

**National Report**  
**of the**  
**Kingdom of Bahrain**  
**on**  
**Progress Made in the Implementation of**  
**Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action +20**  
**2014**

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## **Introduction**

The Kingdom of Bahrain has continued its efforts on solid foundations rooted in the Kingdom's National Action Charter, the Constitution, and applicable legislations, adhering to practical mechanisms based on creating alliances and partnerships to implement the National Strategy for the Advancement of Bahraini Women in accordance with scientific methodology to measure effects and progress made in the employment of women and the integration of their needs in development, in order to ensure equality and equal opportunity and achieve an equal partnership to build a sustainable competitive society.

This Report was prepared using a collaborative approach, incorporating all relevant national efforts through the review, update and provision of all data and information commensurate with the required methodology and mechanism, in order to reflect the true image which demonstrates the progress achieved in the status of women in the critical areas of concern, at all public and private sector levels, and to measure their compatibility and compliance in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, since the submission of the third report in 2009.

## **Part One: Overview of the Achievements and Challenges Encountered since 1995 in Promoting Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women**

### **I: Main Achievements since 1995**

The Kingdom of Bahrain has entered a new era with the launch of the reform project of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, King of Bahrain in 1999, and the declaration of the National Action Charter in February of 2001. The Committee charged with the drafting of the Charter included six women. The achievements of Bahraini women continued in the participation of the building and modernization of the nation at all levels, mainly:

#### **1. Creation of National Mechanisms to Guarantee and Support the Rights of Women:**

- Issue of Royal Order No. 44 of 2001 establishing the Supreme Council for Women, reporting directly to His Majesty King of Bahrain, and serving as the authority for all government departments on women affairs.
- Establishment of the National Institution for Human Rights (NIHR) in 2009 by Royal Order No. (46) to foster, develop and protect human rights, consolidate their values, promote awareness thereof, and contribute to assuring their exercise.
- Issue of Royal Order No. (66) of 2012 to organize the Ministry of Human Rights Affairs as an entity concerned with human rights in the Kingdom of Bahrain in collaboration with the National Institution for Human Rights.

#### **2. National Strategy for the Advancement of Women:**

- In 2005, His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, King of Bahrain ratified the National Strategy for the Advancement of Bahraini Women, in a historical precedent, to become the first strategy concerned with women affairs ratified by a head of state in the Arab World.
- The Supreme Council for Women inaugurated its activities with a clear vision and an ambitious national plan to implement the National Strategy for the Advancement of Bahraini Women for the period (2007-2012), developed with the active participation of all constituents of society and constitutional institutions.
- In 2012, the Supreme Council for Women evaluated the results of the National Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women based on exact scientific methodology, to launch its second phase with a more developed vision and an ambitious plan incorporating mechanisms that are more appropriate for the development of the Bahraini society in general, and the development of the status of women in particular. Subsequently, in 2013, the Council launched the National Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women (2013-2022) incorporating five effects aimed at achieving family stability for women within the framework of family ties, and providing women with the capability to competitively contribute in development, based on equal opportunity and the integration of the needs of women in development. Thus, opportunities for excellence in performance and the ability to make better choices for a better life and life time learning, through integration with partners and allies in institutional action, making the Supreme Council for Women the national house of experience concerned with women affairs.

#### **3. National Model for the Integration of Women's Needs in Development:**

- The First national Conference for Bahraini Women was held in 2010 under the title of Integrating the Needs of Women in Comprehensive Development Programs.. The Role of National Efforts “Equal Opportunities.. Justice and Progress for All”. The Conference resulted in the declaration of the National Model for Integrating the Needs of Bahraini Women in Development.
- Formation of the National Committee charged with the implementation of this Model, chaired by HRH Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, President of the Supreme Council for Women.

- Establishment of Equal Opportunity Units in various ministries, government institutions and private sector entities, and the joint action with the Ministry of Finance to prepare budgets that are responsive to the needs of women. These Units have proven their viability in practice, and yielded the issue of a Civil Service Bureau Resolution dated 19<sup>th</sup> September 2013, directing ministries to form permanent equal opportunity committees, which is considered a significant step on the path to achieving equal opportunity in these institutions, and the promotion of the culture of integration as well as increasing awareness of the principles of equal opportunity.
- In 2013, the Second National Conference for Bahraini Women was held under the title of “Integration of Women’s Needs in Development.. Review and Evaluation”. The objective of the Conference was to follow up the implementation of the national model for the integration of women’s needs in development, and to highlight the main achievements and challenges toward developing a future vision in light of domestic and international developments. An advanced concept of the national model for the integration of women’s needs in development was presented, responding to national aspirations for integration, and underscoring the distribution of implementation roles between the various segments of society, as well as ensuring the national responsibility in endeavoring to achieve the desired effect at the national level. It is intended to implement the model in partnership between the legislative and executive branches, the civil society and the private sector, under the supervision and follow up of the Supreme Council for Women, and relevant regional and international organizations. The national model is comprised of four main themes, namely policies, budgets, knowledge management and measurement of effect. Necessary procedures were developed and the proposed roles of each counterparty were defined in order to initiate the themes of the national model.

#### **4. International Conventions and Reports Relevant to Women:**

- In 2002, the Kingdom of Bahrain acceded to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), and undertook to implement the provisions of this Convention in terms of awareness programs, preparation of official periodic reports on the implementation of the provisions of the Convention, and follow up of CEDAW Committee’s recommendations. On 30<sup>th</sup> October 2008, the Kingdom of Bahrain presented its first, second and supplementary CEDAW reports to the CEDAW Committee. The Kingdom also promptly submitted its third official report on the implementation of the CEDAW Convention as scheduled in July 2011, and addressed it before the relevant Committee on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2014 in Geneva, where the report was widely commended by the Committee and parties concerned.
- As part of the Supreme Council for Women’s follow up of the implementation of the Kingdom’s international obligations before the United Nations Human Rights Council and the CEDAW Committee, the Cabinet issued a Resolution in January 2014 to take constitutional and legal action to refer to the Legislative Branch a draft law for reformulating reservations on some of the articles of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), without prejudice to Islamic Shari’ah principles, and preserving the sovereignty of the State.
- The Kingdom of Bahrain submits international reports related to the status of women, including the Kingdom’s periodic reports related to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Millennium Development Goals, the Human Development Report, and the Beijing Platform for Action. These reports contain an overview of achievements and challenges in the field of promoting gender equality and empowerment of women. These achievements include:
  - The Human Development Report of 2013 which ranks Bahrain 48<sup>th</sup> place out of 187 countries, which is a relatively high ranking as compared to many other countries. Bahrain is considered to be very high ranking in human development.
  - The Human Development Achievements of the Kingdom of Bahrain Report “A Ten-Year Review” issued by the United Nations Resident Coordinator’s Office in February 2010 stated that “the Human Development Index (HDI) and the Gender Development Index (GDI) values in Bahrain were equal in 2009 (0.895), which means that in terms of human development, there is no gender discrimination in Bahrain”.

- The Middle East North Africa-Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (MENA-OECD) Report of 2013 prepared in collaboration with the Center for Arab Women Training and Research (CAWTAR) on Gender Equality in terms of Law and Public Policy, in the Middle East and North African Region, ranks Bahrain in the 1<sup>st</sup> place in terms of women in middle management positions in the public sector, with a 59% as compared to other countries included in the Report. Bahrain came in 2<sup>nd</sup> after Tunisia in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Region in terms of women in leadership positions in the public sector, with 37%, exceeding the MENA average of 29.1%.

**5. Launching Awards and Initiatives to Support and Empower Bahraini Women:**

- The Supreme Council for Women introduced in 2006 Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa Award for Bahraini Women Empowerment. The Award is granted biennially to ministries and public and private sector institutions which make distinctive efforts in the fields of support and empowerment of working Bahraini women.
- Starting in 2008, the 1<sup>st</sup> of December was declared Bahraini Women’s Day. This is a national initiative intended to highlight Bahraini women’s accomplishments, assess challenges and determine the most significant measures which can contribute to the enhancement and support of women’s participation in all fields.
- In 2010, Late Sheikha Hessa bint Salman Al Khalifa Award for Volunteer Youth Work was launched. The Award is intended to support volunteer activity and encourage young people to achieve creativity and excellence in community service.
- In 2010, Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa Award for Bahraini Women Empowerment in Professional and Political Associations. The Award is granted every four years to the best professional association and to the best political association.
- In 2011, the Bahrain Female Entrepreneur Honor Seal was launched. It is awarded to young Bahraini pioneer businesswomen contributing to the development of the national economy, combining between her pioneering entrepreneurship in the management of a private sector business entity and outstanding fulfillment of her social responsibility.

**6. Undertakings of the Kingdom of Bahrain as Pledged in National Reports (Beijing +5, Beijing +10 and Beijing +15) and the Implementation of the Twelve Critical Areas of Concern of the Beijing Platform for Action:**

Following are the most significant efforts of the Kingdom of Bahrain undertaken since 1995 to empower women:

- **Women and Poverty:**
  - The approved government policies in Bahrain aim at providing basic services free of charge to everyone, and in particular education, healthcare, housing and other services, all of which are of good quality.
  - Household allowances are provided in the Kingdom of Bahrain through various departments and are governed by various legislations. They include unemployment benefits, social salary allowances, standard of living allowance, social security, orphans and widows sponsorships through the Royal Charity Foundation, housing allowances and disability benefits.
  - Public efforts are expended to improve the economic status of women by providing loans, facilities, training and rehabilitation, in addition to the issue of supporting legislations and resolutions and the launch of the national plan to uplift needy families in 2005.
  - Efforts are not limited to the provision of support, but extend to the development of Bahraini people and uplift the Bahraini citizen socially through projects, programs and services such as comprehensive social centers dedicated to the disabled and the elderly, as well as developmental services including training and rehabilitation.

○ **Women and Education:**

- Bahrain is one of the first countries in the region to introduce education. Formal education of females started in 1928. Women achieved great success at all educational levels. The Kingdom is currently endeavoring to develop the quality of education and to expand its fields to include advanced programs which cater to the emerging and increasing education and training needs. Bahraini women have the highest participation ratio in all educational levels, including university education, as a result of the supportive legislative environment, programs and projects which were implemented in the educational field, including His Majesty's Project for the Schools of the Future, the international scholarships program, as well as other programs and measures which helped the Kingdom achieve advance positions in the education field. Statistics show that the ratio of female students in higher education institutions in the Kingdom reached 61% in academic year 2011-2012. Moreover, the ratio of female higher education graduates in universities and government institutions was 58% in academic year 2010-2011.
- Elementary and intermediate education is mandatory in Bahrain. A special department was established in 2006 for the follow up of compliance with mandatory education of children in the 6-15 years age group, and the follow up of school dropouts in the same age group, to return them to the school system.
- Education is free for all Bahraini and non-Bahraini students (of both genders) in public schools for the three education levels (elementary, intermediate and secondary) for the 6-18 years age groups. Required school books are provided at the beginning of every academic year free of charge. There are special education institutes for persons with special needs of both genders, equipped with all requisite services. The Kingdom of Bahrain has also expended many numerous efforts to improve and enhance services provided to persons with disabilities, by integrating students with disabilities in learning programs in public schools. The Kingdom of Bahrain has also given great emphasis to technical, vocational and industrial education of women in Bahrain. The technical and vocational education development project (apprenticeship) was inaugurated in 2007. Opportunity was given to female students to join the business and commerce discipline of the technical and vocational education program. Girls were also enrolled in post-secondary school education programs (High National Certificate "HNC", and the High National Diploma "HND").
- Bahrain has 13 public, private and regional universities, the largest of which is a public university. In addition, the Bahrain Teachers' College was established in 2008 with an academic faculty of 52 specialists, 71% of whom are PhD degree holders. In the same year, the government established Bahrain Polytechnic, to support the economic development and provide Bahraini manpower suitable for the labor market, with practical, vocational and technical experience.
- The establishment of the continuing education and lifelong learning system to replace the previous literacy system. The Government also approved the implementation of Resolution 122/54 issued in Geneva in 2000 concerning the World Literacy and Adult Education Decade (2003-2012), in compliance with UNESCO's proposal on the World Literacy and Adult Education Decade. Efforts were not limited to alphabet literacy, but extended also to computer literacy.

In order to facilitate the implementation of these programs, the Kingdom took a number of supporting actions, including:

- The opening of kindergartens for the children of mothers enrolled in the continuing education centers.
- The provision of transportation for learners and teachers, particularly women.
- The introduction of psychiatric and vocational guidance in academic year 2006/2007.
- The experimental implementation of the accelerated literary pilot project in the form of intensive training courses.

- The school performance improvement program was introduced in 2008 in 10 schools (including 5 schools for boys and 5 schools for girls), geographically distributed in all five governorates. The program includes a number of projects which empower and develop academic and educational leadership, and provides teachers with state of the art educational practices through teaching academies. Performance indicators were provided to bridge the gap between the genders and ensure gender equality and equal opportunity.
- **Women and Health:**
  - The Kingdom of Bahrain gave great importance to the human factor and placed it at the top of its priorities, providing the best health services and improving the standard of living of Bahraini citizens free of charge. The Kingdom implements global plans and strategies aimed at providing the highest levels of healthcare to improve the health of both genders. Women also receive special healthcare services including maternity care, pregnancy pre-natal care, post-natal care, periodic medical examination for women, medical care for elderly women, and premarital medical examination. This has significantly contributed to the improvement of health indicators related to maternal and infant mortality and increased life expectancy in the Kingdom. It also achieved the Millennium Development Goals. Life expectancy in the Bahraini society rose significantly. In 2012, it reached 74.7 years for men and 76.1 years for women. The average life expectancy for both genders increased to 75.3 years as compared to 65.5 years in 1970. Thus Bahrain ranked high in the analysis of global indicators and now favorably compares to developed countries in terms of provision of health care services, quantitatively and qualitatively.
  - A number of strategies and plans were launched with a number of initiatives dedicated to women, including: Ministry of Health Strategy for 2011-2012, the National Plan for Prevention of Non-Communicable Diseases (including cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, cancer, and chronic respiratory diseases), the Healthcare Strategy for the Elderly in 2011, the National Strategy for the Youth (2010-2011) and the Mental Health Support Strategy.
- **Violence against Women:**
  - The Penal Code criminalizes all forms of violence. According to the law, any act committed by a husband against his wife within the family context resulting in harm, gives the victimized wife the right to resort to courts, file suit against the husband and request a penalty as provided in the Code. Moreover, the Family Law (Part I) reserves the rights of women in litigation in Islamic Shari'ah matters to protect herself and her children. The Law has since its issuance, given significant protection to women. The legislature has also approved – in principle – a draft law to protect the family from violence. The draft law include, among other things, a definition of violence, its forms and its description.
  - The Kingdom of Bahrain has many family guidance and care centers providing many services for the treatment of women victims of violence, including the Women's Support Center at the Supreme Council for Women, the family guidance offices at social welfare centers, Dar Al-Aman of the Ministry of Social Development, the social services section at the Health Centers Directorate, the Family Support Center at the Bahrain Women Union, Aisha Yateem's Family Guidance Center. Awal Legal Assistance Center at Awal Women Society, Batelco Care Center for Family Violence Cases, which is a private sector institution, and the Migrant Workers Protection Society's shelter.
  - A child protection center was inaugurated as a government central department providing health, psychiatric, legal and family services to children victims of violence, physical or psychological assault, and family neglect. The Center also provides evaluation, investigation, therapy and follow up of children who are victims of physical assault and neglect.
- **Women in Power and Decision Making:**
  - The Bahraini woman has filled leadership positions since the 1970's. Appointment of women to such positions accelerated since the start of the reform era. Today, there are four women ministers, namely Minister of Social Development, Minister of Culture, Minister of Information Affairs, and Secretary General of the Supreme Council for Women. Bahraini women were

appointed ambassadors for the first time in 1999 to countries such as the United States, the United Kingdom and China. Women also occupied regional and international positions. A Bahraini woman was appointed President of the United Nations General Assembly in its 61<sup>st</sup> Session in 2006. Bahraini women also occupy key positions in the United Nations and the Arab League.

- Bahraini women have proven their competence in all leadership positions they occupy, and have recorded a new achievement with a number of women appointed as judges in 2006, including appointments in the Constitutional Court.
  - Support of the participation of women in decision making is one of the priorities in Bahrain given its significance in consolidating the status of Bahraini women. Methods and work programs were adopted to contribute to the achievement of this objective. In 2002, the Supreme Council of Women launched a series of initiatives, projects and training and rehabilitation programs aimed at the empowerment of women in decision making, and in particular in political empowerment, in order to build and develop the capabilities of women to occupy leadership positions, in collaboration with regional and international entities specialized in this field.
  - In the Shura (Consultative) Council, four women were appointed as members of the Council for the first time in the year 2000. The number of women Shura Council members reached 11 in 2013, a percentage of 28% of total Shura Council members. One of the women Shura Council members is the Second Deputy President. A Woman was elected to the Parliament for the first time in 2006. Women also ran for parliamentary elections in 2011, and they currently occupy 4 parliament seats, which is 10% of total members. Bahraini women also play a significant role in most of the permanent committees of the Representatives and Shura Councils.
  - A woman was elected as member of one of the municipal councils.
- **Women and the Economy:**
- In 2002, Bahrain's Constitution assured women's citizenship rights without discrimination with equal opportunity in employment similar to men. Laws observe women's rights subject to agreements, treaties and charters to which the Kingdom has acceded, taking into consideration the particular characteristics of the Bahraini society. The Kingdom had witnessed over the past decades positive developments in terms of the role of women in the economy. Women's participation in the labor market is expected to increase over the coming years at an accelerated rate. This development is attributed to the higher percentage of education of women. The number of women holding university degrees at present exceeds the number of men with university degrees.
  - Women entered the field of business entrepreneurship since the 1960s. Data shows increasing numbers of women in the private sector. Statistics indicate a higher participation of Bahraini women in the labor force over the period 1991-2010 from 19.4% to 33.5%. Bahraini women now occupy leadership positions in private sector companies as chief executive officers and members of the boards of directors. Four women won elections to the Board of Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry in 2014. Bahraini women held 29% of commercial registrations in Bahrain in 2012.
  - Governmental and non-governmental national organizations concerned with the empowerment of women in the Kingdom of Bahrain have launched a series of initiatives, projects and training and rehabilitation programs aimed at the empowerment of women and providing women with the required skills and technical capabilities to become capable of establishing and managing small enterprises or to enter into the field of business entrepreneurship. Those organizations are also working in partnership and alliance with the Supreme Council for Women to complement the economic and business activity by establishing projects which provide consulting services and support facilities to ensure the sustainability of women economic empowerment programs. It should be mentioned that the Bahraini entrepreneurship model is one of the most successful international models as attested by regional and international organizations. The Bahraini experience is currently being implemented regionally. Moreover, a number of legislations and plans were amended and introduced to serve the interest of working women and ensure more rights for women. This mainly includes: issuance of the Civil Service Law, the Labor Law in the

Private Sector, the Public Security Forces Law, the Commercial Registration Law, and the Commercial Companies Law.

