



UNITED NATIONS
BAHRAIN



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Country Results Report

2024



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FOREWORD BY THE RESIDENT COORDINATOR



The ongoing goal of the United Nations in Bahrain is to support government efforts to achieve sustainable development and deliver results for its people. Our shared vision is an ever more thriving Bahrain connected to the community of nations.

In this respect, 2024 was a year of progress for Bahrain and its partnership with the United Nations. Our partnership is guided by the Strategic and Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, which outlines our common priorities and desired outcomes. The entire United Nations family in Bahrain comprises 21 entities, each with a vital role, and all working together for progress.

The year 2024 was the final year for the Cooperation Framework 2021-2024. During the year, the United Nations collected and analysed data, built the skills and capacities of government entities, and educated and engaged the public. The work is often technical, but the results are concrete progress for Bahrain and its people.

As shared on the following pages, together we made strides towards a cleaner environment, more sustainable energy, a stronger economy, better education and healthcare, and more peaceful and productive relations with other countries. We addressed such important issues as the administration of justice, effective governance, and human rights. We took on emerging questions such as the rapid growth of Artificial Intelligence, or AI, in all aspects of life.

Some highlights of the year affirmed the strong partnership between the United Nations and Bahrain:

- United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres visited Bahrain in May for the 33rd Arab Summit. He told the assembled leaders that “there is one core condition for success in today’s world: unity.”
- HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bahrain attended the General Debate of the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly. He highlighted Bahrain’s support for reforming the United Nations to ensure it reflects “current geopolitical realities.”
- HE Dr. Abdullatif Zayani, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Bahrain, attended the Summit of Future in New York. He stressed Bahrain’s commitment to multilateralism and sustainable development.
- At a ceremony on United Nations Day, in October, the United Nations reiterated upon its efforts and contribution in addressing a world of increasing divisions, conflicts, and crisis, as well as the United Nations’ achievements in Bahrain.
- The United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Youth Affairs, Dr. Felipe Paullier, visited Bahrain to help launch the “Hope Network,” a global youth support network initiated by the Kingdom of Bahrain.

2024 was also a year of transition and looking forward. Even as Government and the United Nations in Bahrain consolidated our achievements, we also made plans for our work in the years ahead. We consulted with people and partners in all sectors of society, especially women and young people who will inherit our work and lead in the future. Together, we devised a new Cooperation Framework 2025-2029 that will guide our partnership through the end of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Bahrain’s Economic Vision 2030.

The work ahead will not be easy. Bahrain and the world face increasing challenges over climate, energy, water, food, migration, inequality, AI, and more. But I am confident in the joint commitment of the United Nations, the Government of Bahrain, our national stakeholders and development partners to adapt and respond.

Khaled El Mekwad

Khaled El Mekwad

United Nations Resident Coordinator in Bahrain

THE UNITED NATIONS COUNTRY TEAM

The United Nations in Bahrain—also known as the United Nations Country Team (UNCT)—comprises 21 entities working across the range of challenges and opportunities facing Bahrain.

Each agency has its own focus, its own staff and partners, and its own contributions to progress for Bahrain. Each agency plays a vital role in supporting Bahrain to meet national and global goals for sustainable development.

All entities work together closely to maximize their efficiency and their impact. To learn more about how these agencies coordinate and collaborate for the benefit of the people of Bahrain, please see section 2.4.

Because the agencies work together so closely, this report refers to the work of the United Nations, rather than to the work of individual agencies.



KEY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

OF THE UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM IN THE COUNTRY

GOVERNMENT PARTNERS

Arabian Gulf University
Attorney General's Office
Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities
Bahrain Center for Strategic International and Energy Studies (Derasat),
Bahrain Economic Development Board
Bahrain Meteorological Directorate
Bahrain's Water Resources Council
British Embassy Manama
Embassy of Philippines
Embassy of Thailand
Government Hospitals
Governorates of Bahrain: Capital, Muharraq, Northern, Southern
Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Executive Bureau
Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA)
The League of Arab States
Ministry of Education
Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Department of Human Rights)
Ministry of Health
Ministry of Industry and Commerce
Ministry of Interior
Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs & Endowments
Ministry of Labour
Ministry of Municipalities and Agriculture
Ministry of Social Development
Ministry of Sustainable Development
Ministry of Transportation
Ministry of Youth Affairs
Naif Arab University of Security Sciences
The National Communication Centre
National Health Regulatory Authority
National Institute for Human Rights (NIHR)
National Taskforce for Population and Information
Primary Healthcare Centres
Sand and Dust Storm Warning Regional Center
Special Investigation Unit Bahrain
Supreme Council for Environment
Supreme Council of Health
Supreme Council for Women
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
Tamkeen
Telecommunications Regulatory Authority
University of Bahrain

NON-GOVERNMENTAL PARTNERS

Ahlia University
Al Riwaq Art Space
American University of Bahrain
The Annual Investment Meeting (AIM Congress)
Bahrain Bourse
Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI)
Bahrain Diabetes Society
Bahrain Nursing Society
Bahrain Society of Engineers
Budaiya Hub (Global Shapers)
Canadian Cancer Society
Diplomatic missions
Domestic Worker Union
Fishermen Society
Friends of Gardens
General Federation of Bahrain Trade Unions
Global Environment Facility (GEF)
HSBC Bahrain
Infracorp B.S.C.
International Domestic Workers Federation
International Federation of Medical Students' Associations
Kingdom University
Migrant community members and leaders
Mohammed bin Mubarak Al Khalifa Academy for Diplomatic Studies
Naseej
National Mariculture Centre (NMC)
Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland—Medical University of Bahrain
Royal Humanitarian Foundation
SICO B.S.C.
Union of Arab Chambers
University of Technology Bahrain
Women's Research Centre of the Royal University for Women
World Economic Forum
Zain Bahrain

CHAPTER

01

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

IN THE COUNTRY AND REGIONAL CONTEXT

Bahrain laid out ambitious goals in its Economic Vision 2030. The country made great progress on these goals in 2024, even as it started preparing for the country's 2050 Vision.

According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), economic growth in 2024 was estimated to remain at 3%, driven by a sustained expansion of 3.7% in the nonhydrocarbon sector. There was also robust performance in sectors such as information and communication, business activities, financial services, and public administration.

In the area of social development, Bahrain took steps for the rights of detainees by releasing more than 1,500 prisoners in a mass amnesty. Bahrain retained a Tier 1 ranking in the US State Department annual report of trafficking in persons for a seventh consecutive year. The country also presented its combined initial and periodic reports to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Climate action remained a priority for Bahrain in 2024. To support the Kingdom's effort in achieving net zero emissions

by 2060, Bapco Energies, the national company that leads the energy transition, launched its Transition Finance Framework in 2024. Also last year, Bahrain launched the Bapco Modernization Project, bolstering the country's position as a global energy innovator.

The Government continued to excel in providing public services. In 2024, Bahrain scored 0.9196 in E-Government Development Index published by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, far surpassing the global and regional averages.

Bahrain scored successes in international cooperation. It chaired the Council of the League of Arab States at the Summit level and hosted the 33rd regular session in May 2024 with the participation of the United Nations Secretary-General. Bahrain also restored diplomatic relationships with Qatar, made two visits to Iran to discuss restoring ties, and His Majesty the King made state visits to China and Russia to strengthen bilateral relations.



Photo credit: Bahrain News Agency

CHAPTER

02

¹ International Monetary Fund, 2024 IMF data
² Ministry of Finance and National Economy, Economic Update Q3 2024 <https://www.mofne.gov.bh/en/BEQR>
³ Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Concluding observations on the combined initial and second periodic reports of Bahrain, March 2024 <https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/concluding-observations/crpdcbhrc1-2-concluding-observations-combined-initial-and-second>
⁴ Bapco Energies <https://www.bapcoenergies.com/>
⁵ UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs <https://publicadministration.un.org/egovkb/en-us/Data/Country-Information/id/13-Bahrain>

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM SUPPORT TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES THROUGH THE COOPERATION FRAMEWORK

2.1 OVERVIEW OF COOPERATION FRAMEWORK RESULTS IN 2024

Building an ever more prosperous and peaceful Bahrain requires support from all sectors of society: schools and businesses, health centres and hospitals, government entities and civil society organizations, and so many others. It requires data, technology, training, and, most of all, the hard work of people young and old who are committed to the vision of a country where everyone can thrive, alongside their neighbours around the world.

