

Bahrain

National progress report on the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action

Name of focal point : Ahmed Husain

Organization : National Committee for Disaster

Designation : Head of the Executive Office for the National Committee for Disaster

E-mail address : bahrainairportfirechief@hotmail.com

Telephone : +97339630063

Fax : +97317234264

Additional Focal points/ other comments :

Reporting period : 2007-2009

Last updated on : 23 September 2008

Print date : 09 Jun 2009

Reporting language : English

An HFA Monitor update published by PreventionWeb

<http://www.preventionweb.net/english/countries/asia/bhr/>

Strategic goals 1

Area 1

The more effective integration of disaster risk considerations into sustainable development policies, planning and programming at all levels, with a special emphasis on disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness and vulnerability reduction.

Strategic Goal Statement:

Kingdom of Bahrain Strategy for Supporting
HFA Strategic Goal “One”

It is intended that the Kingdom of Bahrain supports HFA Strategic Goal “One” through a proactive “Total National Concept” which incorporates and links all aspects of Safety, Security and Stability to the Nation’s Aspirations for Political, Social and Economic Development. The Concept will:

- Involve the establishment of a top-down management structure, driven, guided, supported and encouraged from the Nation’s most Senior Level.
- Encourage the development of a National “Culture” of Risk Awareness incorporating Disaster Reduction and Disaster Management.
- Follow the philosophy of a “Multi-Agency” or “Joint” approach at all levels. All involved Ministries, Agencies, Relevant Public and Private Sector Elements and Communities as well as those Regional and International Organisations that are involved will work towards a common goal.
- Necessitate the provision of dedicated funding and resources.

Area 2

The development and strengthening of institutions, mechanisms and capacities at all levels, in particular at the community level, that can systematically contribute to building resilience to hazards.

Strategic Goal Statement:

Kingdom of Bahrain Strategy for Supporting
HFA Strategic Goal “Two”

The Kingdom of Bahrain supports HFA Strategic Goal “Two” by ensuring that the Kingdom’s Senior Management’s directions are followed (see Goal “One”) and that a “Culture” of Risk Awareness and Disaster Reduction and Disaster Management is developed through a Multi-Agency National approach by:

- Reactivating the “Civil Defence Council”, a Ministerial Council chaired by the Minister of the Interior to give strategic direction and support.
- Establishing a “Focal Point” for such activities - the “National Committee for Disaster Management” (already in existence), which reports to the “Civil Defence Council”.
- Ensuring Legislation and supporting Regulations are in place to prevent or mitigate potential risks and also to empower the Government in the event of Contingencies.
- Establishing multi-stakeholder national platform of all involved government agencies and representatives of private sector, NGOs and local communities to ensure assessment and prioritisation of risks and development of action plans to address and reduce the risks.

All the processes above are to be carried out on a systematic and continuous basis.

Area 3

The systematic incorporation of risk reduction approaches into the design and implementation of emergency preparedness, response and recovery programmes in the reconstruction of affected communities.

Strategic Goal Statement:

Kingdom of Bahrain Strategy for Supporting
HFA Strategic Goal “Three”

The Kingdom of Bahrain supports HFA Strategic Goal “Three” by ensuring that resources are in place and preparation, planning, procedures and training are carried out to ensure successful Disaster Reduction and Disaster Management. This is to be achieved on a Single and Multi-Agency basis.

Such Plans and Preparations will include actions for recovery and rehabilitation Post-Contingency in order to return the situation to, or even improve upon, that which existed Pre-Contingency.

This will be carried out under the coordination of The National Committee for Disaster Management in close consultation with appropriate elements of the National Platform.

Priority for action 1

Ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation.

Core indicator 1

National policy and legal framework for disaster risk reduction exists with decentralised responsibilities and capacities at all levels.

Level of Progress achieved:

3: Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

Description:

- Institutional Commitment and Policy in Principle, is in place through:
 - o Prime Ministerial Degree No.28 of May 2006, establishing the National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM).
 - o The third track of the publicised Strategy of the Ministry of the Interior (responsible for coordination of Risk, Crisis and Consequence Management) which reads: “Develop and Coordinate a Strategy of National Resilience to Detect, Prepare for, Prevent, and if necessary respond to and Recover from all Risks and challenges that might effect the welfare and wellbeing of the Nation and its people, thus ensuring Public Protection.”
- The NCDM acts as the focal point for this coordination under the MOI, Chief of Public Security.
- A two year framework “Action Plan” is in place.
- A revised system of top management oversight is under active consideration.

