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For further information:

Ministry of Health
 Office Secretary for
 Assistance Undersecretary for Planning and Training
 P.O.Box : 22118
 Kingdom of Bharain

Telephone: (+973) 17279879

Fax: (+973) 17273540

Email: Famin@health.gov.bh

Website: www.Health.gov.bh



Ministry of Health

Health Research Structure and Activities in the Kingdom of Bahrain



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**,

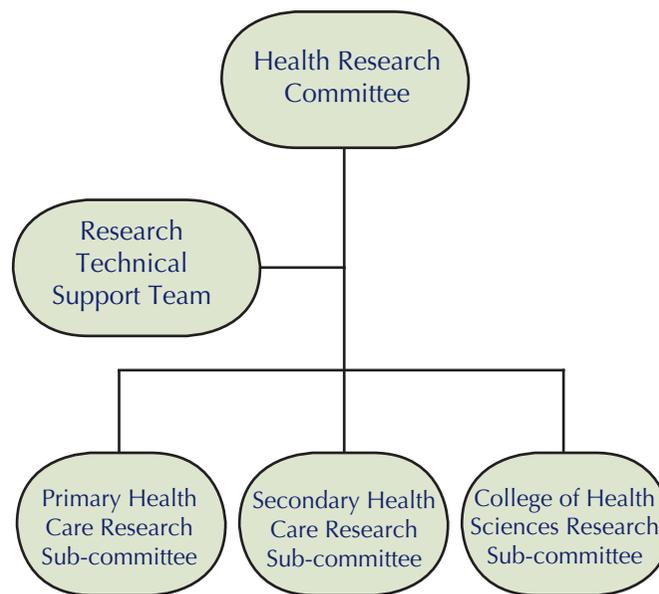
Role of the Bahrain Branch of the UK Cochrane Centre

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 Health Research Committee:

- Adoption of health research **Policies, Strategies** and **Priorities** in the MOH.
- **Monitoring** health related research and ensuring its adherence to medical ethics.
- Research **Capacity Building** for the MOH employees
- **Documentation** and **Dissemination** of Research Results.
- Approval of research **Budget** and **Grants**.
- **Cooperation** with local, Regional and **International** Organizations

A Technical Support Team (**TST**) with three sub-committees (primary health care (**PHC**), secondary health care (**SHC**) and college of health sciences (**CHS**) were established under the HRC.

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.