

KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN  
Government of Bahrain



مملكة البحرين  
حكومة مملكة البحرين

# The National Human Rights Plan

2022 - 2026



# The National Human Rights Plan

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**2022 - 2026**

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## Foreword



Throughout the reign of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, Bahraini citizens have been the central focus of the Kingdom of Bahrain's development efforts, with their rights and interests placed at the forefront of decision-making.

Led by His Majesty, Bahrain is undertaking a comprehensive reform and development programme based on values ingrained in Bahraini society – tolerance and mutual respect – to create a secure, developed, and prosperous Kingdom.

Fairness and sustainability are among the key pillars of His Majesty's approach, which recognises citizens as the driving force of the nation's progress and appreciates the importance of effectively and transparently safeguarding their rights.

In recent years, the Kingdom of Bahrain has made important developments; parliamentary elections have enhanced participation in decision-making, in addition to the role played by independent bodies in the Kingdom, the labour market has been modernised, and alternative sentencing has augmented our criminal justice system.

With the unveiling of the Kingdom's National Human Rights Plan, we take the next step in Bahrain's journey.

We greatly appreciate the contribution of all those whose hard work has produced a five-year plan that charts a clear path to the continued protection of human rights in Bahrain. This plan outlines not only the general principles for protecting human rights, but also includes detailed performance indicators and deliverables, with clear procedures to assess progress and implementation.

I welcome the publication of Bahrain's National Human Rights Plan, which will consolidate cross-governmental efforts to deliver wide-ranging, sustainable progress. The government will immediately start implementing this plan as part of our broader commitment to promoting and advancing the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all Bahrain's citizens and residents.

**Salman bin Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa**  
**Crown Prince and Prime Minister**  
**Kingdom of Bahrain**

# Preamble



The reform process of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, King of Bahrain, has always been based on the respect of human rights, strengthening the democratic process, and continuous comprehensive development efforts for both the country and its citizens. This process takes place across various political, economic, social, and cultural domains. His Majesty the King launched his reign with the almost-unanimous approval of the National Action Charter in a popular referendum, representing a clear road map for reforms across all fields based on the promotion and respect of human rights.

The National Action Charter, along with the amended Constitution in 2002, emphasised the strengthening of the system of rights and freedoms. Furthermore, the rule of law and the independence of the executive, legislative and judicial branches, including the regulation of cooperation among them, was further emphasised to ensure rights and freedoms without discrimination. Thereafter, the establishment of the Constitutional Court in 2002 represented a foundational building block for ensuring their conformity of the laws with the Constitution.

The National Consensus Dialogue in 2011, held under the auspices of His Majesty the King with wide participation, led to the crystallisation of a set of mutually-agreed outcomes, which His Majesty ordered to be implemented and transformed into government policies and decisions.

These outcomes were also included within a set of successive constitutional amendments for the years 2012, 2017 and 2018. Most notably, these included insuring fair trial guarantees and the strengthening of the oversight powers of the Council of Representatives.

The Kingdom of Bahrain has also worked to translate constitutional principles into a series of legislative reforms to strengthen the principle of the rule of law, as well as to protect rights and freedoms. The Kingdom established the National Institution for Human Rights alongside a number of other institutions, specialised mechanisms, and placed national sectoral strategies and plans for the promotion and protection of human rights.

Today, this National Human Rights Plan (2022-2026) is published, confirming the comprehensive and continuous development process embodied within the national reform and modernisation project. This is a process founded upon Bahrain's identity and the fact that the people of Bahrain are its core beneficiaries. Fundamentally, the Plan is based on respect for democracy, human rights, and the continuation of reforms in line with human dignity and national pride.

# Executive summary of the National Human Rights Plan



1. Building on the Kingdom of Bahrain's human rights achievements, believing in the importance of reinforcing the Kingdom's human rights infrastructure, in addition to the national plans of numerous official bodies concerned with human rights, the Higher Coordination Committee for Human Rights was established by a decree from the Cabinet. Headed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Committee was tasked with preparing a national plan for human rights at the governmental level and presenting it to the Cabinet.



2. The Committee was keen to prepare this Plan in line with the principle of partnership between stakeholders from various official agencies and civil society institutions within the Kingdom. The Plan was prepared as a phased framework to achieve Bahrain's human rights goals in line with the Kingdom's national and international commitments, as well as best practices in the preparation of national human rights plans.



3. Within this framework, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs organised a package of broad consultations throughout 2020-2021. These consultations witnessed the participation of a vast range of representatives in order to benefit from the widest possible range of inputs. Representatives included those from the legislative, executive, and judicial branches, the National Institution for Human Rights, independent national human rights mechanisms, civil society, the media, the United Nations Development Programme, the Resident Coordinator of the United Nations in the Kingdom of Bahrain, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, research centres, and select diplomatic missions accredited in the Kingdom of Bahrain.



4. Furthermore, on 8 August 2021, whilst drafting the Plan, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator signed a declaration of intent to provide technical advice to prepare, formulate, and develop the National Human Rights Plan (2022-2026) for the Kingdom of Bahrain. In addition, the National Institution for Human Rights, the Bahrain Jurists Association, and other civil society actors were consulted, along with a number of national and international human rights experts.



5. The Plan includes four focus points: civil and political rights; economic, social, and cultural rights; the rights of groups with priority care needs; and solidarity rights. Within the framework of these focus points, the Plan incorporates 17 main objectives, 34 sub-objectives and 102 projects, each designed to achieve the desired objectives, particularly in the areas of legislation, institutional development, capacity building, raising awareness, and engagement in achieving the Plan's objectives.



6. The work stages for the National Human Rights Plan are as follows:

- a. Preparation;
- b. Accreditation;
- c. Implementation; and
- d. Follow-up, monitoring and evaluation.



7. Launching and announcing the Plan; objectives and projects contained within it will be announced in various media outlets and published on the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in both Arabic and English. The objectives and projects will also be sent to the relevant authorities, including the Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator in the Kingdom of Bahrain and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva.



8. Following the publication of the Plan, a team will be formed to follow up on its implementation under the supervision of the Higher Coordination Committee for Human Rights, headed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The team will be responsible for following up on the implementation of all activities included in the Plan throughout the implementation period (2022 - 2026).



9. A timetable has been drawn up to facilitate the implementation of the projects contained within the Plan in order to achieve the desired objectives over the five years from 2022-2026. These objectives will be achieved with ongoing follow-up and annual evaluation of progress, in coordination and cooperation with the relevant authorities and stakeholders. Subsequently, preparations will be made for a draft national plan for the following five years, taking into account the lessons learned from the implementation of the current Plan.



## First: Introduction



**The pursuit of democracy and respect for human rights will remain two wings with which Bahrain will fly to future horizons**

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa  
The King of Bahrain

In the Kingdom of Bahrain, there is a clear vision and determination to promote and advance human rights in a country known throughout history for its civilisation, coexistence, openness to others, and tolerance. This approach is harmonious with the culture of Bahrain, as well as the sentiment of its leadership, government, and people. From the outset of this journey, the Kingdom of Bahrain's achievements have demonstrated the successful implementation of these objectives, with tangible success across various political, economic, social, and cultural domains.

The Kingdom's progress along this path is highlighted by the continued development and capacity building to promote and protect human rights and basic freedoms in line with the country's legal and human rights framework.

The pursuit of democracy and the respect of human rights are two fundamental pillars of the reform approach launched by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa since assuming leadership in 1999. This reform approach formed a solid basis for a comprehensive development process in various political, economic, social, cultural and other fields, which has contributed, and still contributes, to protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms, building a society where security and stability prevail, and achieving justice that supports the development of the democratic process and the success of comprehensive development efforts. It also supports efforts aimed at to support peace in the region and the world, maintain international peace and security, develop international relations among nations and achieve international cooperation, guided by the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant international and regional conventions, because the Kingdom of Bahrain believes that where human rights are respected, peace and security prevail, development is sustainable and prosperity is achieved for all peoples.

Efforts continue in the Kingdom of Bahrain at the constitutional, legislative, and executive levels, which includes the adoption of the National Action Charter in 2001, with 98.4% of citizens voting in favour. This formed a future vision for the Kingdom of Bahrain, a guide for national action, and a road map that keeps pace with the times, as well as with local, regional, and international developments.

In 2002, the amended Constitution strengthened respect for rights and freedoms, as well as the independence of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches, including the cooperation among them. It underlined the democratic system of government in the Kingdom of Bahrain, through which

the law guarantees rights and freedoms without discrimination. Additionally, in 2002, a Royal Decree was also issued to establish the Constitutional Court.

In 2011, the National Consensus Dialogue was launched. The Dialogue included a number of political, human rights, social, and economic issues. In each focus point, many issues were raised through the visions presented, with most agreed upon by all participants. At the conclusion of the National Consensus Dialogue, all outcomes were presented to His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the sponsor of the dialogue itself, who directed the formation of a committee to oversee implementation.

These views were transformed into policy proposals or government decisions and legislation. Additionally, a set of constitutional amendments were proposed, which the legislature later refined, approved and followed-up on. As a result, the Constitution was amended in 2012. Among these amendments is that the King may dissolve the House of Representatives by decree in which the reasons for dissolution are indicated, after consulting the heads of the Shura and Representatives Councils and the President of the Constitutional Court, and the House may not be dissolved again for the same reasons. This is undertaken by the Speaker of the Shura Council, then the First Deputy Speaker of the Council of Representatives, and then the First Deputy Speaker of the Shura Council. Subsequently, as part of the ongoing duty to protect the country and its citizens from the threat of terrorism, and in line with popular demands for continued security, a constitutional amendment was implemented in 2017. The amendment affirmed fair trial guarantees and safeguards for those accused before the Bahraini judiciary. In 2018, the constitution was further amended to increase the oversight powers of the Council of Representatives. In addition, it gave members of the Shura Council the right to ask written questions to ministers.

The Kingdom of Bahrain has worked to carry out a series of extensive legal reforms through its laws. This is to ensure the strengthening of the rule of law in a way that enhances rights and freedoms, including, but not limited to:

- Decree-Law No. 44 of 2012, amending certain provisions of the Judicial Authority Law to ensure full financial and administrative independence.
- Labour Law in the Private Sector No. 36 of 2012 and its amendments, covering various issues including employment contracts, wage protection, end-of-service gratuity, the right to annual leave, exemption from litigation fees, and procedures for settling individual and collective labour disputes. The law also includes domestic servants in a number of its provisions.
- Law No. 37 of 2012 on promulgating the Child Law, as amended by Decree-Law No. 23 of 2021.
- Decree-Law No. 23 of 2013 amending certain provisions of Decree-Law No. 17 of 1976 regarding juveniles.
- Law No. 17 of 2015 regarding protection from domestic violence.
- Law No. 52 of 2015, amending the definition of torture provided in Articles 208 and 232 of the Penal Code.
- Law No. 13 of 2016 amending some provisions of Law No. 26 of 2005 with respect to political societies.
- Law No. 18 of 2017 with respect to alternative sanctions and measures.
- Law No. 19 of 2017 regarding the Family Law.
- Law No. 23 of 2018 promulgating the Health Insurance Law.
- Decree-Law No. 44 of 2018 regarding the International Crimes Law, which is concerned with punishing the perpetrators of genocide, crimes against humanity, and other international crimes.
- Law No. 4 of 2021 promulgating the restorative justice law for children and their protection from maltreatment.

**The Kingdom of Bahrain's national laws include the highest international standards. The Kingdom is a party to seven of the basic human rights conventions, as follows:**

- A. The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
- B. The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- C. The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
- D. The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
- E. The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- F. The Convention against Torture and Other Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
- G. The Convention on the Rights of the Child
- H. The Conventions of the International Labour Organisation, of which the Kingdom has ratified ten agreements, including five of the eight fundamental Conventions.

The Kingdom also submitted an initiative by His Majesty the King to establish an Arab Court for Human Rights. Based on this call, the League of Arab States adopted the initiative, and the League Council's decision was issued at the summit level No. (25) د.ع 593:ق.ق. This was followed by the issuance of the League Council's decree at the ministerial level No. (142)ع.د-7790:ق.ق. (2014/9/7-3ج), approving the statute of the Arab Court of Human Rights. The Kingdom of Bahrain signed the statute in 2018. The Kingdom had previously ratified the Arab Charter on Human Rights in 2006, followed by The GCC Human Rights Declaration of 2015, as well as the Cairo Declaration on Human Rights in Islam of 1990.

The Kingdom consistently fulfils its obligations towards treaty committees, which supervise the follow-up of the implementation of human rights agreements. Additionally, the Kingdom is enhancing cooperation with the mechanisms of the United Nations Human Rights Council and is strengthening cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. Moreover, the Kingdom is benefiting from best practice training and technical assistance provided by UNHCR. The Kingdom of Bahrain continues to cooperate with the United Nations Human Rights Council. In September 2019, the Kingdom submitted a mid-term report to follow up on the implementation of recommendations accepted by the Kingdom during the discussion of its third national report to the Universal Periodic Review mechanism submitted in May 2017.

As a result of the Kingdom of Bahrain's efforts in the international community, the Kingdom was elected to the Human Rights Council for a third time (covering 2019–2021) by an overwhelming majority in the United Nations General Assembly. The Kingdom was also elected to the membership of the Non-Governmental Organisations Committee in the Economic and Social Council. In 2021, through partnerships with the international community, the Kingdom of Bahrain signed a framework with UN agencies covering strategic cooperation and sustainable development for 2021-2022.

Furthermore, based on the Kingdom's approach of promoting mechanisms for the protection, respect, and promotion of human rights, a number of initiatives and agencies have been established, including:

1. The National Institution for Human Rights in 2014. The NIHR's mandate involves the promotion and protection of human rights. NIHR works to consolidate and raise awareness of values that ensure human rights can be practiced freely and independently. The NIHR has adopted the Paris Principles as a reference, which were also adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations under Resolution No. 48/134 of 1993.

The NIHR was established by Royal Decree No. (46) of 2009 amended by Royal Decree No. (28) of 2012, and to emphasise the importance of supporting the work of the Institution as an independent body in the Kingdom of Bahrain with regard to the promotion and protection of human rights, a law was issued that guarantees the independence of the institution, and granting it more competencies and powers in a manner consistent with the "Paris Principles" relating to the status of national institutions in the promotion and protection of human rights.

Pursuant to the constitutional procedures followed in this regard, His Majesty the King issued on July 24, 2014, Law No. (26) of 2014 establishing the NIHR after its approval by the legislative authority, and it entered into force after its publication in the Official Newspaper on August 7, 2014

2. The Ombudsman in 2012. which continues its efforts within the framework of the tasks entrusted to it represented in receiving, reviewing and examining complaints submitted by members of the public regarding allegations of illegal acts and behaviours issued by any of the employees of the Ministry of Interior.
3. The Prisoners and Detainees Rights Commission in 2013. The Commission is responsible for monitoring prisons, detention centres, juvenile care centres, and detainees, along with other places where people may be detained, such as hospitals and psychiatric clinics. The Commission's aim is to verify the conditions of detention and identify the type of treatment received by inmates to ensure they are not subjected to torture or inhumane treatment. The Commission exercises its functions freely, impartially, transparently, and independently.
4. The Special Investigation Unit of the Public Prosecution in 2012. The Unit's mission is to determine criminal responsibility against government officials who have committed unlawful acts. Such acts include murder, torture, abuse, or ill-treatment. The Unit can also refer cases for prosecution. Where the Unit concludes that there is a basis for another form of accountability not meeting the threshold of criminal liability, the case papers are referred to the appropriate governmental department or body. The department or body assesses the potential for disciplinary action, or any other legal action within its powers.
5. The Ministry of Interior has previously issued the Code of Conduct for Policemen, pursuant to Ministerial Resolution No. 14 of 2012. The Code of Conduct is derived from international best practices and similar codes of conduct issued by the United Nations and approved by the General

Assembly. This is in order to promote the principles of transparency, justice, equality, and accountability. One of the most important duties stipulated in this code is the absolute prohibition of torture or other inhuman or degrading treatment..