- In 2010, the Bahraini Women's Competence Development Center (Riyadat) was inaugurated. The Center provides integrated business incubators with complete management, investment, training, technical and technological services needed for women to enter into the business entrepreneurship field. The Center was officially opened in 2013. In the same year, HRH Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa Financial Portfolio for Women Empowerment Programmes was inaugurated to provide support and financing for Bahraini women business activities. It is one of the initiatives which provide soft loans and financing services to women entrepreneurs. It is managed by Ebdaa Bank for Microfinance, with support from Tamkeen "Labor Fund", and under the supervision and follow up of the Supreme Council for Women.

#### **7. Other Achievements in Promoting Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women:**

- A number of studies, researches and reports were prepared aimed at the assessment of the conditions of Bahraini women in all fields, commensurate with developmental requirements, including for example: study of the effect of the Free Trade Agreement which was acceded to in 2005 on the status of Bahraini women; study on Bahraini women in 2006 elections – opportunities and challenges; study of the effect of implementation of the Family Law "Part I" in Shari'ah Courts in 2012; as well as publications including Litigation Procedures in Shari'ah Courts. In addition, programs to promote awareness, training and knowledge of international agreements and domestic laws directly related to women affairs.
- The Bahrain Women Union was launched in 2006. It represents member women associations and societies.
- In 2008, the Economic Development Board published a long term economic vision of the Kingdom of Bahrain, "Bahrain 2030". It revolves around the country and citizens. The National Economic Strategy of the Kingdom of Bahrain for the period 2009-2014 was developed with three strategic themes: Governmental strategy, social strategy and economic strategy. This strategy ensures that the Kingdom will endeavor to enhance the participation of women in government, the private sector and civil society, and will strengthen its role economically and socially, and in particular in leadership positions.

#### **II: Main Challenges Encountered by the Kingdom of Bahrain since 1995 in Promoting Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women**

In spite of the achievements made in the promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women, there are challenges, namely:

- The challenges encountered in the integration of the needs of Bahraini women in the Government's agenda. This will require further cooperation and coordination between relevant sectors in ministries, governmental bodies, private sector institutions and civil society organizations, as well as follow up of the implementation of the National Model for mainstreaming Women's Needs in Development, gender statistics approach in organizations structures of ministries and public sector organizations, and assessment of budgets and planning through follow up of implementation of budgets that are responsive to women's needs.
- Response of public and private sector organizations varied in the inclusion and implementation of the National Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women as part of their agendas.
- Numerous sources of data and information by gender between government and private sector organizations, which makes it difficult to accurately assess and analyze problems encountered by Bahraini women and develop suitable solutions. This confirms the necessity for electronic interfacing and the creation of a unified database adopting a gender approach to survey the social and economic reality of Bahraini women.
- Significant health challenges continue to be encountered affecting the health of women in Bahrain, including non-communicable diseases, namely diabetes, hypertension, cancer, and iron deficiency anemia. The Ministry of Health has taken a number of measures and implemented a number of procedures to deal with these challenges whether at the level of clinics, medication or educational programs. The Ministry of Health continues to work on improving the level of health services provided to women, quantitatively and

qualitatively, and to promote health awareness programs in lines with health development plans, as well as adopting behaviors which improve the health of women, increase awareness of the importance of periodic medical examinations for women, and expand hereditary diseases combatting programs intended for both genders in general, and for women in particular.

- In spite of the Kingdom of Bahrain's efforts in the field of violence against women, including the establishment of shelters and provision of required services at shelters, as well as the implementation of an intensive prevention strategy and the continuation of the treatment and support strategy, this requires an intensification of awareness programs, and focusing on training on positive social behaviors for both genders, including family harmony behaviors, self management skills as well as skills for the management of others, starting at the level of basic education, in coordination and partnership with other relevant entities within a national social network to combat violence. Support priorities in this field include expediting the issue of a law for family protection against violence.
- Maintaining the level of dissemination of education, quantitatively and qualitatively, within the context of the increasing population growth and commensurate with the rapid technological advancements.
- The absence of the Family Law (Part II). Efforts are being expended to prepare society to embrace this part through promoting awareness of the importance of its issue. We point out here that there is a legislative proposal made by a number of members of the Council of Representatives to issue the Family Law (Part II).

### **III: Constitutional Developments and Legislations Introduced in the Field of Promoting Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women**

A number of legislations were issued and amended to guarantee more rights for Bahraini women, including:

#### **At the Level of Laws:**

- Decree Law No. (24) of 2002 on ratification of the Arab Women Organization Agreement.
- Issuance of Law No. (11) of 2004 concerning Premarital Medical Examination of both genders, and the mandatory premarital medical examination, which contributed to the reduction of the incidence of hereditary blood diseases to 7%.
- Amendment of the Passports law: (rescinding the article which required the husband's consent to the issue of the wife's passport), thus permitting a married woman to apply for a passport without requiring her husband's permission - 2005.
- Amendment of Law No. (13) of 2005 concerning the amendment of certain provisions of the Rules of Evidence in civil and commercial matters, issued by Decree Law No. (14) of 1996 to facilitate the filing of evidence of a woman's financial contribution to family spending during the marriage.
- Amendment of the Code of Procedure in Shari'ah Courts by assigning urgency to family cases – 2005.
- Issue of Law No. (27) of 2005 concerning education, which defined the overall context of the objectives and mandatory requirement and free education in Bahrain.
- Issue of Law No. (3) of 2005 concerning higher education.
- Issue of Law No. (34) of 2005 on the alimony fund, and its amendment by Law No. (33) of 2009 to ensure that the children of a Bahraini women married to a foreigner benefit from the services which are provided by the alimony fund, if residing in Bahrain.
- Law No. (7) of 2006 ratifying the Arab Charter on Human Rights. Article (3) of the Charter stipulates that men and women are equal in human dignity, rights and obligations. Each member state accordingly undertakes to take all necessary action to ensure equal opportunity and effective gender equality in all rights under this Charter.

- Draft Amendment of Law No. (18) of 2006 on Social Security to ensure equal treatment of the children of Bahraini women married to a foreigner with the Bahrainis in terms of social assistance.
- Law No. (56) of 2006 to approve the accession of the Kingdom of Bahrain to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.
- Law No. (57) of 2006 on the establishment of the Labor Fund, which stipulates that the Fund shall provide the right environment to enhance the mainstreaming of women in the labor market and to remove obstacles which limit the participation of women in the labor force.
- Law No. (10) of 2007 to approve the accession of the Kingdom of Bahrain to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.
- Issue of Law No. (1) of 2008 on combating the trafficking in persons.
- Law No. (6) of 2008 to amend certain provisions of Legislative Decree No. (19) of 1976 concerning medals, and the award of medals as provided under this Law for any person who clearly and effectively contributes to the support of women and to the consolidation of the principles of human rights as well as to the Kingdom's accession to relevant international organizations and bodies.
- Law No. (3) of 2009 to amend Article (25) of the Law regulating the pensions and retirement benefits of officers and personnel of Bahrain Defense Force and Public Security issued by Decree Law No. (11) of 1976, if the widow remarries or dies, her share is transferred to the sons and daughters of the deceased who are eligible beneficiaries of the pension, to be divided equally among them. If there is none of them, the pension shall be transferred to the Pension Fund. If the widow's share of the pension is transferred to the sons and daughters of the deceased or to the Pension Fund as a result of her marriage, and subsequently she is widowed or divorced from her last husband, she is eligible to recover her share of the pension in accordance with the provisions of this Law, unless she earns a pension from her last husband subsequent to his death, equal to her share in the pension, otherwise she recovers the difference.
- Law No. (19) of 2009 to issue the Family Law (Part I) which regulates family relations in matters of marriage, Shari'ah effects, divorce and custody affairs.
- Issuance of Law No. (35) of 2009 on the equal treatment of the non-Bahraini wife of the Bahraini citizen and the children of the Bahraini woman married to a non-Bahraini to Bahraini citizen in terms of certain fees and levies for governmental health and education services and residence permit fees.
- Royal Order No. (46) of 2009 on the establishment of the National Institute of Human Rights, which provides for the proper representation of women in the Institute.
- In 2010, Law No. 15 of 2010 was issued to approve the amendment of Paragraph (1) of Article (20) of the Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), in accordance with United Nations General Assembly Resolution in its Open Session No. (99) held on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 1995, approving the amendment of Paragraph (1) of Article (20) of the CEDAW.
- Issuance of Law No. (19) of 2010 to amend Article (80) of the Social Insurance Law issued by Decree Law No. (24) of 1976 which provides that the sons and daughters of the son and the sons and daughters of the daughter, if their father or mother is deceased, or if any one of them dies after the accrual of the pension, the share of their father or mother shall be transferred to them provided that the sons and daughters of the deceased daughter are dependents of the insured person.
- Decree Law No. (50) of 2010 to amend certain provisions of the Law of associations, social and cultural clubs and organizations active in the fields of youth and sports, and private organizations, issued by Decree Law No. (21) of 1989, which stipulates that women can participate in the sports field in general and in the Olympic field in particular.
- Law No. (22) of 2011 to ratify the Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

- Law No. (28) of 2012 to amend certain provisions of the Public Security Forces Law issued by Decree Law No. (3) of 1982, which stipulates that the woman member of Public Security Forces shall be treated equally as a woman civil servant in terms of maternity leave, and shall be granted leave with full pay plus allowances as from the date of child delivery. A Moslem women member of the Public Security Forces shall be given a bereavement leave with full pay and allowances in the event of death of her husband.
- Law No. (36) of 2012 to issue the Labor Law in the Public Sector concerning the application of all provisions of the law to male and female workers without discrimination under similar work conditions.
- Child Act No. (37) of 2012 which stipulates in its Article (32) that the Government shall provide support to the families of disabled children in order to enable them to provide required care for those children, in all aspects as provided in the foregoing Article, as well as every child of a Bahraini woman married to a non-Bahraini.
- Law No. (4) of 2013 to amend certain provisions of Decree Law No. (55) of 2002 on the Charter of the Shura Council, which provided for the formation of the Woman and Child Affairs Committee charged with the study of suitability of applicable legislations related to women and children to the ratified agreements, as well as to review all draft laws and proposed bills and all matters related to women and children as may be referred to it.
- Law No. (18) of 2013 to amend Article (9) of Law No. (18) of 2006 on Social Insurance to increase the amount of social assistance granted to beneficiaries from the provisions of the Law, including female family members, divorced women, widowed women, abandoned women and unmarried women.
- Decree No. (47) of 2013 to establish the High Commission for Media and Communication, the mandate of which includes ensuring compliance of medial and communications organizations with international agreements and charters related to the consolidation of the role of women in society and the protection of the rights of the child.
- Royal Order No. (12) of 2014 to amend Article (2) of Royal Order No. (14) of 2011 to establish and organize the National Committee for Following Up on the National Model for the Integration of Women's Needs in Development in the Government's agenda, with the addition of relevant ministries in budgets, the manpower in the public and private sectors, and the economy.

– **At the Level of Ministerial Resolutions, Regulations and Circulars:**

- In 2002, a Ministerial Order was issued to form a joint coordination and cooperation committee between the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health to develop a strategy for a national school health program in the Kingdom of Bahrain. In 2004, an organization structure was approved for the national school health program, including school health nursing services, psychiatric health services as well the commencement of implementation of the school health nursing services program and the inauguration of the schools health program.
- Resolution No. (12) of 2004 on the right of the Bahraini woman to benefit from housing services whereby the divorced and widowed woman is entitled to apply for housing services.
- Issuance of rules in 2007 to regulate the activities of marriage solemnization officers, to ensure that the marriage contract is made in circumstances and under conditions as stipulated in the Law, which specifies that legal minimum marriage age for women to be 15 years old, and the legal minimum marriage age for men to be 18 years old.
- Resolution No. (28) of 2006 on Social Security adding the category of widowed women, divorced women, abandoned women and unmarried women to the categories of beneficiaries.
- Resolution No. (56) of 2008 which stipulates that the hiring of each Bahraini women shall be calculated as hiring of two female employees, in order to encourage the employment of Bahraini women in the labor market.

- Issuance of Ministry of Finance Circular on budget funds and the rules and regulations for the implementation of the State's Budget for Fiscal Years 2011-2012, containing a special provision on the application of the principle of equal opportunity and the budget responsive to the needs of women.
- Resolution to treat female diplomats equally as male diplomats in terms of benefits and allowances.
- Amendment of the marriage contract document to allow both parties to include special conditions to govern issues related to their marriage in the marriage contract, and in particular the conditions which the woman can specify such as housing, study, employment of the wife, and sharing of finances in the marital life.
- Resolution No.(16) of 2013 to determine the conditions, activities and occasions where employment of women at night is not allowed.
- Resolution of the Minister of Labor No. (32) of 2013 of the specification of activities where employment of women is prohibited.
- Cabinet Resolution No. (77) of 2013 to adopt the salary and benefits scale and conditions for accrual to personnel subject to the Civil Service Law, in respect of the amendment of the social allowance policy to be granted in the second grade to married female employees similar to married male employees, to ensure gender equality in allowances at the time of marriage.
- Cabinet Resolution in its session held on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2014 to redraft and remove Bahrain's reservations subject to compliance with Islamic Shari'ah, on certain provisions of the CEDAW, as referred to in Decree Law No. 5 of 2002, and the Cabinet's Resolution to take constitutional and legal action to submit a draft law in this respect to the Legislative Branch.
- Cabinet approval dated 19<sup>th</sup> January 2014 of the Proposal made by members of the Council of Representatives to establish a sports center for women.
- Cabinet Resolution dated 11<sup>th</sup> January 2014 to approve a draft law to amend certain provisions of the Bahraini Citizenship Act of 1963, to allow granting Bahraini citizenship to the children of Bahraini women married to foreigners, subject to certain conditions and criteria, and to refer the draft law to the Legislative Branch in accordance with constitutional and legal procedures.

#### **IV: Budgets Responsive to the Needs of Women**

- Starting with the budget cycle of Fiscal Years 2011 and 2012, the Government of Bahrain introduced the concept of budgets responsive to the needs of women when preparing and implementing the State's budget. It continued to support this concept in subsequent budget cycles.
- The first phase of implementing the concept of preparation of budgets responsive to the needs of women started with the design and development of budget preparation forms suitable for the survey and assessment of budgets which are responsive to the needs of women, through circulars issued by the Ministry of Finance to prepare budget estimates at the beginning of each budget cycle, in addition to budget implementation performance reports which summarize the levels of actual performance as compared to approved budgets and objectives for each fiscal year. Those circulars also emphasize that ministries and government departments are required to prepare their budgets subject to the following instructions:
  - The allocated amount of the total budget aimed at programs related to women.
  - Equal opportunity in employment at the ministry or government department (for example, the number of women and men at the various job levels).
  - Budget allocations for the requirements and priorities of women in various services.
  - Allocations for support services required for the priorities of activities related to women (for example the promotion of establishment of child care centers in ministries and government departments).

- Equal opportunity in various benefits provided by ministries and government departments, such as spending on support, training, or economic empowerment.
- As part of the implementation of this concept, the Ministry of Finance took the following steps in coordination with the Supreme Council for Women:
  - Preparation of a circular on the performance of the implementation of the budget for Fiscal Year 2013, which was issued on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2014 and contained equal opportunity schedules. The Ministry of Finance will collect those schedules and submit them to the Supreme Council for Women.
  - Providing the Supreme Council for Women with a draft of the instructions and forms to be included in the budget preparation circular for Fiscal Years 2015 and 2016.
  - Liaising with the work teams concerned at the Supreme Council for Women to coordinate the steps for development of concepts for budgets responsive to the needs of women.

#### **V: Mechanisms for Dialogue between the Government and Civil Society**

The above mentioned mechanisms are reflected in action taken by the Supreme Council for Women, as follows:

- The SCW and the Bahraini Women Union signed a Memorandum of Understanding which provides for the activation of the principles of partnership through cooperation and coordination between the two parties in the fields of development of Bahraini women and enabling women to participate in the development process, as well as to promote awareness of the importance of the active participation of women in public life.
- Creation of a liaison committee between the SCW, and women societies and committees, as well as the boards of women activities in civil society organizations aimed at consolidating cooperation in the implementation of joint programs and projects dedicated for women, and endeavoring to convey the needs of Bahraini women to government entities through the SCW to allow the SCW to carry out its role and work with those entities to solve problems and remove obstacles that are encountered.