The United Nations is proud to stand with our partners in Government and other sectors to achieve the goals we’ve set out. The partnership between Bahrain and the United Nations is guided by what’s called the Strategic and Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, which outlines our common priorities and desired outcomes. The four fundamental outcomes of the work are listed below, along with highlights of the outcomes we achieved together in 2024, and which all Bahrain can celebrate:

2024 Available Resources and Expenditure by Outcome (USD)

Outcome Area	Available Resources	Expenditure
Outcome 1: Environment, Energy, and Food	1,211,525	630,000
Outcome 2: Quality, Comprehensive Social Services	1,461,748	1,081,138
Outcome 3: Economic Diversification, Public Administration, and Resilience	1,444,194	1,346,707
Outcome 4: Bahrain Among Nations	865,910	555,499
Total	4,983,377	3,613,344

OUTCOME 1

ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT, AND FOOD

KEY SDG TRANSITIONS

Climate Change, Biodiversity Loss, and Pollution; Food Systems; Energy Access and Affordability

AMOUNT OF FUNDS DELIVERED (USD)

630,000

KEY RESULTS

- Installed 52kw solar system on the rooftop of United Nations House in Manama.
- Launched the “Buthoor Al Bahrain” afforestation campaign, distributing over 13,000 seedlings in the first three months alone.
- Reviewed Bahrain’s National Biodiversity Action Plan, helping connect it to global frameworks.
- Trained government officials on such topics as urban forestry, health and climate change, and nature-based solutions.
- Graduated a third cohort in a professional diploma course on Waste Management.
- Hosted a workshop for regulatory agencies on “Extended Producer Responsibility.”
- Organized meetings and workshops to coordinate national and regional efforts on such topics as tropical cyclones, marine services, air pollution and dust storms.



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OUTCOME 2

QUALITY,
COMPREHENSIVE
SOCIAL SERVICES

KEY SDG TRANSITIONS

Education; Jobs and Social Protection; Climate Change, Biodiversity Loss, and Pollution

AMOUNT OF FUNDS DELIVERED (USD)

1,081,138

KEY RESULTS

- Promoted the new “AWaRe antibiotic book,” a new gold-standard resource.
- Supported the designation of two Governorates in Bahrain as healthy governorates, and an additional university as a Health-Promoting University—expanding the impact of those initiatives.
- Supported the participation of more than 75 Bahraini experts from Government and academia in international meetings related to universal health coverage.
- Trained public health professionals on Epidemic Intelligence from Open Sources.
- Engaged the people of Bahrain through social media and educational events on health issues.
- Organized a workshop for medical professionals on breastfeeding and maternity care.
- Produced a Country Profile on the Rights and Wellbeing of Older Persons in Bahrain in 2024.
- Provided technical guidance to the Government on a flagship health survey to monitor progress on health targets.
- Supported a mobile app to connect survivors of violence against women and girls with support services—with 120,000 downloads and counting.
- Supported the launch of the Gender and Economic Management Policy Initiative (GEPMI).



Photo credit: WHO

OUTCOME 3

ECONOMIC
DIVERSIFICATION, PUBLIC
ADMINISTRATION, AND
RESILIENCE

KEY SDG TRANSITIONS

Jobs and Social Protection; Digital Connectivity

AMOUNT OF FUNDS DELIVERED (USD)

1,346,707

KEY RESULTS

- Enabled more private sector companies in Bahrain to have access to tools and knowledge networks to support gender equality in the workplace, marketplace, and the community, with 12 leading companies in Bahrain having committed to the Women’s Empowerment Principles by the end of 2024.
- Mapped occupations and jobs in Bahrain and identified skills gaps and mismatches in the labour market, and opportunities identified to accelerate further women’s participation in the private sector.
- Supported Bahrain’s digital transformation by integrating administrative data and to align with SDG indicators.
- Reached more than 10,000 people, including entrepreneurs and experts, brokering investment and technology agreements.
- Bolstered the skills of entrepreneurs in 122 startups and provided business counselling to another 250 enterprises in Bahrain—resulting in investments totalling an estimated US \$18 million and the creation of over 800 jobs.
- Supported young Bahraini innovators through the fifth annual Schools Olympiad Competition, which drew more than 450 students from 45 schools.
- Convened the fifth World Entrepreneurs Investment Forum (WEIF), which attracted over 3,200 participants online and in person from 84 countries.



Photo credit: Courtesy of Wided Mohamed

OUTCOME 4

BAHRAIN
AMONG
NATIONS

KEY SDG TRANSITIONS

Food Systems; Energy Access and Affordability; Digital Connectivity; Education; Jobs and Social Protection; Climate Change, Biodiversity Loss, and Pollution

AMOUNT OF FUNDS DELIVERED (USD)

555,499

KEY RESULTS

- Organized a youth event called “Jalsat Shabab,” on skills and careers to support the SDGs.
- Hosted the 10th edition of the Youth Leadership Programme, on digital tools and communication for the SDGs.
- Received a visit from the United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Youth Affairs, who helped launch the global youth “Hope Network,” initiated by the Kingdom of Bahrain.
- Hosted a seminar on “Human Rights in the Bahraini Criminal Justice System” for 60 participants from Government and other sectors, and another
- Partnered to create a workshop on “Teaching Business and Human Rights,” introducing 22 faculty members on integrating business and human rights into academic curricula. Also partnered on a seminar on business and human rights for 300+ participants.
- Helped to send Bahraini representatives to international meetings and conferences, on such topics as decent work for young people, desertification, and drug control.
- Engaged government officials in a workshop and other activities on Disaster Risk Reduction.
- Oriented migrant workers throughout the labour migration cycle, creating greater prosperity all around.
- Supported the Kingdom in ratifying the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol on Ozone Depleting Substances.

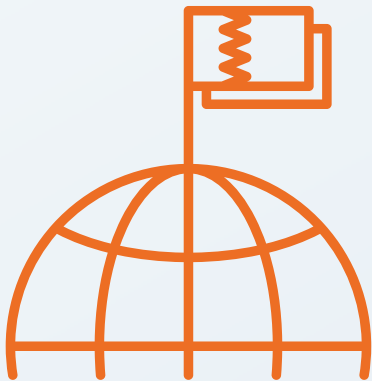


Photo credit: UNIC Manama

2.2 ACHIEVING COOPERATION FRAMEWORK PRIORITIES,
OUTCOMES, AND OUTPUTS

Positive results for the people of Bahrain. That is the fundamental objective of the partnership between the Government of Bahrain and the United Nations in Bahrain, a group of 21 United Nations entities that work to support Bahrain’s goals for sustainable development.

This partnership is outlined in what is called a “Strategic and Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework.” This document shows the objectives, roles, and contributions of the signers. The most recent Cooperation Framework ended at the close of 2024, the year covered in this report.

The Government and the United Nations worked with other partners to make big advances in the four outcome areas described in the framework:

- Outcome 1:** Environment, energy, and food
- Outcome 2:** Quality, Comprehensive Social Services
- Outcome 3:** Economic Diversification, Public Administration, and Resilience
- Outcome 4:** Bahrain Among Nations

At first glance, these outcomes might seem abstract or impersonal. In truth, they touch on the daily lives of everyone

in Bahrain. They concern the environment we all rely on, the energy that powers our cities and towns, the food we eat, the health care we must have, the education we need, the economy that enables jobs and prosperity, the operations of government that make it all possible, and, not least of all, Bahrain’s role in the community of nations and of all humanity.

For any achievements to be made, a lot of behind-the-scenes work must be done. To support government priorities, the United Nations gathers and analyses data, builds the capacities of government entities, and educates and engages the public. This last function is critical: For our work to be successful, we must consult with all sectors of society, especially young people who will lead in the future. The work is often technical, but it is part of the energy and the engine that drives progress.

In all our work, the United Nations constantly strives to adapt to changing needs and circumstances, to steward our resources efficiently for the greatest impact, and to empower all people in Bahrain, including those at greater risk of being left behind in development gains, to participate in an inclusive society and support the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

The result of our efforts is greater opportunity for all of Bahrain. Highlights of our achievements throughout the year follow, along with financial overviews.



