

State of Bahrain
Ministry of Health

Annual Report Reflections of 2001



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Introduction

is advancing in every field. Transparency, human rights, quality of service, and performance management are a few trends that are being encouraged to be parallel government activities. Human health and education have been and continue to be the main concern and focus for Bahrain leaders represented by His Highness Bahrain Amir Shaikh Hamad Bin Isa Al Khalifa, His Highness Prime Minister Shaikh Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa, His Highness the Crown Prince and the Commander-in-Chief of the Bahrain Defence Force, Shaikh Salman Bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

During 2001, the Ministry of Health had several achievements that reflect the government orientation towards improvement and development.

- ☒ Three hundred paintings were donated by Bahraini artist, Abbas Al-Musawi. These paintings have added beauty and bright colors to the environment of Salmaniya Medical Center.



Future Direction

Future Direction 2002-2010

During 2001, the Ministry of Health have completed their New Strategic Directions for the period 2002-2010, which was developed with the purpose to guide the developmental processes and growth of health services and serve as the basis for all future decision making.

Vision

The Ministry of Health works in partnership with stakeholders to improve the health of the population of Bahrain and ensure that everyone has access to a high quality, responsive health services throughout their lifetime.

Mission

The Ministry of Health aims to ensure the provision of accessible, preventive, curative and palliative health services to the community of Bahrain. It will encourage personal responsibility for health and will use available resources as efficiently and effectively as possible to provide a high standard of care based on research, evidence, and relevant international best practices.



Strategic Goals

<p>Goal 1 To reduce the burden of disease by addressing the priority health areas</p>	<p>Goal 2 To improve quality and responsiveness of services and promotion of clinical excellence and performance management.</p>	<p>Goal 3 To promote the role of family health care as being the heart of health service provision.</p>
<p>Goal 4 To develop an integrated model of health care provision that delivers high quality service as locally as possible.</p>	<p>Goal 5 To develop a structured approach to investment in a new service workforce development equipment and drugs.</p>	<p>Goal 6 To develop local, regional, and international partnerships.</p>
<p>Goal 7 To encourage individuals, families, and communities to take more responsibilities for their own health.</p>	<p>Goal 8 To ensure the appropriate organizational structure is in place to implement the strategic direction, and to decentralize responsibility for management of health services.</p>	<p>Goal 9 To ensure the appropriate organizational structure is in place to implement the strategic direction.</p>
<p>Goal 10 To develop the role of the health services in education, research and development.</p>	<p>Goal 11 To develop sound financial management skills and systems to optimize the use of resources.</p>	<p>Goal 12 To ensure that the implementation of the new technology underpins the Strategic Direction and that necessary organisational change accompanies investment in technology.</p>



Health Indicators and Health Status

Basic Health Indicators

Infant Mortality Rate	8.6/1000 live births.
Life Expectancy at Birth	72.9 years
Males	71.1 years
Females	75.3 years
Crude Death Rate	3.0 per 1000 population
Maternal Mortality Rate	15/100,000 live births
Total Fertility Rate	2.5 per woman



Highlights of Achievement Year 2001

Highlights of Achievement Year 2001

Health System Performance Improvement

The Ministry of Health adopted the World Health Organization Framework for Health System Improvement. For this purpose, a ministerial committee was formulated to look into the parameters and functions of the Health System analyzing the health status and burden of various diseases, as well as identifying possible strategies to evaluate system performance and improvement.

Health Account, serving to improve the management of financial resources for the nation.

Human Resources Development

Human Resources are the single most important asset in Bahrain. Therefore the Ministry of Health is committed to investing training and development of all its employees.

- 371 employees were sponsored by the Ministry for training
- 128 were involved in long term training program (94 inside Bahrain, 34 overseas)
- 474 short term training and conferences (231 in local, and 243 overseas)
- 143 participated in the Civil Service Bureau training activities

The College of Health Sciences started the implementation of its new Strategic Plan. The major highlight for initiating the strategy was the establishment of the Board of Trustees. The total number of graduates since its establishment in 1976, has reached 3,756 graduates.

The College of Health Sciences is planning to celebrate its Silver Jubilee at the end of this year, 2001.



