The number of beneficiaries of social assistance by categories and years

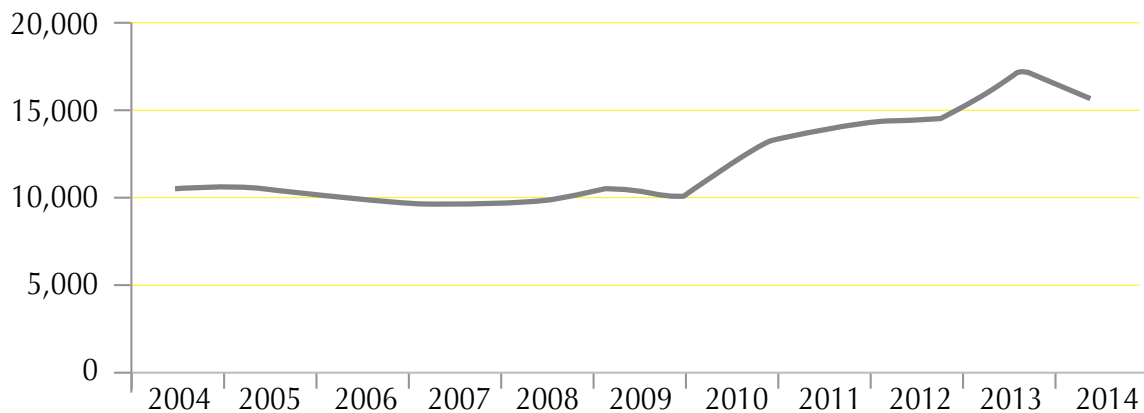
Reasons for providing Assistance	Years										
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Inability to work	1,065	148	134	707	671	436	414	404	388	310	235
Elderly	4,565	4,607	4,381	4,700	4,808	5,847	5,943	6,053	6,005	6,825	5,870
Handicapped	784	917	937	89	89	79	88	79	79	64	37
Widows	1,208	1,207	1,132	1,057	1,124	888	961	1,024	1,058	1,137	899
Divorced women	1,440	1,544	1,514	1,355	1,655	1,859	2,222	2,619	2,868	3,461	3,337
Orphans	123	115	80	123	120	124	140	144	139	141	119
Families	1,636	1,690	1,499	1,188	1,328	83	2,356	2,764	2,893	4,010	4,112
Family of a prisoner	66	67	70	47	51	0	78	103	116	94	119
Abandoned women	—	—	—	255	318	262	266	161	159	152	152
Unmarried girls	—	—	—	386	460	698	704	710	742	741	466
Boys	—	—	—	29	66	131	151	153	157	171	99
Total	10,887	10,295	9,747	9,936	10,690	10,407	13,323	14,214	14,604	17,106	15,445

Source: Ministry of Social Development

This table shows the categories covered by the social assistance system, which combines economic and social-cultural considerations which play a role in the fragility and vulnerability to poverty (such as widowhood and divorce).

On the other hand, the government policy has adopted expansion in the provision of social protection schemes during the reference period, where coverage rose by almost 42% during the period from (2004-2014), especially from 2010 as a multi-level response to the implications and impact of the global economic crisis on Bahrain, as well as after the events of 2011. Whereas the number almost remained stable during the period between 2004 and 2009.

Chart (1)
The Growing Number of Beneficiaries of The Social Protection System



Source: Ministry of Social Development

In terms of income level, constant and steady improvement in wage levels is reported in general (one of the decent work components). The average wage for Bahrainis in the public sector has increased from 782 Bahraini dinars in 2011, to 794 Bahraini dinars in 2012 to reach Bahraini dinars 808 in the fourth quarter of 2014. The same applies to the private sector, the average wage for Bahrainis has increased from 635 Bahraini dinars in 2011 to 653 Bahraini dinars in 2012 to reach 663 Bahraini dinars in the fourth quarter of 2014.

At the same time, the number of Bahrainis receiving low salaries (less than BD 200) dropped from 47.1% in 1999 to 10.3% in the second quarter of 2010, and to 2.9% in the fourth quarter of 2014. The procedure is representing the largest segment of workers in Bahrain, especially among low-income earners with respect to the first goal of the Millennium Development Goals. The data referred to above is showing a trend of continuous improvement in wage levels in this category.



However, moderate inflation rate is reported where consumer price index has risen 20.6 percentage points compared to the base year (2006). The rate of inflation between 2011 and 2014 amounted to about 6.2%, while the average wage has risen 5.5% during the same period.

Table (2)
Consumer Price Index in Bahrain

Years	2011	2012	2013	2014
CPI	113.5	114.7	118.5	120.6

Source: Central Informatics Organization (base year 2006)

Second: Reducing Social Disparities

The report on (Review of the Progress in Achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the Kingdom of Bahrain, 2010), has indicated that the average wage gap between Bahrainis and expatriate workers has reached 235 dinars in the second quarter of 2010. No actual increase is recorded in the average wage of expatriate workers during the last two years at least due to the drop in demand for expatriate workers following the global financial crisis, and as the Government maintained its policy of increasing the wages of Bahrainis, a matter which has deepened the gap between the two categories of workers in Bahrain which has come to 299 in the second quarter of 2014, indicating the continuation of the same trend as it has been in the past years.

Social disparity is a multi-faceted subject and the disparity between the wages of expatriates and citizens is just one of them. The other facets of disparities are the following:

- The disparity between men and women (will be covered in the goal of gender equality).
- Social disparity according to income and wealth levels among Bahrainis
- The disparity in income levels, according to economic sectors.
- Geographical or regional disparities between the cities and the villages or neighborhoods ... etc.

For example, with regard to sectoral disparities, the average wage of workers in the financial services sector is the highest, about 3172 dinars, compared to 473 in the trade, and 245 for other services in the private sector. The general comparison between public and private sectors indicates that the average wage in the public sector has reached 808 dinars compared to 288 dinars in the private sector for citizens and expatriates. These are large disparities which require special attention in the next phase, after careful examination of the details relating to the type of employment, occupation and the level of academic qualification.

Third: Enhancing employment policies and work conditions on an ongoing basis

Employment issues and providing decent work conditions are high priority for the Kingdom of Bahrain. This relates to the following elements:

- a) Providing job opportunities.
- b) Rewarding jobs.
- c) Safety at work (protection).
- d) Other decent work conditions

These are the elements that will be addressed respectively

a) Providing job opportunities

Progress is measured here directly through the number of jobs that are available in the public and private sectors, or indirectly by measuring the rate of economic activity and the unemployment rate.

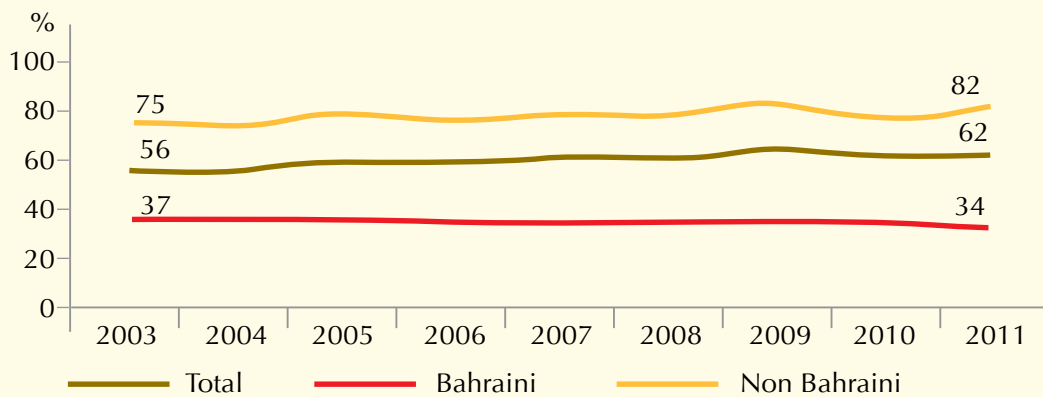
The unemployment rate in Bahrain (according to the Ministry of Labor's unemployment and seeking employment records) was 3.7% in the first quarter of 2014. This ratio almost remained steady over the last decade ranging between 4% in 2011 and 3.7% in 2012, which is considered low. The Government of Bahrain has adopted an active employment policy that has designed and implemented a number of national projects for this purpose, the most prominent of which are the National Employment Scheme (2006) and the current Unemployment Insurance Scheme.

It should be noted that the unemployed were categorized by sex, 86% for females and 14% for males. The ratio for unemployed females according to educational qualifications has reached 44.6% for holders of a university degree and 55.4% for those whose qualifications lower than that. As for males the ratio reached 29% for university degree holders and 71% for those whose qualifications lower than that. Therefore, there have been some consequences in terms of policies to be followed in the field of economic policy, employment and education policies as well, in addition to the impact of social and cultural factors and social evaluation of certain professions, which adversely affect the employment opportunities for the citizens, especially for females.

On the other hand, chart (2) below, shows the growth of the economic activity ratio (the proportion of workers to the total working-age population) for citizens, and the total population, including expatriates. The ratio of economic activity for expatriates is noticeably higher than the citizens due to the fact that the expatriates are mostly males of working age, and this is one of the characteristics of GCC economies, including Bahrain.



Chart (2)
Growth Rate of Workers to Total Population in the Working-Age Between 2003 and 2011



Source: Labour Market Regulatory Authority

As shown in chart (2), the Bahraini economy has maintained its ability to generate job opportunities for citizens and expatriates, according to the stable rates, permeated by some temporary setbacks due to the impact of the global economic crisis in 2008.

b. Rewarding jobs.

A rewarding job means that pay commensurates with the effort exerted and with the cost of living. Some aspects in this regard were mentioned in the previous paragraphs (wage levels and disparities by sector).

Furthermore, the Kingdom of Bahrain is paying special attention to the issue of vocational training and rehabilitation as one of the main mechanisms for providing job opportunities and improving work conditions themselves after rehabilitation. Bahrain has a professional training and rehabilitation system of a high quality, and the number of beneficiaries is relatively large compared to the size of the workforce. This system also integrates with the system of insurance against unemployment, and it is carried out directly with the participation of the private sector in selecting purviews, training management and providing employment opportunities for the trainees. Total number of beneficiaries of the training programs from the Ministry of Labour and other entities reached 18,169 trainees until December 2014.

c. Safety at work (protection).

Providing protection for workers, citizens and expatriates is considered the most important requirement for economic security and decent work. As regards expatriates there are a number of actions taken by the Bahraini government. The most important are as follows:

- Providing health coverage for all expatriate workers.
- Providing insurance against unemployment to expatriate workers in accordance with the prescribed terms and conditions.

Insurance against unemployment constitutes the most important mechanism to ensure the protection of Bahraini workers. As part the reform project of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, King of the Kingdom of Bahrain to reform the labor market and training, the Insurance against Unemployment Scheme was launched by Law No. 78 of 2006, as a new component of the social security network in the Kingdom.

The scheme includes two types of assistance: the first is unemployment subsidies for first time job seekers, and is for Bahraini nationals, and the second scheme is unemployment compensation which includes Bahraini and non-Bahraini workers who are working under formal employment contracts in the Kingdom. See table (3) below.

Table (3)

Beneficiaries of unemployment subsidies and compensations from January 2008 till October 2013

Beneficiaries of unemployment subsidies and compensations from January 2008 till October 2013	Males	Females	Total
Beneficiaries of subsidies	1,1241	32,228	43,469
Beneficiaries of compensations	4,810	3,436	8,246
Total number of beneficiaries (subsidies and compensations)	16,051	35,664	51,715

Source: Ministry of Labour

d. Other decent work conditions

The employment policies which are compatible with the Millennium Development Goals are not limited to the aspects referred to above (the availability of jobs, fair wages, safety and protection), but also include other general and group specific aspects which include the following:

Availability of health requirements in the workplace, and this is also linked to the sixth goal on health. In this regard, there are laws governing health requirements in workplaces such as the Labour Law for private sector, chapter XV (occupational health and safety and work environment), which stipulates that the employer shall provide the means of occupational health and safety in the workplace to ensure the prevention of work hazards in particular, the following risks:

- Mechanical hazards that arise as a result of collision or contact between a worker's body and a solid object such as the hazards of building, construction, excavation, landslides, falls and hazards arising from equipment, machinery, transport facilities and handling equipment.
- Hazards arising from dealing with solid, liquid or gaseous chemicals or arising from the leaking of such materials to the work environment.
- Natural hazards affecting the worker's safety and health as a result of a natural threat or damage such as heat, humidity, cold weather, noise, harmful or dangerous radiation, vibrations, increase or decrease of the atmospheric pressure in which work takes place.



- Hazards arising from the lack of the security, rescue or first aid facilities, hygiene or similar hazards or nutrition in the instances where an employer has a legal obligation to provide it.
- Fire hazards and the hazards arising from electricity or lighting.

An employer shall post in a prominent place of the work premises the necessary guidance, directions, posters and other visual aid material related to the work hazards and means of protection against them.

In general, workplaces meet health requirements for workers in the public sector and private sector service and industrial institutions. The Ministerial Order No. (24) of 2007, with respect to the prevention of working during noon time for workers in the construction sector under the sun and in open spaces from 12 to 4 pm during the summer. The order has contributed to the protection of workers, in particular those who work in construction and contracting sector in noontime during the hot and humid summer season which may expose workers to the risk of heat stress, sun strikes and falling sick during working.

- Child and adolescent labour is not a phenomena in Bahrain, since education is mandatory and enrollment rates in basic education are close to 100%, as statistics do not capture this phenomenon, which is confined to some limited cases. There may be some cases of children assisting their family businesses such as fishing, handicrafts and shop owners, and this does not mean dropping out of school. The law prohibits child labor under the age of 18, and the law also acknowledges the right to work of those who reached the age of 15, but in certain occupations or as a trainee under certain conditions. There is a strict control to eliminate any breach of the law on this level.
- Conditions governing employment of women, in terms of workplaces or the prohibition of working during the night or working in certain professions. Ministerial Decree No. 32 of 2013 regulates occupations for which the employment of women is prohibited in line with the aspiration of the Kingdom of Bahrain to provide healthy and safe work environment for women compatible with international labor standards, and international labor conventions, most notably Convention No. (89) on employment of women during the night and the International Convention No. 155 on occupational safety and health and the work environment. The Ministerial Order prohibits employing women in a number of jobs and occupations in the private sector establishments which includes prohibition to employ women in underground work, works which expose them to intense heat such as working in front of metal smelting furnaces, works which expose them to intense and continuous physical effort, such as portage or carrying or dragging or weightlifting for more than 15-20 kg, the processes that expose them to harmful vibrations in the upper extremities or the whole body such as punching operations in the rocks, roads and buildings etc. As well as the processes for which lead is used such as lead smelting (handling or treatment or cutting of sand containing ochre or lead paint removal processes, welding or manufacturing of welding materials or alloys containing lead in excess of 10%, manufacturing of lead compounds, the process of mixing lead in making or repairing electrical batteries and cleaning the premises where the (above mentioned operations are conducted).

Providing employment opportunities for all and improvement of working conditions, includes all these dimension in addition to other aspects. As for Bahrain, it constitutes the most important dimension in addressing the issue of poverty - destitution, and improving the standard of living among other dimensions, by virtue of the level of development and advanced growth in the Kingdom.



Success Story:

The Family Bank for Microfinance

The Family Bank is considered the first pioneer Islamic micro-finance bank in the Kingdom of Bahrain and has its place in the framework of the Bahrain Economic Vision 2030, through the financial and non-financial services the Bank offers in the field of microfinance, support to low-income families and the completion of a well-established network of services aimed at small and medium enterprises in Bahrain. The bank targets the following categories:

- low-income families.
- Needy families who receive social subsidies from the government.
- low-income families supported by charities.
- Small projects registered as (productive families) projects with the Ministry of Social Development.
- Young people and women with special needs who are interested to establish small businesses.
- Owners of small projects in different economic sectors owners.

The Bank provides microfinance (7000BD) based on the type of project for families to support income-generating activities so that they can live a decent life as productive members of a vibrant economy.

Financial services:

1. Funding Program for Home-based Businesses: The Family Bank provides a financing program for home-based projects for those who carry out business activities from their homes. Funding ranges from 500 to 3000BD, provided that repayment period ranges between 3 months to 24 months maximum. More than 1300 clients have benefited from the program over the past four years.

2. Funding Program for micro-enterprises: The Bank provides financing program for owners of registered projects under the umbrella of the Ministry of Commerce and funding in this program ranges between 3000 to 7000 BD and repayment period ranges between 6 months to 36 months maximum. More than 400 individuals benefited from this program over the past four years.