As part of its ambition to follow up on the implementation of commitments related to certain segments, the Kingdom has launched a number of national plans and strategies, including:

1. **The National Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2012 - 2016)**, which aims to improve and strengthen the protection of disability rights. The strategy included guidelines and development plans for government sectors, civil society institutions, companies, private institutions, teachers, lawyers, and society as a whole. These guidelines and plans focused on the measures necessary to ensure commitment to, and effective monitoring of, the rights of persons with disabilities. The strategy requires all sections of civil society to adopt measures to guarantee the dignified and respectful treatment of persons with disabilities, as well as their inclusion as an essential part of society. The strategy adopts an approach based on the Kingdom's guarantee of human rights for individuals with special needs by removing barriers to equality and eliminating all forms of discrimination.
2. **The National Strategy for Childhood (2013 - 2017)**, which is based on four main focus points. Namely, the right to health and life; the right to education; development and capacity building; and the right to protection and to participation. Some 79% of the strategy's clauses have been implemented. A Cabinet decision has extended its work for an additional five years, from 2018 to 2023, to enable the continued implementation of its plans and programmes. This decision further demonstrates the Kingdom's ambition to guarantee children's rights.
3. **The National Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women (2013 - 2022)**, which included five focus points to promote family stability and cohesion whilst empowering women with the ability to contribute to the country's development path. The Plan is based on the principle of equal opportunity and aims to integrate women's needs in the pursuit of excellence. The Plan also aims to improve women's choices regarding quality of life and lifelong learning. It does so through integration with institutional partners, The strategy reflects the role of the Supreme Council for Women as the national centre of expertise in women's affairs.
4. **The National Strategy for the Elderly**, which was developed by the National Committee for the Elderly, included three main focus points, namely, development in an aging world; health and well-being with age; and creating an enabling and supportive environment for all ages.
5. **The National Youth Strategy (2015 - 2030)**, which consists of eight main points focusing on the status and aspirations of young people in the Kingdom of Bahrain. Its objective is to develop the awareness, respect, and active commitment of Bahraini youth towards the principles and values of society, as well as to create a broader understanding of the needs, interests, issues, opinions, ideas, capabilities, and aspirations of young people within society. In addition, it highlights the contribution of Bahraini youth and their unique strengths. It further promotes new ideas, visions, and innovative initiatives to deal with the issues facing young people in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

6. **The National Plan for the Promotion of National Belonging and Consolidation of Citizenship Values (“Bahrainouna”)**, which was launched on March 26, 2019. The Plan represents a guiding document based on the reformist approach and the values of loyalty, belonging, and tolerance. The Plan consolidates Bahraini national identity, with the values of loyalty to His Majesty the King, belonging, and patriotism, as well as pride in its achievements and the sacrifices of security and military forces. It underlines Bahrain’s social values of tolerance, coexistence and tranquillity, good citizenship, pluralism, acceptance of others, solidarity, and social responsibility. It also underlines the political values of strengthening democracy, public participation, and national consensus, as well as the humanitarian values of respecting human rights and freedoms on the basis of justice and equality. This is in line with the Constitution, the National Action Charter, and international conventions.
7. **The eGovernment Strategy 2020**, which focuses on improving the standard of living whilst reducing government costs. The next strategy of the eGovernment programme is in line with this trend, aiming to facilitate electronic transformation in government services. This is achieved by employing information and communication technology to promote knowledge management, the completion of work in a professional, accessible, low-cost manner, and ensuring information security. The vision, mission and objectives of the next strategy will centre around creating a strong, flexible, and safe environment to encourage innovation in public services. This contributes to the dissemination of knowledge, enabling officials to make more informed decisions. Services will be further developed to ensure they are accomplished in an easy and cost-efficient manner.

The policies and programmes of the Kingdom demonstrate that respect for human rights and democracy is a major foundation of the Kingdom’s efforts, which also include advancing the individual and their freedoms, enhancing the values of citizenship, belonging and loyalty, consolidating democratic concepts, and intensifying sustainable development efforts. Such efforts are based on the conviction that human beings are the pillar of development, at the centre of its purpose and future.

Since the efforts of the Kingdom of Bahrain are based on these fundamental pillars, this Plan was formulated with contributions from partners on all sides. The Plan is a product of an integrated process among all concerned parties in the Kingdom and represents an opportunity for every official body and civil society institution to work together to achieve their objectives. This will ensure that the Kingdom of Bahrain remains a model of integration and collaboration amongst its people and institutions to achieve the benefits and interests of all.

This National Plan includes the following focus points:



Civil and political rights



Economic, social, and cultural rights



The rights of groups with priority care needs



Solidarity rights

These focus points take into account the following: the Kingdom's reports on the implementation of sustainable development objectives; reports submitted to international and regional treaty bodies on human rights; the Universal Periodic Review; and the follow-up of relevant recommendations in this regard. It is anticipated that the Plan will be implemented and evaluated over the next five years (2022-2026). The Plan includes an executive programme of mechanisms and activities within each focus point and targeted approaches in the areas of legislation, capacity building, and the development of mechanisms and institutions.

This Plan is the result of a broad consultative process among relevant stakeholders. Moreover, in order to avoid any inconsistencies with the Kingdom's commitments in areas not covered by the Plan, the High Coordinating Committee for Human Rights, when following up and evaluating the implementation of the plan, shall take into account the recommendations of national, regional and international human rights mechanisms.



## Second: The methodology for preparing the National Human Rights Plan

### Preamble

The Kingdom of Bahrain has affirmed its commitment to respecting and protecting human rights. This is evident in the principles stipulated in the National Action Charter, the Constitution, the legislation, and government policies.

The Prime Minister issued a decree in 2012 to establish the Higher Coordination Committee for Human Rights, headed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, with the membership of state bodies, and with the following mandate:

- A. Prepare a national plan for human rights at the government level.
- B. Establish a mechanism that ensures the achievement of best practice policies for dealing with human rights issues.
- C. Coordinate in preparing the human rights reports that the Kingdom of Bahrain needs to send due to ratifying various human rights conventions.

The “Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action” issued in the World Conference on Human Rights organised by the United Nations recommended that countries develop plans and identify steps through which they can improve the protection of human rights. The Declaration stated that each state, when developing its own action plan, should specify the priorities of the plan and the appropriate tools for its implementation. Additionally, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights issued a guide to national human rights action plans. Based on the guide and the Vienna Declaration, a draft National Human Rights Plan was prepared. This Plan functions as a framework to continue the progress made in improving human rights in the Kingdom of Bahrain. The Plan identifies any challenges or shortcomings regarding human rights and drafts policies and programmes to fulfil national and international human rights commitments.

The priorities of the Plan were decided by incorporating guiding principles and the opinions of official and non-official stakeholders.

## The main principles of the National Human Rights Plan

A. When preparing, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating the Plan, the following main principles shall be taken into account:

- 1) The Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain, the National Action Charter, and the Kingdom's laws and policies
- 2) The relevant national strategies and plans in the Kingdom, in coordination with the concerned authorities
- 3) The Kingdom of Bahrain's Economic Vision 2030
- 4) The Government Plan (2019–2022) regarding human rights, in coordination with the concerned authorities
- 5) The Sustainable Development Goals 2030, the Kingdom of Bahrain's first voluntary report on the Sustainable Development Goals, and the United Nations Framework for Action for Cooperation in the Field of Sustainable Development
- 6) The participation of all stakeholders from citizens, governmental and non-governmental agencies, as well as legislative, judicial, and executive authorities, the National Institution for Human Rights, civil society institutions, and the private sector
- 7) Commitment to ensuring transparency
- 8) Coordination and follow-up at all levels, taking into account the Kingdom of Bahrain's legal national and international obligations.
- 9) Commitment to achieving the objectives within a time frame of 5 years
- 10) Awareness and promoting a culture based on the principles of human rights

B. The plan adheres to the principles of national action in relation to human rights, summarised as follows:

- 1) The National Action Charter was approved by the Kingdom of Bahrain by an overwhelming majority. The Charter reflects the focus areas of the reform process and outlines the perspective from which national action is taken within the field of human rights. The Charter emphasises:
  - a) The principles of justice, equality among citizens, and the rule of law
  - b) The democratic procedures and the political and constitutional partnership between the people and state institutions
  - c) Separation of the three branches and cooperation between them

- d) Strengthening the mechanisms of the judiciary, establishing the Constitutional Court, and achieving comprehensive sustainable development in the political, economic, social, and cultural domains
- 2) The Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain, issued on 14 February 2002 and its amendments guarantee the following:
- a) Respect for rights and freedoms in many of its provisions, particularly in the second chapter on the basic components of society and in the third chapter on public rights and duties
  - b) Providing for rights and freedoms and the mechanisms necessary to protect them. This includes determining the right to litigation, mandating the independence of the judiciary, the separation of powers, and the establishment of the Supreme Constitutional Court in order to emphasise the nature of democratic rule in the Kingdom of Bahrain

These principles confirm that Bahrain's commitment to respecting human rights stems from its Arab and Islamic heritage, civilisation, humanitarian values and principles. This is in accordance with the Kingdom's belief that respect for these rights is a national obligation before it is an international obligation. Moreover, it is a commitment forming the basis for respecting the dignity of individuals, the standing of the nation and the development of society.

The Kingdom's initiatives, policies, and programmes prioritise respecting human rights. This is demonstrated by the Kingdom of Bahrain's ratification or accession to numerous conventions in relation to human rights.

Additionally, the Kingdom has submitted its reports to the treaty committees concerned with monitoring the implementation of human rights conventions. The Kingdom has also cooperated with the Human Rights Council, particularly through the framework of the Universal Periodic Review, and has submitted voluntary periodic reports to the Council.

**Bahrain has also seen active efforts in human rights work by national institutions and civil societies, including:**



- A. The establishment of the Supreme Council for Women, chaired by Her Royal Highness Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa, wife of His Majesty the King. The Council works to advance the role of women in society.
- B. Establishing a National Institution for Human Rights.
- C. Establishing mechanisms to support the upholding of justice, including: the Ombudsman, the Special Investigation Unit of the Public Prosecution, and the Prisoners and Detainees Rights Commission.

- D. National committees such as: the National Committee for Childhood, the National Committee for Combating Trafficking in Persons, and the Higher Committee for the Care of Persons with Disabilities.
- E. Civil society and media activities in light of what the Constitution guarantees in terms of freedom of association and expression.
- F. The government's programmes for the years 2015 - 2018 and 2019 - 2022 outline the frameworks of justice, as well as commitment, to planning and implementation. This includes encouraging respect for and protection of human rights, the Economic Vision 2030 and commitment to the post-2015 UN sustainable development plan among other programmes.
- G. Introducing new generations to human rights concepts and guarantees is one of the most important features of the Kingdom of Bahrain's efforts. Citizenship and human rights, for example, are among the most important issues that are addressed by the Ministry of Education and other concerned parties. This is in light of political developments and royal directives from His Majesty the King, which emphasise national modernisation, enabling everyone to participate actively in political, social, and economic life. As citizens, this allows them to do so in a way that guarantees them a decent life, achieving progress and prosperity for the Kingdom of Bahrain.

In addition to the main foundations and principles, the plan accounts for human rights policies, plans, programmes, and initiatives, ensuring that it is comprehensive and integrated. Additionally, the plan is consistent with the Kingdom of Bahrain's commitments at the international level. The plan's preparation was guided by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the international human rights conventions that the Kingdom of Bahrain has ratified or acceded to. In addition, it accounts for the recommendations of treaty committees and the recommendations of the Universal Periodic Review of the Human Rights Council

**Within this framework, the plan proposes:**

- a) Following up on the harmonisation of national legislation with international human rights standards.
- b) Following up on the implementation of the recommendations of international and regional treaty mechanisms.
- c) Following up on the implementation of recommendations from the Universal Periodic Review mechanism of the Human Rights Council.
- d) Strengthening the capacity of the relevant authorities to uphold the rule of law.
- e) Monitoring the activities of national human rights institutions and programmes.

The plan sets out procedures and activities within the framework of each focus point, taking into account any challenges, and the possibility of adding new focus points if necessary.

## The main consultations to explore the priorities of the plan

The Higher Coordination Committee for Human Rights prepared the Plan in accordance with the principle of partnership and by incorporating the opinions of all stakeholders. The Committee organised several broad consultations and held virtual human rights workshops to enable all stakeholders to participate in preparing the national human rights plan. In the years 2020 and 2021, 9 workshops were held, attended by 1,785 stakeholders representing various official bodies such as the legislative authority, the Supreme Judicial Council, foreign diplomatic corps, the United Nations High Commission for Human Rights, the United Nations Development Programme, and the United Nations Development Coordination Office. These workshops resulted in 311 recommendations.

The workshops discussed the following topics:

- The role of the legislative authority in protecting and promoting human rights and preparing the national human rights plan
- The role of media and press in the national human rights plan
- The rule of law and the preservation of rights in the administration of the justice system
- The role of national institutions and civil society institutions in promoting and developing human rights
- Human rights diplomacy in promoting and developing human rights
- Labour rights in the human rights system
- The role of educational institutions in preparing and implementing the national human rights plan
- Strengthening the rights of groups with priority need of care through the national human rights plan (children, people with disabilities, and the elderly)
- Women's rights and achieving family and societal stability in the Kingdom of Bahrain

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs also organised a virtual interactive dialogue called the – "Preparation of the National Action Plan for Human Rights in Bahrain: Objectives and Priorities".

Based on the foregoing, and through separate meetings with stakeholders to discuss the goals and projects that need to be added to the plan to cover the interim needs for the promotion and protection of human rights, a working group was formed headed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and with the membership of the relevant stakeholders. The working group included representatives of the Higher Coordination Committee for Human Rights, representatives of law enforcement agencies, the National Institution for Human Rights, and civil society organisations. The objectives of the Plan encompass the rights set out in the national legal system, as well as those contained in human rights conventions to which the Kingdom of Bahrain is committed to. The Plan aims to ensure the highest levels of protection of rights and freedoms and achieve human dignity without discrimination. These themes are also in line with the efforts of the Kingdom of Bahrain to achieve the objectives of sustainable development.

