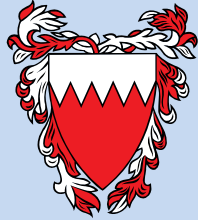


**Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain
and United Nations**

**STRATEGIC AND SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION FRAMEWORK
2021-2022**

A Partnership for Sustainable Development



مملكة البحرين
Kingdom of Bahrain



UNITED
NATIONS
BAHRAIN
.....

Foreword by the Government of Bahrain

The Government of Bahrain is pleased to present this revised Strategic and Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (SCF) with the United Nations system. It builds upon the previous Strategic Partnership Framework (SPF) which was updated to ensure full alignment with the priorities in the new Government Programme for the period 2019-2022 and related biennium budgets. This Framework highlights both ongoing and future cooperation opportunities between the Government and UN system agencies and it reflects their mutual commitment to country development priorities and the Sustainable Development Agenda & Goals.

The Framework provides a solid basis for strategic cooperation between United Nations system agencies and the Government. It responds clearly and effectively to specific policy and program priorities of the Government, as laid out in its Economic Vision 2030 and the Government Programme, 2019-2022, as well as other national development strategies. The value of this Strategic and Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework is two-fold:

- » It offers a comprehensive picture of where and how UN system agencies are working in cooperation with the Government of Bahrain for the achievement of country strategic priorities and related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and targets, and
- » The SCF improves the UN system's focus on results and provides a platform for common policy work and stronger coordination and delivery of support from UN system agencies that is fully aligned with Bahrain's development needs and priorities.

The Government wishes to thank the UN Resident Coordinator and heads of UN system agencies for their many contributions to the process. The Government is fully committed to working with the UN system in Bahrain for the implementation of this Cooperation Framework and we express confidence in our future partnership for sustainable development in and beyond the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Foreword by the Resident Coordinator of the UN System in Bahrain

This Strategic and Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework between the Government of Bahrain and the UN system will guide our current and future cooperation until 2022. The framework, a comprehensive and coherent statement of UN system support for country development priorities, displays how the agencies of the UN system will bring to bear their multiple skills and knowledge sets to address complex challenges. This is all the more important as we enter the Decade of Action, which calls for accelerating sustainable solutions to the world's biggest challenges.

Importantly, performance indicators for the cooperation outcomes have been aligned, wherever possible, with the indicator framework for the SDGs. This has been helped greatly by the fact that the Government Programme, 2019-2022, is strongly aligned with Agenda 2030. It is expected that UN system agencies will continue to support the Government to collect SDG-related data and use it to strengthen the evidence base for future policy and planning.

The Framework also places emphasis on Bahrain's growing global and regional role. Enhanced South-South cooperation will enable Bahrain to share successful examples for the acceleration of SDG achievement, particularly in economic diversification and SME promotion, Islamic finance for the SDGs, green economy and energy efficiency. It will also enhance Bahrain's international cooperation to prevent conflict and combat violent extremism and terrorism, and respond to humanitarian and post-disaster, post-conflict situations.

The United Nations system in Bahrain is grateful for its partnership with the Government and the success of this and future cooperation will lie in our common commitment to implementation. Together, and in the spirit of the reform the UN country team and the Government of Bahrain are committed to supporting the Secretary General's ambitious vision for multilateral cooperation towards sustainable development.

We express our appreciation to all who participated in the development of this Strategic Cooperation Framework and their collective desires for a Bahrain where everyone can enjoy stability, fulfillment, and reach their full potential.

Declaration of Commitment

The Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain (GoB) and the United Nations are committed to working together to achieve the country's national vision of '*...a society where justice, security, stability and prosperity prevail*'.

This Strategic and Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (SCF) will guide the work of the GoB and the UN system in Bahrain until 2022. This framework updates the previously signed Strategic Partnership Framework, and builds on the successes of past cooperation between the GoB and UN system agencies. It bolsters coordinated and joint work to achieve national strategic priorities, policies and programmes.

This SCF represents a joint commitment by the GoB and the UN system to work in close partnership for the achievement of country priorities, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and other internationally agreed development goals. It will help to secure the changes that will help the people of Bahrain to live longer, healthier and more prosperous lives.

The implementation of the Strategic and Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (SCF) with the United Nations system and those contained in the present document is the sovereign right of The Kingdom of Bahrain, consistent with national laws and development priorities, with full respect to the various religious and ethical values and cultural backgrounds of the Kingdom of Bahrain's people, and in conformity with universally recognized international human rights and fundamental freedoms.

In signing hereafter, the participating partners endorse this Strategic Cooperation Framework and underscore their joint commitment toward the achievement of its results.

Government of Bahrain:



H.E. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani
Minister of Foreign Affairs

United Nations:



H.E. Mohamed El Zarkani
United Nations Resident Coordinator a.i.

Signatures

In witness thereof, the undersigned, being duly authorized, have signed this Government of Bahrain-United Nations Strategic and Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for the period 2021-2022 on March 31 2021 in Manama, Bahrain, underscoring their joint commitment to its priorities and cooperation results.

Mr. Dino Francescutti
Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations



Mr. Stefano Pettinato
United Nations Development
Programme



Dr. Ruba Jaradat
International Labour Organization



Mr. Mohamed El Zarkani
International Organization for
Migration



Mr. Vladimir Voronkov
United Nations Office of Counterterrorism



X

Mr. Sujit Kumar Mohanty
United Nations Office for Disaster
Risk Reduction - (RAOS)



Mr. Sami Dimassi
United Nations Environment
Programme



Dr. Anna Paolini
United Nations Educational,
Scientific and Cultural
Organization



Mr. Mounir Tabet
United Nations Economic and
Social Commission for Western
Asia



الشرق الأوسط
ESCWA

Mr. Karl Kulesa
United Nations Population Fund



Dr. Erfan Ali
United Nations Human Settlements Programme



Mr. Ahmed Mohsen
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees



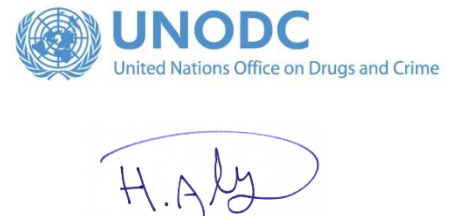
Mr. Eltayeb Adam
United Nations Children's Fund



Dr. Jaime Moll De Alba Cabot
United Nations Industrial Development Organization



Dr. Hatem Aly
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime



Ms. Roueida El Hage
Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights



Ms. Susanne Mikhail
United Nations for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women



Dr. A. Basel Al-Yousfi
World Health Organization



Mr. Jason Pronyk
United Nations Volunteers



Mr. Adel Darwish
International Telecommunication



Executive Summary

The Government of Bahrain (GoB) and the United Nations (UN) Strategic and Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (SCF) is a partnership for achieving results for all people in Bahrain. The SCF describes **four priorities and expected outcomes**, along with related strategies and indicators for success and how these will contribute to country strategic priorities in the Bahrain Economic Vision 2030¹, the Government Programme (GP) for the period 2019-2022², and related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and targets³. It is also both informed by, and strongly aligns with, the five streams of work outlined in the **UN Framework for the Immediate Socio-Economic Response to COVID-19**, which includes; 1. Health First: 2. Protecting People; 3. Economic Response and Recovery; 4. Macroeconomic Response and Multilateral Collaboration; and 5. Social Cohesion and Community Resilience.

This SCF represents an update to the previous Strategic Partnership Framework, signed in October 2017. This was done to ensure full alignment with the priorities in the new Government Programme for the period 2019-2022 and related biennium budgets. The expected cooperation results and strategies have been adjusted to respond to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and its impacts.

The SCF priorities and outcomes were validated in a series of consultations between the Government, the UN system agencies, and country stakeholders. In line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, none of the priorities and outcomes concerns a *single sector* or *single-stakeholder*. Rather they represent a *nexus* of inter-connected changes that respond to country challenges and that will make tangible contributions to the central goals of the Economic Vision 2030 and GP⁴:

- ✓ Transformation toward a highly diversified, competitive, and sustainable economy
- ✓ Fairness and sustainability in society, ensuring employment and higher wages in a safe and secure living environment
- ✓ Ensure that every Bahraini household has at least twice as much disposable income – in real terms – by 2030.

Priority A. Environment, energy, and food

Accelerated economic diversification and shared prosperity in Bahrain will depend upon the sustainable management of its natural wealth. Environmental sustainability in Bahrain today is challenged by scarcity of fresh water, desertification, pollution and coastal and marine ecosystem degradation from anthropogenic activities. This has lowered water table leaving the main Dammam aquifer, a trans-boundary resource, open to contamination from salt water. Bahrain's food security is dependent on imports and agriculture consumes about 39% of the total water budget while accounting for less than 1% of GDP, and 10% of the local self-sufficient agricultural production.

There is potential to increase contribution of the agricultural sector to food security and economic growth. Many technologies are being used globally to reduce the cost of production, increase productivity of land and water, and rationalize the consumption of natural resources. These can be adapted to conditions in Bahrain to boost agricultural productivity by increasing water use efficiency and improved technologies in vegetable production, increasing livestock productivity and investment in aquaculture.

The cooperation outcome is to see enhanced implementation of strengthened policy and regulatory frameworks for **the sustainable management of environmental resources and the promotion of energy efficiency and food security**. This outcome is a critical *enabler*. Stronger implementation of policy and regulatory frameworks will enhance the sustainable management of environmental resources and the promotion of energy efficiency and food security. Effective climate adaptation and mitigation measures and a more rational use of scarce natural resources will buttress increased resilience and the shift toward sustainable consumption and production and the *greening* of the economy.

¹ Government of Bahrain, Economic Vision 2030, EDB, May 2013

² Government Programme (2019-2022), Government of Bahrain, English translation facilitated by United Nations in Bahrain.

³ See: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>, <http://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/indicators-list/>

⁴ Government of Bahrain, Economic Vision 2030, EDB, May 2013, 8-9.

Priority B. Quality, comprehensive social services

Closely linked with the shift toward a more diversified, knowledge-based economy, renewed efforts are needed to strengthen the education and health systems. Even with a highly developed education system, Bahrain, like most high-income countries, faces the challenge to improve educational quality and standards across all school levels and ensure that young people have the skills that are in demand in a dynamic and diversifying economy. Major population health challenges include a dramatic increase in the burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs), rising rates of obesity, and the demographic shift toward an ageing population, and of course, more recently, COVID-19. Quality health and education services must continue to respond to the needs of adolescents and young people who will join the labour market, develop new businesses, and drive economic growth in the next decade.

The cooperation outcome is to strengthen social sector policies and systems that will tangibly improve the **delivery of quality, comprehensive services for Bahraini citizens and residents**. This will support conditions for a healthy, skilled, and resilient population capable of driving a more diversified, knowledge-based economy.

Priority C. Economic diversification, public administration, and resilience

Government efforts to diversify the economy have shown results: the hydrocarbon share of the economy is down from a third of GDP in 2005 to less than one-fifth in 2017, and employment and investment opportunities have been expanded in new sectors⁵. Still, over the next ten years, the size of Bahrain's workforce is expected to double. About 4,000 Bahrainis enter the job market annually, many with a post-secondary qualification. According to the Bahrain Economic Vision 2030, the country is facing a serious shortage of both quality employment and relevant skills among the young people. Bahrain recognizes that it must compete as a knowledge economy, producing high value added goods and services. It must also create conditions for women and expatriate workers, referred to by the GoB as expatriate or contract workers, to fully contribute to sustainable development. Progress will hinge on growth of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) which are the backbone of a sustainable economy and contribute greatly to innovation, job growth, and international competitiveness. The pandemic has damaged productivity and competitiveness and the UN system will support businesses to navigate the economy as it recovers from COVID-19, including education and support for digital commerce. Stronger, formal bridges and links between the education and employment sectors and stakeholders, especially the private sector, are needed to re-orient education and training programs to deliver more knowledge-based and employment-oriented programs.

The cooperation outcome is for concerted **policy and regulatory reform that will build on Bahrain's success to diversify its economy and generate employment**, while strengthening the foundations for economic success with stronger rule of law and increased resilience. This priority will address the intersection of Bahrain's impressive gains to diversify its economy and the need to sustain these efforts with strengthened public administration reform, rule of law and social resilience, including policies and initiatives to engage young people more fully in the development of the Kingdom. This will contribute to Bahrain's aims for growing prosperity that is more equitable and comprehensive.

Priority D. Bahrain among nations

Bahrain is actively engaged in multiple regional and international partnerships, frameworks, and initiatives to further the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It has taken a proactive role in multilateral platforms, South-South cooperation, and in supporting other Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to strengthen their policy coherence and resilience for adaptation to the risks from climate change. Bahrain has also played an important role to support international cooperation for countering and preventing terrorism. Regional cooperation, particularly amongst the members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), is a critical dimension for many of the Government of Bahrain's policy priorities. Under this fourth, *outward-looking* priority GoB and UN system will partner to expand and accelerate its regional and international engagement for the sustainable development agenda, including but not limited to: Efforts to prevent conflict and address violent extremism and terrorism, Humanitarian and post-disaster, post-

⁵ BHDR, *ibid.*, 2018, 52-56.

conflict support, Innovative Islamic finance models and institutions for financing achievement of the SDGs, and greater South-South collaboration efforts in the realm of ideas and analysis, focused on economic diversification and a vibrant SME sector, and smart policies and initiatives that promote green economy and energy efficiency⁶.

The cooperation outcome will see the Government and UN system partner to expand and accelerate Bahrain's regional and international engagement for the sustainable development agenda. Bahrain's positioning will involve increased collaboration with different parts of the United Nations system to explore and identify common interests and areas where its models, solutions, and support are best applied. The areas of focus are not exclusive, and they will evolve in the coming years in line with Bahrain's development priorities as well as the ongoing reform of the United Nations architecture for development, peace and security, and human rights. Bahrain's increasing support for multilateralism and the UN System will complement its bilateral assistance efforts and South-South and triangular cooperation initiatives.

Cooperation efforts are guided by principles that are closely aligned with the Economic Vision 2030 and the Government Programme: (1) Inclusion and equity to 'leave no one behind, (2) Human rights, gender equality⁷ and the empowerment of women, (3) Sustainability and resilience, and (4) Accountability, including the availability and use of quality data. At a programmatic level, cooperation by the GoB and UN system agencies will be informed by a set of mutually reinforcing programming approaches⁸:

- » Delivery & Performance: Support a culture of measurement, monitoring, evaluation, and learning with working mechanisms to monitor and manage for results and identify and address data gaps for country priorities and related SDGs.
- » Cross-sector, multi-stakeholder engagement to sustain the mutual commitment of the partners to the SCF outcomes and to convene other partners in the private sector, civil society and volunteer groups⁹, create open spaces for dialogue and consensus around shared interests
- » Coherent policy support, linked with capacity enhancement and knowledge exchange to address complex multi-sector challenges, identify innovations, and support GoB coordination for effective planning, budgeting, service delivery, and monitoring
- » Adaptation to the emerging digital economies: Anticipating future skills needs and applications across the priorities and outcomes to drive innovation, particularly in areas related to ocean technology and digital services.
- » Regional cooperation and South-South cooperation are critical dimensions of Bahrain's policy priorities and the UN system will support regional cooperation and integration efforts.
- » Data and statistics: Across all outcomes, strong policies and plans and effective implementation will depend upon data and evidence. The UN system will support iGA to strengthen data collection, monitoring, and reporting on SCF outcome indicators and nationalised SDG indicators and targets, with a focus on critical data gaps.
- » Human rights & Gender equality: The UN system will continue to support the GoB to harmonize legislative and institutional frameworks for the observance of international human rights law and working toward greater consistency in implementation of recommendations of UN human rights

⁶ This is a new outcome for cooperation. Budget estimates for GoB-UN system cooperation for outcome 4 are pending further consultations with GoB and finalisation of GoB and UN system agency plans and budgets.

⁷ GoB definition of gender equality: Justice in rights and duties between women and men in political, social, cultural and economic life, within the context of equal opportunities in accordance with the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain. The content of the Strategic and Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2021-2022 related to women directly and in directly in the Kingdom of Bahrain shall be compatible with *The National Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women* which has been approved and ratified by the Head of the State, His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa King of Bahrain (and the strategies/ plans/ frameworks/ initiatives/ programmes/ concepts/ definitions/ language development and terminologies) emanating and have emerged from it.

⁸ Including: Parliament, the private sector, accredited embassies and organisations, civil society organisations, media, universities, and independent institutions

⁹ Licensed in accordance with national legislation

mechanisms, and to contribute to stronger GoB capacity for gender analysis and gender-responsive programming¹⁰

The Government and UN system have **mutual accountability** for achieving the SCF priorities and expected outcomes. Based on their comparative advantages, UN system agencies will contribute policy advice, in accordance with international norms, standards, and best practices, and they will build multi-stakeholder capacities at national and local levels to strengthen the implementation and monitoring of country strategies, policies and plans. Emphasis is placed on those strategies, policies and plans that align strongly with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and nationalised Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and targets.

This Framework builds on the successes of previous cooperation between the GoB and the UN, including jointly-managed coordination and implementation arrangements and effective coordination, implementation, and monitoring of cooperation:

- » A **Steering Committee**¹¹ co-chaired by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Resident Coordinator of the United Nations to provide strategic guidance and direction for overall implementation.
- » **Results Groups**¹² for each outcome comprising programme and technical staff will work to ensure effective, coordinated implementation, monitoring, and reporting about the achievement SCF outcomes.
- » **Joint Work Plans (JWP)** for each agreed outcome will provide detailed outputs, indicators, baselines, targets, means of verification, and assumptions and risks, including a funding framework.
- » **Annual performance reviews** by the Steering Committee and Results Groups will enable the partners to adapt SCF results and strategy and make course corrections that reflect changes in socio-economic conditions, and new, emerging priorities.
- » Each year a **UN Country results report**¹³ will describe actual outputs delivered against those in the JWP and *progress towards* the SCF outcomes, country priorities, and related SDG targets.

Through the Steering Committee the Government and UN system will to review, approve, and recommend funding of *new* cooperation ideas and proposals for cooperation. The UN system will also support the Government to develop a financing strategy to address gaps for wider SDG achievement. The strategy will promote cost-sharing and stronger partnerships with the private sector, including individual donors and corporate partners. New sources of finance will be identified, including options for blended finance and influencing the policy environment to facilitate greater resource flows for SDG-related country priorities.

The SCF consolidates the work of the UN system in a single coherent framework that provides a platform for common policy work and stronger coordination and delivery of results. These will support the ongoing transformation of the Bahrain economy and society toward economic diversification and job creation, sustainable environmental management, and lasting prosperity for all.

The theory of change for cooperation is offered in **Annex A**. The SCF results matrix is provided in **Annex B**. **Annex C** offers *proposed* initiatives for future consideration, and **Annex D** provides an indicative budget framework for cooperation results. Financial support provided by GoB and UN system agencies for the achievement of the expected SCF results is already committed and does not constitute a new request.

¹⁰ For example: Inclusive labour market policies and codes for more female-friendly workplaces. In 2018, half as many Bahraini women of working age are working, compared to males. Despite this gap recent data show that there is **near wage parity** between women and men in the public sector. BDHR, *ibid.*, 208.

¹¹ Members will comprise representatives of: The Office of the First Deputy Prime Minister, The Ministry of Cabinet Affairs, and The Ministry of Finance and National Economy, and heads of selected UN system agencies.

¹² Results Groups are led by the head of a UN system agency, or delegated senior agency official, who acts on behalf of the UNCT to ensure effective coordination and implementation of the JWP.

¹³ The progress update will follow the UNSDG Standard Operational Format and Guidelines for Reporting Progress on the Cooperation Framework.

Bahrain: Basic Data

Location	Middle East, archipelago in the Gulf, east of Saudi Arabia
Area	783 km ²
Capital	Manama
Administrative units	4 governorates (Muhafazat): Asimah (Capital), Janubiyah (Southern), Shamaliyah (Northern), and Muharraq. Each is administered by an appointed Governor.
Government type	Constitutional monarchy
Political system	Political parties are prohibited. Political societies legalized, July 2005.
Population	1,483,756; Urban population: 100%
Annual pop. growth	3.9% (2016 est.)
Median age:	Total: 31 years; male: 31 years; female: 28 years
Dependency ratio	30.1%
HDI	Value: 0.838; Rank 45/ 189 countries (2018)
Life expectancy at birth	Total population: 77.2 years; male: 78.3 years; female: 76.3years 2019
Total fertility rate	1.8 children born/woman (2018)
Languages	Arabic (official), English
Labour force participation rate	Labour force participation rate; Male 86.8%, Female 43.2% (2019)
GDP	2016 GDP at Current Prices (BD Million): 12,099.33 GDP per head (BD)- Current Prices: 8,498.4 2016 GDP at Constant Prices (BD Million): 11,949.06 GDP per head (BD), Constant Prices: 8,392.8 Non-oil sectors contribute to 80.2% of total GDP. The financial and banking sector is one of the most important non-oil sectors. Bahrain currently has about 404 financial institutions, which contribute to 16.3% of total GDP. The Manufacturing industries contribute 14.7% of GDP
Inflation rate	2.1% from January to December 2018
Unemployment rate	4.3% (2018)
Budget	Total public Revenues: 2,371,615,000 BD (2018); Total public Expenditures: 3,687,194,000 BD (2018)
Public debt (% GDP)	Fiscal deficit: 12.6% of GDP; Government debt: 62.1% of GDP (est.2016)
Natural resources	Bahrain has 0.05% of global oil reserves. Arable land represents 9% of Bahrain's land area. Fishing is a significant economic activity. There are 18 species of mammals, 330 species of birds, and Bahrain is a major stopping point on the Eurasian flyway.

Sources: GoB-Information & e-government Authority.

The UN system signing the Strategic and Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (SCF)

A total of 21 UN system agencies will sign the SCF

- » UN system agencies with a presence in Bahrain are: IOM, UNDP, UNEP, UNIDO and WMO.
- » UN system agencies supporting Bahrain from regional offices or headquarters are: ILO, ITU, FAO, OHCHR, UNDRR, UNESCO, UNESCWA, UNFPA, UN Habitat, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNOCT, UNODC, UNV, UN Women, and WHO
- » The UN system in Bahrain is led by the UN Resident Coordinator (UNRC) who coordinates UN development initiatives.

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

National institutions and Frameworks

BDB	Bahrain Development Bank	MoE	Ministry of Education
BIPA	Bahrain Institute of Public Administration	MoH	Ministry of Health
GP	Government Programme 2019-2022	MoHo	Ministry of Housing
GoB	Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain	MoICT	Ministry of Industry, Commerce & Tourism
GPF2.0	Government Priorities Framework	MoJ	Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs, and Endowments
PMC	HRH The Prime Minister's Court	MOYSA	Ministry of Youth and Sports Affairs
iGA	Information and e-Government Authority	OFDPM	Office of the First Deputy Prime Minister
MoFNE	Ministry of Finance and National Economy	SJC	Supreme Judicial Council
MoFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	SCE	Supreme Council of the Environment
MoW	Ministry of Works, Municipalities and Urban Planning	SCW	Supreme Council for Women
		SEA	Sustainable Energy Authority

United Nations System Agencies

FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization	UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
		UN	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organization	Habitat	
		UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
ILO	International Labour Organization	UNIC	United Nations Information Centre
IOM	International Organization for Migration	UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
ITU	International Telecommunications Union		
OHCHR	Office for the High Commissioner for Human Rights	UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS	UNOCT	United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism
UNDRR	United Nations for Disaster Risk Reduction		
UNCT	United Nations Country Team	UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNDG	United Nations Development Group	UNRC	United Nations Resident Coordinator
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme	UN	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
		UNV	United Nations Volunteers
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme	WFP	World Food Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	WHO	World Health Organization
UNESCWA	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for West Asia	WMO	World Meteorological Organization

Other

CCA	Common Country Assessment	JWP	Joint Work Plan
CSO	Civil Society Organisation	ME	Monitoring & Evaluation
COVID-19	Coronavirus disease	MDG	Millennium Development Goals
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction	MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreement
ECD/ECE	Early childhood development/ education	RBM	Results Based Management
D2030	Education 2030 (Incheon Declaration)	SCF	Strategic and Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
EFA	Education for All	SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment	UNCBD	UN Convention on Biological Diversity
GCC	Gulf Cooperation Council	UNFCCC	UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
GDP	Gross Domestic Product	UPR	Universal Periodic Review
GhG	Greenhouse Gas	VNR	Voluntary National Review

1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose of the framework

1. The Government of Bahrain (GoB) and the United Nations (UN) Strategic and Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (SCF) represents a partnership for achieving results for all people in Bahrain. The SCF is based upon the Bahrain Economic Vision 2030¹⁴ and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The expected results and strategies contained in the SCF will make important and lasting contributions for the achievement of strategic priorities and policies spelled out in the Government Programme (GP) for the period 2019-2022¹⁵ and related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and targets¹⁶. Importantly, the expected cooperation results and strategies have been adjusted to respond to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic¹⁷.
2. In line with ongoing reform of the UN development system¹⁸, the SCF consolidates the work of the UN system in a single framework. This offers a coherent platform for common policy work and stronger coordination and delivery of results in support of the Kingdom's efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. These results will support the ongoing transformation of the Bahrain economy and society toward economic diversification and job creation, sustainable environmental management, and lasting prosperity for all.
3. The Government and UN system have mutual accountability for achieving the planned SCF results. Based on their comparative advantages, UN system agencies will contribute policy advice, in accordance with international norms, standards, and best practices, and they will build multi-stakeholder capacities at national and local levels to strengthen the implementation and monitoring of country strategies, policies and plans. Emphasis is placed on those strategies, policies and plans that align strongly with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and targets. It is important to note that financial support provided by GoB and UN system agencies for the achievement of the expected SCF results is already committed and does not constitute a new request.
4. This framework builds on the successes of previous cooperation between the GoB and the UN. It describes how the partners will work together to deliver results, including jointly-managed coordination and implementation arrangements and effective progress monitoring and reporting.

1.2 Structure of the framework

5. The Strategic Cooperation Framework (SCF) contains five parts. Following this introduction:
 - » Part 2 offers an introduction to the country's development context, trends and challenges that will influence the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs,
 - » Part 3 describes the cooperation priorities and the UN development system's contribution to support Bahrain's progress toward the country priorities and the SDGs, as well as how the UN system will work to ensure the sustainability of expected SCF results,
 - » Part 4 describes the overall governance of the SCF, including the mechanisms and processes for steering and, review, and adjustment,
 - » Part 5 outlines arrangements for monitoring, reporting and evaluation of the SCF.
6. The theory of change for cooperation is offered in **Annex A**. The SCF results matrix is provided in **Annex B**. **Annex C** offers *proposed* initiatives for future consideration, and **Annex D** provides an indicative budget framework for cooperation results. **Annex E** contains the standard legal annex for cooperation.

¹⁴ Government of Bahrain, Economic Vision 2030, EDB, May 2013

¹⁵ Government Programme (2019-2022), Government of Bahrain, English translation facilitated by United Nations in Bahrain.

¹⁶ See: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>, <http://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/indicators-list/>

¹⁷ On 31 December 2019, the World Health Organization (WHO) was informed of cases of pneumonia of unknown aetiology detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province of China. Like SARS and MERS-CoV, the newly detected coronavirus has a zoonotic source. It did not match any other known virus. On March 11, the World Health Organization declared the global outbreak of COVID-19 a pandemic.

¹⁸ UN General Assembly Resolution 72/279 on the repositioning of the UN development system, 2018. The SCF is positioned as the most important instrument for the planning and implementation of UN supported work at country level.

2. Country progress toward the 2030 Agenda

2.1 Country context

7. The Kingdom of Bahrain is an archipelago of 33 islands in the Arabian Gulf comprising 707 (sq. km) with Saudi Arabia to the west and Qatar to the south east. The population is approximately 1.5 million with non-Bahraini making up about 55% of the total, comprised mainly of expatriate workers, referred to by the GoB as expatriate or contract workers, across all socio-economic levels. Bahrain is open to and tolerant of followers of other religions who are protected under the law. Projections suggest the country's population will reach 2 million by 2030.
8. Bahrain is a constitutional, hereditary monarchy. The King is the Head of State and the Prime Minister serves as the Head of Government. The Council of Ministers is appointed by the King and presided over by the Prime Minister. Legislative authority is vested in a bicameral National Assembly (*al-Majlis al-Watani*)¹⁹. Draft acts approved by both houses of the National Assembly pass into law once ratified by the King. There are 4 governorates: *Asimah* (the capital), *Shamaliyah* (Northern), *Janubiyah* (Southern), and *Muharraq*.
9. Led by its strong oil and gas sector and, increasingly, by a diversified mix of manufacturing and services, Bahrain's economy experienced steady economic growth with an average GDP growth rate of 4.4% per year between 2005 and 2018²⁰. During this period, per capita incomes increased from US\$ 37,500 to US\$ 44,620²¹. Bahrain has seen steady progress to diversify its economy. Since 2005 there has been a decline in the contribution of oil and gas to GDP, including the downstream petrochemicals sectors, from 28% of GDP in 2005 to 18% in 2017. Other main contributors to GDP are financial services (17%), manufacturing (16.5%). Since 2005 these and other sectors, including electricity and water services, business services, and real estate are becoming significant drivers of economic growth²².
10. Bahrain has been largely successful in converting its resource wealth into an increasing standard of living for its people. [Bahrain's human development index](#) (HDI) value for 2018 was 0.838 placing the country at 45 out of 189 countries and in the very high human development category²³. Bahrain has a gender inequality index (GII) value of 0.207, ranking it 47 out of 162 countries in 2018. Bahrain is slightly below the world average and that for small island developing states. However, it outperforms the Arab states by a considerable margin²⁴.
11. Children and young people under 25 years represent 38% of the population in 2019. Between 1990 and 2015, infant and under-five mortality (U5MR) rates decreased to 6.5 and 8.1 deaths per 1,000 live births, respectively. The neonatal mortality rate is 3.8 deaths per 1,000 live births²⁵. These rates are comparable to many OECD countries and they are a fraction of the regional average U5MR of 22 deaths per 1000 live births²⁶. This progress also reflects impressive gains in life expectancy and secondary education for girls and women. A record 41 female candidates stood for parliamentary elections in 2018, with 6 winning seats on the Council of Representatives including its first woman speaker²⁷. While women's labour force participation is lower than for men, Bahrain has reached gender parity in the

¹⁹ The lower house, the Council of Representatives (*Majlis al-Nowab*), consists of 40 elected members, while the upper house, the Consultative Council (*Majlis al-Shura*), is comprised of 40 members appointed by the King.