Context & Constraints:

- The major challenges to be faced are:
 - o A new Law encompassing both Prevention and Mitigation of Risks and Contingency Management is not yet in place, but is being drafted under the direction of the NCDM.

- o There is no National Integrated Policy in place encompassing all sectors, nor are explicit responsibilities defined for all levels of Government. As a result cooperation and coordination is not as close as it should be.
- o Individual Ministries and Agencies carry out functions - but not in a coordinated National way.

Core indicator 2

Dedicated and adequate resources are available to implement disaster risk reduction plans and activities at all administrative levels

Level of Progress achieved:

2: Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

Description:

- Resources (Funding) are made available but on an “ad hoc” basis.
- However, good physical resources are in place such as a modern National Emergency Control Centre; Emergency Services Response Vehicles and equipment are also state-of-the-art.
- Funding will be made available in the event of major emergencies. (See Core Indicator 3 of HFA Priority 5)
- NCDM will coordinate funding issues with all involved and give support to justified requirements (Single and Multi - Agency) for funding for all areas.

Context & Constraints:

- Systematic (budgeted) Funding for DRR is required rather than “ad-hoc” arrangements.
- A central formal Emergency Fund should be emplaced

Core indicator 3

Community Participation and decentralisation is ensured through the delegation of authority and resources to local levels

Level of Progress achieved:

3: Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

Description:

- Bahrain is a small Country (both Geographically and by Population). There is a very close link between Ministries, Municipalities and Communities which eliminates considerable bureaucracy experienced by larger Nations.
- There are regular community participated events relating to safety awareness and provision of safety equipment to localities organised by the Civil Defence, supported by the relevant Governorate. These events include:
 - o Visits by students to their local Fire Stations.
 - o Programmed visits to universities schools and community centres to spread fire prevention and safety awareness.
 - o Volunteers training on fire prevention and safety is conducted by NGOs.
 - o Programmed lectures to communities on hazard associated with social and religious activity.

Context & Constraints:

- Whilst much is being done on the Fire Safety side, this does not migrate to all risk areas.
- Inadequate resources to meet the rapidly rising population and industrial development/growth.
- Improvements can be made through Governorates encouraging local industries/business community to support community based programs.

- Much will be overcome, once the National Platform is identified and functional.

Core indicator 4

A national multi sectoral platform for disaster risk reduction is functioning.

Level of Progress achieved:

3: Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

Description:

- Focal Point Established under Prime Ministerial Decree - NCDM Committee. (See Core Indicator 1)
- Expertise of UK Emergency Planning College utilised to identify risks in different sectors.
- All involved Agencies to make up a National Platform being identified.
- Risk Managers of all involved agencies being nominated. All will participate in centralised training coordinated under the NCDM.
- Two Year Plan in place. This will ensure the Platform is fully functional.

Context & Constraints:

- Being a new Framework and awaiting comprehensive revised legislation (under process), it is anticipated that challenges will be faced in coordination and integration due to the large number of participants.
- With sufficient dedication and resources, in time these will be overcome under the coordination of the NCDM.
- It is essential that the National Platform be driven by top leadership to ensure cooperation at all levels. This will involve:
 - o Reactivation of the Civil Defence Council (CDC).
 - o A review of the management mechanism and structure above the CDC.

Priority for action 2

Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning

Core indicator 1

National and local risk assessments based on hazard data and vulnerability information are available and include risk assessments for key sectors.

Level of Progress achieved:

3: Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

Description:

- Risk Assessments have been carried out using both National resources and also International Consultants.
- However, an up to date formal National Multi-Agency Risk Assessment will take place in October 2008 under guidance of the UK Emergency Planning College. This Course will do much to overcome barriers between agencies.
- Following this, a full Hazard Profile will be produced with coordination and prioritisation supervised by the NCDM.
- Bahrain is a small Nation and therefore Community involvement is limited in terms of responsibilities, but their concerns are heard and actioned if justified.

Context & Constraints:

- Due to insufficient legislative support, and lack of focal points within various organisations, the results of risk assessments and risk matrix are currently not centrally coordinated or implemented fully.
- Nor has any prioritisation between risks been carried out - however see above.
- There is still some resistance to data sharing, however with enactment of the draft law, it is expected that such resistance will be overcome.
- Communities are encouraged to report and if feasible take local action to reduce risks which they identify. However, what data is available to them in certain areas, remains to be identified.