The Plan's reference to "solidarity rights" demonstrates the importance the Kingdom of Bahrain attaches to solidarity rights such as the right to development, the right to peace, the right to a healthy

environment, and the right to live in peace. The priorities of the Plan were set by defining the general objectives and sub-objectives within the framework of each focus point, as well as the projects falling under each of them. These focus points include all the recommendations that were seen as important by the workshops' participants to enhance human rights in the Kingdom of Bahrain. The Plan includes 17 main objectives, 34 sub-objectives and 102 projects. To ensure the timely implementation of the plan, a timetable has been set for the implementation of the desired objectives over the next five years (2022 - 2026). The Plan will have continuous follow-ups and annual evaluations of all the objectives and sub-objectives.

The Plan makes clear that its objectives are achieved through the necessary legislation, capacity building, institutional development, awareness raising and participation. In particular, the objectives (main and sub-objectives) and projects within the plan are characterised by the following:



**Pragmatism**



**Effectiveness**



**Sustainability**

The draft preliminary plan has been presented to the Higher Coordination Committee for Human Rights. This enabled each party to study the possibility of implementing the sub-objectives and projects related to their specialisation, as well as to submit observations and suggestions. This was to ensure that the Plan's contents are achievable in practice, ensuring the removal of any obstacles that may prevent its implementation.

On 8 August 2021, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator signed a declaration of intent to provide technical advice to prepare, formulate, and develop the National Human Rights Plan for 2022 - 2026. This was done to benefit from international expertise and human rights best practices, and to ensure that the plan is aligned with international standards and conventions on human rights to which Kingdom of Bahrain is a party.

These preliminary and consultative preparations demonstrate the Kingdom of Bahrain's determination to prepare a consensual, comprehensive, measurable, and scalable national human rights plan. It was anticipated that the plan would go through the following stages:

1. Preparation phase: in 2020 and 2021, which included workshops, meetings, and brainstorming among all stakeholders.
2. Plan development phase: the second and last quarter of 2021, which included the formation of a team to prepare and review the draft plan with all partners. This phase also included the setting of the timetable and legal framework for its implementation
3. Implementation phase: 2022, which included working on announcing and implementing the plan
4. Monitoring and follow-up phase: Issuing annual reports prepared by the working group and submitted to the Higher Coordination Committee for Human Rights on the steps implemented. These reports take into account the results-based approach and indicators for measuring

progress in achieving the plan's objectives, with notes on any challenges or delays in implementation that may occur. Additionally, this stage includes undertaking any modifications to the plan, whether in terms of timeframe, objectives, or resources and in accordance with any new developments that occur during implementation.

5. Evaluation phase: Conducting a periodic evaluation every year comprehensive evaluation on the outputs of the implemented plan. This must be carried out in cooperation with the National Institution for Human Rights, relevant concerned parties and civil society institutions.

# Third: The focus points of the National Human Rights Plan

## The first focus point

- The first objective: Promoting freedom of religion and belief, as well as peaceful coexistence
- The second objective: Promote and protecting the right to freedom of opinion and expression
- The third objective: Consolidating and strengthening democracy in the Kingdom of Bahrain in accordance with human rights instruments and international best practices
- The fourth objective: Developing the roles of national protection and restorative justice mechanisms
- The fifth objective: Supporting the capabilities of the National Institution for Human Rights
- The sixth objective: Supporting the capabilities of civil society institutions

## The second focus point

- The first objective: Combating trafficking in persons
- The second objective: Digital rights, technology, and Artificial Intelligence
- The third objective: Promoting and protecting the right to work
- The fourth objective: Promoting the right to education
- The fifth objective: Promoting the right to health
- The sixth objective: The right to adequate housing

## The third focus point

- The first objective: Promoting and protecting the rights of persons with disabilities
- The second objective: Promoting and protecting the rights of the elderly (senior citizens)
- The third objective: Promoting and protecting the rights of children

## The fourth focus point

- The first objective: Promoting the right to a healthy environment within the framework of sustainable development
- The second objective: Promoting global peace and security



The first focus point:



# Civil and political rights

## The first focus point: civil and political rights

This focus point deals with several projects and executive procedures that aim to achieve the main and secondary objectives related to civil and political rights, as follows:

### The first objective: Promoting freedom of religion and belief, as well as peaceful coexistence

The Kingdom of Bahrain is a model of coexistence and harmony among followers of different religions, sects, and cultures. This is owing to the atmosphere of freedom and openness established by the Kingdom's leadership through its comprehensive reform approach. Demonstrable examples of this include the establishment of the King Hamad Global Centre for Peaceful Coexistence in 2018, and the inauguration of the King Hamad Chair in Inter-Faith Dialogue and Peaceful Coexistence at the Italian University of Sapienza. The comprehensive reform approach also includes several key initiatives such as the launch of the "Kingdom of Bahrain Declaration" in 2018. This Declaration promotes religious freedom and interfaith dialogue with the aim of encouraging religious tolerance and peaceful coexistence globally. Under the patronage of His Majesty the King, a Catholic cathedral was inaugurated in December 2021 on a plot of land gifted from His Majesty. The new cathedral is one of the largest churches in the region, and it is the second cathedral in Bahrain, following the inaugural cathedral that was built around 81 years ago.

To achieve this objective, taking into account the recommendations that received the Kingdom's support within the Universal Periodic Review mechanism and the recommendations of international and regional treaty mechanisms, the following sub-objectives are set:

#### A. Promoting religious freedom

- 1) Capacity building by holding training programmes, educational seminars, and discussion panels to promote both the freedom of belief and the freedom to practice religious rites within society, including places of detention. Additionally, this includes the Kingdom's participation in relevant international efforts to achieve these freedoms.
- 2) Reviewing the relevant laws and decisions and proposing the appropriate amendments to develop them, to guarantee the enjoyment of religious freedom for all.
- 3) Continuing to observe the right to practice religious rites across all religions recognised within the Kingdom.

## B. Enabling a culture of tolerance and peaceful coexistence and continuing to promote harmony and national unity

- 1) Spreading the culture of tolerance, peaceful coexistence, and acceptance of others through the Kingdom's educational system in both public and private schools, with increased awareness of respect for the rights of expatriate workers and their role in creating positive cultural diversity in Bahraini society.
- 2) Developing television programmes and films and publishing them on official media platforms and social networking sites in multiple languages, in addition to holding community competitions on tolerance and religious coexistence.
- 3) Periodic review of controls on religious discourse to ensure that they are supportive of a conscious and tolerant society, with an evaluation of the extent of compliance with those controls.

### **The second objective: Promoting and protecting the right to freedom of opinion and expression**

The Kingdom of Bahrain considers the freedom of opinion and expression to be one of the fundamental freedoms that strengthens the democracy and the rule of law within the Kingdom. In considering the various related rights and freedoms, such as the right to peaceful assembly, the right to vote, freedom of the press and other related freedoms, the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain states in Article 23(b) that:

"Freedom of opinion and scientific research is guaranteed. Everyone has the right to express and publish his opinion by speech, or writing, or otherwise, in accordance with the terms and conditions specified by law, without prejudice to the foundations of the Islamic faith and the unity of the people, and in a manner that does not provoke discord or sectarianism."

To achieve this objective, taking into account the recommendations that received the Kingdom's support within the Universal Periodic Review mechanism and the recommendations of international and regional treaty mechanisms, the following sub-objectives are set:

### **A. Harmonising national legislation and policies with international conventions related to the freedom of opinion and expression**

- 1) Working on making amendments to the Journalism and e-Media Law in line with the international standards and agreements that the Kingdom has ratified or acceded to.
- 2) Reviewing the legislative system and making the necessary amendments to the legislation to guarantee freedom of opinion and responsible expression.

### **B. Strengthening the capacity of journalists and media institutions**

- 1) Enhancing the capacity of press and media personnel in covering human rights-related topics.
- 2) Strengthening the channels of communication and the cooperation mechanisms between government institutions and the relevant civil society institutions.

## **The third objective: Consolidating and Strengthening democracy in the Kingdom of Bahrain in accordance with human rights instruments and international best practice**

The Kingdom of Bahrain is proud of the democratic approach adopted by the country's leadership and the Kingdom's many achievements in promoting and protecting human rights. This approach has been based on the Kingdom of Bahrain's Constitution that guarantees the right to form various political associations because of their essential role in political discourse and policy development.

To achieve this objective, taking into account the recommendations that received the Kingdom's support within the Universal Periodic Review mechanism and the recommendations of international and regional treaty mechanisms, the following sub-objectives are set:

### **A. Harmonising national legislation and policies with the relevant international covenants ratified or acceded to by the Kingdom of Bahrain regarding the promotion and consolidation of democracy**

- 1) Continuing to take measures to enhance and increase women's participation in public life to align the programmes of this Plan with the National Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women and the strategies, frameworks, programmes, and initiatives related to it

### **B. Strengthening progress of national and democratic pursuits**

- 1) Building the capabilities of candidates to participate in parliamentary elections, with a focus on building the capabilities of the youth.

### **C. Enhancing the participation of civil society in public life through legitimate and democratic means**

- 1) Taking some appropriate measures to facilitate the work of civil society institutions.
- 2) Holding training and capacity building programmes for members of civil society institutions.
- 3) Training members of local civil society institutions in the field of monitoring general elections according to best practice standards and methods.

## **The fourth objective: Developing the roles of national protection and restorative justice mechanisms**

To achieve this objective, the Kingdom of Bahrain ensured the practical implementation of relevant legislation, inspired by international instruments. This was carried out through the establishment of mechanisms, oversight bodies, as well as administrative and judicial remedies to uphold rights and preserve freedoms. Several examples of these implementations include the establishment of the Ombudsman, the Prisoners and

Detainees Rights Commission, and the Special Investigation Unit which are concerned with effective monitoring of law enforcement agencies.

The Kingdom of Bahrain's commitment to developing national preventive mechanisms and to restorative justice reflects the direction of the country's political leadership. In February 2021, His Royal Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister praised the alternative sentencing programme, stressing the importance of expanding it. Additionally, His Royal Highness stated that the Kingdom looks forward to adopting a programme for reform centres and open prisons to protect the social fabric in accordance with legal controls.

To achieve this objective, taking into account the recommendations that received the Kingdom's support within the Universal Periodic Review mechanism and the recommendations of international and regional treaty mechanisms, the following sub-objectives are set:

### **A. Building capabilities for enforcement, rule of law, and restorative justice**

- 1) Holding workshops and seminars to introduce and train law enforcement personnel on the international standards relating to the protection of the right to life, physical and psychological integrity, and the right to personal liberty and security.
- 2) Building the capacity of law enforcement personnel to deal with accused and convicted individuals.
- 3) Following up on the implementation of the provisions of Law No. (4) of 2021 regarding restorative justice for children and protecting them from mistreatment.

### **B. Strengthening the mechanisms of oversight, inspection, accountability**

- 1) Developing electronic monitoring mechanisms in correction and rehabilitation centres, detention centres, and in investigative operations, within the framework of the Personal Data Protection Law.
- 2) Organising training courses to develop the skills of supervision and inspection for the personnel in prisons, detention centres, detainees, and juvenile care centres, among other places of detention.
- 3) Organising training programmes and courses by the Internal Audit and Investigations Department at the Ministry of Interior to hone capabilities and raise

the efficiency of law enforcement personnel to carry out their security duty in line with the preservation and protection of human rights and freedoms.

### **C. Strengthening the role of national mechanisms in promoting respect for human rights**

- 1) Strengthening national mechanisms by reviewing the relevant laws and regulations that establish and enhance their independence and effectiveness.
- 2) Developing and strengthening the capacities of those working in the field of human rights workers and the public, whether they are citizens or residents, in the role entrusted to national mechanisms in the field of human rights promotion and protection.

## **The fifth objective: Supporting the capabilities of the National Institution for Human Rights**

The Kingdom of Bahrain reaffirms the importance of the National Institution for Human Rights in promoting the respect and protection of human rights. This can be attributed to its independence and its effective monitoring and follow-up on matters related to the protection of human rights in the Kingdom.

To achieve this objective, taking into account the recommendations that received the Kingdom's support within the Universal Periodic Review mechanism and the recommendations of international and regional treaty mechanisms, the following sub-objectives are set:

### **A. Supporting and strengthening the capabilities of the National Institution for Human Rights in dealing with, monitoring and documenting any allegations of human rights violations, without prejudice to the impartiality and complete independence of its work.**

- 1) Cooperating with the Institution in the field of building the capacities of its employees in the field of mechanisms for receiving complaints, monitoring and documentation, without prejudice to the neutrality of its work and its complete independence.
- 2) Cooperating with the Institution in the capacity building of its employees through holding training and executive programmes related to human rights. This includes engaging with international and regional efforts and programmes.

## The sixth objective: Supporting the capabilities of civil society institutions

Several civil society institutions are active in the Kingdom of Bahrain. These institutions operate within several topic areas, including human rights, rights of women and family affairs, people with disabilities, expatriate workers, and other areas of charitable work.

To achieve this objective, taking into account the recommendations that received the Kingdom's support within the Universal Periodic Review mechanism and the recommendations of international and regional treaty mechanisms, the following sub-objectives are set:

### A. Developing the capacity of civil society institutions to contribute to the promotion, preservation, and protection of human rights

- 1) Holding seminars and training programmes for members of civil society institutions concerned with human rights to enhance their capabilities in relation to international human rights law and international humanitarian law.
- 2) Supporting civil society institutions to enable them to set up their head offices.
- 3) Training civil society institutions to set up official websites and social media platforms.

### B. Developing skills in the field of human rights reporting, including shadow reports submitted to United Nations treaty committees

- 1) Holding workshops and training programmes to familiarise members of civil society institutions concerned with human rights with the work of the United Nations treaty committees.
- 2) Holding workshops and training programmes on the preparation of shadow reports and the mechanism for dealing with them.
- 3) Increasing interest in civil society institutions, including those concerned with workers' rights.
- 4) Supporting the relevant government sectors in issuing reports in order to follow up on the implementation of international agreements and covenants.



## C. Considering the development of laws for civil society institutions

- 1) Review the laws and legislations related to civil society institutions and consider what needs to be developed.
- 2) Improving the application in law and practice of the principles of freedom to form institutions and labour unions in line with international standards and ratified ILO conventions.

The second focus point:



# **Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights**

## The second focus point: economic, social, and cultural rights

### The first objective: combating trafficking in persons

The Kingdom of Bahrain considers the combating of trafficking in persons to require a unified national effort, as well as international coordination. Given the humanitarian, economic, and social impact of human trafficking crimes and their link with other offences, the Department of Anti-Human Trafficking and Protection of Public Morals at the Ministry of Interior has been actively conducting investigations in this regard. These investigations have been successful in combating human trafficking crimes, while preserving the rights of the victims, and protecting them from any exploitation or abuse .

Additionally, the Kingdom of Bahrain has introduced a law to combat human trafficking in 2008 and has established the National Committee to Combat Trafficking in Persons. More recently, a specialised prosecution unit for human trafficking was established through Resolution No. (34) of 2020, making the Kingdom of Bahrain the first Arab country to establish such a unit .

The Kingdom of Bahrain has delivered clear achievements in combatting human trafficking by maintaining the highest rank of “Tier 1” in the US State Department’s Trafficking in Persons Report for four consecutive years from 2018 to 2021. The Kingdom of Bahrain has the necessary components to continue to make progress in combating the trafficking in persons. These include prosecution, prevention, protection, and developing local, regional, and international partnerships .