²⁰ World Bank, [GDP growth rate](#), dtd April 2020 (constant 2010 U.S. dollars).

²¹ World Bank, *ibid.*, GNI per capita based on purchasing power parity (PPP), April 2020.

²² BHDR, *ibid.*, 2018, 52-56.

²³ UNDP, [Human Development Indicators: 2019](#). Between 1990 and 2018, Bahrain's HDI value increased by 14%. There is insufficient data to calculate the inequality-adjusted HDI. Indicators for the **gender inequality index** (GII) include: (1) the political representation with women holding 19% of seats in legislative councils; (2) a maternal mortality rate of 15 deaths per 100,000 live births; (3) an adolescent birth rate of 13 births per 1000 women ages 15-19; and (4) Female participation in the labour market: 44% compared to 87% for men.

²⁴ BHDR, *ibid.*, 2018, 40.

²⁵ GoB, Ministry of Health, administrative data; UNICEF, [The State of the World's Children 2017 Statistical Tables](#), dtd Sept 2019.

²⁶ UNICEF, Progress for Children with Equity in the Middle East and North Africa, February 2017, 105.

²⁷ Bahrain has six women on the Shura Council; and elected its first female Speaker of the House in 2018. It also has 42% of women in chief executive positions and 54% of women as heads of department in the government sector. (Kingdom of Bahrain's First Voluntary National Review (2018), 40.

public sector²⁸, in 2016 Bahrain ranked first globally in terms of growth in women's economic participation and first in the MENA region for growth in women entrepreneurs²⁹.

12. In parallel with these achievements, the Voluntary National Review (VNR), the Bahrain Human Development Report (BHDR), and other recent analyses highlight a set of challenges for Bahrain to sustain progress toward its Economic Vision 2030 and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Chief among these, that Bahrain is a small island facing climate change, population growth, and rapid urbanization³⁰ and the accompanying demand for scarce land, water, food and other natural resources. The sustainability of public finance is also a concern with successive fiscal deficits, worsened by oil price declines. **Government debt** reached USD \$32 billion in February 2020 (BHD 12.1 bn) or about 83% of GDP³¹.
13. These challenges are aggravated by the **COVID-19 pandemic** that is unprecedented in its spread and impacts on human health and well-being³². Globally, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) predicts GDP per capita *growth* will decline by -4.4% in 2020, worse than during the 2009 global financial crisis. While growth is predicted to rebound to over 5% in 2021, this assumes a fading of the pandemic in the first half of 2020, enhanced testing and tracing capacities and normalization of economic activity, and restored consumer and investor confidence³³.
14. The disease was first reported in the Arab region at the end of January 2020 and in a matter of weeks it has battered societies and economies already grappling with conflict and security concerns and fiscal stresses³⁴. For Bahrain, the IMF projects a decline in real GDP growth of -4.9%³⁵. For the Arab region overall, initial estimates of the impact of the pandemic in 2020 include: a loss of \$11 billion in net oil revenues, aggravated by an oil price war³⁶, a decline in exports by \$28 billion, 1.7 million fewer jobs, and heightened risk for expatriate workers and women who comprise the majority of health care workers and care providers as well as 55 million refugees and internally displaced persons³⁷.
15. In Bahrain, the first COVID-19 cases were detected on 24 February; as at 31 August, there had been a total of 51,391 confirmed cases (2,927 of which were active) and 189 deaths³⁸. Similar to all countries in the region, the pandemic has caused major socio-economic disruptions and it threatens the steady progress that Bahrain has made toward achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs. In line with international health recommendations, the Government is acting swiftly to implement measures to contain the spread of the disease and to provide fiscal and monetary stimulus.³⁹ On 17 March, the government announced a BHD 4.3 billion (USD \$11.4 bn) economic package to support the country's citizens and residents and to counteract the supply, demand, and unemployment shocks that have accompanied social distancing and reduced travel, trade, and commerce⁴⁰.

²⁸ BHDR, *ibid.*, 206. Reported as 52% in 2020 by Supreme Council for Women.

²⁹ ILO, *Women in business and management: Gaining momentum in the Middle East and North Africa*, 2016. 12, 15,18.

³⁰ Nearly 90% of Bahrain's total population lived in urban areas and cities in 2017. 'State of Arab Cities Report launched', *Bahrain News Agency*, 10 February 2020. The State of Arab Cities Report 2020: Financing Sustainable Urban Development in the Arab Region', was developed jointly by the UN-Habitat Regional Office of Arab States (ROAS), the Bahrain Center for Strategic, International and Energy Studies (DERASAT), and the UN Development Programme (UNDP). The report provides insights into the challenges of sustainable urban development and innovative subnational financial instruments required to build sustainable and prosperous urban settlements and economies:

<https://www.bna.bh/en/StateofArabCitiesReport2020launched.aspx?cms=q8FmFJgiscL2fwizON1%2BDhuCjOc8Ttt%2FesL6v7zFqn8%3D>

³¹ 'Bahrain Government Debt', at CEIC <https://www.ceicdata.com/en/indicator/bahrain/national-government-debt>

³² (1) UN, *Comprehensive Response to COVID-19 Saving Lives, Protecting Societies, Recovering Better* September 2020. (2) UN, *Shared Responsibility, Global Solidarity: Responding to the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19*, Report of the Secretary General, March 2020.

³³ International Monetary Fund, [World Economic Outlook, October 2020](#), Statistical Appendix, 146. The economic disruption and ongoing supply and demand shocks mean that global GDP at the end of 2021 is expected to remain below the pre-virus baseline of January 2020

³⁴ DERASAT, *Implications of the Coronavirus Crisis: An Economic Outlook*, April 2020.

³⁵ International Monetary Fund, [World Economic Outlook, October 2020](#), Statistical Appendix, 146.

³⁶ In early April, OPEC and its oil producing partners agreed to reduce production by 9.7 million barrels per day. However, the International Energy Agency (IEA) has reported a drop in demand as of April of 29 million barrels per day, or about one-third of pre-COVID consumption. In this context, it is unlikely that current cuts will be sufficient to stabilise prices. [IEA Oil Market Report](#), April 2020.

³⁷ UNESCWA, *Regional Emergency Response to Mitigate the Impact of COVID-19*, 25 March 2020;

³⁸ Ministry of Health, Bahrain: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Latest Updates](#).

³⁹ See quantitative and qualitative data on these measures in ESCWA's COVID-19 Stimulus Tracker <http://covdata.unescwa.org/RPT/RPTDSH2.aspx>

⁴⁰ Bahrain News Agency, [Government of Bahrain announces BHD 4.3 billion economic stimulus package](#), dld March 2020.

2.2 National vision for sustainable development

16. With the presentation in 2008 of its **Economic Vision 2030**⁴¹ the government aspires to build a fair country and globally competitive and sustainable economy, with a productive, prosperous middle class that enjoys high-wage jobs and good living standards. To achieve this vision and the SDGs the **Government Programme (GP) 2019-2022**⁴² has 3 pillars: 1. Uphold the values of the state and society; 2. Financial sustainability and economic development; 3. Supporting an enabling environment for sustainable development. It has nine overall objectives (box), with 22 related policy priorities and initiatives, aligned with the SDGs. The GP places emphasis on balanced economic growth, diversifying resources for project financing, and raising the efficiency and effectiveness of the government sector and its services, especially in the areas of education, health, housing, and environmental protection with a cross-cutting focus on gender equality and efforts to promote the position of Bahraini women⁴³. It calls for a rapid shift of the public sector from driver to regulator of economic growth, in partnership with the private sector. Projects are expected to support innovation and excellence, and invest in citizens to improve their standard of living⁴⁴. Implementation is supported with a USD \$10 billion [Fiscal Balance Programme](#) (FBP)⁴⁵ from Bahrain's Gulf neighbours that will finance large-scale infrastructure and service projects, create new long-term employment opportunities, and help to diversify Bahrain's economy.

17. **Legal framework:** Bahrain follows a mix of Islamic *Shari'ah* and civil law in its legislation and policies, rules and regulations. Basic provisions in the Constitution⁴⁶ guarantee the equality of women, education, health, and social care and protection for children and women, including persons with disabilities, and non-discrimination with regard to race, nationality, religious belief or social status⁴⁷.

Government Programme 2019-2022

Objectives

1. Invest in the citizens through enhancing, improving and sustaining the government services in education, health and other sectors.
2. Maintain a safe and stable society.
3. Enhance sustainable development to achieve fiscal balance and maintain positive economic growth.
4. Drive the private sector to become the biggest developmental actor, and to create quality opportunities for citizens and investment.
5. Establish rules of optimal use of resources and ensure its sustainability for future generations.
6. Sustain social and economic development by adopting legislations and initiatives supporting family stability and achieving gender equity.
7. Continue financing development projects and infrastructure, enhancing growth and serving citizens.
8. Redefine the role of the public sector, from the main driver to a regulator and partner, developing and facilitating government procedures.
9. Support creativity, excellence and the role of women, youth and sports in all government programmes and initiatives.

⁴¹ Government of Bahrain, Economic Vision 2030, May 2013, 11. *Fairness in society means that all are treated equally under the law, in accordance with international human rights, and that everyone has equal access to services, namely education and health care, and that the needy are supported via adequate job training and a targeted social safety net.*

⁴² Government of Bahrain, Government Programme (2019-2022) "Toward a Society of Justice, Security and Well-being", January 2015.

⁴³ The Kingdom of Bahrain's First Voluntary National Review on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (**Bahrain VNR**), 2018, 105.

⁴⁴ Bahrain VNR, 2018, *ibid.* 104.

⁴⁵ The FBP was a response to urgent domestic and international requests for sizable and frontloaded adjustment to restore fiscal sustainability and reduce the large fiscal and external financing needs. [IMF Executive Board Concludes 2017 Article IV Consultation with the Kingdom of Bahrain](#), April 2017; Arab News, [Bahrain receives first installment of Gulf aid](#), 09 May 2019..

⁴⁶ Globalex-Hauser Global Law School Program, NYU School of Law, [The Constitutional Law and the Legal system of the Kingdom of Bahrain](#), dld Oct 2017. The Judiciary has two branches: The Civil Law Courts and the Shari'ah Law Courts. Civil Courts have the power to settle commercial, civil and criminal cases, as well as all other cases related to the personal status law (family law) of non-Muslims. The personal status law is codified and Courts have the jurisdiction to settle all cases related to the personal status of Muslims, whether Bahraini citizens or foreigners. These are divided into Sunni and Shia sections.

⁴⁷ The law governs personal status and family matters such as marriage, divorce and custody and covers the rights of men and women from both the Sunni and Shiite sects, who have separate Sharia courts that deal with personal law issues and family matters. The new law offers one family law for both. Gulf News, [Bahrain's Shura approves unified family draft law](#), July 19, 2017. The Family law was issued on 20 July 2017.

18. Efforts to **enhance democracy and human rights** are an important policy priority⁴⁸. Bahrain has ratified seven of nine core human rights treaties and related optional protocols⁴⁹. It has also ratified the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (UN Trafficking in Persons Protocol, 2004)⁵⁰, and five of eight ILO fundamental labour conventions⁵¹. Treaties *not yet* ratified are: the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers (CMW), the Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (CED), the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its protocol⁵², three fundamental ILO conventions, and optional protocols of the Convention against Torture (CAT) and of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights for the abolition of the death penalty (CCPR-OP2-DP).
19. With regard to fulfilment of its human rights commitments, Bahrain underwent a Universal Periodic Review (UPR) in 2017, receiving 175 recommendations, of which 139 were agreed. These were mapped vis-à-vis the SDGs with linked institutional responses set out in the Government Programme⁵³. These efforts contribute to greater connectivity in laws, policies, and plans between Bahrain's human rights commitments and progress toward achievement of the SDGs. The UN system will continue to support Bahrain in the implementation of recommendations from UN human rights mechanisms. Major accepted recommendations⁵⁴ concern:
- » SDG5: New or strengthened laws, policies, and measures to protect women and prevent discriminatory practices, and further ensure women's rights under Shari'ah law.
 - » SDG8: A national strategy to combat trafficking in persons, especially women and girls; Greater efforts to ensure the safety, security, and dignity of expatriate workers, protect them from discrimination and ensure their equal access to COVID-19 pandemic response and recovery support.
 - » SDG 10: Enhanced implementation of: i. Social policies, with a focus on rights of at risk groups⁵⁵; ii. More effective measures to eliminate all forms of discrimination, especially those based on religious background or belief; iii. Stronger implementation of the National Strategic Action Plan for Persons with Disabilities.
 - » SDG 16: Encourage freedom of opinion and expression, peaceful assembly and association, promote and facilitate civil society growth, and ensure the press law conforms to international standards; Strengthen legal frameworks (e.g. the age of full criminal responsibility), institutions, and the judiciary.

⁴⁸ Government of Bahrain, Government Programme (2019-2022), *ibid.*, 6-7. Promote political and human rights activities in line with the values of Kingdom and the National Action Charter of Bahrain and the constitution of Kingdom of Bahrain.

⁴⁹ OHCHR, [Ratification Status for Bahrain](#), dtd April 2020. These include: Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (SRPD) 2011; International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) 2007; International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (CCPR) 2006; Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) 2002; Convention against Torture and Other Cruel Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT) 1998; Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) 1992 and its optional protocols on children in armed conflict (CRC-OP-AC) 2004 and the sale of children child prostitution and child pornography (CRC-OP-SC) 2004; and International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD) 1990. Other declarations include: the International Conference for Population and Development (ICPD) Cairo Declaration (ICPD 1994)

⁵⁰ See [status of ratifications](#) and Bahrain reservations.

⁵¹ See Ratifications for Bahrain at [ILO NORMLEX](#), dtd April 2020. Ratified [Fundamental Labour Conventions](#) are: Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29) 1981; Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 (No. 105) 1998; Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111) 2000; Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138) (15 years) 2012; and Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182) 2001. Fundamental conventions not yet ratified are: Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87); Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949 (No. 98); and Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951 (No. 100). A range of technical conventions have not been ratified, especially the C189 - Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189).

⁵² <https://www.unhcr.org/1951-refugee-convention.html>

⁵³ Bahrain VNR, 2018, *ibid.* 68-72.

⁵⁴ Bahrain VNR, *ibid.*; General Assembly, Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR): Bahrain, A/HRC/36/3, 10 July 2017.

⁵⁵ Including: Low income and female-headed households, children and adults with disabilities, unemployed persons, particularly women and young people, troubled women entrepreneurs, some expatriate workers who may not have access to health and other social services, especially domestic workers, and victims of trafficking. United Nations, Common Country Assessment, 2019. See also BHDR, *ibid.* 224; Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR): Bahrain, A/HRC/36/3, 10 July 2017. [Matrix of Supported Recommendations](#).

The country has taken important steps, for example: i. Child laws of 2012 offering comprehensive services for all children with disabilities and establishing child protection centers; ii. The National Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women (2013–2022), promoting equal access to education and employment opportunities; iii. The Social Security Act of 2006 providing income support to lower income groups⁵⁶; iv. A national unemployment Insurance Scheme in 2006 for Bahraini and non-Bahraini workers; and v. A Health Insurance Law (No. 23) in 2018 making health insurance mandatory for all citizens, residents and visitors from January 2019⁵⁷. Going forward, the Government *may* seek policy support and financing options to expand these support measures to address the COVID-19 pandemic and people not covered under existing social protection programmes. These measures must be informed by the five work streams outlined in the **UN Framework for the Immediate Socio-Economic Response to COVID-19**⁵⁸.

2.3 Progress toward the SDGs

20. The Government produced its first Voluntary National Review (VNR) in 2018⁵⁹. It highlights the progress made in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the sustainable development goals (SDGs). The review process noted the importance of ongoing efforts to raise awareness about the sustainable development agenda amongst all stakeholders, including civil society organizations, parliamentarians, local councils, women, and young people to build a sense of ownership for the goals and to ensure that no one is left behind⁶⁰. Across all 17 goals, the VNR highlights major achievements where progress is on track for SDG achievement⁶¹. This provides an enviable base for its effort to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and sustain progress toward the SDGs. Notably:

- » No Bahraini living below the international poverty line, and no hunger
- » Spending on health, education and social protection services that exceeds a third of total government expenditures,
- » Free compulsory basic education for all Bahraini's, with near universal net enrollment rates,
- » A constitution that guarantees gender equality,
- » Over two thirds of citizens enjoy housing services and benefits and a thriving sustainable cities movement,
- » Water systems, sanitation and energy networks reaching 100% of the population, and
- » A range of programmes and initiatives to support small and medium enterprise development with special focus on women, young people and persons with disabilities.
- » Recognizing its reliance on the oil and gas sector, which accounted for an estimated 18% of GDP and over 80% of government revenue⁶², Bahrain has taken steps to diversify its economy and strengthen partnership with the private sector to generate investment, high wages, and decent employment. This has contributed to a low general unemployment rate of around 4%;
- » Bahrain's position as a global centre for Islamic Banking and financial technology⁶³ along with a sovereign wealth fund '*Mumtalakat*' with \$18.8 billion in assets⁶⁴.

2.4 Gaps and challenges

⁵⁶ Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR): Bahrain, A/HRC/36/3, 10 July 2017.

⁵⁷ ILO NatLex, [Bahrain Law No. 23 of 2018](#) on promulgating the Health Insurance Law, dtd March 2020. Bahraini nationals also contribute towards GOSI (General Organisation for Social Insurance), which covers temporary work injury allowances, compensation relating to work injuries, and medical care.

⁵⁸ The five work streams outlined in the UN Framework for the Immediate Socio-Economic Response to COVID-19 include: 1. ensuring that essential health services are still available and protecting health systems; 2. helping people cope with adversity, through social protection and basic services; 3. protecting jobs, supporting small and medium-sized enterprises, and informal sector workers through economic response and recovery programmes; 4. guiding the necessary surge in fiscal and financial stimulus to make macroeconomic policies work for those most at risk and strengthening multilateral and regional responses; and 5. promoting social cohesion and investing in community-led resilience and response systems. These five streams are connected by a strong environmental sustainability and gender equality imperative to build back better.

⁵⁹ Bahrain VNR, 2018, *ibid.*

⁶⁰ Bahrain VNR, 2018, *ibid.*, 103.

⁶¹ Bahrain VNR, 2018, *ibid.*, 2-11.

⁶² BHDR, *ibid.*, 2018, 149-151

⁶³ The Central Bank of Bahrain offers Sharia compliant money market instruments, EIU, *Ibid.*

⁶⁴ [Mumtalakat website](#), dtd April 2020.

21. As noted above, Bahrain is a small island state facing climate change, population growth, and rapid urbanization, and the accompanying demand for scarce land, water, food and other natural resources. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Bahrain VNR and international indices confirm that trends for SDG achievement were mostly *on track or improving moderately*. The COVID-19 pandemic is a threat to this progress and the ongoing response is the short-term priority. At the same time the disruption caused by the crisis can be seen as an opportunity to recover better and build a more sustainable, resilient, and equitable society⁶⁵.
22. Maintaining **sustainable economic growth**, business development, and employment creation will be a major challenge within existing budgetary constraints. Most critical is the sustainability of public finance. Bahrain's fiscal deficit is expected to deteriorate to about -16% and debt to GDP is expected to rise to 121% in 2020 due to the adverse impact of COVID-19.⁶⁶ **Government debt** reached USD \$32 bn in February 2020 (BHD 12.1 bn) or about 83% of GDP⁶⁷. Emergency fiscal responses to the COVID-19 pandemic and depressed oil prices will have major consequences for Bahrain's fiscal balance and credit rating⁶⁸. To address high fiscal deficits and growing debt to GDP ratios, the Government is implementing the [Fiscal Balance Programme](#) (FBP) and efforts are being made to reduce the generous **subsidy regime**⁶⁹, including cuts to partial water and electricity, and gasoline subsidies, removal of meat subsidies, pension reforms, and the introduction of Value Added Tax (VAT).
23. Fiscal reform measures must be balanced with economic and social responses to the COVID-19 pandemic and to protect both citizens and residents. Regular expatriate workers have access to health services; health care for sponsored domestic workers is the responsibility of the sponsor. Some migrants *may* not have access to health and other social protection services, especially domestic workers of whom the majority are women. There is no data on the health coverage of expatriate workers. Economic relief and stimulus measures introduced by the Government have provided cash transfers and other social protection benefits to Bahraini citizens⁷⁰. Large numbers of expatriates whose livelihood have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic have received food assistance, free access to health care, and avenues to seek alternative regular employment opportunities. Expatriate workers account for about 75% of the labour force, particularly in fields such as health-care and nursing, construction, retail, hotel and hospitality industries⁷¹. Sustaining human resources in these sectors will be instrumental to Bahrain's socio-economic recovery.
24. In addition, the following challenges require attention and investment⁷²:

⁶⁵ 'Recover better' is a term used and advocated by the UN Secretary General and UN funds and programmes to highlight the opportunity that the COVID-19 response offers to all countries to reconsider models of socio-economic development. This would put greater emphasis on policies and stimulus measures to enhance resilience and efficiency, including circular and green economy, climate action, more robust environmental policies and addressing priority transboundary issues that can all contribute to anticipating, preventing, and mitigating future pandemics. UN, Shared Responsibility, Global Solidarity: Responding to the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19, Report of the Secretary General, March 2020.

⁶⁶ ESCWA 2020. *Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the Arab Region 2019-2020*. Summary.

⁶⁷ 'Bahrain Government Debt', at CEIC <https://www.ceicdata.com/en/indicator/bahrain/national-government-debt>

⁶⁸ An IMF study, using a scenario in which oil prices fell to USD \$20 per barrel predicted that GCC countries' financial wealth would be depleted by 2027. IMF, The Future of Oil and Fiscal Sustainability in the GCC Region, IMF Middle East and Central Asia Department Research Department, No. 20/01. 2020. A key message: 'Fully preserving current wealth will require large upfront fiscal adjustments. More gradual efforts would ease the short-term adjustment burden but at the expense of resources available to future generations.' Following the outbreak of the Coronavirus pandemic, Standard & Poor's reported Bahrain's credit rating as stable at (B+/B) with 'high risk'. Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry, [The Economic Impact of Coronavirus March 2020](#), dtd April 2020.

⁶⁹ Subsidies were reported to have increased by 73% by 2015, to BHD 1.126bn (\$2.99bn) per year. The lion's share of subsidies are for electricity and water, accounting for an estimated BHD 700m or 62% of the total subsidy bill. At the end of 2015 subsidies for meat were removed and further cuts are expected for both electricity and water subsidies. In addition, government bodies were asked to find budgetary savings of 30%. EIU, [Bahrain Country Report](#), Oct 28, 2015

⁷⁰ World Bank and ILO, Social Protection and Jobs Responses to COVID-19: A Real-Time Review of Country Measures: A "living paper", March 27, 2020.

⁷¹ Bahrain Human Development Report (BHDR), *ibid.*, 2018, 214.

⁷² Sustainable Development Report 2019, Sachs, J. et al., 2019. [Bahrain Country Profile, 2019](#). The SDR provides a globally comparable index and dashboards for monitoring SDG achievement with country and international data. For 2019 Bahrain has an overall index score of 69, suggesting it is 69% or over two-thirds of the way toward overall SDG achievement

- » **SDG2 Food security and nutrition:** Bahrain is dependent on imports for its food security. As exemplified by the strong [agriculture orientation index](#) of 1.9,⁷³ agriculture consumes about 29% of the total water available while accounting for less than 1% of GDP. Climate change is expected to lead to a decline in water and food production.⁷⁴ In addition, there are concerns about nutrition and obesity levels in adults and children.
- » **SDG 3 Good health and well-being:** Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, health system performance indicators and trends were generally positive. Major issues are the increasing burden of NCDs and out-of-pocket health spending, and increased exposure to pollutants. The pandemic has altered this situation dramatically, with the risk of an overloaded health system. The UN system can work with Government to support a set of core strategies for the maintenance of essential health services and systems, in line with guidance from the global and regional strategic plans for the COVID-19 Response⁷⁵, and to strengthen operational readiness to prevent and mitigate future pandemics. These may include the methods of engaging volunteer groups in support of health systems.
- » **SDG 4 Quality education:** Even with a highly developed education system, Bahrain, like most high-income countries, faces the challenge to improve educational quality and standards for all learners. Education and training systems need to focus on providing young graduates with the knowledge and skills for success in a dynamic future labour market.⁷⁶ Renewed efforts are needed to strengthen the quality of the education system, improve learning outcomes, and re-orient training programs and to address skills mismatches. This will require a greater emphasis curriculum and teaching methods that promote critical thinking, analytical skills, and problem solving.⁷⁷ Establishing a foundation for learning in the early years (pre-primary level) is essential for success.
- » **SDG 5 Gender equality:** Bahrain has proven through its efforts in the field of the advancement of women that it is a leader in the region on gender issues. The Constitution guarantees gender balance and equal opportunities between women and men in all spheres without breaching the provisions of Islamic canon law (Shari'ah) (Article 5). Bahrain is also a signatory to CEDAW, with reservations on several articles insofar as they are seen as non-compliant with Shari'ah law. Additionally, the Kingdom of Bahrain remains steadfast in its long-standing commitment to Sustainable Development Goals through linking and harmonizing its efforts relating to women's advancement with the 2030 SDGs of direct and indirect relevance to women; in this regard 64% of the indicators of the National Strategy for the Implementation of the National Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women (2019-2022) reflect SDG indicators directly and indirectly related to women (namely, SDGs 4, 5 and 10). These efforts are in line with the Governments Action Plan (2019-2022) and the Economic Vision 2030 and are based on the principles of social justice and equal opportunities established by the Constitution; ensuring comprehensive institutional action aimed towards improving the status of women to ensure gender balance and encourage greater participation of women.
- » **SDG 8 Decent work and economic growth:** Bahrain seeks to provide decent employment opportunities for women and men, increase productivity, create a modern open market economy driven by knowledge and technical innovation, and become less reliant on foreign workers that comprise up to three-quarters of the labour force. Efforts to diversify the economy should focus on the SME sector and export promotion as a means to create more and better jobs and build a knowledge economy focused on technology, innovation, and trade. These efforts must also: i. Increase the labour force participation of women; ii. Address unemployment among young people

⁷³ Bahrain's [Agriculture orientation index](#) value of 1.9 means that there is a strong, positive orientation of government policy and spending toward the agriculture sector relative to its contribution to GDP. The integrated water management strategy is expected to address the interdependence of water security, energy security, and food security. Bahrain VNR, 2018, *ibid.*,104.

⁷⁴ Bahrain VNR, *ibid.*, 101.

⁷⁵ WHO, [COVID-19 STRATEGY UPDATE](#), 14 April, 2020.

⁷⁶ GCC, *ibid.*, 33-34.

⁷⁷ BHDR, *ibid.*, 120-121.

(ages 15-24) and particularly young women;⁷⁸ (iii) Strengthen migration management and work conditions for expatriates, especially for domestic workers, in line with international standards; and (iv) establish volunteer programmes to engage youth in community development and to gain access to training and job-related skills.

- » **SDG 10 Reduced inequalities:** While extreme poverty is not a major problem, adjustments to the *lower for longer* oil price environment *may* reduce the ability of the government to sustain generous social safety nets.⁷⁹ The Gini coefficient values for Bahrain are 0.4 for Bahraini households and 0.7 for non-Bahraini households.⁸⁰ To address the sudden, negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, implementation of the FBP will need to balance adequate **social protection for both citizens and residents**, including: including: low income and female-headed households, children and adults with disabilities, unemployed persons, particularly women and young people, victims of trafficking and sponsored expatriate workers who *may not* have access to health and other social protection services, especially domestic workers of whom the majority are women.
- » **SDG 11 Sustainable cities and communities:** Major efforts are underway to build enhance urban planning and management, improve water resources management, advance in urban agriculture, provide affordable, renewable energy, and improve access to adequate and affordable housing. Air pollution is on the rise,⁸¹ with related risks for a range of NCDs. Solid waste management is another challenge with only one major landfill site for municipal, agricultural, and non-hazardous industrial wastes. Bahrain generates the largest amount of waste per capita in the Middle East and North Africa Region with 1.83 Kg per person per day.⁸² There is a need for more public spaces that are attractive and safe for young people, women, children, and young people, and to improve street landscapes and tree-planting to reduce pollution and mitigate the effect of climate change. A greater diversity of transport systems would support the development of sustainable urban communities and help to protect the Kingdom's historical, cultural and environmental heritage⁸³.
- » **SDG 13 Climate action:**⁸⁴ As a small island state with a high population density (1,630 per km²), Bahrain has limited land and freshwater resources. It is vulnerable to adverse weather events and anticipated rise in global sea levels. Climate change threatens water, agriculture, livestock, biodiversity, coastal installations, infrastructure, and health. Tackling this requires a *reset* to: i. Mitigate impacts from climate change such as improving water-use efficiency, enhancing the use of unconventional water resources, climate smart agriculture, adopting measures to protect biodiversity, and protecting coastal areas and installations against potential sea-level rise; and ii. Promote the adoption of green technologies, transform energy and electricity generation toward renewables, and stronger engagement with private sector partners and communities to raise awareness and change consumption behaviours.
- » **SDG 16 Peace, justice and strong institutions:** In line with the supported 2017 UPR recommendations, it is important to continue efforts, including measures outlined in the GP, to

⁷⁸ Bahraini women mostly work in the public sector, especially education and health and account for 50% of females working in the public sector. recent data show that there is **near wage parity** between women and men in the public sector. BDHR, *ibid.*, 208; ILO modelled estimates, for [youth unemployment](#) and [labour force participation](#) at World Bank, Open Data, dtd Sept 2019.