#### **VI: Local, Regional and International Cooperation**

- The Kingdom of Bahrain entered into active partnerships at the international, regional and domestic levels, which supported its accession to international agreements and its signing of memoranda of understanding which contributed to its sustainable national economic development. International covenants after accession become a national law. At the international and regional levels, the United Nations Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2011) was ratified. The Supreme Council for Women also signed memoranda of understanding with AGFUND (2009), ESCWA, Dubai Women Establishment (2010), Women’s Affairs Committee in the State of Kuwait (2011) and UNIDO (2012).
- At the local level, a number of memoranda of understanding and cooperation agreements were signed with government and private sector institutions and civil society organizations to implement joint cooperation mechanisms and promote partnership with these entities throughout the stages of preparation and discussion of international reports, such that those reports reflect the Kingdom’s achievements and the challenges it encounters in all fields.

### **Part Two: Progress Made in the Implementation of Critical Areas of Concern of the Beijing Platform for Action (Achievements and Challenges)**

This Part starts with an overview of achievements, following by results achieved, and thirdly by major obstacles and challenges, in most of the decisive fields of interest in the Beijing Declaration, followed by an overview of the global economic and financial crisis and its impact on women.

#### **1. Women and Poverty**

##### **(I) Achievements:**

##### **(a) Legal Measures:**

- Law No. (3) of 2009 to amend Article (25) of the Law regulating the pensions and retirement benefits of officers and personnel of Bahrain Defense Force and Public Security issued by Decree Law No. (11) of 1976. This Law provides for example in its Article (1), to replace Article 25 of the Pension and Retirement Benefits Law for Bahrain Defense Force and Public Security Officers and Personnel, with a provision guaranteeing the right of the sons and daughters of the widow in the transfer of her share to them upon her marriage to a spouse other than their deceased father, or upon her death. On the other hand it guaranteed her right to recover her share of the pension if it is transferred to the sons and daughters of the deceased or to the Pension Fund as a result of her marriage, if she is subsequently widowed or divorced from her last husband.
- Law No. (33) of 2009 to amend certain provisions of Law No. (34) of 2005 on the creation of the Alimony Fund.
- Issuance of Law No. (19) of 2010 to amend certain provisions of the Social Insurance Law issued by Decree Law No. (24) of 1976, where the amendment of this Article awards equal treatment to the sons and daughters of the deceased son, and the sons and daughters of the deceased daughter if they are dependent in their livelihood on the insured person.
- Resolution No. (39) of 2010 on the regulation of productive activity at home (productive home).
- Resolution No. (54) of 2011 on the amendment of salary scales in civil service.
- Resolution No. (55) of 2011 on granting cost of living allowance to certain civil servants.
- Decree No. (84) of 2011 concerning the National Social Fund.
- Resolution No. (41) of 2012 on the conditions and rules for the replacement family for the sponsorship of the elderly.
- Issuance of Resolution No. (16) of 2013 to grant education, rehabilitation or care allowance to persons with disabilities.
- Cabinet Resolution No. (77) of 2013 to adopt the salary and benefits scale and conditions for accrual to personnel subject to the Civil Service Law, in respect of the amendment of the social allowance policy to be granted in the second grade to married female employees similar to married male employees, to ensure gender equality in allowances at the time of marriage.
- Cabinet Resolution dated 26<sup>th</sup> January 2014 to allocate a certain number of housing units to the divorced, widowed, and unmarried women category in housing projects, commensurate with the circumstances of each case separately.
- In April 2014, the Cabinet approved a parliamentary proposal not to deprive the husband of the cost of living allowance if his wife owns a commercial registration.

**(b) Policies, Strategies and Plans:**

- The right of the Bahraini woman to obtain a loan from a commercial bank in the Kingdom of Bahrain, with equal treatment to men, and subject to the same conditions. It should be mentioned that there are development banks which support microfinance projects, namely:
  - Bahrain Development Bank, founded in 1991. It is a financial and developmental institution specialized in the financing and development of small and medium size enterprises in the Kingdom of Bahrain.
  - Ebdaa Bank, founded in February 2009. It aims at providing support to microfinance projects and to families with limited income, including housewives and the youth.

- Family Bank, founded in 2010, provides innovative services in microfinance, as well as employment opportunities and self employment for individuals and promotes the participation of women in social development, as well as bridges the gender gap in the availability of financing and loans for males and females.

**(c) National Processes, Programs and Projects:**

- Inauguration of the Step (Khatwa) Program for home projects in 2013, which is an extension of the Productive Families Project.
- Increase of the social security budget.
- Creation of the social security fund for needy families who do not have a sufficient source of income which they can depend upon in their livelihood, including families, widowed women, divorced women, abandoned women, the elderly, families of prisoners, persons unable to work, the disabled, unmarried women, children and orphans.
- Inauguration of the first phase of Masaken Project which gives the right of use, without ownership title, of the housing services, to women who do not meet the conditions for benefitting from housing services.
- In 2012, the right of use was granted to Bahraini unmarried women, divorced women, widowed women without children, or with non-Bahraini children, through the amendment of the Housing Resolution to create Category 5.
- A cost of living allowance is granted to eligible civil servants.

**(II) Results Achieved:**

- Gross Domestic Product at current prices increased to BD 12,328.2 in 2013, as compared to BD 11,530.5 in 2012, an increase of 6.9%.
- Per Capita Gross National Product at current prices increased to BD 9,311.0 in 2012, as compared to BD 9,138.4 in 2011, an increase of 1.9%.
- The number of families benefitting from the financial support program (cost of living allowance) reached 110,135 families, with 4.8% for women and 14.5% for men, of the total population of the Kingdom of Bahrain up to April 2014.
- The number of beneficiaries from social assistance totaled 16,457 beneficiaries, or a percentage of 1.73% for women and 1.15% for men as compared to the total population of the Kingdom of Bahrain as of April 2014.

**2. Women and Education**

**(I) Achievements:**

**(a) Legal Measures:**

- According to Law No. (35) of 2009 – referred to in Part I of this Report – concerning certain fees levied on educational public services, the non-Bahraini wife of the Bahraini citizen and the children of the Bahraini woman married to a non-Bahraini, shall receive treatment equal to that of a Bahraini citizen.
- Decree Law No. (12) of 1986 to establish and organize the University of Bahrain, as amended by Decree Law No. (18) of 1999.

- Decree No. (65) of 2008 to establish and organize Bahrain Polytechnic, which provides education and training programs catering to the economic trends and labor market requirements in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

**(b) Policies, Strategies and Plans:**

- The Supreme Council for Women focused through the National Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women (2013-2022), on the effect of lifelong learning on knowledge empowerment of women, the development of their competence and productive practices, to enhance their competitiveness in society and ensure their continued participation in development programs (economic and social) through the formation of knowledge transfer and management mechanisms.
- The Economic Vision of Bahrain, Bahrain 2030, took into consideration aspirations at the national level without any discrimination between men and women, including the ones focusing on education:
  - Allowing equal opportunity to all in education.
  - Giving Bahrainis the highest possible level of education to enable them to continue to obtain required skills; to realize their aspirations.
- The National Strategy for Persons with Disabilities (2011-2015) was launched. It addressed a number of themes, including the education theme.

**(c) National Processes, Programs and Projects:**

- The Ministry of Education added the community service curriculum, which is mandatory for the secondary education for boys and girls.
- The Ministry of Education is working on continuing:
  - The expansion of technical and vocational education and training for girls commensurate with labor market requirements.
  - Updating plans and academic curricular commensurate with the social gender approach.
  - Promoting the awareness of women in advanced vocational disciplines commensurate with labor market requirements.
  - Training of teachers of both sexes and enhancing their competence to keep abreast of state of the art technology.
  - Promoting the integration of persons with special needs of both sexes and integrating them in the academic system, to the extent possible.

**(II) Results Achieved:**

- The ratio of girls in the elementary, intermediate and secondary levels reached (50%) as compared to boys in academic year (2012-2013), reflecting the gender distribution between men and women and equal opportunity in education.
- Over the past period (2001-2010), and based on population census data, illiteracy among men and women (15 years and older) declined over the past 10 years, for youth age group (15-24 years) from 0.8% to 0.3% for women, and from 0.7% to 0.4% for men. It also declined for the age group (24 and older) from 7.5% to 3.2% for women, and from 17.0% to 9.3% for men.
- The Bahraini women represent the highest ratio of participants in all education levels, including university education, in Bahrain, where the percentage female university graduates in various

disciplines in academic year 2008-2009 was 73.27% of total graduates. This percentage rose to 74.56% in academic year 2009-2010.

- The percentage of female graduates of higher education universities and government institutes was approximately 57.69% of total graduates in academic year (2010-2011), exceeding the number of male graduates who were 42.31% of total graduates of those universities and government institutes.
- The number of female students significantly exceeded the number of male students in receiving scholarships and study exchange student programs. Female students who received scholarships and study exchange programs amounted to 69.39% for academic year 2007-2008, as compared to only 30.61% for men. In spite of the slight decline of this percentage during academic year 2011-2012, female students continued to represent the larger percentage in obtaining scholarships and university exchange programs. This shows that the average gap between the two genders was around 37.51% during the academic years from 2007 to 2012.
- Female students enrolled in the basic education level totaled 50.2% of the total number of enrolled students in academic year 2012-2013.
- The number of female students enrolled in private schools rose to 25,754 students out of a total of 56,078 students during academic year 2009-2010, as compared to 23,951 of a total of 52,137 in academic year 2008-2009.
- The percentage of Bahraini women holding secondary school certificates or higher reached 57.79% in 2010, or an increase of around 11% as compared to 2001, while the percentage Bahraini men holding secondary school certificates or higher reached 57.30%, or an increase of 9% approximately as compared to 2001. This shows that the percentage increase of female holders of secondary school certificates and higher exceeded the percentage increase of men by around 2% over the period 2001-2010.
- The number of female students enrolled at Bahrain Training Institute increased to 1,765 students out of a total number of students of 3,560 in academic year 2012-2013, as compared to 1,609 female students out of a total of 3,301 in academic year 2011-2012.
- The number of female students who were returned to school from academic year 2008-2009 to academic year 2012-2013 was 120 students.
- The number of schools that apply the technical and vocational education development system (commercial curriculum for girls) totaled 4 schools.
- The Education for All Global Monitoring Report of 2010 issued by UNESCO showed that the Kingdom of Bahrain has achieved good results for the third consecutive year in the Education for All Development Index (EDI) indicators, which are:
  - High percentage of elementary school enrollment of approximately 100%.
  - High percentage of gender equality (97%).
  - Low percentage of dropouts of 0.4% or less.

### **(III) Main Obstacles, Gaps and Challenges:**

- Endeavoring to bridge the gap between the genders in percentages of holders of PhD degrees and higher.
- Continued promotion of the dissemination of education and preservation of its quality.

## **3. Women and Health**

**(I) Achievements:**

**(a) Legal Measures:**

- According to Law No. (35) of 2009 – referred to in Part I of this Report – concerning certain fees levied on health public services, the non-Bahraini wife of the Bahraini citizen and the children of the Bahraini women married to non-Bahrainis, shall receive treatment equal to that of Bahraini citizens.
- Law No. (38) of 2009 concerning the establishment of the National Organization for Regulation of Health Professions and Services.
- Decree No. (5) of 2013 on the establishment of the Supreme Council for Health.
- Minister of Health Resolution No. (1) of 1995 to regulate the radiology profession “examination and therapy” which provides the safety requirements at the radiology center, stating that in the event of radiology of women, it is preferred to be done within the first ten days of the period, except in cases as advised by the attending physician. The Resolution also stipulates that the pregnant woman must not be exposed, especially in the first months of pregnancy, to x-ray except in necessary cases and after consulting the attending physician.

**(b) Policies, Strategies and Plans:**

- The Supreme Council for Women adopted in the National Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women (2013-2022) the effect of the quality of life through the improvement of the aspects of the women’s health, environmental, social and mental life, and enabling women to enjoy a good and safe life throughout all the stages of life, as well as to enhance the health and psychiatric safety through requirements for improvement of the quality of the woman’s life.
- In 2010, the Ministry of Health Strategy 2011-2014 was incorporated in the Government’s program which included 6 strategic objectives, and a number of initiatives related to women, including the expansion of the periodic medical examination of women.
- In 2009, the psychiatric health improvement strategy was launched.
- In 2009, the Bahrain National Youth Strategy (2010-2011) was launched, including the health of youth and adolescents.
- In 2011, the National Action Plan for Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases was approved based on the framework of the World Health Organization, and the Kingdom’s compliance with the political declaration of the United Nations in September 2011.
- In 2011, the Health Strategy for the Elderly and its implementation plan linked to specific performance indicators were approved.
- The Right to Health Committee at the Ministry of Health was formed and charged with the review of Ministry of Health strategies and policies and to ensure the rights of patients, justice and equality in the provision of health services.
- Special committees were formed in the Ministry of Health to promote the health of women in various fields, such as the Committee for the Protection of Women Against Violence, the Committee for Periodic Medical Examinations of Women, the Psychiatric Health Committee, the Special Needs Committee, the Committee for Control of Non-Communicable Diseases and the Adolescent Health Committee. These Committees developed strategies and guidelines to deal with cases based on scientific evidence.

**(c) National Processes, Programs and Projects:**

- Implementation of the electronic file system in all public health care centers and hospitals (I-Seha Project).
- Continued provision of outstanding services for the care of women during pregnancy, including periodic medical examinations and inoculations, supply of free medications to all women for the prevention of anemia and osteoporosis, as well as the free ultrasound examination of pregnant women to check the health of the mother and infant.
- Five diet and obesity clinics were opened in all governorates of the Kingdom. Percentage of women who benefitted from this service reached 84% of total clinic visitors.
- Chronic disease clinics were opened in all health centers providing therapy and follow up for patients with chronic diseases based on World Health Organization guidelines.
- Allocation of a clinic to help smokers of both genders kick the habit, with various stop smoking therapies provided free of charge. The percentage of females benefiting from the clinic in 2013 was 11%.
- The Ministry of Health is providing outstanding services to the elderly through mobile elderly care units providing social services and home healthcare. The percentage of elderly women who benefitted from this service in 2013 reached 55.27% of the total number of the elderly registered to receive this service. Moreover, the comprehensive examination program for the elderly was implemented at the parents care homes. The total percentage of elderly women who benefitted from this service in 2013 reached 55.89%, as well as the elderly aid equipment allocated for use at their homes, with the percentage of elderly women benefiting from the program in 2013 reaching 85%.
- Two school health centers were opened to provide health and psychiatric care and handle cases involving psychiatric problems, learning difficulties or speech difficulties referred from schools. The center is equipped with a specialized staff from the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education. The total number of visits to the school health services center since its inauguration in September 2007 to March 2014 totaled 7,043 cases, including 1,105 new cases. The number of girl students benefiting from the school health services reached 50% of total visitors.
- Psychiatric care clinics were opened at primary healthcare centers with the percentage of females who benefitted from psychiatric care services reaching 72% of total clinic visitors in 2013.
- Medication for non-communicable diseases provided at all healthcare centers.
- Physiotherapy and rehabilitation centers commissioned in the five governorates.
- Periodic premarital workshops organized addressing communication and interaction skills and all the skills the couple need at the start of their married lives.
- Sex health clinic opened specialized in treatment of sexual problems at primary care clinics. The percentage of women benefiting from this service totaled 36%. It should be mentioned that the remaining percentage, representing 64% of men, were indirectly to the benefit of women, where the wives of male visitors were requested to attend.
- Implementation of the national campaign for the early detection of risk factors leading to non-communicable diseases (protect your heart). This campaign includes the examination of employees in public and private sectors by a healthcare team consisting of physicians, nurses, and health educators. Examinations include screening for diabetes, hypertension, weight, height and lipids. The Campaign also includes giving guidance and health education as well as guidelines for staff at healthcare centers. The percentage of women benefiting from this campaign reached 46% out of total individuals examined up to the end of December 2013. The campaign is still ongoing.

- Free clinics opened for the early detection of risk factors leading to non-communicable diseases in healthcare centers. The percentage of women reached 67% of total individuals who underwent early examination at these clinics in 2013.
- Free women health clinics opened for the 20-65 age group at all health centers to provide early screening for breast cancer and pap smear. The percentage of women in the 25-65 age group who underwent the clinical test totaled 18% of total women examined at the clinic, which 3% of women had mammography.
- Provision of a number of free diagnostic services and state of the art equipment at health centers for breast cancer screening, and most importantly mammography examination.
- Breast disease clinic allocated at secondary care.
- Hereditary blood diseases center opened.
- Introduction of new inoculations to the national inoculations schedule including rotavirus and pneumococcal.
- Study underway to introduce new cervical cancer protection and Hepatitis B Virus (HBV) for girls age 16.
- Premarital guidance and advice services continued, with all premarital examination services provided in the Kingdom of Bahrain. The Ministry of Health continues to work in cooperation with the National Association for Hereditary Blood Diseases in a blood test program for second secondary class students in all public and private schools.
- Initiatives implemented to integrate psychiatric health in primary care.
- The Social Services Department at the health centers of the Ministry of Health contributes by providing psychiatric and social assistance and guidance to patients who are referred by physicians.

**(II) Results Achieved:**

- The average life expectancy at birth increased to 75.3 years in 2011 for both genders (74.7 years for males and 76.1 years for females) as compared to 74.6 in 2010.
- The number of private hospitals increased from 13 in 2008 to 15 in 2012, in addition to numerous clinics and medical center complexes.
- The healthcare center is one of the largest sectors employing Bahraini women (second to the education sector) with women representing 73.4% of total employees (percentage of Bahraini women in the Ministry of Health to the total female manpower in the Ministry) in 2012.
- The number of healthcare centers increased in 2013 to 26 healthcare centers in the five governorates. Two health centers will be opened in the second half of 2014 as part of the Government's plan to establish a healthcare center for every 20,000 people. Maternity and child care services were introduced at all healthcare centers.
- Bahrain made significant advancement in the field of mother and child health, with the average life expectancy at birth in the Bahraini society rising significantly. The average in 2012 was 74.7 years for males and 76.1 years for females. The overall average for both genders rose to 75.3 years as compared to 65.5 years in 1970.
- Average infant mortality declined to 9 per 1000 births in 2012 as compared to 10.1 in 2011. Average still deaths per 1000 births declined to 6.5, compared to 7.9 in 2011. Average premature births amounted to 102.6 per 1000 birth in 2012.

