

Towards Achieving the Millennium Development Goals: Progress of Work (2004-2007)

Introduction:

Due to the importance given by the government of the Kingdom of Bahrain to humanitarian issues and human rights, its keenness to improve the living standards of its citizens, and its belief in the importance of human resources as a vital strategic resource, the Kingdom has made the goal of developing the society its first priority and thus placed care in drawing a national plan to develop the society economically, psychologically, intellectually, environmentally, and culturally, resulting in the creation of an advanced society based on the principles of freedom, equality, and security, which provides its people – citizens and residents – with the right to a safe and tranquil life, present and future.

The Kingdom has taken essential steps to attain these goals under the umbrella of the National Reform Program that was introduced by His Majesty, King Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa, which engaged all sectors. The objectives of the National Reform Program is clearly represented in national plans, policies, and strategies, as well as in the different programmes and services which were briefly covered in the 2003 Millennium Development Goals (MDG) Report that was prepared by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in cooperation with The United Nations' Development Program (UNDP). The Report highlighted the nation's growth and development in areas such as education and health, as well as national challenges and priorities. The MDG Goals, which were covered in the 2003 Report, are as follows:

- First Goal : Eradicate of extreme poverty and hunger.
- Second Goal : Achieve universal primary education
- Third Goal : Promote gender equality and empower women
- Fourth Goal : Reduce child mortality
- Fifth Goal : Improve maternal health
- Sixth Goal : Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
- Seventh Goal : Ensure environmental stability
- Eighth Goal : Develop a global partnership for development

This Report, “The Millennium Development Goals: Progress of Work from 2004-2007” prepared by the Ministry of Social Development in coordination with line public institutions, civil society organizations (NGOs) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP in Bahrain). The Report was prepared based on the decision of The Cabinet on December 3rd, 2006 to produce a report on the country’s progress in achieving the MDGs, whose complete fulfillment requires more of the nation’s efforts as well as the initiation of strategic development strategies and policies based on active partnerships and national awareness. In order to mobilize the Cabinet’s decision, Her Excellency, Dr. Fatma Mohammed Al Balooshi, Minister of Social Development, initiated the creation of the MDG National Committee to prepare the report. The MDG National Committee, in turn, used a team of experts to help in the preparation of the report. The Committee and the team of experts were in regular contact in order to create an accurate, objective and transparent study, based on the data available by the Ministry of Information and research centers and organizations. This data allowed for an analysis of the nation’s accomplishments, as well as challenges which the government and non-governmental organizations can work together to overcome.

The Report is essentially a reference document which records the country’s achievements in fulfilling the MDGs and a comprehensive source of information on the current state of the Kingdom, which allows for national planning, strategizing, and updating of laws and systems which pave the way towards a better tomorrow. This Report, in your hands today, is only the beginning of upcoming reports which look further into national data and information, in line with the Kingdom’s aspirations and goals, and envisions the way forward after the accomplishment of the MDGs.