Photo credit: Courtesy of Wided Mohamed

OUTCOME 1

ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT, AND FOOD

FAO, UNEP, UNESCO, WMO, UNDRR, UN-Habitat, WHO, UNDP



OVERVIEW

The people of Bahrain are nourished by the country's natural resources, by sustainable energy for everyday needs, and by secure sources of nutritious food. These priorities are closely interconnected and hence are grouped together under one outcome. The Government made continued progress on stewarding these resources and was supported by the United Nations in Bahrain with data, policy analysis, training, coordination, and more.

STARTING THE TRANSITION AT HOME

The United Nations knows that the only viable future of energy is renewables—and where better to start than right at home? A

52kw solar system was installed on the rooftop of United Nations House in Manama. The system generates electricity and serves as a model for urban infrastructure.



Photo credit: UNDP



Photo credit: shutterstock

COUNTING ON WATER

Bahrain is subject to water shortages because of factors such as saltwater intrusion and reduced rainfall. The United Nations is committed to **finding sustainable solutions for water** for drinking, agriculture, and more. In 2024, we moved our “Water and Climate Knowledge Management Platform” to government servers, where it will support policy and practice **so all of Bahrain can enjoy the benefits of quality water.**

PLANTING SEEDS FOR THE FUTURE

The United Nations tends to today's needs while also looking towards the future. In 2024, the United Nations launched the **“Buthoor Al Bahrain” afforestation campaign.** In its first three months alone, the campaign distributed over **13,000**

seedlings across more than 50 locations and provided training in schools, community spaces, and government offices on how to maintain trees. In addition, the United Nations provided expertise in developing advanced geospatial mapping tools to monitor and enhance forest health. In these and other ways, the **United Nations planted seeds that will bear fruit and give shade** to people well into the future.



Photo credit: UNIC Manama

CLEARING THE AIR

Air pollution crosses national borders, so countries must cooperate with one another to improve air quality. In 2024, the United Nations organized a meeting where a **regional**

cooperation framework on air quality for 2025-2026 was approved. Under this plan, people in Bahrain and throughout the region will be able to breathe easier.



Photo credit: UN-Habitat

BOOSTING BIODIVERSITY

Human beings can live and thrive thanks in no small part to biodiversity—the nearly endless array of life forms all around us. But **biodiversity is under threat** from climate-change

and other dangerous effects of human activity. And **that means humans are at risk**, too. In 2024, the United Nations supported biodiversity through various projects, including a review of **Bahrain’s National Biodiversity Action Plan** and by helping connect it to global frameworks on biodiversity such as the Convention on Biological Diversity.



Photo credit: UN-Habitat

GREENING BAHRAIN

United Nations experts provided **skills training to multiple government ministries** and departments on such topics as urban forestry, plant survival, nature-based solutions, and using metrics on green cover and land surface temperature. This support has enhanced the Government’s ability to carry out **green solutions for environmental quality and public health**. The United Nations also engaged the public through workshops on urban biodiversity, urban agriculture, and reimagining neighbourhoods.

MANAGING WASTE

An important part of sustainable development is figuring out how to safely dispose of waste. The United Nations is supporting the **next generation of waste management experts** through the **professional diploma course** on Waste Management at the **Arabian Gulf University**. In 2024, the third cohort graduated, and the fourth cohort started. The curriculum covers municipal, hazardous, food, and plastic waste.

CLOSING THE CIRCLE

A sustainable future for all requires the efficient use—and

reuse—of materials today. With United Nations support, the Supreme Council for Environment in Bahrain hosted a workshop for regulatory agencies on “**Extended Producer Responsibility**”—a policy approach that holds producers responsible for making more **environmentally friendly products** that are easier to reuse and recycle. This work supports a circular economy that makes a **cleaner, greener future for all**.

COORDINATING ON CLIMATE

Coordination among all sectors of society and among countries is necessary to tackle the climate crisis. In 2024, the United Nations organized meetings and workshops to **coordinate national and regional efforts** on such topics as **tropical cyclones, climate services, marine services, dust storms, weather prediction satellites, public-private engagement, scientific research, and meteorological services** for aviation. The United Nations also supported the participation of government experts in international meetings to address **climate and health**. In all this work, the United Nations worked with Government and other partners to bolster action across economic and social sectors.



Photo credit: WHO

BOOSTING BREASTFEEDING

Breastfeeding has health benefits for both the mother and infant. The United Nations organized a **workshop for medical professionals on how to support breastfeeding and evidence-based maternity care**. Participants included

physicians, midwives, and nurses from a variety of health centres and hospitals. The workshop also kicked off an effort to develop a pool of trainers in Bahrain to support breastfeeding as part of the global **Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative**, done in close collaboration with the Government. The result is **healthier babies and a happier Bahrain** today and tomorrow.

ENSURING FOOD SECURITY

Through its support for **Bahrain's Food Diversification Strategy**, the United Nations has helped strengthen food security, reduce reliance on food imports, and promote

agricultural sustainability. The United Nations has been instrumental in promoting **climate-smart agriculture**, integrating sustainability into farming systems, and developing policies to enhance resilience against climate change and market fluctuations.

2024 Expenditure Amount for Outcome 1 by UN Entity (USD)

UN Entity	Available Resources 2024	Expenditure 2024
FAO	394,025	-
UNDRR	41,500	-
UNEP	300,000	300,000
UNESCO	50,000	-
UN-HABITAT	316,000	220,000
WHO	50,000	50,000
WMO	60,000	60,000
Total	1,211,525.00	630,000.00

2024 Available Resources and Expenditure Amounts for Outcome 1 by SDG (USD)

SDG	Available 2024	Expenditure 2024
SDG 1: No Poverty	23,833	10,000
SDG 2: Zero Hunger	201,031	10,000
SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being	10,000	10,000
SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation	241,500	205,000
SDG 8: Decent Jobs and Economic Growth	179,067	-
SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities	-	-
SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities	92,833	55,000
SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production	89,000	65,000
SDG 13: Climate Action	162,833	125,000
SDG 14: Life Below Water	11,964	-
SDG 15: Life on Land	36,964	-
SDG 16: Peace and Justice - Strong Institutions	162,500	150,000
Total	1,211,525	630,000

OUTCOME 2

QUALITY, COMPREHENSIVE SOCIAL SERVICES

UNICEF, UNESCO, UNDP, WHO, UNFPA, UN-Habitat, FAO, UNEP, IOM, UNHCR, UN Women, ILO



OVERVIEW

Health, education, urban development, and the protection of vulnerable groups; services such as these are the building blocks of successful lives and societies. The Government of Bahrain is committed to providing fair and equitable access to world-class social services, and the United Nations continued to be a steady partner in 2024 in pursuit of this paramount goal.

EXPANDING EDUCATION

The United Nations works hand in hand with Government and other partners to help ensure that all people in Bahrain get the education they need to thrive. In 2024, for example, the United

Nations organized a workshop on **data-driven reporting on education outcomes** and a session on tools to promote the right to education. Much of this work is technical, but the result is a **brighter today and tomorrow** for the people of Bahrain.



Photo credit: Akhbar Al Khaleej

SETTING STANDARDS TO SAVE LIVES

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a threat to global health, and a contributing factor is the inappropriate use or overuse of antibiotics. In 2024, United Nations in Bahrain supported the Government to enrol in the antimicrobial usage module of the WHO Global Antimicrobial Resistance and Use Surveillance System for improved detection, reporting, and monitoring of emerging resistance. The United Nations also promoted the new **WHO “AWaRe (Access, Watch, Reserve) antibiotic book,” a new gold-standard resource** that provides health workers with evidence-based guidance on prescribing and dispensing antibiotics.

STRENGTHENING HEALTH AT SCALE

Promoting public health requires large-scale responses to address the needs of all people in Bahrain. In 2024, the United Nations worked closely with Government to support many such efforts for outsized impact:

- **Guided the designation of the Capital and the Northern governorates** in Bahrain as healthy governorates. The Healthy Cities Programme expanded from cities to include entire governorates, which marks big progress.
- **Supported the awarding of “Health-Promoting University”** status to the American University of Bahrain,



Photo credit: WHO

bringing to six the total number of universities in Bahrain that have attained that status.