Non- Financial Services:

The Family Bank offers non-financial services to borrowers such as organizing training programs in business management basics and small businesses to the owners of existing and emerging projects, as well as providing local consultations and cooperation with external experts for enhancing the skills of micro-entrepreneurs. The bank also launches projects limited to its clients to contribute to the development



of standards of living by proposing programs for institutions that support entrepreneurs. It also facilitates marketing and promotion of products and services offered by the bank's clients in domestic and international markets. All this to ensure effective use of financing, improve productivity and increase revenues for entrepreneurs and contribute to overcoming non-financial barriers they may face.

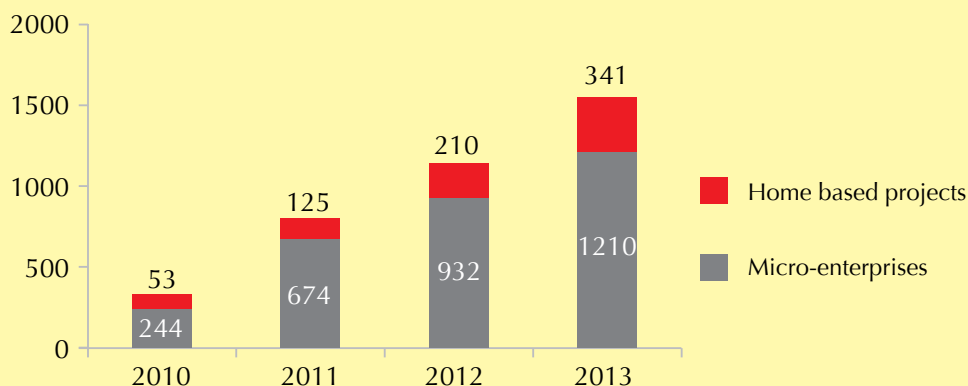
NGOs support program:

As part of the bank's keenness to provide support to the largest number possible of beneficiaries recognizing the important role played by civil society organizations in supporting productive families, the Bank has established NGOs support program through which it provides funding for NGOs, which in turn provide re-finance to their clients. Funding for this program is up to 100,000 BD. The repayment period ranging from 6 months to 36 months maximum.

The bank's operations have witnessed better development in the third year (2012), representing a rate of high growth as a result of 350 newly joined clients, which has led to increase in the size of financial transactions to 1.8 million dinar benefiting 1143 clients mostly females by 67%, which indicates a growth of this trend. This rate rose to 143% compared to 2011 and 385% compared to 2010. However, the Bank in order to achieve its objectives has faced many challenges, the most important of which the behaviors of borrowers. At the same time, the number of individuals repaying their debts increased in 2012, due to the exclusion of those who do not meet lending requirements where 750 applications were rejected, i.e., 40% of the number of applications submitted.

End of December 2013 the bank won the SME Award of His Highness Shaikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Establishment for Small and Medium Size Enterprises as the best supportive institution for small enterprises in the Arab world for 2013.

The Number of Beneficiaries





Success Story: Housing Services

The Kingdom of Bahrain is one of the first Gulf countries devoting a large part of oil revenues for the implementing infrastructure projects, financing social, urban and housing development. Since the sixties of the last century Bahrain has continued to provide all kinds of housing services to its citizens in line with its constitutional obligations stipulated in Article (9) of paragraph (f) of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain "The State shall endeavor to provide housing for low-income citizens,". It has provided 106,927 housing service including 33,002 housing units, 12,031 housing plots, 57,315 housing loans along with leasing 4,579 leasing apartments and providing financial support as a housing allowance. The estimated total cost of housing services is about 3.1 billion Bahraini dinars.

Despite the fact that the government is continuously providing housing services for low-income citizens, the number of applications for housing units on the waiting list have risen to approximately 58,743 applications at a rate of about 4,000 housing units per year as a result of the increasing population growth and the increase in households growth rates.

To meet these challenges, the Ministry of Housing constantly modernizes and develops housing policy and strategy to become more flexible and responsive to economic and social variables in line with the Bahrain Economic Vision 2030 and the National Strategy for the Development. The Ministry has developed a strategic five-year plan to reduce the waiting period for the housing unit requests to five years by encouraging partnership between the public and private sectors for the provision of social housing through implementing various initiatives such as the purchase of ready housing units program from the private sector, in addition to the social housing finance program and the activation of the mortgage system as well as traditional programs and projects in the construction which are implemented by the Ministry. The restoration and rebuilding of old run-down houses is one of the pilot programs that serve to improve the urban environment and help the Bahraini needy families and some social strata who are not able to benefit from the housing services by providing healthy and adequate housing through the restoration and rebuilding of their old run-down houses.

Housing Services Provided from 2010 to 2013

Housing Services	No
Housing units	5769
Housing plots	1164
Housing loans	7892
Rental flats	238
Total	15,063



2

**ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL
PRIMARY EDUCATION**



Goal : 2

Achieve Universal Primary Education

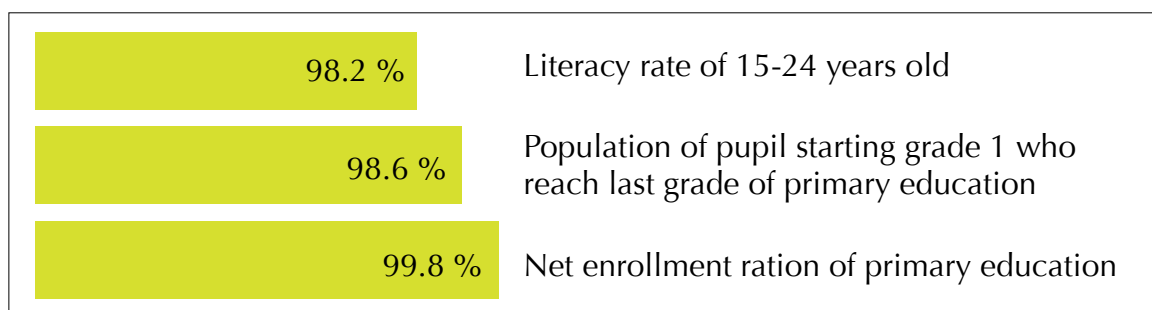
1- Summary of the Situation

The Second Goal of the MDGs provides for ensuring that all children are enrolled in schools and complete primary schooling. It also includes an indicator for the literacy rate among young people. The previous national reports have indicated that not only these global targets have been met in the Kingdom of Bahrain since 2000, but also they neither commensurate with the level of advancement of education and its quantitative and qualitative indicators in the Kingdom, nor with the ambitious goals included in the national plans in the field of education.

Education in the Kingdom of Bahrain is compulsory. Children enroll at either public or private schools when they reach school age. The Ministry of Education provides free education for all Bahraini and non-Bahraini students studying at public schools for the three stages of education (primary, intermediate and secondary), for age categories (6-17 years) without any discrimination between males and females, providing them with the necessary textbooks at the beginning of each academic year free of charge.

Chart (3)

Goal (2) Indicators in The Field of Education in The Kingdom of Bahrain, 2010



Source: Central Informatics Organization, Ministry of Education

The net enrolment rate for the basic education stage (Primary 99.8%, 93% intermediate) and 81.7% in the secondary stage. The net enrollment ratio is to match the age of pupils enrolled with the educational stage, i.e., it is an internal performance indicator for the educational system. In terms of the gross enrollment, the ratio of students who are not enrolled in schools in the basic education stage is zero%.



The literacy rate among young people (15-24 years old) is 98.2%, and equality in education between males and females has also been achieved, even the percentage of females is more than males, especially at the university level. This will be addressed in the presentation and analysis of the third goal of the Millennium Development Goals.

On this basis, the previous (2010) report determined two main axes for this target: 1- Maintaining the high standard achieved for quantitative indicators and 2- Focusing on the qualitative dimensions of education.

2- The most significant national developments since the previous report

The following presentation reviews the most important developments witnessed in the education sector from the perspective of the second MDG, during the period that followed the previous report. The presentation will address the issue of maintaining the level of indicators on the one hand, and the issue of the quality of education on the other hand.

First: Maintaining the level of fulfilled achievements

Maintaining a ratio of 100% of the enrollment and primary school completion, as mentioned in the Millennium Development Goals, or reaching these ratios for the intermediate and secondary levels for the age group 6-17 year old as mentioned in the national goals.

In this regard, as shown in the previous paragraph, the quantitative aspects almost fully realized, but as for some of the gaps in the net enrollment rate, there are some issues that must be addressed in the paragraphs on the quality of education for its significance to the internal performance as noted above.

Since these high rates of enrollment are close to 100%, nothing can be said about geographic disparities or disparities between the sexes. Dropping out of school remains limited and individual in general, or limited to some vulnerable groups, which must be identified, and direct interference is required. It is worth mentioning that the Kingdom of Bahrain has developed an effective follow-up system for individual cases of school dropouts which involves the required interventions with stakeholders in order to address the problem in appropriate ways.

As pointed out by the previous report (2010), the special unit established by the Ministry of Education in 2005 to follow up the implementation of compulsory education. The unit monitors and records cases of non-enrolment of pupils in primary education at the compulsory age (6-16 year old).

The services provided by the Education Compulsion Section at the Ministry has benefited a total of 42 students in the primary stage and 7 students in the intermediate stage, as shown in the table below:

The total cumulative number for cases between the school year 2008/2009 and 2012/2013, reached 345 pupils in primary schools and 153 students in the intermediate schools. The table below shows the continuity of follow-up and improvement of its effectiveness, as well as the existence of active monitoring system which covers diverse situations and different reasons for dropping out of school.

Table (4)

Actions taken by the Unit	Number of cases in the primary stage			Number of cases in the intermediate stage		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
	188	157	345	62	91	153
Cases returned to schools	71	71	142	17	49	66
Cases transferred to the Continuous Education Directorate	2	-	2	15	7	22
Cases transferred to the Student Services Directorate	22	17	39	4	8	12
Cases transferred to the Child Protection Center	1	-	1	-	-	-
Cases transferred to the vocational training program	-	-	-	3	-	3
Cases exceeded the compulsory age	7	2	9	-	7	7
Cases moved outside of Bahrain with their families	36	26	62	3	3	6
Cases joined the Institute for Special Needs	1	-	1	-	-	-
Cases under study and follow-up	44	38	82	20	17	37
Marriage	-	2	2	-	-	-
Death	4	1	5	-	-	-

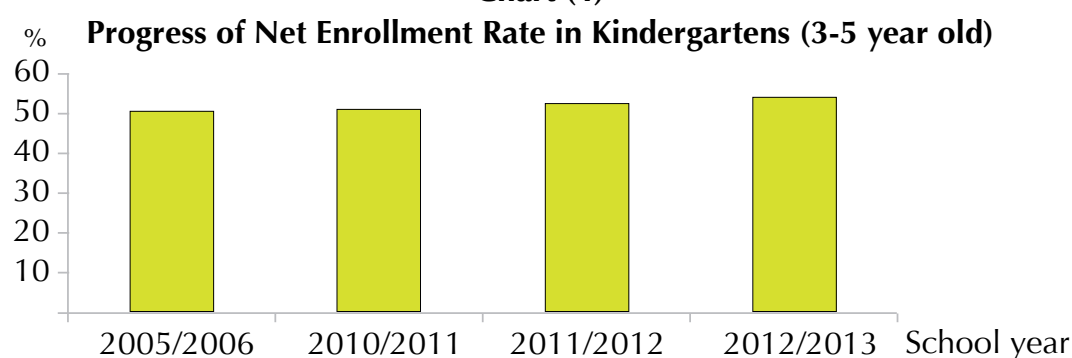
Source: Ministry of Education

As regards the quantitative aspects related to enrollment, it is worth looking at two issues: the first is the issue of enrollment in kindergartens or pre-primary education; second issue, is the enrollment of students with disabilities in inclusive schools.

a- Enrollment in Kindergartens

Previous report did not address the kindergarten enrollment for the age group 3-5 year old. It did not refer to the enrollment rates at this stage. Statistics show that enrollment rate in the kindergarten stage in the Kingdom of Bahrain was 54.1% for the age group 3-5 year old during the school year 2012/2013. It should be noted that the net enrollment rate in kindergartens increased from 50.7% in 2005/2006 to 54.1% in 2012/2013, as shown in Chart (4).

Chart (4)



Source: Central Informatics Organization, Ministry of Education



This indicates that there is a gap in this area, if these ratios are compared with the enrollment rate in the primary school which is 100%. In this regard, it should be noted that establishing kindergartens is totally left to the private sector. Disparities in enrollment in kindergartens are likely due to social status and the availability of kindergartens close to the place of residence.

b- Enrollment of students with disabilities in schools

The issue of people with disabilities enjoys great interest in national policies. This interest has increased following the ratification of the Kingdom of Bahrain of the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2011. One manifestation of this is the development of the "National Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the Kingdom of Bahrain (2012-2016)." In line with these developments, the Kingdom is adopting a rights-based approach and a comprehensive approach of integration in the community, places of work and education.

The category of persons with disabilities is the most vulnerable category to deprivation from enrollment in educational institutions. In general, the success of any educational system lies in integrating high percentage of this category, all the way to full integration in education institutions, as a definitive sign of success in achieving real enrollment.

In this respect, and as regards the enrollment of persons with disabilities in educational institutions, the latest statistics available for the year 2012/2011 and 2012/2013 refer to the following facts:

Table (5)

School Year	Gender	Enrollment of students with special needs		
		Special Education Institutions	Integrating students with special needs in public schools program	Private Education
2012/2011	Males	1012	226	495
	Females	633	201	222
No of Institutions		25	51	94
2013/2012	Males	1099	248	891
	Females	660	209	399
No of Institutions		26	54	100

Source: Ministry of Education

The Ministry of Education is constantly detects and identify all categories with special needs (mental disabilities, slow learners, those with learning difficulties, and the outstanding and talented) yearly in order to provide appropriate educational care and follow-up. It is also keen to qualify teachers and specialists through intensive training, according to the latest methods and strategies (120 teachers are qualified to provide appropriate education to them, all of them holding bachelor degrees in psychology, as well as training and rehabilitation of a number of other teachers through workshops and training

courses) in addition to developing appropriate curriculum with diverse exercises, well equipped classroom environment, holding classroom and extra-curricular activities related to the curriculum, developing individualized plans for every need and level and providing support to all the staffs in schools in terms of the proper ways to integrate these groups of people with special needs with their normal peer students.

The project seeks to achieve the following:

- Enroll students with special needs who are able to learn in public schools by 25%.
- Provide appropriate infrastructure to enroll students with special needs who are able to learn in public schools.
- Provide standardized tests in the Arabic language and math for students with special needs.
- Measure the impact of special needs programs on students with an aim to develop them.
- Adapt special evaluation system for students with special needs.
- Ensure the right of students with special needs (learning disabilities, gifted) to have a curriculum that takes into account their special needs.

The following table shows the number of schools by program applied, until the school year 2012/2013

Table (6)

Programme	Number of schools
Mental disabilities and Down syndrome	51
Learning difficulties	155
Outstanding and talented	48
Autism	3

Source: Ministry of Education

Second: Enhancing the quality of education

This section focuses on a specific number of related targets, which have been selected from the goals set for the educational sector in the Kingdom, which is closely related to the Millennium Development Goals.

The issues addressed in this report are as follows:

- a. Enhancing school performance
- b. Curriculums upgrade
- c. Promoting the developmental role of schools
- d. Promoting the use of modern technology in schools



a. Enhancing school performance

The Ministry of Education has taken practical steps to improve school timing with effect from the school year 2012 - 2013. School days have been redistributed of by reducing the exam days for the benefit of learning days by adding (14) days in the first semester without prejudice to the days of public and official holidays and provide necessary resources for the success of this project, including the provision of material and moral incentives for teachers.

School time has been increased in high school (as a first step), in conjunction with improved time performance by improving classroom management and trying to increase the time of classroom interaction for the student and the teacher. The ministry has trained (3,200 teachers) to optimize the use of time increase in learning and good classroom management, and how to teach a lesson in 60 minutes using new and advanced learning and teaching strategies.

The project on enhancing school timing has been experimented in eight intermediate schools at the beginning of the school year 2013/2014. The results confirm significant improvement since graduation rate increased 5.2%, and the percentage of upgrading students to higher classes also improved by 6%. Results have improved in scientific and literary subjects in the range of 0.7% in science, 2.8% in mathematics, 2.2% in the Arabic language and 1.2% in English. Accordingly, the project has been applied in all secondary schools in the academic year 2014/2015.