⁷⁹ The FBP was a response to urgent domestic and international requests for sizable and frontloaded adjustment to restore fiscal sustainability and reduce the large fiscal and external financing needs. [IMF Executive Board Concludes 2017 Article IV Consultation with the Kingdom of Bahrain](#), April 2017.

⁸⁰ BHDR, *ibid.*, 2018, 202. Lower income inequality among Bahraini households reflects the broader range of sources of income compared to non-Bahraini households. The Gini index is a simple measure of the distribution of income across income groups in a population: A higher Gini index indicates greater inequality.

⁸¹ As measured by annual mean concentration of particulate matter of less than 2.5 microns of diameter (PM2.5) in urban areas (µg/m³). In Bahrain, the average level of exposure of the population to concentrations of suspended particles measuring less than 2.5 microns has increased from 66 micrograms per cubic metre in 2010 to 71 in 2017. See: <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EN.ATM.PM25.MC.M3?locations=BH>

⁸² World Bank Group, *What a waste 2.0*, 2018.

⁸³ Kingdom of Bahrain and UN-Habitat, *Kingdom of Bahrain National Report for Habitat III Housing and Development*, 2016.

⁸⁴ Bahrain is committed to the Paris Agreement of 2015 and the delivery of the outcomes of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development 2016, in enabling Small Island Developing States to reap the benefits of the 2030 Agenda, by mobilizing resources from all sources for the effective implementation of sustainable delivery and in utilizing the Addis Ababa Action Agenda to secure sources of funding for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. (VNR 104)

address tensions across population groups and enhance social cohesion and resilience. This is essential for the protection and promotion of fundamental rights, especially as a part of the COVID-19 pandemic response⁸⁵, and in accordance with the principle of leaving no one behind.

- » **SDG 17 Partnership for the goals:** Linked with all challenges described in this report and in line with the GP priority to strengthen cooperation with neighbouring countries, there is great potential to support the GoB to document, package, and promote Bahraini expertise and good practices within the gulf region and beyond. Potential areas of focus include: 1) Policies and programmes to spur economic diversification and a vibrant SME sector; 2) Islamic finance for the SDGs; 3) Public and private sector initiatives that promote green economy and energy efficiency; and 4) International cooperation efforts to support countries to prevent and control the increasing global burden of NCDs.
- » For all priorities, effective policy and programme responses will depend upon the quality and availability of **statistics** to generate evidence-based policies and to monitor the achievement of SCF results and the nationalized SDG goals and targets to which they will contribute. Under each outcome, indicators have been aligned as far as possible with national SDG indicators and targets. In line with their mandates, UN system agencies will support the Information and E-government Authority to strengthen data collection and management.

3.0 Cooperation for the 2030 Agenda

3.1 Theory of change

Bahrain priorities are strongly aligned with the SDGs. To contribute to their achievement, cooperation between Bahrain and the United Nations system will focus on four priorities and contributing outcomes. None of outcomes are single sector or single-stakeholder results. Rather, they represent a *nexus* of inter-connected changes that respond to the gaps and challenges. In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, these priorities take on greater importance in terms of supporting all people in Bahrain to weather the immediate socio-economic impacts of the pandemic and supporting the Government to consider new or strengthened policies and stimulus measures to enhance resilience and efficiency for the eventual recovery. They will make tangible contributions to the central goals of the Economic Vision 2030 and action plan⁸⁶:

- ✓ Transformation toward a highly diversified, competitive, and sustainable economy
- ✓ Fairness and sustainability in society, ensuring employment and higher wages in a safe and secure living environment
- ✓ Ensure that every Bahraini household has at least twice as much disposable income – in real terms – by 2030.

There are four main *preconditions* for the achievement of Bahrain priorities and the SDGs:

25. First, accelerated economic diversification and shared prosperity in Bahrain will depend upon the sustainable management of its natural wealth. Environmental sustainability in Bahrain today is challenged by: scarcity of fresh water, desertification, pollution and coastal and marine ecosystem degradation from oil production, and a lowered water table leaving the main *Dammam* aquifer, a trans-boundary resource, open to contamination from salt water. Bahrain's food security is dependent on imports and agriculture consumes about 29% of the total water budget while accounting for less than 1% of GDP. There is potential to increase contribution of the agricultural sector to food security and economic growth. Many technologies are being used globally to reduce the cost of production, increase productivity of land and water, and rationalize the consumption of natural resources. These can be adapted to conditions in Bahrain to boost agricultural productivity by increasing water use

⁸⁵(1) General Assembly, Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR): Bahrain, A/HRC/36/3, 10 July 2017; (2) General Assembly, Report of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, A/HRC/WG.6/27/BHR/2 14 February 2017 (3) Government Programme (2019-2022), Government of Bahrain, English translation facilitated by United Nations in Bahrain. Obj 1, Policy 3: 3. Enhance democracy and human rights; Obj 3, policy 5: Ensure the quality of social services and social empowerment.

⁸⁶ Government of Bahrain, Economic Vision 2030, EDB, May 2013, 8-9.

efficiency and improved technologies in vegetable production (such as hydroponics, plant factories, aquaponics), increasing livestock productivity and investment in aquaculture.

26. Second and closely linked with the shift toward a more diversified, knowledge-based economy, renewed efforts are needed to strengthen the education and health systems. Even with a highly developed education system, Bahrain, like most high-income countries, faces the challenge to improve educational quality and standards across all school levels and ensure that young people have the skills that are in demand in a dynamic, digital and diversifying economy. Major population health challenges include a dramatic increase in the burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs), rising rates of obesity, and an ageing population. Quality health and education services must continue to respond to the specific challenges of the adolescents and young people who will join the labour market, develop new businesses, and drive economic growth in the next decade.
27. Third is the need for targeted and highly tailored efforts to accelerate economic diversification. Government efforts to date have delivered results: the hydrocarbon share of the economy is down from a third of GDP in 2005 to less than one-fifth in 2017, and employment and investment opportunities have been expanded in new sectors⁸⁷. Still, over the next ten years, the size of Bahrain's workforce is expected to double. About 4,000 Bahrainis enter the job market annually, many with a post-secondary qualification. According to the Bahrain Economic Vision 2030, the country is facing a serious shortage of both quality employment and relevant skills among the young. Bahrain recognizes that it must compete as a knowledge economy, producing high value added goods and services. It must also create conditions for more women and migrants to fully contribute to sustainable development. Progress will hinge on growth of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) which are the backbone of a sustainable economy and can contribute greatly to innovation, job growth, and international competitiveness. The COVID-19 pandemic has damaged productivity and competitiveness and the UN system will support businesses to navigate the economy as it recovers from COVID-19, including education and support for digital commerce. Stronger, formal bridges and links between the education and employment sectors and stakeholders, especially the private sector, are needed to re-orient education and training programs to deliver more knowledge-based and employment-oriented programs.
28. The fourth *precondition* is Bahrain's international positioning. Bahrain is actively engaged in multiple regional and international partnerships, frameworks, and initiatives to further the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It has taken a proactive role in multilateral platforms, South-South cooperation, and in supporting other small island developing states to strengthen their policy coherence and resilience for adaptation to the risks from climate change. Bahrain has also played an important role to support international cooperation for countering and preventing terrorism. Regional cooperation, particularly amongst the members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), is a critical dimension for many of the Government of Bahrain's policy priorities. The COVID-19 pandemic is a transboundary concern, affecting all persons and the effective functioning of every sector. Bahrain's response will depend upon greater regional and international cooperation on matters including: Surveillance, rapid response and case investigation, monitoring and controlling border entry points while not stifling flows of essential workers and commodities, including personal protective equipment (PPE) for health workers, and effective communication and coordination with international laboratories⁸⁸. The UN system will support Government efforts to strengthen regional and international engagement in political, social and economic spheres, through trade and knowledge exchange, robust institutions, and more harmonized social and economic policies for sustainable development.
29. In line with the emphasis on *efficiency and effectiveness of the government* and efforts to instill a *culture of excellence* in the public sector⁸⁹, indicators for cooperation results are aligned with the key performance indicators of the GP and the indicator framework for the SDGs. This helps to demonstrate

⁸⁷ BHDR, *ibid.*, 2018, 52-56.

⁸⁸ WHO, [COVID-19 STRATEGY UPDATE](#), 14 April, 2020.

⁸⁹ Government Programme (2019-2022), *ibid*, Policy priority 9, 11.

a clear theory of change between the support provided by UN system agencies and Bahrain's sustainable development results.

30. Volunteerism can be a powerful and cross-cutting means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by engaging people in the national planning and implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Volunteer groups can help to localize the 2030 Agenda by providing new areas of interaction between Governments and people for concrete and scalable actions. In coordination with UN Agencies, volunteer groups will be engaged to strengthen civic engagement, promote social stability and security, deepen solidarity and solidify the ownership of development results for the sustainable development to take root in communities.
31. Important **assumptions** for cooperation are that: i. National budget allocations for social and economic programmes in the Government Programme are delivered, ii. Financial support (FBP) from the GCC to Bahrain will continue over the period of the SCF, and implementation measures sustained, iii. The COVID-19 pandemic fades in the first half of 2021 with a gradual normalization of economic and social activity, and iv. There is ongoing response to low income groups in policies and programmes, particularly for COVID-19 response and recovery, and increased collection of timely and reliable disaggregated data to understand those at risk of being left behind. Major risks to cooperation are described in detail in **section 5**.
32. The SCF is a longer term framework for cooperation. To help mitigate the more immediate effects of the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak, the UN system in Bahrain has prepared an offer comprising a set of actions to complement work already being carried out by the WHO. These actions are linked with the results in this SCF. Examples include: *socio-economic impact assessment of the effects of COVID-19 on citizens and expatriates, options for fiscal support to the business sector, especially SMEs, improved social protection measures for expatriate workers, communications and outreach to families to maintain healthy lifestyles, and enhanced health waste management*. The proposed actions are intended to minimize the impact of COVID-19 on all people in Bahrain and can be implemented rapidly with UN system expertise and best practices, in line with the UN framework for the immediate socio-economic response to COVID-19⁹⁰. This initial offer was complemented by the *Joint UN Socio-Economic Response & Recovery Framework COVID-19 in the Kingdom of Bahrain*, issued in July.

Strategic Cooperation Framework: Summary theory of change⁹¹

By 2030, achievement of Bahrain priorities, including the sustainable development goals (SDGs) and national SDG targets *will depend upon* sustainable and diversified economic growth, with benefits that are more widely and fairly shared. By 2022, this will *depend upon*:

- » A stronger policy and regulatory environment enabling the sustainable management of environmental resources and the promotion of energy efficiency and food security,
- » Higher quality, comprehensive social services including: i. Improved education quality and standards offering the 21st century skills needed for employment in a diversifying economy, ii. Enhanced health system performance with a focus on prevention to reduce the burden of NCDs, and iii. Stronger implementation of urban development and housing policies, with improved standard-setting and increased engagement of the private sector,
- » Concerted policy and regulatory reform to accelerate economic diversification and employment generation and strengthen public administration, rule of law, and resilience, and
- » An expanded leadership and partnership role for Bahrain at regional and international levels to promote the sustainable development agenda.

⁹⁰ (1) UNITED NATIONS COVID-19 RESPONSE OFFER IN SUPPORT TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BAHRAIN, Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain, 21 April 2020; (2) UN, [A UN framework for the immediate socio-economic response to COVID-19](#), APRIL 2020.

⁹¹ A diagram of the theory of change is provided in **Annex A**.

3.2 Strategic priorities for the UN development system

The theory of change and the necessary pre-conditions for achievement of Government priorities and the SDGs furnish **four priorities** for GoB-UN system cooperation:

A. Environment, energy, and food

33. This priority is a critical *enabler*: Stronger implementation of policy and regulatory frameworks will enhance the sustainable management of environmental resources and the promotion of energy efficiency and food security. Effective climate adaptation and mitigation measures and a more rational use of scarce natural resources will buttress increased resilience and the shift toward [sustainable consumption and production](#) and the *greening* of the economy.

B. Quality, comprehensive social services

34. Strengthened social sector policies and systems will tangibly improve the delivery of quality, inclusive services for all Bahraini citizens and residents. This will support conditions for a healthy, skilled, and resilient population capable of driving a more diversified, knowledge-based economy.

C. Economic diversification, public administration, and resilience

35. This priority will address the intersection of Bahrain's impressive gains to diversify its economy and the need to sustain these efforts, especially in a pandemic recovery phase, with strengthened public administration reform, rule of law and social resilience. This will contribute to Bahrain's aims for growing prosperity that is more equitable towards all citizens and expatriates.

D. Bahrain among nations

36. Under this fourth, *outward-looking* priority GoB and UN system will partner to expand and accelerate its regional and international engagement for the sustainable development agenda, including but not limited to: Efforts to **prevent conflict** and combat violent terrorism, **Humanitarian and post-disaster, post-conflict support**, Innovative **Islamic finance models and institutions for financing** achievement of the SDGs, and greater **South-South collaboration** efforts in the realm of ideas and analysis, focused on economic diversification and a vibrant SME sector, and smart policies and initiatives that promote green economy and energy efficiency⁹².

37. Cooperation efforts are guided by principles that are closely aligned with the Economic Vision 2030 and the Government Programme: (1) Inclusion and equity to 'leave no one behind, (2) Human rights, gender equality and the empowerment of women, (3) Sustainability and resilience, and (4) Accountability, including the availability and use of quality data. At a programmatic level, cooperation by the GoB and UN system agencies will be informed by a set of mutually reinforcing programming approaches⁹³:

- » **Delivery & Performance:** Support a culture of measurement, monitoring, evaluation, and learning with working mechanisms to monitor and manage for results, and identify and address data gaps for country priorities and related SDGs.
- » **Cross-sector, multi-stakeholder engagement** to sustain the mutual commitment of the partners to the SCF outcomes and to convene other partners in the private sector and civil society, create open spaces for dialogue and consensus around shared interests
- » **Coherent policy support, linked with capacity enhancement and knowledge exchange** to address complex multi-sector challenges, identify innovations, and support GoB coordination for effective planning, budgeting, service delivery, and monitoring
- » **Adaptation to the emerging digital economies:** Anticipating future skills needs and applications across the priorities and outcomes to drive innovation, and growth of knowledge-based economy.

⁹² This is a new outcome for cooperation. Budget estimates for GoB-UN system cooperation for outcome 4 are pending further consultations with GoB and finalisation of GoB and UN system agency plans and budgets.

⁹³ Including: Parliament, the private sector, accredited embassies and organisations, civil society organisations, media, universities, and independent institutions

- » **Regional cooperation and South-South cooperation are critical dimensions of** Bahrain’s policy priorities and the UN system will support regional cooperation and integration efforts.
- » **Data and statistics:** Across all outcomes, strong policies and plans and effective implementation will depend upon **data and evidence**. Under each outcome, indicators have been aligned as far as possible with national SDG indicators and targets. In line with their mandates, UN system agencies will support the Information and E-government Authority and other relevant ministries to strengthen tools and mechanisms for data collection, analysis, monitoring, and reporting with a focus on critical data gaps.
- » **Human rights & Gender equality:** The UN system will continue to support the GoB to harmonize legislative and institutional frameworks for the observance of international human rights law and working toward greater consistency in implementation of *accepted* recommendations of UN human rights mechanisms, and to contribute to stronger GoB capacity for gender analysis and gender-responsive programming⁹⁴.

3.3 Cooperation outcomes and partnerships

38. The following section describes the four outcomes for GoB and UN system cooperation⁹⁵. Each section describes the theory of change, including a rationale for cooperation, the expected outcome, provisional outputs and their expected contribution to the Bahrain priorities. The overall cooperation theory of change is depicted in **Annex A**. The complete results matrix including indicators, baselines, targets, data sources, and implementing partners is provided in **Annex B**.

⁹⁴ For example: Inclusive labour market policies and codes for more female-friendly workplaces. In 2018, half as many Bahraini women of working age are working, compared to males. Despite this gap recent data show that there is **near wage parity** between women and men in the public sector. BDHR, *ibid.*, 208.

⁹⁵ Outcomes are high level changes related to institutional performance or the behaviours of people and their communities. They describe: (1) How people are acting differently to improve their lives and those of their families and communities or (2) How institutions are performing in new ways to support people in these efforts. Outputs describe new skills and abilities, products or services. These are the concrete results of cooperation between the GoB and the UN system and they are expected to demonstrate innovation.

A. Environment, energy, and food

Bahrain Economic Vision 2030⁹⁶:

1. Economy: 1.2 Bahrain diversifies and builds the economy
3. A just, thriving society: 3.5 Bahraini nationals and residents enjoy a sustainable and attractive living environment

Government Programme (GP) Priorities & Policies⁹⁷:

Priority 2: Financial sustainability and economic development; Policy: 2.2 Achieve sustainable economic growth (Enhance food security)

Priority 3: Enabling sustainable development: Policies: 3.6 Regulate environmental protection and sustainability, 3.7 Enhance the efficient use of resources and energy



SDGs⁹⁸: 2. Achieve food security, Promote sustainable Agriculture; 3. Good health and well-being; 5. Gender equality; 6. Clean water and sanitation; 7. Affordable and clean energy; 12. Sustainable consumption and production; 13. Climate action; 14. Life below water; 15. Life on land

Outcome 1. Policies and frameworks are strengthened for the sustainable management of natural resources, sustainable energy, climate resilience, and enhanced food security

Rationale

39. This outcome is a critical *enabler*: Accelerated economic diversification and shared prosperity in Bahrain will depend upon the sustainable management of its natural wealth. The Kingdom of Bahrain is an archipelago of 33 islands, shoals, and islets in the Arabian Gulf. It is mostly desert except for a narrow strip of arable land along the northern and northwestern coastlines, and with temperatures reaching 40 degrees centigrade during half of the year. The main island of Bahrain with the capital Manama accounts for about 78.7% of the total area. Population growth paired with housing, infrastructural and industrial development have increased demands on energy, scarce land and water resources and created major environmental challenges and trade-offs. The Government uses reclamation of shallow water coastal zones and the transformation of agricultural areas into areas for residential and industrial developments. Bahrain's land area increased from 669 km² in 1980 to 783 km² in 2019. Traffic congestion and solid waste generation illustrate the challenges of sustainable urban development: the number of Vehicles in Bahrain reached 759,733 in 2019 or nearly 1 for every 2 persons, and its society produces around 4,922 tons of non-hazardous waste and 2,515 tons of hazardous waste every day with limited progress in sanitary waste management, reuse and recycling practices at scale in 2019. The proximity of communities to emitting industrial and hydrocarbon processing sites has increased exposure of the population to fine particulate air pollution⁹⁹.
40. These challenges and trade-offs have led to a situation in Bahrain today characterized by: scarcity of fresh water, desertification, pollution and coastal and marine ecosystem degradation, and a lowered water table. This has left the main *Dammam* aquifer, a trans-boundary resource, open to contamination from saltwater. Demand for clean water has increased over the past decade by over 4% per year and is reported to be three times the sustainable groundwater supplies. The production of de-salinized sea water is energy-intensive and expensive and is estimated to account for over 70% of the country's clean water supplies¹⁰⁰. The findings of the first progressive monitoring of SDG 6 targets and indicators for Bahrain, showed varying degrees of progress and implementation.¹⁰¹ While some indicators have yielded impressive results (reaching 100%) driven by the development of water and sanitation infrastructure, developments in water-related institutional and legislative frameworks, and the adoption of the principles of Integrated Water Resource Management. Other indicators progress has been slow or limited, the causes of limited progress in some indicators are largely due to

⁹⁶ Government of Bahrain, Economic Vision 2030, EDB, May 2013.

⁹⁷ Government Programme (2019-2022), Government of Bahrain, English translation facilitated by United Nations in Bahrain.

⁹⁸ See: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>, <http://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/indicators-list/>

⁹⁹ World Bank, WDI, [Population exposure to ambient PM2.5 pollution](#), dtd Sept 2019. The average level of exposure of the population to concentrations of suspended particles measuring less than 2.5 micrograms that are capable of causing severe health damage

¹⁰⁰ BHDR, *ibid.*, 190-191.

¹⁰¹ *Monitoring progress in implementing the targets and indicators of Goal 6 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Bahrain, SDG 6 Baseline Report.* IGA

water scarcity and shortages resulting from geographic location and to rapid population growth, in addition to weak water-use efficiency, inadequate water policies, and a lack of institutional structures to address water challenges through integrated and sustainable methodologies.

41. Bahrain's food security is dependent on imports and agriculture consumes about 29% of the total water budget while accounting for less than 1% of GDP.¹⁰² In 2019, Bahrain's score in the global food security index was 67%, the lowest of GCC countries¹⁰³. The dependence on food imports from a limited number of countries is a potential risk whose effects can only be felt in the event of conflict, natural disasters, and economic crises, such as that created by the COVID-19 pandemic. With international trade slowed and the potential for rising food and commodity prices, Bahrain will need to ensure its food security with measures across all food value chains, including import, local food production, processing, transportation, and distribution.
42. Normally, Bahrain has food reserves for 6 to 8 months. However, it has yet to establish a strategic food reserve that would provide greater security from major price disruptions or crises that would block trade and transport routes¹⁰⁴. There is potential for increasing the contribution of the agricultural sector to food and nutrition security. Many technologies are being used globally to reduce the cost of production, increase productivity of land and water, and rationalize the consumption of natural resources. These technologies can be adapted to the conditions of Bahrain to boost agricultural productivity by increasing water use efficiency and improved technologies in vegetable production, increasing livestock productivity and investment in aquaculture. Agriculture can also tap on alternative sources of water such as treated water and desalination. As some forms of local production are more environmentally and economically sustainable than others, there is growth potential for saline aquaculture and for forms of bio-saline agriculture. Aquaculture expansion and modernization holds the promise of increased food and nutrition security, exports and job creation as well as potential spinoffs for the value-chain through port services, transshipment, and commercialization. These policy and programmatic initiatives must be closely tied to efforts to mitigate the effects of climate change.
43. For a small country, Bahrain has a wealth of biodiversity including numerous migratory birds that pass through the region annually and a wide variety of coastal and marine habitats including mangrove swamps, mudflats, coral reefs, sea grass beds, freshwater springs, and lagoons¹⁰⁵. The Gulf of Bahrain south east of the main island (close to Mashtan and North of Hawar islands) is classified as a distinct bio-geographic province and hosts the largest dugong population outside of Australia. These ecosystems are under increasing stress: most reefs within 20 to 30 km of Bahrain Island are in a state of ecological decline and mangroves have been declining steadily since 1975 due to climate change and other natural and human induced factors.
44. Energy production and consumption accounts for approximately 69% of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and energy consumption is projected to increase significantly in the mid-term¹⁰⁶. Natural and other associated gasses are also critically important for power generation and water desalination¹⁰⁷. Bahrain has created incentives to adopt cleaner production technologies¹⁰⁸ and imposed more stringent environmental management conditions on oil and gas production and refineries, land reclamation, and coastline development projects. With very high levels of electricity consumption and greenhouse gas emissions, energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies, especially solar and wind power generation, are now seen as conducive to economic growth. These technologies can help to promote the transition toward more sustainable energy systems, increase

¹⁰² Kingdom of Bahrain's First Voluntary National Review (2018) on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, 86.

¹⁰³ The index is an aggregate measure of affordability, availability, and quality and safety. Top performers in the GCC area were: Qatar (81%), UAE 77%, and Kuwait (75%). Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry, [The Economic Impact of Coronavirus March 2020](#), dtd April 2020.

¹⁰⁴ BHDR, *ibid.*, 96. Physical storage is expensive to build and maintain. To complement, Bahrain could develop 'virtual storage' through the use of financial instruments such as options and futures contracts. UNESCWA.

¹⁰⁵ BHDR, *ibid.*, 195.

¹⁰⁶ Bahrain Third National Climate Change Communication Report, 2020.

¹⁰⁷ BHDR, *ibid.*, 177.

¹⁰⁸ Launched in 2017, the National Energy Efficiency Action Plan and the National Renewable Energy Action Plan <http://www.sea.gov.bh/>

oil and gas supplies available for export, enhance industrial competitiveness, create jobs, and improve environmental quality, with direct effects on population health and wellbeing¹⁰⁹.

45. With a topography that is mostly flat and low, Bahrain is particularly vulnerable to climate change and to adverse weather events. Using a moderate 0.5-meter increase in mean sea levels, it estimated that 15% of Bahrain's total land area would be lost by 2050, including 15 Km² of industrial areas that account for a substantial portion of economic productivity¹¹⁰.

Cooperation results

46. The theory of change underlying this outcome is that the implementation of strengthened policy and regulatory frameworks for the sustainable management of environmental resources and the promotion of energy efficiency and food security will contribute to economic growth that is more resilient, inclusive and sustainable.
47. By 2022, the success GoB-UN system work will be seen with the following major, **provisional outputs**¹¹¹
- » National policy framework and action plans developed to consolidate all Bahraini food security initiatives and minimize the impact of uncertainties in the future food supply¹¹².
 - » National programme to raise awareness on and promote Sustainable Consumption and Production through the development and implementation of an SCP national action plan (SCP-NAP) particularly in light of COVID-19 Pandemic.
 - » A national strategic framework for action addressing the inter-connections between health, climate change, and food safety¹¹³.
 - » A strengthened aquaculture sector that uses an ecosystems approach and a sound statistical system, in line with international standards that provides current data and analysis about the food and agriculture sector.
 - » Greater country capacities to implement renewable energy and energy efficiency policies that integrate environmental standards, climate change considerations and natural resource management concerns.
 - » Country preparation of high-quality State of the Environment and national reports for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) linked with the 2030 Agenda and SDGs.
 - » Development of a Natural Ecosystem Valuation system, a National Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plans, and a Sustainable Water Management Project, in line with the Bahrain Water Strategy.
 - » Strengthened capacities to develop monitor and enforce policy and regulatory measures to improve air and water quality and the management of chemicals and hazardous waste.
 - » Strengthened capacities to improve statistics, data management and archiving
 - » Establishment of at least one UNESCO designated site for inclusive and integrated management approaches linking biodiversity conservation and sustainable socio-economic development.
 - » Strengthened capacities for weather and seasonal 'impact-based' forecasting through the Arab and GCC Climate Outlook Forums and piloting of a multi-hazard, weather and climate warning system.
48. Combined, the outcome and contributing outputs will make specific and value-added contributions to GP priorities (2) for sustainable economic growth and enhanced food security, and (3) in support of

¹⁰⁹ BHDR, *ibid.*, 2018.178-179.

¹¹⁰ Bahrain's Second National Communication under the UNFCCC, *Ibid.*, 12.

¹¹¹ Outputs are *provisional*. They are intended to illustrate the main types of programme results supported UN system agencies. These outputs will be reviewed and revised as needed by the GoB and UN system agencies to prepare detailed programme and project proposals and Joint Work Plans

¹¹² For example: ESCWA has developed a food security monitoring framework that utilizes 24 indicators (some of which are SDGs targets) distributed along the 4 dimensions of food security.

¹¹³ For example: ESCWA has developed an *AquaCrop* training module for irrigation water management so countries, including Bahrain, could enhance agricultural resilience and better respond to stresses due to water shortage and climate change.

stronger regulation for environmental protection and sustainability and enhanced efforts for efficient use of resources and energy.

49. Partners in government include: The Supreme Councils for Environment, Health, Natural Resources, Economic Security, and Women; Key ministries (including MoWMAUP), the Working Group of the inter-ministerial Food Security Committee, the Electricity and Water Authority, the National Mariculture Centre, and iGA. From the private sector, civil society and NGOs, partners include: Universities, volunteer groups, NGOs, Slaughterhouses, and Milk processing plants and farmers. A full list of partners, including UN system agencies, is provided in Annex B.