- Organized a seminar for health professionals on **improving diagnosis for patient safety.**
- Supported the participation of more than 75 Bahraini experts from multiple ministries, universities, and academic institutes in global and regional meetings on issues related to **universal health coverage.**
- Organized a mission to evaluate Bahrain's **seasonal influenza vaccination programme** and provide context-specific strategies to **enhance preparedness for respiratory pathogen pandemics.**
- Guided the completion of Bahrain's second Joint External Evaluation of the International Health Regulations (IHR 2005) to facilitate the identification of the most urgent needs and opportunities for **enhanced emergency preparedness and response efforts.**
- Trained public health professionals on **Epidemic Intelligence from Open Sources**, to improve health threat detection and response at the national level.
- Provided technical guidance to the Government in implementing the WHO's flagship **World Health Survey Plus** in Bahrain, to monitor progress towards population health targets and health-related SDGs.

EDUCATING FOR HEALTH

Achieving the SDGs and national goals require everyone's active involvement. That's why the United Nations engaged the **people of Bahrain through social media and live events** to educate and promote collective action on such vital concerns as **mental health, mosquito control, breast cancer, hearing loss prevention, tobacco use, and physical activity**—as well as **extreme heat exposure for migrants**, with materials made available in nine languages.

SUPPORTING SENIORS

Bahrain is committed to strengthening institutional mechanisms and ensuring that no one is left behind, including older persons. To this end, Government worked with the United Nations to produce a Country Profile on the **Rights and Wellbeing of**

Older Persons in Bahrain in 2024. The profile offers valuable analysis, celebrates successes, and identifies areas for further development such as social security systems and violence prevention. An updated strategy will guide Bahrain's elderly policies and programmes until 2030.

ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

The United Nations supported the civil society organization Shamsaha to launch a pioneering **mobile app to connect survivors of violence against women and girls with support services.** The app was piloted in Bahrain with the goal of serving the whole Middle East. It has been **downloaded over 120,000 times** since its 2024 launch, creating a safe space for survivors to access information, support, and reporting mechanisms.



Photo credit: UNFPA

INCLUDING EVERYONE

Societies thrive when the full range of people are included in their workings—not least of all, **people with disabilities and women.** The United Nations has a seat on the government committee overseeing Bahrain's **national strategy for persons with disabilities**, providing technical expertise

and promoting alignment with international standards. In 2024, the United Nations also worked with the University of Bahrain to launch the **Gender and Economic Management Policy Initiative (GEPMI)**, which will equip middle and senior managers with the knowledge they need to integrate gender considerations into economic policy.



Photo credit: UN News

2024 Expenditure Amount for Outcome 2 by UN Entity (USD)

UN Entity	Available Resources 2024	Expenditure 2024
ILO	27,500	-
IOM	84,354	84,354
UN Women	53,000	390
UNDP	24,661	24,661
UNEP	7,666	7,666
UNESCO	27,500	20000
UNFPA	55,000	55,000
UN-HABITAT	360,000	280,000
UNHCR	3,000	-
UNICEF	182,500	-
WHO	636,567	609067
Total	1,461,748	1,081,138

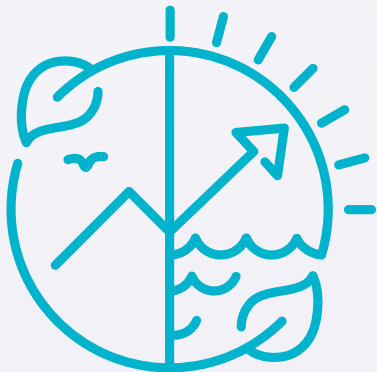
2024 Available Resources and Expenditure Amounts for Outcome 2 by SDG (USD)

SDG	Available 2024	Expenditure 2024
SDG 1: No Poverty	26,667	-
SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being	633,144	633,144
SDG 4: Quality Education	174,642	47,142
SDG 5: Gender Equality	125,859	33,887
SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy	10,189	10,189
SDG 8: Decent Jobs and Economic Growth	26,739	26,739
SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	-	-
SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities	52,294	25,627
SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities	363,833	283,833
SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production	3,833	3,833
SDG 15: Life on Land	-	-
SDG 16: Peace and Justice - Strong Institutions	44,550	16,745
SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals	-	-
Total	1,461,748	1,081,138

OUTCOME 3

ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION, PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, AND RESILIENCE

UNIDO, UNESCO, ITU, ILO, IOM, UNV, UN Women, UNOCT, UNODC, OHCHR, UNICEF, UNDP, ESCWA



OVERVIEW

To enjoy the fruits of their labour, the people of Bahrain need a stable and diversified economy, excellent public administration, and resilient institutions that can withstand external shocks. In 2024, the United Nations in Bahrain supported the Government to ensure all these elements were in place and serving even the most vulnerable people. The result of this work: a more prosperous country where people can rest assured that their work will be rewarded with a secure future.

PROMOTING FAIRNESS FOR MIGRANT LABOURERS

In Bahrain, most labourers are migrants from other countries, and they play an important role in economic development. In 2024, the United Nations in Bahrain partnered with the Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA) on

several projects, including a workshop on migration and the SDGs, the “Working Together” educational campaign that reached 2,500 people with information about the rights and responsibilities of migrant workers and employers, and an orientation programme for employers of domestic labourers.



Photo credit: IOM

EMPOWERING WOMEN AND THE COUNTRY

When women succeed economically, the whole of society benefits. In 2024, the United Nations **continued to engage with the private sector to support gender equality and women's empowerment** in the workplace, marketplace, and

community. By the end of the year, 12 leading companies in Bahrain had committed to the **Women's Empowerment Principles**. The United Nations Country Team Gender Theme Group participated in the “Ring the Bell for Women's Empowerment” event hosted by the Boursa Bahrain to mark International Women's Day in March and highlighted the private sector's role to advance women's empowerment.



Photo credit: UNFPA

ADVANCING PUBLIC SECURITY AND SAFETY

People are more likely to thrive when they're safe and secure. One of the building blocks of public safety is **data on crime and criminal justice**. The United Nations worked with the Government in an ongoing effort to bring national data in line with international standards, particularly the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes (ICCS), and to **monitor SDG targets on public security and safety**, trafficking, corruption, and access to justice.

DRIVING DATA FOR PROSPERITY

To stimulate economic growth and prosperity, government officials and policymakers rely on accurate data. The United Nations supported such data throughout the year:

- Leveraged its Skills Monitor **tool to analyse labour**

market dynamics and provide evidence-based policy recommendations for reskilling and upskilling.

- **Mapped occupations and jobs in Bahrain** according to an international framework and identified critical skills gaps and mismatches in the labour market.
- Supported Bahrain's **digital transformation** by integrating administrative data and enhancing Household Health Surveys to align with SDG indicators.
- Facilitated a round-table discussion on **the power of data, featuring international experts** and highlighting the transformative potential of data and data systems to advance the SDGs.
- Supported Bahrain in its **SDG reporting capabilities through workshops and technology** such as the MARS application.

EQUIPPING ENTREPRENEURS

Entrepreneurs are **leading innovators** in the economy of Bahrain, and the United Nations works tirelessly to boost their fortunes and those of the entire country. In 2024, we:

- Organized and supported more than **60 events in Bahrain and abroad, in person and online**, through the UNIDO **Investment and Technology Promotion Office** (UNIDO ITPO). These events reached a diverse audience of **more than 10,000 people**, including entrepreneurs and experts—brokering investment and technology agreements and benefiting the national economy.
- Bolstered the **skills of entrepreneurs in 122 startups**

through Enterprise Development and Investment Promotion (EDIP) programme and provided non-financial **business counselling to another 250 enterprises** in Bahrain. These initiatives resulted in investments totalling an estimated **US \$18 million and the creation of over 800 jobs**.

- Supported the **next generation of Bahraini innovators** through the fifth annual **Schools Olympiad Competition**, which drew more than **450 students from 45 schools**, all supported by more than 100 teachers and public and private partners. United Nations experts provided support to develop student-based incubators and introduced students to the fundamentals of entrepreneurship and problem-solving.