Furthermore, the government's plan for the improvements of school performance, includes improving the level of learning in mathematics in various stages based on the achievement rates in this subject, as measured by global indicators according to the results of TIMSS in 2011. The Kingdom of Bahrain ranked first at the Arab level and 41 globally in the results of the fourth grade tests in mathematics. As for science, the Kingdom of Bahrain ranked first at the Arab level and 39 globally. On this basis a project was launched to improve digital learning culture. The marks improvement for the students of Bahrain in the global tests can be considered an indicator to measure achievement.

b. Curriculums upgrade

Curriculums upgrade in the Kingdom (As per the national strategy for education) was not limited to the technical aspects and aspects related to science and traditional knowledge only (which went a long way), but also included integration the concepts of citizenship and national belonging, development, sustainability, preservation of the environment and community service ... etc, which were all incorporated into school curricula and extra-curricular activities. This would contribute to relooking at the educational function of schools in a comprehensive sense, which includes the community dimension and the behavioral and moral dimensions.

c. Promoting the developmental role of schools

Education strategy also included the promotion of developmental and social role of the school, through strengthening the role of social, psychological, vocational and health counseling, through the appointment of one social worker for every 250 students in schools. The strategy required cooperation between the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health in the field of school health promotion by opening centers for social rehabilitation and psychological counseling via a number of psychiatrists and specialists in the treatment of social and psychological problems of students. Nurses were appointed in all ministry schools to follow up on the health status of students and early detection of various diseases. Ongoing training programs were provided for counselors in the field of vision and hearing examination for school students and in the field of first-aid, which will be addressed later in health goals. This is also related to the integrated community role of schools, and the interdependence among the various development goals that can be implemented through one institutional gateways especially the school.

d. Promoting the use of modern technology in schools

As of 2009, all schools in the Kingdom were provided with modern communication technologies, and dissemination of the use of information technology in teaching, in order to expand the horizons of the students and their access to sources of information, which was boosted by other projects carried out and implemented by the Kingdom, especially the creation of a digital library containing a very large number of resources, which can be accessed by the pupils and students.





Success Story:

Integrating students with special needs in public schools

The Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain guarantees educational services for all groups, and the Education Law provides in Article V, paragraph (1) «provide educational opportunities for each individual to develop his/her aptitudes, abilities and skills to achieve the same and the development of life and society. Out of the belief of the Ministry of Education to integrate all the special education categories in public schools the following has been adopted:

The most important criteria for integration:

- **Mild mental disabilities, Down's syndrome and autism categories**
 - A medical report stating the disability, its degree and possibility for integration in the appropriate program.
 - To be in the basic education age from 6 to 18 years old.
 - No severe behavioral or psychological or physical disorders.

- **Physical Disabilities and sensory impairment**

There are no requirements preventing the students from attending with ordinary students in the public school, as the student is benefiting from the support of assistive devices that are provided to all integrated students from this category in public schools.

Support services for all categories of students with special needs:

- Enhancing school environment.
- Providing support aids such as fixed and wheelchairs, voice computers and a Braille and Pronto devices.
- Providing schools which have blind or visually impaired students (25 schools) with guiding signs (in Braille).
- The Ministry of Education provides scholarships for students with disabilities at a rate of (50) scholarships annually.
- Providing transportation services to more than 60 students distributed to 11 buses.
- Providing cash amount of 30 dinars as a transportation allowance for (30) students.
- Providing a behavior specialist, speech therapist, social worker, and occupational therapy specialist.
- The issuance of a special evaluation system for students with disabilities and learning difficulties where students can benefit from the marks of daily work (30%) of formative evaluation system.

- The issuance of a decision on the equation of the scientific subjects (chemistry, physics, mathematics, biology) for blind students with other subjects.
- Preparation of a guide to rules and regulations of the Special Education Directorate to introduce the special education programs and their specific objectives, legislations, services provided to students with special needs.
- Qualifying school human resources through sending them in scholarships for postgraduate qualifications in special education.

Completed Projects:

- Organizing an Exhibition and conference on support means for people with special needs.
- Using information and communication technology to help people with special needs in the school institution.
- Implementation of the agricultural project for students with disabilities (mental, physical and sensory) in the school institution.
- Transferring students with mild mental disabilities and Down syndrome from the schools and the Ministry of Education to the Academic and Vocational Rehabilitation Center affiliated with the Ministry of Social Development.
- Implementation of a comprehensive early childhood development program (the portage) for the specialists and teachers of mild mental disabilities, Down's syndrome and autism program.
- Studying and developing appropriate mechanisms for students with leukemia - cancer and facilitate procedures for provision of all educational services they need in the school institution.

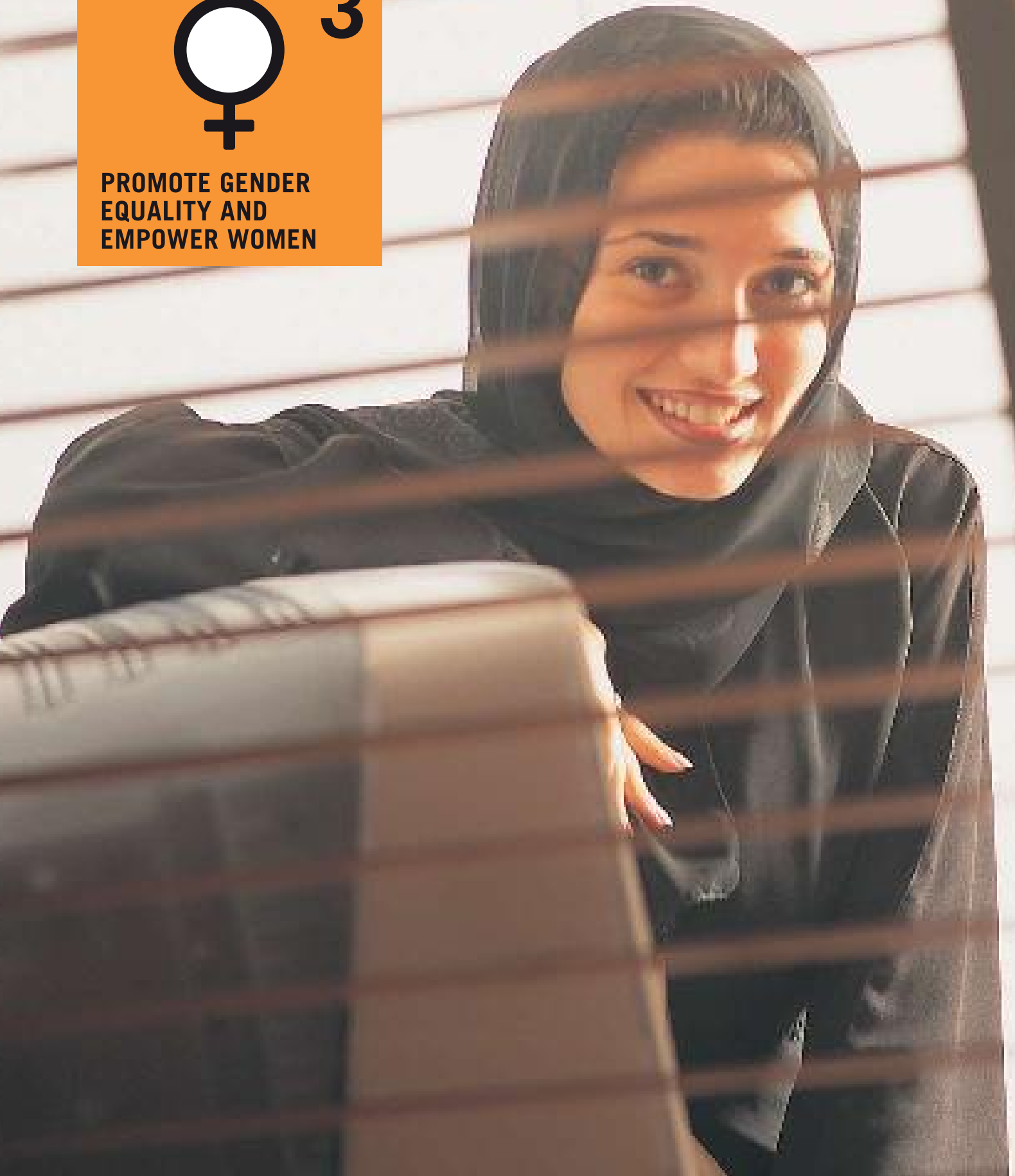
Future Projects:

- Studying the expansion of programs for intellectual disabilities, Down syndrome and autism.
- The project of building ground paths for blind students in public schools.
- The project of providing devices and assistive means for taking care of students with special needs in public schools and the Saudi Bahraini Institute for the Blind.
- The rehabilitation project for the intellectual disabilities and Down syndrome students who are over 15 years old in secondary schools.
- Developing an integrated curriculum for mild intellectual disabilities, Down syndrome and autism students.
- The project of integrating deaf students in public schools at the secondary level in the Kingdom of Bahrain.
- The project of providing care for students with special needs in public schools.
- Providing general visiting physician to follow up and check the health of the students periodically and prescribe the diet food if needed.



3

**PROMOTE GENDER
EQUALITY AND
EMPOWER WOMEN**



Goal : 3

Promote Gender Equality And Empower Women

1- Summary of the Situation

This Goal is related to the promotion of gender equality and women empowerment. Although the only quantifiable target it contains provides for equality in educational opportunities between women and men at all educational levels, yet the three indicators selected to measure progress cover the area of equality in education, job opportunities, and political representation (The Parliament).

In the previous national report for the year 2010, the assessment of the third goal achievement (gender equality and empower women) came in two phases. First, assessing the achievement of the overall goal. The report pointed out that the third goal is a priority for Bahrain, and that this goal has not been completed despite the progress achieved. In the second phase of the evaluation related to the only specific target, which is to achieve gender parity in the various stages of education. The report mentioned that this goal was accomplished since 1996. As for the economic and political participation of women, progress has recorded, but efforts must continue to empower women in these areas, noting that the Millennium Development Goals did not specify quantitative achievements in these two fields.

Accordingly, and in relation to education, the focus of attention moved to the qualitative aspects (which will be presented later). The Supreme Council for Women plan for the advancement of Bahraini women 2007 to 2012, includes themes beyond what is stated in the Millennium Development Goals. The plan, in addition to education and economic and political participation, developed action plans in the field of family, civil society, health, and environment.

The national plan for the advancement of Bahraini women (2013- 2022) came to lead the national action according to the latest strategic planning methodologies and shift from the advancement of women approach to a stage where women advance themselves taking advantage of training, education and development opportunities provided by the society, depending on their capabilities with objectives inspired by conscious convictions and a methodology based on inclusiveness and excellence institutional performance to achieve sustainable impact. It is important here to carry out continuous assessment to measure the impact of the plan on ameliorating the status of the Bahraini women through the pursuit of five areas of impact: the impact of family stability, the impact of equal opportunities, the impact of lifelong learning, the impact of quality of life, and the impact of expertise.

In general, the level of indicators at the moment in the areas referred to above came as follows:



Equality in education is generally achieved in the basic education, while in university education, the females to males ratio was 1.53 for the academic year 2011/2012. The total economic participation rate reached 21% of paid jobs outside the agricultural sector, to all citizens and expatriates according to the 2010 census. The political participation in parliament reached 14% (The Shura Council and the House of Representatives).

The paragraphs below will review developments in relation to the three fields of women empowerment addressed in the Millennium Development Goals. Other elements contained in the plans of the Supreme Council for Women 2007-2012 and 2013-2022, shall be also addressed which affect the legislative, social and cultural aspects of the status of women in Bahrain.

2- The most significant national developments since the previous report

Bahrain has succeeded in reducing the human development gap between men and women in various fields.

a. Education Equality

Equality in education has been achieved since 1996 in the Kingdom of Bahrain, as noted above. The percentage of females in government education reached 50.5% during the academic year 2012/2013, of the total enrolled in basic primary education and 49.7% in the intermediate stage and 50.1% in secondary education.

In the private education, the percentage of females to the total enrolled in private schools during the academic year 2012/2013 reached 45.6% and in the kindergarten, females percentage was 48.7%.

In higher education institutions, especially government institutions, females percentage recorded higher rates which reached 65% in government and 45% in private institutions of higher education. The ratio of female graduates from institutions of higher education during the same academic year reached 58% from government universities and institutes and 49% from private higher education institutions. The percentage of females sent in scholarships reached 67% during the academic year 2012/2013. Finally, for continuing education programs the total percentage of female reached 60.3% during the academic year 2012/2013.

Thus, it seems clear that the efforts of the Kingdom of Bahrain in the field of mainstreaming and provision of free and compulsory education, led to the realization of the principle of equal opportunities between the two sexes, and the spread of education and literacy. Therefore, the current and future phase, as already noted in presenting the second goal on education, makes it imperative to focus on the quality of education, efficiency and relevance of its priorities to the community in order to achieve social, political and economic objectives of the society in general and women in particular, and to provide more opportunities for education and vocational training in line with current and future needs of the labor market. This would increase the opportunities for women participation in the labor market and in decision-making.

Craftsman training is of great importance not only in maintaining the Bahraini heritage, but also to provide opportunities for family stability and economic sufficiency for women and families. Therefore, it is necessary to develop this area of training and provide necessary trainers, institutional work and effective mechanisms to attract women and develop their craftsmanship skills, due to its importance to women and the national economy.

Bahrain paid significant attention to technical, vocational and industrial education for women where the project of developing technical and vocational education (apprenticeship) was launched in 2007 and provided an opportunity for girls to join the commercial track programs. Girls also were enrolled in the post-secondary programs (Higher National Certificate HNC, and the Higher National Diploma HND). In the academic disciplines, the percentage of female students studying at the University of Bahrain in the branches of Arts and Humanities has reached 80% for the academic year 2012/2013, and 45% in the College of Engineering.

The pre-university government education is provided in separate schools for boys and girls, but the curriculum and examination systems are unified for all allowing equal opportunities for good performers from both sexes to obtain grants and scholarships based on the marks they achieved without discrimination.

However, curriculum upgrade takes into account the needs of both sexes without discrimination and trying to reduce the gap between them. For example, the Ministry of Education began teaching family education for boys and girls, while in the past this subject was limited to girls only. A plan was prepared to teach this subject in all boys schools. In addition to that all field training and internal training is conducted in unified simulation rooms built in accordance with the approved mechanisms based on the mastering of basic skills and competencies by all secondary schools for boys or girls.

In conclusion, equality in educations has been achieved in the quantitative aspects, while it is still questionable for some qualitative aspects. It has become necessary to search for more convenient alternative indicators.

b. Equal employment opportunities

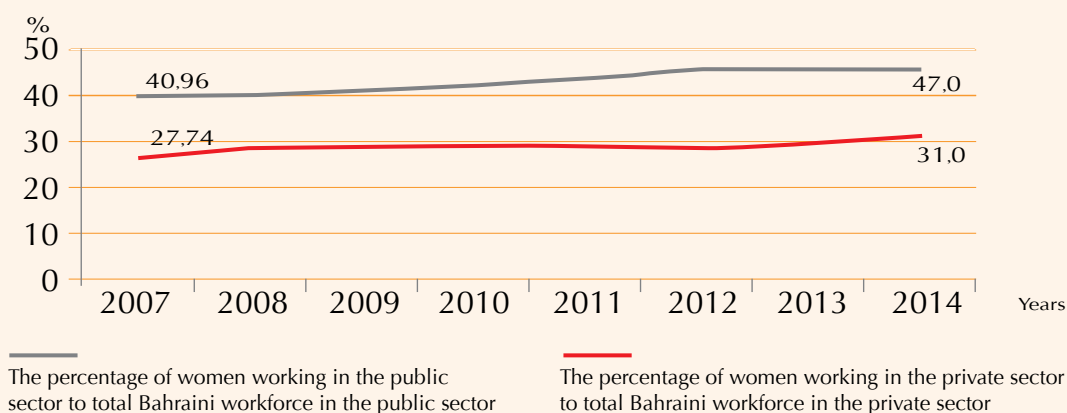
According to census data (2010), the percentage of women's representation of the total Bahraini workforce rose from 4.9% to 33.5% during the period from (1971-2010). This large increase reflects the positive outcome of education, laws and legislation issued by the Kingdom starting with the Constitution, the National Action Charter, achieving the principle of equal opportunities up to the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women, which the Kingdom of Bahrain acceded to (2002), emphasizing the principle of equality between men and women in rights and duties and access to public office. It is expected that women's participation would increase in this field in the coming years at a faster pace. This progress can be attributed to the high ratio of women's education, especially as the number of women with university qualifications now outnumber men.