To achieve this objective, taking into account the recommendations that received the Kingdom’s support within the Universal Periodic Review mechanism and the recommendations of international and regional treaty mechanisms, the following sub-objectives are set:

#### A. Protect vulnerable groups in the labour market and provide them with adequate care

- 1) Promote the voluntary insurance system for domestic workers and increase benefit from it.
- 2) Increase the number of visits by the Preventive Inspection Directorate to educate foreign workers and verify that there are no violations or abuses of the law against them.

- 3) Intensify efforts to investigate the worst forms of labour practices based on suspicion of trafficking in persons and persist on the investigation in systematic cases despite warnings.

## **B. Strengthen efforts to combat the crime of trafficking in persons**

- 1) Evaluate and review the status of trafficking in persons in the Kingdom.
- 2) Draft and implement a national strategy to combat trafficking in persons.
- 3) Take advantage of the best practices followed in combating trafficking in persons, including victim rehabilitation programmes.
- 4) Develop comprehensive awareness programmes based on religious and moral values.
- 5) Strengthen the role of civil society institutions to spread awareness and combat trafficking in persons in its various forms.
- 6) Cooperation and partnership with diplomatic missions in the Kingdom of Bahrain and abroad to raise awareness of combating trafficking in persons.

## **The second objective: Digital Rights, Technology, and Artificial Intelligence**

The Kingdom of Bahrain plans to leverage artificial intelligence technology and digital transformation to enhance human rights. These technological means have provided practical solutions to many challenges directly related to human rights, especially economic and social rights during crises and natural disasters, such as the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Leveraging technology offers alternatives to the traditional methods that were unsuccessful in the past.

The Kingdom of Bahrain also seeks to improve policies on digital rights and freedom on the internet and form policies appropriate to the situation and conditions of the region. The Kingdom of Bahrain will also engage decision-making stakeholders, influential groups, companies, and users to adopt human rights values and support cooperation and joint regulation among society at the local, regional, and international levels.

To achieve this objective, taking into account the recommendations that received the Kingdom's support within the Universal Periodic Review mechanism and the

recommendations of international and regional treaty mechanisms, the following sub-objectives are set:

### **A. Introduce technologies into educational platforms and information databases as a basic infrastructure**

- 1) Establish mechanisms to enable the concerned authorities to track issues related to human rights.
- 2) Establishing a comprehensive human rights website.
- 3) Compile and translate the regulations and laws in force into English.

### **B. Enhance the digital rights in the Kingdom of Bahrain**

- 1) Ensure that digital policies supporting digital transformation processes are implemented by the digital government policy as a right, the digital services policy first, and the one-time data request policy.
- 2) Update and develop the open data platform.
- 3) Develop an electronic participation policy.
- 4) Launch the updated version of the national open data portal [www.data.gov.bh](http://www.data.gov.bh)
- 5) Follow up on the implementation of Law No. (54) of 2018 regarding electronic communications and transactions.
- 6) Follow up on the implementation of Law No. (30) of 2018 issuing the Personal Data Protection Law.
- 7) Introducing further developments to the electronic key project.
- 8) Develop the Safe Internet Initiative

<https://safesurf.bh/ar/>

## **The third objective: Promoting and protecting the right to work**

The Kingdom of Bahrain is one of the leading countries for labour market reform and protection of workers' rights. This includes the flexible work permit initiative, which is considered an international best practice. The flexible work permit provides expatriate workers with the right to move from one employer to another without the consent of the previous employer. This permit helps prevent internationally prohibited acts such as slavery, servitude, and exploitation.

To achieve this objective, taking into account the recommendations that received the Kingdom's support within the Universal Periodic Review mechanism and the recommendations of international and regional treaty mechanisms, the following sub-objectives are set:

### **A. Follow-up on labour laws by the concerned authorities and work to implement them**

- 1) Review the relevant laws and legislations.

### **B. Continue efforts to ensure the safety, security, and dignity of foreign workers, including domestic workers**

- 1) Review the relevant laws and legislations and propose necessary amendments.

## **The fourth objective: Promoting the right to education**

The Kingdom of Bahrain provides free and compulsory primary education for all parts of society. The Kingdom of Bahrain considers education a basic human right and one that is necessary to develop a country's human capital. The right to education is guaranteed by the Constitution in Article 7 and the Education Law issued in 2005.

To achieve this objective, taking into account the recommendations that received the Kingdom's support within the Universal Periodic Review mechanism and the recommendations of international and regional treaty mechanisms, the following sub-objectives are set:

## A. Ensure the continuity of the right to primary education for all

- 1) Evaluate the possibility of ratifying the Convention of the United Nations Educational, Cultural, and Scientific Organisation (UNESCO) relating to combating discrimination in the field of education of 1960.
- 2) Develop a national survey project to study enrolment rates in compulsory and primary education.

## B. Continue to develop educational curricula incorporating human rights standards

- 1) Launch a master's degree in international human rights law and international humanitarian law within the Faculty of Law at the University of Bahrain.
- 2) Continue to review and develop educational curricula by integrating human rights into educational curricula for various educational stages.

## C. Conduct human rights training and education

- 1) Conduct training courses and seminars for students of public and private schools and universities to familiarise them with human rights conventions.
- 2) Initiate the Model United Nations Programme for university students and provide them with the opportunity to visit the United Nations and learn about its work.
- 3) Support schools that promote human rights and citizenship values.

## The fifth objective: Promoting the right to health

The Ministry of Health develops its health policies and strategies in line with the latest international developments. The Ministry leverages modern technologies to improve the quality of healthcare and uses various monitoring mechanisms to assess public satisfaction.

To achieve this objective, taking into account the recommendations that received the Kingdom's support within the Universal Periodic Review mechanism and the recommendations of international and regional treaty mechanisms, the following sub-objectives are set:

### A. Promote awareness of the patient's health rights

- 1) Issue a national questionnaire on health services.

- 2) Teach human rights, which includes the rights of patients, medical workers, and the medical profession in health colleges across the country.
- 3) Raise awareness about the rights of patients in all governmental and private health facilities.

## **B. Review the relevant legislation**

- 1) Issue the Mental Health Law on a priority basis.
- 2) Complete the implementation of the national genome project to build a national database of genome samples. The database will contribute to the development of a preventive plan to address genetic diseases.
- 3) Develop health legislation to ensure the protection of patients' rights and provide protection for doctors.

## **The sixth objective: The right to adequate housing**

The Kingdom of Bahrain is working to provide high-quality housing services for low-income citizens. These housing services will ensure the financial security of low-income citizens. The Kingdom of Bahrain aims to provide a variety of housing options that are in line with the income levels of individuals. The government is constantly reducing the entitlement conditions for housing services to make housing accessible to all.

To achieve this objective, taking into account the recommendations that received the Kingdom's support within the Universal Periodic Review mechanism and the recommendations of international and regional treaty mechanisms, the following sub-objective is set:

### **A. Strengthening procedures for gender equality in access to adequate housing.**

- 1) Develop housing services legislation that provides several housing benefits options.



The third focus point:



# The Rights of groups with Priority Care Needs

## The third focus point: the rights of groups with priority care needs

### The first objective: Promoting and protecting the rights of persons with disabilities

The Kingdom of Bahrain places emphasis on the care of persons of both sexes with disabilities, referred to as “people of determination”. The government encourages all institutions to contribute to their rehabilitation, care, and integration into society, including civil society institutions and the private sector. These institutions should work together synergistically, within an integrated partnership framework. The goal is to provide care for persons with disabilities, including social, health and cultural care in addition to rehabilitation and training. This allows them to integrate into society and into the labour market.

To achieve this objective, taking into account the recommendations that received the Kingdom’s support within the Universal Periodic Review mechanism and the recommendations of international and regional treaty mechanisms, the following sub-objectives are set:

#### A. Strengthening policies and developing systems, regulations and decisions that ensure the implementation of the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

- 1) Updating the National Plan for the National Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities for the years 2022 - 2026.
- 2) Preparing national and international reports on issues facing people with disabilities and following up on the implementation of recommendations and proposals from relevant committees in international organisations.
- 3) Developing a monitoring and follow-up mechanism for authorities responsible for implementing the national strategy for the rights of persons with disabilities.

## **B. Ensuring that persons with disabilities have access to comprehensive rights and developing their capabilities in order to integrate them into the labour market**

- 1) Continuing to provide aspects of educational, professional, and therapeutic care and rehabilitation through specialised rehabilitation centres.
- 2) Continuing the integration of persons with disabilities into the labour market and providing them with appropriate job opportunities.
- 3) Developing infrastructure so that it is compatible with the needs of people with disabilities and to ensure the right of access.
- 4) Developing community partnership projects and programmes with civil society institutions and the private sector in the field of disability.

## **The second objective: Promoting and protecting the rights of the elderly (senior citizens)**

The elderly of both sexes, referred to as "senior citizens", are a priority for the Kingdom of Bahrain. The government is working to enhance health and social care for senior citizens. In addition, it is establishing a National Committee for the Elderly, which is responsible for implementing a general policy for the care of elderly people. This includes the preparation and implementation of programmes/projects for elderly care, as well as the development of services alongside the relevant authorities

To achieve this objective, taking into account the recommendations that received the Kingdom's support within the Universal Periodic Review mechanism and the recommendations of international and regional treaty mechanisms, the following sub-objectives are set:

### **A. Implementing initiatives that advance services provided to the elderly (senior citizens)**

- 1) Strengthening home visit services for the elderly (senior citizens) to provide them with health and psychological care.
- 2) Developing care and shelter homes in line with technological developments.
- 3) Continuing to strengthen the capacity of the National Committee for the Elderly to work on completing the development of a national strategy for the elderly.
- 4) Continuing to raise the quality of life of the elderly.
- 5) Expanding the establishment of day clubs to include all four Governorates.
- 6) Developing the Office of Elderly Services to raise the quality of life for the elderly.

- 7) Studying the provision of adequate housing for the elderly and assisting them in building or renovating their homes while prioritising low-income groups.

## **The third objective: Promoting and protecting the rights of children**

The Kingdom of Bahrain prioritises the advancement children's affairs. This includes caring for their needs, protecting their rights, and working to provide a safe environment that enables children of both sexes to fully develop their abilities and talents. In addition, the Kingdom of Bahrain will take appropriate measures in health and education to nurture the psychological, social, and cultural needs of children in accordance with the country's national strategy and children's best interests.

To achieve this objective, taking into account the recommendations that received the Kingdom's support within the Universal Periodic Review mechanism and the recommendations of international and regional treaty mechanisms, the following sub-objectives are set:

### **A. Increasing the number of projects and initiatives that provide the best level of care for children**

- 1) Preparing national reports on the international agreements on children which have been signed by the Kingdom.
- 2) Harmonising national legislation and policies with relevant international charters.
- 3) Monitoring and following-up of authorities concerned with the implementation of the National Childhood Strategy after extending the plan's work period from 2018 - 2022.
- 4) Studying the recommendations, proposals and research issued by organisations that are focused on children's rights.
- 5) Supporting projects related to childhood and developing the capabilities and skills of children.

### **B. Building the Kingdom's capacity to implement the articles of the Restorative Justice Law for children and protecting them from mistreatment**

- 1) Implementation of workshops, lectures and introductory seminars in schools and NGOs in areas related to protecting the right to life and the physical and psychological safety of children.

The fourth focus point:



# Solidarity Rights

## The fourth focus point: Solidarity Rights

### The first objective: Promoting the right to a healthy environment within the framework of sustainable development

The Kingdom of Bahrain prioritises the environmental aspects of sustainable development. This is embodied in the provisions of the national Constitution that ensure protection of the environment, the principles of the National Action Charter, Bahrain's Economic Vision 2030, and the Bahrain National Detail Land Use Plan. The Kingdom of Bahrain has also established a number of institutions, government agencies and committees that develop programmes, policies, and strategies to achieve sustainability. Notably, these include the Supreme Council for Environment, the main government agency entrusted with managing environmental systems and natural resources.

Beyond the introduction of national legislation, the Kingdom of Bahrain also seeks to fulfil its international commitments in this field. The Kingdom of Bahrain signed the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, ratified by Decree No. 7 of 1994, while Decree No. 75 of 2016 ratified the Paris Agreement. Bahrain has also signed or acceded to a number of important international laws and protocols in this field. The Kingdom of Bahrain is responding to the outcomes of the 26th UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) by continuously developing its climate system. This enables the Kingdom to address the effects of climate change and its direct impact on people's right to live in a healthy environment.

To achieve this objective, taking into account the recommendations that received the Kingdom's support within the Universal Periodic Review mechanism and the recommendations of international and regional treaty mechanisms, the following sub-objectives are set:

#### A. Contributing to reducing the effects of climate change and environmental pollution

- 1) Working to achieve carbon neutrality in order to combat climate change and protect the environment.
- 2) Supporting international initiatives in the field of climate change, such as the Global Ocean Alliance

- 3) Supporting regional climate change initiatives such as the UAE's initiative to achieve climate neutrality, as well as initiatives from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the Middle East.
- 4) Media and educational awareness on the dangers of climate change and pollution as well as ways to reduce them.

## **B. Preserving biodiversity**

- 1) Working on the national plan for adaptation to climate change.
- 2) Doubling the number of trees and quadrupling the number of mangrove trees.

## **The second objective: Promoting global peace and security**

In September 2020, under the framework of the Abraham Accords, the Kingdom of Bahrain took an important step in promoting international and regional peace and security by signing an agreement to support peace with the State of Israel. This reflects the vision of His Majesty the King to promote tolerance and peaceful coexistence in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

The Kingdom also attaches great importance to efforts to eradicate international terrorism and extremism, in pursuit of a better world in which the value of preserving human rights and fundamental freedoms prevail in order to achieve a just, comprehensive and continuous international peace, and enhance efforts to achieve sustainable development. To this end, Decree No. (50) of 2020 was issued, establishing and forming a committee to combat extremism and combat terrorism and its financing and money laundering, headed by the Minister of Interior.

To achieve this objective, taking into account the recommendations that received the Kingdom's support within the Universal Periodic Review mechanism and the recommendations of international and regional treaty mechanisms, the following sub-objectives are set:

### **A. Strengthening international peace and promoting the use of peaceful means**

- 1) Follow up on the implementation of agreements in the field of international peace.
- 2) Strengthening the role of the Kingdom of Bahrain in support of peace in various regional and international forums.

- 3) Training diplomats in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on peaceful means of resolving disputes, such as negotiation, arbitration, mediation, positive engagement, and good intentions.
- 4) Contributing to international and regional initiatives to combat extremism.
- 5) Contributing to international initiatives to spread tolerance and peaceful coexistence among cultures, religions, and peoples.
- 6) Strengthening the right to security and combating terrorism within the framework of respect for human rights.



## **Fourth: Mechanisms of implementation, follow-up, monitoring and evaluation**

Following approval by the Cabinet of Ministers, the National Human Rights Plan (2022-2026) will be published, and its provisions, objectives, and projects, including the executive programme, will be announced in media outlets. It will also be published on the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Arabic and English and sent to the Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator in the Kingdom of Bahrain, as well as the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva.