- Average pregnant mother mortality during pregnancy, childbirth and during recovery from childbirth declined in 2012 to 26.2 per 100,000 live births, or by an average of 5 deaths only. Cases of death range from sickle cell anemia, hemorrhage and related complications, pregnancy pre-eclampsia and eclampsia poisoning, and hypertension.
- Average infant deaths reached 7.8 per 1000 live births, and remained constant over the past years. Average child deaths in children below 5 years of age was 9 per 1000 live births as compared to 9.8 in 2011.
- The number of trained and qualified health and technical staff increased in the healthcare sector to 19,835 in 2012, compared to 10,111 in 2009.
- 2012 statistics show that the number of physicians active in the public sector reached 2,061 male and female physicians, and 1,363 in the private sector, or a total of 3,424 compared to 2,481 male and female physicians in 2009, or an average of 27.9 physicians for every 10,000 population.
- The total number of dentists reached 556 in 2012, or an average of 4.5 dentists for every 10,000 population.
- The percentage of male and female dentists employed by the Ministry of Health in 2012 reached 55.2% and 64.7% respectively of the total number of dentists, and with a Bahrainisation ratio of 82% and 94% respectively. As for nurses, the total number reached 6,290 in 2012 in Bahrain as compared to 4,918 in 2009, with an average of 51 nurses per 10,000 population. Percentage female nurses employed by the Ministry of Health was 90.4% of total nurses, with a Bahrainisation ratio of 48%.
- Average life expectancy at birth rose significantly in the Bahraini society, reaching in 2012 an average of 74.7 years for males and 76.1 years for females. As for the average for both genders, it rose to 75.3 years as compared to 65.5 years in 1970, with the ratio of live births of normal weight (2.5 kg or more) at birth reaching 90.2% in 2012.
- The total number of live births in 2012 reached 18,470 compared to 17,700 in 2009. Births by skilled healthcare professionals were 99.8% in 2012, as compared to 99.5% in 2009. Average coverage of pregnant women in healthcare institutions was 100%, including 69% covered by primary care (at least 4 visits). As for the number of visits to pregnancy clinics in general, they range between 6 to 7 times per pregnancy, which reflects the extent of coverage of pregnancy services in the Kingdom.
- Caesarian section in 2012 was 26% of total live births, as compared to 24% in 2009. Premature births (registered 36 weeks of pregnancy or less) was 10%, which remains constant since 2009. The percentage abortions of total births decreased (abortions to total number of pregnancies) to 13.3% in 2012. Live births of normal weight (2.5 kg or more) at birth reached 90% in 2012.
- Obstetrics and gynecology statistics published by the Ministry of Health show that the main causes for hospitalizing pregnant women in 2012 were heart diseases (10%), pregnancy diabetes (1.5%), hypertension accompanying pregnancy (3%), pregnancy outside the ovary (1.5%), followed by other causes such as sickle cell anemia, ovary hemorrhage resulting from pregnancy, in addition to other causes.
- Percentage cases of sickle cell anemia declined in live births to 0.6% in 2013.
- Percentage of girls (of secondary school age) with sickle cell anemia declined to 61%, while carriers of the disease reached 8%.
- Pregnancy termination reached 892.5 per 100,000 population of females of age group 15-49 years in 2012, with average hospitalization of pregnant women due to complications during pregnancy, childbirth or recovery from child birth, totaled 7,330.4 cases per 100,000 population of females of age group 15-49 (including two public hospitals and two private hospitals).

- Coverage with two shots or more in 2012 reached around 35.8% because most pregnant women received tetanus vaccine in childhood or during school vaccination campaigns. It is therefore normal that their percentage vaccination declined.
- German measles in women in 2012 was around 0.2 cases per 100,000 population of females, with percentage coverage of children of age 4 (MMR2) at around 99.8%.
- Infant and child vaccination in 2013 was as follows:
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> shot of DPT booster (diphtheria, tetanus and polio) at 98.9%, and the third shot of polio around 99%, with the MMR at 100% for MMR1 and 99.6% for MMR2.
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> shot of Hepatitis B virus reached 98.96%, and the third shot of the Bacillus influenzae (Haemophilus influenzae type B) at 98.9%, and the third shot of pneumococcal vaccine at around 99.5%.
- Bahrain is considered to be free of local or acquired malaria since 1981.

**(III) Main Obstacles, Gaps and Challenges:**

- In spite of the achievements in the improvement of health indicators, a number of significant health challenges persist, affecting the health of women in Bahrain, foremost among which are non-communicable diseases (including cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, cancer and chronic respiratory system diseases).
- The need to promote family awareness of the importance of adopting healthy lifestyles for protection against risk factors leading to non-communicable diseases.
- The necessity to continue to promote awareness of the importance of breast feeding up to six months of child's age.
- The necessity to continue to promote awareness of women of the importance of early detection of non-communicable diseases and periodic checkup.
- Reduction of death rates resulting from non-communicable diseases.
- Continued efforts to reduce iron deficiency anemia in children below 5 years old, and pregnant women.
- The need to issue required legislations to prevent non-communicable diseases.

**4. Violence against Women**

**(I) Achievements:**

**(a) Legal Measures:**

- Issuance of Law No. (19) of 2009 concerning the issue of Family Law (Part I) which protected the rights of women in litigation in Shari'ah cases, and preserved their entity and the entity of their children.
- Draft Law for the protection of family against violence, approved – in principle – by the Legislative Branch. This draft law includes a definition of violence and its forms.
- Issuance of Law No. 52 of 2012 to amend certain provisions of the Penal Code issued by Decree Law No. 46 of 2002.

- Issuance of Law No. 51 of 2012 to amend certain provisions of the Penal Code issued by Decree Law No. 15 of 1976.
- Issuance of Law No. 50 of 2012 to amend certain provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure issued by Decree No. 46 of 2002.
- Issuance of Resolution No. 51 of 2010 on the regulation of shelters of victims of crimes of human trafficking and the constraints for approval of entities which undertake to provide housing for them.

**(b) Policies, Strategies and Plans:**

- The National Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women (2013-2022) for the improvement of the conditions of Bahraini women, ensuring here family stability, family links and protection against all forms of violence.
- A joint committee was formed by the Supreme Council for Women and the official government departments concerned (Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Social Development, Ministry of Justice and Islamic Affairs and Ministry of Health) to create a unified database for cases of family violence against women and girls in the Kingdom of Bahrain. It was agreed to adopt a definition for violence and its categories as internationally used, to be unified with the departments concerned.

**(c) National Processes, Programs and Projects:**

- In 2010, the program “together against violence and addiction”, which is the Ministry of Interior’s Committee Against Violence and Addiction Program, which aims at protecting the youth and adolescents against violence and addiction.
- Coordination between the Human Trafficking Department of the Ministry of Interior and the Information Affairs Authority to prepare awareness programs on the Law for Combatting Trafficking in Persons, as well as to promote awareness of all law enforcement personnel of the methods of treatment and handling of victims of trafficking in persons before, during and after investigation.
- In 2012, the Supreme Council for Women submitted a training program to create a network of “trainers in women affairs” in three phases. One of the three phases including addressing agreements related to women, such as the CEDAW.
- The Supreme Council for Women provided its support program, through which it conducted training courses, including a course in October 2013 on listening to female victims of domestic violence, as well as a course in November 2013 on listening to child victims of sexual, physical and psychological violence.
- Bahrain Women Union organized a march under the them “Let’s Unite to End Violence” in 2009 aimed at demanding the legislation of necessary laws to eradicate all forms of domestic violence and create mechanisms capable of eliminating such violence.
- The “Be Free” Center of the Bahrain Women Association organized a conference in May 2009 titled “Effective Strategies to Protect Children against Online Assault and Trafficking”.
- In July 2010, Bahrain Women Union’s National Committee against Domestic Violence organized its summer campaign to promote awareness of domestic violence.
- The Supreme Council for Women organized in collaboration with ESCWA training workshops, including a workshop for the media on the effects of domestic violence (4-5 October 2009), and a workshop for the youth on the effects of domestic violence (6-7 October 2009).

- The Kingdom of Bahrain participated in the training workshop on “Legislative Frameworks for Combatting All Forms of Violence against Women”, held at the ESCWA during the period 13-15 April 2010.
- Many mechanisms were created for combatting violence for various entities based on jurisdiction. Guidance and care centers are one of these mechanisms, providing many services to contribute to the treatment of the female victim of violence.
- Organizing the International Conference (Human Trafficking at the Crossroads) in March 2009 under the patronage of HRH Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, wife of His Majesty King of Bahrain, President of the Supreme Council for Women.

**(II) Results Achieved:**

- Statistical data published in 2013 by the Women Support Center of the Supreme Council for Women show that the number of domestic violence cases received by the Center reached 146 (cases and incidents).
- Statistical data published by Dar Al-Aman of the Ministry of Social Development, show that the number of physical or sexual violence cases received by Dar Al-Aman against women in the 15-49 years age group over the past twelve months, totaled 21 cases of violence by the husband and 73 cases by persons other than the husband. A hot line was dedicated to receive reports of domestic violence for referral to the relevant authorities.

**(III) Main Obstacles, Gaps and Challenges:**

- Absence of the Family Law (Part II).
- Spread of the culture of lack of trust and fear of consequences in the family environment when seeking legal action in cases of domestic violence against women.
- Fear of the society’s views which may cause other social and economic problems and cause secrecy and acceptance of violence against women.
- Inability to date to approve the Law for protection of the family against violence.

**5. Women in Power and Decision Making**

**(I) Achievements:**

**(a) Legal Measures:**

- The National Action Charter, the Constitution, and Bahraini Laws provide for gender equality in all fields, giving women the right of participating in political action.

**(b) Policies, Strategies and Plans:**

- The Supreme Council for Women views the appointment of women in leadership roles in the government as one of its most important responsibilities which is aimed to be achieved through policies, social awareness, training and services to employ women to occupy decision-making positions. This includes:
  - The National Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women (2013-2022) is intended to achieve a sustainable effect based on equal opportunity and development through the mainstreaming of women’s needs, forming convictions and consolidating just practices, expanding options, enhancing capabilities, promoting community awareness of all the rights and obligations of women in order to provide her with opportunities for excellence and to support her participation in the decision making process.

- The Government's Action Program for the Legislative Term (2010-2014), included for the first time and directly, movement and responsibilities aimed at furthering the efforts for economic, political and social empowerment of women, by adopting a number of mechanisms and processes, foremost among which is the mainstreaming of the women's needs in development.

**(c) National Processes, Programs and Projects:**

- As part of the efforts aimed at elevating women to leadership and decision making positions in all sectors: public, private and social society; the Supreme Council for Women endeavored to implement many programs, activities, initiatives, and incentive awards, which contributed to the creation of key empowerment parameters for the Bahraini women, strengthening her position in decision making, including:
  - Announcement of HRH Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, wife of His Majesty King of Bahrain, President of the Supreme Council for Women award for the empowerment of Bahraini women in the field of support and consolidation of the position of women in government and private sector organizations (Third Award – 2010).
  - Launch of Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, wife of His Majesty King of Bahrain, President of the Supreme Council for Women Award for Bahraini Women Empowerment in Professional and Political Associations (First Session, 2011). The Award is granted to the best professional association and to the best political association which support the role of women in political and professional social society organizations.
  - The political empowerment program for the support of women's participation in the 2010 elections was implemented. It included three main themes focused on awareness, partnership and gender training, which was delivered using national expertise, and achieved significant success in the supplementary elections of 2011, to culminate today in the election of four women to the Council of Representatives.
  - Launch of the political empowerment program of the Bahraini women in collaboration with partners in respective fields, including public institutions and civil society organizations for the years 2011-2014. The program is based on five themes, namely training, rehabilitation, media support, election preparation, election awareness and documentation.

**(II) Results Achieved:**

- Bahraini women participated in the parliamentary elections of 2010 and the supplementary elections of 2011. Four women were able to win election to the parliament, while one women was elected to a municipal council.
- There are four women ministers: Minister of Social Development, Minister of Culture, Minister of State for Media Affairs, and Secretary General of the Supreme Council for Women.
- A Bahraini woman was appointed official speaker of the Government in 2012.
- Women represented 27.5% of total Shura Council members in 2013, compared to 15% in 2002.
- Women represented 10% of total Representative Council members in 2013, compared to 0% in 2002.
- Women's participation in parliamentary elections rose to 51% in 2010, compared to 47.7% in 2002.

- A Bahraini woman was appointed as judge for the first time in 2006. The number of women serving as judges and in similar capacities rose gradually over the period 2006-2013 to reach 17 judges.
- In 2013, Bahraini women held decision making positions in the Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Waqf, the Supreme Judicial Council, and Public Prosecution, as follows: 6 women in the Supreme Judicial Council, 6 women as members of the judiciary in Public Prosecution, 15 women in leadership positions in the Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Waqf, and 1 member of the Supreme Judicial Council.
- Women occupied Ministry of Foreign Affairs international and regional leadership positions. The number of women ambassadors increased between 2009 and 2013 to a total of 3 ambassadors in countries such as the United States, United Kingdom and China. Women also occupied regional and international positions. In 2009, a Bahraini woman was appointed Director of the United Nations Information Center (UNIC) in Cairo. A Bahraini woman was appointed as a member of the United Nations Committee for the Child Rights Convention (2013-2017). A Bahraini woman was also appointed in 2012 as Assistant Secretary General for Social Affairs in the Arab League. In 2013, a Bahraini woman was appointed as Chairman of the Consultative Committee of the Supreme Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council, as well as President of the Arab and Moslem Businesswomen Center in the European Union, member of the Quality Assurance and Accreditation Board in the Association of Arab Universities in 2014, and member of the World Chambers Federation in France, as well as Secretary General of the Arab Woman Affairs Committee – Arab Labor Organization.

### **(III) Main Obstacles, Gaps and Challenges:**

- Challenges encountered by women in politics varied, ranging from challenges related to the candidate herself and her ability to network and accumulate political experience through field action, and external challenges represented in the extent of the society's acceptance and support of the participation of women, as well as the extent to which social forces provide required opportunities to enable women to build their political careers and accumulate the required experience in this field.
- Supplementing mechanism capable of narrowing the gap for the appointment of women in leadership positions.

## **6. Women and the Economy**

### **(I) Achievements:**

#### **(a) Legal Measures:**

- Issuance of Law No. (36) of 2012 concerning the issue of the Labor Law in the Public Sector on the application of all provisions of the law to male and female workers without discrimination under similar work conditions.
- Compliance of the Kingdom of Bahrain with the provisions of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights which provide for gender equality in all Economic, Social and Cultural Rights as provided under the Covenant, as well as compliance with Article (2) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in respect of guaranteeing civil and political rights without discrimination.
- Resolution No. (77) of 2013 concerning the amendment of the social allowance policy to be granted in the second grade to married female employees similar to married male employees, to ensure gender equality in allowances at the time of marriage.
- Minister of Social Development Resolution No. (102) of 2010 concerning licensing the registration of the MENA Businesswomen Network Association.

#### **(b) Policies, Strategies and Plans:**

- The Supreme Council for Women is leading national action in the implementation of the National Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women (2013-2022) with a methodology based on comprehensive and outstanding institutional performance, as well on ensuring continued evaluation to measure the effect of the plan on the improvement of conditions of Bahraini women, assuring family stability and cohesion, enabling women to competitively compete in development, participate in diversifying and enriching economic, social, educational and training options available to women to provide them with opportunities to excel and improve the quality of their lives.
- The Supreme Council for Women is endeavoring to consolidate the concept of mainstreaming women's needs in private sector institutions, given the percentage of Bahraini women employed in this vital sector. Some business organizations adopted the concept of mainstreaming whether through the levels of participation in the award of HRH Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa for the Empowerment of Bahraini Women, which is also aimed at private sector organizations, or through the integration of the principles of equal opportunity in its policies and personnel data or the support services it provides to enhance the employment of working women.
- The Supreme Council for Women is endeavoring to work with private sector organizations to develop a clear framework and methodology to promote equal opportunity in this sector and to support the provision of systems and options which provide equal opportunity to women. It also promotes the National Model for the Mainstreaming of Women's Needs and promoting awareness of equal opportunity through several awareness meetings with private sector organizations. The National Committee for Follow Up of Implementation of the National Model for the Mainstreaming of Women's Needs has developed a work plan specifying the roles and national responsibility of the private sector for the implementation of the national model during the period 2014-2015 in order to ensure the activation of relevant mechanisms.

**(c) National Processes, Programs and Projects:**

- The Supreme Council for Women launched a series of training and rehabilitation programs for a number of projects intended to provide women with skills and knowhow required to enable them to establish or manage small enterprises, or to enter into the entrepreneurial field.
- The Supreme Council for Women continued to forge partnerships and alliances with local and international organizations to supplement economic action by creating projects providing consulting services and facilities to support the sustainability of the programs for economic empowerment of women, as follows:
  - HRH Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa Financial Portfolio was inaugurated on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2010 to provide support and financing for Bahraini women business activities. It is one of the initiatives which provide soft loans and financing services to women entrepreneurs. It is managed by Ebdaa Bank for Microfinance, with support from Tamkeen "Labor Fund".
  - Bahraini Women's Competence Development Center (Riyadat), inaugurated in November 2013.
- The Supreme Council for Women organized the Bahraini Women Economic Forum to coincide with the Bahraini Woman's Day in 2011, under the theme "The Role of Bahraini Women in Economic Development - Partnership and Contribution".
- The Supreme Council for Women implemented several investment projects for women in fields including transportation, fashion and photography with support from Tamkeen "Labor Fund" and in partnership with civil society organizations.