The participation rate of Bahraini women in public sector jobs is higher than in the private sector, with approximately 47% in the public sector compared to about 31% in the private sector until the third quarter of 2014.

Available statistics indicate that this ratio tended to rise during the last few years. The participation rate of women in the national workforce in the public sector rose from 41% to 47% in the public sector, and from 28% to 31% in the private sector in the period between 2007 and 2013 and has maintained this rise until the third quarter of 2014. This expresses the government policy in supporting women's economic participation, see chart (5).

Chart (5)
The Percentage of Female Workers in the Private/Public Sectors from 2007-2014



Source: Social Insurance Organization

The data also indicate that the average wage of Bahraini women in the public sector has reached BD 793 and BD497 in the private sector in the fourth quarter of 2014, while the average wage of the Bahraini men has reached BD821 in the public sector and BD738 in the private sector, meaning that the average wage of women is equal to 97% of the average wage of men in the public sector and 67% in the private sector.

The Supreme Council for Women is promoting the concept of integrating the needs of women in the private sector institutions due to the significant percentage of Bahraini women working in this vital sector. Some economic institutions have paid attention to the concept of integration, either through the high participation rate in the Award of Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bin Ibrahim Al-Khalifa for the Empowerment of the Bahraini women, which also targets private sector institutions, or through their efforts to include the principles of equal opportunity in their policies and statements or the availability of support services to support the work of working women.

The Council is also seeking to develop an action framework and clear methodologies to enhance the achievement of equal opportunities in private sector institutions in order to support the provision of

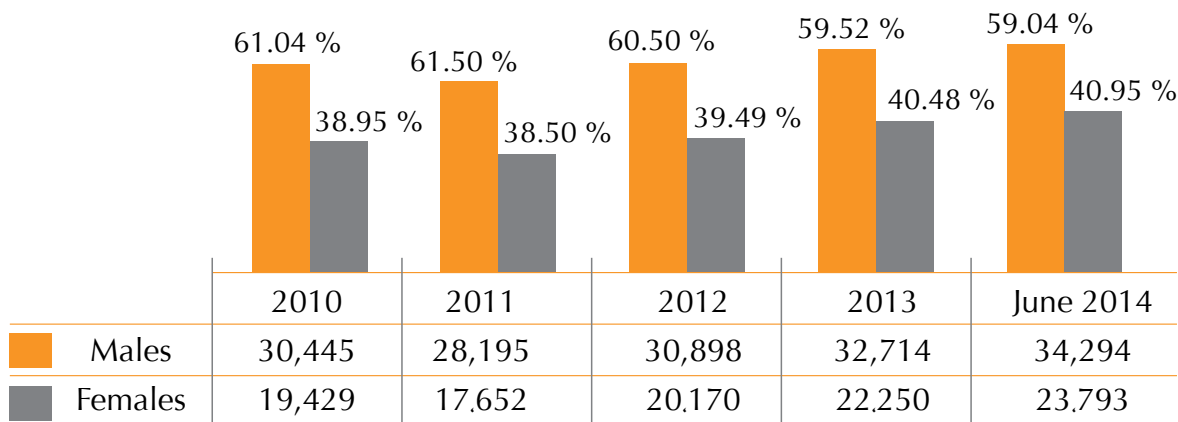
systems and options that would provide equal opportunities for women. It can be done by promoting the national model for the integration of women's needs and promoting awareness about equal opportunities through holding several awareness meetings with the private sector institutions. The National Committee to follow up the implementation of the national model for the integration of women's needs into an action plan defining the tasks of the private sector and its national responsibility towards the implementation of the national model during the period from 2014 - 2015 in order to ensure the activation of required mechanisms.

However, the challenge remains in place to increase and improve support services in a work environment that ensures women's ability to balance between their family duties and their jobs in the community, especially in the private sector, in addition to finding flexible work systems of part time, temporary work and working from home which lack necessary legislations.

Women and Entrepreneurship

Bahraini women have been engaged in the field of entrepreneurship since the sixties. It is worth mentioning that a Bahraini women own 40% of the number of active individuals commercial registers (CRs) in the Kingdom of until the first half of 2014. The number of active individual CRs owned by women have risen from (19429) to (23793) and by an increase of (22.46%) during the time period from (2010-June 2014). While the rate of increase in the number of CRs owned by men have reached (12.65%) only, where their number increased from (30,445) to (34, 298) during the same time period, as shown in chart 6 below.

Chart (6)
The Number of Individual Active CRS Owned by Women Compared to Men from 2010 to the Second Quarter of 2014



Source: Ministry of Industry and Commerce

The ratio of women to men is 69%, a relatively high percentage, and it is expected to increase at a faster pace in the coming period.



In this context, several players from the official and non-official national institutions concerned with the empowerment of women in the Kingdom have launched a number of initiatives, projects and programs of training and qualification which aim to empower women and provide them with the necessary skills and techniques to be able to establish or run small projects or engage in entrepreneurial projects. In partnership and in conjunction with the Supreme Council for Women, those players worked to complete the economic work system by launching projects which provide advisory services and supporting facilities for the sustainability of the economic empowerment programs for women. It is worth mentioning that the entrepreneurship model of the Kingdom of Bahrain is one of the most successful models in the field as recognized by regional and international organizations. This model is now being piloted regionally. A number of legislations and plans have been amended and introduced to serve the interests of the Bahraini working women to ensure more of their rights including: the issuance of the civil service law, labor law in the private sector, the law of public security forces, the commercial register law, and commercial companies law.

In 2010 the Bahrain Women's Competence Development Centre (Riyadat), was launched. The Center provides integrated economic incubators that provide all administrative and investment, training, professional and technical services that women may need to engage in the field of entrepreneurship. It was officially opened in 2013. In the same year the financial portfolio of Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bin Ibrahim Al Khalifa, to support and finance trade activities and startups of Bahraini women, which is one of the initiatives providing loans and startup financing to entrepreneurs. The initiative is managed by the Creativity Bank for microfinance, with the support of Tamkeen "the Labour Fund" and the supervision and follow-up of the Supreme Council for Women.

C - Equality in political representation

Available data indicate the increased opportunities for women to hold leadership and decision-making positions in the three executive, legislative and judicial authorities: Minister, undersecretary, assistant undersecretary, ambassador, judge, member of the House of Representatives, member of the Shura Council, and member of the municipal council. As well as in the private sector as managers or members of the Board of Directors of companies and specific councils.

Supporting women's participation in decision-making process is a priority target for the Kingdom of Bahrain due to its importance in enhancing the status of Bahraini women. a number of methodologies and programs of action have been adopted to contribute to achieving this target. The Supreme Council for women launched some initiatives, projects and training and education programs since 2002. These initiatives aim to empower women in the areas of decision-making and in particular in the field of political empowerment and to build and develop their ability to assume leadership positions in cooperation with specialized regional and international bodies in this domain.

Indicators observed have revealed the presence of women in the legislative branch, specifically in the Shura Council, where four members were appointed in the Shura Council for the first time in 2000, to reach (8) members in 2014, an estimated 20%. Women were able to occupy a seat in the House of

Representatives in 2006, and ran for Parliament elections in 2014 to occupy 3 seats at a rate of 8%, and for Bahraini women to attend the most remarkable quality of the Standing committees of the House of Representatives and the Shura see Table (7).

Table (7)
Women in Decision-Making Positions (2005- 2013))

Position	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Minister and equivalents	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	4	4
Undersecretary of/Assistant Undersecretary and equivalents	7	14	15	18	17	17	22	22	25
Members of the House of Representatives		1	1	1	1	1	4	4	4
Members of the Shura Council	6	10	11	10	10	11	11	11	11
Ambassadors	1		1	2	2	2	3	3	3
CEO / President of the University	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1
Members of the Municipal Council						1	1	1	1

Source: The Supreme Council for Women

The percentage of women candidates for the House of Representatives rose by 3% during the period from (2002-2014). On the other hand, decline in the percentage of candidates reached (3%) during the same time period. Despite the active participation witnessed by the Kingdom of Bahrain by women in municipal elections as candidates during the time period (2002-2010), and as voters, (51%) of the total voters for the House of Representatives elections 2010, but the gender gap in this aspect is still large, see Table (8).

Table (8)
House of Representatives and Municipal Council candidates (2002-2014)

Elections	2002	2006	2010	2011 Supplementary	2012 Supplementary	2014
Male Candidates for the House of Representatives	183	203	140	75	3	299
Female Candidates for the House of Representatives	8	18	9	9	1	23
Male Candidates for Municipal Council	284	166	181	-	-	158
Female Candidates for Municipal Council	33	5	3	-	-	13

Source: The Supreme Council for Women



The first women's civil society institution was established in the fifties. The number of women's societies became 21 in the first half of 2014. We also find that the rate of participation of women in leadership positions in the Board of Directors of the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry was 22% in 2014.

- Legislative developments

The Supreme Council for Women issued a special report in 2013, on the occasion of World Women's Day which falls on March 8 every year, according to the United Nations calendar. The chosen slogan was, "It's time to end violence against women." The report reviewed the efforts of the Kingdom of Bahrain in the fight against domestic violence against women to fill the legislative gap due to unavailability of an explicit law to protect women from violence and initiatives undertaken by the Council in this regard. The Council pointed out in its report the most prominent recommendations of the Supreme Council for Women related to non-discrimination against women, and other legislative steps, most notably (from oldest to newest):

- Granting divorced woman with children and women breadwinners of their families the right to apply for housing services granted by the state in 2004.
- Making social centers available for parents to meet with their children in case of divorce in 2005.
- Activation of the immigration and residence law in order to ensure women's right to sponsor their foreign husbands and children in 2005, and a draft law to amend the Nationality Law of 2005, as well as the establishment of the alimony fund and reconsidering the estimation of the expense of the children in 2005.
- Amendment of the Shariah Courts Procedures Law "by giving a sense of urgency" to the Shariah cases in 2005.
- Regulating marriage certificates in 2007.
- Activating the role of the family conciliation offices to resolve family disputes without resorting to litigation before the courts in 2008.
- Dedicating courts for the execution of judgments issued from Sharia courts in 2008. The increase of the number of Sharia courts and the development of the administrative body of the courts in 2008. In 2008 amendments were proposed regarding Article (353 of the Penal Code) (which stipulates that no penalty will be imposed on a man who has sexual intercourse with a woman against her will provided he marries her), to ensure necessary controls and criteria to prevent the exploitation of this right by men and give the option for the victim to accept or reject marrying the man.

- Cabinet Resolution No. (77) of 2013 on approving the salary and employment benefits scale and criteria for granting them to the employees affiliated with the Civil Service Bureau in respect of the amendment of the social allowance policy to be granted in the second grade to married women employees like the married men, so as to ensure equality between married men and women in social allowances.

The general summary of this presentation is that in the next stage, and even to a large extent during the previous period, the goal of women's empowerment and gender equality in the Kingdom of Bahrain is exceeding what is contained in the targets of the third millennium goal, and close to wording of the general target itself. Therefore, practically, the formulation of the goal in this regard in the national development agenda, will be inferred from the National Action Plan, particularly the plan of the Supreme Council for Women, which is more advanced and comprehensive than the targets of the third Millennium Development Goal.

The national plan for the advancement of Bahraini women (2013-2022) is following the methodology of measuring the impact, where the plan seeks to improve the status of Bahraini women to ensure their family stability in the context of family cohesion, and enabling them to contribute competitively in the development process, based on the principle of equal opportunities and integration of the needs of women in development, in addition to diversifying and enriching the economic, social, educational and training options available to them in order to encourage them to achieve excellence in performance and improve their choices towards better life and lifelong learning.

This paradigm shift needs the development of partnership and integration methodologies, and building an effective knowledge system for women and hence highlight the Supreme Council for Women as a specialized global expertise house expertise with a national identity, global methodologies and local and regional success stories according to the latest knowledge systems.

The orientations of the plan developed from achieving the overall goal which is "empowering women in all areas to change their status for the better" in the National Plan for the Advancement of Women (2007 - 2012), to a new formula, which is "to provide opportunities, potentials, options and supportive circumstances for women to promote their status and the status of the society around them for the better". Specific objectives and organized activities have been set up to achieve the desired results and aspired impact.

There is no chance for displaying the strategic plan here, but the proposed mechanism of action for the near future, is to do an interactive comparison between the outcome of the global debate in this area, and the national plan, to draw up what should be included in the national adaptation of the global development agenda in the field of women empowerment and gender equality .



Success Story:

The National Model for Integrating Women's Needs in the Development

The Supreme Council for Women places women needs and equal opportunities among its action priorities, which has been translated in its terms of reference. The Council since inception realized the most important problems facing women including the administrative and legal barriers to advancement and enjoyment of a secure and stable life which enables them to exercise all the roles in life. The SCE has implemented some programs and training workshops and a proposed amending some legislations directly related to the status of women, ensuring women's rights in all fields and to integrate their needs in the plans and projects through coordination with the competent authorities in the legislative and executive authorities.

The first breakthrough of the SCW began by integrating the needs of women in the development by holding the first national conference in November 2010 under the slogan "integration of the needs of women in the overall development programs .. the role of national efforts .. equal opportunities.. justice and progress for all", to highlight the role of national efforts to integrate the needs of women. The conference launched a national model compatible with the economic, social and cultural context of the Kingdom of Bahrain. This model adopted specific axes and determined the structure and mechanisms of integration through coordination and cooperation between the Supreme Council for Women and all partners in the implementation of the national strategy for the advancement of Bahraini women from ministries and official institutions as well as the private sector, civil society and constitutional institutions. The first model comprised the following themes: policies, training and rehabilitation, awareness and education, follow up and evaluation.

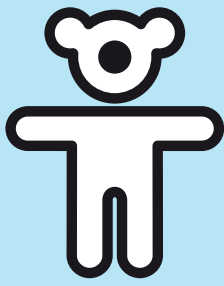
The second national conference was held in October 2013 under the slogan "integrating the needs of women in development ... pause for reviewing and evaluating" to review the experience of the application of the first model, extracting lessons learned and experiences accumulated to form the basis of a stepping stone towards a future vision in the light of local and international developments. The experiment was evaluated through different sectors of society in addition to the international assessment. An advanced vision of the national model for women was proposed, which was considered a remarkable development and emphasized the distribution of roles in implementation between sectors of society to ensure national responsibility in pursuit of impact in order to ensure the achievement of equal opportunities at the national level. The national model consisted of four main areas: policies, budgets, knowledge management, and impact measurement. Necessary procedures have been developed and expected roles determined of all relevant authorities to activate the axes; the legislative and executive branches, civil society and the private sector in addition to the role expected from Supreme Council for Women and regional and international organizations.



The national efforts implemented to integrate women's needs led to the issuance of decisions that serve the status of women and their advancement, as well as changing some policies and procedures to support equal opportunities. The resolution of the Civil Service Board asked government agencies to establish committees for equal opportunities. The general state budget planning was upgraded to include the measurement of expenditures and resources by type. The model depended on the legislative authority in the development of legislations and use the regulatory tools to follow up, develop and implement strategic plans in the ministries in accordance with the principles of integration. In addition to the use of legislative powers to ensure the adoption of equal opportunities as an essential criterion to pass the state budget, which would ensure integration of the needs of women in national priorities, where the needs of women and equal opportunities were included in the National Development Plan 2015-2018. Working with the private sector is still in its beginning in spite of the existence of the committee of equal opportunities and the adoption of a number of entities to positive practices in this regard.

Despite the novelty of experience of the Kingdom of Bahrain, but it is considered the first in the Arab world in terms of organization and incorporation and partnership with all sectors of society, which is translated in the National Plan for the advancement of Bahraini women, which included the impact of equal opportunities among the five impacts; family stability, equal opportunities, lifelong learning, quality of life, and the house expertise.

To achieve the desired impact, the national model included the axis of measuring the impact, which requires all entities to carry out monitoring and measurement for follow-up and measure the impact of efforts exerted on the status of the Bahraini women and their empowerment to fulfill all their roles in the community in the framework of equal opportunities.



4

**REDUCE
CHILD MORTALITY**



5

**IMPROVE MATERNAL
HEALTH**



6

**COMBAT HIV/AIDS,
MALARIA AND OTHER
DISEASES**



Healthy Life for All

Goal : 4, 5 & 6

- ◆ **Reduce Child Mortality**
- ◆ **Improving Maternal Health**
- ◆ **Combat HIV / AIDS, AIDS and Other Diseases**

1- Summary of the situation

Health achievements in Bahrain have progressed more than the achievements fulfilled in the education goal, relatively with regard to the goals set out in the Millennium fourth, fifth, and sixth goals. Quantitative and qualitative health indicators related to health care and the health of mothers and children in particular to a large extent are advanced including those in the advanced industrial countries.