B. Quality, comprehensive social services

Bahrain Economic Vision 2030:

2. Government: 2.1 Focus on high quality policies; 2.2 Public sector becomes more productive and accountable for delivering quality services

3. A just, thriving society: 3.1 A high standard of social assistance gives all Bahrainis an equal start; 3.2 All Bahraini nationals and residents have access to quality health care; 3.3 A first-rate education system enables all Bahrainis to fulfil their ambitions

Government Programme (GP) Priorities & Policies:

Priority 3 Enabling sustainable development: Policies: 3.2 Ensure quality and sustainability of health services, 3.3: Ensure quality of education; 3.4 Provide appropriate and sustainable housing services; 3.5 Ensure quality, comprehensive social services and social empowerment; 3.12 Improve government's strategic planning and follow-up (*accurate information and statistics*)



SDGs: 1. Social protection; 3. Good health and well-being; 4. Quality education; 5. Gender equality; 6. Clean water and sanitation; 10. Reduced inequalities; 11. Sustainable cities and communities; 16. Peace, justice, strong institutions

Outcome 2. Strengthened social sector policies and systems improve the delivery of quality, inclusive services for Bahraini citizens and residents

Rationale

50. The outcome will support Bahraini efforts to deliver first-rate services, including health, education, and housing. Seen as being essential for the achievement of all goals under Economic Vision 2030, quality inclusive services are expected to provide every citizen with opportunities, appropriate to their individual needs and abilities, to fulfill their ambitions.
51. Closely linked with the shift toward a more diversified, knowledge-based economy are efforts to strengthen **education system and performance**. Bahrain provides nine years of free, compulsory education, not yet extending to upper secondary school. There are growing numbers of nurseries and day cares for children under-3 years, but many younger children are cared for in the home by their families, child minders, and maids. Nurseries and day-cares have tended to be un-regulated, with varying levels of access and cost. Kindergarten (pre-primary) education for the children of ages 3 to 5 is provided free of charge, but is not compulsory and **1 in 3 children do not attend**¹¹⁴. Gross enrolment at the primary and secondary level is nearly universal with few gender differences. Completion rates at the lower secondary level were 99% in 2015 and 97% amongst girls, up from 89% in 2012¹¹⁵.
52. In 2016 expenditure on education was around 2.7% of GDP and 7.6% of government spending - lower than most of its GCC peers¹¹⁶. In purchasing parity terms, spending per student at primary and secondary levels was about USD \$12,000 in 2015 - above the average in the OECD of USD 9,500¹¹⁷.

¹¹⁴ UNICEF, Progress for Children with Equity in the Middle East and North Africa, February 2017, 126. 31% in 2013.

¹¹⁵ World Bank, dtd October 2017. See: <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SE.SEC.CMPT.LO.ZS?locations=BH>;

¹¹⁶ BHDR, *ibid.*, 116-117.

¹¹⁷ Per student spending is based on World Bank data on spending as a percentage of GDP per capita in PPP terms. OECD figure from: OECD, [Education at a Glance 2014: OECD Indicators](#), Indicator B1 How much is spent per student? OECD, 2014. 204.

Despite this investment, learning outcomes are lower than those in the OECD, with students scoring in the bottom half of internationally comparable assessments for science, and mathematics¹¹⁸.

53. Even with a highly developed education system, Bahrain, like most high-income countries, faces the challenge to improve educational quality and standards across all school levels. It needs to strengthen curriculum and place greater emphasis on the active teaching and learning methods that promote **critical thinking, analytical skills, and problem solving**¹¹⁹. Establishing a foundation for learning in the early years is essential for success. Quality early childhood care and development (ECCD) interventions are multi-sectoral, across a range of health, education, and social services for young children and their families. In addition to being good for children, in terms of their readiness to learn and thrive, quality ECCD also enable women to take on a more active role in the economy (see outcome 3).
54. Comprehensive **health care** is provided free of charge and delivered through a network of primary and secondary health facilities. A new Health Insurance Law (No. 23) was introduced in 2018, making it mandatory for health insurance coverage to be provided to all citizens, residents and visitors from January 2019. Communicable diseases are largely under control. The country has an effective immunization programme and infectious diseases among children have been nearly eradicated. Access for urban and rural populations to sustainable safe water and sanitation is universal. Major health challenges in Bahrain are¹²⁰:
- » Increase in the burden of non-communicable diseases;
 - » Increase in out-of-pocket health spending by all households¹²¹;
 - » Increased tobacco smoking among both men and women¹²²;
 - » Obesity among adults and children¹²³;
 - » Demographic growth with increasing life expectancy rates, creating a higher demand for health services¹²⁴; and
 - » Increased exposure to pollutants and emissions, especially for residents near industrial zones and a lack of emission limits for refineries, power and desalination plants, and oil exploration stations¹²⁵.

NCDs such as cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, chronic respiratory diseases, cancer, and injuries, are rising dramatically. They now account for an estimated 81% of all deaths in the country. Bahrain has one of the highest rates of overweight and obesity in the region, after Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, with 29% obesity among all adults. Obesity is higher in females (36%) than males (25%) and child overweight and obesity is a concern, affecting 1 in 3 children, ages 6 to 12 in 2012¹²⁶. There is a need to improve knowledge and awareness among the population, and take other WHO-recommended measures to promote healthy eating and active lifestyles. Out-of-pocket spending by households on health has risen since 2010. In 2017 it was estimated at 31% of total current health expenditures or USD \$692 (PPP) per person – an increase of nearly 60%¹²⁷. Older data concerning maternal anaemia, low-birthweight, breastfeeding, and malnutrition, suggest that attention is needed to further strengthen primary health and preventive services for children and women. Even at low levels, the effects of under-nourishment and stunting on young children are serious and can have lasting impacts on school performance and future productivity. In 2015, an estimated 66% of Bahraini women who are married, in union, or of reproductive age, used some form of contraception, including modern methods. The

¹¹⁸ In the [2015 Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study](#) (TIMSS), grade 4 and grade 8 students scored in the bottom half of participating countries for both mathematics and science (for example *vis.* TIMSS Scale Centerpoint of 500: Grade 4 Math: Avg. 451, M:443, F:459; Grade 8 Math: Avg. 454, M:446, F:462. While girls scored higher than boys in all assessments, performance by both sexes and grades improved from results in 2011.

¹¹⁹ BHDR, *ibid.*, 120-121.

¹²⁰ GoB, Ministry of Health administrative data; World Health Organization, [NCD Country Profile Bahrain](#), 2018. BHDR, *ibid.* 189.

¹²¹ [WHO Global Health Expenditure database; Bahrain](#), August 2020.

¹²² [WHO, GHO, Bahrain](#), Sept 2020.

¹²³ BHDR, *ibid.*, 189.

¹²⁴ Bahrain Human Development Report 2018, p189

¹²⁵ BHDR, *ibid.*, 188. Furthermore, the reclamation of land is considered a main cause of the dispersal of fine sand particulates, and with frequently occurring sandstorms, a negative effect on air quality.

¹²⁶ World Health Organization, [NCD Country Profile Bahrain](#), 2018. WHO, [Nutrition clinics help tackle obesity in Bahrain](#), 2014. Dld Oct 2019.

¹²⁷ WHO Global Health Expenditure database, [OOP spend vis current health; OOP spend per capita](#), dld April 2020

estimated un-met need was 11% of women. Quality health services must be tailored to the specific challenges of the adolescents and young people who will join the labour market, develop new businesses, and drive economic growth in the next decade.

Data concerning maternal anemia, low-birthweight, breastfeeding, and malnutrition, suggest that attention is needed to further strengthen preventive health services for children and women¹²⁸. In 2015, an estimated 66% of Bahraini women who are married, in union, or of reproductive age, used some form of contraception, including modern methods. While contraceptive drugs and devices are available in health centres free of charge, a UNDESA estimate from 2015 reported that the un-met need was 11% of women¹²⁹. Quality health services must continue to respond to the needs of adolescents and young people who will join the labour market, develop new businesses, and drive economic growth in the next decade. Overall there is a lack of data about the actual coverage and quality of health services for expatriate workers, especially those in the construction, hotel and hospitality, and domestic labour sectors.

55. The COVID-19 pandemic is placing health systems and services under tremendous strain. Bahrain, like all countries will need to make difficult decisions to balance pandemic response with the maintenance of other basic and essential health services, without risking system collapse. It is important to maintain effective screening, triage, and targeted referral of COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 cases. Some sectors of the population require ongoing, close monitoring, especially expatriate workers, people in prisons and other closed settings, due to their working and/or living conditions.
56. According to the ILO, public **social protection** expenditure, excluding health was 3.6% of GDP in 2015¹³⁰. However, and prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, only **an estimated 10% of unemployed persons were receiving benefits** (contributory only) from the social insurance scheme (SDG indicator 1.3.1). In many cases, those who are self-employed, non-nationals or non-residents are not eligible for benefits, or experience limitations to participation¹³¹. Despite this apparent gap in benefit coverage, Bahrain is one of a few countries that have included young workers (citizens only) with an insufficient contributory period in the scope of unemployment protection benefits and it makes it possible for self-employed workers to participate voluntarily in the statutory pension scheme¹³². Bahrain has taken positive steps towards subsidy reform, in line with the [Fiscal Balance Programme](#), to reduce its budget deficit and increase the effectiveness of social sector spending¹³³. These efforts will be greatly challenged by the need for economic stimulus and increased social protection spending to address the urgent, negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. According to the ILO, public **social protection** expenditure, excluding health was 3.6% of GDP in 2015¹³⁴. However, and prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, only **an estimated 10% of unemployed persons were receiving benefits** (contributory only) from the social insurance scheme (SDG indicator 1.3.1). In many cases, those who are self-employed, non-nationals or non-residents are not eligible for benefits, or experience limitations to participation¹³⁵. Despite this apparent gap in benefit coverage, Bahrain is one of a few countries that have included young workers (citizens only) with an insufficient contributory period in the scope of unemployment protection benefits and it makes it possible for self-employed workers to participate

¹²⁸ Maternal anaemia was on the rise since 2000, affecting 43% of pregnant women. About 12% of infants have a low birthweight in 2015, 9% of children under-five years are underweight and 10% are stunted. Regional or social differences in nutrition status are not known. About 1 in 3 infants under-6 months of age enjoy exclusive breastfeeding. Iron deficiency anemia affects 30% of children under-five years. UNICEF, The State of the World's Children 2019 Statistical Tables, dtd Sept 2020. UNICEF, Progress for Children with Equity in the Middle East and North Africa, February 2017, 116-117. Note: Data for Bahrain for 2000-2006; Bahrain MoH, [Nutrition Country Card: Bahrain](#), 2012. UNICEF, [Early Moments Matter for every child](#), 2017, 21-22 ; WHA Global Nutrition Targets 2025: Stunting Policy Brief, WHO, 2014.

¹²⁹ UNDESA, [Trends in Contraceptive Use Worldwide 2015](#), ST/ESA/SER.A/349 , 38. See: current [UNDESA statistical projections](#)

¹³⁰ ILO, World Social Protection Report 2017–19: Universal social protection to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, 2017.146. The reported average for Arab States was 2.5%.

¹³¹ ILO, World Social Protection Report 2017–19, *ibid.* 144-146, 243 (data from 2010).

¹³² ILO, World Social Protection Report 2017–19, *ibid.* 53, 142, 144. Note that About 85% of workers are covered by employment injury protection schemes.

¹³³ For example: An increase in electricity and water costs for non-Bahrainis (and Bahrainis with more than one property) – to help generate government revenue; The introduction of Value Added Tax (VAT) at a standard rate of 5%; Pension reforms, including for public servants, to make pensions more financially sustainable (for the government); A voluntary retirement scheme for government employees to help curb rising expenditure on public sector wages (which account for a significant proportion of government expenditure).

¹³⁴ ILO, World Social Protection Report 2017–19: Universal social protection to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, 2017.146. The reported average for Arab States was 2.5%.

¹³⁵ ILO, World Social Protection Report 2017–19, *ibid.* 144-146, 243 (data from 2010).

voluntarily in the statutory pension scheme¹³⁶. Bahrain has taken positive steps towards subsidy reform, in line with the [Fiscal Balance Programme](#), to reduce its budget deficit and increase the effectiveness social sector spending¹³⁷. These efforts will be greatly challenged by the need for economic stimulus and increased social protection spending to address the urgent, negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

57. The Kingdom of Bahrain via its National Committee for Combating Drugs was one of the first countries in the GCC to validate a national drug control strategy which was endorsed by the Ministry of Interior in June 2015. In accordance with the international drug control treaties and standards, the strategy is balanced in its emphasis between drug supply and demand reduction, tailored to national needs and priorities, and its development was grounded on scientific evidence and in line with the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation Towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem. Jointly with UNODC, Bahrain contributed its experience to support other GCC countries in developing their own drug control strategies. Efforts to operationalize the Bahraini strategy require tools and mechanisms to enhance multi-sectoral data collection, analysis, monitoring, evaluation and reporting in order to generate evidence of what works and what does not. Furthermore, drug use disorders are frequently accompanied by somatic conditions such as HIV/AIDS, hepatitis B and/or C and tuberculosis, lung or cardiovascular disease, stroke, cancer and injuries and traumas among others. It is therefore critical to integrate the implementation of the national drug control strategy with other national strategies for the prevention and treatment of NCDs and promotion of mental health. Additional risks faced by people with drug use disorders include a potentially compromised immune system (especially for those who inject drugs) as well as stigma and discrimination which may result in limited access to basic resources such as housing, employment, health care and social support. For all those reasons, in the current context of the COVID-19 pandemic, it may be more difficult for people who use drugs and with drug use disorders to protect themselves and they may be particularly at risk of developing COVID-19. Therefore it is important to ensure the continuity of adequate access to gender- and age-sensitive, culturally appropriate health and social services for people who use drugs and with drug use disorders and provide the continuum of care required as described in the International Standards for the Treatment of Drug Use Disorders (UNODC/WHO, 2020) to the best extent possible also in times of crisis. Data and research will be needed to understand the longer-term impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on both illicit drug trafficking and consumption patterns¹³⁸, in order to further inform drug supply and demand reduction strategies and programmes.

58. **Urban development and housing:** Bahrain's population is 100% urban¹³⁹, with rapid population growth and increasing demands for housing and quality urban development¹⁴⁰. Recommended supply-side interventions include: legislative and regulatory measures to improve access to land and infrastructure, greater diversity in housing types, and increased flexibility and responsiveness in housing delivery. Demand-side interventions aim to improve the ability of the government to assess applicants' needs and to make optimal use of public subsidies, especially for low-income families. The policy and regulatory roles of the Ministry of Housing need to be strengthened, to encourage more private sector engagement in housing development and improve its standard-setting, monitoring, and enforcement capacities. More spatial data and information about public spaces needed, using digital mapping and technology, to enable a systematic approach to planning of public spaces. Local governments must be provided the skills and authorities to guide, prioritize and translate urban development policies and data into tangible local development of safe, enjoyable public spaces.

¹³⁶ ILO, World Social Protection Report 2017–19, *ibid.* 53, 142, 144. Note that About 85% of workers are covered by employment injury protection schemes.

¹³⁷ For example: An increase in electricity and water costs for non-Bahrainis (and Bahrainis with more than one property) – to help generate government revenue; The introduction of Value Added Tax (VAT) at a standard rate of 5%; Pension reforms, including for public servants, to make pensions more financially sustainable (for the government); A voluntary retirement scheme for government employees to help curb rising expenditure on public sector wages (which account for a significant proportion of government expenditure).

¹³⁸ UNODC, Research Brief, *COVID-19 and the drug supply chain: from production and trafficking to use*, 2020.

¹³⁹ [World Bank](#), 89% urban, 2018.

¹⁴⁰ BHDR, *ibid.*, 187. Projections from iGA indicate that the country's population will reach 2.2 million by 2030: A significant increase for country already recognised as one of the top ten most densely population countries in the world.

Importantly, those efforts will also need to promote and integrate a greater, multi-stakeholder participatory approach.

59. Based on regional trends, the COVID-19 pandemic may pose additional challenges for Bahrain's efforts to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment¹⁴¹:
- » The majority of health care and social workers are women and face increased risks to infection with COVID-19;
 - » Women and girls are called-upon to provide the lion's share of unpaid care, especially for sick family members;
 - » Some female domestic workers, nearly all of whom are sponsored expatriate workers *may* not have equal access to prevention and treatment support;
 - » Globally and regionally, there are concerns that increased family isolation and reduced access to social services may increase the risk of and domestic violence¹⁴².
60. Cutting across all concerns are children and young people: They account for 1 in 3 of the population. How they develop, and the support and opportunities afforded to them will play a major factor in Bahrain's future development. The challenges facing young people include: unemployment and under-employment, the ageing of the Bahrain population and growing pressures on health and social security, and climate change with the potential to radically alter economic and social conditions for the small island state. Effective, preventive health care with a focus on healthy lifestyles and quality education and skilling for the labour market of the future, with an increasing focus on STEM careers, is needed to remove obstacles for young people. These will enable them to seek out market-driven, highly productive opportunities for employment and entrepreneurship. The time is right for this approach: a recent study found that young Bahrainis, more so than their GCC peers, would prefer to find a job in the private sector and 70% say they would like to start their own business¹⁴³.
61. In May 2017 the Kingdom of Bahrain launched the National Referral Mechanism for Victims of Trafficking in Persons (NRM), the first-ever of its kind in the GCC and broader MENA region. It has since then, with the support of UNODC and IOM, been introduced as a model to other countries in the Arab world for promoting and implementing a victim-centered approach to combating and preventing trafficking in persons, in accordance with relevant international conventions, standards and norms. With the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, risks for some expatriate workers especially sponsored domestic workers *may* increase¹⁴⁴. The GoB has taken a series of measures to encourage employers to retain their employees and to allow migrants in irregular status to regularize their status through either finding a new employer or applying for the *FlexiPermit*, which enable them to access full healthcare and other public services. Further research has shown that during the 2008 global financial crisis, trafficking victims from some countries particularly affected by prolonged high unemployment rates were increasingly detected in other parts of the world¹⁴⁵. Data and research will be needed to understand how COVID-19 restrictions and the economic consequences are likely to impact migrant smuggling and cross-border trafficking in persons in the medium and long terms and in different regions, including the GCC, and to further inform national strategies and programmes on trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants.

Cooperation results

62. The theory of change underlying this outcome is that strengthened social sector policies and systems, including enhanced performance monitoring, will contribute to conditions for a healthy, skilled, and resilient population of Bahraini citizens and residents capable of driving a more diversified, knowledge-

¹⁴¹ UNESCWA, The impact of COVID-19 on Gender Equality in the Arab Region. E/ESCWA/2020/Policy Brief.4, March 2020.

¹⁴² A UN FRAMEWORK FOR THE IMMEDIATE SOCIO-ECONOMIC RESPONSE TO COVID-19, 2020, 15.

¹⁴³ Ernst & Young, [How will the GCC close the skills gap?](#), EY-MENA, 2015. 24. The next highest country was UAE at 34%

¹⁴⁴ For example: loss of employment and over-crowded living facilities.

¹⁴⁵ UNODC, Research Brief, How COVID-19 restrictions and the economic consequences are likely to impact migrant smuggling and cross-border trafficking in persons, 2020.

based economy. By 2022, the success GoB-UN system work will be seen with the following major, *provisional* outputs.

63. To ensure the highest *quality health services* for the wellbeing of people in Bahrain, especially women and young people:
- » Strengthened implementation of core strategies for the maintenance of essential health services and systems in line with guidance from the global and regional strategic plans for the COVID-19 Response¹⁴⁶.
 - » Enhanced prevention and treatment of NCDs and promotion of mental health through implementation of Bahrain multi-sectoral integrated national strategies on NCDs and implementation of WHO-recommended *best-buys* to accelerate progress and improve cost-effectiveness of interventions¹⁴⁷.
 - » Strengthened health systems, within the framework of Universal Health Coverage (UHC), including expansion of health financing and insurance, under the National Health Plan¹⁴⁸, improved health information systems, and cost-effectiveness of medicines, vaccines and medical devices.
 - » Increased coverage of comprehensive, integrated early childhood development (ECD) services and nurturing care practices,
 - » Improved clinical nuclear medicine and radio-analytical capabilities and procedures.
64. To ready *young people, especially young women, for careers in a dynamic, sustainable, and diversified economy*:
- » Improved education policy and planning, enhanced teacher training, focused on 21st century skills, including principles of sustainability, and an effective, innovative TVET sector.
 - » In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, enhanced e-learning for students at all school levels.
 - » Strengthened ties between the education system and labour market to address the skills mismatch.
 - » Stronger labour market policies including mechanisms for dispute resolution and occupational health and safety.
65. To respond to complex *urban development and housing* challenges:
- » An effective, evidence-based housing policy and strategy developed, with enhanced targeting and financing methods to address the less privileged in Bahraini society.
 - » Enhanced guidelines and technologies to promote energy and environmentally sustainable urban development and housing solutions that also promote healthy behaviours and safe public spaces.
66. To offer *effective social protection* for all people in Bahrain:
- » Greater capacity is needed to implement measures for gender equality and women's advancement, including gender sensitive budgeting and policy as well as coordinated, integrated and evidence-based programmes addressing gender-based violence against women and girls (GBVWG) and providing essential services (health, police and justice, social services and coordination of these services) to victims, during and beyond the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - » Review and strengthen regulations, referral mechanisms and service delivery protocols for the implementation of coordinated and evidence-based national social protection, rehabilitation and reintegration strategies, in line with international standards for social protection (SDG 1.3);
 - » Victims of trafficking and expatriate workers have increased access to relevant mechanisms for protection, support and high-quality care.
 - » All children, without discrimination, are better protected from violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation.
67. Together, the outcome and contributing outputs will contribute to GP priority 3: the enabling environment for sustainable development. These will enable the GoB and UN too see a tangible contribution to the quality and sustainability of health services, the quality of education and its

¹⁴⁶ WHO, [COVID-19 STRATEGY UPDATE](#), 14 April, 2020.

¹⁴⁷ WHO, [Tackling NCDs: 'Best buys' and other recommended interventions for the prevention and control of NCDs](#), dld Nov 2019. These include fiscal and other policies on health-harming and health-promoting products; scaling up early detection of risk factors. In addition, the MoH may consider developing and testing new approaches (e.g. behavioral insights) to enhance the effectiveness of existing interventions.

¹⁴⁸ GoB GP 2019-2022, Priority 3.2.1, 3.2.4, 3.2.6.

essential connection with the labour market, sustainable housing, and the quality of social services and social empowerment. Coherent UN system support will also enable the GoB to strengthen its strategic planning and follow-up capacities with accurate information and statistics.

68. Partners in government include: the Supreme Councils for Environment, Health and Women; Key ministries and other government entities; the Labour Market Regulatory Authority; the National Commission for Childhood, the Electricity and Water Authority, the UNESCO National Commission, the Royal University for Women, main hospitals, and iGA, the National Committee for Combating Drugs, the National Committee to Combat Trafficking in Persons. From the private sector, civil society and NGOs, partners include universities and individual experts. A full list of partners, including UN system agencies, is provided in Annex B.

C. Economic diversification, public administration, and resilience

Bahrain Economic Vision 2030:

1. Economy: 1.1 Bahrain stimulates growth by enhancing productivity and skills; 1.2 Bahrain diversifies and builds the economy by focusing on existing high-potential sectors 1.3 Bahrain transforms the economy in the longer-term by capturing emerging opportunities
2. Government: 2.1 Focus on high quality policies; 2.2 Public sector becomes more productive and accountable for delivering quality services; 2.3 A predictable, transparent and fairly enforced regulatory system facilitates economic growth
3. A just, thriving society: 3.4 A safe and secure environment

Government Programme (GP) Priorities & Policies:

Priority 1 Values of state, society; Policies: 1.1 Maintain security and stability, 1.3 Enhance democracy and human rights, 1.4 Develop the legislative system

Priority 2 Financial sustainability and economic development: Policies: 2.2 Achieve sustainable economic growth (*excl. food security*), 2.3 Support labour market, enhance role of SMEs

Priority 3 Enabling sustainable development: Policies: 3.9 Efficiency, effectiveness of government sector, 3.10 Creativity, knowledge of government employees, 3.11 Enhance accountability, and transparency



SDGs: 8. Decent work and economic growth; 9. Industry, innovation, infrastructure; 10. Reduced inequalities; 16. Peace, justice, strong institutions

Outcome 3. Enhanced policies and regulatory frameworks strengthen conditions for economic diversification, employment creation, rule of law, and increased resilience and innovation

Rationale

69. The outcome will address the intersection of Bahrain's impressive gains to diversify its economy and the need to sustain these efforts with strengthened public administration reform, rule of law and social resilience. This will contribute to Bahrain's aims for growing prosperity that is more equitable and inclusive.

70. Diversification efforts by the Government have delivered results: The hydrocarbon share of the economy has been reduced from nearly a third of GDP in 2005 to less than one-fifth in 2018 and employment and investment opportunities have expanded in new sectors¹⁴⁹. Elements of Bahrain's success include effective efforts to attract FDI, increasing integration in the wider GCC market, including quality assurance standards and practices, and liberalization of the telecommunications and transport sectors¹⁵⁰.

71. With these efforts, Bahrain also seeks to provide decent employment opportunities for its citizens and large numbers of expatriate workers, increase productivity and competitiveness, and create a modern

¹⁴⁹ BHDR, *ibid.*, 2018, 52-56.

¹⁵⁰ BHDR, *ibid.*, 63.

open market economy driven by knowledge and technical innovation. In an effort to boost Bahraini employment in the private sector, the Government continues to implement 'Bahrainization' policies and set quotas and levy fees on the hiring of foreign workers. Over the next ten years, the size of Bahrain's workforce is expected to double. About 4000 Bahrainis enter the job market annually, many with a post-secondary qualification. However, according to the Bahrain Economic Vision 2030, the country is facing a serious shortage of both quality employment and relevant skills among Bahrainis. There are concerns that non-oil private-sector growth may slow in the mid-term, and that the private sector, on current trends, may not be able to absorb all projected labor force entrants¹⁵¹.

72. Bahrain recognizes that it must compete as a knowledge economy, producing high value added goods and services. This can be achieved, *providing* the Government can strengthen the regulatory framework, provide the right market signals, and ensure the right mix of skills and effective public services to enable diversified and higher-technology investment and growth. It must also create conditions for women and migrants to fully contribute to sustainable development. Digital government transformation including e-government and innovation in public sector are important elements for the emergence of a knowledge economy and for the modernization of public sector.
73. Progress will also hinge on growth of small and medium enterprises (**SMEs**) which are the backbone of a sustainable economy and can contribute greatly to **innovation, job growth, and international competitiveness**¹⁵². Diversification policies and programmes have spurred reforms to the business environment and foster entrepreneurship and the growth of SMEs. Manufacturing, trading and construction constitute the main segments of the MSME sector in Bahrain. MSMEs account for more than 90% of Bahraini businesses and nearly 70% of the workforce in Bahrain, ranking Bahrain 3rd amongst Arab countries on the Global Entrepreneurship and Development Index of the Global Entrepreneurship Development Institute, and 29th in the world¹⁵³.
74. Major avenues for SME formation include the Bahrain Development Bank, the [Tamkeen initiative](#) that supports Bahraini business development, and the SME Development and Support Centre. Since its inception Tamkeen has helped train more than 120,00 women, young people and persons with disabilities and contributed over \$2.5bn into more than 47,000 enterprises¹⁵⁴. SMEs will be among some of the hardest hit by the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Urgent stimulus measures to support SMEs and avoid extensive unemployment are needed and Bahrain is well-placed, relative to its peers in the region, to adjust to this new reality. The current stimulus package includes measures to help SMEs defer debt payments, interest free and Tamkeen programmes are being redirected to support adversely affected companies.
75. However, the contribution of SMEs to GDP in Bahrain is 30%, significantly below the global average of 46% and only 11% of owner-workers in the SME sector are Bahrainis¹⁵⁵. Additional public policy initiatives are needed to expand SME growth and progress in exports and innovation and help SMEs to navigate the economy as it recovers from COVID-19, including education and support for digital commerce:
 - » Policies and market incentives are needed to expand high-value, tradeable goods enterprises (*e.g. manufactured goods, machinery and transport equipment*). In addition to offering technological and commercial spillovers to other sectors, these enterprises also provide some measure of insurance against *positively correlated volatilities* in the oil and gas sector and the risk that the economy is over-exposed to boom and bust cycles.

¹⁵¹ World Bank, Gulf Economic Monitor, April 2019: [Building the foundations for economic sustainability](#): Human capital and growth in the GCC, 2019.

¹⁵² The Bahrain Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MOCI) defines SMEs as: Micro-enterprises with up to 10 employees; Small enterprises up to 50, and Medium-sizes ones up to 150 employees. An exception is made for the labour-intensive textiles and garment sector, where companies are still considered medium-size with up to 300 employees.

¹⁵³ Kingdom of Bahrain's First Voluntary National Review (2018) on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, 62.

¹⁵⁴ Kingdom of Bahrain's First Voluntary National Review (2018) on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, 3.

¹⁵⁵ BHDR, *ibid.*, 58-59. Key factors contributing to this are: stringent capital requirements of banks and lending institutions, the abundance of low-cost labour that weakens incentives for investments in technology, productivity and efficiency, a limited scope for mergers and acquisitions that might lend to economies of scale. BHDR, *ibid.*, 58-59.