Following the publication of the plan, a team will be formed to follow up on the implementation of the National Human Rights Plan under the supervision of the Higher Coordination Committee for Human Rights, headed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The team will be responsible for following up on the implementation of each project under the main and sub-objectives. The implementation period will be from April 2022 to December 2026.

The team will issue annual reports, on the progress of projects. This timeframe will be met provided that challenges and difficulties, which may delay the achievement of some projects, are highlighted. Performance indicators will be used to study the projects with stakeholders in order to present and discuss the progress made, and to agree on any necessary amendments. In addition, a comprehensive study will be prepared that monitors goals achieved and their tangible impact on the promotion of human rights. The National Human Rights Plan will be updated in accordance with human rights developments to ensure its continuous progress.

## **Fifth: The executive programme of the plan**

An executive programme has been developed to ensure the achievement of the plan's objectives. The executive programme outlines the projects and the authorities involved in their implementation, including supporting parties, in accordance with specific time periods. The attached annex explains the executive programme of the National Human Rights Plan (2022 - 2026) and is considered an integral part of the plan.

## Sixth: Conclusion

The plan reaffirms the political will to continuously build on the Kingdom of Bahrain's existing human rights achievements. Additionally, it highlights the need to continue such developments, in the understanding that the promotion, respect and protection of human rights is an ongoing process to which all state institutions and civil society contribute.

The Kingdom of Bahrain's efforts to achieve comprehensive and sustainable development goals underline a commitment to human rights that stems from its Arab and Islamic heritage, civilisation, humanitarian values and principles. This is in accordance with the Kingdom's belief that respect for these rights is a national obligation before it is an international obligation. Moreover, it is a commitment forming the basis for respecting the dignity of individuals, the standing of the nation and the development of society based on the rule of law.

## **Seventh: The Table of the Executive Programme of the National Human Rights Plan (2022 - 2026)**

### **The first focus point: civil and political rights**

#### **The first objective: to promote the freedom of religion and belief, as well as peaceful coexistence**

- A. Promoting religious freedom.
- B. Enabling a culture of tolerance and peaceful coexistence and continuing to promote harmony and national unity.

### Sub-objective A: Promoting religious freedom

| Projects   | Main Entity  | Partners  | Time Period | Project Category          | Project Importance  | Indicators   |
|--|--|---|-------------|---------------------------|---|--|
| Capacity building by holding training programmes, educational seminars, and discussion panels to promote both the freedom of belief and the freedom to practice religious rites within society, including places of detention. Additionally, this includes the Kingdom's participation in relevant international efforts to achieve these freedoms | The King Hamad Global Centre for Peaceful Coexistence  | <p>The Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs &amp; Waqf</p> <p>The Sheikh Abdulla Bin Khalid College for Islamic Studies</p> <p>The College of Arts - Department of Islamic Studies - University of Bahrain</p> <p>The General Directorate of Reformation and Rehabilitation - Ministry of Interior</p> <p>Places of worship for non-Muslims</p> <p>National human rights mechanisms</p> <p>Local civil society institutions concerned with human rights</p> | 2022 - 2026 | Capacity Building         | Promoting a culture of peaceful coexistence and respect for all religions   | <p>The number of events, the number of participants and the quality of the materials presented</p> <p>The number of visits to reform and rehabilitation institutions undertaken, especially on religious occasions and holidays. Additionally, the contents of the visit reports</p> |
| Reviewing the relevant laws and decisions and proposing the appropriate amendments to develop them, to guarantee the enjoyment of religious freedom for all  | <p>The Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs &amp; Waqf</p> <p>The King Hamad Global Centre for Peaceful Coexistence</p> <p>The Sheikh Abdulla Bin Khalid College for Islamic Studies</p> | The Legislation and Legal Opinion Commission  | 2022        | Legislation               | Consolidating and protecting religious freedom through the development of legislative texts, particularly to prevent religious discrimination | The passing of legislation, or amendments to legislation and decisions   |
| Continuing to observe the right to practice religious rites across all religions recognised within the Kingdom   | The Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs & Waqf  | The King Hamad Global Centre for Peaceful Coexistence   | 2022 - 2026 | Institutional Development | Maintaining the direction of the Kingdom of Bahrain that supports the freedom to practice religious rites                                     | Organised religious occasions and events   |

**Sub-objective B: Enabling a culture of tolerance and peaceful coexistence and continuing to promote harmony and national unity**

| Projects  | Main Entity                                     | Partners  | Time Period | Project Category          | Project Importance   | Indicators   |
|---|---|---|-------------|---------------------------|--|--|
| Spreading the culture of tolerance, peaceful coexistence, and acceptance of others through the Kingdom's educational system in both public and private schools, with increased awareness of respect for the rights of expatriate workers and their role in creating positive cultural diversity in Bahraini society | The Ministry of Education                       | The King Hamad Global Centre for Peaceful Coexistence   | 2022 – 2024 | Capacity Building         | Promoting a culture of peaceful coexistence in the Kingdom                                   | Emphasising coexistence in the curriculum, with a focus on practical aspects and cooperative learning among students   |
| Developing television programmes and films and publishing them on official media platforms and social networking sites in multiple languages, in addition to holding community competitions on tolerance and religious coexistence  | The Ministry of Information Affairs             | The Ministry of Interior Affairs (The Bahrainona National Plan)<br><br>The King Hamad Global Centre for Peaceful Coexistence<br><br>The National Communication Centr<br><br>The Ministry of Foreign Affairs.<br><br>The Bahrain Centre for Strategic, International and Energy Studies.<br><br>The International Organisation for Migration | 2022 - 2023 | Institutional Development | Enhancing societal awareness of coexistence and non-discrimination in the Kingdom of Bahrain | The Number of TV and radio programmes and social media campaigns released in multiple languages<br><br>The quality and variety of materials presented in the media, and survey campaigns regarding the extent of awareness |
| Periodic review of controls on religious discourse to ensure that they are supportive of a conscious and tolerant society, with an evaluation of the extent of compliance with those controls   | The Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs & Waqf | The Ministry of Interior Affairs (The Bahrainona National Plan)<br><br>The Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs<br><br>Preachers and imams of mosques  | 2022 - 2026 | Legislation               | Promoting a culture of tolerance, peaceful coexistence, and respect for others               | Studies on the content of religious sermons, which are prepared periodically   |

## The second objective: to promote and protect the right to freedom of opinion and expression

- A. Harmonising national legislation and policies with relevant international conventions related to the freedom of opinion and expression.
- B. Strengthening the capacity of journalists and media institutions

| Sub-objective A: Harmonising national legislation and policies with relevant international conventions related to the freedom of opinion and expression            |                                     |  |             |                  |   |   |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|-------------|------------------|---|---|
| Projects   | Main Entity                         | Partners   | Time Period | Project Category | Project Importance  | Indicators  |
| Working on making amendments to the Journalism and e-Media Law in line with the international standards and agreements that the Kingdom has ratified or acceded to | The Ministry of Information Affairs | The Legislature  | 2022 – 2024 | Legislation      | Promoting freedom of opinion and expression in the Kingdom of Bahrain and meeting international recommendations in this regard<br><br>Reducing the scope of criminalisation to ensure greater freedom for the press | Issuing modern legislation that is in line with media developments  |
| Review the legislative system and consider making the necessary amendments to legislation that promote responsible freedom of opinion and expression.              | The Ministry of Information Affairs | The Legislation and Legal Opinion Commission<br><br>The National Institution for Human Right<br><br>Representatives of press organisations<br><br>Civil Society Institutions | 2022 – 2024 | Legislation      | The Kingdom of Bahrain's commitment to international recommendations<br><br>Strengthening the democratic ecosystem in the Kingdom of Bahrain  | The number of meetings formed for review<br><br>Amendments to the legislative system to enhance responsible freedom of opinion and expression |

### Sub-objective B: Strengthening the capacity of journalists and media institutions

| Projects   | Main Entity                         | Partners   | Time Period | Project Category  | Project Importance   | Indicators   |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|-------------|-------------------|--|--|
| Enhancing the capacity of press and media personnel in covering human rights-related topics  | The Ministry of Information Affairs | The Higher Education Council<br>The Bahrain Journalists Association<br>United Nations experts          | 2022        | Capacity Building | Strengthening the capacity of press and media staff to support efforts towards spreading awareness of the protection of and respect for human rights | Workshops<br>Topics related to human rights published in newspapers<br>Programmes offered on human rights                                    |
| Strengthening the channels of communication and the cooperation mechanisms between government institutions and the relevant civil society institutions | The Ministry of Information Affairs | The National Communication Centre<br>Journalists and media professionals<br>Civil society institutions | 2022        | Capacity Building | Expanding the scope of communication between government agencies and media organisations   | Holding seminars to discuss concerns relating to the work of these institutions and to come up with recommendations to develop communication |

## The third objective: to consolidate and strengthen democracy in the Kingdom of Bahrain in accordance with human rights instruments and international best practices

- A. Harmonising national legislation and policies with the relevant international covenants ratified or acceded to by the Kingdom of Bahrain
- B. Strengthening progress of national and democratic pursuits
- C. Enhancing the participation of civil society in public life through legitimate and democratic means

### Sub-objective A: Harmonising national legislation and policies with the relevant international covenants ratified or acceded to by the Kingdom of Bahrain

| Projects   | Main Entity               | Partners  | Time Period | Project Category | Project Importance   | Indicators   |
|--|---------------------------|---|-------------|------------------|--|--|
| Continuing to take measures to enhance and increase women's participation in public life to align the programmes of this Plan with the National Plan for the Advancement of Bahraini Women and the strategies, frameworks, programmes, and initiatives related to it | Supreme Council for Women | The Ministry of Foreign Affairs<br>Related Entities | 2022        | Legislation      | Integration of national plans and strategies so that they support each other | The contribution of various strategies to support efforts to advance human rights issues |

### Sub-objective B: Strengthening progress of national and democratic pursuits

| Projects  | Main Entity                                     | Partners  | Time Period | Project Category  | Project Importance  | Indicators  |
|---|---|---|-------------|-------------------|---|---|
| Building the capabilities of candidates to participate in parliamentary elections, with a focus on building the capabilities of the youth | The Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs & Waqf | The Bahrain Institute for Political Development | 2022 - 2023 | Capacity Building | Improving the quality of parliamentary work, which is reflected in legislative work | <p>The number of workshops</p> <p>The quality of the scientific materials provided</p> <p>The number of participants</p> <p>The results of surveys on the extent to which political associations influence society</p> <p>The number of candidates to the Council of Representatives</p> <p>The number of candidates to the Council of Representatives from the youth</p> |

### Sub-objective C: Enhancing the participation of civil society in public life through legitimate and democratic means

| Projects  | Main Entity                             | Partners  | Time Period | Project Category                              | Project Importance  | Indicators  |
|---|---|---|-------------|---|---|---|
| Taking appropriate measures to facilitate the work of civil society institutions            | Ministry of Labour & Social Development | The Ministry of Interior  | 2022 - 2026 | Institutional Development / Capacity Building | Enhancing the presence and effectiveness of civil society institutions and associations | Measures taken and their impact on facilitating the work of civil society institutions and associations                                       |
| Holding training and capacity building programmes for members of civil society institutions | Ministry of Labour & Social Development | United Nations experts<br><br>The Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs & Waqf | 2022 - 2026 | Capacity Building                             | Strengthening and developing capabilities of members of civil society institutions      | <p>The number of workshops</p> <p>The number of participants</p> <p>The quality of workshop materials</p> <p>The annual evaluation by the</p> |



| Sub-objective C: Enhancing the participation of civil society in public life through legitimate and democratic means                               |  |   |             |                   |  |   |
|--|--|---|-------------|-------------------|--|---|
|  |  |   |             |                   |  | NGO Centre, according to international standards  |
| Training members of local civil society institutions in the field of monitoring general elections according to best practice standards and methods | The Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs & Waqf. | The Bahrain Institute for Political Development<br><br>Civil Society Institutions | 2022 - 2026 | Capacity Building | Strengthening the role of community institutions in monitoring the electoral process to ensure a higher level of integrity | The number of civil society institutions participating in the training programme<br><br>The number of civil society institutions participating in monitoring the elections in 2022<br><br>The extent of the powers granted to civil society institutions in exercising their oversight role |

## The fourth objective: Developing the roles of national protection and restorative justice mechanisms

- A. Building capacity for enforcement, rule of law, and restorative justice
- B. Strengthening and activating oversight, inspection, and accountability mechanisms
- C. Strengthening the role of national mechanisms in promoting respect for human rights

| Sub-objective A: Building capabilities for enforcement, rule of law, and restorative justice   |   |   |             |                   |   |  |
|--|---|---|-------------|-------------------|---|--|
| Projects   | Main Entity   | Partners  | Time Period | Project Category  | Project Importance  | Indicators   |
| Holding workshops and seminars to introduce and train law enforcement personnel on the international standards relating to the protection of the right to life, physical and psychological integrity, and the right to personal liberty and security | The Ministry of Interior<br><br>The Royal Academy of Police | The Special Investigation Unit<br><br>The Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs & Waqf<br><br>The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime | 2022 – 2023 | Capacity Building | Developing and enhancing the abilities of law enforcement personnel | The number of workshops<br><br>The number of participants and quality of material<br><br>A decrease in the number of violations and complaints |

### Sub-objective A: Building capabilities for enforcement, rule of law, and restorative justice

| Projects  | Main Entity              | Partners   | Time Period | Project Category  | Project Importance  | Indicators  |
|---|--------------------------|--|-------------|-------------------|---|---|
|   |                          | The National Institution for Human Rights<br>Civil Society Institutions  |             |                   |   |   |
| Building the capacity of law enforcement personnel to deal with accused and convicted individuals   | The Ministry of Interior | Public Prosecution<br>Office of the Inspector General of the National Intelligence Service<br>United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime<br>National Institution for Human Rights<br>The Ombudsman | 2022 – 2026 | Capacity Building | Developing and enhancing capacity in the field of law enforcement   | The number of workshops<br>The number of participants and quality of materials<br>A decrease in the number of violations and complaints   |
| Follow up on the implementation of the provisions of Law No. (4) of 2021 regarding restorative justice for children and protecting them from mistreatment | The Ministry of Interior | The Family and Child Prosecution<br>The Child Judicial Committee   | 2022 - 2026 | Legislation       | Enhancing the human rights situation of juveniles and meeting international recommendations in this regard. | Preserving the rights of children through the application of this law<br>Analysing the statistics indicating the guarantee of rights to children and their protection during the application of the law |

### Sub-objective B: Strengthening the mechanisms of oversight, inspection, accountability

| Projects  | Main Entity              | Partners         | Time Period | Project Category          | Project Importance                               | Indicators                        |
|---|--------------------------|------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| Developing electronic monitoring mechanisms in correction and | The Ministry of Interior | Correctional and | 2022 - 2026 | Institutional Development | Achieving more effective electronic control over | Increase in the number of cameras |