The national report for the year 2010 has pointed out this fact, and displayed the values of indicators adopted worldwide in order to accomplish the specific goals. The current status is as follows:

In terms of child health indicators, the infant mortality rate (0-1 year old) has reached 7.6 per thousand. In 2013, the mortality rate for children younger than five years old was 9.1 per thousand, while all children vaccinated against measles and other internationally approved childhood diseases (paralysis, MMR. etc.) the rate is 100%.

The same applies to maternal mortality and reproductive health indicators. The Prenatal and postnatal health care is provided by trained health workers at a rate of around 100%. The average number of visits by pregnant women to the doctor are five visits, while childbirth rate among female adolescents was 17 per thousand in 2013.

According to recent statistics, maternal mortality rate has reached 35 deaths per one hundred thousand live births in 2013. However this indicator suffers from two problems. The first problem is the limited number of births and the few deaths, where the maximum number of deaths registered during the last eight years were seven deaths annually, which explains the impossibility of calculating the index value



in the traditional way. It also explains the rise and fall in the event of only one additional death, or in case of occurrence of one death less than the previous year. In such a case, the prenatal and postnatal health care indicators, can be a sufficient indicator for monitoring the health of mothers and pregnant women and the effectiveness of health care, particularly if we notice the qualitative aspects of these indicators. The second problem is the change in the approved definition of maternal mortality, in terms of expanding or reducing the definition, as well as the change in the measurement methods, which gives different results according to the approved methodology. In all cases, the global objective proposed in the sustainable development goals which should be fulfilled by 2030, is to reduce maternal mortality to below 70 deaths per hundred thousand births, which means once again that Bahrain has significantly surpassed this goal.

Table (9)
The Number of Reported Births and Maternal Deaths (2005 – 2012)

Year	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Total live Births	15,123	15,034	15,968	16,975	17,718	18,150	17,573	19119	20,101
The Number of Maternal Deaths	1	2	3	3	3	2	4	5	7

Source: Ministry of Health

As for the sixth goal on combating epidemic diseases, AIDS cases are very limited and only few cases reported in the period between 2009 and 2013. Health statistics indicated that the percentage of AIDS cases in the age group (15-24 years) was 0% in 2013 due to the efforts of the Kingdom of Bahrain and its commitment to combat AIDS. Expatriates are subjected to compulsory AIDS checkup when they arrive to Bahrain, and those infected are returned to their countries.

No deaths are reported due malaria in Bahrain since 1995. Majority of reported cases of malaria are among expatriates. Expatriates infected with malaria are detected immediately upon arrival to the country and deported.

Mortality rate due to tuberculosis has fallen more than two-thirds between 1996 and 2013, from 1.4 per 100 thousand of the population to 0.2 cases during the period referred to above. All the cases detected are subject to appropriate treatment by 100% as from 1999.

The national report for the year 2010 has indicated these health characteristics of the population and the level of progress of the health sector in the Kingdom. It also referred to the new areas that must be taken care of, such as giving priority to enhancing means of prevention, as the primary and secondary health care and hospitalization are more advanced. The success of the health system is the success of its preventive dimension in the first place, including nutrition and behavioral side which relates to lifestyle, exercise, smoking, and other factors. These kind of problems are more in line with the nature of the

health situation in the Kingdom where the importance of communicable diseases dropped in favor of non-communicable and lifestyle-related diseases that have been adopted within the strategic priorities of the next action program of the government.

2- The most significant national developments since the previous report

Bahrain has maintained the achievement fulfilled regarding health goals and targets. The quantitative goal required achieving comprehensive coverage (100%) and this ratio has been fulfilled. As for other indicators, progress has been constant.

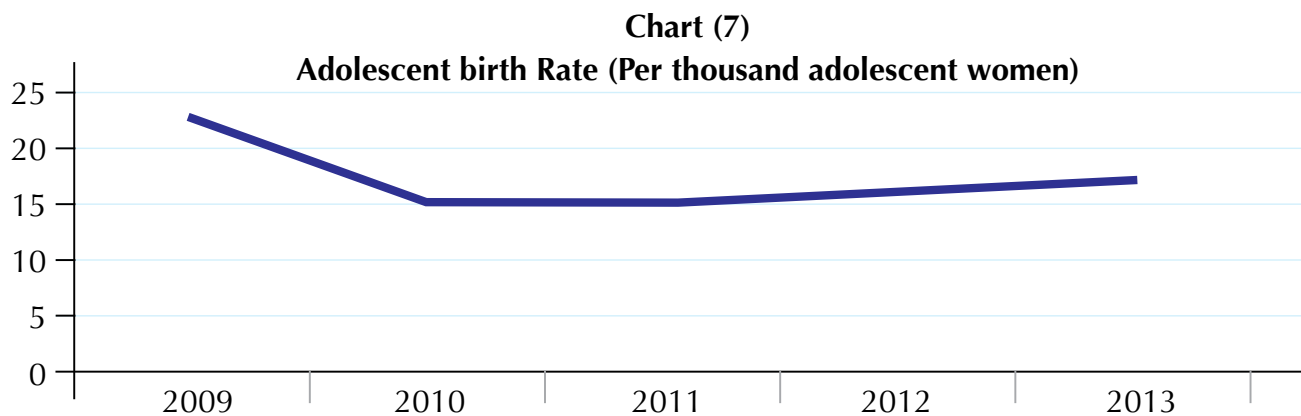
The following paragraphs will review the development as regards the quantitative indicators. Other new developments most relevant to the characteristics of Bahrain shall also be reviewed according to the following design:

- a) The progress of traditional indicators.
- b) Nutrition.
- c) Prevention.
- d) The public health system.

a) The progress of traditional indicators after the 2010 Report

Nothing new for the child and maternal mortality. Bahrain has maintained the good level achieved, as well as for health care during pregnancy and child birth.

As for the birth rate of adolescents, a significant decrease was recorded, from 22 births per 1,000 adolescents women in 1990 to 15 births per 1,000 adolescents in 2010, and this level has been maintained, with a slight rise in the rate of 17 births per 1,000 adolescents women in 2013 . It is likely due to getting married at an early age within the legitimate framework, see chart (7).



Source: Ministry of Health



In recent years Bahrain has paid more attention to the issue of reproductive health and family planning, so that the provision of these services has expanded in health centers. The awareness and consulting services have been increased within the school health program to include intermediate and secondary schools as well.

For infectious diseases, nothing is new for malaria which does not exist in Bahrain. Progress is recorded in the fight against tuberculosis. In addition to what has been mentioned in the preceding paragraphs of significant decrease in the cases of infections reported. All cases reported with treated properly. There is an increased qualitative interest in monitoring and following up to this disease and, especially MDR-TB and XDR-TB.

Bahrain has adopted the recommendations of the World Health Organization to deal with tuberculosis and put a target for it so as to "reduce the incidence of tuberculosis in Bahrain by 2012." To achieve this goal, strategies has been set up for early detection of cases and follow-up to persons who get in contact with the infected and provide medicines and laboratory tests at the national level. These strategies have been implemented through the activation of a number of measures on the primary health care, secondary health care levels, including: periodic review and updating of the national guidebook to deal with TB cases, upgrade laws, policies and regulations relating to the treatment and examination of the diseased and their contacts and give them medications as appropriate in addition to update the pre-employment check up policy. The measures also included strengthening the epidemiological investigation system of TB, adding the active investigation, especially among the most vulnerable to the disease and coordination between the National Tuberculosis Programme and the National Programme for AIDS, especially in the field of screening TB patients with the continuity of the development of laboratory tests to detect TB cases MDR-severe drug-resistant patients who are treated in public and private hospitals in Bahrain. As well as establishing an ongoing surveillance program for MDR TB and take the necessary action regarding those cases.

As for AIDS, it was stated in the preceding paragraphs that the index for AIDS-infected in the age group (15-24 years) is 0%. The Kingdom of Bahrain pays special attention to this subject and relevant bodies are monitoring, following-up and treating those patients according to the World Health Organization directives. Since the diagnosis of the first case of HIV in Bahrain in 1986, the total number of cases detected reached since that year until 2013, about 238 cases among Bahrainis (including 12 cases in 2013) and 1609 the case of non-Bahrainis who have been repatriated to their home countries to complete their treatment, while Citizens receive treatment in government hospitals free of charge. The Royal Charity Organization emanating from the comprehensive reform project of His Majesty the King, is sponsoring all orphans and widows (including AIDS orphans) and provide social and health assistance to ensure that they continue their education in schools, follow their academic attainment and provide high achievers with scholarships.

The second important development that has been made at this level, is the shift in the source of infection. The primary cause of infection in Bahrain for all registered cases since 1986, is the use of contaminated needles (58.3%), but relative gradual increase is noticed in sexually transmitted infections

where they represent only 10% at the beginning of the epidemic to increase and become approximately equal with infection due to the use of contaminated needles During the past 15 years.

Despite the low rate of infection of HIV/AIDS in the Kingdom of Bahrain, but virus control is done at the three levels of prevention, the primary, secondary and tertiary and efforts are continuing to achieve zero goals: (zero) new cases of infection through the primary prevention, early diagnosis and prevention of complications program, (zero) for the deaths through secondary prevention program, and the elimination of discrimination (zero).

Finally, it should be noted that Bahrain has succeeded in developing an effective system for monitoring, control and follow-up through a network deployed in the areas of health centers and effective use of communications technology, and through a series of legislation, programs and procedures that help to improve the health status, such as the mandatory examination before marriage, welfare programs for people with disabilities, programs for antenatal care, immunization programs and early identification of children's diseases ... etc. This was presented in the previous report.

b) Healthy nutrition

Nutrition is in the heart of the developmental health perspective that goes beyond the narrow medical perspective. In this regard, and in Bahrain, the issue of providing proper nutrition is at the heart of health policy and development goals, where improper dietary habits and malnutrition is leading to certain nutritional diseases such as obesity and related diseases such as high blood pressure, diabetes, heart disease and high rate of bad cholesterol. The unbalanced diet may cause iron deficiency anemia, osteoporosis or goiter.

A study of the physical measurements and physical composition of children of school age category for 2005 showed that the obesity rate was 24% among school students. This is primarily due to the wrong dietary habits of students, such as neglecting breakfast (obesity) 36% and 50% of male and female students respectively) in addition to lack of exercise and physical activities.

The obesity rate among adults category, the "national nutrition survey of 2002" showed that for the age group 19 years old and older, overweight and obesity amounted to 32.5% and 28.7% for males and females respectively. As for the results of "nutritional health surveillance for 2009," the percentage of overweight and obesity was 33% and 36.3% for males and females respectively.

In order to help adults, children and adolescents from the category of school age to restore dietary balance and health, the nutrition department within the therapeutic nutrition program, opened nutrition clinics to treat obesity and overweight adults in five health centers in collaboration with the Primary Health Care Department, in addition to nutrition clinics for treatment Obesity and overweight for the category of school age through nutrition clinics in the schools selected for the second consecutive year in collaboration with the School Health Department and Student Services Directorate at the Ministry of Education. It is noted that these percentages are high and stable, and also rates tended to rise between 2002 and 2012, suggesting increase of improper eating habits, which underlines the need to consider nutrition as a priority health problem.



As for micronutrient deficiencies, the launch of some nutrition programs, such as "Boosting the flour with iron and folic acid for the 2001 program," have helped to reduce the aggravation of this problem with the sensitive age groups such as pregnant mothers, children and adolescents from the category of school age. According to a recent study "nutritional health surveillance for 2010" that the anemia rate among expectant mothers in the last months of pregnancy decreased to 36.4% compared to 65.7% in a previous study," Evaluation of the nutritional status and the percentage of iron for pregnant women in Bahrain in 1996". As for the junior age group 14-18 year old the results of "the nutritional health surveillance from 2011 to 2012" showed that the iron deficiency anemia rate has reached 18.9% compared to 34.7% as per a previous study conducted in 2005.

With respect to iodine, a national study was conducted for school children aged 8-12 years in 2000 to estimate the prevalence of disorders caused by iodine deficiency and goiter, where the results showed that about 2% of the children were found to have the goiter problem, and 16% of them, where the percentage of iodine in urine was less than 100 µg/L. The study was repeated in 2012 and it revealed that lack of iodine was no longer a public health problem in the Kingdom of Bahrain, and results detected high levels of iodine in food consumption of it.

C) Prevention: School Health Model

Morbidity indicators, supply of health services and the provision of health protection are good in Bahrain; as the health system provides primary health care services for all. This fact conveys the focus of attention to the subject of malnutrition (which was previously introduced in the preceding paragraph) and to the prevention in terms of behavior of individuals and families, and in terms of the policies and interventions. The school health program is a model for the preventive policies in the health field which are widespread and highly effectiveness.

Ministry of Health in cooperation with the Ministry of Education pays considerable attention to school health. The Bahrain National Program for School Health has been launched which includes a wide variety of activities and services provided to schools. It includes three programs: primary health care and public health services, student mental health services, and school health nurse services.

At the level of primary care and public health, a program has been established for monitoring and follow-up of cases transferred from the school to health centers including a number of health problems, chronic and infectious diseases, in addition to the preparation of various manuals and guides. Examination of new student in intermediate schools began in 2012 in collaboration with the maternal and child care services with an aim to early detect diseases and wrong behaviors so that they can be treated early.

The Student's Mental Health Services Program is providing counseling to students transferred to health centers, as well as psychological counseling for teachers, social workers in schools and parents in matters related to the psychological health of students of the Kingdom of Bahrain. The program also is concerned with the treatment of behavioral disorders among school students, and the application of psychological and intelligence tests, in addition to learning disabilities tests, speech disorder treatment

and holding awareness lectures, training courses and workshops for counselors, teachers, parents and school students.

The nursing services program in the school health is promoting health in schools through the provision of health care for simple cases and first aid, with the provision of school clinic supplies, health and awareness about chronic and infectious diseases and how to deal with them. It also includes periodic medical examination for students and annual follow up by checking the weight, height, eyesight and dental examination.

D - the public health system

The primary reason for success in achieving health goals, lies in adopting the comprehensive coverage system, with the allocation of the necessary resources, since the Kingdom's leadership considers health as a priority for many years. Bahraini government ensures the provision of health care, including free hospitalization for everyone, as one of the rights the citizen's as guaranteed by the country's constitution. Expatriate workers are also covered by health care through their employment contracts.

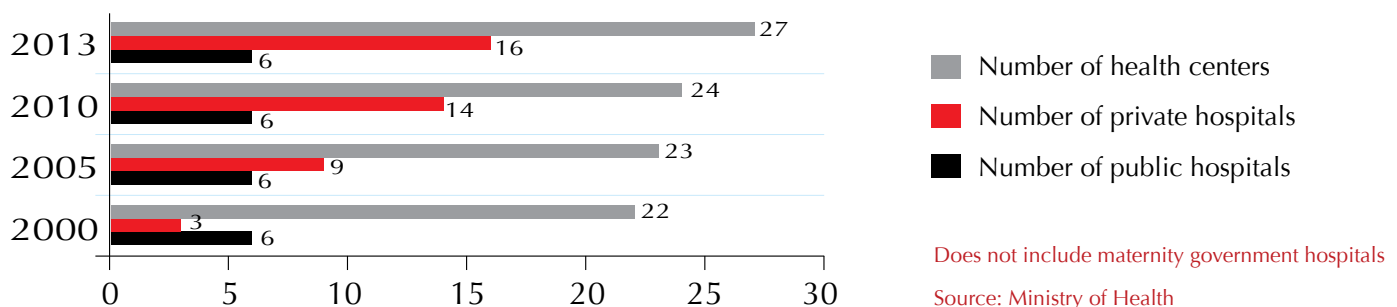
The public health sector gets high degree of satisfaction of citizens, as expressed by the high use of health services for the public sector, which is 80% of the population for maternal and child health services.

Primary Healthcare Services

Primary health care in the Kingdom of Bahrain is considered the cornerstone of health care. The Ministry provides these services through 27 government health centers (2013) which include all services available to mothers and children during pregnancy and post-natal. This is in addition to the regular examination of children and providing the necessary immunizations to them. Health centers also provide family planning services, like pre-marital tests, ultrasound examinations for pregnant women and mobile clinics for the elderly.