- » Accelerate ongoing efforts to improve the business environment, investment in education and support for digital commerce, infrastructure, and the reduction of regulations
 - » Continue the rationalization of the public sector and large public sector companies that distort the labour market and squeeze-out competition¹⁵⁶.
76. Tourism is another area of potential growth. Bahrain depends on tourists and visitors from the GCC area for an estimated 88% of tourism revenue¹⁵⁷. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, tourism was little affected by regional security challenges with the Bahrain Tourism and Exhibition Authority announcing that Bahrain attracted 11 million visitors in 2019. The figure was expected to rise to 14.6 million by 2022.¹⁵⁸ Expectations for 2020-2021 will need to be downgraded as the pandemic unfolds. The OECD expects the international tourism economy to contract by between 45 and 70% in 2020 and the sector is labour intensive and employs millions of low-skilled workers, the majority of whom are women¹⁵⁹.
77. Bahrain must also grapple with increasing demands for highly qualified ‘knowledge’ workers. **Skills mismatches** and the quality of education as being significant constraints. Education and training systems are not yet providing young graduates with the knowledge and skills for success in a dynamic future labour market (see discussion under outcome 2)¹⁶⁰. Stronger, formal bridges and links between the education and employment sectors and stakeholders, especially the private sector, are needed to re-orient education and training programs to deliver more knowledge-based and employment-oriented programs¹⁶¹. Volunteerism helps young people’s access to decent work by providing access to training and job-related skills and strengthening their abilities, experience, confidence and connections. Youth volunteer programmes can help in transition of youth from education to employment while also increasing a sense of solidarity with their own communities.
78. While total unemployment is low, ranging from 3.5 and 4.5% over the past five years, women make up the majority of the unemployed¹⁶². Using modeled ILO estimates, the **labour force participation of women** was 45% in 2019 or about half that of their male counterparts. In the public sector Bahrain has reached gender parity¹⁶³; in the private sector about a third of all participating Bahrainis are women. Amongst young women (15-24 years) 12% are unemployed compared to just 2% for males¹⁶⁴. This situation is a challenge but also a major opportunity: Given their high levels of education, women are a substantially underutilized resource for Bahrain. Existing programmes and initiatives can be further strengthened to develop, attract, and retain more female talent with effective labour market policies and more female friendly workplaces¹⁶⁵. Addressing gender discrimination in the economy could spur growth and unleash the innovation and business potential of women who have remained on the sidelines of the labour market.
79. The government has made positive moves to strengthen women’s representation in political and public life, including in the Council of Representatives and local councils, and more can be done to increase women’s engagement, especially young women. Women are less well represented in technical fields related to science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) and tend to be over-represented in the public sector. Strengthened employment support policies can help women with high educational attainments to connect with high-skill, high wage, and knowledge-based professions¹⁶⁶. As noted in the VNR, there are important gaps to be addressed in terms of laws that are not yet fully aligned with

¹⁵⁶ BHDR, *ibid.*, 71-74.; WTO, *ibid.*, 1.10.

¹⁵⁷ Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry, [The Economic Impact of Coronavirus March 2020](#), dtd April 2020.

¹⁵⁸ ‘Bahrain to get significant GDP boost’, *Arabian Business Industries*, Jan 2019: <https://www.arabianbusiness.com/travel-hospitality/411904-bahrain-to-get-significant-gdp-boost-from-tourism-says-development-board-chief-economist>

¹⁵⁹ ILO Sectoral Brief: [COVID-19 and the tourism sector](#), 9 April 2020.

¹⁶⁰ GCC, *ibid.*, 33-34.

¹⁶¹ BHDR..

¹⁶² ILOSTAT database, July 2020; BHDR, *ibid.*, 205. The non-Bahraini population is mostly male and the share of male expatriates is rising over time, making females a minority in the total population. In 2017, females constituted only 27% of international migrants and they mostly worked in retail, services or within the household.

¹⁶³ BHDR, *ibid.*, 206. Reported as 52% in 2020 by Supreme Council for Women.

¹⁶⁴ ILOstat database, July 2020, see: LFP: <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SL.TLF.CACT.FE.ZS?locations=BH>; Unemployment-female: <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SL.UEM.1524.FE.ZS?locations=BH>

¹⁶⁵ CEDAW, Concluding observations on the third periodic report of Bahrain, CEDAW/C/BHR/CO/3, 2014, para 37-38. neither the Penal Code nor Law No. 36/2012 governing labour in the private sector specifically defines or criminalizes sexual harassment in the workplace

¹⁶⁶ The Arab Gulf States Institute in Washington (AGSIW), [Cracking the Glass Ceiling](#): Arab Women in Technology, dtd Sept 2019.

international standards for non-discrimination. There is also need to strengthen the implementation of laws to eliminate gender-based violence against women and girls in all settings, including legal remedies, sanctions, and enforcement¹⁶⁷ as well as the provision of essential services (health, police and justice, social services and coordination of these services) to victims.

80. Bahrain's economy is closely intertwined with labour migration, hosting over 700,000 expatriate workers who make up more than 80% of the total labour force in 2018. In exchange for their employment, Bahrain's labour and capital markets typically enable expatriate workers to earn higher incomes than they would in their country of origin, empowering them to remit resources to their families and communities. In 2018, remittances from Bahrain equalled 8.6% of its GDP. Bahrain has also become the first Arab State to reach Tier 1 in the US Department of State Trafficking in Persons Report, receiving this distinguished honour in the 2018 edition¹⁶⁸. Despite these commendable achievements, the country's migration management framework could be furthered strengthened by addressing gaps in legal frameworks, in both countries of origin and countries of destination, expanding efforts to address the informal market for work permits and visas, and enhancing efforts to prevent and prosecute discrimination, abuse, and human trafficking¹⁶⁹. Paired with this work are efforts to strengthen the prevention and response to organized crime and criminal justice responses, and to bring them closer in line with relevant international standards.
81. The COVID-19 pandemic is altering radically the world of work and may worsen labour and work conditions for young people, as well as small and medium enterprises, the self-employed, and daily wage earners. To mitigate the negative impact in Arab States, there is a need of urgent short- and medium-term financial, economic and fiscal policy measures to replace lost incomes for all people and to ensure that human resources are not lost or degraded for the eventual return to normal economic activity.
82. In general, one of the major identified challenges posed by emergency measures is that Member States have necessarily relaxed safeguards by trading compliance, oversight and accountability for speed of response and achievement of rapid impact, thus unwittingly leading to the creation of significant opportunities for corruption to thrive. This in turn increases the risk that corruption and fraud may weaken the impact of the measures being taken and result in a shortfall of desperately needed aid reaching the intended beneficiaries, impacting the least powerful among the population. Building upon the lessons learned through previous crises, a number of recommendations have been formulated for the immediate situation to maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of large-scale resource disbursement and mitigate the corruption risk, such as: clear, objective and transparent criteria for the qualification of intended beneficiaries and recipients; account for the risks of disbursement and targeting methods; open clear communication and outreach channels to raise awareness and understanding of beneficiaries; use technology for efficient, transparent and accountable disbursement of resources; comprehensive auditing, oversight, accountability and reporting mechanisms to monitor the disbursement process and verify appropriate receipt. On the long term, it is important that Member States develop and regularly update comprehensive emergency response plans – based on scientific and economic models – that authorize executive action in times of global crises, with legislatively authorised economic actions based on the size of the economy, the scope of the lockdown and its expected duration, which can be adjusted over time. Such plans should be developed with contemporary analysis of corruption risks in mind. In addition, Member States should seek to establish the appropriate legislative framework, including necessary safeguards, for emergency

¹⁶⁷ Important laws include: Law No. 1 (2008) Trafficking in Persons; Law No. 37 (2012) The Child Law; Law 17 (2015) Protection against Domestic Violence. Supported UPR recommendation 114.137: *Further its work in empowering women, promoting gender equality and eliminating discrimination and violence against women and children by, inter alia, amending and promulgating relevant laws and implementing the national plan for the advancement of Bahraini women*. General Assembly, Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR): Bahrain, A/HRC/36/3, 10 July 2017.

¹⁶⁸ Bahrain was classified Tier 1 in the U.S. State Department evaluation of human trafficking (TIP), confirming that Bahrain is being fully compliant with the Trafficking Victims Protection Act's (TVPA) minimum standards for the elimination of human trafficking

¹⁶⁹ Examples of violations include: Withholding of passports, failure to pay wages on time (the GoB is introducing a wage protection system), wages); physical abuse—especially in the case of domestic helpers, unsafe working conditions in fields such as construction work. BHDR, *ibid.*, 225.

economic measures as part of crisis preparation plans, in order to ensure transparency, accountability and public consultation through the normal, deliberative legislative process.

83. Six thematic inter-agency working groups were created by ministerial order in 2017¹⁷⁰ in order to maximize and ensure the sustainability of capacity building efforts implemented as part of the ongoing national, comprehensive criminal justice reform initiative¹⁷¹. The working groups respectively focus on alternatives to imprisonment, trafficking in persons, cybercrime, financial and economic crimes (including corruption, money laundering and the financing of terrorism), justice for children, and protection of victims of violence, with the objective of supporting criminal justice responses and capacities in these thematic fields to be closer in line with the relevant international conventions, standards and norms as well as human rights. With the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, specific risks may emerge or evolve in the short, medium and long terms in those six fields and pose direct threats to inclusive and sustainable development, peace and security. Therefore the six working groups will be instrumental to support the identification and analysis of such risks as well as capacity gaps and training needs among law enforcement, criminal justice practitioners and other relevant stakeholders to effectively respond to those risks.
84. With the passing of Law No. (18) of the year 2017 Concerning Alternative Penalties and Measures, the GoB has taken steps to widen the criminal justice system's options towards addressing the rehabilitation and social reintegration needs of both convicted and alleged offenders, by promoting the use of non-custodial measures and sanctions. The fact that the law includes provisions for pre-trial detention is welcome and may represent an important means for the Kingdom to ensure the implementation of the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Non-custodial Measures (the Tokyo Rules) as well as compliance with its international obligation to ensure that pre-trial detention is used as a means of last resort and not as a general rule (in accordance with article 9(3) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights). Having in mind the commitment to 'leaving no one behind', efforts will need to be continued and strengthened to enhance collaboration and coordination between the criminal justice system and other relevant ministries and entities to support implementation of the law in accordance with the UN standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice and other applicable instruments; particularly in the field of education and labour, to offer Technical, Vocational and Educational Training (TVET) and/or work programmes to convicted offenders that may increase their prospects of acquiring skillsets matching the needs of the labour market, yet taking into consideration the nature of their sentence and their individual risk factors and treatment needs.

Cooperation results

85. The theory of change underlying this outcome is that concerted policy and regulatory frameworks, building on Bahrain's notable success to diversify its economy and generate employment, will further strengthen the foundations for economic success with stronger rule of law and increased community resilience. By 2022, the success of GoB-UN system efforts will be seen with the following major, *provisional* outputs from cooperation.
86. *To strengthen conditions and market signals that will spur economic diversification and employment:*
- » Enhanced policy formulation and implementation to strengthen Bahrain's trade competitiveness, and innovation environment, linked with: an emerging digital economy and growth in e-government services and a growing SME sector having access to new sources of finance and export development services.
 - » Investment promotion initiatives in *Bahrain and internationally* to connect entrepreneurs and small business owners to new markets and technologies and to promote investment opportunities

¹⁷⁰ Ministerial Order no. (45) of 2017, Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Waqf. The Public Prosecution Office was closely involved in the identification of the six thematic areas of focus and in the selection of national experts to be nominated as members of the working groups.

¹⁷¹ The joint initiative is based on a series of national recommendations that were raised under the leadership of the Supreme Judicial Council, the Public Prosecution Office, the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Interior, in conclusion of the workshop on United Nations Standards and Norms in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice conducted jointly with UNODC from 23 to 25 March 2015 in Manama.

in green industry and economy (e.g. renewable energy, waste management, health & wellness, agriculture).

- » Establish a national observatory and labour market information system (LMIS) to improve the collection, analysis, and dissemination of labour market data.
- » Entrepreneurs, including women, young people, and persons with disabilities with stronger business and project development skills to start and grow their businesses.
- » Volunteer programmes for increased engagement of young people, women and excluded populations in working with communities and gain access to training and job-related skills and their transition from education to employment.
- » A strengthened tourism sector, with enhanced cultural programming and services.

87. *To enhance public administration performance:*

- » Increased public administration capacities to prepare, implement, and monitor innovative and evidence-based plans and policies, aligned with the SDGs.
- » Enhanced public consultation and participation in policy making.

88. *To promote greater resilience and rule of law*

- » Support the national criminal justice reform initiative with strengthened capabilities to address challenges related to drugs and crime¹⁷², in accordance with international conventions, norms and standards
- » Support national institutions, including security agencies and the judiciary, and strengthening their capacities to prevent and counter terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, in accordance with international legal instruments and security council resolutions, and in compliance with the rule of law and human rights
- » Support government agencies, through capacity-building initiative and institutional and policy support to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, including from a development, economic, social, peace and security perspective
- » Support the government in implementing the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and domesticating it to respond to national context and priorities, and enhance compliance with the rule of law and human rights.
- » Building community resilience to violent extremism and supporting the adoption a whole-of-society, whole-of-government approach to violent extremism and terrorism to further promote peace and security and tackle threats posed by terrorism and violent extremism
- » A regional training and capacity-building centre established to strengthen country and regional capacities to provide care and protection services to victims of trafficking in persons.
- » Ongoing technical support to strengthen GoB capacity to participate in the implementation review mechanism of the UN Convention against Corruption.
- » Support the Government to strengthen measures to meet and report on objectives of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration.
- » Development of comprehensive and evidence-based migration policies and legislation, including ethical recruitment policies and practices, in line with international norms and standards.
- » Enhanced policy and legislation to identify and respond to cases of persons in need of international protection¹⁷³, in line with international standards.
- » Enhanced preparedness to detect and respond to radiation emergencies and health security threats.

89. Combined, the outcome and contributing outputs will make a tangible contribution to all three GP priorities, helping to: (1) Maintain security and stability and enhance democracy and human rights, (2)

¹⁷² Including, but not limited to, illicit drug trafficking, trafficking in persons, corruption, cybercrime, violence against children, violence against women.

¹⁷³ These are persons who cannot avail themselves of the protection of their country of nationality, or their country of habitual residence, because of risk of harm, including that of persecution, based on a relevant ground, threats to life, freedom or physical integrity arising from armed conflict, serious public disorder, or different situations of violence.

Strengthen conditions for sustainable economic growth linked with labour market reforms, and (3) Enhance the effectiveness and accountability of the government sector, promoting creativity and innovation.

90. Partners in government include: the Supreme Councils for Environment, Health, Justice, Natural Resources, Economic Security, and Women; Key ministries; the Bahrain Institute for Public Administration (BIPA), the National Institution for Human Rights, the National Audit Office and Tender Board, the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities, the Bahrain Defense Forces and National Disasters Response Committee, the National Committee to Combat Trafficking in Persons, the Labour Market Regulatory Authority, the Public Prosecutor's Office, the Judicial and Legal Studies Institute, and the Royal Academy of Police. From the private sector: *Tamkeen*, the Bahrain Development Bank (BDB), and Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI). A full list of partners, including UN system agencies, is provided in Annex B.

D. Bahrain among nations

Bahrain Economic Vision 2030: Guiding principles and aspirations

Government Programme (GP) Priorities & Policies:

Priority 1: Upholding values of the state and society; Policies: 1.2 Enhance foreign relations

Other GP policies, as relevant



SDGs: 10. Reduced inequalities; 16. Peace, justice, strong institutions; 17. Partnerships for the goals

Outcome 4. The Kingdom of Bahrain plays an enhanced role in international and regional partnerships for sustainable development, including peace and security initiatives, and to expand South-South cooperation

Rationale

91. Bahrain is actively engaged in multiple regional and international partnerships, frameworks, and discussion fora to further the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and achievement of the SDGs. It has taken a proactive role in multilateral platforms:
- » Bahrain provides humanitarian assistance to mitigate the impact of disasters and provides more than 600,000 permanent jobs for expatriates.
 - » Financial remittances amounted to BD 927 million (US \$2.5 billion) in 2017, contributing to development and the alleviation of poverty in the home countries of expatriate workers.
 - » Bahrain played a key role in the preparation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, hosting the Arab Forum on Sustainable Development that highlighted major issues for sustainable development in the Arab States.
 - » Bahrain is a member of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, and played a key role in its establishment.
 - » Bahrain launched the King Hamad Youth Empowerment Award to Achieve the SDGs.
 - » Establishment of the Arab International Centre for Entrepreneurship and Investment (the '*Bahrain Entrepreneurship Model*') being implemented in 52 countries around the world.
92. In terms of South-South cooperation, Bahrain has established the MENAPAR (Middle East and North Africa Public Administration Research) network dedicated to public administration innovation and reform throughout the Arab region with an interest in public administration research¹⁷⁴. The [Tamkeen model](#) for SME promotion and development has been adopted widely.
93. Moreover, Bahrain has already attracted the attention of the international community through its successful *Tamkeen* model which a number of countries have showed interest in emulating.

¹⁷⁴ Within the MENAPAR membership is a network of mature think tanks comprising the MENAPAR Think Tank Network (TTN), one of the six members of the South-South Global Thinkers or the Global Coalition of Think Tank Networks (GCTTN).

94. Bahrain has already actively contributed to knowledge and practice sharing at regional and global levels in the field of combating and preventing trafficking in persons, particularly in relation to its lead experience in establishing the National Referral Mechanism for Victims of Trafficking in Persons, the first-ever mechanism of its kind in the region. The lead role of Bahrain in this field is to be further asserted via the establishment of a regional training and capacity-building centre to combat trafficking in persons and provide victim support and care with support of UNODC.
95. Bahrain is a wealthy small island state. Yet it is vulnerable to the climate, environmental and geo-political risks common to all SIDS, and it has contributed actively and effectively to multi-lateral consensus on issues of importance to their future prosperity. Major recent engagement and initiatives include:
- » The ban of single-use plastic bags as well as banning the import of non-biodegradable plastic bags. Later phases will include a permanent ban on the use of plastic bags.
 - » The establishment of the Sustainable Energy Authority that will guide policy direction and develop a cohesive and sustainable energy policy to promote renewable energy and energy efficiency.
 - » The GCC Unified Water Strategy (2016 - 2035) and its Operational Plan are considered guides for the current Strategy for Water Resource Management
96. Bahrain has also played an important role to support international cooperation for countering and preventing terrorism:
- » As an active member of the INTERPOL-led Counter-Terrorism Committee for the Middle East and North Africa, Bahrain has participated in regional workshops on terrorism prevention-related matters organized by UNODC;
 - » By hosting together with UNODC over the past few years several training workshops on terrorism prevention-related matters, primarily targeted at law enforcement officers in Bahrain, with participation of international experts to facilitate the exchange of knowledge, practices and information;
 - » Bahrain had made gains in detecting and containing foreign-backed terrorist threats as per the Country Reports on Terrorism 2018, issued by US State Department on November.
 - » Bahrain is a member of the Saudi-led Arab Coalition to restore Legitimacy in Yemen as per the same report.
 - » Bahrain's efforts in countering the financing of terrorism through its membership in the Middle East and North Africa Financial Action Task Force (MENAFATF), and its FIU is a member of the Egmont Group, as well as its membership in the Riyadh-based Terrorist Financing Targeting Centre (TFTC), the Defeat Daesh Coalition's Counter-Daesh Finance Group, in addition to its participation in the Egmont Group's Counter Daesh project.
 - » Bahrain criminalizes terrorist financing in accordance with international standards and can immediately freeze suspicious financial assets.
 - » Bahrain organized, together with UNOCT, several capacity-building workshops for Bahraini officials on terrorism-financing and related matters, specifically on 'Safeguarding the Non-Profit Sector from Terrorist Abuse'.
 - » Bahrain has supported the Secretariat of Arab Interior Ministers Council by designing its e-service system consisting of a website, a smart mobile application and an electronic newsletter.
97. Regional cooperation, particularly amongst the members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), is an important consideration for the Government and is critical for effective response to the COVID-19 pandemic. For example, Bahrain's GCC partners comprise the main market for non-hydro carbon exports¹⁷⁵ and provide a majority of the 12 million tourists who visit Bahrain annually¹⁷⁶. The Government aims to strengthen regional integration with Bahrain's closest neighbours in political, social economic spheres, through a common market, institutions and ever more harmonized social and

¹⁷⁵ WTO, Trade Policy Review Report by the Kingdom of Bahrain, WT/TPR/G/294, March 2014.

¹⁷⁶ Bahrain Human Development Report (BHDR), *ibid.*, 2018, 86.

economic policies. Bahrain will also continue to play an effective role in the League of Arab States (LAS), cooperating with all Arab countries on areas of mutual economic and social interest.

98. Bahrain's GCC partners comprise the main market for non-hydro carbon exports and provide most of the 8 million tourists who visit Bahrain each year¹⁷⁷. Bahrain is also the GCC focal point for work on regional projects that include: impacts of coastal reclamation, standardised air quality data collection, harmonised chemicals management system, and preparation of the annual State of the Environment report for the GCC.
99. Cooperation will continue to support the GoB to consider alternative policies for greater economic integration and efforts to move toward a single market, as well as measures to increase consistency between domestic and GCC regulations. These measures will also help to address common political, economic, social, environmental, and security challenges and to harness the potential for greater South-South and triangular cooperation arrangements. UN system agencies will continue to explore with the GoB the possibility of establishing Bahrain as a centre of excellence in areas of programming of critical concern to the GCC and wider Arab region.
100. In line with these achievements and the 2030 Agenda, Bahrain is seizing the opportunity to expand its multilateral engagement. Through its own development trajectory Bahrain has developed a set of unique comparative advantages and value propositions that it can share with other countries to accelerate achievement of the SDGs globally, particularly in economic diversification and SME promotion, Islamic finance for the SDGs, green economy and energy efficiency.

Cooperation results

101. The theory of change underlying this outcome is that an expanded leadership and partnership role for Bahrain at regional and international levels to offer lessons, knowledge, and innovative solutions from its own development trajectory will contribute to stronger international partnerships for progress on the sustainable development agenda.
102. The UN system will partner with Bahrain to expand and accelerate its regional and international engagement for the sustainable development agenda. Bahrain's positioning will involve increased collaboration with different parts of the United Nations system to explore and identify common interests and areas where its models, solutions, and support are best applied. The areas of focus are not exclusive and they will evolve in the coming years in line with Bahrain's development priorities as well as the ongoing reform of the United Nations architecture for development, peace and security, and human rights. Bahrain's increasing support for multilateralism and the UN System will complement its bilateral assistance efforts and South-South and triangular cooperation initiatives.
103. Provisional priorities for cooperation are:
 - » Enhanced international cooperation to **prevent conflict** and combat terrorism and violent extremism across the MENA region and beyond, including financial reforms to counter illicit financial flows associated with money laundering and the financing of terrorism, structural reforms to enhance international judicial and security cooperation for the purposes of extradition and mutual legal assistance, operational measures to stem the flow of foreign terrorist fighters and address the complex issues related to their return implementation of the UN Security Council targeted sanctions and terrorism-related resolutions, and the promotion of good practices in criminal justice, including stronger alignment with international law.
 - » **Humanitarian and post-disaster, post-conflict support** through provision of financial resources and telecommunications and logistics services.
 - » Global financing innovations for the achievement of the SDGs, focused on sharing models for the establishment and regulation of effective **Islamic Finance institutions** to generate financing for SDG related initiatives in the public and private sectors, and amongst communities and households.

¹⁷⁷ WTO, Trade Policy Review Report by the Kingdom of Bahrain, WT/TPR/G/294, March 2014.

- » A joint Government-UN-Private sector forum will be *explored* to **promote shared-value investment opportunities for the SDGs** between the public and private sectors. This is expected to generate prospective investment deals, drive FDI and PPPs in targeted sectors and to facilitate exports of goods and services.
- » **South-South collaboration** in the realm of ideas and analysis, focused on sharing successful domestic experiences with: 1) Market signals and programmes to spur economic diversification and a vibrant SME sector, 2) Islamic finance for the SDGs, 3) Public and private sector initiatives that promote green economy and energy efficiency, and 4) International cooperation efforts to support countries to prevent and control the increasing global burden of NCDs.

104. Partners in government include: Parliament, the Supreme Councils for Environment, Health, Justice and Women; Key ministries; the Bahrain Institute of Public Administration (BIPA) and Bahrain Institute for Political Development (BIPD), the National Institute for Human Rights, the National Committee to Combat Trafficking in Persons, the Labour Market Regulatory Authority, the Royal Charity and Mumtalakat. From the private sector and civil society partners include: Islamic Finance Bodies and other public and private philanthropic bodies. A full list of partners, including UN system agencies, is provided in Annex B.

3.4 Synergies between outcomes

105. As noted above and in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, each of the priorities and outcomes embody a **nexus of changes** and partnerships. Together, they represent a way to channel and focus GoB and UN system cooperation for more inclusive and sustainable economic diversification and growth and related SDG targets.

106. There are also important cross-linkages between the outcomes:

- » Outcome 1 (*Environment, energy, and food*) is concerned with the implementation of international standards for governance at national and local levels, especially related to rule of law, access to justice, and gender equality. It is foundational, and will make an important contribution for the implementation of all outcomes and country priorities, and particularly the conditions for sustainable economic growth and opportunities for young people, women and other groups.
- » Outcome 2 (*Quality, comprehensive social services*) is acknowledgement that quality education and health services must be tailored to the specific challenges of the adolescents and young people who will join the labour market, develop new businesses, and drive economic growth in the next decade.
- » Under outcome 3 (*Economic diversification, public administration, and resilience*) labour laws and migration regulations will be updated or developed to meet international standards and to address major shifts and critical skills shortages in the labour market. It will be essential to ensure that labour and migration regulations match and complement education and vocational training priorities under outcome 2. In addition, new programmes with innovative measures will be explored to address the barriers that prevent women and other groups from participating in the labour market.

107. *Across all priorities and outcomes*, there are two main areas of synergy:

- » The UN system will continue to partner with the GoB to address any gaps in the legislative and institutional frameworks for gender equality and contribute to stronger institutional capacities for **gender analysis and gender-responsive programming**.
- » Sound policies and effective strategic planning, budgeting, and performance management will depend upon **reliable, up-to-date statistics** and a greater focus on **actual implementation** and performance monitoring. Important gaps remain in terms of the availability and quality of data, including a need to strengthen capacities to produce high quality SDG statistics¹⁷⁸. Particular

¹⁷⁸ For example: the inequality-adjusted HDI (IHDI), the multi-dimensional poverty index (MPI) which helps to reveal deprivations beyond income poverty, and the global Education for All indicators, linked to SDG4

attention is needed to produce data disaggregated by gender, income groups, employment status, education status, and to more systematic dissemination and communication. The UN system will work with the GoB, especially the Information and e-Government Authority (iGA), to strengthen the quality and availability of data for effective policy-making and programme implementation, aligned with the SDGs.

3.5 Sustainability of results

108. Sustainability of the cooperation results will be addressed through capacity development and enhanced cross-sector collaboration. A capacity development¹⁷⁹ approach will support Bahrain to achieve its vision, priorities, and related SDG targets. Planned cooperation outcomes will provide high quality policy advice and alternatives. The Government and UN system will base capacity development initiatives on sound capacity assessments and innovative measures to address institutional bottlenecks and produce actionable results. The GoB and UN will continue to promote stronger, deeper engagement with the private sector, as drivers of economic diversification, and with civil society groups and to sustain their valued services at community level. Overcoming the structural challenges within each outcome will involve tangible capacity development that will extend beyond training and skills development, to generate sustainability and support the scaling-up of good practices
109. To promote cross-sectoral linkages between policy and programme priorities and related SDGs, the UN will support the GoB to apply multi-sectoral thinking and approaches. This will enable the consideration of different policy options and models with multi-sectoral benefits. It will also encourage greater inter-ministerial and inter-departmental coordination for enhanced planning, implementation, and monitoring of the coverage and quality of services in line with international standards.

3.6 UN comparative advantages and UNCT configuration

110. Aligned with the government's expectations, the UN is committed to harnessing its comparative advantages to work jointly and more effectively with country partners to embrace new ways of thinking and doing. The outcomes and prospective outputs offered in this SCF are catalytic, cross-sectoral, and based upon multi-stakeholder engagement and action. Full implementation will draw upon the comparative advantages of the UN system identified in the UN Country Analysis report:
- » A **longstanding presence** in the country, providing institutional and contextual knowledge,
 - » A trusted, neutral partner and '*honest broker*' capable of **convening** national, regional, and international partners, offering a neutral space to address critical issues for SDG achievement,
 - » **Technical partnership**, strengthening **individual and institutional capacities** in specific legislative and policy areas and leveraging its global network and technical expertise,
 - » A **neutral partner**, upholding **international commitments**, norms and standards through policy advice and technical expertise,
 - » Application of **cross-sector approaches** and coordination for complex cross cutting issues such as efforts to address the socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, exclusion, gender equality and women's empowerment, climate change and rights-based approaches to development,
 - » A partner that enables **wider cross-border, regional, and thematic perspectives** to support integrations of the SDGs in country policy, plans and programmes, and
 - » Support for the collection, analysis, and use of **disaggregated data**, including through household surveys, in line with international standards.
111. **UNCT configuration:** Like the previous Strategic Partnership Framework (SPF), this updated Cooperation Framework (SCF) serves as a vehicle for enhanced engagement between the GoB and the UN system. The UN system presence continues to expand with the establishment of an IOM country office in 2018, and the planned increased presence in 2020 of FAO, UN Habitat, UNICEF, UN Women, WHO and UNODC. This will support the UN system to fully deliver on its commitments under this SCF.

¹⁷⁹ Capacity development: Capacity development is the process whereby people, organizations and society as a whole create and strengthen their skills and abilities for positive economic, social, and environmental change. A capacity development approach will inform all aspects of this SCF.

All UN system agencies will continue to review their staffing structures and competencies vis-à-vis expected SCF results and to capitalise on the expertise and capacities across the UN system. Where needed, external expertise will be sought to address any gaps.

4.0 Implementation plan

112. Governance arrangements for the SCF enable effective coordination and implementation of UN support for the achievement of GoB strategic priorities, policies, and programmes in a way that enhances joint work and coordination.