## Sub-objective B: Strengthening the mechanisms of oversight, inspection, accountability

| Projects  | Main Entity   | Partners  | Time Period | Project Category  | Project Importance   | Indicators   |
|---|---|---|-------------|-------------------|--|--|
| rehabilitation centres, detention centres, and in investigative operations, within the framework of the Personal Data Protection Law  |   | rehabilitation centres<br><br>Detention centres and evidence operations |             |                   | reform and rehabilitation centres, detention centres and evidence operations | Activating audio recordings<br><br>Noting in records regarding the rights received by inmates in visits, telephone calls, and communication with a lawyer<br><br>Providing healthcare and registering personal belongings provided to the inmate by their family |
| Organising training courses to develop the skills of supervision and inspection for the personnel in prisons, detention centres, detainees, and juvenile care centres, among other places of detention  | Prisoners and Detainees Rights Commission                             | The Ombudsman<br><br>The Special Investigation Unit                     | 2022 - 2023 | Capacity Building | Capacity development and enhancement   | The number of workshops<br><br>The number of participants and quality of materials<br><br>A decrease in the number of violations and complaints  |
| Organising training programmes and courses by the Internal Audit and Investigations Department at the Ministry of Interior to hone capabilities and raise the efficiency of law enforcement personnel to carry out their security duty in line with the preservation and protection of human rights and freedoms. | Department of Internal Audit and Investigations, Ministry of Interior | -   | 2022-2026   | Capacity Building | Capacity development and enhancement of law enforcement personnel            | The development of mechanisms for receiving complaints and legal procedures taken in this regard   |

### Sub-objective C: Strengthening the role of national mechanisms in promoting respect for human rights

| Projects   | Main Entity                                  | Partners  | Time Period | Project Category  | Project Importance  | Indicators   |
|--|--|---|-------------|-------------------|---|--|
| Strengthening national mechanisms by reviewing the relevant laws and regulations that establish and enhance their independence and effectiveness   | The Legislation and Legal Opinion Commission | All national justice mechanisms<br>The civil society Institutions   | 2024        | Legislation       | Emphasising the effectiveness of these mechanisms                 | Issuing legislation or amending existing legislation             |
| Developing and strengthening the capacities of those working in the field of human rights workers and the public, whether they are citizens or residents, in the role entrusted to national mechanisms in the field of human rights promotion and protection | Ministry of Foreign Affairs                  | The National Institution for Human Rights<br>Special investigation unit<br>The Ombudsman<br>The Prisoners and Detainees Rights Commission | 2022 - 2023 | Capacity Building | Developing and strengthening the capacity of human rights workers | The number of course<br>The number of participants and reactions |

## The fifth objective: Supporting the capabilities of the National Institution for Human Rights

Supporting and strengthening the capabilities of the National Human Rights Institution in dealing with, monitoring and documenting any allegations of human rights violations, without prejudice to the impartiality and complete independence of its work.

### Sub-objective: Supporting and strengthening the capabilities of the National Human Rights Institution in dealing with, monitoring and documenting any allegations of human rights violations, without prejudice to the impartiality and complete independence of its work.

| Projects  | Main Entity                               | Partners                                   | Time Period | Project Category  | Project Importance   | Indicators  |
|---|---|--|-------------|-------------------|--|---|
| Cooperating with the institution in the field of building the capacities of its employees in the field of mechanisms for receiving complaints, monitoring and documentation, without prejudice to the impartiality of its work and its complete independence. | The National Institution for Human Rights | United Nations experts                     | 2022 – 2023 | Capacity Building | Strengthening and building the capacities of those working in the National Institution for Human Rights. | The number of communications that have been handled and the appropriate action taken in this regard |
| Cooperating with the Institution in the capacity building of its employees  | The National Institution                  | Experts from a number of international and | 2022        | Capacity Building | Strengthening and building the capacity of workers in the  | The number of workshops   |

**Sub-objective: Supporting and strengthening the capabilities of the National Human Rights Institution in dealing with, monitoring and documenting any allegations of human rights violations, without prejudice to the impartiality and complete independence of its work.**

|  |                  |                     |  |  |                                       |   |
|--|------------------|---------------------|--|--|---------------------------------------|---|
| through holding training and executive programmes related to human rights. This includes engaging with international and regional efforts and programmes | for Human Rights | regional mechanisms |  |  | National Institution for Human Rights | The quality of the workshops and the sentiments of the participants |
|--|------------------|---------------------|--|--|---------------------------------------|---|

**The sixth objective: Supporting the capabilities of civil society institution**

- A. Developing the capacity of civil society institutions to contribute to the promotion, preservation, and protection of human rights
- B. Developing skills in the field of human rights reporting, including shadow reports submitted to United Nations treaty committees
- C. Considering the developing of laws for civil society institutions

**Sub-objective A: Developing the capacity of civil society institutions to contribute to the promotion, preservation, and protection of human rights**

| Projects  | Main Entity                                 | Partners  | Time Period | Project Category          | Project Importance  | Indicators   |
|---|---|---|-------------|---------------------------|---|--|
| Holding seminars and training programmes for members of civil society institutions concerned with human rights to enhance their capabilities in relation to international human rights law and international humanitarian law | The Ministry of Labour & Social Development | The National Institution for Human Rights<br><br>The Mohammed bin Mubarak Al Khalifa Academy for Diplomatic Studies.<br><br>The Legal Clinic and Human Rights Centre, College of Law - University of Bahrain.<br><br>International experts from the United Nations. | 2022        | Capacity Building         | Building and strengthening capacity   | The number of workshops<br><br>The quality of the workshops and the feedback of the participants |
| Supporting civil society institutions to enable them to set up their head offices   | The Ministry of Labour & Social Development | The Ministry of Foreign Affairs.  | 2022 - 2025 | Institutional Development | Supporting civil society institutions and developing their performance by providing them with | The number of head offices that are established annually   |

**Sub-objective A: Developing the capacity of civil society institutions to contribute to the promotion, preservation, and protection of human rights**

|  |   |   |             |                   |  |  |
|--|---|---|-------------|-------------------|--|--|
|  |   |   |             |                   | appropriate head offices   |  |
| Training civil society institutions to set up official websites and social media platforms | The Ministry of Labour & Social Development | The Ministry of Foreign Affairs.<br>Civil Society Institutions. | 2022 - 2025 | Capacity Building | Supporting civil society institutions and developing their performance | The number of workshops<br>The quality of the workshops<br>The feedback of the participants<br>The number of websites created in different languages |

**Sub-objective B: Developing skills in the field of human rights reporting, including shadow reports (parallel reports) submitted to United Nations treaty committees**

| Projects   | Main Entity                                 | Partners  | Time Period | Project Category  | Project Importance   | Indicators   |
|--|---|---|-------------|-------------------|--|--|
| Holding workshops and training programmes to familiarise members of civil society institutions concerned with human rights with the work of the United Nations treaty committees | The Ministry of Foreign Affairs             | The Ministry of Labour & Social Development<br>Governmental and official bodies concerned with submitting periodic human rights reports | 2022 - 2026 | Capacity Building | Enhance capacity building  | The number of workshops<br>The quality of the workshops and the feedback of the participants |
| Holding workshops and training programmes on the preparation of shadow reports and the mechanism for dealing with them   | The Ministry of Foreign Affairs             | The Ministry of Labour & Social Development<br>International experts<br>Civil Society Institutions                                      | 2022 - 2026 | Capacity Building | Enhance capacity building  | The number of workshops<br>The quality of the workshops and the feedback of the participants |
| Increasing interest in civil society institutions, including those concerned with workers' rights  | The Ministry of Labour & Social Development | The Ministry of Foreign Affairs   | 2022 – 2023 | Capacity Building | Reinforcing the principles for the protection and respect of workers | The number of workshops  |

**Sub-objective B: Developing skills in the field of human rights reporting, including shadow reports (parallel reports) submitted to United Nations treaty committees**

|   |                                  |   |             |                   |   |  |
|---|----------------------------------|---|-------------|-------------------|---|--|
| Supporting the relevant government sectors in issuing reports in order to follow up on the implementation of international agreements and covenants | The Ministry of Foreign Affairs. | The National Institution for Human Rights<br><br>United Nations Experts | 2022 - 2023 | Capacity Building | Promoting positive interaction with the treaty bodies | Enhancing adherence to deadlines for submitting reports to the treaty committees |
|---|----------------------------------|---|-------------|-------------------|---|--|

**Sub-objective C: Considering the development of laws for civil society institutions**

| Projects  | Main Entity                                 | Partners   | Time Period | Project Category | Project Importance                                     | Indicators  |
|---|---|--|-------------|------------------|--|---|
| Review the laws and legislations related to civil society institutions and consider what needs to be developed  | The Ministry of Labour & Social Development | The Legislation and Legal Opinion Commission<br><br>The Ministry of Foreign Affairs<br><br>The Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs & Waqf<br><br>Concerned stakeholders | 2024        | Legislation      | Developing relevant national laws and legislation      | Issuance of legislation   |
| Improving the legal application and practical implementation of the principles of freedom to form institutions and labour unions that are in line with international standards and ratified ILO conventions | The Ministry of Labour & Social Development | The Ministry of Foreign Affairs<br><br>Concerned stakeholders  | 2022 - 2025 | Legislation      | Adhering to national laws and international agreements | Monitoring the extent of compliance with the implementation of the law and international agreements |

## The second focus point: economic, social, and cultural rights

### The first objective: combating trafficking in persons

- A. Protect vulnerable groups in the labour market and provide them with adequate care
- B. Strengthen efforts to combat the crime of trafficking in persons

| Sub-objective A: Protect vulnerable groups in the labour market and provide them with the appropriate care   |  |   |             |                  |   |  |
|--|--|---|-------------|------------------|---|--|
| Projects   | Main Entity                            | Partners  | Time Period | Project Category | Project Importance  | Indicators   |
| Promote the voluntary insurance system for domestic workers and increase benefit from it.  | The Labour Market Regulatory Authority | The Central Bank of Bahrain.<br>The Bahrain Insurance Association<br>Service Provider.<br>National Communication Centre | 2022 – 2025 | Legislation      | Provide the greatest degree of protection for the employer and the domestic worker and compensate them or their legal heirs after the occurrence of the insured event | The number of insurance policies issued per month.<br>number of claims   |
| Increase the number of visits by the Preventive Inspection Directorate to educate foreign workers and verify that there are no violations or abuses of the law against them              | The Labour Market Regulatory Authority | Ministry of Interior<br>Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism<br>Public Prosecution                                | 2022 – 2025 | Legislation      | Commit to the adherence of the law  | The number of awareness campaigns per month.<br>The number of cases of suspected forced labour referred per month. |
| Intensify efforts to investigate the worst forms of labour practices based on suspicion of trafficking in persons and persist on the investigation in systematic cases despite warnings. | The Ministry of Interior               | The Public Prosecution.<br>The Labour Market Regulatory Authority   | 2022 - 2026 | Legislation      | Increase the protection provided to the trafficked  | Extensive application of laws criminalising these practices  |



### Sub-objective B: Strengthen efforts to combat the crime of trafficking in persons

| Projects  | Main Entity   | Partners   | Time Period | Project Category                              | Project Importance   | Indicators   |
|---|---|--|-------------|---|--|--|
| Evaluate and review the status of trafficking in persons in the Kingdom   | The Labour Market Regulatory Authority                      | The Public Prosecution   | 2022 – 2026 | Legislation                                   | Provide a holistic approach to the status and future of combating trafficking in persons in the Kingdom of Bahrain   | The number and quality of recommendations and results from the evaluation process  |
| Draft and implement a national strategy to combat trafficking in persons  | The National Committee for Combating Trafficking in Persons | Ministry of Foreign Affairs<br><br>National Communication Centre<br><br>International organisations                    | 2023 – 2024 | Capacity Building / Institutional Development | Develop a national action map to support efforts to address and eliminate the crime of trafficking in persons, and to assist and protect victims.                        | The actual implementation of the strategy  |
| Adopt best practices in combating trafficking in persons, including victim rehabilitation programmes  | The Labour Market Regulatory Authority                      | The Ministry of Foreign Affairs  | 2022 - 2026 | Capacity Building                             | Transfer the Bahraini experience to the world and benefit from implementing successful global experiences  | Putting a number of global experiences into practice locally   |
| Develop comprehensive awareness programmes based on religious and moral values to combat trafficking in persons                                   | The Labour Market Regulatory Authority                      | The Ministry of Information Affairs  | 2022 - 2023 | Institutional Development                     | Strengthen the policy of addressing the crime of trafficking in persons based on religious and moral values  | TV programmes and awareness campaigns  |
| Strengthen the role of civil society institutions to spread awareness and combat trafficking in persons in its various forms                      | The Labour Market Regulatory Authority                      | The Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator<br><br>The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime              | 2022 - 2026 | Capacity Building / Institutional Development | The contribution of civil society to confronting this crime and raising awareness of its seriousness   | Workshops and training programmes directed to this group   |
| Cooperation and partnership with diplomatic missions in the Kingdom of Bahrain and abroad to raise awareness of combating trafficking in persons. | The Labour Market Regulatory Authority                      | The Ministry of Foreign Affairs<br><br>Ministry of Interior<br><br>National Committee to Combat Trafficking in Persons | 2022 - 2026 | Capacity Building / Institutional Development | Integration of efforts to consolidate the societal culture of identification and promotion of awareness of the preventive and protective system as a proactive tool that | Monitoring cases of exploitation of expatriate workers in the labour market, and the possibility of them being exposed to the crime of trafficking in persons. |

### Sub-objective B: Strengthen efforts to combat the crime of trafficking in persons

| Projects | Main Entity | Partners   | Time Period | Project Category | Project Importance  | Indicators |
|----------|-------------|--|-------------|------------------|---|------------|
|          |             | Embassies and consulates of countries exporting expatriate workers.<br><br>International organisations |             |                  | contributes to limiting exploitative practices in the work environment. |            |

## The second objective: Digital Rights, Technology, and Artificial Intelligence

- A. Introduce technologies into educational platforms and information databases as a basic infrastructure
- B. Enhance the digital rights in the Kingdom of Bahrain

### Sub-objective A: Introduce technologies into educational platforms and information databases as a basic infrastructure

| Projects  | Main Entity                      | Partners   | Time Period | Project Category          | Project Importance   | Indicators   |
|---|----------------------------------|--|-------------|---------------------------|--|--|
| Establish mechanisms to enable the concerned authorities to follow up on issues related to human rights | Ministry of Foreign Affairs      | The Ministry of Interior<br><br>The Ministry of Education<br><br>The Labour Market Regulatory Authority<br><br>The National Institution for Human Rights<br><br>The Ombudsman                    | 2022        | Institutional Development | Work to enhance the effectiveness of the concerned authorities and the speed of response with regard to human rights cases | Creating and activating the application              |
| Establishing a comprehensive human rights website.  | The Ministry of Foreign Affairs. | The Legislation and Legal Opinion Commission<br><br>The Information & eGovernment Authority<br><br>The Ministry of Justice, Islamic Affairs & Waqf<br><br>National Institution for Human Rights. | 2023        | Institutional Development | Quick and easy reference to the mentioned legislation  | Implementing the database in both Arabic and English |

**Sub-objective A: Introduce technologies into educational platforms and information databases as a basic infrastructure**

|   |  |  |      |                           |   |   |
|---|--|--|------|---------------------------|---|---|
|   |  | Civil Society Institutions<br><br>The Legal Clinic and Human Rights Centre, College of Law - University of Bahrain |      |                           |   |   |
| Compile and translate the regulations and laws into English | The Legislation and Legal Opinion Commission | A professional legal translation office  | 2022 | Institutional Development | Work to provide a database for the legislation and laws in the English language for easy reference by foreign residents, specialists, and those interested in legislation in the Kingdom of Bahrain | Publish the translated legislation and laws in the database<br><br>The number of visits to the database |