The following chart summarizes the most important indicators for the availability of health services in the Kingdom:

Chart (8)
Availability of Health Services for the Selected Years (Institutions)





In this regard it is noted that highest rate of progress is made in private sector health facilities, where the number of private hospitals rose from 3 hospitals in 2000 to 16 hospitals in 2013, while the number of government hospitals remained unchanged. The government health centers increased from 22 to 27 centers. Indicating a strong engagement of the private sector in the field of healthcare, which enhances the balance between public and private sectors in this sector. Close follow-up is needed by the government, in order to avoid any negative impact on the cost and quality of health services as evidenced by the experience of many countries.

As for the rise in health personnel, general increase is recorded in the numbers of doctors, dentists, nurses and health workers (about three times between 2000 and 2013) as shown by table (10)

Table (10)
Health Services Indicators for the Selected Years (Institutions and Manpower)

Indicator	2000	2005	2010	2013
Doctors	1,054	1,973	2,570	3,459
Dentists	137	295	366	553
Nurses	2,603	3,835	5,108	6,525
Paramedics	840	1,543	2,461	2,754
No of beds	1,812	2,033	2,130	2,548
No of beds per 10,000 of the population	26	28	17	20
No of doctors per 10,000 of the population	15	27	21	28
No of dentists per 10,000 of the population	2	4	3	4
No of nurses and midwifery per 10,000 of the population	38	53	42	52
No of nurses for each doctor	3	2	2	2

This growth was accompanied by increase of Bahrain's population during the same period, where the number of medical staff per capita has improved. In 2013 the ratio was about 28 doctors, four dentists and 52 nurses and midwives per 10,000 of the population compared to 15, 2 and 38 in 2000. The highest progress rate was recorded for dentists. However, the number of nurses per doctor has declined over the same period from 2.5 to 1.9.

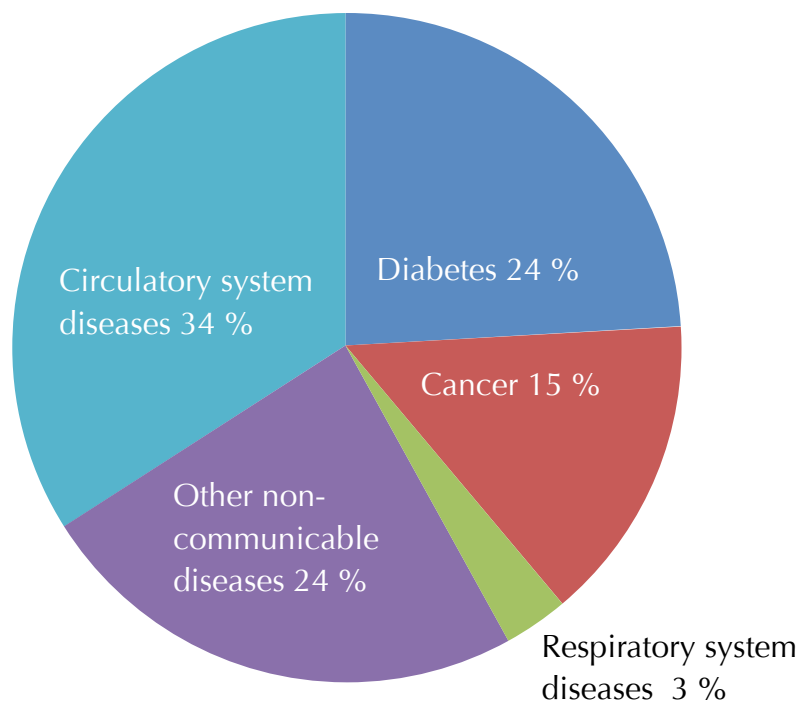
On the other hand, the progress in the availability of medical staff must be matched by similar progress in the rate of the number of beds to keep pace with the increase in the number of hospitals, beds and population growth, the above table shows that beds rate for every 10,000 of the population has dropped from 26 to 20 beds.

With respect to the characteristics of morbidity in the kingdom, infectious diseases are no longer a problem in Bahrain. The focus moved several years ago to the non-epidemiological diseases which is reflected in the increasing rates of non-epidemic diseases, such as: high blood pressure, where the number of cases registered at health centers reached 54,720 cases, 49,985 cases of diabetes, and 39,444 cases of high blood fat level in the period between 2007 to 2013. The Kingdom also pays particular attention to some genetic diseases that are relatively common in the kingdom, such as sickle cell disease (1,372) registered cases at the health centers for the same period.

As for the distribution of deaths by disease groups, the deaths of non-communicable diseases, reached 63% of the total deaths, including 34% due to circulatory diseases, 24% due to diabetes and other infectious diseases, 15% for cancer, and 3% for respiratory diseases.

Chart (9)

The Mortality Rate of Non-Communicable Diseases of the Total Deaths in 2013



Source: Ministry of Health



Success Story: School Health Program

The Bahrain National School Health Program aims to positively impact on the students health directly, in addition to contributing to changing environment in which they live and learn. It is one of the directions of the policy of the Ministry of Health, which includes a change in the health programs of therapeutic services to community-based programs depending on preventive health and enhancing public health. The program is a joint framework for services between the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education and the community.

The school health program includes four sub-programs:

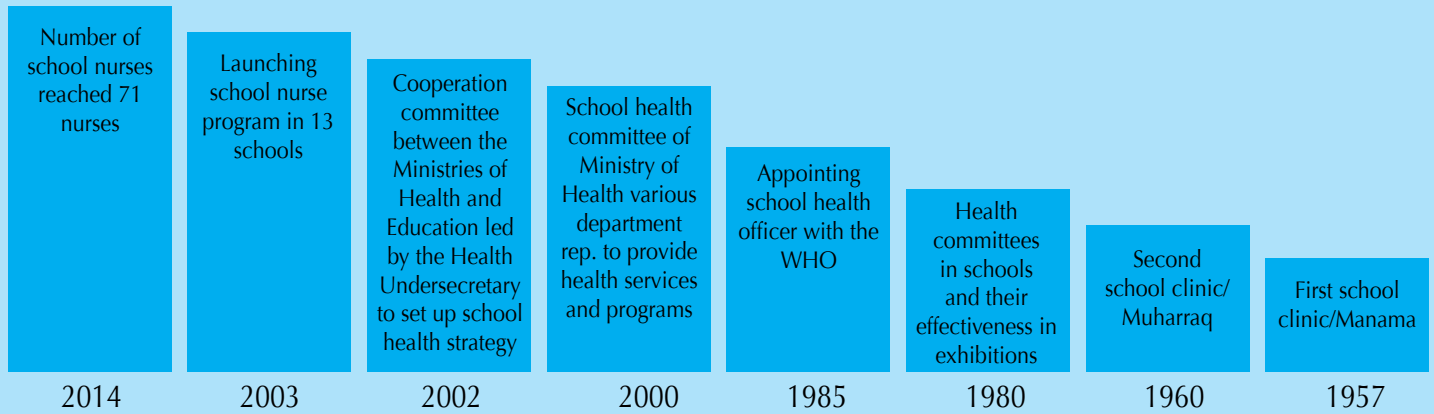
- Student Mental Health Program
- Primary care program of school health
- The health of adolescents and youth program
- School health nurse Program

Overview of school health services development

The National School Health Program was launched in 2002. The consultant family doctor was appointed and she was the only doctor in the program. The health centers close to schools providing medical and ambulatory services for male and female students following the transfer system.

In 2003, the school health nurse program was launched in 13 public schools only in the beginning. The tasks of the nurse were confined in identifying and follow-up of students with chronic diseases, providing simple health care and first aid, and organizing the activities of health awareness. Now the tasks of school health nurse expended to include the development of an annual work plan of activities and services, follow-up of primary health care programs such as optometry program, examination of second grade secondary school students for genetic blood diseases and coordination with the oral and dental services.

Creation of health-promoting schools program began in 2004. It is one the most important joint programs between the Ministries of Health and Education, as it aims to rehabilitate the school to be able to promote the concept of health among students and is based on eight themes: health education, sensory and psychological environment, health and nutrition services, physical education and recreation, mental health and counseling and the health of workers and the nearby community.



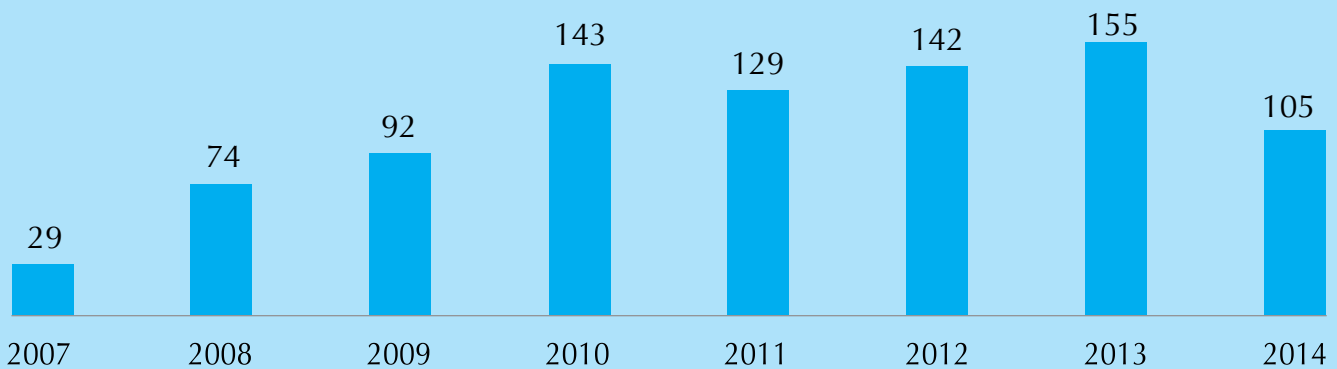
Source: Ministry of Health

The program on screening new students in public and private schools (5-6 years) in health centers was created in 2002. The program on screening new students in middle school (10-12 years) in the health centers has begun as of 2012 through the health of adolescents and youth program. Currently coordination is ongoing to follow-up the screening program for new joiners of the high school (15-16 year old).

The mental health clinic at the health department was commenced in 2007. The number of cases referred to the clinic was 29 cases. In subsequent years the number of cases increased to more than 155 cases in 2013 and 105 cases until August 2014.

The said mental health clinic for students is unique in the GCC countries. Maintaining high degree of privacy is also one of the features distinguishing it from other clinics in psychiatric hospitals. Majority of transferred cases are due to learning difficulties mental retardation, and psychological and behavioral disorders.

Number of New Cases in The Mental Health Services Center



Source: Ministry of Health



Success Story:

Reaching the target for the 4th Millennium Development Goal through successful implementation of expanded program of immunization

The Kingdom of Bahrain has maintained high level of progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals. The kingdom's achievements are a result of the strong political will which is built on essential pillars which provide all members of the society access to high quality primary health care.

The fourth Millennium Development Goal (MDG 4) is concerned with the reduction of mortality rate for children under the age of 5 by two-thirds between 1990 and 2015. The reduction of mortality and morbidity through effective vaccination has been documented, therefore measles vaccination has been considered as an indicator of progress towards attaining MDG4.

Measles has been a significant cause for deaths for children under the age of 5 in Bahrain. Bahrain has recorded more than 2000 cases of measles annually in the decades which preceded the introduction of measles vaccine which resulted in many cases of morbidity and mortality among children under the age of five during that period. In the period after the introduction of the measles vaccine, a significant reduction in this disease has been observed, with the introduction of the monovalent vaccine in 1974, and as a combined measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine in 1985 given as a second measles dose. Moreover, MMR vaccination campaigns conducted in 1998–1999 resulted in strengthen the population immunity against measles and reduction in measles infections. The measles monovalent vaccine was replaced by the MMR vaccine in 1998 with booster dose for 12 year old children every year until 2006. Out of the keenness to implement the global and regional vision and strategy for the elimination of measles, the Kingdom Bahrain has set up a target for itself to be free from endemic measles by 2010.

Primary health care coverage/access to immunization services:

The Kingdom of Bahrain has been very keen to cover all population groups of the community by preventive services. All births of infants and children are registered in the Kingdom of Bahrain at birth or when they enter the Kingdom at the primary health care centers using the CPR number and according to the address of residence so that all individuals get the service through the geographically health centers so easily accessible to them. Thanks to the support given by the decision-makers in the Kingdom, His Majesty the King of Bahrain issued a decree in 2012 on health care and periodic health examination record for every child to document the health status of the child and the periodic tests and vaccinations including the free vaccination of children. The Decree considered the responsibility of child vaccination is the duty and responsibility of parents and child custodian. Infants and children's health are comprehensively assessed and screened during the vaccination visits.

The children's vaccinations, including measles are recorded in the electronic database and registered in the periodic examination booklet of children and vaccinations booklet. Follow-up to children who have not completed their vaccinations is conducted through 26 care units for mother and child at the

primary health care centers in their areas of residence. Full immunization coverage is monitored by the vaccination team at the Public Health Directorate.

in the periodic examination booklet of children and vaccinations booklet. Follow-up to children who have not completed their vaccinations is conducted through 26 care units for mother and child at the primary health care centers in their areas of residence. Full immunization coverage is monitored by the vaccination team at the Public Health Directorate.

MMR Vaccination Coverage Rate

The MMR vaccination coverage rate is calculated on the basis of the number of doses given to children and compared them with the targeted group for vaccination. The quality of vaccination data is audited twice a year to ensure the accuracy of the data that reflect the access of children under five to immunization services. An annual report is issued on vaccinations coverage.

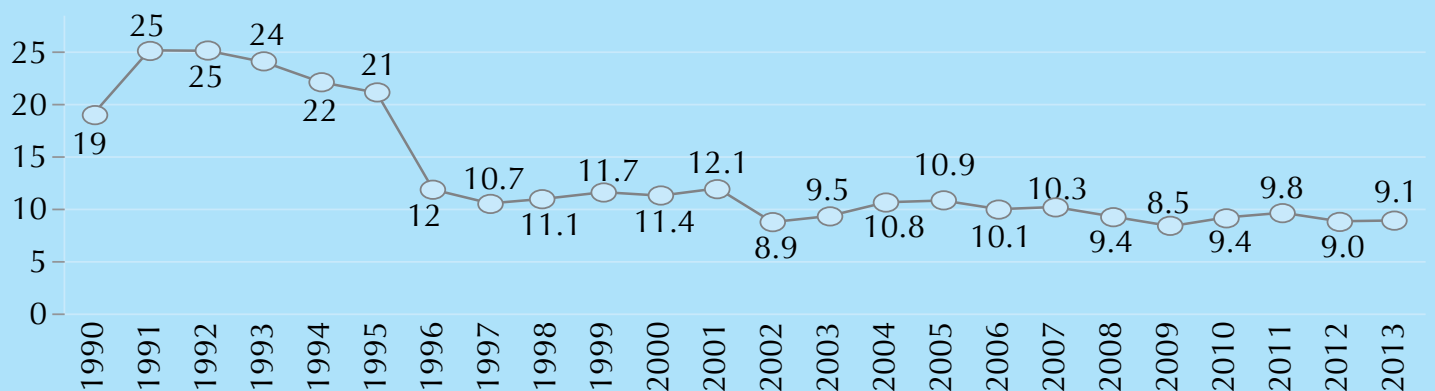
Disease Surveillance

Bahrain uses measles case surveillance with laboratory confirmation. The incidence of measles cases in Bahrain dropped dramatically after the introduction of measles vaccine in 1974. Cases reduced from 450 cases per 100,000 of the population in 1985 to zero endemic case per 100,000 since 2010.

Under-5 Child Mortality Rate

The target on the reduction of the under-5 child mortality rate has been achieved by the Kingdom of Bahrain since 1996, that is 19 years prior to the global targeted date for MDG4.

The mortality rate of children under five in Bahrain 1990-2013



Source: Ministry of Health

The success in achieving the MDG4 and its sustainability is reflecting the high level political support to the health sector. The availability of vaccination services free of charge for all groups of the society Bahraini and non-Bahraini, accessibility of preventive health services, the strategic vision for reducing child mortality rate, the keenness to apply of the Child Law, community awareness, demand for primary care services including vaccinations, health care providers commitments in the various sectors and highly professional and expansive immunization and surveillance program.



7

**ENSURE
ENVIRONMENTAL
SUSTAINABILITY**



Goal : 7

Environmental Sustainability

1- Summary of the situation

The National report 2010 summarized the environmental situation in the following elements:

a) Sustainability and environment affairs are a major issue and a national priority for Bahrain, due to the following characteristics of the Kingdom:

1. Geography: A small-sized island with an area of 770.34 square kilometers (2013).
2. Nature: The majority of the area is flat, desert and a low altitude.
3. Population: 1,253,191 residents (2013), i.e., a density of approximately 1627 cspita per square kilometers.
4. Economy: Expansive urban style and oil economy.

b) The most significant environmental challenges resulting from the previous characteristics, which are identified in the previous report:

1. Climate change and its effects requirements.
2. Pressure on resources and services resulting from population growth.
3. Limited water resources management, including the issue of sewage treatment and the salinization of groundwater.
4. The problem of sea reclamation, and its impact on the marine environment and fisheries.
5. Air pollution (and other pollutions) due to economic and industrial activities, the density of number of cars and the high rate of energy consumption.