4.1 Implementation strategy and strategic partnerships

113. The programme will be nationally executed under the overall co-ordination of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Government coordinating authorities for specific UN system agency programmes are noted in **Annex E**. Government Ministries, NGOs, INGOs, volunteer groups and UN system agencies will implement programme activities. The SCF will be made operational through the development of joint work plan(s) (JWPs) and/or agency-specific work plans and project documents as necessary which describe the specific results to be achieved and will form an agreement between the UN system agencies and each implementing partner as necessary on the use of resources. To the extent possible the UN system agencies and partners will use the minimum documents necessary, namely the signed SCF and signed joint or agency-specific work plans and project documents to implement programmatic initiatives. However, as necessary and appropriate, project documents can be prepared using, inter alia, the relevant text from the SCF and joint or agency-specific work plans and / or project documents¹⁸⁰.

114. Cash assistance for travel, stipends, honoraria and other costs shall be set at rates commensurate with those applied in the country, but not higher than those applicable to the United Nations system (as stated in the ICSC circulars).

115. Effective implementation will depend upon strategic partnerships with members of the SCF Steering Committee (below): the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Prime Minister's Court, the Ministry of Cabinet Affairs, and the Ministry of Finance and National Economy.

4.2 Governance

General Provisions

116. This Cooperation Framework may be amended upon the mutual written consent of the Parties through diplomatic channels. Any amendments shall take the form of protocols constituting integral part of this Framework.

117. Any disputes or differences arising from the interpretation or implementation of this Cooperation Framework shall be settled amicably through direct consultation between the Parties.

118. Either Party may terminate the Cooperation Framework by a written notification thereof through diplomatic channels, which shall enter into force 1 month after the date of the receipt of such notification by the other Party, unless such notification is withdrawn before the expiry of this period due to an agreement reached by the Parties. The termination of this Framework shall not affect the projects and activities agreed upon, launched and not completed before the entry into force of such termination.

¹⁸⁰ In the case of UNDP, the Government Coordinating Authority will nominate the Government Co-operating Agency directly responsible for the Government's participation in each UNDP-assisted workplan. The reference to "Implementing Partner(s)" shall mean "Executing Agency(s)" as used in the SBAA. Where there are multiple implementing partners identified in a workplan, a Principal Implementing Partner will be identified who will have responsibility for convening, coordinating and overall monitoring (programme and financial) of all the Implementing Partners identified in the workplan to ensure that inputs are provided and activities undertaken in a coherent manner to produce the results of the workplan.

119. This Cooperation Framework shall enter into force on the date of the receipt through diplomatic channels of the last written notification of the completion by the Parties of internal procedures necessary for its entry into force.

Strategic Cooperation Framework Steering Committee

120. The SCF Steering Committee (SC) provides strategic guidance and direction and reviews overall performance of the SCF. It is co-chaired by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Resident Coordinator of the United Nations. It will comprise representatives of: The Office of the First Deputy Prime Minister, The Ministry of Cabinet Affairs, and The Ministry of Finance and National Economy, and heads of selected UN system agencies. Representatives of line Ministries and other implementing partners may be invited by the co-chairs to attend Steering Committee meetings on an ad-hoc basis. It meets at least twice per year and may be convened by the co-chairs as required.

121. The responsibilities of the SC are to:

- » Provide strategic guidance and oversight during SCF implementation,
- » Oversee the work of the Outcome Results Groups ensuring they perform within their mandate while remaining aligned to the SCF in line with national priorities, and undertake evidence-based programming,
- » Provide a strategic overview of the Joint Work Plans and the annual UN Country results report¹⁸¹;
- » Track overall progress against planned SCF outcomes and their contribution to Bahrain priorities and related SDGs,
- » Ensure ongoing alignment and coordination between SCF results, the programmes and projects of UN system agencies and those of the government,
- » Conduct a comprehensive annual performance review, including funding gaps, and endorse major changes to SCF results and strategies,
- » Explore and promote opportunities for cost-sharing and stronger partnerships with civil society and the private sector, including individual donors and corporate partners, and
- » Provide guidance and direction on the development of the terms of reference of the One Programme evaluation and oversee its subsequent commissioning process.

The work of the Steering Committee will be supported by a joint secretariat of the Government of Bahrain and the UN Resident Coordinator's office

Outcome Results Groups

122. Outcome Results Groups (RG) are an operational coordination mechanism for the delivery and monitoring of SCF results. Using **joint work plans (JWP)**, they coordinate and monitor the achievement of SCF results and their contribution to Bahrain priorities and related SDGs and targets, and they advise the SC and UNCT on opportunities and challenges in the evolving programme environment. Given the limited in-country presence of UN system agencies, and wherever possible, *existing* country sector or thematic coordination bodies will be used to fulfill the role of the RG for SCF implementation.

123. Results Groups are led by the head of a UN system agency, or delegated senior agency official, who acts on behalf of the UNCT to ensure effective coordination and implementation of the JWP. The head is responsible for the overall performance of the RG and is accountable to the UNCT and SC for the achievement of results in the JWP. RGs meet at least twice per year or as required.

124. The responsibilities of the RG are to:

- » Prepare biennial **Joint Work Plans (JWP)** with programme partners for each outcome including a funding framework showing the contributions of each UN system agency,
- » Monitor the achievement of SCF outputs and their contribution toward SCF outcomes and Bahrain priorities and related SDGs,
- » Contribute to the preparation the annual UN Country results report,

¹⁸¹ The progress update will follow the UNSDG Standard Operational Format and Guidelines for Reporting Progress on the Cooperation Framework.

- » Mainstream the programming principles and approaches during policy and programme support,
- » Contribute to the development of common SCF advocacy and communication products,
- » Contribute to the preparation of terms of reference for the mandatory SCF evaluation.

Joint Work Plans

125. RGs prepare **Joint Work Plans (JWP)** for **each outcome**. The JWPs reflect planned cooperation outputs, key UN system-supported activities, delivered jointly or by individual agencies, resources that are required and available as well as financing gaps. JWPs are an important tool to maximise synergies and avoid duplication. Under the overall direction of the SC, JWP will be adjusted to respond the evolving programme context and Bahrain priorities and findings from annual performance reviews.

Operations Management Team and Business Operations Strategy

126. The Operations Management Team (OMT) provides support and advice to the UNCT and SC about efforts to harmonize business operations and contribute to the delivery of SCF results. The OMT will explore opportunities for **common back office services** to ensure timely and cost-effective services for procurement, finance, human resources, logistics, ICT, and facility management. The OMT is chaired by a head of a UN system agency or delegated senior agency official. Members are drawn from each agency's senior operations and procurement officers.

127. OMT responsibilities are to:

- » Implement common business solutions, such as common procurement systems for tendering and bidding, long term agreements (LTAs) for joint procurement, common ICT platforms, banking arrangements, office security and cleaning services,
- » Monitor and report to the UNCT and SC about progress to achieve higher quality, more effective, and cost-efficient business support services, and
- » Communicate effectively about the aims and expected results of common business solutions to all UN staff and partners.

Communications

128. Successful steering and implementation of this SCF requires effective communications about the results achieved. The UNRCO, together with UN system agencies (communications focal points) and the government will prepare communication materials that tell compelling stories about the cooperation results achieved with the people of Bahrain. This will be in addition to routine progress reporting by UN system agencies and their partners.

129. In addition, the UNCT *may* establish working groups in thematic areas such as gender equality and young people. These groups will share information and support the integration of thematic concerns during SCF implementation, monitoring, and evaluation.

130. In case of emergencies, the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) will be activated to support Government efforts in terms of humanitarian response and will ensure synergies between humanitarian and developmental processes in order to build resilience and mitigate future natural hazards or other emergencies.

5.0 Monitoring and Evaluation

5.1 Monitoring plan

131. Arrangements for monitoring and evaluation (ME) enable the SCF partners to compare actual progress against expected results, identify lessons, and to adapt results and strategies to respond to changes in socio-economic conditions and emerging priorities, as implementation progresses. Monitoring will be carried-out on the basis of the outcome indicators provided in the results matrix. The partner will also track changes in nationalized SDG indicators and targets at the national priority level. The primary responsibility for assessing performance rests with the SC and UNCT on the basis of routine monitoring and reporting by Results Groups (RG). At each step in the ME process, ownership and leadership by the government is essential to sustain the demand for SCF performance information and to use that information for learning, managing, and adjusting strategy and resources for greater impact.

132. The UN system will develop the capacity of Government and other partners to monitor the indicators for SCF outcomes that are aligned with and contribute to SDG indicators and targets. Targets for SCF outcomes are preliminary and provisional pending further alignment with GoB policies and plans. They will be elaborated further by the RGs in JWP. As far as possible data will be disaggregated by sex and sub-population groups, including: *children, unemployed persons and persons with disabilities*.

5.1.1 Risks

133. Major risks:

- » The COVID-19 pandemic is placing health systems and services under tremendous strain. Pandemic response must be done while maintaining essential health services and without risking system collapse. Health care workers need priority access to PPE. Some groups, especially expatriate workers are more exposed to the risk of infection due to their working and living conditions and, despite notable GoB efforts, may not have equal access to timely, quality information about infection risks and quality preventive and curative health services.
- » 'Lower for longer' oil and gas prices may further aggravate fiscal and debt pressures, leading to difficult trade-offs between cuts to social spending and increased social pressures¹⁸².
- » Bahrain is overly dependent on food imports and has yet to establish a strategic food reserve. Bahrain is in the least water-secure region in the world and is among the top ten countries to face a potential water crisis by 2040¹⁸³.
- » Natural hazards and disaster risks and their possible aggravation due to climate change or the unsustainable use of natural resources¹⁸⁴.
- » Regional political tensions including between the United States and Iran and ongoing conflicts in Syria, Iraq and Yemen may negatively affect investor sentiments and flows of foreign direct investment and tourism in the region.

134. The risk management strategy involves:

- » Stronger, more sustained cross-sectoral policy and programme coordination, led by the government-UN Steering Committee for the SCF. This will help to sustain links between the planned SCF results and Government policy and programmes and to ensure that data and evidence are being used to influence delivery.
- » Efforts to operationalise *existing* Government policies, strategies and service delivery frameworks and build new capacities for effective, cross-sectoral approaches at local levels. These will include engagement of volunteers and volunteer groups in planning and service delivery to ensure needs of groups at community levels are reflected in the implementation.

¹⁸² World Bank, [Bahrain Economic Update](#), April 2019.

¹⁸³ BHDR, *ibid.*, 2018. 96; 'Water scarcity in Bahrain', *Eco MENA*, Jan 2019: <https://www.ecomena.org/water-scarcity-in-bahrain/>

¹⁸⁴ UNDRR-Prevention Web, [Bahrain: Disaster and Risk Profile](#), dtd Sept 2019.

- » Consistent, impartial advocacy and policy dialogue, based on the SDG, to develop cost-effective models and options to enhance the quality and coverage of essential services, within budgetary constraints.

5.2 Review and reporting

135. Effective monitoring, reporting, and evaluation system enables the SCF partners to compare actual progress against expected results. Monitoring and evaluation will be carried-out on the basis of the outcome indicators in the results matrix and related nationalized SDG indicators and targets. The SCF Steering Committee and UNCT is responsible to review and report on progress toward SCF results on the basis of routine monitoring and reporting by Results Groups and GoB line ministries. Attention will be given to support GoB Ministries and the Information and e-Government Authority (iGA) to produce disaggregated data, aligned with the SDGs¹⁸⁵, and to strengthen the dissemination and use of data and statistics for evidence-based policy formulation and planning.

136. The main steps involved in monitoring, review, learning and reporting about SCF results are:

- » Routine progress monitoring and twice-yearly reviews to share information and track the achievement of SCF outputs and their contribution toward outcomes and National vision KPI. These reviews will also enable the partners to adapt SCF results and strategy to changes in socio-economic conditions, and new, emerging priorities.
- » Preparation of the annual UN Country results report that describes actual outputs delivered against those planned in JWP and *progress toward* the SCF outcomes and National vision KPI.

5.2 Evaluation plan

137. Evaluation of the SCF (end 2021-TBD) will measure achievements and support the formulation of the next SCF. The evaluation will engage all SCF stakeholders. It will assess the relevance of the SCF outcomes, the effectiveness and efficiency of implementation by UN system agencies and partners, and the sustainability of results and their contribution to National vision pillars. Finding and recommendations from other programme and thematic evaluations conducted by UN system agencies will feed into the evaluation of SCF results. These will contribute to programmatic lessons and recommendations for the next cycle.

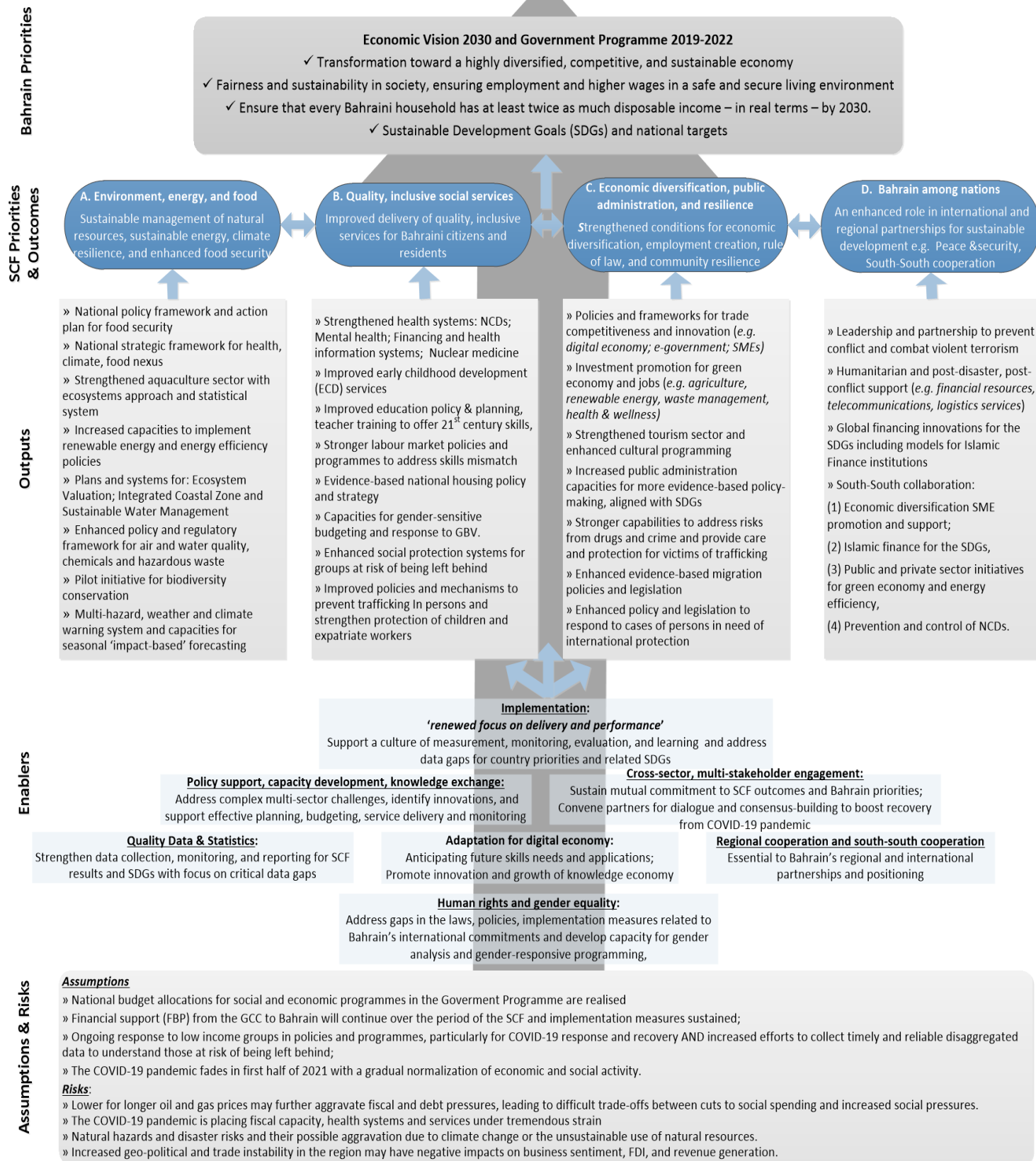
¹⁸⁵ For example, by: Sex, income, education level, and disability status.

Annex A. Theory of Change: Summary

Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain & United Nations Strategic and Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (SCF)

2020-2022

Theory of Change



Annex B. Results Matrix

Kingdom of Bahrain & United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework [2021-2022]: Results Matrix

Outcomes

Environment, energy, and food

Outcome 1. Policies and frameworks are strengthened for the sustainable management of natural resources, sustainable energy, climate resilience, and enhanced food security

Quality, comprehensive social services

Outcome 2. Strengthened social sector policies and systems improve the delivery of quality, inclusive services for Bahraini citizens and residents

Economic diversification, public administration, and resilience

Outcome 3. Enhanced policies and regulatory frameworks strengthen conditions for economic diversification, employment creation, rule of law, and increased resilience and innovation

Bahrain among nations

Outcome 4. The Kingdom of Bahrain plays an enhanced role in international and regional partnerships for sustainable development, including peace and security initiatives, and to expand South-South cooperation

Notes:

The outcomes and outputs of GoB-UN Cooperation Framework (SCF) make a direct, tangible contribution for the achievement of Bahrain's Economic Vision 2030¹⁸⁶ and strategic priorities and policies spelled out in the Government Programme (GP) for the period 2019-2022 and related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The linkages between SCF outcomes and GoB priorities and the SDGs are shown in the top rows of the results framework for each outcome.

- » **Outcomes are high level changes** for which there is collective accountability of the GoB, UN system agencies and implementing partners. Outcomes are changes in institutional performance or the behaviours of people and their communities. They describe: (1) How people are acting differently to improve their lives and those of their families and communities or (2) How institutions are performing in new ways to support people in their efforts.
- » **Outputs describe new skills and abilities, products or services.** The outputs, together, make a contribution toward the expected outcome and related GP priorities and SDGs. The indicative, planned outputs between the GoB and UN system agencies are shown below. These will be elaborated in **Joint Work Plans (JWP)**.
- » High level **technical assistance and capacity development** (TA/CD) initiatives¹⁸⁷ of contributing UN system agencies, related to specific technical support and advisory services requested by the GoB.
- » The **UNRCO** will lead the regular and systematic coordination with the GoB, including the Information and e-Government Authority (iGA), and support to integrate COVID-19 pandemic response and recovery priorities into management, monitoring and evaluation processes for the SCF.

¹⁸⁶ Government of Bahrain, Vision 2030, EDB, May 2013

¹⁸⁷ A TA/CD initiative is strategic but of shorter duration, based upon an agreed programme, project, or work plan with the GoB. The cooperation of UN system agencies in Bahrain involves a mix of both programme outputs and high level TA/CD initiatives.

Indicators, targets, and linkages:

Indicators for the SCF outcomes are *measurable*, aligned with the indicator framework for the SDGs¹⁸⁸, and with the Bahrain GP. This helps to demonstrate a theory of change between support provided by UN system agencies and the SDG-related priorities of the GoB.

- » Outcome indicators that are SDG indicators are shown in brackets as follows: **(SDG 1.1.1)**
- » Outcome Indicators that will make a *causal, contribution* for the achievement of SDG indicators are shown in brackets as follows: (→ **SDG 1.1.1**)

Indicators, baselines and targets for SCF outcomes are *preliminary* and *provisional* pending further alignment with GoB policies and plans. The targets will be reviewed and finalised by Results Groups in Joint Work Plans.

In line with their mandates, UN system agencies will support when needed and requested the Information and E-government Authority and other relevant ministries to strengthen tools and mechanisms for data collection, analysis, monitoring, and reporting, with a focus on critical data gaps. Contributing outputs, listed under each outcome, provide specifics about UN system agencies that plan to support statistical system strengthening.

Priority groups: Low income and female-headed households, children and adults with disabilities, unemployed persons, particularly women and young people, expatriate workers without access to health and other social protection services, especially domestic workers of whom the majority are women, and victims of trafficking.

¹⁸⁸ See: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs>; <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>, <http://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/indicators-list/>

Kingdom of Bahrain & United Nations Cooperation Framework [2021-2022]: Results Matrix

Outcomes

Indicators, Baselines, Targets, Data source

Partners

Bahrain Economic Vision 2030¹⁸⁹:

1. Economy: 1.2 Bahrain diversifies and builds the economy

3. A just, thriving society: 3.5 Bahraini nationals and residents enjoy a sustainable and attractive living environment

Government Programme (GP) Priorities & Policies¹⁹⁰:

Priority 2: Financial sustainability and economic development; Policy: 2.2 Achieve sustainable economic growth (Enhance food security)

Priority 3: Enabling sustainable development; Policies: 3.6 Regulate environmental protection and sustainability, 3.7 Enhance the efficient use of resources and energy



SDGs¹⁹¹: 2. Achieve food security, Promote sustainable Agriculture; 3. Good health and well-being; 5. Gender equality; 6. Clean water and sanitation; 7. Affordable and clean energy; 12. Sustainable consumption and production; 13. Climate action; 14. Life below water; 15. Life on land

OUTCOME 1.

Policies and frameworks are strengthened for the sustainable management of natural resources, sustainable energy, climate resilience, and enhanced food security

1.a % Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population, based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) (SDG 2.1.2)		<p>Government:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » <i>Supreme Councils:</i> Environment; Health; Natural Resources, Economic Security; Women » <i>Ministries:</i> Environment; Health; Oil & Gas; Works, Municipalities and Urban Affairs (<i>Agriculture; Fisheries</i>); Transportation and Telecommunications (Meteorology). » Sustainable Energy Authority » Information and e-Government Authority (iGA)
<p>Baseline: 1.41 (2018)</p> <p>Target:</p>	<p>Source: iGA</p>	
1.b No. Animal genetic resources for food and agriculture secured (SDG 2.5.1)		<p>Government:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » <i>Ministries:</i> Environment; Health; Oil & Gas; Works, Municipalities and Urban Affairs (<i>Agriculture; Fisheries</i>); Transportation and Telecommunications (Meteorology). » Sustainable Energy Authority » Information and e-Government Authority (iGA)
<p>Baseline: (2010)</p> <p>Plant genetic resources : 517</p> <p>Animal genetic resources: 9</p>	<p>Target:</p> <p>Source: iGA</p>	
1.c <i>The agriculture orientation index for government expenditures (SDG 2.a.1)</i>		<p>Government:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » <i>Ministries:</i> Environment; Health; Oil & Gas; Works, Municipalities and Urban Affairs (<i>Agriculture; Fisheries</i>); Transportation and Telecommunications (Meteorology). » Sustainable Energy Authority » Information and e-Government Authority (iGA)
<p>Baseline: 0.80 (2018)</p>	<p>Target: TBD</p> <p>Source: FAO</p>	

¹⁸⁹ Government of Bahrain, Vision 2030, EDB, May 2013.

¹⁹⁰ Government Programme (2019-2022), Government of Bahrain, English translation facilitated by United Nations in Bahrain.

¹⁹¹ See: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>, <http://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/indicators-list/>

Kingdom of Bahrain & United Nations Cooperation Framework [2021-2022]: Results Matrix

Outcomes	Indicators, Baselines, Targets, Data source	Partners
	1.d Extent to which sustainable waste management policies and frameworks are implemented, in line with international standards (→ SDG 11.6.1 ¹⁹²) <i>(Rating: 4 Full alignment (100% of standards); 3. Partial alignment (>50%); 2. Inadequate alignment (<50%); 1 No alignment with standards (>10%)</i>	» Working Group of the inter-ministerial Food Security Committee (est. by MoWMAUP) » Electricity and Water Authority » National Mariculture Centre Civil Society/NGOs: » Universities » NGOs » Slaughterhouses, Milk processing plants UN: » FAO, UNDP, UNDRR, UNEP, UNESCOWA, UNESCO, UN Habitat, WMO
	Baseline: 2 (UNEP, UNDP) Target: 3 Source: Programme reports	
	1.e Extent to which Bahrain meets its commitments to transmit information required under ratified MEAs (SDG 12.4.1)	
	Baseline: UNEP Target: UNEP Source: UNEP	
	1.f Degree of integrated water resources management implementation (SDG 6.5.1)	
	Baseline: 39.7 (2017) Target: iGA Source: iGA	
	1.g Availability of national plans to meet climate change targets and international commitments related to adaptation and mitigation (SDG 13.2.1) (Y/N)	
	Baseline: No Target: Yes Source: SCE	
	1.h Renewable energy share in the total final energy consumption (%) (SDG 7.2.1)	
	Baseline: 0 Target: 5 Source: IEA, World Energy Balances (SEA)	
1.i % Increase in energy efficiency	Baseline: TBD (UNDP) Target: 6% Source: NREAP	
1.j ¹⁹² Important sites for terrestrial and marine biodiversity covered by protected areas (SDG 15.1.2)		

¹⁹² Some outcome indicators are SDG indicators (noted as SDG 1.1.1). Others will make a contribution for the achievement of a SDG indicator. This contribution relationship will be noted as follows: (→SDG 1.1.1)

Kingdom of Bahrain & United Nations Cooperation Framework [2021-2022]: Results Matrix

Outcomes	Indicators, Baselines, Targets, Data source			Partners
	<p>Baseline: TBD (UNEP)</p> <p>1.k Availability of new national analytical capabilities for environmental monitoring: a) Tests: Alpha, Beta and inorganic contaminants; b) National training team (SDG 2, 14; 15)</p> <p>Baseline: a) Tests: No b) Training team: No</p>	<p>Target:</p> <p>a) Tests: Yes b) Training team: Yes</p>	<p>Source: UNEP</p> <p>Source: IAEA</p>	
	<p>1.l Availability of a) Enhanced national DRR strategy and plan, and b) Strengthened national DRR coordination mechanism, in line with Sendai Framework for DRR 2015-2030</p> <p>Baseline a) No b) No</p>			<p>Target a) Yes b) Yes</p> <p>Source: DRR programme reports</p>
Provisional outputs supported by UN system agencies in cooperation with SCF partners				
<p>» FAO: Strengthened aquaculture development that is private-sector driven and uses an ecosystems approach (national aquaculture strategy, policy and legal framework development, risk assessment, support and technology transfer to increase fish production, value addition, incomes and employment along the aquaculture value chain)</p> <p>» FAO: A sound statistical system, in line with international standards, is developed to provide reliable, current statistics for the food and agriculture sector including: (1) Food Security Strategy (2) Livestock (3) Fisheries and Aquaculture</p> <p>» FAO: National scheme developed and implemented to eradicate Animal Diseases and Zoonosis</p> <p>» FAO: National plan of action developed and implemented for the conservation and sustainable use of Animal Genetic Resources</p> <p>» FAO: National policy framework and action plans developed to consolidate all Bahraini food and nutrition security initiatives and minimize the impact of uncertainties in the future food supply</p> <p>» UNDP: Ministries have the capacity to integrate and implement renewable energy and energy efficiency policies, environmental and health standards, climate change considerations and natural resource management into national strategies and policies</p> <p>» UNDRR: Strengthen the implementation of the Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction in coherence with the National Development and climate change priorities</p> <p>» UNDRR: Promote for Disaster Risk Reduction and climate change adaptation through UNDRR awareness campaigns including the International Day for Disaster Risk Deduction that is marked on 13th October</p>				

Kingdom of Bahrain & United Nations Cooperation Framework [2021-2022]: Results Matrix

Outcomes	Indicators, Baselines, Targets, Data source	Partners
» UNDRR: Strengthen the national coordination mechanism to ensure coherence with climate change adaptation		
» UNDRR: Improve Local capacity for resilience city planning through the Making Cities Resilient Programme		
» UNDRR: Strengthen capacity on Disaster related data and statistics and develop monitoring capacity for Disaster risk reduction through the Sendai Framework Monitoring		
» UNDRR: Strengthen Youth engagement and their capacity in disaster risk reduction and enhance the coherence with climate change adaptation through the Arab Children and Youth Stakeholder Group for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)		
» UNDRR: Strengthen media contributions to promote Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change through the Arab Media Stakeholder Group for DRR		
» UNEP: Institutional capacity strengthened to prepare national reports for the UNFCCC, and stabilise nationally determined contributions (NDC) under the Paris Climate Agreement		
» UNEP: State of the Environment report developed with indicators to measure environmental sustainability in the Kingdom (includes strengthened data and indicator frameworks for monitoring and reporting on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs and related MEAs)		
» UNEP: Policy, regulatory, enforcement, and monitoring capacities are strengthened to improve air quality and the management of chemicals and hazardous waste		
» UNEP: Strategy and action plan for biodiversity implemented and ecosystem-based management established for pearling Project (<i>Alherat</i>)		
» UNEP: Development of a Sustainable Water Management Project		
» UNESCO: Technical support for the identification and establishment of at least one UNESCO designated site (MAB program or Geoparks) as learning sites for inclusive and integrated management approaches linking biodiversity conservation and sustainable socio-economic development.		
» UNESCO: Capacity building needs assessment and development of training program to strengthen national capacities towards effective implementation of Bahrain Water Strategy		
» UNESCWA: Increased engagement of GoB ministries in regional consultations on energy efficiency (including in the building sector), renewable energy and climate action		
» UNESCWA: With UN-Water identify substantive policy recommendations for integrated water resources management and climate change		
» WHO (with UNEP, FAO): Develop a national strategic framework for action on health and environment, including climate change A&M and food safety		
» WMO: National capacities for weather and seasonal forecasting and projections strengthened through the Arab and GCC Climate Outlook Forums		
» WMO: A multi-hazard, weather and climate warning system piloted, introducing 'impact-based forecasting'		
» WMO: Capacities for seasonal climate outlook strengthened through the Arab and GCC Climate Outlook Forums		
» WMO: Human capacity in the area of impact-based forecasting and warning services strengthened		
» WMO: Human capacity in the Leadership and Management enhanced		
» WMO: Climate services improved through Global Framework for Climate Services		

Kingdom of Bahrain & United Nations Cooperation Framework [2021-2022]: Results Matrix

Outcomes	Indicators, Baselines, Targets, Data source	Partners
Bahrain Economic Vision 2030¹⁹³:		
2. Government: 2.1 Focus on high quality policies; 2.2 Public sector becomes more productive and accountable for delivering quality services		
3. A just, thriving society: 3.1 A high standard of social assistance gives all Bahrainis an equal start; 3.2 All Bahraini nationals and residents have access to quality health care; 3.3 A first-rate education system enables all Bahrainis to fulfil their ambitions		
Government Programme (GP) Priorities & Policies¹⁹⁴:		
Priority 3 Enabling sustainable development: Policies: 3.2 Ensure quality and sustainability of health services, 3.3: Ensure quality of education; 3.4 Provide appropriate and sustainable housing services; 3.5 Ensure quality, comprehensive social services and social empowerment; 3.12 Improve government's strategic planning and follow-up (<i>accurate information and statistics</i>)		
SDGs¹⁹⁵: 1. Social protection; 3. Good health and well-being; 4. Quality education; 5. Gender equality; 6. Clean water and sanitation; 10. Reduced inequalities; 11. Sustainable cities and communities; 16. Peace, justice, strong institutions		

<p>OUTCOME 2. Strengthened social sector policies and systems improve the delivery of quality, inclusive services* for Bahraini citizens and residents</p> <p>(*Note. education, health, housing, water, protection, response, sustainable consumption and production, water supply and sanitation, and electricity services)</p>	<p>2. a % Population who received social welfare benefits <i>Proxy: Population covered by social protection floors/systems, by sex (SDG 1.3.1)</i></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;"><u>Baseline:</u> T: 2.4</td> <td style="width: 33%;"><u>Target:</u> T:</td> <td style="width: 33%;"><u>Source:</u> IGA (Note. In 2019, 50,696 people received welfare payments¹⁹⁶)</td> </tr> </table> <p>2. b Extent to which social protection systems and mechanisms function to address exclusion, enhance targeting and effective delivery, especially for expatriate workers¹⁹⁷ (→SDG 1.3.1) (Rating: 4. Full implementation; 3. Partial implementation; 2. Inadequate implementation; 1. No implementation)</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;"><u>Baseline:</u> 2</td> <td style="width: 33%;"><u>Target:</u> 3</td> <td style="width: 33%;"><u>Source:</u> Expert panel/ Document review</td> </tr> </table>	<u>Baseline:</u> T: 2.4	<u>Target:</u> T:	<u>Source:</u> IGA (Note. In 2019, 50,696 people received welfare payments ¹⁹⁶)	<u>Baseline:</u> 2	<u>Target:</u> 3	<u>Source:</u> Expert panel/ Document review
<u>Baseline:</u> T: 2.4	<u>Target:</u> T:	<u>Source:</u> IGA (Note. In 2019, 50,696 people received welfare payments ¹⁹⁶)					
<u>Baseline:</u> 2	<u>Target:</u> 3	<u>Source:</u> Expert panel/ Document review					
<p><u>Government:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Supreme Councils: Environment; Health; Women. » Ministries: Commerce and Industry; Education; Environment; Health; Housing; Interior; Labour and Social Development; Municipalities, Urban Planning and Public Works; Youth and Sports. » Information and e-Government Authority (IGA) » National Commission for Childhood » Electricity and Water Authority » UNESCO National Commission » Royal University for Women 							

¹⁹³ Government of Bahrain, Vision 2030, EDB, May 2013.

