

Country Cooperation Strategy for WHO and Bahrain 2005–2010

Bahrain



World Health Organization
Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean

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for WHO and Bahrain
2005–2010

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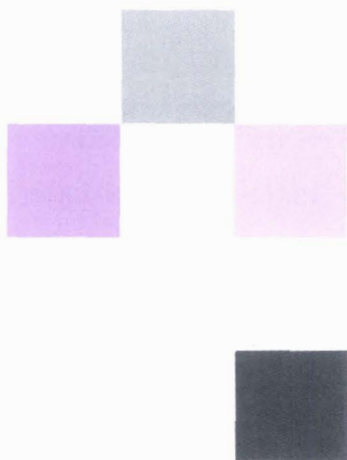
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Executive Summary

The Country Cooperation Strategy (CCS) defines the strategic framework for WHO's work with the Government of Bahrain in the next 6 years. It represents a vision and priorities that will guide WHO's work with the country. The CCS is based on careful analysis of health and development issues and challenges, and governmental actions and expectations, and was developed in partnership with, and with the involvement of, stakeholders in the health care system in Bahrain.

While the CCS was developed to further support the development of the health care system in Bahrain, it also reflects WHO's orientations and values as well as regional and global perspectives. A critical component of the CCS is greater prioritization of activities and more emphasis on strategic planning for health with role identification and clarification.

Bahrain enjoys an advanced level of health as manifested by its health status indicators. Bahrain's national health strategy for the period 2002–2010 represents a framework for action that will help to develop the health system in the long term. After one year of implementation it is important to reflect and to integrate, review and modify to guide the longer-term process. The CCS at this time will have a great impact in this regard.

With political transformation in Bahrain, greater pressure will be placed on the public sector to achieve greater efficiency and responsiveness. A well integrated strategy through the CCS will assist in the process of mobilization of resources in directions that

will have more lasting impact on the general development and improvement of the health care sector in the country.

Changes in the environment surrounding the operation of the health system in Bahrain, such as World Trade Agreements, labour market reform and the increased orientation towards privatization dictate an improved performance at all levels, including local, regional and international levels. The CCS will assist in the achievement of the goal of improved WHO performance in the country, especially that WHO is the main international agency in partnership for health with the government of Bahrain.

The key challenges can be summarized as follows.

- ❖ With the proliferation of the private sector in its different forms (hospitals, general and specialized clinics, polyclinics in order and alternative medicine) regulation is essential. Regulation and accreditation is important to maintain the advanced health status of the population and to regulate the public–private health care relationship.
- ❖ With the continually increasing demand for health services and the escalation in costs, efficiency and alternative ways of financing are required to maintain and sustain health system development.
- ❖ With the political transformation in Bahrain, policy formulation, analysis and implementation will be in greater demand. Policies that foster the

implementation of various laws and ensure compliance with regulation and accreditation standards are critical.

- ❖ Human resources planning has been a chronic issue. There is a pressing need to plan to match the required specialties with appropriate numbers and quality of human resources.
- ❖ Improvement of the information system is needed to capture the information required for evidence-based planning and management.
- ❖ With the change in the lifestyle of the population and demographic trends, noncommunicable diseases present a major health challenge for the country. Plans and actions to alleviate the burden of noncommunicable diseases on population health and on health resources are critical.
- ❖ With the continuous development of health services, major developments have occurred in human resources, equipment and facilities. However, this has not been accompanied by similar developments in management, coordination and organization.
- ❖ Although information is gathered on a

stakeholders, academia, professional organizations, civil society and officials from the Shura Council, the parliament, municipal councils and UNDP. A rapid review of the health sector situation was undertaken, identifying the major challenges facing health development in Bahrain. Then, based on these, the priority directions for WHO's technical collaboration with the government of Bahrain were identified.

The strategic directions for the CCS for the next 6 years take into account the level of health status in Bahrain, the demographic transition, the epidemiology of prevailing and projected disease patterns, the National Health Strategy and the goal of the government of Bahrain to provide high quality health coverage to all people at an affordable cost, as well as the overall socioeconomic and political developments, particularly the transition period and the focus on diversification of the economy.

Four strategic directions were identified to build on the achievements and successes of the health sector in Bahrain and address the current challenges and future possible scenarios. In addition to supporting the Ministry of Health, the directions are selected to be sensitive to the new realities and support other major health partners

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