Photo credit: UNIDO

CONVENING LEADING ACTORS FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP

In 2024, the United Nations in Bahrain convened the fifth **World Entrepreneurs Investment Forum (WEIF)**, a prestigious event held under the patronage of HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bahrain and in cooperation with public and private partners. It attracted **over 3,200 participants (hybrid) from 84 countries**, including senior policymakers, entrepreneurs,

experts, financial institutions, NGOs, and media representatives. The forum WEIF featured **15 dynamic panels and side events** covering such themes as the **creative orange economy**, empowerment of **persons with disabilities**, and social entrepreneurship. The event culminated in the formulation of the **2024 Manama Declaration** on the importance of innovation in achieving the SDGs, with a strong emphasis on including women, youth, persons with disabilities, and productive families in these efforts. The declaration was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, under reference A/78/919.

POWERING DIGITAL INNOVATION

The United Nations and Government worked together on a **Digital Innovation Country Profile for Bahrain**. This profile will help diagnose the digital innovation ecosystem, inform national policies and regulations, and strengthen the country's digital transformation to align more closely with Bahrain's Vision 2030. The United Nations also launched a **Digital Skills Toolkit 2024**, a comprehensive resource designed to guide Government, policymakers, and stakeholders in crafting effective national strategies to close digital skills gaps. The toolkit was launched within the framework of the International Telecommunications Union Digital Skills Forum 2024 hosted by the Kingdom of Bahrain, which convened 700 participants from 44 countries. The event also reinforced Bahrain's leadership

position in the field of innovation within the region.

REDUCING DISASTER RISK

Bahrain is more resilient against disasters, thanks in part to a United Nations training workshop for more than 40 government officials. The workshop equipped participants with the skills needed to monitor, report, and track progress on the implementation of the **Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR)** at the national and regional levels. Participants received training in data collection, risk analysis, and policy integration. The workshop also fostered dialogue and collaboration between various national institutions. The result: Bahrain is readier for whatever disasters may strike.



Photo credit: UNDP

TRAINING YOUTH FOR THE FUTURE

The United Nations partnered with the Government on the 10th edition of the Youth Leadership Programme (YLP10), with 30 participants. With a theme of “Youth as Community Builders,” the

intensive six-week summer programme focused on leveraging digital tools and communication strategies to advance the SDGs. The initiative culminated in an SDGs Challenge, where two winning teams presented innovative solutions, reinforcing the role of youth in sustainable development.

2024 Expenditure Amount for Outcome 3 by UN Entity (USD)

UN Entity	Available Resources 2024	Expenditure 2024
IOM	297,115	297,115
UN Women	76,000	11,513
UNESCO	28,129	28,129
UN-HABITAT	40,000	40,000
UNICEF	25,000	
UNIDO	650,000	650,000
UNODC	10,000	2,000
ITU	257,950	257,950
UNV	60,000	60,000
Total	1,444,194	1,346,707

2024 Available Resources and Expenditure Amounts for Outcome 3 by SDG (USD)

SDG	Available 2024	Expenditure 2024
SDG 1: No Poverty	162,500	162,500
SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being	-	-
SDG 4: Quality Education	9,376	9,376
SDG 5: Gender Equality	314,624	254,714
SDG 8: Decent Jobs and Economic Growth	375,539	343,295
SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	162,500	162,500
SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities	105,662	105,662
SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities	23,333	20,667
SDG 16: Peace and Justice - Strong Institutions	12,710	10,043
SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals	277,950	277,950
Total	1,444,194	1,346,707



Photo credit: Wided Mohamed

OUTCOME 4

BAHRAIN AMONG NATIONS

IOM, UNODC, UNEP, UN Women, UNDRR, UNDP, UN-Habitat, UNESCO, UNV, OHCHR, UNOCT, UNICEF



OVERVIEW

Bahrain is connected in countless ways to its Gulf Cooperation Council neighbours, and to the wider region and the world: through migration, labour, trade, tourism, finance, climate, communications, and more. The United Nations is an ideal partner in helping to strengthen these connections Bahrain with other nations to share in the great work of building a more secure and prosperous world—through action on climate, migration, youth empowerment, and other areas. In this collaboration, Bahrain moves closer towards fulfilling both its national development goals and the SDGs.

JOINING IN SOLIDARITY

The United Nations in Bahrain and the Embassy of the State of Palestine in the Kingdom of Bahrain observed the **International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People**, on 29 November. The United Nations Resident Coordinator in the Kingdom of Bahrain, Khaled El Mekwad, observed that “the Palestinian people have not yet achieved their inalienable rights as defined by the General Assembly, namely: The right to self-determination, the right to independence and national sovereignty, and the right of return for refugees.”

PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS

Both Bahrain and the United Nations are committed to human rights, which are the bedrock of a peaceful and just world. Human rights are also at the heart of the **SDGs and national development priorities**. Some of the ways United Nations in Bahrain supported human rights in 2024:

- Supported government efforts to enhance **human rights monitoring tools**, which will bring Bahrain’s institutional capacity closer in line with international standards.

- Hosted a seminar on “**Human Rights in the Bahraini Criminal Justice System**” for 60 participants from Government, law enforcement, and civil society on how best to uphold human rights.
- Partnered with the University of Bahrain to create a workshop on “**Teaching Business and Human Rights**,” introducing 22 faculty members in law, business, and environmental sciences to best practices in integrating business and human rights into academic curricula.
- Partnered on a seminar for over 300 participants on “**Business and Human Rights in Bahrain**”, initiating a national dialogue on corporate accountability human rights in business operations.
- Spoke at a Government-sponsored symposium on protecting **human rights in the age of Artificial Intelligence**, which presents new risks and opportunities. “Human rights must be placed at the core of AI,” said the United Nations representative.

ENGAGING YOUNG PEOPLE FOR THE GLOBAL GOALS

High on Bahrain’s list of priorities is to engage youth in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals—for the country and the world. In 2024, the United Nations in Bahrain worked with Government and other partners to support this goal.



Photo credit: UNIC Manama

- Launched a pioneering programme with the **University of Bahrain** to integrate the SDGs into **university curricula** in courses in English, sciences, and law.
- Organized a youth event called “**Jalsat Shabab**”, which focused on the SDGs and the skills and careers that support them.
- Hosted the 10th edition of the **Youth Leadership Programme**, or “YLP10,” an intensive 6-week course for 30 young people to leverage digital tools and communication strategies for the SDGs.
- Received a visit from the **United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Youth Affairs**, Dr. Felipe Paullier. He helped launch the “Hope Network,” a global youth support network initiated by the Kingdom of Bahrain.

CONNECTING BAHRAIN WITH THE WORLD

The United Nations supports Bahrain in sharing knowledge and resource with other countries near and far, partly by helping to send Bahraini representatives to international meetings

and conferences. For example, in 2024 the United Nations supported the following efforts:

- **Youth representatives** from Government, civil society, and academia went to Tunisia for a regional meeting on **skilling and decent work for young people**.
- A government delegation presented the country’s afforestation campaign at an **international meeting on desertification**, UNCCD COP16, in Riyadh.
- A high-level delegation attended the **12th World Urban Forum in Cairo**, where they learned new sustainable urban development **strategies to apply to Bahrain’s challenges**.
- Engaged government officials in an intensive workshop and other activities on **Disaster Risk Reduction**, bringing Bahrain more in line with international frameworks and reinforcing its role as a regional leader in resilience-building.
- Supported strategic planning for the third edition of the Princess Sabeeka Bint Ibrahim Al-Khalifa Global Award for Women’s Empowerment (2025).



Photo credit: IOM

ORIENTING MIGRANT WORKERS

Migrant workers from other countries come to Bahrain to work, and they play a vital role in Bahrain’s economy. They need information to **navigate the process of migrating**, working,

and returning. By **orienting migrant workers throughout the labour migration cycle**, the United Nations helps make the process smoother for both migrants and the Government. The result is **greater prosperity all around**. This work is part of a global initiative called the Comprehensive Information & Orientation Programme (CIOP).

IMPLEMENTING MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS

In 2024, Bahrain completed the second tranche of its National HCFC Phase-out Management Plan (HPMP) Stage II, reaching milestones towards the 2025 phase-out targets under the Montreal Protocol on ozone-depleting substances. Key activities included an awareness campaign reaching 67 participants, enhancement of the E-Licensing and Monitoring System, training for 40 customs officers and 40 RAC technicians, and technical assistance to large end-users. The nationwide registration system was further improved, and the twelfth phase of the Institutional Strengthening Project (ISP) was launched to support regulatory frameworks and awareness initiatives. Additionally, Bahrain ratified the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol on 1 July 2024.