Core indicator 2

Systems are in place to monitor, archive and disseminate data on key hazards and vulnerabilities

Level of Progress achieved:

2: Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

Description:

- Individual Ministries and organisations do collect and maintain data on risks. However, follow up action is not properly coordinated or passed on to all as required.
- The new legislation will ensure that such data is shared and used in the National interest.
- Again NCDM will be responsible for coordination and ensuring success in this area.

Context & Constraints:

- Currently sharing of information is not systematic and the primary challenge is to ensure that all this disparate data is brought together and prioritised for further action.
- Once this is achieved National Policies and Programmes will follow.

Core indicator 3

Early warning systems are in place for all major hazards, with outreach to communities.

Level of Progress achieved:

3: Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

Description:

- Industries using hazardous materials do have detection and early warning systems.
- The Environmental Commission has put in place air quality analysers monitored by the Environmental Department.
- The Environmental Commission has proposed and put forward for Parliamentary approval an update of Environmental Law No.21 of 1996.
- A decision to acquire radiation, detection and warning systems has been made. However, a decision on which agency will become the focal point is awaited.
- The Metrological Department has comprehensive equipment and stations to monitor atmospheric and sea conditions.
- The emplacement of a National Platform and Plan coordinated through the NCDM will do much to improve the situation and ensure closer liaison and coordination between all sectors - especially Private and Government.
- This will ensure coordination of the significant resources that are already in place.

Context & Constraints:

- Lack of central monitoring stations for various hazards.
- Insufficient procedures for dissemination of warning of impending hazards to the general population.

Core indicator 4

National and local risk assessments take account of regional / trans boundary risks, with a view to regional cooperation on risk reduction.

Level of Progress achieved:

3: Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

Description:

- The GCC Organisation and its Secretariat sponsors regular meetings of Directors General of Civil Defence.
- The member countries jointly produce codes and regulations on buildings, chemicals and other potential hazards (eg Radiation hazardous materials etc).
- Joint training exercises between member States for combating these hazards are conducted.
- Institutional mechanisms exist to pool the substantial resources of member States.
- In addition to this, Bahrain works closely with UN (ISDR) and also takes advice from other International Agencies, such as IAEA to which Bahrain has recently become a signatory and has been a member of ICDO.
- Many challenges will be overcome once Bahrain identifies the International dimension of the National Platform and which other Nations and International Organisations should be involved as a part of the platform.
- The NCDM will take this forward through the reactivated Civil Defence Council, and ensure the subject of DRR is given appropriate priority at GCC Ministers of Interior Meetings.

Context & Constraints:

- Despite the GCC cooperation above, there is still lack of access to and sharing of data bases with member countries.
- Lack of a system to interlink the member countries' warning systems to give sufficient early warning of an impending hazard.

Priority for action 3

Use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels

Core indicator 1

Relevant information on disasters is available and accessible at all levels, to all stakeholders (through networks, development of information sharing systems etc)

Level of Progress achieved:

2: Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

Description:

- Some information is provided through community participation programmes.
- However this tends to be compartmentalised, with no National System.
- Access to information is possible, through Central Informatics Organisation which also provides a very comprehensive system of GIS covering the whole of the Kingdom.
- A website (currently being designed under the guidance of the NCDM) will do much to ease communication and information flow.
- When completed it will provide comprehensive information on DRR for access by all stakeholders.
- NCDM will coordinate improvements through requesting sufficient resources and ensuring cooperation.
- The new legislation will ease this process.

Context & Constraints:

- Currently, a lack of resources and expertise is holding up progress on the website. As a result general Public Awareness is almost non-existent.
- In addition, insufficient institutional support and priority, causes lack of financial resources for producing and wide spread distribution of basic publication materials for awareness.
- Although single agency data bases exist, further work is required to ensure greater public awareness.

Core indicator 2

School curricula , education material and relevant trainings include disaster risk reduction and recovery concepts and practices.

Level of Progress achieved:

2: Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

Description:

- Because of programs for community participation, some awareness exists on the importance of this subject.
- Visits by school children and visits by fire officers to universities and schools to brief and conduct evacuation exercises; lecture graduate engineers on National Codes and other public safety and fire prevention measures. However, this is mainly in the field of fire prevention and impinges only slightly on DRR.
- A number of initiatives by the Ministry of Education are in place with programs introduced to enhance safety consciousness of students both at school and at home. However, these initiatives are ad hoc and do not follow a National Strategy.
- Additionally, safety booklets on various hazards and substantial information on safety issues is on the Ministry of Education's website.
- This can only be properly coordinated following the update of the National Risk Assessment later in 2008.
- The inclusion of the Ministry of Education in the National Framework will also ensure constant dialogue, cooperation and coordination with all other agencies.