**(II) Results Achieved:**

- The ratio of Bahraini women employed in the public sector rose from 42% in 2009 to 43% in 2010, 44% in 2011, 48% in 2012 and 47% in 2013.
- The ratio of females to total Bahraini manpower in the private sector rose from 29.7% in 2008 to 30.04% in 2009, 30% in 2010, 29.89% in 2011, 29.83% in 2012 and 30.07% in 2013.
- Average wages of Bahraini females in the private sector rose from BD 423 in 2009 to BD 437 in 2010, BD 462 in 2011, BD 479 in 2012 and BD 488 in 2013.
- Bahrain ranked 13<sup>th</sup> freest economy in the MENA region in the 2014 Index of Economic Freedom.
- The percentage of female trainees to male trainees at the Bahrain Training Institute reached 50% in 2010.
- In 2014, women filled 22% of the seats of the Board of Directors of the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry, with 4 women elected to the Board out of a total of 18 Board members.
- The number of females benefiting from training courses and production units at social centers over the period from January to December 2013, evening sessions, totaled 1,005.
- The number of females benefiting from training courses and production units at social centers over the period from January to December 2013, morning sessions, totaled 4,870.
- The number of females benefiting from production units at social centers, by center, totaled 771.
- The number of females benefiting from training courses at social centers over the period from January to December 2013, evening sessions, totaled 1,019.
- The number of females benefiting from training courses at social centers over the period from January to December 2013, morning sessions, totaled 4,811.

**(III) Main Obstacles, Gaps and Challenges:**

- Increased and improved support services in the business environment to ensure that women fulfill their obligations to their family and society, particularly in the private sector.
- Creation of flexible systems for part time, temporary and home-based employment, and the lack of requisite legislations.

**7. Women and the Media**

**(I) Achievements:**

**(a) Legal Measures:**

- Establishment of the High Commission for Media and Communication by Decree No. (47) of 2013, as an independent body charged with the preparation of the draft National Media and Communication Plan, and the supervision and regulation of media and advertising content to ensure media compliance with international conventions and professional codes related to the consolidation of the role of women in society and the protection of child rights. Women represent 43% of the members of the Commission.
- Preparation of a new, comprehensive and advanced draft law for media and communication by the Ministry of State for Information Affairs, and its submission to the legislature in February 2014. This draft, when ratified, will consolidate the freedom and independence of media and communication, promote new issues in printed, audiovisual and electronic media, including women related issues, with the prohibition of any undermining of the image of women or attacks on the rights, liberties and reputations of others.

- The issue of the “Media Code of Honor” on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2012, and the issue of the Audiovisual Code of Honor and Media Conduct Guide at the Information Affairs Authority on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2012, which incorporate all professional and ethical rules to be complied with by all media organizations, including the prohibition of all forms of discrimination against women, enhancement and non-exploitation of the image of women.

**(b) Policies, Strategies and Plans:**

- The National Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women (2013-2033) aims at changing the prevailing culture and stereotype image of women in all fields, including the media.
- The Information Affairs Authority launched the Information Strategy for the years 2011-2015, to improve human resources in the media and information field, and consolidate the status and role of women in society.
- Ratification and implementation of the Information Strategic Plan 2013-2018, including clear policies and numerous programs and initiatives underscoring the role and status of women in radio and television programs, as well as the establishment of a television channel concerned with women’s issues, and the audiovisual industries city, to allow for the establishment of channels and programs to cater to the needs of women, as well as the establishment of an international media center, and an information and communication academy to train and qualify human resources.
- Implementation of the memorandum of understanding between the Supreme Council for Women and the Information Affairs Authority to promote the culture of mainstreaming women’s needs in development programs, as well as the continuation of efforts to increase the presence of women in the organization structures of media organizations, thus ensuring their participation in decision making centers.
- Follow up of the implementation of the Joint Information Strategy for Gulf Cooperation Council States (2010-2020), and the Arab Women Information Strategy (2009-2015) proposed by the Arab Women’s Organization, in order to establish an innovative information role to empower women and invest their competences to achieve sustainable growth and effectively address women related issues.

**(c) National Processes, Programs and Projects:**

- Many training projects and initiatives were implemented to empower women in the information and communication field, and to qualify them for integration in the labor market.
- Intensifying radio and television programs concerned with women issues, and the broadcasting of awareness and publicity programs, as well as the establishment of a unit dedicated to issues related to women, family and child in radio and television programs.
- The Supreme Council for Women organized a training of trainers program to develop a network of “Trainers in Women Related Issues”, implemented in three phases, Phase 1 addressed the image of women in the media, and in particular in the printed media, radio, television and the Internet.
- The Supreme Council for Women conducted a scientific study on the “Image of Women in Bahraini Drama”, in collaboration with the University of Bahrain, and subsequently an awareness lecture was delivered to information officers on the findings of the study.
- In 2013, the Supreme Council for Women conducted a scientific study on the “Status of Women in the Media Field”, in collaboration with the University of Bahrain.
- The Supreme Council for Women celebrated the Bahraini Woman’s Day in 2013 dedicated to “Women and the Media”. The SCW also organized events to underscore the contributions of

women in the media. It also organized the “Media Rally” Competition, during which the best media programs and materials of all forms were recognized.

- Organization of media forums to change the stereotype image of women, and improve women’s image in various media, as well as promoting the awareness of the social gender concept. These included:
  - The Media Forum on “Women’s Image in the Arab Media” held in May 2013 with the support of the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Deutsche Welle Academy.
  - Workshop titled “Practice of the Media Activity - Context, Application and Responsibility”, June 2013.
  - The information theme of the Women Political Empowerment Programs in September 2013, organized by Bahrain Institute for Political Development in collaboration with the Supreme Council for Women.
  - The Youth Media Forum on “Women and Social Media” organized in October 2013.
  - Workshop organized by the International Journalists Federation in collaboration with the Bahrain Journalists Association titled “Women Journalists.. Syndicate Activity and Leadership” in March 2010.
  - Workshops for Bahraini and Arab journalists on “Media Strategic Planning for the Empowerment of Women” organized in May 2011 in collaboration with the UNDP and the Information Affairs Authority.
- The implementation of the results of the national reconciliation dialogue held in Bahrain in July 2011, with the development of controls and standards for the appearance of women in television dramas and commercials in all media, and the formation of a committee concerned with the censorship and approval of television drama scripts in order to reflect the true image of women as a partner in development.

## **(II) Results Achieved:**

- Women were appointed to many executive and management positions in the Information Affairs Authority (IAA). Women represented 27% of total IAA personnel in 2013. Women have a higher percentage of executive positions of around 29%, as well as 43% of specialized positions, as compared to 27.2% of ordinary positions. Women effectively contribute in many programs through 6 television stations and nine radio stations, whether in preparation, presentation, direction, coordination and administration, and represent 19% of personnel in television and 49% in radio.
- The number of annual broadcast hours of women and family programs in radio in 2013 totaled 485 hours, with an increase of 8% as compared to 2010.
- The number of annual broadcast hours of women and family programs on television in 2013 reached 106 hours, or an increase of 10% as compared to 2010.
- Women filled editorial, management and executive positions in 12 Bahraini daily and weekly newspapers, 25 society, economic and variety magazines, including the positions of board members, section chief and editor. Women represent 14% to 50% of the total number of journalists and editors in local press, and averaged 20% in 2013. Women also represent a large percentage of columnists and opinion writers. Women also fill the position of editor in chief in four magazines, and a managing editor in a newspaper and a magazine.
- Bahraini women contributed as a thinker, author and writer. Women published during the period 1999-2010 over 160 titles and publications, as shown in the statistics issued by the National Library at Isa Cultural Center.

- Three women serve as board members in the Bahraini Journalists Association, or 33% of elected board members.
- Women have received official 182 permits from the Media Department at the IAA up to October 2013 to practice journalism, media or related activities, including the formation of press offices, opinion poll houses, publishing and distribution houses, art, cinema, television, radio, theatre and cinematography companies, in addition to 134 permits to publish “business” and electronic newspapers and magazines, advertising and news publications, and government, academic and university magazines.
- Women ranks high in regional and international media, where Bahrain won two awards for best media production on Arab Women in 2012, organized by the Arab Woman Organization, namely: second place in audiovisual media for a documentary titled “Muneera.. overcoming disability”, and the second award in “electronic media” on a study titled “The Role of Women in Islamic Culture”.

**(III) Main Obstacles, Gaps and Challenges:**

- Continued efforts to change the stereotype image of women in media.
- Development of radio and television programs in Bahraini media to strengthen its capabilities to compete with Arab and foreign satellite channels, and to protect society against media programs and materials which in one way or another produce a negative stereotype image of women.
- Development of education and training programs to prepare women media workers to keep abreast of labor market requirements and to provide them with the skills and techniques of traditional and modern media.
- Development of the competencies of media workers to adopt and support the causes of women.
- Optimal investment in social media to support the presence of women in various fields.

**8. Women and the Environment**

**(I) Achievements:**

**(a) Legal Measures:**

- Decree No (11) of 2014 to establish and organize the National Space Science Agency.
- Law No. (1) of 2011 to approve the accession to the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident.
- Law No. (2) of 2011 to approve the accession to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.
- Resolution No. (3) of 2011 concerning controls on advertising and promotion of tobacco and tobacco products.
- Decree Law No. (47) of 2012 to establish and organize the Supreme Council for the Environment.
- Decree No. (90) of 2012 to establish the Supreme Council for the Environment.
- Decree No. (91) of 2012 to organize the Executive Board of the Supreme Council for the Environment.
- Resolution No. (8) of 2013 concerning the regulation of occupational safety and health in organizations.

- Resolution No. (12) of 2013 on procedures required to report work related injuries and occupational diseases.
- Resolution No. (14) of 2013 on the reorganization of the National Committee for Fighting Smoking and Tobacco Products.
- Resolution of the Chairman of the Public Commission for the Protection of Marine Resources, Environment and Wildlife No. (4) of 2009 on the regulation and monitoring of non-ionizing radiation created by magnetic fields.

**(b) Policies, Strategies and Plans:**

- The vision, principles and strategic basis of the environment in Bahrain 2020 were approved, as well as the approval of the national action plans and the introduction of the national initiative to consolidate the concepts of sustainability in the country, through the development of partnership and cooperation between the Supreme Council for the Environment and all public and private sector institutions and social society organizations.
- Launch of the National Initiative for the Development of the Agricultural Sector, chaired by HRH Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, wife of His Majesty King of Bahrain, aimed at increasing the contribution of the agricultural sector in the national product, and the adoption of comprehensive plans to support entities active in agriculture, enhance and support manufacturing industries, promote awareness of the agricultural culture through education and training to build specialized national capabilities in this field.
- As part of the international obligations concerned with multilateral environment agreements, environmental awareness and community partnership were incorporated in a national plan in the Second National Communication Report Under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 2012.
- As part of the international obligations concerned with multilateral environment agreements, the Supreme Council for the Environment developed the national strategy and biodiversity action plan. The strategy indicated the importance of enhancing environmental awareness of biodiversity and its importance to all segments of society in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

**(c) National Processes, Programs and Projects:**

- As part of the implementation of the environmental policies of the Supreme Council for the Environment, and specifically the principle of partnership, the Council adopted a systematic strategy to promote women's awareness of environmental issues at the local and international levels, through organizing debates, delivering many lectures and holding workshops for various women segments and different age groups, including:
  - Organizing awareness lectures in community centers in the Kingdom for housewives, mainly a lecture titled "Women and the Environment" held at Boori Community Center in 2012.
  - Various workshops for government and private sector personnel to increase environmental awareness and familiarize them with environmental legislations and resolutions which concern them. In 2010, a workshop was organized for women in the nursing field titled "Environment and Human Health", on management of hazardous waste resulting from healthcare sector operations in Bahrain, and relevant government legislations.
  - The Supreme Council for the Environment opened many events on the role of women in the protection of the environment in partnership with women associations concerned with environmental issues.

- In 2012, the First Bahrain International Exhibition and Forum for Green Technologies was organized to promote environmental awareness among various segments of the society concerning the importance of green technology and the consolidation of the partnership with civil society organizations.
- The voluntary obligations of the Kingdom of Bahrain include the preparation of national communications on environmental change. The Second National Communication Report Under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change contained a chapter dedicated to environmental awareness in society. The department concerned with the preparation of the report intends to introduce the social gender dimension in the Third National Communication Report Under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the preparation of which is scheduled to start in mid-2014.
- The National Oil and Gas Authority (NOGA) published a study on “Environmental Challenges to the Bahraini Oil Sector and Response Measures”.
- The Supreme Council for the Environment is discussing the application of an environmental tariff system to development projects in Bahrain. The proposed environmental tariff system is intended to entice those projects and oblige them to comply with laws, standards and specifications, as well as to promote environmental protection against the impacts of activities which adversely affect the environment, as well as to activate public control and provide financial resources to rehabilitate and enhance the environment.

**(II) Results Achieved:**

- The number of women specialists in the environmental fields increased from 7 in 2001 to 14 in 2007, and to 17 in 2013 (the number of environmental specialists totaled 11 and the environmental technicians totaled 6) out of the total number of 59 environmental specialists and technicians employed by the Council, or 28% of the total number of environmental specialists. One of the specialists at the Supreme Council for the Environment was promoted to director, out of 8 top management positions.
- The annual per capita power consumption rose from 8,600.171 kwh/person/year in 2009 to 10,272.702 kwh/person/year in 2012.
- Daily per capita consumption of water (gallons per day) decreased to 110.08, compared to 113.02 in 2010.
- Daily per capita consumption of electricity in the housing sector (kwh) decreased to 108.73 in 2011, compared to 111.43 in 2010.
- Women beneficiaries of awareness programs on concepts supporting the environment totaled 125 in 2011, compared to 65 in 2008.
- Annual volume of waste declined from 1546326 in 2011, compared to 1645505 in 2008.
- The number of accidents in the work environment declined to 50 in 2011, compared to 58 in 2008.
- The number of public parks near residential areas increased to 16 in 2011, compared to 10 in 2008.
- Green covers in the Kingdom increased with the inauguration of Arad Bay Reserved Park in 2010, which include the longest walkway in Bahrain, as well as Princess Sabeeka Park in 2010, Prince Khalifa bin Salman Park in 2011, and Khalifa Grand Park in 2012.

**(III) Main Obstacles, Gaps and Challenges:**

- To increase participation of women in environmental control, decision making and implementation which is considered to be one of the most important factors which strengthen women's ties with the environment and enhance their feeling that they can participate in its management and protection.
- To increase the awareness of women in local environmental issues and their effects on economic, social and health development programs, as well as the importance to underscore the role of women in sustainable development, and increase of their awareness of worldwide developments, including state of the art plans, instruments and technologies for the management of the environment.

## **9. Institutional Mechanisms for the Advancement of Women**

### **(I) Achievements:**

#### **(a) Legal Measures:**

- Issuance of Royal Order No. (44) of 2010 to appoint the members of the Supreme Council for Women for a fourth term (2010-2013).
- Issuance of Royal Order No. (1) of 2014 to appoint the members of the Supreme Council for Women for a fifth term (2014-2016).
- Issuance of Royal Order No. (14) of 2011 to establish and organize the National Committee for the Follow Up and Implementation of the National Model for the Mainstreaming of the Needs of Women, chaired by HRH Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, wife of the King of Bahrain, President of the Supreme Council for Women. In addition, Royal Order No. (12) of 2014 was issued to amend Article (2) of Royal Order No. (14) of 2011 to establish and organize the National Committee for the Follow Up and Implementation of the National Model for the Mainstreaming of the Needs of Women in the Government Action Program.
- Issuance of the Resolution of HRH President of the Supreme Council for Women, Chairman of the National Committee, No. (9) of 2011 to specify the roles of the National Committee for the Follow Up and Implementation of the National Model for the Mainstreaming of the Needs of Women in the Government Action Program.
- Issuance of the Resolution of HRH President of the Supreme Council for Women, Chairman of the National Committee, No. (2) of 2014 to specify the roles of the National Committee for the Follow Up and Implementation of the National Model for the Mainstreaming of the Needs of Women in the Government Action Program.
- Resolution of HRH President of the Supreme Council for Women No. (2) of 2012 to form the Coordination Committee to support the mainstreaming of the needs of women in development, aimed at activating the legislative and regulatory role using parliamentary tools for follow up in support of national efforts in this field.
- Issuance of Ministry of Finance circular concerning budget allocations, regulations and directives for the implementation of the State's budget for Fiscal Years (2011-2012). The Circular contained a special provision on the application of the equal opportunity principle and the budget responsive to the needs of women.
- On 19<sup>th</sup> September 2013, the Civil Service Bureau approved the formation of equal opportunity committees at government departments charged with development of controls and standards, and the provision of consultation to ensure the mainstreaming of the needs of women in the policies, plans and budget of government departments and the evaluation and analysis of employment opportunities for women.
- Issuance of Civil Service Bureau Directive No. (4) of 2014 on the formation of permanent equal opportunity committees at government departments.

- Administrative Resolution No. (22) of 2013 on the formation of an equal opportunity unit at the Shura Council.
- Resolution of Chairman of the Representatives Council of 2012 on the formation of an equal opportunity unit at the Representatives Council.

**(b) Policies, Strategies and Plans:**

- The Supreme Council for Women launched the National Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women (2013-2022). In a procedural step to commence implementation of the plan, a strategic plan was developed to implement the national plan. A phased approach was adopted to implement the plan over a period of two years. The first phase is an interim phase, and the second phase gives priority to implementation, followed by two phases, each lasting four years for coordination and synchronization with the Government Action Plan and the State's Budget.
- The National Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women (2013-2022) was incorporated in the Government Action Plan.