2024 Expenditure Amount for Outcome 4 by UN Entity (USD)

UN Entity	Available Resources 2024	Expenditure 2024
IOM	54,000	54,000
UN Women	368,155	120,643
UNDP	43,755	25,856
UNEP	260,000	260,000
UNESCO	20,000	-
UNFPA	15,000	15,000
UN-HABITAT	70,000	65,000
UNICEF	10,000	-
UNODC	10,000	-
UNV	15,000	15,000
Total	865,910	555,499

2024 Available Resources and Expenditure Amounts for Outcome 4 by SDG (USD)

SDG	Available 2024	Expenditure 2024
SDG 1: No Poverty	-	-
SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being	-	-
SDG 4: Quality Education	20,000	-
SDG 5: Gender Equality	393,155	135,643
SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation	-	-
SDG 8: Decent Jobs and Economic Growth	152,500	147,500
SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities	85,878	76,928
SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities	25,000	22,500
SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production	-	-
SDG 13: Climate Action	130,000	130,000
SDG 16: Peace and Justice - Strong Institutions	38,615	31,115
SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals	20,763	11,813
Total	865,910	555,499

CULTIVATING THE ARTS

In 2024, the United Nations launched an initiative called the **Art Residency Programme for Yemeni Artists in Bahrain**. In partnership with arts organizations in Bahrain, the programme provided a 12-week immersion for two Yemeni artists to learn, share, and collaborate—**culminating in an exhibition** that showcased the artists’ work and the impact of the residency. Yemen is a least-developed country, and Bahrain’s support is an example of its South-South cooperation.

2.3 SUPPORT TO PARTNERSHIPS AND FINANCING THE 2030 AGENDA

The work of sustainable development in Bahrain is not limited to the United Nations and Government alone. It is work shared by our partners in civil society, the private sector, academia, and other sectors. It is the task of anyone and everyone who will contribute to it, whether in Bahrain or other countries. The greater the participation by people across society, the more lasting and successful our efforts will be.

That is why the United Nations places such high value on building partnerships across the spectrum. Whether it’s businesses, financial institutions, community groups, government entities, or universities. Whether it’s farmers or financiers or families. Whether it’s people already active in the work of development, or it’s people who are often left out or left behind. By coordinating the efforts of different institutions and individuals, we form a stronger movement to overcome the challenges and fulfil the promises that Bahrain faces.

Throughout 2024, the United Nations in Bahrain engaged all sectors of society to build a stronger foundation for the work today and ahead. For example, with partners we organized:

- Consultation workshops with **civil society groups** to help develop the Strategic and Sustainable Cooperation Framework 2025-2029 and ensure that it leave no one behind.

- Engagements on the **private sector** as a key actor to invest in the SDGs, create jobs, build skills, spur innovation, provide infrastructure, and supply affordable goods and services.
- Leadership engagement session on **disability inclusion**, amplifying the leadership of persons with disabilities.
- Dialogues with **young people** on such topics as the new Cooperation Framework, social services, education, upskilling, new technologies, global diplomacy, universal health coverage, and solutions to urgent problems. As one United Nations official said to youth, “We need leaders like you—leaders willing to listen, lead, and achieve peace, dignity, and equality on a healthy planet.”

Making progress on sustainable development requires resources—human, financial, and otherwise. By using our existing resources strategically, we will build even more support for our work. Bahrain is a small country with a rich history, culture, and resources, not to mention a big-hearted people who are eager to share in the global work of sustainable development.

The United Nations is privileged to join with Bahrain in this pursuit.

2.4 RESULTS OF THE UNITED NATIONS WORKING MORE AND BETTER TOGETHER: UNITED NATIONS COHERENCE, EFFECTIVENESS AND EFFICIENCY

The United Nations in Bahrain—also known as the United Nations Country Team—comprises 21 entities, each with its own mission and capabilities. And yet it is by working together coherently that **these entities add up to more than the sum of their parts**, delivering results effectively and efficiently.

- **Enhanced Coordination Through Leadership:** The strengthened Resident Coordinator (RC) leadership and Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO) align efforts across agencies, reducing fragmentation and ensuring delivery of the 2021-2024 Cooperation Framework outcomes.
- **Thematic Groups for Efficiency and Impact:** United Nations entities in Bahrain have organized five thematic working groups to boost efficiency and deliver greater results: gender, youth, migrants, disability inclusion, and the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse. With participation across relevant United Nations entities, these working groups boost agility and impact. For example, the Gender Theme Group⁶—the only active such group in the Arab Region—ran workshops and exercises that led to significant progress in gender mainstreaming. The Disability Inclusion Group used the United Nations Disability Inclusion Scorecard to monitor progress and drive improvement.
- **Joint Initiatives for Greater Impact:** Collaborative efforts, such as the “Buthoor Al Bahrain” afforestation campaign (distributing 13,000 seedlings in 2024) and the regional air quality framework approval, demonstrate how joint work by UN-Habitat, FAO, UNEP, UNESCO, and others enhanced environmental sustainability and regional cooperation.
- **Efficiency Gains via Shared Resources:** The transition of the “Water and Climate Knowledge Management Platform” to government servers in 2024, supported by United Nations entities such as WMO and UN-Habitat, minimized duplication, optimized technical expertise, and bolstered national capacity for water management, reflecting cost-effective use of United Nations resources.

- **Integrated Policy Support:** The United Nations provided cohesive policy advice, such as supporting Bahrain's National Biodiversity Action Plan review and aligning it with global frameworks, involving UNEP and UNESCO, which streamlined government efforts and enhanced policy coherence across environmental and social sectors.
- **Reduced Transaction Costs:** By leveraging UN INFO for data management and aligning Joint Work Plans, the United Nations minimized reporting burdens on agencies and the Government, enabling faster decision-making, as seen in the coordinated climate workshops with WMO and UNDRR that engaged diverse sectors efficiently.
- **Visibility of Reform Benefits:** The fifth World Entrepreneurs Investment Forum (WEIF) in 2024, convened by UNIDO ITPO Bahrain and partners under HRH Prince Salman's patronage, showcased how United Nations coherence attracted 3,200 participants from 84 countries, fostering innovation and economic diversification with tangible outcomes like the Manama Declaration.
- **Lasting Results Through Public Engagement:** The entire family of United Nations entities in Bahrain supported the development of the new Consultation Framework in collaboration with the Government, and organized consultations with civil society, the private sector, women, youth, people with disabilities, and other groups to ensure more durable results.

In 2024, the United Nations has shown yet again that teamwork is the best way to set goals and achieve them.

2.5 LESSONS LEARNED AND EVALUATIONS

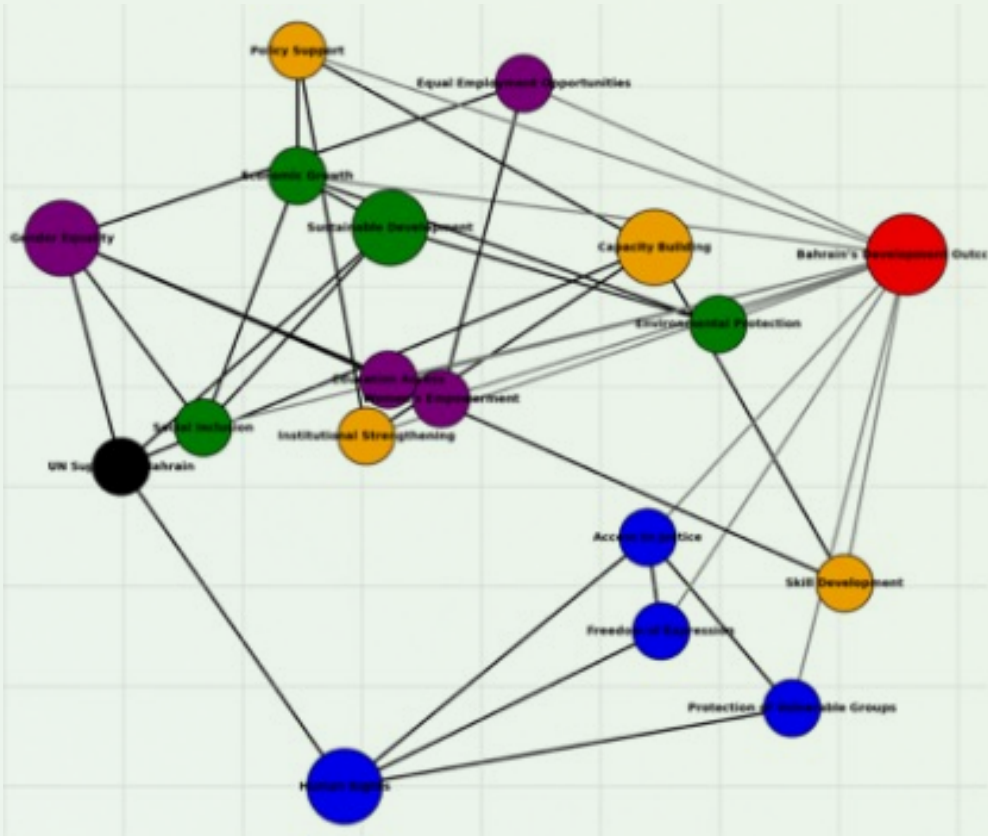
The United Nations in Bahrain strives to learn continuously and integrate lessons into its work all year round. Following is an overview of some of our top lessons from 2024:

- **Data Drives Adaptation:** The United Nations learned that robust data collection, as seen in the 2024 evaluation of Bahrain's influenza vaccination programme, is critical for adapting health interventions, revealing gaps in coverage that informed the 2025-2029 Framework's focus on resilient social services.
- **Partnership Enhances Outcomes:** The success of engaging 50+ locations in the “Buthoor Al Bahrain” campaign taught the United Nations that broad, multi-stakeholder partnerships (Government, schools, communities) amplify environmental impact, a lesson shaping increased civil society inclusion in the next cycle.
- **Capacity-Building Pays Off:** Training over 150 public servants in 2024 on climate services (WHO, WMO, UNDRR) and waste management (UN-Habitat) showed national capacity gains, reinforcing the value of technical skill investments, though delays in data updates highlighted the need for timelier monitoring.

- **Evaluation Yields Insights:** The end-of-cycle review of the Cooperation Framework 2021-2024 underscored successes such as on noncommunicable disease mortality, but identified challenges in disaggregating data for vulnerable groups, prompting a sharper focus on inclusivity in 2025-2029.
- **Challenges Require Flexibility:** The United Nations' rapid response to unforeseen water shortages by enhancing the Water Knowledge Platform showed the importance of agility, though incomplete 2024 indicator data suggest better contingency planning for data gaps is needed.
- **Youth Engagement is a Catalyst:** The 10th Youth Leadership Programme (YLP10), “Jalsat Shabab” and school events in 2024 revealed that empowering youth accelerates SDG awareness, a lesson driving UNESCO's plans to integrate SDGs into university curricula in the next Framework.

Now under the new Cooperation Framework, the United Nations in Bahrain will keep learning and improving, to keep pace with new challenges as they emerge.

2.6 DRIVING AND ACCELERATING SUSTAINABLE IMPACT THROUGH SYSTEMS THINKING AND THE SIX TRANSITIONS



INTEGRATED SUPPORT FOR IMPACT

The United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) update 2021–2024 serves as the framework for all United Nations development efforts in Bahrain. A systemic thinking approach is embedded in the analysis of results and strategies, recognizing that the complex development challenges Bahrain faces require integrated, cross-sector responses.

As illustrated in the figure, the UNSDCF (black circle) connects and mutually reinforces four key areas: Sustainable Development (green), Human Rights (blue), Gender Equality (purple), and

Capacity Building (orange). Each of these pillars comprises thematic sub-areas, such as environmental protection or institutional strengthening, represented by smaller circles. These are interlinked to each other and the broader impact areas through arrows, symbolizing synergy and interdependence.

The systemic approach ensures that actions in one domain—like improving access to justice—also influence and are influenced by progress in others—like gender equality and social protection. The interconnectedness of these spheres enhances coherence and helps maximize the impact of the United Nations' contributions to national development priorities.

SIX TRANSITIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Complementing this integrated framework is the adoption of the Six Transitions (6Ts) approach, which serves as a diagnostic and planning tool to understand and accelerate transformation. The 6Ts include:

1. **Climate, Biodiversity, and Pollution**
2. **Energy Transition**
3. **Food Systems**
4. **Education**
5. **Jobs and Social Protection**
6. **Digital Connectivity**

How 6Ts contribute to SDGs *(number of sub-outputs by SDGs)*

Transitions	1 People	2 Pollution	3 Health	4 Education	5 Gender	6 Digital	7 Energy	8 Economy	9 Society	10 Culture	11 Environment	12 Climate	13 Ecosystems	14 Life	15 Land	16 Water	17 Peace
1. Climate, Biodiversity and Pollution	1	2			1	2		3	1	2	3	1	5	2	3	2	1
2. Energy transition							1	1			1						
3. Food Systems	1	2	1					1				1	1				
4. Education				4	4			2		1						3	4
5. jobs and social protection	2		1		6			7		8	2				1	6	
6. Digital connectivity					2			3		1						1	1

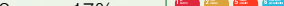
These transitions, which align closely with Bahrain's Economic Vision 2030 and the SDGs, function as thematic accelerators cutting across all UN-supported sectors. For instance, under Outcome 1, initiatives such as afforestation and biodiversity policy reform support both climate transition and sustainable food systems. Under Outcome 3, entrepreneurship support and digital upskilling programmes directly advance the jobs and digital transitions.

The 6Ts have been embedded into the Cooperation Framework's implementation and monitoring, allowing the United Nations to

assess its contribution not just by sector, but by transformative potential. When mapped against the SDGs, this analysis shows how initiatives contribute to multiple goals simultaneously. This alignment enables the United Nations to prioritize actions that unlock co-benefits across transitions, ensuring a systems-level impact.

The integration of the Cooperation Framework pillars with the Six Transitions framework provides a coherent and future-ready platform for development action—one that anticipates risks, leverages synergies, and ensures that no one is left behind.

How 6Ts contribute to SDGs *(number of sub-outputs by SDGs)*

Transitions	Sub-Outputs		Budget		Contribution to
	Number	%	Number	%	SDGs**
1. Climate, Biodiversity and Pollution	14	21%	8,347,020	17%	
2. Energy transition	2	3%	3,809,010	8%	
3. Food Systems	2	3%	2,016,352	4%	
4. Education	9	14%	9,480,263	20%	
5. jobs and social protection	16	24%	5,092,093	11%	
6. Digital connectivity	3	5%	1,933,000	4%	

2.7 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

2.7.1 Financial Overview

2024 Available Resources and Expenditure by SDG (USD)

SDG	Available Resources	Expenditure
SDG 1: No Poverty	213,000	172,500
SDG 2: Zero Hunger	201,031	10,000
SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being	643,144	643,144
SDG 4: Quality Education	204,018	56,518
SDG 5: Gender Equality	833,637	424,244
SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation	241,500	205,000
SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy	10,189	10,189
SDG 8: Decent Jobs and Economic Growth	733,844	517,534
SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	162,500	162,500
SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities	243,834	208,217
SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities	505,000	382,000
SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production	92,833	68,833
SDG 13: Climate Action	292,833	255,000
SDG 14: Life Below Water	11,964	-
SDG 15: Life on Land	36,964	-
SDG 16: Peace and Justice - Strong Institutions	258,375	207,903
SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals	298,713	289,763
Total	4,983,377	3,613,344

2024 Available Resources and Expenditure by Agency (USD)

UN Agency	Available Resources	Total Expenditure 2024
FAO	394,025	-
ILO	27,500	-
IOM	435,469	435,469
ITU	257,950	257,950
OHCHR	-	-
UN ESCWA	-	-
UN Women	497,155	132,546
UN-HABITAT	786,000	605,000
UNDP	68,416	50,517
UNDRR	41,500	-
UNEP	567,666	567,666
UNESCO	125,629	48,129
UNFPA	70,000	70,000
UNHCR	3,000	-
UNICEF	217,500	-
UNIDO	650,000	650,000
UNOCT		-
UNODC	20,000	2,000
UNV	75,000	75,000
WHO	686,567	659,067
WMO	60,000	60,000
Grand Total	4,983,377	3,613,344