These challenges still exist, despite progress fulfilled in some aspects, and the difficulties facing other aspects due to being a natural or structural source. Achieving progress in these aspects requires a relatively long time and drastic measures.



2- The most significant national developments since the previous report

The past few years were truly the years of sustainability and environmental affairs at the global level by virtue of the preparation for the Rio+20 Summit and the goals of sustainable development, which was reflected at the regional and national levels. Hence there have been relatively considerable importance given in this regard. Therefore research was deepened and expanded beyond the contents of the Millennium Development Goals of 2001, noting that they were fairly comprehensive.

Below we review the most significant developments that have occurred since the previous report, both in terms of the actions taken by the Government of Bahrain, and the new issues that have emerged as priorities related to environmental sustainability.

a) Management and planning

Significant national progress is recorded at the level of planning and management level in the field of sustainability and environmental affairs. On September 25, 2012, the Law on the Regulation and Formation of the "Supreme Council for the Environment," which replaced "the General Authority for the Protection of Marine Resources, Environment and Wildlife," which was founded in 2002. This law represents an important step forward, since the formation of a national authority is the proper path to deal with the sustainability of the environment, due to the important and strategic nature of this issue.

The efforts of many of the relevant ministries and institutions in the Kingdom should be highlighted in the preparation of the strategies, such as the sustainability achieving strategy including the agricultural strategy, as well as the implementation of some projects that aim to protect the environment and conserve natural resources.

In a related development, the Kingdom of Bahrain participated actively in all regional and international discussions related to the course of the preparation of sustainable development goals, as well as in all the Gulf, Arab and International forums, activities and plans related to water resources management, food security, agriculture, energy etc, including participation in Rio +20 Summit.

With the formation of the Supreme Council for the Environment, a systematic work and more advanced strategic planning stage is expected to begin. The signs for this stage began to emerge when the executive body of the Supreme Council for the Environment prepared the first national strategy for the environment in 2020.

b) The general national priorities categories

The national priorities in the environmental field, under the Strategic Plan 2011 - 2016 are listed under the following headings:

1- Health and the environment, attention is given to diseases of environmental origin, as indicated in the health goals to list such diseases and risks in the health strategy. Under this title also the issue of solid and liquid industrial waste treatment, and its impact on health, soil and marine environment, which now requires long-term solutions.

2- Energy and climate change, the strategic plan draws the attention that the oil industry has caused the bulk of the pressures on the environment in this area. The total carbon dioxide emissions reached 22,464 metric tons in 2008, a high rate compared to developing countries, and where there has been no decline in the past years and it has increased from 19,684 metric tons in 2006 to 21,294 metric tons in 2007. In addition to the issue of solid and liquid industrial waste treatment, and its impact on health, soil and marine environment, which now requires long-term solutions.

3- Urban growth and weak land-use planning, including reclamation of the shallow coastal areas, the conversion of agricultural areas to and residential and investments areas, overlapping industrial areas with residential areas, the damage to the marine environment and the fishing and agriculture as a result of urbanization and economic growth pattern.

c) **Priorities**

In light of the above, the national strategic plan specified the following priorities:

1. Air quality.
2. Quality of the marine environment and managing its resources.
3. Marine dredging and reclamation.
4. Industrial and electronic waste management.
5. Management of hazardous, damaged and expired chemicals and pesticides.
6. Nature Reserves Management.
7. The effectiveness implementation of environmental laws and decisions.
8. Spreading of environmental awareness and culture.

d) **Additional issues of importance**

In light of the recent global debates, and in light of national and regional directives, the foregoing presentation includes most of the important environmental issues in relation to Bahrain. But there are still other issues that need to be dealt with, including:

1- Agriculture and Fishing:

Bahrain is not considered an agricultural country, but the fishing sector has importance by virtue of being an island. A national strategy for sustainable agricultural development in Bahrain was developed early 2010. The strategy focused on relative food security in line with global trends. The actual focus of the plan was more realistic by virtue of the reality of the agricultural sector itself.



Around 950 farmers are working in the agricultural sector (excluding fishing) who provide for 4,750 dependents, in addition to 9,120 expatriate workers. The total cultivated land, is 4,400 hectares out of the 6,400 hectares of arable land (i.e., 69%). The contribution of agriculture to the GDP is no more than 0.23%. However, the government attaches great importance to this sector due to the overlap of economic, social and environmental dimensions, and the role of this sector in maintaining the fragile balance in the natural and social environment alike, including the preservation of tradition and the traditional Bahraini lifestyle. Agricultural land is under a lot of pressure because of urbanization.

Fishing data indicate the fluctuation of catches with a tendency to decline during the period from 2004 until 2012. Total quantities used of fish stocks in the Bahraini waters range between 9000 to 15,000 metric tons.

On the other hand, the fishing data analysis shows a case of excessive and unjust exploitation, especially between 2007 and 2010, while a relative improvement recorded in 2011 and 2012. Dredging and reclamation operations are considered the most important reasons for the destruction of fish habitat and marine environmental degradation.

With regard to biological diversity and the diversity of fish stocks, the stocks in the Bahraini water including the most important commercially consumed species, and species of lesser importance, amounting to 80 fish stocks. The abundance index (fishing rate per unit effort) for most fish stocks indicates deterioration of these fish stocks where the number of deteriorating stocks ranges between 70 to 74 stocks during the years 2004-2012. The stocks that have seen an improvement or an abundance of fishing in some years were between 6-10 stocks. This means that most of the fish stocks show a decline in catch rates and in a state of attrition. Accordingly, the fisherman income declined as a result of falling rates of fishing. However, the danger also lies in the deterioration of the proportion of the total fish stocks in the waters of the Kingdom of Bahrain, which amounted to 93% of total stocks. This attrition means that the fish stocks in the Bahraini waters are not in a safe position, especially with the growing proportion of depleted stocks.

2- Sustainable and renewable energy:

The issue of sustainability of the energy and rationalization of its use is of a very high importance on the sustainable development agenda, especially with regard to the need for increased use of renewable energy sources, rather than the excessive reliance on fossil fuels.

There is a need in the kingdom of Bahrain to raise the efficiency of energy use in general, both in terms of the amount of consumption, or the efficiency of consumption, or the ratio of energy consumed from renewable sources to the total energy consumed.

The data indicate that domestic sector (households) is the first consumer of electricity, as electricity consumption in the domestic sector is 50% versus 36% for the industrial sector and 13% for the commercial sector. The water data indicate that domestic sector (households) is also the first consumer of water by



Success Story:

Government initiative for the optimal use of natural resources and the resources available to the Kingdom of Bahrain

The Cabinet issued Edict No. 2092-05 dated January 9, 2011, to approve the launch of a government initiative to optimize the use of natural resources and the resources available. The Ministry of Finance was tasked to head a working group consisting of representatives from the concerned ministries and agencies to list the policies, programs and projects adopted by the ministries and government bodies in the field of energy saving and rationalization of expenditures, and develop an action plan to activate these initiatives and projects to propose standards and regulations that would raise the level of productivity, quality and achieve the best possible use of the wealth and resources, as well as applying the green policy concepts and take actions and measures required to put these concepts into practice through specific programs and action plans. In this regard, the Ministry of Finance elaborated a green environmental policy of the Ministry "Tanweer" to rationalize electricity, water and paper consumption, and smoking prohibition, which resulted in reduction of waste paper by 33.5%. A plan was developed to reach at least 40% reduction of power consumption in the ministry and expanding the use of solar energy, as well as installation of water consumption reduction equipment, documentation and adoption of policies required to be adhere to by all staff and obtain the ISO 14001 environmental management certification.

The Electricity and Water Affairs Authority has implemented several projects for road lighting using solar energy and (LED) lamps. It also implemented a program to audit the energy among subscribers in the industrial and commercial sectors to improve the efficiency of energy consumption. As well as improving the efficiency of lighting in the residential and government sectors, and the application of thermal insulation and the adoption of special specifications and standards of energy efficiency and air conditioning equipment. The Ministry of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning and the Ministry of Housing ordered all buildings of four floors above to use thermal insulation means, and developed a "code" for green sustainable buildings (green buildings mean: an integrated system of procedures and solutions designed to save energy consumption, expand sources of renewable energy, reduce the emission of harmful gases, reduce water consumption, choose specific construction materials, improve air quality and internal environment and increase the life span of the building) which includes thermal insulation, pollution, lighting, and disposal of waste and energy and water consumption saving, green schools- in cooperation with the Ministry of Education.



8

**A GLOBAL
PARTNERSHIP FOR
DEVELOPMENT**



Goal : 8

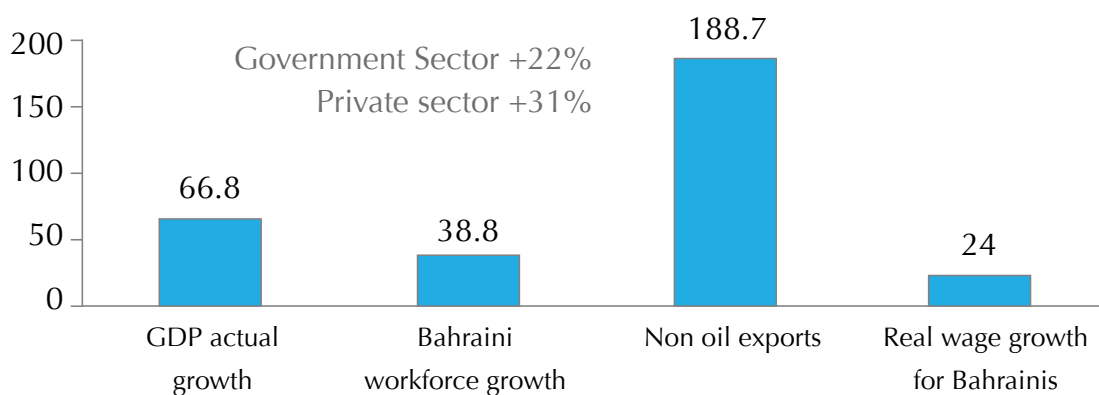
A Global Partnership for Development

The general trend of growth in a decade

The developments that took place in Bahrain during a decade (2003 - 2013) revealing a strong and stable trend upward for economic growth coupled with strong developmental impact. During this decade, real GDP grew by 67%, workforce increase by 39%, real wages increase by 24%, and non-industrial exports also surged high to 189%. (See chart (10)).

Chart (10)

The Growth of the General Economic Indicators, 2003-2013



Real wages growth for Bahrainis from 2003 and 2010 data
Source: Central Informatics Organization, Labour Market Regulatory Authority,
the Central Bank of Bahrain, Economic Development Board

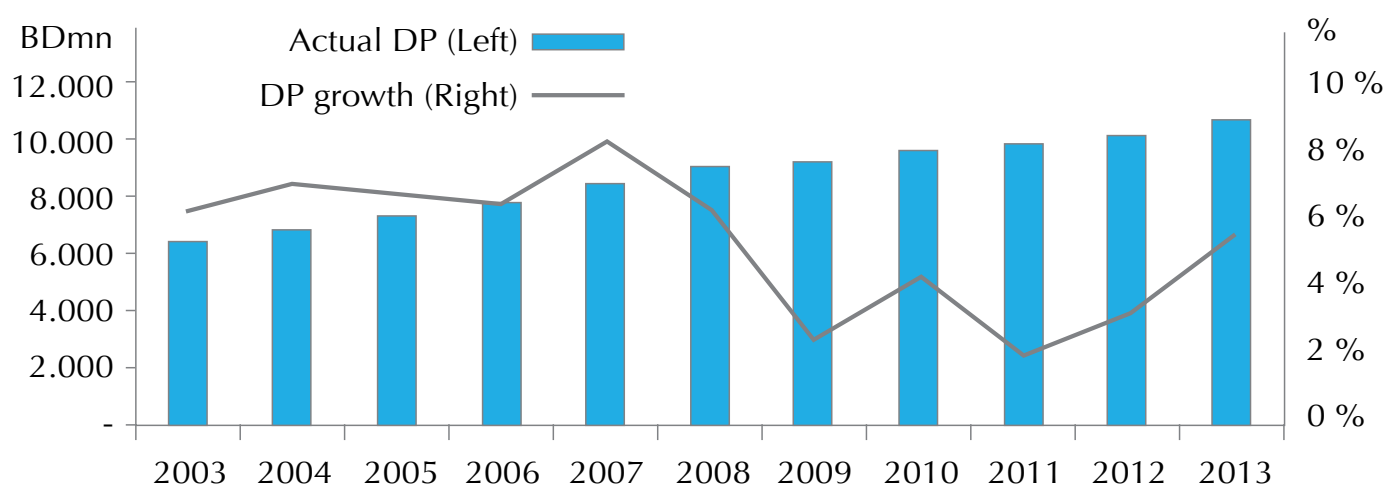
But that does not mean the absence of problems and challenges, which highlights what already noted in the introduction to the point of interconnection between the external and internal factors, and the interconnection among all dimensions of development. This decade has witnessed two setbacks: the first in 2009 due to the global economic crisis (2008); and the second in 2011 as a result of the unrest that took place in the Arab region and the subsequent events in Bahrain.



Setbacks and advancement

The year 2009 witnessed a slowdown in economic growth due to the impact of the global economic crisis. GDP growth has fallen by more than half (from about 6% to 3%). This in particular has left a significant impact on the financial sector, construction, retail trade, and real estate. The crisis led to general downturn in the markets, and pressurized job opportunities and living standards. The previous report tackled in details these effects, and how this was confronted by a multi-faceted government measures, including a number of measures to stimulate economic growth, protect jobs opportunities and expand support and assistance. This has helped to overcome the effects of the crisis, showing high flexibility and the ability to contain problems and the resilience of the Bahraini economy which helped it to recover and restore its growth in 2010. It must be noted that external factors (economic) played a positive role here, as US economy gradually recovered, and the burden of the crisis moved to European countries that are not the main partner of Bahrain and the Gulf States, contrary to the Mediterranean basin and the Arab Maghreb countries in particular, strongly impacted by the European crisis.

Chart (11)
Real GDP Growth (2003-2013)



Source: Central Informatics Organization

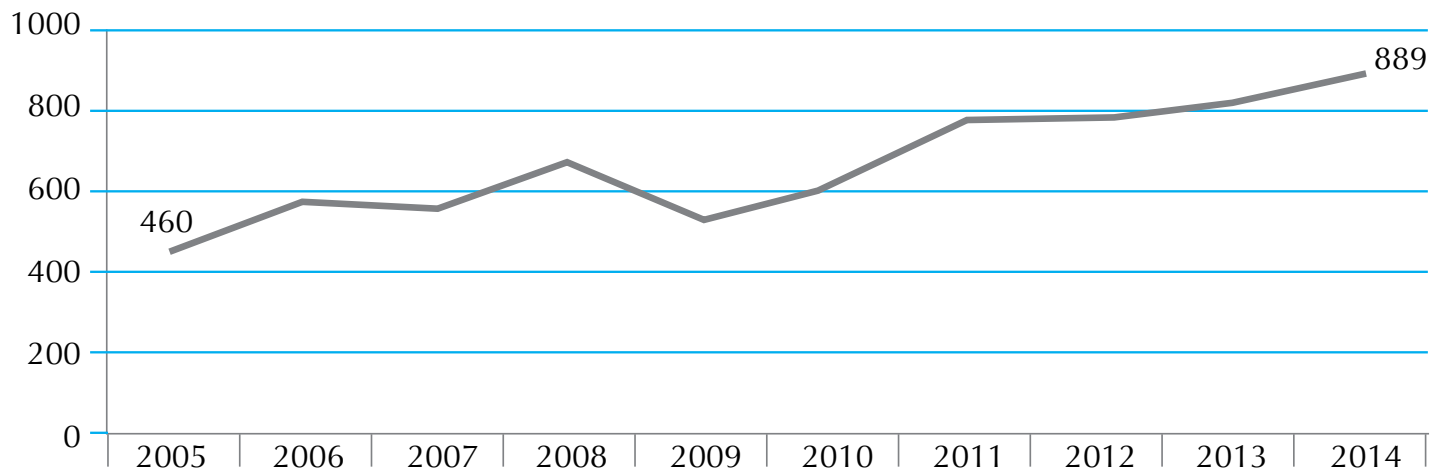
The second challenge came in 2011, with GDP growth rate also fell slightly less than 2009. The challenges this time came due to the influence of regional developments, and reflected in the internal unrest. Arab countries have witnessed as of the month of December 2010 and all through 2011, in Tunisia, then in Egypt, Yemen, Libya, Syria and other countries, the protest movements in the streets and confrontations which were sometimes peaceful, and sometimes violent and armed, which led to a waste of the achievements of these countries and investments in human resources, the environment, infrastructure, health and education. Instability, armed confrontations and international and regional foreign intervention soon prevailed, including military intervention, and the situation remains volatile in these countries until now.