**(c) National Processes, Programs and Projects:**

- Launch of the National Model for the Mainstreaming of Gender Needs in Development, comprised of four main themes, namely policies, budgets, knowledge management and effect measurement, with required procedures developed and expected roles specified for each of the departments concerned with the implementation of the National Model themes.
- The Supreme Council for Women worked in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance as a main partner to convert the State's Budget into a budget that incorporates the mainstreaming of women's needs and equal opportunity in preparation and implementation, in accordance with Bahrain's fiscal policy methodology and mechanisms. A number of steps were carried out in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance as a start on a course to reach budgets that are responsive to the needs of women, perhaps the most important of which is the issue of five circulars by the Ministry of Finance containing directives and instructions to ministries and government institutions to provide for equal opportunity and the mainstreaming of women's needs in the preparation and implementation of the budget.
- The Supreme Council for Women launched the training portfolio for public sector institutions and civil society organizations in the field of mainstreaming of women's needs in development during the period 27-31 January 2013. The training portfolio includes a workshop to introduce the equal opportunity units and "the concepts of mainstreaming of women's needs in development, and the skills for call and gaining support" with the aim of paving the way for the operation of equal opportunity units in various ministries and departments, definition of their roles and objectives by introducing the concepts, philosophy, and terminology for mainstreaming women's needs in development and the skills for call and gaining support and building young leaders capabilities.
- Central Informatics System introduction of an open information platform by gender to promote statistical action and dynamically and proactively obtain statistical information.

**(II) Results Achieved:**

- Until 2013, 18 ministries and government institutions established equal opportunity units. Moreover, one of the leading private sector companies established an equal opportunity unit during the same year.

**(III) Main Obstacles, Gaps and Challenges:**

- The integration of the women component in the Government Action Plan and the State's Budget as a general and undetailed process which calls for the activation of the following mechanisms:

- The inclusion of women's needs in strategic planning priorities at the national level to ensure mandatory implementation.
  - Analysis of the budget based on determination of gender needs to ensure fair and just allocation of resources and equal opportunity in the main budget schedules.
  - Conducting studies which include the mainstreaming of women's needs in planned projects and programs.
- The need for the development of strategies for assessment, follow up and evaluation which ensure sustainability and functional systems and appropriate incentives to cater to women's needs in the business environment.
  - The need to increase public awareness of the concepts of mainstreaming the needs of women by implementing a continuing awareness system to ensure sustainability in the promotion of community awareness.
  - The creation of sufficient acceptance to adopt the mainstreaming concepts and thought in private sector institutions.
  - The need to intensify efforts in the field of promoting the culture of mainstreaming and the implementation of required training programs to build competencies of personnel employed in civil society organizations.
  - The need to develop clear methodologies for assessment, follow up and measurement of performance to ensure sustainability in underscoring the effect of implementing the national model, regionally and internationally.

## 10. Human Rights of Women

### (I) Achievements:

#### (a) Legal Measures:

- Issuance of Decree No. (66) of 2012 concerning the organization of the Ministry of Human Rights Affairs, and the amendment of certain provisions of Decree No. (60) of 2011 on the renaming and reorganization of the Ministry of Social Development.
- The establishment of the National Human Rights Institute in 2009 by Royal Order No. (46) for the support, development and protection of human rights, the instilling of their values, the promotion of awareness and contribution to assuring their practice.
- The Kingdom of Bahrain acceded to the CEDAW on 18.6.2002, and started implementation on 18.7.2002.
- The Kingdom of Bahrain acceded to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination on 27<sup>th</sup> March 1990 by Legislative Law No. (8) of 1990.
- Representation of the Supreme Council for Women in all gender related national committees, including for example child, the elderly and the disabled.
- Decree No. (61) of 2013 to establish and define the functions of the Commission for the Rights of Prisoners and Detainees, the membership of which includes a number of women specialized in various fields.
- Law No. (40) of 2010 was issued to amend certain provisions of Law No. (74) of 2006 on the care, rehabilitation and employment of the disabled, and provided that the disabled – without gender discrimination – shall be granted a disability allowance of at least BD 100 monthly. Payment of this allowance however, shall be without prejudice to any other entitlements or

assistance given to the disabled under any other law. This means that this law increased the ceiling of the assistance provided to the disabled.

- Law No. (22) of 2011 ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- Prime Minister's Resolution No. (50) of 2012 to establish the High Human Rights Coordination Committee.
- Decree Law No. (30) of 2011 to establish a national fund for the compensation of victims.
- Decree Law No. (53) of 2012 to amend certain provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure issued by Legislative Decree No. (46) of 2002.

**(b) Policies, Strategies and Plans:**

- Formation of national teams with members including representatives of all authorities and civil society organizations to follow up international conventions and prepare periodic reports.
- Development of the National Youth Strategy (2011-2015), the development of which was based throughout its various phases on several principles, mainly justice, equality, contribution to the promotion of gender equality, and the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities and special needs.
- Development of the National Strategy for Persons with Disability (2013-2016) which lays the main foundations for the care for the disabled and in particular in relation to the deep-rooting of the culture of justice, fairness, equality and equal opportunity for all citizens.
- Development of the National Strategy for the Elderly to care of senior citizens and ensure their rights through the extension of the social insurance umbrella to cover them.

**(c) National Processes, Programs and Projects:**

- The Supreme Council for Women and civil society organizations in Bahrain organize ongoing legal awareness and education programs including workshops and seminars on the CEDAW and the introduction to the rights of women as provided in the CEDAW and how they are implemented.
- The Judicial Studies Institute held 11 courses in 2009 and 2010, including courses on international human rights, respect of human rights, human rights and responsibilities, women's human rights, and milestones in Arab court rulings.
- Bahrain's State Budget Law for Fiscal Years 2011-2012 includes a number of main budget funds directly and indirectly related to human rights, which can improve the living standards equally for all citizens. The budget allocation in these two years totaled BD 1,524.9 million, including:
  - Direct support of human rights related activities with a budget of BD 2.7 million at the Ministry of Social Development and the National Human Rights Institute.
  - Provision of financial support for programs directly concerned with women, social welfare and persons with special needs, namely the Royal Charity Organization with BD 3.8 million, and persons with special needs with BD 8.2 million.
- The National Human Rights Institute organized a number of cultural and awareness programs, training workshops and lectures in the human rights field, including:
  - Seminar on the CEDAW, women's rights and human rights, in January 2014.

- Event on the “Role of the Media in the Support and Protection of Human Rights in Bahrain” in collaboration with the High Commissioner for Human Rights, in 2014.
- Lecture on human rights international law as part of the human rights training programs for new lawyers, in collaboration with the International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Bar Association, in 2014.
- Seminar titled “The Role of the National Human Rights Institute in the Support and Protection of Human Rights in the Kingdom of Bahrain”, in 2013.

**(II) Main Obstacles, Gaps and Challenges:**

- Building the capabilities of civil society organizations and the activation of their social role in promoting awareness of human rights.
- The need to complete or expedite the issue of legislations and laws concerning women.

## 11. Girl Child

**(I) Achievements:**

**(a) Legal Measures:**

- Law No. (19) of 2009 to issue the Family Law (Part I) which organizes family relations in marriage and its Shari’ah legal effects, divorce and custody issues
- Resolution No. (3) of 2011 on controls for advertising and promotion of tobacco and tobacco products. Article (1) prohibits the entry of products which include an advertisement or publicity for tobacco, tobacco products, or processing as candies or children toys.
- Resolution No. (19) of 2011 on the reformation of the Family Custody Committee.
- Resolution No. (46) of 2011 on the organization of release from child centers and post-release care.
- Law No. (37) of 2012 to issue the Children’s Act.
- Resolution No. (23) of 2013 specifying the conditions and other circumstances for the employment of minors, as well as hard and hazardous occupations, industries and activities where their employment is prohibited or which may adversely affect the health, safety or moral behavior of the minor.
- Resolution No. (12) of 2013 on the amendment of the Charter of the Special Educational Services Center for Children (Tafaol).
- Resolution No. (64) of 2013 to establish the National Commission for Childhood.

**(b) Policies, Strategies and Plans:**

- In 2011, a Women and Child Committee was formed in the Council of Representatives, similar to the committee which was formed in the Shura Council since the first legislative term of 2002.
- Manuals for all mother and child services were updated for 2008-2009. Healthcare services providers were trained on them. These include the manual for protection of women against violence, women periodic medical screening manual, the breast-feeding manual, the manual for protection of the child against violence and negligence, the mother’s post-childbirth healthcare and birth control manual, adolescent healthcare manual, and child medical examination manual.

- In 2013, a strategy for early intervention was developed as a rehabilitation stage of disabled children rehabilitation.

**(c) National Processes, Programs and Projects:**

- Launch of the foster care program in 2012.
- Launch of the 998 child support hotline in 2012.

**(II) Results Achieved:**

- The Kingdom of Bahrain won a seat on the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child for the 2013-2017 term.

**(III) Main Obstacles, Gaps and Challenges:**

- Limited numbers of child psychiatrists, particularly for children with special needs.
- The need for community awareness and promotion of positive health behavior in children.
- Absence of the Family Law (Part II).

## **Consequences of the Financial and Economic Crisis and its Effects on Women**

In spite of the effects of the global financial crisis on world economy and oil price levels in global markets, which is the main source of funding the State's public expenditures, the Kingdom of Bahrain, realizing the importance of supporting the national economy to overcome the effects of the global financial crisis, has endeavored to expand spending in various economic and service sectors, and continued to fund capital and infrastructure projects, increased social welfare allocations and subsidies for certain basic commodities. This has clearly reduced adverse effects on the national economy, protected the rights and entitlements of citizens, particularly Bahraini women in all living, health, education and service fields to ensure the advancement of society and realize sustainable development. Average growth of public expenditure grew in fiscal year 2012 by 16% for operating expenses as compared to 2008, with average annual growth of spending on capital and infrastructure projects by 11%, average annual growth of spending on health services by 16%, average annual growth of spending on education services by 12%, average annual growth of spending on housing by 33% and average annual growth on social services by 7%.

## Part Three: Data and Statistics

### A) National Core Indicators

In 2012, the Kingdom of Bahrain developed national performance indicators covering five main themes based on gender, namely: the national economy, quality of life, lifelong learning, knowledge economy and sustainable energy resources.

The periodic collection and use of information and data to analyze realities and keep abreast of changes in society is the main driver for the provision of services and the assurance of equal rights of all members of society. These functions are assigned to the following bodies:

- **Central Informatics Organization (CIO):** the government department concerned with issuing official economic and population census information. It relies on a gender approach in the preparation of its indicators and reports. It was formed by Cabinet Resolution No. 05-1923 issued in March 2006. The CIO has created an electronic system which facilitates the collection and analysis of data, publication of indicators issued by ministries and government departments, survey and collation of these indicators, following by analysis and preparation of data related to those indicators in collaboration with relevant institutions.
- **Supreme Council for Women:** SCW started the implementation of the National Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women (2013-2022) by creating an effective knowledge system in the field of women, including expertise, knowledge and learning sources by linking and consolidating sources of knowledge related to the developmental fields. The Supreme Council for Women also prepares and issues periodic statistical publications, including without limitation: Bahraini Women in Numbers, which reports the achievements of women in various social, education, health, economic and political fields. This is represented in indicators which measure the direct impact the roles women had played and continue to play in building a sustainable competitive society.
- **Government Institutions:** including Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Social Development which endeavor to collect and publish statistics and data related to women on its websites, each in its field of specialty, with public access allowed to all.
- **Equal Opportunity Committees:** created in government departments in light of Civil Service Bureau Resolution made in its session dated 18.9.2013, which provides within the knowledge management theme, for the preparation of databases, statistics and reports on employees and users of services provided at the government department, and their classification by type, as well as the measurement of the impact of the implementation of the National Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women in achieving equal opportunity and measuring averages for bridging the gender gap and reach an equal partnership.

### B) Indicators Related to the Minimum Set of Gender Indicators

The objectives of the CIO include implementation of the objectives of Bahrain Economic Vision 2030 related to the enhancement of capabilities in collecting statistical data, conducting analysis, as well as collecting and publishing statistical data on the Kingdom using state of the art hardware and software. The CIO provides all of its statistics based on management records, specialized surveys and statistical publications, classified by gender, including elderly and disabled characteristics.

The CIO also conducts periodic specialized surveys, such as the household spending and income survey, as well as survey of business organizations on the structure and distribution of wages. The CIO also contributes to conducting specialized surveys with ministries and government departments such as the survey of chronic non-communicable diseases, world health survey, survey of information, trends and behaviors related to communicable diseases, the national youth opinion poll survey.

In respect of annual statistical publications which are issued based on gender, such as biostatistics, education, manpower, social insurance statistics, and social welfare services statistics, data is surveyed in coordination with entities concerned, and subsequently data is processed and evaluated and then made available via the website ([www.cio.gov.bh](http://www.cio.gov.bh)). In a step to keep abreast of technological developments in Bahrain, the open data platform was introduced to enhance statistical activity and obtain statistical data dynamically and proactively. Data is

uploaded by ministries and departments concerned to the website (<http://statistics.gov.bh>), and then they are processed and evaluated by employing information technology. Thereafter, data is posted on the website.

In implementing Cabinet Resolution No. 02-2208 approving the preparation of national indicators to enhance the competitiveness of the Kingdom of Bahrain, and whereas this project is linked to the functions of the CIO, the Cabinet assigned the CIO to commence practical technical steps to monitor actual national indicators, such that they are in line with international indicators, and to develop a mechanism to implement indicators and ensure obtaining correct readings and monitor the compliance of entities concerned with measurement, provision of required support and overcoming obstacles. The classification of the indicators will undoubtedly be by gender to measure gender equality in all of the aforementioned domains.

The CIO acts as the statistical coordinator in the implementation of the National Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women (2013-2022), and coordinates with ministries and departments concerned to provide the Supreme Council for Women with statistics and indicators contained in the plan for ongoing evaluation to measure the effect of the plan on the advancement of Bahraini women.

The SCW also started establishing a database on Bahraini women, and entered into partnerships with relevant organizations, mainly the CIO, so as to build a base which attracts Bahraini women of various specialties and academic and employment backgrounds. Programs and strategies concerned with the support of women can thus be based on accurate knowledge of the changes in the level of participation of women. The SCW endeavors to ensure that the Bahraini women database is flexible and initially contains two basic knowledge systems, namely the statistical knowledge system and the records knowledge system, each of which containing a number of specialized electronic subsystems in various fields.

A complete methodology was developed to continuously measure results and evaluate their effect during the implementation of the national Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women (2013-2022), based on state of the art methods at the local and international levels, using CIO indicators, and indicators contained in official reports as a source of measurements, such as the gender gap report (Davos), the World Bank Report, the World Health Organization Report, as well as reports issued by the United Nations, taking into consideration the special nature of certain indicators, particularly the Arab and Moslem social indicators.

### **C) Indicators Related to Violence Against Women**

There is a number of bodies concerned with domestic violence who monitor cases of domestic violence against women and young girls separately in the Kingdom of Bahrain. In order to concentrate and consolidate the efforts of those entities and further SCW's efforts in combatting violence against women, the National Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women (2013-2022) provided special measures for the protection of women against all forms of domestic violence, with the electronic linking of all entities concerned with violence in Bahrain, in collaboration with partners and affiliates in this field, with the organization of a program aimed at creating a consolidated and comprehensive database for women and girls victims of domestic violence in Bahrain, and the use of data and statistics in the preparation of local, regional and international reports and research, as well as future plans.

In Phase I of the Base Project, a joint committee was formed by the SCW and relevant government departments concerned (Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Social Development, Ministry of Justice and Islamic Affairs, Ministry of Health) as partners in the creation of the consolidated database of domestic violence cases in Bahrain. It was agreed in Phase I of the database project to collect data periodically on cases of domestic violence involving women and girls in Bahrain, with schedules especially prepared for this purpose containing information on the victim and the offender by: gender, nationality, age, marital status, educational level, governorate, number of years of marriage and other important information.

Phase I of the database project yielded an electronic system containing a uniform set of indicators related to violence against women in Bahrain. Electronic linking is in process of being completed for linking with member entities in the joint committee, to serve as a single source of data on women and girls victims of domestic violence in the Kingdom of Bahrain and the statistical reports in this field.

#### **D) Data on Specific Groups**

The Kingdom of Bahrain is endeavoring to improve the conditions of women of various classes and levels, including the elderly and the disabled, in collaboration and coordination with entities concerned. These entities collect data and information on the extent of use of those categories of the services, their locations and their conditions, including for example the Ministry of Social Development and the Royal Charity Organization. These entities also rely on statistics and information collected by the CIO whether through census or by way of specialized surveys.

## Part Four: Emerging Priorities

The Kingdom of Bahrain is expending significant efforts to provide a better level of various services and facilities to citizens. The government pays great attention to women in this field, and always targets the improvement of the level of services provided to women, quantitatively and qualitatively in various fields. Nevertheless, certain challenges persist, and the government has developed a set of future measures to overcome them.

### 1. Main Priorities

- Continued provision of economic and social needs of the family, improvement of health and psychiatric safety, with family cohesion, and the empowerment of women to rely on themselves and achieve security and protection for all members of the family.
- Building satisfaction and strengthening practices which support catering to the needs of women with justice, broader options, enhanced capabilities in society and with support of the rights of women.
- Development of practices to ensure self, professional group, community and human development through quality and continued education and learning, transfer of knowhow and expertise to women in each age group.
- Improving the aspects of life of women in health, environmental, social and mental fields which reflects on the family, secure living, and better practices through the availability of options for women.
- Building a house for consultation and comparison in the field of women through knowledge management, and working through partners to build sustainable success stories.
- Linking forms and schedules relate to the preparation of the State’s Budget with the objectives of the Government Action Program and the National Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women (2013-2022), such that the circular related to the preparation of the State’s Budget for the years 2015-2018 contains instructions related to equal opportunity, as well as the development of schedules for the preparation of the 2015-2018 budget to link objectives and strategies of ministries and government departments with the Government Action Program and the national strategic requirements for the advancement of women, as well as the support of SCW’s initiatives in the preparation of a financial database to serve international evaluation reports.