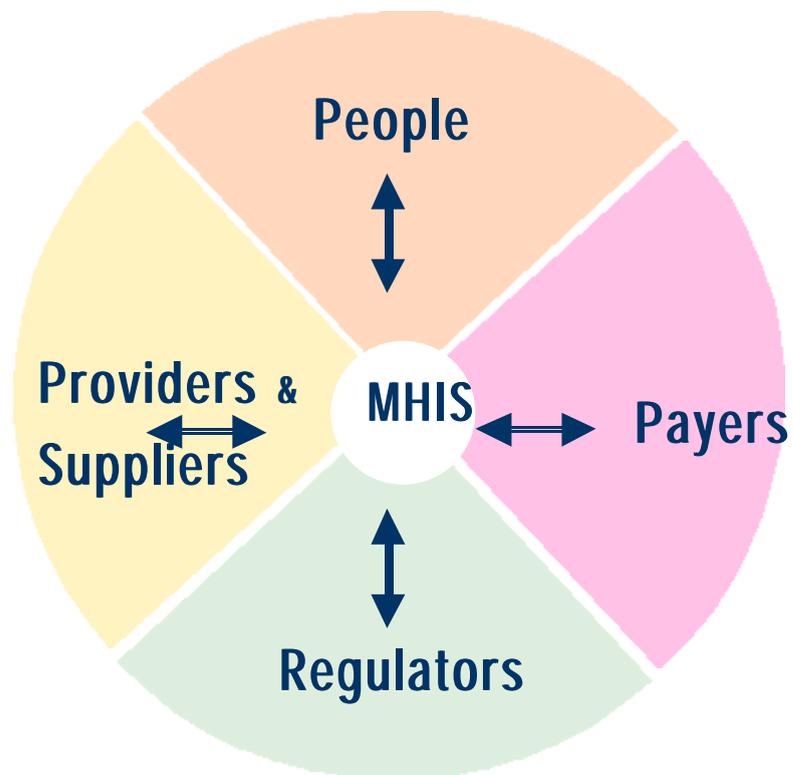
MHIS

Highlights of Achievement Year 2001

Ministry of Health Information Systems Strategy (MHIS)

Information systems are viewed by government as a strategic asset. The Ministry of Health completed the Information Systems Strategy as an enabler to strengthen and support the management of the health care system.

The strategic aim **is to provide the** right information **to the** right people **at the** right time **in order to provide the best service and health outcome at reasonable cost.**





Four strategic objectives and expected outcomes are defined to achieve the vision:

Objective 1: To provide an information communication technology infrastructure to improve accessibility to information

Objective 2: To provide a National Health Information Center that will provide real time online analytical decision support tools to assist in the improvement of daily operations and clinical practice, as well as data warehouse decision support tools for analyzing retrospective information that will assist in prospectively planning improvements for the quality of services provided, the effectiveness of the delivery of services, and the efficient utilization of resources.

Objective 3: To provide an integrated healthcare provider system that will support referrals and information sharing between the private and public clinical venues of tertiary, secondary, or primary care across Bahrain.

Objective 4: To provide an Alternative Funding System Software that supports the Provider/Payer/Regulator requirements.

Highlights

- Collaboration with other government agencies to integrate their IT strategies will ensure that the Ministry of Health implementation starting in 2002 will coincide with e-government projects as a whole

- Further Achievements

New project implementations included:

- Intranet in September
- Groupwise in April
- Internet in November
- Rollout of Patient Management Information Systems to include seven Health Centers
- Health Statistics Report, Doctor and Dentist Directory



Organizational Structures & Personnel

Organizational Re-structuring and the alignment of personnel contribute to improving health services. The following are examples of a few of the changes made during the last year:

1. Re-organising some sections such as Environmental Health and Food Safety in the Public Health Directorate
2. Establishment of a new organizational structure for Mohammed Bin Jassim Kanoo Health Center
3. Evaluation of 114 current positions and creation of 314 new positions.
4. Number of Physicians currently employed in the Ministry of Health is 721 with greater than 80% (582) being Bahrain nationals.

Primary Care

The addition of programs and extension of working hours serve to provide accessible services to all. Primary Care has contributed to health services focus as follows:

- Ministry of Health is planning to open a second health center in Hamad Town.
- Extension of working hours in Sitra Health Center is now until midnight.
- Operation of Muharraq Health Center is now 24 hours.
- Integration of computer services for Maternal-Child services in several health centers and will be expanded in the future.
- Special Diabetic Clinics were opened in some of the health centers. In addition to the clinics two more were opened in 2001, one in Sh. Sabah Al-Salim and Naim Health Centers. (5,977 patients attended the Diabetic Clinics from January to August, 2001.