2024 Expenditure by Sources of Funding (USD)

Sources of Funding	Expenditure
Government of Bahrain	1,388,331
Core Funding	1,205,642
Bahrain private sector	200,000
The Green Climate Fund	300,000
Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol	260,000
Government of the United Kingdom	257,371
Government of United Arab Emirates	2,000
Total	3,613,344



Photo credit: Shutterstock

2.7.2. Resource Mobilization and Quality of Funding

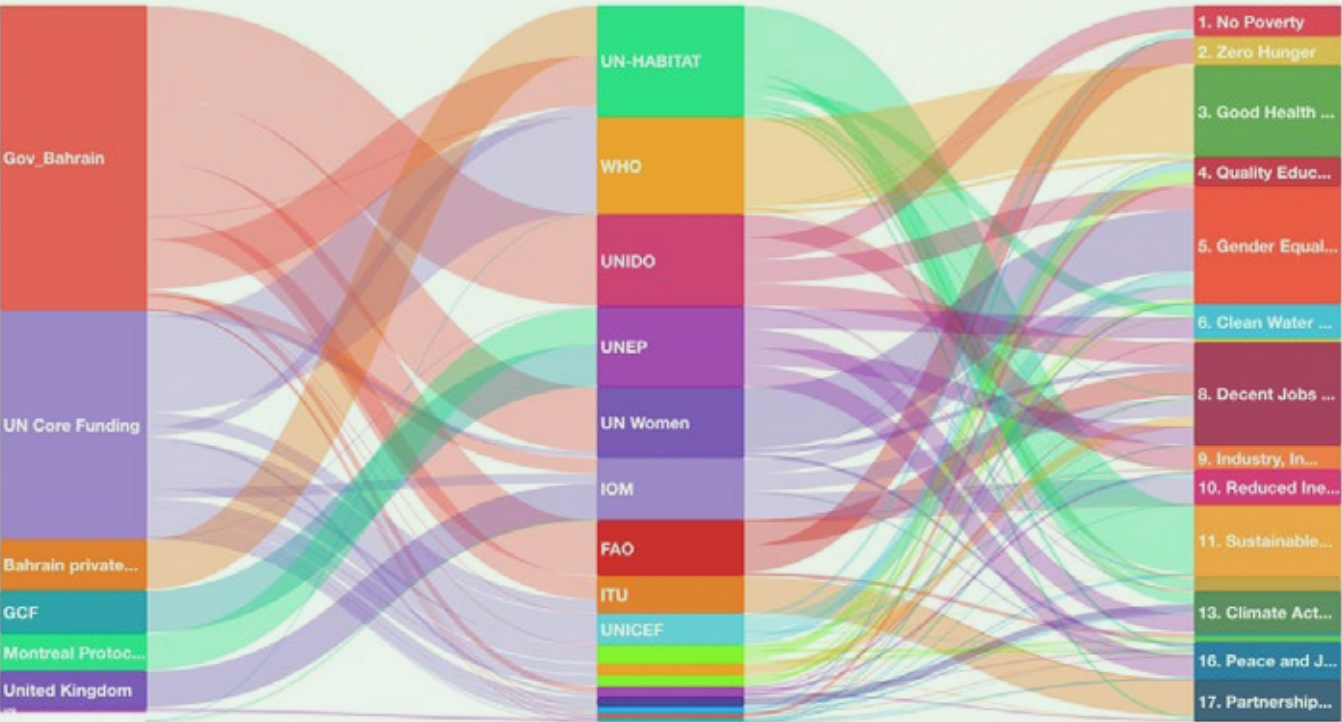


Figure UN Funding contributions to agencies and partners for advancing the Sustainable development goals (SDGs)

2024 Expenditure Amounts by Agency and Outcome (USD)

UN Agency	Outcome 1	Outcome 2	Outcome 3	Outcome 4	Total
FAO	-	-	-	-	-
ILO	-	-	-	-	-
IOM	-	84,354	297,115	54,000	435,469
ITU	-	-	257,950	-	257,950
OHCHR	-	-	-	-	-
UN ESCWA	-	-	-	-	-
UN Women	-	390	11,513	120,643	132,546
UNDP	-	24,661	-	25,856	50,517
UNDRR	-	-	-	-	-
UNEP	300,000	7,666	-	260,000	567,666
UNESCO	-	20,000	28,129	-	48,129
UNFPA	-	55,000	-	15,000	70,000
UN-HABITAT	220,000	280,000	40,000	65,000	605,000
UNHCR	-	-	-	-	-
UNICEF	-	-	-	-	-
UNIDO	-	-	650,000	-	650,000
UNOCT	-	-	-	-	-
UNODC	-	-	2,000	-	2,000
UNV	-	-	60,000	15,000	75,000
WHO	50,000	609,067	-	-	659,067
WMO	60,000	-	-	-	60,000
Total	630,000	1,081,138	1,346,707	555,499	3,613,344

2024 Available Amounts by Agency and Outcome (USD)

UN Agency	Outcome 1	Outcome 2	Outcome 3	Outcome 4	Total
FAO	394,025	-	-	-	394,025
ILO	-	27,500	-	-	27,500
IOM	-	84,354	297,115	54,000	435,469
ITU	-	-	257,950	-	257,950
OHCHR	-	-	-	-	-
UN ESCWA	-	-	-	-	-
UN Women	-	53,000	76,000	368,155	497,155
UNDP	-	24,661	-	43,755	68,416
UNDRR	41,500	-	-	-	41,500
UNEP	300,000	7,666	-	260,000	567,666
UNESCO	50,000	27,500	28,129	20,000	125,629
UNFPA	-	55,000	-	15,000	70,000
UN-HABITAT	316,000	360,000	40,000	70,000	786,000
UNHCR	-	3,000	-	-	3,000
UNICEF	-	182,500	25,000	10,000	217,500
UNIDO	-	-	650,000	-	650,000
UNOCT	-	-	-	-	-
UNODC	-	-	10,000	10,000	20,000
UNV	-	-	60,000	15,000	75,000
WHO	50,000	636,567	-	-	686,567
WMO	60,000	-	-	-	60,000
Total	1,211,525	1,461,748	1,444,194	865,910	4,983,377

CHAPTER 03

INTO THE FUTURE: UNITED NATIONS IN BAHRAIN FOCUS FOR NEXT YEAR



Photo credit: UNIC Manama

In the last days of 2024, the Kingdom of Bahrain and the United Nations in Bahrain launched a new Strategic and Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for 2025-2029. It was developed through an inclusive process with government partners, civil society groups, the private sector, and others.

The new framework guides the partnership of Bahrain and the United Nations through the end of the decade. It is aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals and with Bahrain's national development goals. The Framework identifies four strategic priorities, each with its own core outcome, as follows:

1. **People — Enhanced Social Equity and Well-Being:**
Universal access to quality services and resilient public spaces.
2. **Prosperity — Sustainable Economic Transformation:**
A diversified and inclusive economy bolstered by sustainable practices.
3. **Peace — Governance for Justice and Human Rights:**
Governance structures that guarantee justice and human rights.
4. **Planet — Resilient Environmental Stewardship:**
Robust environmental stewardship, driving sustainable

and inclusive development in harmony with global goals and national visions.

The four priorities and core outcomes reflect a shift from the previous Cooperation Framework. The framework has changed partly because Bahrain has made substantial progress in the areas of the last framework. It has changed also because Bahrain and the world have changed, and our work must adapt and innovate so that it has maximum impact. With the rapid development of Artificial Intelligence, we will continue to cooperate with partners maximize its opportunities and minimize its risks to sustainable development.

What has not changed is the United Nations' bedrock commitment to supporting Bahrain on its journey of sustainable and inclusive development. In 2025 and beyond, the United Nations will support partnerships across all four strategic areas and all sectors of society. We will act together to ensure that our work is coherent and inclusive. We will focus on our values and strategic vision, even as we adapt to changing conditions and new opportunities. We will continue to engage young people in all our work, for the youth of today are the builders and leaders of tomorrow.

Together, Bahrain and the United Nations will deliver results and help ensure a more sustainable future where no one is left behind.



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