Context & Constraints:

- Much work needs to be carried out to further improve the safety awareness and risk reduction measures in the curricula of schools and colleges.

Core indicator 3

Research methods and tools for multi-risk assessments and cost benefit analysis are developed and strengthened.

Level of Progress achieved:

1: Minor progress with few signs of forward action in plans or policy

Description:

- While a government Institute for research exists, its impact on various sectors of society is not visible in the field of DRR.
- Similarly, the work of other Academic Institutes such as Universities, are not fully utilised.
- However, individual agencies with Key DRR responsibilities do internal studies and liaise internationally.
- Nevertheless considerably more should be done to strengthen technical and scientific capacities and utilise studies and models to assess vulnerabilities and impacts.

- All should be encouraged to contribute more with academic research and ideas.

Context & Constraints:

- The Research Institute needs to greatly increase its multi-dimensional expertise and be used as an effective tool for DRR. It is planned that it should be part of the National Platform.
- Similarly the Universities will become important members of the National Platform.

Core indicator 4

Countrywide public awareness strategy exists to stimulate a culture of disaster resilience, with outreach to urban and rural communities.

Level of Progress achieved:

2: Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

Description:

- There is Individual Stakeholder Awareness - but this is not institutionalised or coordinated between stakeholders.
- Similarly due to safety and awareness programmes, the community is alert to certain risks (mainly fire).
- However, there is no overall Public Awareness Strategy.
- It is planned that the NCDM will coordinate this strategy.
- However, there is no overall Public Awareness Strategy.
- It is planned that the NCDM will coordinate this strategy.

Context & Constraints:

- While some awareness exists - much remains to be done to coordinate the effort on a National basis.
- Again this is best done once the Risks have been updated and prioritised.

0

Priority for action 4

Reduce the underlying risk factors

Core indicator 1

Disaster risk reduction is an integral objective of environment related policies and plans, including for land use natural resource management and adaptation to climate change.

Level of Progress achieved:

3: Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

Description:

- A major update of Environmental Law No.21 of 1996 is currently being processed through Parliament.
- Once this is official legislation, it will ensure legal compliance in many areas which are currently only carried out on a voluntary or goodwill basis.
- The Legislation update, however, indicates institutional support and is a good indicator for the future.

Context & Constraints:

- Once the Law is enacted it must be implemented in an inclusive manner for all involved stakeholders.
- The new Law will only function effectively if appropriate, effective and comprehensive regulations are in place to support it.
- In particular the Regulations must impact on current and future major development projects.

- Much of the work for ensuring implementation of the redrafted law will involve inspections and physical audits.
- This will almost certainly require additional resources and funding.

Core indicator 2

Social development policies and plans are being implemented to reduce the vulnerability of populations most at risk.

Level of Progress achieved:

3: Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

Description:

- Plans and Policies exist which address these matters and are adequately implemented.
- Building Regulations are in accordance with International Standards. Checking of Food, Monitoring Points of Entry/Entrance from Nations with Epidemics eg Bird Flu is also emplaced.
- Although Health Facilities are excellent, they require to be fully tested to see if they could cope with a macro casualty scenario.

Context & Constraints:

- However, more work is required to outreach into the International Community for additional data on precautions against exposure to various risks.
- These matters will be addressed following the forthcoming prioritisation of Risks exercise.

Core indicator 3

Economic and productive sectorial policies and plans have been implemented to reduce the vulnerability of economic activities

Level of Progress achieved:

3: Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

Description:

- Due to well developed physical infrastructure, established government policies that result in economic stability and comprehensive contingency plans to maintain business continuity, Bahrain enjoys good overall economic policies that result in substantial protection from economic vulnerability.
- However, Contingency Plans tend to be single agency and not many coordinated multi agency plans are in place.

Context & Constraints:

- Due to its geographical location and size, the Kingdom is particularly vulnerable to Geo Political Risks.
- Such risks are monitored and discussed frequently with allies and international agencies.
- More effort is required to focus on "Recovery".
- Again work on this aspect will be better focussed after the major Risk reappraisal.