The most affected sectors in 2011 were, tourism, construction, and real estate. Contrary to the crisis of 2009, when tourism was not severely affected, the internal turmoil was a factor in the reduction of the number of tourists and visitors, therefore the hotels and restaurants activities declined, and the number of visitors decreased due to this fact. Other sectors were also affected, including the fishing sector, which recorded the lowest level of fishing during the year 2011 as well.

The restoration of internal stability of the kingdom enabled it to protect its developmental achievements and human capital investments against loss. Bahrain was able to restore growth from 2012 and 2013, where growth recovered and approached the level that existed before the crisis (6%) and it is on the rise, which again confirming the flexibility of the Bahraini economy. In 2013, restaurants and hotels sector regained the level reached in 2010 before the crisis, and also a significant improvement noted in the ratio of tourism and visitors.

As a matter of economic openness to other countries and cooperation in the areas of livelihood and investment, Bahrain attracts many expatriates who come to the country to work and improve their living standards for themselves and their dependents in their home countries. Bahrain is also keen to provide adequate protection to them like the national workforce and within the framework of its international obligations relating to the protection and guaranteeing the rights of workers without discrimination. Chart 14 shows the doubling of expatriate remittances from Bahrain during the ten past years, bringing the total expatriate remittances to 889 million dinars (about 2,358 million \$) in 2014.

Chart (12)
Expatriate Remittances (2005-2014)



Source: Central Bank of Bahrain



Continuation of the external impact

Interdependence between the internal and external factors will continue with both its positive and negative aspects during the coming period, which would leave its impact on determining the content of the post-2015 agenda, and the ability to achieve the goals and targets. This interdependence is more important for the Kingdom of Bahrain by virtue of its affiliation with the Gulf Cooperation Council, where the GCC is representing an integration and solidarity framework crucial in determining national policy which will inevitably fall within the framework of joint strategies and stances with other Member States.

Bahrain has benefited from this membership in surviving its crisis indirectly through the protection and immunity by membership of the Council and its mechanisms, or directly through the financial and economic support that Bahrain obtained, especially after the 2011 crisis, which enabled it - along with other aspects of comprehensive support - to survive the crisis and restore social and institutional stability with minimal losses in the accumulated development gains since the Millennium Declaration.

However, this same correlation has negative effects as well. In general, any country's ability to cope up with the multiple challenges alone remain limited, particularly for small countries. The Kingdom is located in the heart of a region which is living in a state of ongoing turmoil for years, with indications that this situation would continue for many years to come. While regional affiliation has an immunity element, but at the same time also puts the Kingdom at the heart of regional and international tensions that surround the region and its countries. Such a tensed regional situation may lead to a general economic downturn in the region, which may affect the achievement of the development goals. It also may lead to shift resources to the priorities related to security and stability, and to provide emergency aid to other countries, especially with the large increase in the numbers of refugees and displaced persons to unprecedented levels in the history of the region and the world.

In this regard, reference should be made to what has been revealed by the World Investment Report - UNCTAD (2014), that after the recession in 2012, foreign direct investment regained growth by 9% in 2013, and this trend is expected to continue over the coming years. However, the report also reveals that foreign direct investment fell by 7% in the North African countries, and by 9% in the West Asia region, which failed for the fifth year in a row to get out of this situation. The main reason for the inability of countries of the region to get out of this situation contrary to other regions of the world, is the instability that is prevailing.

All this puts additional burdens on national economies, and the development policies, which makes finding appropriate and effective national strategies and linking between the internal and external levels and between the various dimensions of development now and in the future a mandatory conduit for success.

Bahrain: Global indicators of economic performance

Bahrain has been able to maintain a global high ranking in the region, according to the international indicators. It succeeded in achieving this progress thanks to ongoing reforms introduced on economic governance system which led to an increased effectiveness of the economic and financial performance on both general and sectoral levels, including the use of advanced information and communications technology, and a commitment to the global efficiency and transparency standards. This has been recognized internationally, as the Index of Economic Freedom by the Heritage Foundation for 2014 has ranked Bahrain 13th worldwide and 1st among the GCC countries. The favorable climate for foreign investment has attracted US\$2.9 billion of foreign investments in 2006, before falling to 0.2 billion in 2010, due to the global crisis, which confirms once again that creating internal climates for investment and growth is insufficient unless coupled with agreeable regional and international environment.

Table (11)
Bahrain and GCC Countries in the Global Ranking

GCC countries	Index of Economic Freedom by the Heritage Foundation in 2014	The study of Fraser Institute Economic Freedom, 2012	Index for Ease of doing business by the World Bank in 2014
Bahrain	13 th (1 st)	25 th (3 rd)	53 rd (4 th)
UAE	28 th (2 nd)	6 th (1 st)	22 nd (1 st)
Qatar	30 th (3 rd)	15 th (2 nd)	50 th (3 rd)
Oman	48 th (4 th)	45 th (4 th)	66 th (5 th)
Kuwait	76 th (5 th)	59 th (5 th)	86 th (6 th)
Saudi Arabia	77 th (6 th)	87 th (6 th)	49 th (2 nd)

Source: Economic Development Board (Rank by GCC countries in brackets below)

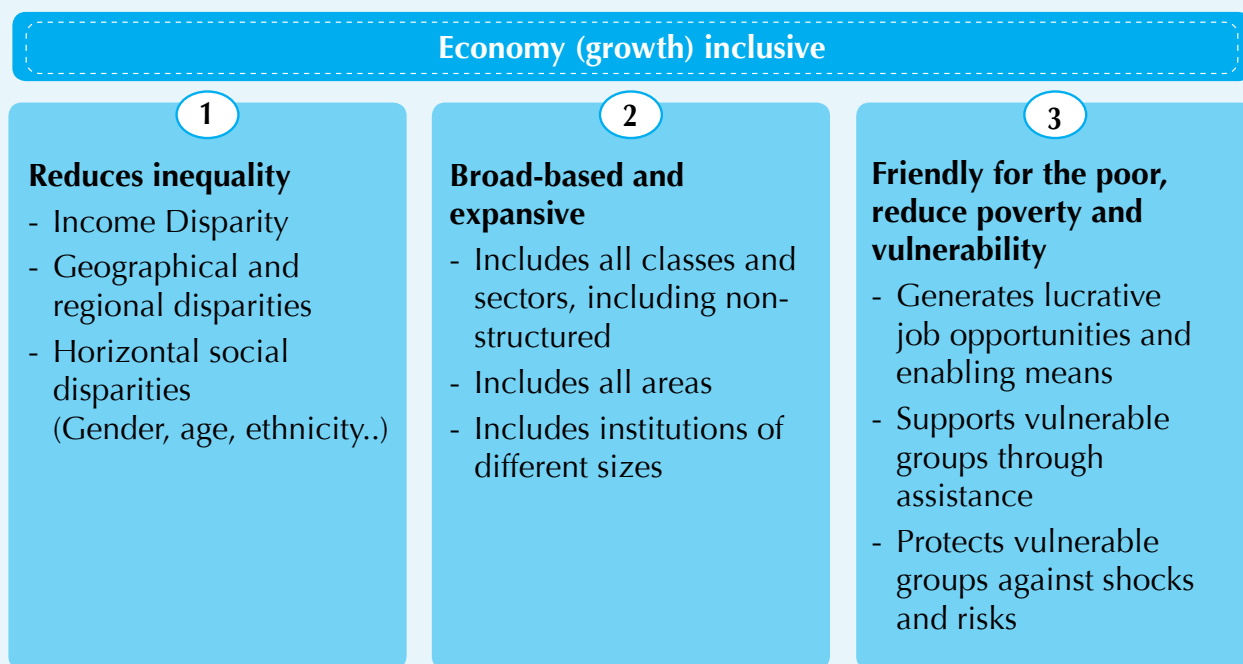
Table (11) above summarizes the ranking of Bahrain, according to a number of international indexes. However, this should be dealt with in a scientific way totally recognizing the significance of these indexes and their function, and the consequences for the nature of the indicators used to build them. These indexes suggest positioning Bahrain in an advanced rank in the general direction of the global economic system, and refer an advanced degree of integration in this economy and commitment to its criteria. But that is not enough for national policy-making and is not a substitute for studying the properties and characteristics of the economy and development at the macro level in various sectors. Regardless of the lack of accuracy of the data in international sources sometimes, these indexes are built for the purpose of international comparisons and give priority to specific issues of concern to foreign investments and major

global companies, as well as the requirements to respond to the rules and conditions of the international financial institutions and the World Trade Organization, which do not necessarily match with national priorities. Therefore these indexes are not enough to evaluate national economic performance, especially in terms of the developmental effects, but it is necessary to go further in studying national economic and developmental fact, with its general direction and details as much as possible, and relation with the world and the region, from the perspective of an integrated national priorities.

The Inclusive Economic Development

The report titled "the Future we Want or All" prepared by the Working Group of the United Nations in 2011, uses the two terms of inclusive economic development, and inclusive social development to describe the economic and social components in the proposed conceptual framework for sustainable human development. This is an indication that what is required exceeds the economic growth to economic development, and that it should be inclusive.

ESCWA suggested in the report of the Millennium Development Goals in the Arab region, issued in 2011, an analytical framework for the inclusive economy, the following chart summarizes its elements as follows:



This analytical framework draws attention to the need to reflect on the interrelationship between economic growth and its developmental effects, its dynamics and components and not just relying on the general quantitative indicators such as growth rate in order to evaluate the efficiency of the economy through its developmental results, not by its response to purely technical criteria.

In this regard, as has been explained in the first paragraph above, the GDP growth coupled with an increase in non-oil exports, jobs, and incomes of citizens, and this is what is required, since the economy is not an end in itself, but a means to improve human well-being.

Upon looking at some of the detailed characteristics, we find the Kingdom of Bahrain has made significant strides on the road to economic diversification, and this is an important qualitative indicator, where the share of the oil and gas sector fell from 40% of GDP in 2003 to 21% in 2013. The highest growth rates in the social sector and personal services (13.4% per annum during the decade), construction (11.5%), transport and communications (9.3%), and hotels and restaurants (8.8%) ... etc., see Table (12).

Table (12)
Real GDP Per Sector 2003 -2013

Sector	2003	2013	Compound growth rate	Share of GDP 2003	Share of GDP 2013
	(BD mn)	(BD mn)			
Social and Personal Services	167	589	13.40%	2.60%	5.50%
Construction	239	709	11.50%	3.70%	6.60%
Transport and Communications	302	739	9.30%	4.70%	6.90%
Others	188	436	8.80%	2.90%	4.00%
Hotels and Restaurants	111	253	8.60%	1.70%	2.40%
Government Services	630	1,383	8.20%	9.80%	12.80%
Financial Companies	820	1,798	8.20%	12.70%	16.70%
Trade	229	479	7.60%	3.60%	4.40%
Manufacturing	801	1,559	6.90%	12.40%	14.50%
Total GDP	6,459	10,771	5.20%	100.00%	100.00%
Real Estate and Businesses	389	593	4.30%	6.00%	5.50%
Crude Oil and Natural Gas	2,583	2,232	-1.40%	40.00%	20.70%

Base year 2010: Source: Central Informatics Organization

This refers to the expansion of sectoral economic base, and the base of beneficiaries of this growth which would contribute to the improvement of other development indicators, particularly education and health, in this case, since the investment in these sectors tripled during the decade referred to above (within the social sector and personal services). It reflected positively on the "human capital" specifically. Government spending on education has nearly doubled during this period. Private investment also expanding in this sector. In overall this effort led to a high rate of enrollment in universities from 28% in 2003 to 33% in 2013. The number of universities has increased from 8 to 16, the total number of

government schools and universities increased from 199 to 206, and the private from 52 to 74. The same trend is seen in the health sector, where government investment has increased three-fold during the reference period itself, which contributed to improve the overall health indicators, particularly life expectancy at birth, which rose from 73 years in 2000 to 79 years in 2013. It is similar in the housing and social protection sector, as mentioned in details in this report.

But what is worth noting, too, is that this quantitative growth is associated with an improvement in the quality of service and the development of regulatory, legislative and institutional framework (governance component), and cautious in adopting international quality standards at the same time. Which is a guarantee of sustainability and to maximize the development impact.

This progress is posing a new challenge on the Kingdom of Bahrain which may not be faced by all the States in the same manner and priority, which is the challenge of developing the role of the private sector in order to contribute systematically and more effectively in achieving development, especially sustainable development goals or the goals of the development agenda beyond 2015 and beyond the approach of social and environmental responsibility of the private sector: a strategic contribution of the private sector in development.

The role of private investment in achieving development goals

There is a future strategic direction for the development of the role of the private sector in achieving sustainable human development. This is encouraged by the fulfilled achievements referred to above in key development indicators, and in the field of economic development and the level of the strong correlation between the two. Accordingly, the private sector can play more advanced role from within the national development strategy governed by the forward-looking vision. This could be such a unique and pioneering experience in the region, where the characteristics of the Kingdom and its current position provide very good opportunity for success.

The concept is not contradicting the global context, but it is in the heart of it. The proposals are inspired by the World Investment Report 2014 issued by the UNCTAD, under the title "Investing in sustainable development goals: an action plan."

The report reviews critically the reality of private investment in the development at the global level, and the mechanisms and rules, calling for reform from the perspective of pushing the private sector to play an organic and systematic role in achieving the development goals, including the contribution to bridging the projected global funding gap of US\$ 2.5 trillion per year (total funding required ranges between 3.3 and 4.5 trillion dollars annually). This at a global level, and certainly there is a gap at the level of each country, which require organic and strong partnership between the government and the private sector as well.

The critical observations contained in the UNCTAD report, are representing useful ideas to support national governments in the formulation of national policies and negotiating with foreign investors. The performance of the global economy was not perfect, nor the financial, commercial and economic

globalization tools are completely fair, otherwise the global crises and setbacks would not have happened. The interests do not always match between the national, regional and globalized, or between one sector and another, or between one social group and another, and this is the nature of life itself. The report criticizes the "Global Investment Incentives " which have a particular focus on economic performance rather than focusing on sustainable development. Governments often use these incentives as political tools in order to attract investment, despite continuing criticism to these incentives for being ineffective economically and distorting the allocation of public resources . Therefore it is necessary to make the investment incentives more in line with the goals of sustainable development."

Many countries are increasingly objecting on the international investment agreements. During 2013, 59 countries proceeded to take action affecting the international investment conditions. While global trends still give priority to the promotion of investment and economic liberalization, the priorities of national governments, which translated into actions and legislation, give "priority to directing the private investment towards job creation, technology transfer and the promotion of national exports." On the other hand, due to being "affected by the economic crisis and high unemployment, some countries have resorted to restrictive measures for repositioning investments and reduce the laying off workers". The number of these restrictive measures as mentioned by the UNCTAD report have risen from 6 in 2000 to 27 in 2014.

This discussion is accompanied by a number of contentious issues related to the policy that should be followed. UNCTAD report also proposes a number of guiding principles to deal with these points which are as follows:

1. Balance between economic liberalization measures and the right of national governments to regulate investment and control.
2. Balance between investment incentives through reasonable profit rates, and the need to keep the cost of services (and quality) affordable to citizens, and translate that into contractual terms.
3. Maintain a balance between the private investment and government investment expenditure. Private investments do not replace government investment expenditure, but integrate with it.
4. Achieve a balance between investment and global responsibilities and between investment and national responsibilities.

Table of Progress in Achieving General Goals



Achieve



Progress with Difficulties

	<p>Eradicating extreme poverty and hunger</p>	
	<p>Achieving universal primary education</p>	
	<p>Promoting Gender Equality and Empowering Women</p>	
	<p>Reducing Child Mortality</p>	
	<p>Improving Maternal Health,</p>	
	<p>Combating HIV/AIDS, Malaria, and other Diseases</p>	
	<p>Ensuring Environmental Sustainability</p>	
	<p>Developing a global partnership for Development</p>	