¹⁹⁴ Government Programme (2019-2022). Government of Bahrain, English translation facilitated by United Nations in Bahrain.

¹⁹⁵ See: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>, <http://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/indicators-list/>

¹⁹⁶ The UN system will work with IGA to further disaggregate the data by sex

¹⁹⁷ Including for persons in need of international protection.

Kingdom of Bahrain & United Nations Cooperation Framework [2021-2022]: Results Matrix

Outcomes	Indicators, Baselines, Targets, Data source			Partners
			(ILO, IOM, UNDP, WHO, UNICEF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Main hospitals <u>Civil Society/NGOs:</u> » Royal University for Women <u>UN:</u> » FAO, ILO, IOM, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UN-Habitat, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNODC, UN Women, WHO
	2. c (i) <i>Extent of implementation of the operational multi-sectoral national strategy/action plan for NCDs, w. time-bound national targets, indicators based on international standards (Y/N) (→ SDG 3.4.1)</i> ¹⁹⁸			
	<u>Baseline:</u> Partial	<u>Target:</u> Full	<u>Source:</u> Supreme Council for Health; Ministry of Health; WHO	
	2. d (ii) Presence of approved evidence-based national guidelines/protocols/standards for management of major NCDs through a primary care approach (Y/N) ¹⁹⁹			
	<u>Baseline:</u> No	<u>Target:</u> Yes	<u>Source:</u> Supreme Council for Health; Ministry of Health; WHO	
	2. e TIMSS performance scores (mathematics) Proxy: SDG 4.1.			
	<u>Baseline:</u> 2015 Grade 4 Math: Avg. 451, M:443, F:459; Grade 8 Math: Avg. 454, M:446, F:462.	<u>Target:</u>	<u>Source:</u> IGA based on TIMSS	
	2. f % Infants (0-5 mos) exclusively breastfed			
	<u>Baseline:</u> 34 (2017)	<u>Target:</u> 50	<u>Source:</u>	

¹⁹⁸ See WHO-GHO. Operational multi-sectoral national NCD policy, strategy or action plan.

¹⁹⁹ See WHO-GHO. [Evidence-based national guidelines/protocols/standards for management of major NCDs through a primary care approach](#)

Kingdom of Bahrain & United Nations Cooperation Framework [2021-2022]: Results Matrix

Outcomes		Indicators, Baselines, Targets, Data source		Partners
			IGA; MoH; UNICEF P4C-MENA	
	2.g Legal frameworks in place to promote, enforce, monitor equality, non-discrimination on basis of sex (Y/N) (SDG 5.1.1)			
	<u>Baseline:</u> No	<u>Target:</u> Yes	<u>Source:</u> GOB policy, programme documents	
	2.h N ^o . Bahraini cities reporting data for the city prosperity index (CPI) (→SDG 11.a.1)			
	<u>Baseline:</u> UN-Habitat TBD	<u>Target:</u>	<u>Source:</u>	
	2.i Bahrain national housing strategy updated to address needs of underserved groups, in line with international standards (Y/N) (→ SDG 11.1.1)			
	<u>Baseline:</u> UN-Habitat TBD	<u>Target:</u>	<u>Source:</u>	

Provisional outputs supported by UN system agencies in cooperation with SCF partners

Health & wellbeing

- » **UNICEF:** Increased coverage of comprehensive, integrated early childhood development (ECD) services and nurturing care practices: (1) capacity to plan, deliver, monitor ECD policies, programmes and services, including for children with disabilities (2) more communities, families, parents, caregivers reached through nurturing and parenting programmes.
- » **UNICEF:** Plan for the return to school, in accordance with the Framework for Reopening Schools. Assist learners to “catch-up” once they return to school, based on formative assessment of potential learning gaps, as well as the process for determining when and how to return to school.
- » **UNICEF:** Support school systems, including training teachers and management to address and refer children exhibiting distress and/or requiring additional support appropriate.
- » **UNDP/WHO:** Cost-effectiveness study on WHO-recommended *best-buys* for the prevention and control of NCDs.
- » **UNDP/WHO:** Capacity strengthened (policy advice and technical support) to improve prevention and management of NCDs through implementation of WHO-recommended *best-buys* on NCDs (e.g. regarding *fiscal and other policies on health-harming and health-promoting products; scaling up early detection of risk factors*).
- » **UNFPA:** Develop partnership and co-operation frameworks with the concerned public partners to raise awareness related to NCD among the most relevant social groups, especially youth and women.
- » **IOM:** Assist Government of Bahrain in providing emergency and preparedness response procedures for foreign nationals in the country during health crises

Kingdom of Bahrain & United Nations Cooperation Framework [2021-2022]: Results Matrix

Outcomes	Indicators, Baselines, Targets, Data source	Partners
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » WHO : Improving Health Information Systems (HIS), incl. Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS), mortality and morbidity indicators » WHO : Establish ICD-10 and Diagnosis-Related Groups (DRGs) for patient coding and payment systems » WHO : Assess and compile evidence and best practices for quality and safety improvement in trauma care » WHO : Improve regulations and cost-effectiveness of Medicines, Vaccines and Medical Devices » WHO : Strengthen prevention, diagnosis, treatment of non-communicable diseases (NCD) and Mental Health concerns²⁰⁰ » WHO : Support Supreme Council of Health to advocate for SDG health-related priorities and targets across sectors and harmonize existing strategies, targets and indicators » WHO : Health Systems Strengthening (HSS): Moving towards Universal Health Coverage (UHC) with focus on service delivery and health care financing 	<p><i>Education and skilling for employment in a diversified economy</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » UNDP: Capacity of selected partners from youth organisations strengthened to support and advocate for national sustainable development » UNESCO: Strengthened national capacity for education policy & planning and to implement Education 2030 Framework for Action²⁰¹ » UNESCO: Provide technical policy advice for an effective TVET sector and strengthen capacity to design and implement innovative TVET policies » UNESCO: Support the development of National teacher policies and implements teacher training programmes to increase the supply of qualified and motivated teachers » UNESCO: Among youth, promotion of the acquisition of knowledge and skills needed for sustainable development, human rights, gender equality, a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and an appreciation of cultural diversity » UNESCO: Strengthened media contributions to promote diversity, gender equality and youth empowerment <p><i>Urban development & housing</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » UNDP: Capacity of relevant ministries developed to identify, formulate and implement policies, and deliver efficient and innovative social services for the population » UN Habitat: Evidence-based National Housing Policy and Strategy approved with short, medium and long term plans of action for implementation » UN Habitat: Institutional and human resource capacities developed for evidence-based Housing Policies and Strategies implementation, improved targeting and financial modelling » UN Habitat: Capacities strengthened to produce housing information for monitoring housing strategy implementation, market performance and better targeting » UN Habitat: Private sector and community led housing and land development guidelines, technology-based and energy/environmentally sustainable solutions, advocacy tools and simplified procedures for partnerships and delivery developed 	

²⁰⁰ Collaboration with UNODC to ensure alignment with efforts to develop a comprehensive, balanced and evidence-informed national drug control strategy.

²⁰¹ UNESCO-supported initiatives are regional in scope. Indicative budgets are estimates only for purposes of CF.

Kingdom of Bahrain & United Nations Cooperation Framework [2021-2022]: Results Matrix

Outcomes	Indicators, Baselines, Targets, Data source	Partners
<i>Social protection</i>		
» IOM: Victims of trafficking and expatriate workers have increased access to relevant mechanisms for support and high-quality care		
» UNDP: Capacity of relevant ministries developed to identify, formulate and implement policies, and deliver efficient and innovative social services that target Bahrain's population		
» UNESCWA: Strengthened capacities to undertake social expenditure monitoring to track effectiveness and exclusion error		
» UNICEF: Support to protect children, without discrimination, from all forms of violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation: (1) prevention and response services strengthened in targeted sectors, (2) knowledge and awareness on violence against children is increased		
» UN Women: Strengthened capacities for legal, policy and programme interventions that reduce violence and ensure equal opportunities for women.		
<i>Data-Cross-cutting (FAO, IOM, UNDP, UNESCO, UNESCWA; UNFPA, UNICEF)</i>		
	(1) Mainstreaming women's rights into general policy in accordance with the principal of equal opportunities and gender sensitive budgeting;	
	(2) Joint efforts to scale up international commitments, including the implementation of SDGs, Beijing platform for Action and CEDAW, while preserving the state's sovereignty and laws;	
	(3) Strengthened capacity of statistical systems to ensure that key GP and SDG data gaps are addressed and that policies and plans are implemented and monitored using data disaggregated by age, sex, disability and social status.	
<i>System-wide and Coordination</i>		
» UNCT: Preparation of <i>Joint United Nations COVID-19 Response & Recovery Framework in the Kingdom of Bahrain</i> , including socio-economic impact assessment (UNDP-led, with inputs by other UN agencies)		

Kingdom of Bahrain & United Nations Cooperation Framework [2021-2022]: Results Matrix

Outcomes

Indicators, Baselines, Targets, Data source

Partners

Bahrain Economic Vision 2030²⁰²:

1. Economy: 1.1 Bahrain stimulates growth by enhancing productivity and skills; 1.2 Bahrain diversifies and builds the economy by focusing on existing high-potential sectors 1.3 Bahrain transforms the economy in the longer-term by capturing emerging opportunities
2. Government: 2.1 Focus on high quality policies; 2.2 Public sector becomes more productive and accountable for delivering quality services; 2.3 A predictable, transparent and fairly enforced regulatory system facilitates economic growth
3. A just, thriving society: 3.4 A safe and secure environment

Government Programme (GP) Priorities & Policies²⁰³:

- Priority 1 Values of state, society; Policies: 1.1 Maintain security and stability, 1.3 Enhance democracy and human rights, 1.4 Develop the legislative system
- Priority 2 Financial sustainability and economic development: Policies: 2.2 Achieve sustainable economic growth (*excl. food security*), 2.3 Support labour market, enhance role of SMEs
- Priority 3 Enabling sustainable development: Policies: 3.9 Efficiency, effectiveness of government sector, 3.10 Creativity, knowledge of government employees, 3.11 Enhance accountability, and transparency

SDGs²⁰⁴: 5. Gender Equality; 8. Decent work and economic growth; 9. Industry, innovation, infrastructure; 10. Reduced inequalities; Peace, justice, strong institutions

OUTCOME 3. Enhanced policies and regulatory frameworks strengthen conditions for economic diversification, employment creation, rule of law, and increased resilience and innovation.

<p>3.a ^{Ne} new policies, initiatives, and platforms implemented to promote increased domestic and foreign direct investment (FDI) in priority, non-hydrocarbon sectors (→ SDG 17.3.1)</p>	<p><u>Baseline:</u> TBD</p>	<p><u>Target:</u></p>	<p><u>Source:</u> UNDP, UNIDO reports</p>	<p>3.b ^{Ne} Business ventures concluded and jobs (<i>est.</i>) created as a result of GOB-UN cooperation for entrepreneurship and SME formation, disaggregated by sex (→ SDG 8.5.2; 9.3.1; 9.b.1)</p>	<p>Government:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » <i>Supreme Councils:</i> Environment; Health; Justice; Women » <i>Supreme Committee:</i> Natural Resources, Economic Security » <i>Ministries:</i> Finance; Health; Industry and Commerce; Interior; Islamic Affairs and Endowments; Justice; Labour and Social Development; Youth and Sports.
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²⁰² Government of Bahrain, Vision 2030, EDB, May 2013.

²⁰³ Government Programme (2019-2022), Government of Bahrain, English translation facilitated by United Nations in Bahrain.

²⁰⁴ See: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>, <http://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/indicators-list/>

Kingdom of Bahrain & United Nations Cooperation Framework [2021-2022]: Results Matrix

Outcomes	Indicators, Baselines, Targets, Data source			Partners
<p><u>Baseline:</u> UNIDO <i>Ventures</i></p> <p>T: 750 M: 450 F: 300</p> <p><i>Jobs</i></p> <p>T: 1000 M: 600 F: 400</p>	<u>Target:</u> <i>Ventures</i>	<u>Source:</u> Tamkeen, EDIP reports <i>(Note. Ventures are disaggregated by the sex of the signing/registering entrepreneur)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Information and e-Government Authority (IGA) » Bahrain Institute for Public Administration (BIPA) » National Institution for Human Rights » Special Investigations Unit » Office of the Ombudsman (Min. of Interior) » National Audit Office; Tender Board » Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities » Bahrain Defence Forces and National Disasters Response Committee. » National Committee to Combat Trafficking in Persons » Judiciary Training Institute, » Public Prosecutor's Office » Royal Academy of Police » Labour Market Regulatory Authority » Tamkeen » Bahrain Development Bank (BDB) » Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) 	
	<u>Baseline:</u> TBD	<u>Target:</u> Yes		<u>Source:</u> ILO programme reports
	<p>3. c N² ALMPs implemented in line with international labour standards and gender equality concerns (→ SDG 8.5.2; 8.6.1)</p>			
	<p>3. d Existence of new jobs-skills training programmes, including digital/IT skills, developed in partnership with the private sector, that target young people, especially women, not in employment, education or training (→SDG 8.6.1)</p>			
	<p>3. e Level of national compliance with labour rights, including gender dimension and concerns for migrants, other groups (→ SDG 8.8.2)</p>			
<u>Baseline:</u> TBD	<u>Target:</u>	<u>Source:</u> ILO programme reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » UN: » ILO, IOM, UNDP, UNDRR, UNESCO, UNHCR, UNIDO, UNODC, WHO, UN Habitat, UNOCT, UNODC, UN Women, UNV, ITU 	
<p>3. f Extent to which the legislative committee for women and SCW act to bring GEWE concerns, opportunities into national legislative and policy discussions (→SDG 5.1.1; 5.a.2; 5.c.1) <i>(Rating: 4. Full engagement; 3. Partial engagement; 2. Inadequate engagement; 1. No engagement)</i></p>				
<u>Baseline:</u>	<u>Target:</u>	<u>Source:</u>		

Kingdom of Bahrain & United Nations Cooperation Framework [2021-2022]: Results Matrix

Outcomes		Indicators, Baselines, Targets, Data source			Partners
TBD	TBD	Government of Bahrain reports			
3. g Availability of a GoB model for gender-sensitive budgeting in selected sectors (Y/N)(→ SDG 5.c.1)					
<u>Baseline:</u> No	<u>Target:</u> Yes	<u>Source:</u> Government of Bahrain reports			
3. h Existence of <i>strengthened</i> policy and legal instruments that provide for due process of law and mechanisms to respond to at risk groups (Y/N) (→ SDG 16.b.1)					
<u>Baseline:</u> No	<u>Target:</u> Yes	<u>Source:</u> GoB laws and policies; Programme reports			
3. i Preparedness index & Operational readiness to respond to health emergencies and pandemics (e.g. COVID-19) (SDG 3.d.1)					
<u>Baseline (2020):</u> Level 2 ²⁰⁵	<u>Target (2025):</u> Level 3	<u>Source:</u> Reports by MoH and WHO ²⁰⁶			
3. j Availability of the draft policies and regulations for the control and waste of naturally occurring radioactive materials (SDG 12.4)					
<u>Baseline:</u> No	<u>Target:</u> Yes	<u>Source:</u> IAEA			
3. k Availability of advanced materials characterization facility to contribute to scientific and technological innovation (SDG 9.5.1, 9.5.2)					
<u>Baseline:</u> No	<u>Target:</u> Yes	<u>Source:</u> IAEA			

Provisional outputs supported by UN system agencies in cooperation with SCF partners

Economic diversification

²⁰⁵ Pending review by GoB-MoH and WHO.

²⁰⁶ WHO, [COVID-19 Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan: OPERATIONAL PLANNING GUIDELINES TO SUPPORT COUNTRY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE](#), as at 12 Feb. 2020. 12. This aggregate, rated indicator demonstrates the level of preparedness and operational readiness based on the implementation of IHR capacities. Indicator is based on objective assessments of 18 component indicators, not on functional evaluation.

Kingdom of Bahrain & United Nations Cooperation Framework [2021-2022]: Results Matrix

Outcomes	Indicators, Baselines, Targets, Data source	Partners
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » ILO: Review of labour market policies and governance modalities (including Bahrainization and labour market segmentation) to enhance policies and targeted capacity building » ILO: Labour study to assess strengths and weaknesses of existing dispute prevention and resolution mechanisms, along with targeted training » ILO: Comprehensive assessment of labour inspection and occupational health and safety (OSH) modalities » ITU: Foster the development of a vibrant innovation ecosystem and nurture sustainable growth of information and communication technology enabled economy in support of the SDGs » UNDP: Capacities of key institutions developed to conduct research, coordinate and implement policies that strengthen Bahrain's competitiveness, innovation, and harness the preferential market access benefits, as well as access to justice and protection from torture or ill-treatment. » UNESCO: Develop opportunities for innovation, entrepreneurship and community building and enhance access to information for youth and people with disabilities through digital and mobile technology » UNESCO: Tourism sector strengthened with enhanced cultural programming and services that foster creativity and the diversity of cultural expressions. » UNESCWA: Bahrain Digital Development Report produced and Increased GOB engagement in the Arab Digital Development Reports (2020-2022) » UNIDO: The MSME sector is growing and entrepreneurs have strengthened business and project development skills (including for digital commerce), access to new sources of domestic and international finance, and to local and international markets to start and grow their businesses » UNIDO: Investment promotion initiatives (e.g. <i>conferences, symposia</i>) are supported <i>in Bahrain and internationally</i> to connect entrepreneurs and small business owner to new markets and technologies and to potential sources of domestic and international finance, in line with the SDGs and the aim of inclusive and sustainable industrial development (SID) (<i>Focus on: Young people, women, ICT, the health and wellness sector, and green industrial investment and growth.</i>) » UNIDO: Promote innovation through various means and methodologies on all levels, including organizing the Schools Olympics in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, collaborating with Universities and other supporting institutions, and supporting the development of an innovation center in Bahrain. » UNIDO: Organize a series of activities and programs under the umbrella of the World Entrepreneurs Investment Forum 2020 as an integral part of Dubai Expo 2020 » UNDP/UNV: Volunteering programmes for engagement of youth in community development and access to training and job-related skills 	<p><i>Public administration performance</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » UNDP: Public administration capacities developed for policy making, government performance, managing change, innovation and using international practice (<i>public administration capacities and collaboration in the region</i>), including capacities to consult with and represent Bahraini citizens » UNDP: Capacity of relevant institutions that promote rule of law and accountability developed in line with international practices » UNDP: Selected ministries and stakeholders have the capacity to develop evidence-based plans and policies, which integrate the SDGs and national statistics, and align them to the Government Programme of Action (<i>evidence-based plans and policies, aligned with SDGs</i>) 	<p><i>Resilience and rule of law</i></p>

Kingdom of Bahrain & United Nations Cooperation Framework [2021-2022]: Results Matrix

Outcomes	Indicators, Baselines, Targets, Data source	Partners
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » IOI: Support the Government of Bahrain's capacity in combating trafficking in persons, through the development and implementation of a comprehensive national strategy and action plan » IOI: Assist the Government of Bahrain in the promotion of ethical recruitment and improved orientation for expatriate workers throughout the migration cycle » IOI: Enhance the Private Sector's capacity to ensure ethical recruitment and prevent unethical recruitment practices, particularly through the use of technology » IOI: Provide GoB with technical assistance to support its implementation of Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration (GCM) objectives. » UNESCWA: Strengthened capacities to mainstream gender considerations into hiring practices for managerial positions in public administration » UNESCWA: Bahrain Statistical Development Strategy developed, including harmonization of disability statistics » UNOCT: Enhance operational capacities to prevent and counter terrorism and violent extremism, strengthen resilience, promote peace, security, rule-of-law and human rights. » UNOCT: Enhance the implementation of relevant security council obligations and international legal instruments to adequately prevent and counter terrorism and violent extremism, including threats against sensitive sites and critical infrastructures » UNOCT: Supporting national efforts in mainstreaming human rights, gender considerations and rule-of-law compliant practices in addressing terrorism and violent extremism and related security threats. » UNOCT: Supporting Bahrain in addressing the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, including from an economic and development perspective, and enhancing community resilience to violent extremism. » UNODC: Strengthen capabilities to address challenges related to drugs and crime, including emerging crimes, in accordance with international conventions, norms and standards » UNODC: Support for the establishment of a regional training and capacity-building centre to combat trafficking in persons and provide victim support and care » UNODC: Support the national criminal justice reform initiative to improve responses to emerging issues in the fields of criminal justice, human rights, combating and preventing drugs and crime » UNODC: Ongoing technical support to strengthen GoB capacity to participate in the implementation review mechanism for the UN Convention against Corruption. » UNHCR: Capacities of key institutions strengthened to identify and respond to cases of persons in need of international protection, in line with international standards » UNHCR: Policy and legislation developed to identify and respond to cases of persons in need of international protection²⁰⁷, in line with international standards » WHO: Enhanced capacity and mechanisms for preparedness and response to health threats and risks and implementation of international health regulations 		

²⁰⁷ These are persons Bahrain who cannot avail themselves of the protection of their country of nationality.

Kingdom of Bahrain & United Nations Cooperation Framework [2021-2022]: Results Matrix

Outcomes	Indicators, Baselines, Targets, Data source			Partners
Bahrain Economic Vision 2030²⁰⁸: Guiding principles and aspirations				
Government Programme (GP) Priorities & Policies²⁰⁹:				
Priority 1: Upholding values of the state and society; Policies: 1.2 Enhance foreign relations <i>Other GP sectoral and thematic policies, as relevant</i>				
SDGs²¹⁰: 16. Peace, justice, strong institutions; 17. Partnerships for the goals				
OUTCOME 4. The Kingdom of Bahrain plays an enhanced role in international and regional partnerships for sustainable development, including peace and security initiatives, and to expand South-South cooperation	1. a N^d /level of? engagements by GOB in multi-lateral organisations and frameworks (→SDG 17.14.1; 17.16.1)			
	<u>Baseline:</u> RCO	<u>Target:</u>	<u>Source:</u>	
	1. b Foreign direct investment (FDI) of Bahrain, official development assistance and South-South cooperation as % total domestic budget (SDG 17.3.1-not available) Alternative: N ^d South-South and multilateral cooperation programmes initiated to support SDG achievement (→SDG 17.3.1)			
	<u>Baseline:</u> RCO	<u>Target:</u>	<u>Source:</u>	
1. c N ^d Science and/or technology cooperation agreements, programmes developed between Bahrain and other countries as a result of the SCF (→SDG 17.6.1)				Government: » Parliament » <i>Supreme Councils:</i> Environment; Health; Judicial; Women » <i>Ministries:</i> Foreign Affairs; Finance; Industry and Commerce; Interior; Justice; Labour and Social Development » Bahrain Institute of Public Administration (BIPA) » Bahrain Institute for Political Development (BIPD) » National Institute for Human Rights » National Committee to Combat Trafficking in Persons » Labour Market Regulatory Authority » Royal Charity » Mumtalakat Civil Society/NGOs: » Islamic Finance Bodies,
<u>Baseline:</u>	<u>Target:</u>	<u>Source:</u>		
1. d Bahrain regularly reports progress thru multi-stakeholder development effectiveness monitoring frameworks for SDG achievement (Y/N) (SDG 17.16.1)				
1. d Bahrain regularly reports progress thru multi-stakeholder development effectiveness monitoring frameworks for SDG achievement (Y/N) (SDG 17.16.1)				

²⁰⁸ Government of Bahrain, Vision 2030, EDB, May 2013.

²⁰⁹ Government Programme (2019-2022), Government of Bahrain, English translation facilitated by United Nations in Bahrain.