Core indicator 4

Planning and management of human settlements incorporate disaster risk reduction elements, including enforcement of building codes.

Level of Progress achieved:

3: Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

Description:

- The Kingdom's Building and Fire Codes are based on International Standards.
- Implementation of policies, have ensured that land use and human settlements are in compliance with such regulations.

Context & Constraints:

- Close monitoring is essential as much of the Kingdom was built before such codes were introduced.
- A refined regime of regular inspections and in particular the use of licences for all sectors providing a service to the Public needs to be introduced.
- An effective inspection and audit regime will involve additional resources and funds.
- The current Legal Framework does not fully empower the Government to take immediate action to rectify major failings. New legislation will help.

Core indicator 5

Disaster risk reduction measures are integrated into post disaster recovery and rehabilitation processes

Level of Progress achieved:

3: Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

Description:

- In some cases (see Core Indicator 4) this is the case, in others not.
- In recent history, Bahrain has not experienced any catastrophic natural or man-made disaster. However, with the new Environmental and Development Laws, risk will be considerably reduced.
- Any "build back" will certainly be an improvement and incorporate lessons learned - particularly for those projects constructed before modern codes and regulations existed.

Context & Constraints:

- A comprehensive system to ensure post disaster recovery and rehabilitation will be introduced based on the revised Legislation and new Regulations.

Core indicator 6

Procedures are in place to assess the disaster risk impacts of major development projects, especially infrastructure.

Level of Progress achieved:

3: Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

Description:

- Under Building and Fire Regulations all major infrastructure development have to conform to the most up to date International DRR parameters.
- The revised Environmental Law (backed by effective regulations) will strengthen further this concept.
- The Government is very aware of the hazards posed by the numerous large new build projects in the Kingdom and is not complacent.

Context & Constraints:

- Despite good laws and practices to enhance DRR, they cannot entirely guarantee protection against unforeseen factors.
- It is intended that further International experience will be requested to look beyond the Regulations and at the coordination of all factors involved.
- Additionally the forthcoming Risk Assessment will focus areas for targeting.

Priority for action 5

Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels

Core indicator 1

Strong policy, technical and institutional capacities and mechanisms for disaster risk management, with a disaster risk reduction perspective are in place.

Level of Progress achieved:

3: Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

Description:

- There is Institutional commitment.
- Many policy, technical and other capacities and mechanisms are in place:
 - o National Committee for Disaster Management.
 - o 2 Year Action Plan.
 - o Forthcoming updated Risk Analysis under external guidance.
- All Strategies will involve priority being given to disaster Reduction.
- The NCDM has made a good start and is working well except for multi-agency cooperation.
- Resources, eg National Emergency Control Centre and Emergency Services Vehicles, Equipment, Communications etc are good.

Context & Constraints:

- However much requires to be done to improve multi-agency response.
- The establishment of a National Platform will greatly assist.
- Much also needs to be done to improve Contingency Training on a multi-agency basis.
- Much of the Multi-Agency aspect will be directed through the production of a National Disaster Plan. This will enable national capabilities and capacities to be fully utilised in a coordinated and resource efficient manner.

Core indicator 2

Disaster preparedness plans and contingency plans are in place at all administrative levels, and regular training drills and rehearsals are held to test and develop disaster response programmes.

Level of Progress achieved:

3: Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

Description:

- Individual (single agency) Plans are written in many cases - but not all.
- The updated Risk Analysis will point to priorities for action, particularly in the writing of Multi-Agency Contingency Plans.
- Emergency Services Response Plan has been written, but there is insufficient training on this plan.
- An annual training programme will be developed, following the drafting of the Contingency Plans.

Context & Constraints:

- More training must be carried out on Multi-Agency responses.
- Contingency Plans (Multi-Agency) are virtually not existent. They will be written following the major Risk Analysis update.
- However, because the single agency plans are not shared on a National basis the multi-agency extent of involvement that will be required is not yet known.

Core indicator 3

Financial reserves and contingency mechanisms are in place to support effective response and recovery when required.

Level of Progress achieved:

4: Substantial achievement attained but with recognized limitations in key aspects, such as financial resources and/ or operational capacities

Description:

- Under existing Ministry of Finance Law (Article 11) each Ministry is authorised to allocate 5% of its total budget to effectively support emergencies and initiate “Recovery” following a Disaster.
- Funding is not considered to be major problem in the event of a major Contingency as funds will be made available.