**Sub-objective B: Enhance the digital rights in the Kingdom of Bahrain**

| Projects   | Main Entity                             | Partners   | Time Period | Project Category | Project Importance   | Indicators  |
|--|---|--|-------------|------------------|--|---|
| Ensuring the implementation of digital policies supporting digital transformation processes by the digital government policy as a right, the digital services policy first, and the one-time data request policy | The Information & eGovernment Authority | The Legislation and Legal Opinion Commission<br><br>The Ministry of Industry, Commerce & Tourism<br><br>The Ministry of Transportation & Telecommunication<br><br>The Economic Development Board<br><br>The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority<br><br>The National Communication Centre | 2023        | Legislation      | Support the right to digital use by ensuring higher levels of transparency, openness, and inclusiveness in government operations<br><br>Encourage an integrated government approach<br><br>Strengthen institutional capacity to better plan, implement, manage, and monitor strategic government initiatives | Increasing the number of entities committed to implementing policies. |

### Sub-objective B: Enhance the digital rights in the Kingdom of Bahrain

| Projects                                   | Main Entity                             | Partners  | Time Period | Project Category | Project Importance  | Indicators  |
|--|---|---|-------------|------------------|---|---|
| Update and develop the open data platform  | The Information & eGovernment Authority | <p>The Legislation and Legal Opinion Commission</p> <p>All government entities</p> <p>The National Communication Centre</p> | 2023        | Legislation      | <p>Support the right to information by making public data available to support innovation and improve productivity across all major sectors. Data will also be made available in readable formats, whether by people or systems in the Kingdom of Bahrain, in accordance with:</p> <p>Law No. (16) of 2014 Concerning the Protection of Information and Documents of Countries</p> <p>Law No. (30) of 2018 Concerning the Protection of Personal Data</p> | Increasing the number of open data templates that are used by individuals or businesses.  |
| Develop an electronic participation policy | The Information & eGovernment Authority | <p>The Legislation and Legal Opinion Commission</p> <p>All government entities</p> <p>The National Communication Centre</p> | 2023        | Legislation      | <p>Support the right to digital communication and the right to digital freedom of expression by focusing on the commitment of the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain to provide the means of digital participation in an electronic manner and to strengthen social media channels</p>  | <p>Develop an integrated mechanism to activate and implement policies</p> <p>Launch a set of initiatives that contribute to spreading the culture of participation and activating the policy (in coordination with a group of the competent</p> |

## Sub-objective B: Enhance the digital rights in the Kingdom of Bahrain

| Projects   | Main Entity                             | Partners                | Time Period | Project Category          | Project Importance  | Indicators   |
|--|---|-------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|---|--|
|  |   |                         |             |                           | <p>The policy aims to encourage electronic participation and stimulate innovation and creativity in the field of developing electronic services through the involvement of users, for example (a communication system for complaints and electronic suggestions)</p> <p>Spread awareness and knowledge about the e-participation process in the Kingdom of Bahrain to ensure greater transparency, openness, and inclusiveness in government operations</p> | <p>government agencies)</p> <p>Following up the implementation of the policy by monitoring the number of entities committed to implementing the policy</p> |
| Launch the updated version of the national open data portal <a href="http://www.data.gov.bh">www.data.gov.bh</a> | The Information & eGovernment Authority | All government entities | 2022 - 2023 | Institutional Development | <p>Update the portal and use best international practices and standards to raise the portal's efficiency</p> <p>Ease of access and obtaining government data</p>  | <p>Establish an integrated mechanism to link the updating of government data</p> <p>Increase the number of actual applications to</p>                      |

### Sub-objective B: Enhance the digital rights in the Kingdom of Bahrain

| Projects   | Main Entity                                 | Partners   | Time Period | Project Category | Project Importance  | Indicators  |
|--|---|--|-------------|------------------|---|---|
|  |   |  |             |                  | Apply the highest standards of security and privacy   | use data templates<br><br>Increase the use of data templates<br><br>Increase the number of government entities participating in presenting their data through the national open data portal |
| Follow up on the implementation of Law No. (54) of 2018 regarding electronic communications and transactions | The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority | National Centre for Cyber Security<br><br>All government agencies<br><br>Information and eGovernment Authority | 2023        | Legislation      | Support the right to encryption and digital security by regulating the legal framework for electronic services and electronic transactions and activating electronic signature mechanisms and certification certificates to enable customers to conduct electronic transactions and exchange electronic messages securely using encryption keys<br><br>Organise the legal framework for keeping documents, records or information secure through encryption keys and regulating the legal | Establishing a government system to issue attested certificates electronically  |

## Sub-objective B: Enhance the digital rights in the Kingdom of Bahrain

| Projects   | Main Entity                             | Partners   | Time Period | Project Category          | Project Importance   | Indicators   |
|--|---|--|-------------|---------------------------|--|--|
|  |   |  |             |                           | framework for documentation by electronic means  |  |
| Follow up on the implementation of Law No. (30) of 2018 issuing the Personal Data Protection Law | The Personal Data Protection Authority  | All government entities  | 2023        | Legislation               | <p>Support the right to digital privacy by ensuring legal and technical protection for electronically processed personal data</p> <p>Establish mechanisms to deal with the risks arising from the use of personal data of individuals and combating the violation of privacy</p> <p>Create a safe and stable investment environment that attracts local and foreign capital and establishes an appropriate and modern economic climate</p> | The number of entities committed to implementing the law and fulfilling its conditions |
| Introducing further developments to the electronic key project                                   | The Information & eGovernment Authority | <p>All government entities</p> <p>The National Cyber Security Centre</p> | 2022 - 2024 | Institutional Development | Support the right to a digital identity through an electronic identification system whereby an electronic identification account is issued to natural persons or natural persons who represent private or public legal entities or   | Develop a multi-factor identification service to enhance digital identity.             |

### Sub-objective B: Enhance the digital rights in the Kingdom of Bahrain

| Projects  | Main Entity                                 | Partners   | Time Period | Project Category          | Project Importance   | Indicators  |
|---|---|--|-------------|---------------------------|--|---|
|   |   |  |             |                           | all other public entities  |   |
| Develop the Safe Internet Initiative<br><a href="https://safesurf.bh/ar/">https://safesurf.bh/ar/</a> | The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority | Educational and youth institutions<br>Communications companies | 2022-2026   | Institutional Development | Support the right to digital safety through a programme to promote knowledge, culture, and innovation in the field of cyber safety | The number of awareness programmes that have been provided to the children and youth segment within this initiative |

## The third objective: Promoting and protecting the right to work

- A. Follow-up on labour laws by the concerned authorities and work to implement them
- B. Continue efforts to ensure the safety, security, and dignity of foreign workers, including domestic workers

### Sub-objective A: Follow-up on labour laws by the concerned authorities and work to implement them

| Projects                                  | Main Entity                                 | Partners  | Time Period | Project Category | Project Importance                      | Indicators  |
|---|---|---|-------------|------------------|---|---|
| Review the relevant laws and legislations | The Ministry of Labour & Social Development | The Legislation and Legal Opinion Commission<br>The trade union federations | 2022 - 2023 | Legislation      | Develop and update national labour laws | Forming a committee to review projects<br>Issuing amendments to legislation |

### Sub-objective B: Continue efforts to ensure the safety, security, and dignity of foreign workers, including domestic workers

| Projects   | Main Entity                            | Partners  | Time Period | Project Category | Project Importance                          | Indicators                 |
|--|--|---|-------------|------------------|---|----------------------------|
| Review the relevant laws and legislations and propose necessary amendments | The Labour Market Regulatory Authority | The Ministry of Labour & Social Development<br>Expat Workers Associations | 2025        | Legislation      | Enhance the conditions for domestic workers | The number of amended laws |



## The fourth objective: promoting the right to education

- A. Ensure the continuity of the right to primary education for all
- B. Continue to develop educational curricula to keep pace with human rights and citizenship standards.
- C. Conduct human rights training and education

| Sub-objective A: Ensure the continuity of the right to primary education for all  |   |   |             |                           |   |   |
|---|---|---|-------------|---------------------------|---|---|
| Projects  | Main Entity   | Partners  | Time Period | Project Category          | Project Importance  | Indicators  |
| Evaluate the possibility of ratifying the Convention of the United Nations Educational, Cultural, and Scientific Organisation (UNESCO) relating to combating discrimination in the field of education of 1960 | The Ministry of Education<br><br>The Higher Education Council | The Legislation and Legal Opinion Commission                        | 2022 – 2023 | Legislation               | Ensure equal opportunities through state provision of compulsory and free basic education | Ratifying the agreement                               |
| Develop a national survey project to study enrolment rates in compulsory and primary education  | The Ministry of Education<br><br>The Higher Education Council | The Bahrain Centre for Strategic, International, and Energy Studies | 2022 - 2024 | Institutional Development | Address cases of dropouts from education  | Statistics for compulsory and basic education for all |

**Sub-objective B: Continue to develop educational curricula to keep pace with human rights and citizenship standards.**

| Projects   | Main Entity               | Partners  | Time Period | Project Category          | Project Importance   | Indicators  |
|--|---------------------------|---|-------------|---------------------------|--|---|
| Launch a master's degree in international human rights law and international humanitarian law within the Faculty of Law at the University of Bahrain | The University of Bahrain | The Royal Academy of Police<br>The Mohammed bin Mubarak Al Khalifa Academy for Diplomatic Studies<br>The Higher Education Council   | 2024        | Capacity Building         | Create an environment for academics enabling the incorporation of human rights | The number of participants in the programme                       |
| Continue to review and develop educational curricula by integrating human rights into educational curricula for various educational stages           | The Ministry of Education | The Mohammed bin Mubarak Al Khalifa Academy for Diplomatic Studies<br>The Royal Academy of Police<br>The Legal Clinic and Human Rights Centre, College of Law - University of Bahrain | 2023 - 2024 | Institutional Development | Strengthen students' awareness of human rights                                 | Establish a committee to review and develop educational curricula |

**Sub-objective C: Conduct human rights training and education**

| Projects   | Main Entity   | Partners   | Time Period | Project Category  | Project Importance  | Indicators   |
|--|---|--|-------------|-------------------|---|--|
| Conduct training courses and seminars for students of public and private schools and universities to familiarise them with human rights conventions                      | The Ministry of Education<br>The Higher Education Council | The Ministry of Foreign Affairs<br>The University of Bahrain<br>Private Universities | 2022 - 2026 | Capacity Building | Strengthen awareness in the field of human rights for all educational levels  | The number of courses<br>The number of participants and their opinions about the courses |
| Initiate the Model United Nations programme for male and female university students and giving them the opportunity to visit the United Nations and learn about its work | The Ministry of Education<br>The Higher Education Council | The Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator                                | 2022        | Capacity Building | Educate students about the importance of the mechanisms of the United Nations | The increase in the number of students participating in the programme                    |

### Sub-objective C: Conduct human rights training and education

|  |                           |  |      |                   |  |  |
|--|---------------------------|--|------|-------------------|--|--|
| Support schools that promote human rights and citizenship values | The Ministry of Education |  | 2022 | Capacity Building | Strengthen human rights and citizenship concept amongst students | Raising awareness of the rights, duties, and citizenship of students |
|--|---------------------------|--|------|-------------------|--|--|

## The fifth objective: promoting the right to health

- A. Promote awareness of the patient's health rights
- B. Review the relevant legislations

### Sub-objective A: Promote awareness of the patient's health rights

| Projects   | Main Entity            | Partners  | Time Period | Project Category          | Project Importance  | Indicators  |
|--|------------------------|---|-------------|---------------------------|---|---|
| Issue a national questionnaire on health services  | The Ministry of Health | The Bahrain Centre for Strategic, International and Energy Studies<br><br>The National Health Regulatory Authority<br><br>The Supreme Council of Health | 2022        | Institutional Development | Build a community partnership between decision-makers and various segments of society | The number of segments covered by the questionnaire and the feedback received from it<br><br>Decisions made based on the results of the questionnaire                     |
| Teach human rights, which includes the rights of patients, medical workers, and the medical profession in health colleges across the country | The Ministry of Health | The Ministry of Education<br><br>The University of Bahrain<br><br>The Supreme Council of Health   | 2024        | Institutional Development | Raise the level of awareness of health workers about patient rights and care          | Teaching human rights in health sciences faculties  |
| Raise awareness about the rights of patients in all governmental and private health facilities   | The Ministry of Health | The National Health Regulatory Authority<br><br>The Supreme Council of Health<br><br>The Ministry of Information Affairs                                | 2022 - 2023 | Institutional Development | Enhance patients' awareness of their rights   | Placing signs in all health facilities<br><br>Publishing educational materials in the (Sehati) application<br><br>The number of educational materials shown on Bahrain TV |

### Sub-objective B: Review the relevant legislations

| Projects  | Main Entity            | Partners  | Time Period | Project Category          | Project Importance   | Indicators   |
|---|------------------------|---|-------------|---------------------------|--|--|
| Issue the Mental Health Law on a priority basis   | The Ministry of Health | The Legislative authority<br><br>The Supreme Council of Health                    | 2022 – 2023 | Legislation               | Strengthen the rights of the most vulnerable groups, which include the mentally ill patients<br><br>Ensure the provision of legal mechanisms to ensure the availability of mental health for members of society, which will result in an increase in tolerance and a decrease in crime rates | Issuance of the law  |
| Complete the implementation of the national genome project to build a national database of genome samples. The database will contribute to the development of a preventive plan to address genetic diseases | The Ministry of Health |   | 2022 – 2024 | Institutional Development | Improve the quality of health services and contribute to improving the chances of a healthy life for current and future generations by preventing hereditary and incurable diseases and developing effective medicines to treat those diseases   | Establishing an integrated database that contributes to the development of health policies to limit the spread of genetic diseases among community members |
| Develop health legislation to ensure the protection of patients' rights and provide protection for doctors  | The Ministry of Health | The Supreme Council of Health<br><br>The Legislation and Legal Opinion Commission | 2022 - 2024 | Legislation               | Ensure patients' rights to obtain distinguished services, and reducing medical errors, while ensuring legal protection for doctors   | Legislative amendments to the legislation in force   |

## The sixth objective: the right to adequate housing

Strengthen the procedures for ensuring gender equality in access to adequate housing

### Sub-objective: Strengthen the procedures for ensuring gender equality in access to adequate housing

| Projects  | Main Entity             | Partners           | Time Period | Project Category | Project Importance   | Indicators                             |
|---|-------------------------|--------------------|-------------|------------------|--|--|
| Develop housing services legislation that provides several housing benefits options | The Ministry of Housing | The Private Sector | 2022 - 2026 | Legislation      | Achieve equality between the beneficiaries of housing services across all categories | The issuance of legislative amendments |

## The third focus point: the rights of groups with priority care needs

### The first objective: To promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities

- A. Strengthening policies and developing systems, regulations and decisions that ensure the implementation of the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- B. Ensuring that persons with disabilities have access to comprehensive rights, and developing their capabilities in order to integrate them into the labour market