²¹⁰ See: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>, <http://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/indicators-list/>

Kingdom of Bahrain & United Nations Cooperation Framework [2021-2022]: Results Matrix

Outcomes				Indicators, Baselines, Targets, Data source		Partners
<u>Baseline:</u> Y (VNR, 2018)	<u>Target:</u> Y	<u>Source:</u> GOB VNR; MOCA; OFDPM				» Other public and private philanthropic bodies <u>UN:</u> » UNCT, UNOCT, UN Women, UNDRR, UNDP, IOM,
1.e Existence of a regional training and capacity building centre to combat trafficking in persons (Y/N) (→SDG 16.2.1; 16.2.2)						
<u>Baseline:</u> No (Joint agreement signed by UNODC and LMRA/NCCTP (2018))	<u>Target:</u> Yes	<u>Source:</u> UNODC; LMRA; NCCTP				
N ^e Investment and trade promotion initiatives (e.g. trade fairs, conferences, symposia) to connect Bahrain business with new markets and investors and attract FDI to Bahrain for SDG-related priorities (→ SDG 8.1.1)						
<u>Baseline:</u> TBD	<u>Target:</u> TBD	<u>Source:</u> UNIDO reports				
N ^e Institutional partnerships established that promote Islamic Finance for the SDGs (→ SDG 17.5.1)						
<u>Baseline:</u> 0	<u>Target:</u> TBD	<u>Source:</u> UNCT reports				
N ^e Major international conferences hosted and/or sponsored and global and regional reports launched (<i>including Joint UN-Bahrain thematic side events</i>) (→ SDG17.16.1)						
<u>Baseline:</u> TBD	<u>Target:</u> TBD	<u>Source:</u> UNCT reports				
Teams of skilled personnel established to do greenhouse gas sampling, measurements and data analysis using stable isotopes in the region (SDG 17.6.1, 17.7.1, 17.9.1)						

Kingdom of Bahrain & United Nations Cooperation Framework [2021-2022]: Results Matrix

Outcomes	Indicators, Baselines, Targets, Data source			Partners
	<u>Baseline:</u> No	<u>Target:</u> Yes	<u>Source:</u> IAEA	
	Functional radiological monitoring network for the Arab member states installed (SDG 17.7.1)			
	<u>Baseline:</u> No	<u>Target:</u> Yes	<u>Source:</u> IAEA	
	Regional coordination in the Gulf Cooperation Countries to monitor and mitigate the ecological phenomenon of ocean warming and ocean acidification (SDG 13.B.1, 17.7.1)			
	<u>Baseline:</u> No	<u>Target:</u> Yes	<u>Source:</u> IAEA	
Provisional outputs supported by the UN system (country, regional, global) in cooperation with SCF partners				
» Humanitarian and post-disaster, post-conflict support through provision of financial resources and telecommunications and logistics services(2)				
» Global financing innovations for the achievement of the SDGs, focused on sharing models for the establishment and regulation of effective Islamic Finance institutions to generate financing for SDG related initiatives in the public and private sectors, and amongst communities and households.				
» A joint Government-UN-Private sector forum will be <i>explored</i> to promote shared-value investment opportunities for the SDGs between the public and private sectors. This is expected to generate prospective investment deals, drive FDI and PPPs in targeted sectors and to facilitate exports of goods and services.				
» South-South collaboration in the realm of ideas and analysis, focused on sharing successful domestic experiences with: 1) Market signals and programmes to spur economic diversification and a vibrant SME sector, 2) Islamic finance for the SDGs, 3) Integrate public and private sector interests for the identification of smart policies and initiatives that promote green economy and energy efficiency, and 4) International cooperation efforts to support countries to prevent and control the increasing global burden of NCDs.				
» UNOCT : Enhanced international cooperation to prevent conflict and combat violent extremism and terrorism, including financial reforms to counter illicit financial flows associated with money laundering and the financing of terrorism, implementation of the UN Security Council targeted sanctions and the promotion of good practices in criminal justice, including stronger alignment with international law				
» IOM : Strengthen Government of Bahrain regional and global reporting efforts on the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration (GCM)				
» Enhanced participation in multi-stakeholder fora to share best practices from Bahrain to support regional and global implementation of Agenda 2030				
» UNDP : Support for the creation of a Bahrain Partnerships and Contributions Report				

Kingdom of Bahrain & United Nations Cooperation Framework [2021-2022]: Results Matrix

Outcomes	Indicators, Baselines, Targets, Data source	Partners
» UNDRR: Enhance Bahrain regional role in DRR by hosting the 7th or 8th Arab Partnership Meeting for Disaster Risk Reduction in Bahrain. This meeting brings the Arab governments focal points, stakeholders, UN agencies and stakeholder groups to provide updates, share knowledge and challenges on DRR		
» UN Women: Support Bahrain's effective participation in regional and international dialogues pertaining to Bahrain's commitments for the advancement of women		

Annex C. Proposed Cooperation Initiatives

This Annex describes *proposed, un-funded* initiatives, for further discussion with the Government and other stakeholders. This is a working document and it will be updated periodically to reflect GoB requests and changes in the policy and programme context in Bahrain, including COVID-19 response and recovery efforts.

UN system agency	Partner	Focus	Alignment: GP 2019-22	SDG
Outcome 1				
FAO	Ministry of Works, Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning	Support development of climate-resilient urban landscapes including identification of suitable species, urban forestry planning and water management, as part of the Great Green Wall for Cities Initiative.	3.6	11, 13; 15
UNEP	Supreme Council for Environment; University of Bahrain; Arabian Gulf University; DERASAT	Technical support to develop a Natural Ecosystem Valuation for Bahrain	3.6	13.b.1
	Supreme Council for Environment University of Bahrain	Development of a National Integrated Coastal Zone management strategy for Bahrain.	3.6	14.2.1
	Supreme Council for Environment University of Bahrain	Investment in improved technologies for water demand management. Existing initiatives are improved and built upon to promote a decrease in water demand in response to the impacts of climate change.	3.7	6.1.1 6.5.1 6.b.1
	Supreme Council for Environment Arabian Gulf University	Institutional coordination and technical capacities are enhanced, allowing the mainstreaming, development, and utilization of policies for the effective implementation of MEAs and relevant SDGs.	3.6	8.4
Supreme Council for Environment Ministry of Works, Municipalities and Urban Affairs	Supreme Council for Environment Ministry of Works, Municipalities and Urban Affairs	Focusing on e-waste and shifting emphasis to the 3Rs (reduce, reuse, recycle) so as to minimize the adverse effects of waste on human health and the environment.	3.6	11.6
		Supreme Council for Environment Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Tourism	Development of a National Chemical Management Strategy to ensure the adverse effects of chemicals on human health and the environment have been minimized.	3.6
			2.2; 3.1; 3.6	12

UN system agency	Partner	Focus	Alignment: GP 2019-22	SDG
UNESCO	Supreme Council of the Environment (SCE) University of Bahrain; Arabian Gulf University; DERASAT	National programme to raise awareness about and promote Sustainable Consumption and Production through the development and implementation of an SCP national action plan (SCP-NAP)		
	Supreme Council of the Environment (SCE)	Technical support for the identification and establishment of at least one UNESCO designated site (MAB program or Geoparks) as learning sites for inclusive and integrated management approaches linking biodiversity conservation and sustainable socio-economic development.	3.6	14.2
WMO	Electricity and Water Authority, Supreme Council of the Environment (SCE)	Capacity building needs assessment and development of training program to strengthen national capacities towards effective implementation of Bahrain Water Strategy	3.7	6.5
	Bahrain Meteorological Department	Technical support, as possible, towards the establishment of a Sand and Dust Storm centre for the GCC		
UNDRR	Supreme Council for Environment (SCE), Ministry of Interior, Information and E-Government Authority	Technical support, as possible, towards the establishment of a WMO Integrated Global Observing System (WIGOS) regional centre in the GCC	3.6	
		Technical support, as possible, towards capacity building in meteorology, climate-related fields		
		Strengthen the implementation of the Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction in coherence with the National Development and climate change priorities	3	11, 13
		Strengthen the national coordination mechanism to ensure coherence with climate change adaptation		11, 13
		Promote for Disaster Risk Reduction and climate change adaptation through UNDRR awareness campaigns including the International Day for Disaster Risk Deduction that is marked on 13th October	3	11
				13

UN system agency	Partner	Focus	Alignment: GP 2019-22	SDG
	Ministry of Youth & Sports, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Information Affairs, Ministry of Education and Supreme Council for Environment (SCE),	Strengthen capacity on Disaster related data and statistics and develop monitoring capacity for Disaster risk reduction through the Sendai Framework Monitoring Improve Local capacity for resilience city planning through the Making Cities Resilient Programme	3	
Outcome 2				
IOM	Ministry of Health, LMRA	Assist Government of Bahrain in providing emergency and preparedness response procedures for foreign nationals in the country during health crises	3.2	10.7, 3.8.3.D
ILO	Ministry of Labour and Social Development	Strengthen unemployment insurance schemes; Offer models for Active Labour Market Policies and Programmes (ALMPs); Promote and support stronger corporate social responsibility practices	3.5.1	8
	Information and E-Government Authority (IGA)	Support data collection and management efforts for SDGs, especially for SDG8 indicators	3.9	8
	Ministry of Labour and Social Development, Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry, General Federation of Bahraini Trade Unions	Strengthening the capacity of tripartite constituents to adapt national contributory and non-contributory social protection systems to COVID crisis.	3.5.7	1.3
UNICEF	Ministry of Education	Plan for the post-COVID-19 return to school, in accordance with the Framework for Reopening Schools. Assist learners to “catch-up” once they return to school, based on formative assessment of potential learning gaps, as well as the process for determining when and how to return to school. Provide trainings to teachers in mental health and well-being as they support learners and parents with the post COVID-19 return to school.	3.3	4
UNESCO	Ministry of Education	Strengthen national capacities for the implementation of SDG 4 – ED 2030 Framework for Action in Bahrain through capacity needs assessment and capacity development for educational planning, monitoring and evaluation of SDG 4 in Bahrain	3.3.5	4

UN system agency	Partner	Focus	Alignment: GP 2019-22	SDG
UNDP	Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities, Isa Cultural Centre	Develop a national strategy to reinforce coordination of cultural institutions and strengthen preservation of documentary of heritage at national level – linked to tourism promotion and development	2.2.7	11.6
	iGA	Support in the analysis and design of a strategy on digital transformation for Bahrain, with focus on the digital economy and artificial intelligence, to enhance quality and delivery of services, diversify the economy and promote sustainable growth	3.13	8, 10, 17
UNFPA	iGA	CD, collection, analysis, use of data about young people. Provide technical support to the GOB in order to develop its statistical capacities in areas of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) and data collection and analysis to identify performance indicators and maintain gender-segregated data to inform the decision makers in the health service and other relevant departments.	3.13	17.18, 17.18.1
	Isa Cultural Center (ICC)	Enhance Bahraini youth role in the SDGs nationalization process.	3.5.8	4.4 4.3.1
	Supreme Council for Women	Research, best practices, indicator selection, and identification of data gaps for database of indicators for women. Support effective coordination and implementation of National Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women (2013-2022).	3.13; 3.5.3	5.5 5.a 5.c
	Ministry of Cabinet Affairs, iGA	Develop indicator framework for the <i>policy</i> and <i>irritative</i> levels of GP with links to SDGs; Assess and address data gaps	3.13	17.18
UNDRR	Ministry of Health	Strengthen pace, quality of national health care reform and improve prevention and treatment of non-communicable diseases.	3.2.4; 3.2.6	3.8
	The Active Leaders for Women Advancement in the Near East (ALWANE)	Assist in developing the skills of young men and women in Bahrain through Y-Peer Network.	3.5.8	4.3.1 5.5
	Ministry of Youth & Sports, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Information Affairs, Ministry of Education and Supreme Council for Environment (SCE),	Strengthen Youth engagement and capacity in disaster risk reduction and enhance the coherence with climate change through the Arab Children and Youth Stakeholder Group for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Improve media contributions to promote Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change through the Arab Media Stakeholder Group for DRR	3.5.8	11, 13 11, 13

UN system agency	Partner	Focus	Alignment: GP 2019-22	SDG
UNRCO	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Cabinet Affairs	Develop strengthened coordination capacity to integrate post-COVID-19 recovery priorities into joint initiatives between the UN and the Government of Bahrain		17
Outcome 3				
IOM	LMRA and NIHR	Provide capacity-building opportunities for both the Government of Bahrain and the Private Sector, ensuring stakeholders are better equipped to prevent the abuse of expatriate workers	2.2	10 (10.7.2)
	Moh, LMRA, Supreme Council of Health	Contribute and support the Government of Bahrain in improving and advocating for better migrant health	3.2	10 (10.7.2)
	MoE, MOLSA, LMRA, DERASAT	Identify relevant avenues of collaboration to strengthen academic research and evidence-based analysis on migration, links to sustainable development and its impact on Bahrain.	3.3	10 (10.7.2)
	LMRA	Support the Government to strengthen measures to meet and report on objectives of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration.	1.3	10 (10.7)
	MoJ, Public Prosecutors Office, Supreme Judicial Council	Provide tailored capacity building trainings for prosecutors and judges on victim psychology and anticipated behaviour of potential victims of trafficking	1.3	10 (10.7)
	ILO	Ministry of Labour and Social Development and Social Partners (Employers and Workers Organizations)	Enhanced capacity of the MOLSD for labour inspection/ Improved governance of labour migration and protection of expatriate workers in line with International Labour Standards	1.3; 2.2; 3.9
Promote interventions to ensure support for the business sector, including the protection of migrant (non-national) workers in the private sector, based on international and regional good practices			1.3; 2.2; 3.9	8, 10
Contribute to a socio-economic impact assessment of the impact of COVID-19 in Bahrain, in alignment with current international best practices being developed			2.2	8, 10
Promote social dialogue mechanisms				8, 10
		Support media campaign to employers (incl. of domestic workers), on ensuring protection of workers' occupational safety and health and other labour rights, in accordance with relevant government decrees/laws	1.3; 2.2; 3.9	8, 10

UN system agency	Partner	Focus	Alignment: GP 2019-22	SDG
		Support and protect employment and income of women and disadvantaged groups working in most COVID-19-affected sectors (healthcare services, agriculture, and SMEs), jointly with Government, employers and workers	1.3; 2.2; 3.9	8, 10
ITU	Ministry of Transport and Telecommunications	Support the undertaking of studies and building innovation capacity at the national level	1.2; 2.3	8, 9
		Strengthen and support regional cooperation between Bahrain and regional ICT-centric innovation organizations		
OHCHR	SIU, Ombudsman, PDRC, High Coordinating Committee for Human Rights(NMRF), NIHR	Strengthen capacities of commissioners and staff members for human rights (HR) monitoring and reporting in accordance with Paris Principles. Support civil society actors to take an active and constructive role with regard to the newly established HR institutions/ bodies and the inter-ministerial human rights committee.		
		Strengthen national human rights institutions and protective mechanisms (SIU, Ombudsman, PDRC) particularly in detention and interrogation centers.		
		Strengthen engagement between GOB and international HR mechanisms	1.3	10; 16
		Assist Government of Bahrain, when needed and requested, to develop a National Recommendations Tracking Database (NRTD).		
		Assist Government of Bahrain in the national consultation which will take place in 2020 before the UPR review in 2022.		
		Assist Government of Bahrain to develop a National Action Plan on Human Rights.		
		Assist Government of Bahrain to strengthen the Legal Framework, the Institutions, and further develop capacity of the Judiciary.		
UNDP	Bahrain Institute for Political Development	Promotion of civic participation and mainstreaming of the SDGs	3.5.8	16
UNESCO	MoE, MOFA, MOYS UNESCO ASPnet	Global Citizenship Education (GCEd) as a component of the SDG 4 Agenda, reflected in Target 4.7. Providing learners with the knowledge, skills, values, and attitudes required to lead productive lives, make informed decisions, and actively participate in resolving local and global challenges.	1.3	4.7

UN system agency	Partner	Focus	Alignment: GP 2019-22	SDG
UNESCO	Ministry of Education, Bahrain National Commission to UNESCO, Ministry of Labour and Social Development, Ministry of Information Affairs, Supreme Council for Women Zain	Enhanced media contributions to strengthen diversity, gender equality and youth empowerment. Empowering youth and people with disabilities through mobile technology.	1.3	4.4 8.5 16.10
		Enhance operational capacities to address terrorism and violent extremism, through customized capacity building programs and ongoing policy support to adequately investigate, prosecute and adjudicate terrorism cases, mainstream human rights, gender and rule-of-law considerations.	1.1	8.5 16.10
UNOCT	Ministry of Interior Public Prosecutor's Office Ministry of Justice Supreme Judicial Council Judicial & Legal Studies Institute	Support security agencies in the protection of sensitive sites and critical infrastructures against terrorist attacks and security threats, including through emerging technologies.	1.1	16.3
		Enhance Bahrain's international judicial and security cooperation, including cooperation with private actors and service providers (social media platforms, etc.) for the purposes of obtaining electronic evidence from foreign jurisdictions and its use in terrorism criminal proceedings.	1.1	16.3
		Enhance operational capacity to address possible linkages between terrorism and serious forms of crime, including transnational organized crime. This includes practical training on complex cases and gather all criminal justice actors (investigators, prosecutors, customs and border officers, etc.)	1.1	16.3
UNODC	Ministry of Interior Public Prosecutor's Office Ministry of Justice Supreme Judicial Council Judicial & Legal Studies Institute	Support national key stakeholders' capacities for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the national drug control strategy in accordance	1.1 1.3 1.4	3.5 16.3 16.4

UN system agency	Partner	Focus	Alignment: GP 2019-22	SDG
	All other key drug control stakeholders (represented in the National Committee)	with the international legal regime on drug control, standards, norms and best practices.	3.2 3.5	5.1
	Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ministry of Interior Public Prosecution's Office Ministry of Justice Supreme Judicial Council Independent Ombudsman's Office Judicial & Legal Studies Institute	Support the Government of Bahrain in implementing a functioning legal and regulatory regime to prevent terrorism and mitigate the risks of money laundering and terrorism financing in accordance with relevant international legal instruments, Security Council resolutions and FATF findings/recommendations and in compliance with rule of law and human rights. This project will engage with all relevant national stakeholders, including (but not limited to) with the inter-agency working group on financial and economic crimes created by Ministerial Order no. 45 of 2017 (Ministry of Justice & Islamic Affairs).	1.1 1.2 1.3 1.4	16.a 16.3 5.1 5.2
	Public Prosecution's Office Ministry of Justice Supreme Judicial Council Ministry of Interior Judicial & Legal Studies Institute	Support Bahrain in improving and strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice response to violence against women and girls in accordance with the relevant international standards, norms, human rights and good practices. This project will engage with all relevant national stakeholders through the inter-agency working group on the protection of victims of violence created by Ministerial Order no. 45 of 2017 (Ministry of Justice & Islamic Affairs).	1.3 1.4 3.5	5.1 5.2 16.1 16.3
	Public Prosecution's Office Ministry of Justice Supreme Judicial Council Ministry of Interior Judicial & Legal Studies Institute National Audit Office	Strengthen criminal justice responses to prevent and combat corruption and financial crime in accordance with the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) and international good practices. This project will engage with all relevant national stakeholders through the inter-agency working group on financial and economic crimes created by Ministerial Order no. 45 of 2017 (Ministry of Justice & Islamic Affairs).	1.3 1.4 3.11	16.5 16.6 5.1
	Ministry of Interior Public Prosecution's Office Ministry of Justice	Strengthen criminal justice policies and strategies for prison management and prisoner treatment in line with international standards and norms. This project will engage with all relevant national stakeholders, including (but not limited to) with the inter-agency working group on alternatives to imprisonment	1.1 1.3 1.4 3.5	16.3 5.1 5.2

UN system agency	Partner	Focus	Alignment: GP 2019-22	SDG
	Supreme Judicial Council Independent Ombudsman's Office Judicial & Legal Studies Institute	created by Ministerial Order no. 45 of 2017 (Ministry of Justice & Islamic Affairs).		
	Public Prosecution's Office Ministry of Justice & Islamic Affairs Supreme Judicial Council Ministry of Interior Judicial & Legal Studies Institute	In partnership with the Global Programme on Violence Against Children in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, promote and assist in the effective implementation of the 'United Nations Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Children in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice'. The Global Programme supports children in contact with the justice system to be better protected by practical measures aimed at preventing and responding to violence against children. This project will engage with all relevant national stakeholders through the inter-agency working group on juvenile justice created by Ministerial Order no. 45 of 2017	1.3 1.4 3.5	16.2 5.1 5.2
UNODC-WCO	Ministry of Interior – Customs Affairs	Support the capacity of customs and other relevant law enforcement agencies to improve risk management, supply chain security and trade facilitation in seaports, airports and land border crossings in order to prevent the cross-border movement of illicit goods. (A UN Framework for the Immediate Socio-Economic Response to COVID-19: Pillar 3.)	1.1 2.2 3.14 1.2	16.4 15.7 5.1
UN Women	Supreme Council for Women (SCW)	Organize public activities to mark International Women's Day in line with SDG 5 focusing on the importance of women's participation in the economy using UNW study on the business case for WEE and the gender and economic profile of Bahrain. Workshops on gender responsive budgeting (GRB) for government personnel in Bahrain supported by GRB centers of excellence. Identify private sector companies who are interested to apply for Women Empowerment Principal (WEPs). Conduct multiple workshops with targeted private sector entities to raise their awareness of the Women Empowerment Principles.	3.5	5

UN system agency	Partner	Focus	Alignment: GP 2019-22	SDG
Outcome 4				
UNDRR	Ministry of Interior	Provision of technical assistance to private sector companies to stimulate its policies and to create targets for women in leadership positions within the workplace. Work with GOB to address reservations regarding the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)		
		Lead regional dialogue on Disaster Risk Reduction in the region by hosting the 7th or 8th Arab Partnership Meeting for Disaster Risk Reduction in Bahrain. This meeting brings the Arab governments focal points, stakeholders, UN agencies and stakeholder groups to provide updates, share knowledge and challenges on DRR	3	11b 13.1
IOM	Labour Market Regulatory Authority Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Support the GOB on strengthening regional and global reporting on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration (GCM)	1.3	10.7

Annex D. Indicative Funding Framework for Cooperation

The UN system agencies will provide support when is needed and requested to the development and implementation of activities within the Cooperation Framework, which may include technical support, cash assistance, supplies, commodities and equipment, procurement services, transport, funds for advocacy, research and studies, consultancies, programme development, monitoring and evaluation, training activities and staff support. Part of the UN system entities' support may be provided to non-governmental [and civil society] organizations as agreed within the framework of the individual work plans and project documents.

Additional support may include access to UN organization-managed global information systems, the network of the UN system agencies' country offices and specialized information systems, including rosters of consultants and providers of development services, and access to the support provided by the network of UN specialized agencies, funds and programmes. The UN system agencies shall appoint staff and consultants for programme development, programme support, technical assistance, as well as monitoring and evaluation activities.

Subject to annual performance reviews and progress in the implementation of the programme, the UN system agencies' funds are distributed by calendar year and in accordance with the Cooperation Framework. These budgets will be reviewed and further detailed in the work plans and project documents. By mutual consent between the Government and the UN development system entities, funds not earmarked by donors to UN development system agencies for specific activities may be re-allocated to other programmatically equally worthwhile activities.

Table: Resource Requirements²¹¹

Indicated financial support provided by GoB and UN system agencies is **already committed** and does not constitute a new request. The 'To mobilize' column provides estimated, *indicative* budgets for *proposed, un-funded* initiatives listed by outcome in **Annex C**. These may be considered in future by the GoB, UN system agencies, and other partners.

SCF Outcomes	Funding Framework (USD, '000)			
	Total [A]	Available [B]		To mobilise [C]
		GoB Resources ²¹² (B1)	UN system resources (B2)	
Outcome 1. Environment, energy and food				
FAO	2,800	2,300	0	500
UNDP	4,100	2,100	0	2,000
UNEP	8,200	5,700	2,500	0
UNESCO	320	0	0	320
UNESCWA	*	*	*	*
UN Habitat	750	0	0	750
WMO	*	*	*	0
UNDRR	300	0	0	300
Total	16,470	10,100	2,500	3,870
Outcome 2. Quality comprehensive services				

²¹¹ These figures are indicative only. They are estimates as of November 2019 and will depend on the availability of GoB resources, regular and other resources from UN system agencies and contributions from donors.

²¹² GoB resources are **already committed** as per approved programme documents with UN system agencies. A portion of these will be used for joint programming with other UN system agencies. GoB resources are from: Parliament; Ministry of Finance and line ministries; the Judiciary; Semi-independent institutions such as the Supreme Councils of Health (SCH), Environment (SCE), and for Women (SCW); Sustainable Energy Authority (SEA), and other institutions and bodies. Figures include estimates of the value of technical assistance provided by UN system agencies.

SCF Outcomes	Funding Framework (USD, '000)			
	Total [A]	Available [B]		To mobilise [C]
		GoB Resources ²¹² (B1)	UN system resources (B2)	
ILO	20	0	0	20
UNFPA	50	*	*	50
IOM	*	*	*	*
UNDP	2,900	1,400	100	1,400
UNESCO	578	0	78	500
UNESCWA	*	*	*	*
UN Habitat	30	0	30	0
UNICEF	250	0	0	250
UNODC	4,168	844	100	3,224
WHO	290	0	290	0
UNDRR	50	0	0	50
UNRCO	75	0	0	75
Total	8,411	2,244	598	5,569
Outcome 3. Public administration, resilience, and economic diversification				
ILO	548	0	348	200
IOM	80	80	0*	0*
OHCHR	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
UNDP	1,050	1,050	0	0
UNESCO	1,500	0	0	1,500
UNESCWA	*	*	*	*
UN Habitat	250	0	0	250
UNIDO	*	*	*	*
UNODC	10,883	228	514	10,141
WHO	224	0	224	0
Total	14,535	1,358	1,086	12,091
Outcome 4. Bahrain amongst nations (new)				
UN system agencies, including UNDRR				100**
TOTAL	\$ 39,416	\$ 13,702	\$4,184	\$21,530

* Finalised budget amounts pending discussion and finalisation of UN system agency plans

** Budget estimates for GoB-UN system cooperation for outcome 4 are pending further consultations with GoB and finalisation of GoB and UN system agency plans and budgets

Annex E. Legal annex

Whereas the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain (hereinafter referred to as ‘the Government’) has entered into the following relationships:

Agency	Agreement
ESCWA	Per UN system agency and/or regional mandate
FAO	Per UN system agency and/or regional mandate
ILO	Per UN system agency and/or regional mandate
IOM	The Cooperation Agreement signed between the Government of Bahrain and IOM on 8 March 2018. An amendment to the Cooperation Agreement came into effect on the 30 April 2019.
ITU	Per UN system agency and/or regional mandate
OHCHR	Per UN system agency and/or regional mandate
UNDRR	Per UN system agency and/or regional mandate
UNDP	The “Standard Basic Assistance Agreement” signed between the Government of Bahrain and UNDP on August 3, 1978. Based on Article 1, paragraph 2 of the SBAA, UNDP’s assistance to the Government shall be made available to the Government and shall be furnished and received in accordance with the relevant and applicable resolutions and decisions of the competent UNDP organs, and subject to the availability of the necessary funds to the UNDP. In particular, decision 2005/1 of 28 January 2005 of UNDP’s Executive Board approved the new Financial Regulations and Rules and along with them the new definitions of ‘execution’ and ‘implementation’ enabling UNDP to fully implement the new Common Country Programming Procedures resulting from the undg simplification and harmonization initiative. In light of this decision this Cooperation Framework together with a work plan (which shall form part of this SCF and is incorporated herein by reference) concluded hereunder constitute together a project document as referred to in the SBAA.
UNEP	Host Country Agreement signed between the United Nations Environment Programme and the Kingdom of Bahrain on 14 February 2000.
UNESCO	Per UN system agency and/or regional mandate
UNFPA	“The Basic Agreement concluded between the Government and the United Nations Development Programme on August 3, 1978 (the “Basic Agreement”) mutatis mutandis applies to the activities and personnel of UNFPA. This SCF together with any work plan concluded hereunder, which shall form part of this SCF and is incorporated herein by reference, constitutes the Project Document as referred to in the Basic Agreement.”
UN Habitat	Host Country Agreement with Ministry of Municipalities, Urban Planning and Public Works for establishing Urban Capacity Centre
UNHCR	Mutatis mutandis the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement (SBAA) between the Government of Bahrain and UNDP applies. Data Sharing Agreement will be signed in 2020
UNICEF	Per UN, ECOSOC, UNICEF Sub-regional programme document for the Gulf Area, 16 July, 2018. E/ICEF/2018/P/L.15
UNIDO	With the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the provisions of the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement between the United Nations Development Programme and the Government, signed and entered into force on 3 August 1978 shall be applied, mutatis mutandis, to UNIDO projects and programmes in the Kingdom of Bahrain
UNOCT	Per UN system agency and/or regional mandate
UNODC	Mutatis mutandis the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement (SBAA) between the Government of Bahrain and UNDP applies
UN WOMEN	Exchange of letters stating that mutatis mutandis the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement (SBAA) between the Government of Bahrain and UNDP applies
UNV	Per UN system agency and/or regional mandate
WHO	Per UN system agency and/or regional mandate
WMO	Per UN system agency and/or regional mandate

For all agencies: Assistance to the Government shall be made available and shall be furnished and received in accordance with the relevant and applicable resolutions and decisions of the competent UN system agency's governing structures

The **COOPERATION FRAMEWORK** will, in respect of each of the United Nations system agencies signing, be read, interpreted, and implemented in accordance with and in a manner that is consistent with the basic agreement between such United Nations system agency and the Host Government.

The Government will honour its commitments in accordance with the provisions of the cooperation and assistance agreements outlined in paragraph on the Basis of the Relationship.

Without prejudice to these agreements, the Government shall apply the respective provisions of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations (the "General Convention") or the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies (the "Specialized Agencies Convention") to the Agencies' property, funds, and assets and to their officials and experts on mission. The Government shall also accord to the Agencies and their officials and to other persons performing services on behalf of the Agencies, the privileges, immunities and facilities as set out in the cooperation and assistance agreements between the Agencies and the Government. In addition, it is understood that all United Nations Volunteers shall be assimilated to officials of the Agencies, entitled to the privileges and immunities accorded to such officials under the General Convention or the Specialized Agencies Convention. The Government will be responsible for dealing with any claims, which may be brought by third parties against any of the Agencies and their officials, experts on mission or other persons performing services on their behalf and shall hold them harmless in respect of any claims and liabilities resulting from operations under the cooperation and assistance agreements, except where it is any claims and liabilities resulting from operations under the cooperation and assistance agreements, except where it is mutually agreed by Government and a particular Agency that such claims and liabilities arise from gross negligence or misconduct of that Agency, or its officials, advisors or persons performing services.

Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, the Government shall insure or indemnify the Agencies from civil liability under the law of the country in respect of vehicles provided by the Agencies but under the control of or use by the Government.

(a) "Nothing in this Agreement shall imply a waiver by the UN or any of its Agencies or Organizations of any privileges or immunities enjoyed by them or their acceptance of the jurisdiction of the courts of any country over disputes arising of this Agreement".

(b) Nothing in or relating to this document will be deemed a waiver, expressed or implied, of the privileges and immunities of the United Nations and its subsidiary organs, including WFP, whether under the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations of 13th February 1946, the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies of 21st November 1947, as applicable, and no provisions of this document or any Institutional Contract or any Undertaking will be interpreted or applied in a manner, or to an extent, inconsistent with such privileges and immunities.