Context & Constraints:

- Also allocation of “Recovery” funding should be reviewed as the costs will inevitably be much greater than 5% - even for initial “Recovery”.
- There is currently no specific funding for multi-agency tasks, such as training for emergencies.

Core indicator 4

Procedures are in place to exchange relevant information during hazard events and disasters, and to undertake post-event reviews

Level of Progress achieved:

2: Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

Description:

- A number of Institutions conduct informal exchange of relevant information and undertake internal post event reviews.
- In the event of Disaster, the National Emergency Control Centre will become the focal point for exchange of Information.
- In future the NCDM will coordinate post event reviews and this will be written into the National Disaster Plan.

Context & Constraints:

- Because of the lack of coordination between agencies and a lack of multi-agency training, such procedures are not in place in a systematic way on a National basis.
- Such procedures are currently a challenge, but a systematic approach to organisation and training will ensure success.

Drivers of Progress

a) Multi-hazard integrated approach to disaster risk reduction and development

Levels of Reliance:

Partial/ some reliance: Full acknowledgement of the issue; strategy/ framework for action developed to address it; application still not fully implemented across policy and practice; complete buy in not achieved from key stakeholders.

Do studies/ reports/ atlases on multi-hazard analyses exist in the country/ for the sub region?:

Yes

If yes, are these being applied to development planning/ informing policy?:

No

Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who):

- There is general awareness of the significance and importance of a multi-hazard integrated approach.
- Risk Analysis will be carried out using a multi-hazard approach.
- However, at present much work is single agency with concentration on risks in isolation, often without the knowledge of those who need to know.
- The aim is to ensure that single agencies work to an integrated plan, cross referenced and incorporated into an overall National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Plan.
- Ultimately this plan will ensure that knowledge of the full range of hazards will be understood and incorporated into all future strategies and projects where relevant.

b) Gender perspectives on risk reduction and recovery adopted and institutionalized

Levels of Reliance:

Partial/ some reliance: Full acknowledgement of the issue; strategy/ framework for action developed to address it; application still not fully implemented across policy and practice; complete buy in not achieved from key stakeholders.

Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who):

- Gender as a core factor to be considered in the implementation of Disaster Risk Reduction Measures is recognised.
- The Kingdom of Bahrain is in the forefront regionally of ensuring equality between genders.
- However, little Gender data is available, or being applied to the specific area of Risk Reduction and Recovery activities.
- More work is required to identify where women and men are differently at risk from disaster, and how best to utilise each gender's role in Disaster Management and Recovery.

c) Capacities for risk reduction and recovery identified and strengthened

Levels of Reliance:

Partial/ some reliance: Full acknowledgement of the issue; strategy/ framework for action developed to address it; application still not fully implemented across policy and practice; complete buy in not achieved from key stakeholders.

Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who):

- Importance and significance of this Driver is fully acknowledged by all agencies.
- However, the Kingdom of Bahrain is still at an early stage of implementation.
- Due to historical factors and non-existence of such policies, this recognition does not currently exist at local levels. However, a National DRR Strategy when formulated, will flow down to the smallest communities. This will be made easier because of the overall size of the Kingdom.
- All this will be coordinated through the National Committee for Disaster Management.
- Success will depend greatly on establishing the National Platform and cooperation between all involved.
- This in turn will depend on the reactivation of the Civil Defence Council and the involvement and support of the Nation's highest Leadership.

d) Human security and social equity approaches integrated into disaster risk reduction and recovery activities

Levels of Reliance:

Partial/ some reliance: Full acknowledgement of the issue; strategy/ framework for action developed to address it; application still not fully implemented across policy and practice; complete buy in not achieved from key stakeholders.

Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who):

- The Kingdom of Bahrain is a small Nation both in geography and population.
- The result is that no exceptionally vulnerable or geographically secluded groups are identified.
- Government Level almost equates to local level and is thus free of many levels of bureaucracy experienced by other Nations.
- However, further studies are required on how environmental issues will effect those who live closest to the sea in the event of major climate or weather pattern change.

e) Engagement and partnerships with non-governmental actors; civil society, private sector, amongst others, have been fostered at all levels

Levels of Reliance:

Partial/ some reliance: Full acknowledgement of the issue; strategy/ framework for action developed to address it; application still not fully implemented across policy and practice; complete buy in not achieved from key stakeholders.

Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who):

- The importance of this “Driver” is seen as essential to success. It is the Key and most important factor of all.
- Much is being done to promote this “Inclusive” culture, but there is still a long way to go.
- Success of existing plans to assimilate all involved agencies into a National Platform will assist greatly.
- However, it is essential that the overall strategy is, and is seen to be, driven from the Nation’s highest leadership. This will ensure willing participation by all involved.
- For this “Driver” to really succeed, the Top Management Structure (above the National Committee for Disaster Management), requires updating. In particular:
 - o The Civil Defence Council should be reactivated and its membership and Terms of Reference reviewed.
 - o The Management Structure incorporating the Nation’s Highest Leadership and its support and direction to the whole concept of Disaster Reduction and Management should be reviewed with emphasis placed on aligning Safety and Security issues in a coordinated fashion with Political, Economic and Social issues.
- Finally Public Awareness, Communication, and use of the media will be a fundamental driver for progress. After risks have been identified and Contingency Plans laid, there must be concurrent public awareness campaigns. In particular the Public Awareness Strategy should involve:
 - o Highlighting existing or new laws that are relevant.
 - o Making all levels of the Nation aware of risks, thereby encouraging a culture of Risk Awareness.
 - o Encouraging Safety Awareness.
 - o Finally providing information on what to do in the initial stages of impending Contingencies.

f) Contextual Drivers of Progress

Levels of Reliance:

No/ little reliance: no acknowledgement of the issue in policy or practice; or, there is some acknowledgement but nothing/ little done to address it

Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who):

None

Future outlook

Area 1

The more effective integration of disaster risk considerations into sustainable development policies, planning and programming at all levels, with a special emphasis on disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness and vulnerability reduction.

Overall Challenges:

Much has to be done in the initial planning stages to overcome general challenges. The overall challenges are clearly laid down throughout the report.

The major challenge will be encouraging the development of a National Culture of Risk Awareness and ensuring that all involved work as a team with a common aim.

In many ways this will necessitate a change in philosophy for a Nation, not as prone to National Disaster as many others, from a somewhat relaxed attitude to that of being proactive.

Future Outlook Statement:

If the Kingdom's Strategy for supporting HFA Strategic Goal One (see Section One) is achieved, ie:

- A Rejuvenated top-down management structure.
- A Successful Culture of Risk Awareness developed.
- Full acceptance of the Multi-Agency and Joint Philosophy approach.
- Provision of dedicated funding.

Then there is optimism for the future, because these aims will change any preconceived "mindsets".

Area 2

The development and strengthening of institutions, mechanisms and capacities at all levels, in particular at the community level, that can systematically contribute to building resilience to hazards.

Overall Challenges:

Again the overall challenges are clearly laid down throughout the report, but the basics are in place upon which to build.

The current legislative system is not comprehensive and does not address laws that will promote DRR.

While one of the elements of NP is in the form of NCDM already exists, a law establishing a comprehensive NP is awaited.

Future Outlook Statement:

The Kingdom's Strategy for supporting HFA Strategic Goal Two (see Section One) is a clear statement of intent for the future actions to be taken. Success in achieving the highlighted aims will ensure an optimistic outlook.

Here, the major hurdle will be ensuring that the legislation is passed as soon as possible - because from this all other activities will flow.

It is also important that the Civil Defence Council is reactivated and reviewed in terms of its membership and tasks. This will ensure continuous Ministerial backing.

Finally the Two Year Plan which deals mainly with Disaster Management will be “finely tuned” to ensure that Risk Reduction is an integral part of the overall strategy.

Area 3

The systematic incorporation of risk reduction approaches into the design and implementation of emergency preparedness, response and recovery programmes in the reconstruction of affected communities.

Overall Challenges:

Once more the overall challenges are clearly laid down throughout the report and do not require to be repeated again.

A combination of achieving Goals One and Two will ensure success in Goal Three. Here additional emphasis being placed on Risk Reduction to complement those already in place for Disaster Management will be necessary.

It is also important that appropriate priority is placed on Recovery, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction in the Planning process.

Future Outlook Statement:

Again The Kingdom’s Strategy for supporting HFA Strategic Goal Three (see Section One) is a clear statement of intent for the future and if achieved will ensure success.

Only when the Kingdom develops legislation comprehensive enough to address Future Outlook 1 and 2, will the necessary DRR measures be in place to enable faster recovery and safer/resilient businesses before, during and after a disaster.