Dentistry

A new advanced training program was established by the Ministry of Health to qualify and employ Bahraini graduate dentists. The duration of the program is 3-4 years. To date, 30 dentists are enrolled.

In response to public expectation and to reduce the waiting time, several dental clinics extended its hours of operation to the afternoon. Extension of hours were focused in Health Centers where there were problems of long waiting times for appointments.

School Health

The Ministry of Health continues to pay special attention to school health programs which aim to achieve normal growth and development both physically and mentally to all students (students represent 30% of the population). Through this program, new students get comprehensive medical examinations and completed their necessary immunizations.

The program helps in the prevention of communicable diseases and health promotion between students in addition to supervision in school canteens. It also aims to integrate health education concepts through the curriculum.

This year a School Health Committee was established as part of mother and child services in Primary Care. The committee involved representatives from both health and education ministries.



Tertiary and Secondary Healthcare

The management at Salmaniya Medical Center prepared a plan to improve its services and standards of its employee.

A new reception was opened to serve patients and workers of the complex. The location was selected for easy access by both departments.

This year has shown important improvement in the area of Diagnostic Radiography and ultrasound, including new equipment and high technology, which will impact on the diagnostic capabilities.

In addition, Pathology services have also improved. Several of the laboratory tests that used to be sent abroad, are now being completed in Salmaniya Medical Center, especially in the areas of biochemistry. The Pathology Department is in the process of developing the Hereditary Disease services to complete more of the required tests locally.

The networking of computers in the Salmaniya laboratory to Health Centers and Public Health laboratories was completed for easier access to results, regardless of location.



Laws and Regulations

Several laws were amended this year to develop and improve health services and optimize resource utilizations. Among these laws was Public Health law No.3 for the year 1975, law No.4 for the year 1973 related to Narcotics, Psychotropics and Precursors. This year the Ministry of Health has established a new law related to Mental Health, which is the Law of dealing with hospitalization of mentally ill patients.

The updating of the above laws comes in addition to what was accomplished in previous years related to the updating of all old laws including: Birth and death registration law, Law to regulate Pharmacy and pharmaceutical centers, The law of organ harvesting and transplantation, Anti-smoking law, Law of control of use, promotion, and marketing of breast feeding substitutes.

Currently, the ministry is preparing to amend the following laws: Law of medical and dental practice, law of allied health professionals, and Law of hospital organization. This in addition to current activity of establishing the premarital Medical examination.

Project of Health Insurance for Non-Bahrainis

A steering committee involving representatives from Ministries of Finance and National Economy, Labor and Social Affairs and Commerce, the Ministry of Health continue to study the project of health insurance for expatriates in Bahrain, which was approved in principle by the Ministers Council last year. Currently the committee is exploring various alternatives for implementation considering the advantages and disadvantages of each alternative. Throughout the year, several consulting agencies such as the World Bank and the World Health Organizations were consulted about the best possible alternative.



Medical equipment

The second equipment for cancer therapy with deep XRay, was installed and operation begun after being donated by the General Organization for Social Insurance. Also, the Ministry have also completed the tendering process for replacement of old equipment (value of approximately one Million Bahrain Dinars) in addition to tendering for buying new medial equipment with the value of 300 thousand Bahraini Dinars. Contracts for the maintenance of medical equipment for years 2001 and 2002 were also signed for an overall value of 700 thousand Bahrain Dinars per year.

Drugs

In collaboration with the World Health Organization , the Bahrain National Policy for Drugs was formulated this year. The Ministry of Health have approved the registration of thirteen companies which met the required standards. It also approved the registration of 139 drugs to facilitate the availability of various pharmaceuticals to all residents of Bahrain. With the aim to improve the services, the Ministry of Health continues to analyze the quality of drugs through the pharmacy and drug control laboratories. A new Microbiology section was created this year which will contribute to greater quality of drugs in Bahrain.

In General, the Ministry of health continues through its various programs and activities to evaluate and examine the quality of services in different areas and to improve and develop those services to provide the best possible health care services of high standards for all population in Bahrain.

The challenges facing the Ministry of Health over the next few years will be largely directed through the implementation of the new Strategic Plan, 2002-2010.