### 2. Recommendations

- Incorporation of the National Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women (2013-2022) in the Government Action Program in partnership and cooperation with the Economic Development Board (EDB) and government departments.
- Preparation of a national strategy to combat violence against women.
- Expediting the issuance of a law to protect the family against violence.
- Expediting the issuance of the Family Law (Part II).
- Consolidating family stability by including concepts and values which support the role of women in economic and social development and incorporating them in education and training curricula.
- Improving sustainable development programs through the activation of the Bahraini Model for the Mainstreaming of Women’s Needs in Development.
- Creation of mechanism for the transfer and management of knowledge to contribute to the sustainable participation of women in economic and social programs.
- Provision of various education and learning systems, techniques and tools.

- Enhancement of knowledge empowerment of women to support their capabilities in dealing with their problems by applying best practices.
- Continued building of the competencies of women and providing women with knowledge, skills and behaviors, and putting them to good practice.
- Development of the competencies of women and productive practices to enhance their competitiveness in society.
- Empowering women to enjoy good and safe living throughout all the phases of her life.
- Establishing a national house of expertise in the field of women's causes and empowerment.
- Improving national expertise and exchange of knowledge to achieve regional and international competitiveness.
- Electronic linking and creation of a consolidated database using the gender approach, and incorporating the social and economic conditions of Bahraini women.
- Intensifying awareness processes and training of family harmony behaviors, self management skills and the skills for management of others, starting with the basic education level, in coordination and partnership with other related entities within the framework of a national social network to combat violence.
- Continued development of mechanisms to empower women to rely on themselves economically.
- Continued development of mechanisms to empower women and promote community awareness of all the rights and obligations of women, thus ensuring competitiveness in all sectors and specialties, at all levels.
- Adoption of a national policy to supplement flour with Vitamin (D).
- Adoption of national policies to limit the consumption of saturated fats and effectively end the use of partially hydrogenated vegetable oils in foodstuffs.
- Adoption of policies to minimize the effects on children resulting from the marketing of foods and non-alcoholic beverages with a high content of saturated fats, free sugars or salt.
- Updating a number of laws, including the public health law, the anti-tobacco law, the AIDS law, the law to organize the availability of breastfeeding alternatives, and the mental health law.
- Studying the introduction of inoculation against cervical cancer and Hepatitis B Virus (HBV) for girls age 16.

## Conclusion

The Kingdom of Bahrain emphasizes that the most important factors of its success in achieving aspired goals are as follows:

- The clear political will at the highest levels to empower women and bridge the gender gap at various levels. This is manifested in institutional and legislative action, mainly the creation of the “Supreme Council for Women” and its mandate, as well as its influence with public and private sector organizations alike.
- Continued and gradual steps and interventions to achieve objectives, without interruption or suspension of policies and programs in this field, thus yielding greater positive results as compared to individual and isolated interventions.
- The National Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women and the work programs and projects based on it incorporate all fields and levels as is shown in the effects of the plan, and the national commitment to follow all the Beijing Action Platform themes without exception, including sensitive issues such as violence against women, political participation, etc .
- The SCW has developed a policy for networking and communication with government authorities; to ensure the highest levels of consultation, cooperation and coordination and secure the incorporation of national plans and programs aimed at achieving the sustainability of advancement of Bahraini women.
- Endeavoring to build a knowledge system which monitors the volume and level of advancement in the conditions of Bahraini women, in line with international requirements, and particularly the follow up of implementation of conventions and the preparation of periodic reports.
- Commitment to transforming Bahrain into a national house of expertise in the field of empowerment and advancement of women, and a center of excellence in services, facilities and consultation in the region.

## Attachments

### A) Members of the National Team

The members of the national team participating in the preparation of the Kingdom of Bahrain Report on progress made in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (Beijing+20), through deliberation and work group meetings, direct consultation and focus groups:

No.	Body	Name / Position
1.	Legislation & Legal Opinion Commission	Legal Advisor Maasouma Abdul Rasul Issa Deputy Chairman, Legislation & Legal Opinion Commission
2.	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	H.E. Dr. Sheikha Rana bint Isa Al Khalifa Assistant Undersecretary for Arab and Afro-Asian Affairs and Organizations
3.		Dr. Ibrahim Badawi Al-Sheikh Legal Advisor
4.	Ministry of Social Development	Mrs. Badria Youssef Al Jeeb Assistant Undersecretary for Social Welfare and Rehabilitation
5.	Ministry of Health	Dr. Mariam Athbi Al Jalahma Assistant Undersecretary for Primary Care & Public Health
6.	Ministry of Justice and Islamic Affairs	Ms. Dana Khamis Al-Zayani Assistant Undersecretary for Statistics, Planning and Communication
7.	Ministry of Finance	Mr. Sami Mohamed Homayed Director, Foreign Economic Relations
8.	Ministry of Labor	Mrs. Fawziya Saleh Shehab Director of Unemployment Insurance
9.	Ministry of Education	Mrs. Latifa Issa Al Bunoutha Director of Planning and Education Projects
10.	Economic Development Board	Mrs. Nada Azemi Director, Economic Planning and Development
11.	Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning	Engineer Lamia Al Fadala Director of Technical Services at Central Governorate Municipality Head of Equal Opportunity Unit
12.	Information Affairs Authority	Ms. Maysa Abdullatif Al Thawadi Acting Director of Media Follow-up
13.	Supreme Council for Environment	Engineer Zahwa M. Al-Kuwari Acting Director of Environmental Policies & Planning
14.		Eng. Susan Mohammed Al Ajjawi Head of Environmental Planning
15.	Central Informatics Organisation	Ms. Maha Abdullah Sabt Statistician at the Demographic, Environmental and Social Statistics Department
16.	Bahrain Society for Strategic Planning	Dr. Hala Bader Ahmad Sulaibeekh President of Bahrain Society for Strategic Planning
17.	Bahrain Women Development Society	Mrs. Khadija Al Sayed Vice President of Bahrain Women Development Society
18.	General Secretariat Supreme Council for Women	Mr. Ezzedine Khalil Almoayyed Director-General of Administrative and Media Affairs

No.	Body	Name / Position
19.		Dr. Dunia Ahmed Abdullah Acting Director General of Policies and Development
20.		Mrs. Ibtissam Abdullah Farea' Director of Information Center for Women and Children
21.		Shaikha Deena bint Rashid Al Khalifa Acting Director of Public and International Relations
22.		Mr. Mohamed Abdulrahman Al Faris Head of Local and International Follow Up and Coordination
23.		Ms. Amani Saleh Shajera Head of Studies and Research Department
24.		Mrs. Hanadi Ahmed Al Nayef Senior Data Specialist
25.		Mrs. Latifa Mahmoud Al Anzi Senior Data Specialist
26.		Ms. Moza Abdullah Al Dosari Senior Data Specialist
27.		Ms. Shaymaa Abdullah Salman Senior Follow Up Specialist
28.		Mrs. Leila Faisal Al Halwaji Senior Studies and Research Specialist
29.		Mrs. Noura Abdul Aziz Al Rifai International Cooperation Specialist
30.		Mrs. Mariam Ahmad Abdullah Data Technician

## B) Statistics

Include detailed (quantitative) statistical data, as may be required, on the general trends which were addressed in Part I, and the eleven areas of interest addressed in Part II.

### 1. Women and Poverty

**Table (1): Gross Domestic Product (BD million) – Current Prices**

Indices	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
GDP (BD million)	8,624.8	9,668.2	10,920.6	11,530.5	12,328.2

Source: Central Informatics Organization (CIO) Website

**Table (2): Gross Domestic Product Per Capita (BD) – Current Prices**

Indices	2009	2010	2011	2012
GDP per Capita (BD)	7,319.0	7,869.6	9,138.4	9,311.0

Source: Central Informatics Organization (CIO) Website

**Table (3): Numbers and Percentages of Social Welfare Beneficiaries as of April 2014 by Gender, Population of the Kingdom of Bahrain (2011 Population)**

Gender	Number	Percentage
Women	9,869	1.73%
Men	6,588	1.15%
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,457</b>	<b>2.88%</b>

Source: Ministry of Social Development

**Table (4): Number of Financial Support Beneficiaries as of April 2014 and their Percentage to the Population of the Kingdom of Bahrain (2011 Population)**

Gender	Number	Percentage
Female	27,655	4.80%
Male	82,480	14.50%
<b>Total</b>	<b>110,135</b>	<b>19.30%</b>

Source: Ministry of Social Development

## 2. Women and Education

**Table (5): Numerical and Proportional Distribution of Students in the Basic Education Stage in the Kingdom of Bahrain (2012-2013)**

Level	Male Students	Female Students	Total	% Male Students	% Female Students
Elementary	32,072	32,185	64,257	49.91%	50.09%
Intermediate	16,355	16,205	32,560	50.23%	49.77%
Secondary	63,762	64,797	128,559	49.60%	50.40%

Source: Ministry of Education

**Table (6): Numerical and Proportional Distribution of Students in the Higher Education Stage in the Kingdom of Bahrain (2011-2012)**

Level	Male Students	Female Students	Total	% Male Students	% Female Students
Number of Students in Higher Education Institutions	12,763	19,564	32,327	39%	61%

Source: General Secretariat, Council of Higher Education

**Table (7): Numerical Distribution of Students in Bahrain Training Institute (2009-2012)**

Training Year	Gender	Number of Registered Trainees
2009/2010	Men	1890
	Women	2204
2010/2011	Men	1921
	Women	2273
2011/2012	Men	1692
	Women	1609
2012/2013	Men	1795
	Women	1765

Source: Bahrain Training Institute

**Table (8): Number of Teachers in Public Schools by Type of School for the Academic Year (2012-2013)**

Type of School	Total	Male	Female	Percentage of Males	Percentage of Females
Elementary	5222	1178	4044	23%	77%
Elementary / Intermediate	1333	778	555	58%	42%
Intermediate	2453	974	1479	40%	60%
Intermediate / Secondary	123	-	123	-	100%
Secondary / Other Curricula	3135	1038	2097	33%	67%
Vocational Secondary	912	912	-	100%	-
Religious Education	201	201	-	100%	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>13379</b>	<b>5081</b>	<b>8298</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>62%</b>

Source: Ministry of Education

**Table (9): Number of Teachers in Private Schools for the Academic Year (2012-2013)**

<b>Multi-Level Schools (Elementary, Intermediate, Secondary)</b>	<b>3782</b>	<b>768</b>	<b>3014</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>80%</b>
--	-------------	------------	-------------	------------	------------

Source: Ministry of Education

### 3. Women and Health

**Table (10): Children Under Five Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births (2008-2012)**

Indices	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Children Under Five Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births	9.4	8.6	9.4	9.8	9

Source: Ministry of Health

**Table (11): Maternal Mortality Rate per 100,000 Live Births (2008-2012)**

Indices	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Change in Maternal Mortality Rate	17.7	16.9	11	22.8	26.2

Source: Ministry of Health

**Table (12): Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 Population**

Indices	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	15.3	15	14.8	14.7	15.6

Source: Ministry of Health

**Table (13): Fertility Rate of Bahraini Women**

Indices	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Total Fertility Rate (Females 15-49)	80.4	81	79.2	75.6	78.6
Total Fertility Rate per Woman (Females 15-49)	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.6	2.7

Source: Ministry of Health

#### 4. Violence Against Women

Table (14): Numerical and percentage distribution of women who resorted to Dar Al Aman of the Ministry of Social Development of ages 15-49 victims of physical or sexual violence in the past 12 months by the husband or by other persons

Description	Category	Number
Distribution of women between 15 and 49 years victims of physical or sexual violence in the past 12 months by the husband	Bahraini	9
	Arab	9
	Foreign	3
	Total	21
Distribution of women between 15 and 49 years victims of physical or sexual violence in the past 12 months by persons other than the husband	Bahraini	6
	Arab	-
	Foreign	67
	Total	73

Source: Ministry of Social Development

#### 5. Participation of Women in Power and Decision Making

Table (15): Numerical distribution of Bahraini women in leadership and decision making positions

Position	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Minister or equivalent	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	4	4
Undersecretary or equivalent	1	2	2	2	3	3	4	4	5
Assistant Undersecretary or equivalent	6	12	13	16	14	14	18	18	20
Shura Council Member	6	10	11	10	10	11	11	11	11
Member of Council of Representatives		1	1	1	1	1	4	4	4
Ambassador	1		1	2	2	2	3	3	3
Chief Executive Officer					1	1	1	1	1
Municipal Council Member						1	1	1	1
Judge		1	3	5	9	13	13	13	17

Source: Supreme Council for Women

**Table (16): Participation of Bahraini women in parliament and municipal council elections**

Year	Parliament Male Candidates	Parliament Female Candidates	Municipal Council Male Candidates	Municipal Council Female Candidates	Women Elected to Parliament	Women Elected to Municipal Council
2002	183	8	275	31	0	0
2006	190	18	160	5	1	0
2010	125	9	172	3	1	1
Supplementary - 2011	53	5			4	
Supplementary - 2012	3	1				

Source: Supreme Council for Women

**Table (17): Participation of Bahraini women in parliamentary elections**

Year	Women	Men
2002	47.70%	52.30%
2006	50.20%	49.80%
2010	51%	49%

Source: Supreme Council for Women

## 6. Women and the Economy

Table (18): Employees in the Public and Private Sectors

Profession	2011						2012					
	Bahraini			Non Bahraini			Bahraini			Non Bahraini		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
<b>Public Sector (Civil Service Bureau Only)</b>												
Civil Service Positions	13,560	7,636	21,196	435	1,307	1,742	13,566	8,247	21,813	516	1,344	1,860
Percentage	64%	36.03%	100%	25%	75%	100%	62%	38%	100%	28%	72%	100%
Specialist Positions	1,705	2,005	3,710	283	325	608	1,822	2,164	3,986	294	339	633
Percentage	46%	54%	100%	47%	53%	100%	46%	54%	100%	46%	54%	100%
Executive Positions	964	409	1,373	14	1	15	1,043	495	1,538	13	0	13
Percentage	70%	30%	100%	93%	7%	100%	68%	32%	100%	100%	0%	100%
Educational Positions	3,325	9,510	12,835	2,439	595	3,034	3,307	9,564	12,871	2,714	714	3,428
Percentage	26%	74%	100%	80%	20%	100%	26%	74%	100%	79%	21%	100%
Judges	140	19	159	35	0	35	155	20	175	52	0	52
Percentage	88%	12%	100%	100%	0%	100%	89%	11%	100%	100%	0%	100%
Diplomatic Positions	186	62	248	-	-	-	186	62	248	-	-	-
Percentage	75%	25%	100%	-	-	-	75%	25%	100%	-	-	-
Public Sector (Civil Service Bureau Only)	19,880	19,641	39,521	3,206	2,228	5,434	20,079	20,552	40,631	3,589	2,397	5,986
Percentage	50%	50%	100%	59%	41%	100%	49%	51%	100%	60%	40%	100%
<b>Private Sector</b>												
Private Sector	56,957	24,435	81,392	353,338	22,087	375,425	58,169	24,774	82,943	378,044	24,768	402,812
Percentage	70%	30%	100%	94%	6%	100%	70%	30%	100%	94%	6%	100%

Source: Central Informatics Organization (CIO) Website

**Table (19): Average monthly salary of Bahraini and non-Bahraini employees in the public and private sectors**

Year	Bahraini				Non Bahraini	
	Public Sector		Private Sector		Private Sector	
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
2010	684	672	431	668	301	196
2011	782	773	456	695	302	202
2012	757	770	476	714	295	202
2013	772	798	488	727	293	198

Source: General Organization for Social Insurance Website

**Table (20): Unemployed and unemployment statistics (2010-2013)**

Year	Unemployed Males	Unemployed Females	Total	Unemployment Rate	Percentage Males	Percentage Females
2010	1,590	3,636	5,226	3.6	30%	70%
2011	1,906	3,862	5,768	4	33%	67%
2012	1,604	5,184	6,788	3.8	24%	76%
2013	1,354	7,114	8,468	4.3	16%	84%

Source: Ministry of Labor – Unemployment Report

## 6. Women and the Media

**Table (21): Number of broadcast hours of women and family programs in Radio (2010-2013)**

Year	Number
2010	450
2011	550
2012	550
2013	485

Source: Information Affairs Authority

**Table (22): Number of broadcast hours of women and family programs in Television (2010-2013)**

Year	Number
2010	96
2011	86
2012	96
2013	106

Source: Information Affairs Authority

## 8. Women and the Environment

**Table (23): Per Capita Power Consumption**

Year	KWh / capita / year
2009	8600.171
2010	9668.191
2011	9504.943
2012	10272.702

Source: Central Informatics Organization (CIO)

## 9. Institutional Mechanisms for the Advancement of Women

**Table (24): Numerical Distribution of Equal Opportunity Units in Public and Private Sector Institutions through the end of 2013**

Description	2011	2012	2013
Number of Equal Opportunity Units	12	4	3

Source: Supreme Council for Women

## C) Indicators

This attachment contains a list of indicators related to the minimum set of gender indicators:

1	Indicators related to the minimum set of gender indicators by field	Results (Figures / Percentages)	Entity Concerned with the Measurement / Source																																	
1.1	<b>Women and Poverty</b>																																			
	Percentage or number of users of government aid	Total individual users of government aid from the Ministry of Social Development in 2012 around 35,400 users	Central Informatics Organization + Ministry of Social Development																																	
1.2	<b>Women and Education</b>																																			
	Average literacy in age group 15-24, by gender	Average literacy in age group 15-24 males is around 98.6% and females 97.6% (2010 census)	Central Informatics Organization																																	
	Average literacy in age group 15-24, by gender	Academic year 2012/2013 Total: 100.2% Males: 100.4% Females: 100.1%	Ministry of Education																																	
	Gender equality index in registration in elementary, secondary and university education	Elementary, intermediate and secondary education (without university education) for academic year (2012/2013) around 0.996	Ministry of Education																																	
	Percentage of female university teachers	Percentage female university teachers, academic year (2011/2012) 42%.	Ministry of Education																																	
	Elementary education completion percentage by gender (survival rate)	Elementary level graduates (public and private) for academic year 2012/2013, males 7796 and females 7242	Ministry of Education																																	
	Elementary education graduation percentage, by gender	Elementary level graduates (public and private) for academic year 2012/2013, males 7796 and females 7242	Ministry of Education																																	
	Average transfer to secondary education, by gender	Transfer to secondary level 2012/2013, males 98.4% and females 99.6%; both genders 99%	Ministry of Education																																	
	Average education, age group 25 and older, by gender	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Education Level</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Males</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Females</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Literate / reads only</td><td style="text-align: center;">4.3</td><td style="text-align: center;">10.2</td></tr> <tr><td>Reads and writes</td><td style="text-align: center;">25.2</td><td style="text-align: center;">25.9</td></tr> <tr><td>Elementary</td><td style="text-align: center;">16.5</td><td style="text-align: center;">7.2</td></tr> <tr><td>Intermediate</td><td style="text-align: center;">15.4</td><td style="text-align: center;">13.5</td></tr> <tr><td>Secondary</td><td style="text-align: center;">20.5</td><td style="text-align: center;">21.6</td></tr> <tr><td>Post secondary / Diploma</td><td style="text-align: center;">9.3</td><td style="text-align: center;">10.7</td></tr> <tr><td>Bachelor</td><td style="text-align: center;">6.3</td><td style="text-align: center;">8.6</td></tr> <tr><td>Post bachelor diploma</td><td style="text-align: center;">1.4</td><td style="text-align: center;">1.4</td></tr> <tr><td>Master</td><td style="text-align: center;">0.8</td><td style="text-align: center;">0.7</td></tr> <tr><td>Doctorate</td><td style="text-align: center;">0.2</td><td style="text-align: center;">0.1</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Education Level	Males	Females	Literate / reads only	4.3	10.2	Reads and writes	25.2	25.9	Elementary	16.5	7.2	Intermediate	15.4	13.5	Secondary	20.5	21.6	Post secondary / Diploma	9.3	10.7	Bachelor	6.3	8.6	Post bachelor diploma	1.4	1.4	Master	0.8	0.7	Doctorate	0.2	0.1	Central Informatics Organization
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	Average illiteracy by gender, rural and urban	Average illiteracy males (10-44) years 3.9%, females 8.4%, classification of rural and urban does not apply to Bahrain (2010 Census)	Central Informatics Organization																																	
	Number of enrollments in vocational education by gender and discipline	Number of enrolled students in secondary technical and vocational education for academic year (201w/2013) males 5991, females 979	Ministry of Education																																	
	Breakdown of male and female teachers in private and public education	Academic Year 2012/2013: <b>Public Education:</b> Total: 13379 Males: 5081 Females: 8298 Female Teachers: 62% <b>Private Education:</b> Total: 3782 Males: 768 Females: 3014 Female Teachers: 80%	Ministry of Education																																	

Average Internet and Computer use by gender, rural and urban	Individuals using the Internet 88%	Telecommunications Regulatory Authority																																																																
Spending on education as a percentage of total State Budget and GDP	Ministry of Education expenditures to public expenditures for Fiscal 2012 = 9.38%, and Ministry of Education expenditures to GDP for Fiscal 2012 = 2.679%	Ministry of Education																																																																
Breakdown of male and female teachers by educational level and employment	<p>Number of female and male teachers in public schools, by school type for academic year 2012/2013:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="581 394 1092 968"> <thead> <tr> <th>Type of School</th> <th>Total</th> <th>Males</th> <th>Females</th> <th>Males Percent</th> <th>Females Percent</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Elementary</td> <td>5222</td> <td>1178</td> <td>4044</td> <td>23%</td> <td>77%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Elementary Intermediate</td> <td>1333</td> <td>778</td> <td>555</td> <td>58%</td> <td>42%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Intermediate</td> <td>2453</td> <td>974</td> <td>1479</td> <td>40%</td> <td>60%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Intermediate Secondary</td> <td>123</td> <td></td> <td>123</td> <td></td> <td>100%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>High School + other</td> <td>3135</td> <td>1038</td> <td>2097</td> <td>33%</td> <td>67%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Vocational Secondary</td> <td>912</td> <td>912</td> <td></td> <td>100%</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Religious Education</td> <td>201</td> <td>201</td> <td></td> <td>100%</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>13379</td> <td>5081</td> <td>8298</td> <td>38%</td> <td>62%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Number of female and male teachers in private schools (multi-level schools (elementary/intermediate/secondary) for academic year 2012/2013</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="581 1066 1092 1182"> <thead> <tr> <th>Total</th> <th>Males</th> <th>Females</th> <th>Males Percentage</th> <th>Females Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>3782</td> <td>768</td> <td>3014</td> <td>20%</td> <td>80%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Type of School	Total	Males	Females	Males Percent	Females Percent	Elementary	5222	1178	4044	23%	77%	Elementary Intermediate	1333	778	555	58%	42%	Intermediate	2453	974	1479	40%	60%	Intermediate Secondary	123		123		100%	High School + other	3135	1038	2097	33%	67%	Vocational Secondary	912	912		100%		Religious Education	201	201		100%		Total	13379	5081	8298	38%	62%	Total	Males	Females	Males Percentage	Females Percentage	3782	768	3014	20%	80%	
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1.3	<b>Women and Health</b>																																																																	
Use of birth control by married women, or by women with partners, ages 15-49 years	Percentage women of child-bearing age (15-49) using a contraceptive : 53.4%	Ministry of Health (Source: Multi-cluster survey, 2000 indicators, Bahrain)																																																																
Mortality rate, children below 5, by gender	Mortality rate, children below 5 per 1000 live births in 2012 Male: 9.1 – Female: 8.9 – Total: 9.0	Ministry of Health																																																																
Mother's death at delivery	The mortality rate of pregnant mothers during pregnancy or at and post delivery is low compared to global average, not exceeding 26.2 per 100,000 live births in 2012	Ministry of Health																																																																
Coverage of pre-natal care	Pre-natal health care (minimum 1 visit) 100% in 2012	Ministry of Health																																																																
Births under the supervision of skilled healthcare worker	Births under the supervision of skilled healthcare worker 99.8% in 2012	Ministry of Health																																																																
Smoking persons ages 15 and older, by gender	Percentage Bahraini smokers – males: 33.4%, females: 7.0%, total: 19.9%	Ministry of Health “national survey of risk of exposure to chronic diseases, 2007, Kingdom of Bahrain”, Age Group 20-64 years																																																																
Adults with obesity, by gender	Percentage Bahrainis with obesity – males: 32.3%, females: 40.3%, total 36.3%.	Ministry of Health “national survey of risk of exposure to chronic diseases, 2007, Kingdom of Bahrain”, Age Group 20-64 years																																																																

	Availability of reverse antiviral drugs, by gender	All cases eligible to receive antiviral medications as recommended by the World Health Organization	Ministry of Health
	Average life expectancy at 60, by gender	Life expectancy at 60 (in years), men : 21, women : 23	Ministry of Health : Source : World Health Organization <a href="http://www.who.int/gho/publications/world_health_statistics/EN_WHS2013_Full.pdf">http://www.who.int/gho/publications/world_health_statistics/EN_WHS2013_Full.pdf</a> <a href="http://www.who.int/gho/publications/world_health_statistics/EN_WHS2013_Full.pdf">http://www.who.int/gho/publications/world_health_statistics/EN_WHS2013_Full.pdf</a>
	Average mortality of adults by cause of death and age group	Highest five mortality rates of adults as a percentage of total adult deaths (over 15 years) are : - Cardiovascular diseases : 22.6% - Endocrinology, nutrition and metabolism : 12.8% - Tumors : 10.3% - External causes or deaths : 7.4% - Respiratory diseases : 4.9%	Ministry of Health
	Average life expectancy at birth, by gender	Average life expectancy at birth: Males: 74.7, Females: 76.1, Total: 75.3	Ministry of Health
	Calorie consumption by gender and age	Population who do not consume the minimum calorie count : men 58.3, women 41.7	Ministry of Health
	Deaths during delivery	The indicator of deaths of mothers during pregnancy, at birth or after birth is considered low as compared to global averages, and not exceeding 26.2 per 100,000 live births in 2012	Ministry of Health
	Fertility rate	Overall fertility rate (15-49) for Bahraini women 78.6 in 2012 Total fertility rate (15-49) for women 2.7 in 2012	Ministry of Health
	Voluntary abortion rate	No voluntary abortion case recorded	Ministry of Health
	Use of contraceptives by gender and type	Use of male condom : 9.6%	Ministry of Health (Family Health Survey, 1995)
	Rate of child delivery at home	Rate of child delivery at home 0.2% in 2012	Ministry of Health
	Mortality rate at birth, infants, and children below 5, by gender	Fetus mortality rate 9.0 per 1000 births, infant mortality rate per 1000 births, males 7.6, females 7.9 and total 7.8 Mortality of children below 5 per 1000 livebirths : males 9.1, females 8.9, and total 9.0 in 2012	Ministry of Health
	% Public spending in the State's Budget on healthcare services	9.8% of government spending on health services out of the total State Budget for 2012	Ministry of Health
1,4	<b>Violence against Women</b>		
	Fertility rate in adolescent females	Births given by adolescent girls (15-19), 15 per 1000 in age group (15-19) in 2012	Ministry of Health
1,5	<b>Participation of Women in Power and Decision Making</b>		
	Women's share of cabinet appointments in government	Percentage women in executive branch of government (governments) including entities under the umbrella of the Civil Service Bureau, around 31.9% in 2012	Central Informatics Organization
	National Assembly seats occupied by women	Percentage National Assembly seats occupied by women 18.8% of total seats	Supreme Council for Women
	Percentage female judges	Percentage Bahraini women judges and similar positions 11.4% of total Bahraini judges in 2012	Supreme Council for Women + Civil Service Bureau
	Percentage women in parliament	Percentage women in Parliament 10% of total seats	Supreme Council for Women
	Gender empowerment measure / ranking in the Human Development Report	UNDP published a report on Human Development in 2013 titled: "The Rise of the South: Human Progress in a Diverse World". The report findings show Bahrain with a value 0.796 on the Index in the category of high human development,	<a href="http://hdr.undp.org/en/2013-report">http://hdr.undp.org/en/2013-report</a>

		which qualified it to rank 48 out of 187 countries and territories. It should be mentioned that the development index in Bahrain is higher than the average of the high human development countries and Arab countries. As for the index of gender inequality, its value was 258.0, with the Kingdom ranking 45 out of 148 countries in 2012.																						
	Percentage women voters	Women's participation in the parliamentary elections rose from 47.7% in 2002 to 51% in 2010 of total voters, and with a higher overall participation rate.	Supreme Council for Women																					
1,6	<b>Women and the Economy</b>																							
	Average participation of persons between 15-24 years and over 15 years in manpower, by gender	Average participation of persons 15-24 in manpower (2010 Census) was 52.7% for males and 26% for females. Average participation of persons over 15 years old in manpower (2010 Census) was 87.3% for males and 43.7% for females	Central Informatics Organization																					
	Percentage entrepreneurs, by gender	Male entrepreneurs to total male manpower around 0.6%, and female entrepreneurs to total female manpower around 0.3%	Central Informatics Organization																					
	Percentage employers, by gender	Male employers 15 years of age or older in 2010 Census around 1.4%, and female employers 15 years of age or older in 2010 Census around 2.2%	Central Informatics Organization																					
	Population distribution by sector, by gender	<p>Breakdown by percentage of working population (15 years or older) by organization type, 2010 Census</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Sector</th> <th>Males</th> <th>Females</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Public Sector</td> <td>14.3</td> <td>18.1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Private Sector</td> <td>77.4</td> <td>37.1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mixed Sector</td> <td>2.2</td> <td>2.1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Diplomatic / International Activities</td> <td>0.3</td> <td>0.2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other</td> <td>0.1</td> <td>0.2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Not applicable (including workers not in organizations)</td> <td>5.7</td> <td>42.4</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Sector	Males	Females	Public Sector	14.3	18.1	Private Sector	77.4	37.1	Mixed Sector	2.2	2.1	Diplomatic / International Activities	0.3	0.2	Other	0.1	0.2	Not applicable (including workers not in organizations)	5.7	42.4	Central Informatics Organization
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	Youth unemployment, by gender	Youth unemployment (15-24) of total unemployment in 2010 Census, males 54.79% and females 44.43%	Central Informatics Organization																					
	Gender wage gap	Gender wage gap around -0.62 in 2013	Social Insurance Organization + Central Informatics Organization																					
	Individual Internet users, by gender	Individual Internet users 88% in 2012	Telecommunications Regulatory Authority																					
	Individual mobile/cellular phone users, by gender	Individual mobile/cellular phone users 172% in 2012	Central Informatics Organization																					
	Percentage households with access to media (radio, television, Internet) by gender of head of household	Percentage households with access to media (radio, television, Internet) 100% in 2010 Census	Central Informatics Organization																					

	Percentage participation in manpower, by gender	Percentage participation in manpower, males 87.3%, females 44%, 2010 Census	Central Informatics Organization																						
1,7	<b>Girl Child</b>																								
	Percentage gender at birth, by birth order	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Percentage gender at birth: male / (per 100 females)</th> <th>Birth order</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>106</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>105</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>102</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>103</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>101</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>121</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>93</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>107</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>62</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>93</td><td>10+</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Percentage gender at birth: male / (per 100 females)	Birth order	106	1	105	2	102	3	103	4	101	5	121	6	93	7	107	8	62	9	93	10+	Ministry of Health
Percentage gender at birth: male / (per 100 females)		Birth order																							
106		1																							
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121		6																							
93		7																							
107		8																							
62	9																								
93	10+																								
	Average infant deaths, per 1000 live births, by gender	Average infant deaths, per 1000 live births: male 7.6, female 7.9, total 7.8, in 2012	Ministry of Health																						
	Average mortality of children under five, by gender	Average mortality of children under five, per 1000 live births: male 9.1, female 8.9, total 9.0, in 2012	Ministry of Health																						
	Percentage infants underweight at birth, by gender	Percentage infants underweight at birth: male 9.0%, female 10.6%, total 9.8%, in 2012	Ministry of Health																						

## D) List of Policies, Strategies, Business Plans and Publications

Below is a detailed list of the names of policies, strategies, action plans, and available publications, and their respective URL links:

I) Policies	Website URLs
National Strategy for the Advancement of Bahraini Women	Printout copy attached to the report
II) Strategies	Website URLs
National Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women (2013-2022)	<a href="http://www.scw.bh/UploadFiles/pdf/Supreme%20Council%20Inside%20Ara.pdf">http://www.scw.bh/UploadFiles/pdf/Supreme%20Council%20Inside%20Ara.pdf</a>
Ministry of Health Strategy 2011-2014	<a href="http://www.moh.gov.bh/pdf/publications/X_2752013125344.pdf">http://www.moh.gov.bh/pdf/publications/X_2752013125344.pdf</a>
Joint Media Action Strategy for GCC Countries	<a href="http://sites.gcc-sg.org/DLibrary/index.php?action=ShowOne&amp;BID=471">http://sites.gcc-sg.org/DLibrary/index.php?action=ShowOne&amp;BID=471</a>
Media Strategy for Arab Women (2009-2015)	<a href="http://www.arabwomenorg.org/Content/ArabWomenMediaStrategy.pdf">http://www.arabwomenorg.org/Content/ArabWomenMediaStrategy.pdf</a>
National Strategy for Persons with Disabilities (2013-2016)	<a href="http://www.social.gov.bh/sites/default/files/img/files/Disabled-people-strategy.pdf">http://www.social.gov.bh/sites/default/files/img/files/Disabled-people-strategy.pdf</a>
National Strategy for the Elderly	Printout copy attached to the report
National Strategy for Childhood	<a href="http://www.social.gov.bh/sites/default/files/img/files/Kids%20strategy%202.pdf">http://www.social.gov.bh/sites/default/files/img/files/Kids%20strategy%202.pdf</a>
III) Action Plans	Website URLs
Strategic Plan for the Implementation of the National Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women	<a href="http://www.scw.bh/UploadFiles/pdf/National_Plan2014_ar.pdf">http://www.scw.bh/UploadFiles/pdf/National_Plan2014_ar.pdf</a>
IV) Publications	Website URLs
Highlights in Numbers on the Third National Report on the CEDAW	<a href="http://www.scw.gov.bh/UploadFiles/pdf/Highlights_On_3rd_Report.pdf">http://www.scw.gov.bh/UploadFiles/pdf/Highlights_On_3rd_Report.pdf</a>
Bahraini Women in Numbers	<a href="http://www.scw.bh/UploadFiles/pdf/WomeninNumberAR1.pdf">http://www.scw.bh/UploadFiles/pdf/WomeninNumberAR1.pdf</a>
Women Support Center	<a href="http://www.scw.bh/UploadFiles/pdf/SBW.pdf">http://www.scw.bh/UploadFiles/pdf/SBW.pdf</a>