#### Sub-objective A: Strengthening policies and developing systems, regulations, and decisions to ensure the implementation of the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

| Projects   | Main Entity   | Partners   | Time Period | Project Category          | Project Importance   | Indicators  |
|--|---|--|-------------|---------------------------|--|---|
| Updating the national plan relating to the national strategy for the rights of persons with disabilities for the years 2022 - 2026   | The Ministry of Labour & Social Development<br>The Higher Committee for Persons with Disabilities | All concerned official and civil authorities                 | 2022 - 2026 | Capacity Building         | Improving the situation of people with disabilities and supporting them in a sustainable manner  | Percentage of implemented programmes and projects annually from the national plan |
| Preparing national and international reports on the affairs of people with disabilities and following up on the implementation of the recommendations and proposals from the relevant committees in international organisations in this regard | The Ministry of Labour & Social Development<br>The Higher Committee for Persons with Disabilities | The Ministry of Foreign Affairs<br>The concerned authorities | 2022 - 2026 | Institutional Development | Working to enforce the necessary measures in order to ensure the implementation of the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities | The number of approved and submitted reports to national and international bodies |
| Developing a monitoring and follow-up mechanism for authorities responsible for implementing the national strategy for the rights of persons with disabilities   | The Ministry of Labour & Social Development<br>The Higher Committee for Persons with Disabilities | The concerned authorities                                    | 2022 - 2026 | Institutional Development | Enhancing the effectiveness of the national strategy for the rights of persons with disabilities   | The number of detailed statistics that are issued on this topic                   |

**Sub-objective B: Ensuring that persons with disabilities have access to comprehensive rights and developing their capabilities in order to integrate them into the labour market**

| Projects   | Main Entity  | Partners  | Time Period | Project Category          | Project Importance  | Indicators   |
|--|--|---|-------------|---------------------------|---|--|
| Continuing to provide aspects of academic, professional and therapeutic care and rehabilitation through specialised rehabilitation centres.        | The Ministry of Labour & Social Development                    | Civil society institutions<br>Private Sector  | 2022        | Capacity Building         | Persons with disabilities receiving care and therapeutic rehabilitation services          | The number of beneficiaries of governmental and supported rehabilitation, care, vocational and treatment centres   |
| Continuing the integration of persons with disabilities into the labour market and providing them with appropriate job opportunities.              | The Ministry of Labour & Social Development                    | The Civil Service Bureau.<br>The private sector<br>The Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry   | 2022        | Institutional Development | Increasing the percentage of people with disabilities who are active in the labour market | The number of people with disabilities who have been integrated quarterly/yearly   |
| Developing infrastructure to so that it is more compatible with the needs of persons with disabilities, to ensure the right of access              | The Ministry of works, Municipalities Affairs & Urban Planning | The Ministry of Labour & Social Development<br>The Higher Committee for Persons with Disabilities | 2022        | Institutional Development | Improving the quality of services provided to people with disabilities                    | The number of recreational facilities for the general public that meet the needs and requirements of people with disabilities in the various governorates, with the aim of integrating them into society |
| Developing community partnership projects and programmes with civil society institutions and the private sector working in the field of disability | The Ministry of Labour & Social Development                    | Civil society institutions<br>The private sector  | 2022        | Institutional Development | Strengthening partnership and social responsibility programmes                            | The number of partnership projects and programmes implemented annually   |

## The second objective: promoting and protecting the rights of the elderly

### Implementing initiatives that advance services provided to the elderly

| Sub-objective A: Implementing initiatives that advance services provided to the elderly   |   |  |             |   |  |  |
|---|---|--|-------------|---|--|--|
| Projects  | Main Entity                                 | Partners   | Time Period | Project Category                                | Project Importance   | Indicators   |
| Strengthening home visit services for the elderly (elderly citizens) to provide them with health and psychological care.                                      | Ministry of Health                          | Civil society Institutions                           | 2023-2024   | Institutional Development                       | Providing health and psychological care for the elderly.   | Increasing the number of visits and their coverage for all eligible persons.   |
| Developing care and shelter homes in line with technological developments   | The Ministry of Labour & Social Development | Civil society Institutions<br>Private Sector         | 2022-2023   | Institutional Development                       | Development of care homes.   | The number of technological devices that are added to the role.  |
| Continuing to strengthen the capacity of the National Committee for the Elderly to work on completing the development of a national strategy for the elderly. | The Ministry of Labour & Social Development | The office of the UN resident Coordinator            | 2022-2023   | Capacity Building                               | Ensure the relevance of the national strategy to support the elderly on the ground.  | Review and implement the plan.   |
| Continuing to raise the quality of life of the elderly.   | The Ministry of Labour & Social Development | Civil society Institutions<br>Private Sector         | 2022-2026   | Capacity Building/<br>Institutional Development | Raising the health, social, economic and cognitive capabilities of the elderly. Preserving the general living environment of the elderly   | . The number of cases with high quality of life of the elderly.<br><br>The number of cases with low quality of life for the elderly. |
| Expanding the establishment of day clubs to include all four governorates   | The Ministry of Labour & Social Development | Civil society institutions<br><br>The private sector | 2024 - 2026 | Institutional Development                       | Allowing elderly individuals to remain in touch with their community in a way that enhances their comfort and psychological reassurance<br><br>Maintaining the dignity of the elderly by ensuring that they remain in residential neighbourhoods | The increase in the number of modernised day clubs that are specialised in providing care to the elderly                             |

### Sub-objective A: Implementing initiatives that advance services provided to the elderly

|  |   |  |             |                           |   |   |
|--|---|--|-------------|---------------------------|---|---|
|  |   |  |             |                           | Working on preserving the link between elderly people and the outside community   |   |
| Developing the Elderly Services Office to raise the quality of life for the elderly  | The Ministry of Labour & Social Development | Civil society institutions<br><br>The private sector | 2022 - 2026 | Institutional Development | Facilitating the provision of governmental services to the elderly. Utilising the experiences and capabilities of the elderly and encouraging them to contribute. | The number of cards issued for the service of the elderly<br><br>The number of elderly people whose perceived quality of life has increased |
| Studying the provision of adequate housing for the elderly and assisting them in building or renovating their homes while prioritising low-income groups | The Ministry of Housing                     | The private sector                                   | 2022 - 2026 | Institutional Development | Standardising the provision of services for all elderly individuals   | Increasing the ability of elderly people to benefit from housing-related services and facilities provided                                   |



## The third objective: promoting and protecting the rights of children

- A. Increasing the number of projects and initiatives that provide the best level of care for children
- B. Building the Kingdom's capacity to implement the articles of the Restorative Justice Law for children and protecting them from mistreatment

| Sub-objective A: Increasing projects and initiatives to provide the best level of care for children  |  |  |             |                           |   |  |
|--|--|--|-------------|---------------------------|---|--|
| Projects   | Main Entity  | Partners   | Time Period | Project Category          | Project Importance  | Indicators   |
| Preparing national reports on the international conventions related to children, which have been signed by the Kingdom   | The Ministry of Labour & Social Development<br>The Ministry of Education | The National Committee for Childhood<br><br>Other concerned parties<br><br>Relevant civil society institutions | 2022 - 2026 | Institutional Development | Coordinating the preparation of reports related to children and implementing recommendations issued by human rights organisations | Follow-up reports  |
| Harmonising national legislation and policies with relevant international charters   | The Ministry of Labour & Social Development                              | The Legislation and Legal Opinion Commission<br><br>The National Committee for Childhood                       | 2022 - 2026 | Legislation               | Developing legislation to comply with international obligations   | Amendments or decisions issued                                     |
| Monitoring and following-up of authorities concerned with the implementation of the National Childhood Strategy after extending the work period of the plan from 2018 - 2022 | The Ministry of Labour & Social Development                              | The National Committee for Childhood<br><br>Other concerned parties<br><br>Relevant civil society institutions | 2022 - 2023 | Capacity Building         | Working to develop the National Strategic Action Plan for Childhood   | Strategic monitoring reports issued                                |
| Studying recommendations, proposals, and research issued by organisations that are focused on with children's rights   | The Ministry of Labour & Social Development                              | The National Committee for Childhood<br><br>Other concerned parties  | 2022 - 2026 | Institutional Development | Maximising the benefit from studies and recommendations in line with a best practice framework and the highest standards          | The impact of the relevant laws on the status of children's rights |

### Sub-objective A: Increasing projects and initiatives to provide the best level of care for children

|   |   |                                       |             |                   |  |                                  |
|---|---|---------------------------------------|-------------|-------------------|--|----------------------------------|
|   |   | Relevant civil society institutions   |             |                   |  |                                  |
| Supporting projects related to childhood and developing the capabilities and skills of children | The Ministry of Labour & Social Development | Tamkeen<br>The Ministry of Education. | 2022 - 2026 | Capacity Building | Providing high-level programmes and projects for childcare | The number of projects supported |

### Sub-objective B: Building the Kingdom's capacity to implement the articles of the Restorative Justice Law for children and protecting them from mistreatment

| Projects  | Main Entity  | Partners                    | Time Period | Project Category  | Project Importance  | Indicators  |
|---|--|-----------------------------|-------------|-------------------|---|---|
| Implementation of workshops, lectures, and introductory seminars in schools and NGOs in the areas related to protecting the right to life and the physical and psychological safety of children | The Ministry of Labour & Social Development<br>The Ministry of Education<br>"Together" programme to combat violence and addiction. | The Child Protection Centre | 2022 - 2026 | Capacity Building | Developing and strengthening the capacity of children and those working in the field of restorative justice law | Statistics on the number of workshops and the number of participants from government and private entities |

## The fourth focus point: Solidarity Rights

### The first objective: promoting the right to a healthy environment within the framework of promoting sustainable development

- A. Contributing to reducing the effects of climate change and environmental pollution
- B. Preserving biodiversity

#### Sub-objective A: Contributing to reducing the effects of climate change and environmental pollution

| Projects   | Main Entity                         | Partners   | Time Period | Project Category          | Project Importance  | Indicators  |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|-------------|---------------------------|---|---|
| Working to achieve carbon neutrality in order to combat climate change and protect the environment   | The Supreme Council for Environment | The Legislation and Legal Opinion Commission                     | 2026        | Legislation               | Confirming local and international commitment to the Climate Change Conference          | The degree of carbon neutrality achieved over the years up to 2060, when emissions will be reduced by 30% by 2035   |
| Supporting international initiatives in the field of climate change, such as the Global Ocean Alliance   | The Supreme Council for Environment | The Ministry of Foreign Affairs                                  | 2022 - 2026 | Legislation               | Encouraging international cooperation to fulfil promises and commitments in this regard | The extent of commitment and implementation of the projects from the initiatives  |
| Supporting regional climate change initiatives such as the UAE's initiative to achieve climate neutrality, as well as initiatives from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the Middle East | The Supreme Council for Environment | The Ministry of Foreign Affairs                                  | 2022 - 2026 | Legislation               | Encouraging regional cooperation to fulfil commitments                                  | The extent of commitment and implementation of the projects from the initiatives  |
| Media and educational awareness on the dangers of climate change and pollution as well as ways to reduce them  | The Supreme Council for Environment | The Ministry of Information Affairs<br>The Ministry of Education | 2022 - 2026 | Institutional Development | Raising societal awareness of the risk and impact of climate change                     | The number, and content, of media campaigns to be implemented in this regard<br><br>The number of school and university workshops or exercises that will be organised |

### Sub-objective B: Preserving biodiversity

| Projects  | Main Entity                         | Partners  | Time Period | Project Category          | Project Importance   | Indicators  |
|---|-------------------------------------|---|-------------|---------------------------|--|---|
| Working on the national plan to adapt to climate change                       | The Supreme Council for Environment | The Ministry of Works, Municipalities Affairs, and Urban Planning | 2022 - 2026 | Legislation               | The fulfilment of international agreements is one of the recommendations stipulated in the third national communication report | Launching the plan and its executive programme; initiating the executive procedures |
| Doubling the number of trees and quadrupling the number of the mangrove trees | The Supreme Council for Environment | The Ministry of Works, Municipalities Affairs, and Urban Planning | 2022 - 2026 | Institutional Development | The important ecological role of mangrove trees in the environment   | Increasing the number of nature reserves for mangrove trees                         |

## The second objective: promoting global peace and security

Strengthening international peace and promoting the use of peaceful means

### Sub-objective A: Strengthening international peace and promoting the use of peaceful means

| Projects   | Main Entity                     | Partners  | Time Period | Project Category          | Project Importance  | Indicators  |
|--|---------------------------------|---|-------------|---------------------------|---|---|
| Following up on the implementation of agreements in the international peace domain   | The Ministry of Foreign Affairs | Various concerned ministries  | 2022 - 2026 | Institutional Development | Strengthening efforts in support of international peace   | The number of implemented projects from these agreements  |
| Strengthening the role of the Kingdom of Bahrain in support of peace in various regional and international forums  | The Ministry of Foreign Affairs | The Relevant United Nations organs  | 2022 - 2026 | Institutional Development | Supporting efforts to maintain international peace and security   | The number of statements and initiatives related to supporting peace efforts adopted by the Kingdom of Bahrain within the framework of the United Nations |
| Training diplomats in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on peaceful means of resolving disputes such as negotiations, arbitration, mediation, positive engagement, and good intentions | The Ministry of Foreign Affairs | The Mohammed bin Mubarak Al Khalifa Academy for Diplomatic Studies<br><br>The internationally competent authorities | 2022 - 2026 | Capacity Building         | Developing the capabilities of diplomats in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in using peaceful means to resolve international disputes | The number of courses.<br><br>The number of trainees annually. Practical evaluation during courses. The efficiency of application in practice             |

### Sub-objective A: Strengthening international peace and promoting the use of peaceful means

| Projects   | Main Entity   | Partners  | Time Period | Project Category                              | Project Importance   | Indicators  |
|--|---|---|-------------|---|--|---|
| Contributing to international and regional initiatives to combat extremism   | The Ministry of Foreign Affairs                         | The King Hamad Global Centre for Peaceful Coexistence                           | 2022 - 2026 | Institutional Development / Capacity Building | Promoting and supporting efforts to combat extremism   | The number of meetings and events   |
| Contributing to international initiatives to spread the culture of tolerance and peaceful coexistence among cultures, religions, and peoples | The Ministry of Foreign Affairs                         | The King Hamad Global Centre for Peaceful Coexistence                           | 2022 - 2026 | Institutional Development / Capacity Building | Promoting and supporting the dissemination of a culture of tolerance and peaceful coexistence among cultures, religions, and peoples | The number of meetings and events   |
| Strengthening the right to security and combating terrorism within the framework of respect for human rights                                 | The Ministry of Interior<br>The Royal Academy of Police | The Ministry of Foreign Affairs<br>The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime | 2022 - 2026 | Institutional Development / Capacity Building | Strengthening efforts to protect and respond to compromises in security and any matter that would jeopardise human rights            | Training programmes. Participation in international and regional initiatives that support these efforts<br><br>Contributing to international efforts to address terrorist crime |

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KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN  
Government of Bahrain



مملكة البحرين  
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