Progress Towards the Implementation of SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) in the Kingdom of Bahrain

Environmental Policies and Planning Directorate
January 2020
“Make Cities and Human Settlements Inclusive, Safe, Resilient and Sustainable”
Target (11-1): “By 2030, Ensure Access for All to Adequate Safe and Affordable Housing and Basic Services and Upgrade Slums”

Indicator (11-1-1): “Proportion of Urban Population Living in Slums, Informal Settlements or Inadequate Housing”

This indicator does not apply to the Kingdom of Bahrain, as there is no slums in Bahrain according to the international definition, where these areas have no basic infrastructure services.

The government has developed a number of old residential neighborhoods to maintain its social fabric and historical character such as Halat Bu Maher area.

Recently “Farjan” initiative was launched to develop a number of neighborhoods with the historical heritage in Muharraq Governorate.
Target (11-2): “By 2030, Provide Access to Safe, Affordable, Accessible and Sustainable Transport System for All, Improving Road Safety, Notably by Expanding Public Transport, with Special Attention to the Needs of those in Vulnerable Situation, Women, Children, Persons with Disabilities and Older Persons”

Indicator (11-2-1): “Proportion of Population that has Convenient Access to Public Transport, by Sex, Age, and Persons with Disabilities”

The relevant authorities in transport sector are adopting a package of policies that aim to re-plan and implement the smart public transportation, and it is expected that the National Air Quality Strategy will support this approach.
Target (11-3): “By 2030 Enhance Inclusive and Sustainable Urbanization and Capacity for Participatory, Integrated and Sustainable Human Settlement Planning and Management in All Countries”

Indicator (11-3-1): “Ratio of Land Consumption Rate to Population Growth Rate”

The high ratio of this indicator calls for burying sea shallow areas and establishing new housing, industrial and tourism projects, as the land area increased and the agriculture areas decreased by half during the period from 2004-2014.

Indicator (11-3-2): “Proportion of Cities with a Direct Participation Structure of Civil Society in Urban Planning and Management that Operate Regularly and Democratically”

There are municipal councils in four governorates in Kingdom of Bahrain with that are responsible for this indicator.
Target (11-4): “Strengthen Efforts to Protect and Safeguard the World’s Cultural and Natural Heritage”

Indicator (11-4-1): “Total Expenditure (Public and Private) Per Capita Spent on the Preservation, Protection and Conservation of All Cultural and Natural Heritage, by Type of Heritage (Cultural, Natural, Mixed and World Heritage Centre Designation), Level of Government (National, Regional and Local/Municipal), Type of Expenditure (Operating Expenditure/Investment) and Type of Private Funding (Donations in Kind, Private Non-Profit Sector and Sponsorship)“

The Kingdom of Bahrain is looking forward to calculate this indicator in the future.
Target (11-5): “By 2030, Significantly Reduce the Number of Deaths and the Number of People Affected and Substantially Decrease the Direct Economic Losses Relative to Global Gross Domestic Product Caused by Disasters, Including Water-Related Disasters, with a Focus on Protecting the Poor and People in Vulnerable Situations”

Indicator (11-5-1): “Number of Deaths, Missing Persons and Persons Affected by Disaster Per 100,000 People”

Indicator (11-5-2): “Direct Disaster Economic Loss in Relation to Global GDP, Including Disaster Damage to Critical Infrastructure and Disruption of Basic Services”

In general, these two indicators do not apply to the Kingdom of Bahrain.

A national disaster management committee was formed by the MOI where SCE is a member.

Currently, a national emergency plan has been prepared for oil spills combating, and preparation is underway for an industrial and medical hazardous waste management plan and E-Waste recycling plan within the national waste management strategy.
Target (11-6): “By 2030, Reduce the Adverse Per Capita Environmental Impact of Cities, Including by Paying Special Attention to Air Quality and Municipal and Other Waste Management”

Indicator (11-6-1): “Proportion of Urban Solid Waste Regularly Collected and with Adequate Final Discharge Out of Total Urban Solid Waste Generated, by Cities”

1997-2016 between 94%-95%

It is considered a high percentage and is currently being handled through national integrated waste management strategy.

Indicator (11-6-2): “Annual Mean Levels of Fine Particulate Matter (e.g. PM2.5 and PM10) in Cities (Population Weighted)”

Due to country desert nature and the repetitive of dust and sand storms occurrence. The fine particulate matter in kingdoms’ all governorates are repetitively exceeding the limits.

SCE is currently working on developing a National Air Quality Strategy.

By 2030, Reduce the Adverse Per Capita Environmental Impact of Cities, Including by Paying Special Attention to Air Quality and Municipal and Other Waste Management”
Target (11-7): “By 2030, Provide Universal Access to Safe, Inclusive and Accessible, Green and Public Spaces, in Particular for Women and Children, Older Persons and Persons with Disabilities”

Indicator (11-7-1): “Average Share of the Built-Up Area of Cities that is Open Space for Public Use for All, By Sex, Age and Persons with Disabilities”

Indicator (11-7-2): “Proportion of Persons Victim of Physical or Sexual Harassment, By Sex, Age, Disability Status and Place of Occurrence, in the Previous 12 Months”

The Kingdom has taken firm procedures in several aspects


situation reporting and documentation Aspect: Establishing a unified criminal system "Najm" that preserves family ties in cases of family violence against women and children without violating the legal rules + Child Helpline 998

Awareness aspect: "Ma Benesket" campaign was Launched against child sexual harassment.

Care and guidance aspect: family and psychological counseling centers like Aisha Yateem family counseling center, awal legal assistance center, migrant workers protection society, Tafawuq consulting center to supporting women's issues and women support center + care centers like the Child Protection Center and Betelco Home.


This indicator does not apply to the kingdom of Bahrain, because the Kingdom is a civilized country and there are no villages according to traditional concept.
Target (11-b): “By 2020, Substantially Increase the Number of Cities and Human Settlements Adopting and Implementing Integrated Policies and Plans Towards Inclusion, Resource Efficiency, Mitigation and Adaptation to Climate Change, Resilience to Disasters, and Develop and Implement, in Line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, Holistic Disaster Risk Management at All Levels”

Indicator (11-b-1): “Proportion of Local Governments that Adopt and Implement Local Disaster Risk Reduction Strategies in Line with The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030”

Indicator (11-b-2): “Number of Countries with National and Local Disaster Risk Reduction Strategies”

SCE is a member in national disaster management committee which was formed by the MOI, and all relevant considerations are included in the committee and discussed at a high level, and this indicator corresponds to the Sendai framework.

Indicator (11-c-1): “Proportion of Financial Support to the Least Developed Countries That Is Allocated to The Construction and Retrofitting of Sustainable, Resilient and Resource-Efficient Buildings Utilizing Local Material”

This indicator does not apply to the Kingdom of Bahrain, as it is considered among the high-income developing countries.
**SCE Related Indicators**

**Target (11-6-1)**

- This indicator is subjected to SCE and it is a shared responsibility with the MOH and MUN.
- SCE has data related to amount of industrial and healthcare waste.

**Target (11-6-2)**

- Measurement methodology relies on remote sensing data integration, population estimates, topography and ground measurements. Currently it is not possible at institutional level.

**Target (11-7-2)**

- SCE does not have relative data for this indicator as information is received from MOI to prepare the voluntary national review report on the SDGs, and this indicator is considered as tier III indicator, where countries are not obligated to provide relative data due to lack of methodology and availability of data periodically.