

ACTION 2

UNCT Bahrain Human Rights Based Approach

I. CONTEXT:

Placing human rights at the centre of the work of United Nations has been a cornerstone of the Secretary-General's initiatives for the reform of the United Nations. In his 2005 report "In larger freedom: towards development, security and human rights for all", the Secretary-General emphasized that "not only are development, security and human rights all imperative; they also reinforce each other". The report reiterates the request made in his 2002 report "Strengthening of the United Nations: an agenda for further change", to intensify UN cooperation with Member States in building national capacities for the promotion and protection of human rights. Therefore, the UNCT has an important role to play in the process by enhancing their capacities in order to support Member States in their efforts of strengthening national human rights protection.

Bahrain as an important Member States of the UN has seen in the last few years significant improvements in the area of human rights and the government has taken a number of positive steps in the promotion and protection of human rights, including the release of political prisoners and detainees, the setting up of a human rights body within the Consultative Council. the ratification of UN Convention against Torture, as well as the initiation inside the country of a debate on human rights, democracy, equality between men and women, and freedom of expression. Many human rights milestones resulted from the reform program which strengthened individuals' rights and included many human rights elements, most noteworthy of which were the political Rights Instituting Law and parliamentary and municipal elections of 2002, independence of the general prosecution, development of judiciary, ratification of Arab Human Rights Charter on May 8 2006 and active participation in combating trafficking in human beings. This expansion of the human rights movement in Bahraini civil society is a significant step in the country's path to democracy. Furthermore, special attention was accorded to women's rights through the establishment of Supreme council for Women as well as other non governmental organizations which have encouraged Bahraini women to promote their rights and national development. These rights contributed to the appointment of the first female judge in Bahrain on June 6, 2006 and to the election of Bahrain's first woman diplomat as president of the 61st session of the UN General Assembly. Nonetheless, work is yet to be done in Bahrain for promoting and improving the observance of human rights and furthermore in informing the public on human rights issues, especially in the light of the Kingdom of Bahrain's recent achievement in being selected among the first members of the newly created United Nations Human Rights Council. Particular targeted attention to human rights education can change the perceptions in the society and exert pressure upon the authorities for ameliorating the human rights climate in the country.

The UNCT in Bahrain intends to strongly support the human rights related activities by providing guidance/advise/expertise, methodological support on human rights and good governance. The UNCT will focus its direct involvement in human rights capacity building and technical cooperation activities with the aim of facilitating the integration of

human rights into UN development action at country level, facilitate the establishment of a thematic working group on human rights within the UNCT and ensure the integration of human rights into CCA (common country analysis) UNDAF (UN development assistance framework) processes, which is being undertaken in this year. Working as a UNCT on human rights activities will bring more coherence of vision and message, strength in advocacy and negotiations, synergies of ideas, joint programming and opportunities for enhanced sharing of good practices and lessons learned. It will also provide many and divergent points for protecting, promoting and realizing human rights in the country, maximize UN impact and create a coherent, strategic results based framework while accelerating harmonization with the UN.

II. Immediate Objectives

Human rights principles guide programming in all sectors such as: health, education, governance, HIV/AIDS, employment and labor relations and social and economic security which also includes all development cooperation directed towards the achievement of MDGs. Furthermore human rights standards and principles guide both the CCA and UNDAF processes. However, many UN staff members view human rights as a separate activity, a special area of work, rather than a crosscutting aspect of all areas of programme support; therefore, it is important to consider human rights as an integration in all development activities.

The immediate objective of the project will be:

1. **UNCT develop a common understanding of human rights based approach and a conceptual clarity about human rights** which will induce the UNCT to play a strategic role in raising awareness about human rights based approach among government and national counterparts.
2. **Integration of human rights principles in all phases of the programming process**, including assessment and analysis, programming planning and design, implementation, monitoring and in the CCA/UNDAF processes.

III. Main outputs and activities

The human rights training for the UNCT should not be limited to the CCA/UNDAF context alone or to the UNCT members but should also include government and NGO participation as well. An expanded country team which includes national counterparts and moving from a common understanding of HRBA to training programmes and other activities that involve government agencies it is essential to increase awareness on human rights issues in the country. Moreover, what is also needed is access to regional/international advisors and to networks as a source for cases and other documentation of experiences of activities in other countries. The aim of the human rights capacity building is to move from training to capacity development and the collective creation of knowledge. Priority topics for human rights based capacity-building include: more strategic use of human rights instruments and capacity development of human rights bearers and rights holders.

The proposal will create an enabling environment for human rights by using capacity building as part of the broader strategy of organizational transformation towards greater effectiveness and the main outputs and activities of the human rights project will be focused on:

1. **Training workshops facilitated by OHCHR** and using UN Development Group approved training module on human rights for the UNCT
2. **Capacity Building workshops** for an extended UNCT including the **national counterparts**
3. **Development of a joint programming human rights capacity development strategy** between UNDP/UNEP and UNDP/UNIDO.

IV. Outcome and Impact

Ultimately, the UNCT aims to emphasize the importance of protecting human rights in Bahrain, in line with the international conventions on human rights. The human rights based approach will assist the national counterparts such as the Parliament and other relevant institutions to carry out constitutional and legal reforms in conformity with international human rights standards. Furthermore, at later stages providing training to members of the justice system as well as providing training to civil society organizations and networks to strengthen their capacity to protect human rights will be strongly considered in the hope that the UNCT will play a significant role assisting government in the development of a National Human Rights Action Plan.

V. Implementation strategy

The project proposal will be implemented by RC unit who will be responsible in identifying consultants to deliver the expected outputs of the project. The UNCT will be responsible for ensuring the timely achievement of high-quality project outputs and deliverables during the implementation stage of the project proposal which will include the preparation of an end report outlining further recommendations in order to promote and consolidate a culture of respect for human rights in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

VI. Budget

Components	Duration (weeks)	Budget (USD)
A. Two consultants-training	1-3	\$15,000
B. 3 Workshops with national counterparts	4-5	\$30,000
C. HRBA strategies/consultant support	4-5	\$10,000
D. Miscellaneous		5,000
TOTAL		\$60,000

Section II. Results

PROJECT RESULTS AND RESOURCES FRAMEWORK

Intended Outcome as stated in the Country Programme Results and Resource Framework:				
TTF Service Line:				
Partnership Strategy: Main partners will be: a. UNCT c. UN OHCHR f.				
Project title and ID (ATLAS Award ID):				
Intended Outputs	Output Targets (month)	Indicative Activities	Responsible parties	Inputs
1. Training Workshops facilitated by OHCHR for UNCT		1.1 Workshop on Introduction to Human Rights culture development at the UNCT; 1.2 Workshop on establishment of the rule of law at the National Level; 1.3 Work shop on incorporating HR principles in the Programming, CCA, UNDAF, etc.	OHCHR AND CONSULTANTS	

<p>2. Capacity Building workshops for UNCT and National Counterparts</p>		<p>2.1 Work shop for national counterparts on Introducing Human Rights Principles</p> <p>2.2 Workshop on Human Rights programming</p>		
<p>3. Development of a joint programming human rights capacity development strategy</p>		<p>3.1 Hire Consultant to perform a diagnostic assessment for potential joint HR Programming</p> <p>3.2 Joint HR Programme with UNEP</p> <p>3.3 Joint HR Programme with UNIDO</p>		