For further information:

Ministry of Health
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Key Stakeholders in Health Research:
- Ministry of Health, including College of Health Science.
- Arabian Gulf University, Faculty of Medicine.
- Bahrain Centre for Study and Research.
- Royal Medical Services Hospital (BDF Hospital).
- Bahrain University (for health and economic studies)

Health Research Structure in the Ministry of Health:
Health research was identified as one of the twelve strategic goals. It is considered as one important priority in the document; “Bahrain Health Strategy; Framework for Action”. Under the Strategic Goal No. 10: Education, Research and Development;

“Develop the role of the health system in education, research and development in Partnership with other agencies, and focus on health research for development”.

The Actions to implements this goal will include the following:
- Develop a Center for Health System Research and Evidence Based Clinical Practice to ensure a structured approach to the assessment, organization and co-ordination of research.
- Development of Health Policy based on research outcomes and epidemiology.
- Establish a Research Training program for Ministry of Health employees.

As implementation for the strategic goal, Ministry of Health established the first Branch for Cochrane center in the Arab World,

Role of the Bahrain Branch of the UK Cochrane Centre
The prime focus of the Bahrain Branch will be the co-ordination, development and provision of training and support to Cochrane review authors in the Arabic speaking countries. Another significantly important role will be the translation of necessary administrative, support and scientific documents from and to Arabic, to ensure that they can be understood by target audiences. Additionally the branch will develop a resource for hand searching Arabic-language healthcare journals and seek to identify and distribute relevant studies to the wider Collaboration.

Core functions of the Bahrain Branch UK Cochrane Centre.
1) Training and support:
2) Hand searching
3) Translation
4) Accessibility of the Cochrane Library

The Organization Structure at the Ministry Of Health:

Functions of the Research Technical Support Team:
- Supervision and monitoring of national health surveys and the provision of technical support.
- Provision of technical support to research sub-committees.
- Approval of research proposals of MOH employees.
- Approval of research proposals submitted from other organizations and academic institutions intending to use MOH data or facilities.
- The provision of advice regarding medical ethics to research sub-committees and to researchers from other health organizations and academic institutions who intend to conduct research by using ministry data or facilities.
- National Capacity Building in the field of health research.
- Coordination with the HRC to identify ministry’s research needs and priorities.
- Advise the HRC regarding requests for Research Grants or Financial support.
- Other responsibilities delegated from the HRC

Research sub-Committees Functions:
- Approval of research proposals of MOH employees of concerned departments/sections and the provision of technical support.
- Supervising and monitoring of research activities in concerned departments/sections in Ministry of Health.
- Capacity building in research for employees in concerned departments/sections.

Managing and Financing Research:
Several International guidelines adapted to submission research proposal and protocols, available for all researchers from the internal internet network for the MOH.

Financing research proposal was mainly through the MOH regular budget and funds allocated from several international agencies like WHO, GCC Council, UNDP, UNFPA etc. But with the new structure of Health research the committee submitted a separate budget within the general budget purely for funding research and was approved by Ministry of Finance starting from the year 2007-2008 budget.