

**Replies to the list of issues to be taken up in connection with the consideration
of the initial report of Bahrain (CRC/C/11/Add.24)**

With reference to your letter requesting additional and updated information in connection with the initial report of Bahrain, we attach the following information taken from ministries and governmental and non-governmental institutions

A. Data and statistics for 1998 to 2000

1. Demographic data of the under-18 population (2001 census)

The under-18 population by sex and nationality (2001 census)

Sex	Nationality		Total
	Non-Bahraini	Bahraini	
Male	158 381	20 687	179 068
Female	94 065	19 231	113 296
Total	252 446	39 918	292 364

2 (a) Spending on education

Academic year	Total State expenditures	Total Ministry of Education expenditures	Education spending as a percentage of State expenditures	Items of expenditure				
				Workforce	Services	Maintenance	Consumption goods	Capital goods
1998-1999	704.5	85.218	12.19	70 431	9 191 000	745 000	986 000	1 066 000
1999-2000	723.8	87.120	12.04	70 555 398	10 081 230	929 333	1 044 944	1 879 095

2 (b) Health spending (allocations from the national State budget and spending on child health services)

Financial year	Total State expenditures	Total Ministry of Health expenditures	Health spending as a percentage of State expenditures	Total spending on primary health care	Total spending on primary health care as a percentage of total Ministry of Health of expenditures
1998	704.5	57.8	8.2		
1999	723.8	61.7	8.5		
2000	787.0	60.8	7.7	12 286 500	22

2 (c), (d) and (e) The total amount of spending on child protection

There is no specific budget from the Ministry of the Interior for this particular purpose. However, the Ministry is open to meeting all of the child protection costs of institutions responsible for child welfare, crime prevention and rehabilitation.

3 (a), (b) and (c) Information concerning children deprived of a family environment

Children	Age	Under 10	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	Total
	Sex											
Separated from their parents	Boy	-	-	-	1	1	-	3	-	-	-	5
	Girl	-	1	-	-	1	-	3	2	1	-	8
Foundlings	Boy	10	-	1	3	3	-	3	4	2	1	27
	Girl	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Placed in welfare institutions	Boy	-	1	-	-	2	2	5	1	1	-	12
	Girl	-	1	-	-	-	2	5	1	1	-	10

4. Enrolment and completion rates according to type of school

Number of students enrolled in government schools and drop-out rate, in percentages and by sex and stage of education

Stage	Enrolment rate			Drop-out rate					
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Percentage	Females	Percentage	Total	Percentage
Elementary	31 343	31 246	62 589	126	0.4	59	0.2	185	0.3
Intermediate	14 207	14 555	28 762	158	1.1	101	0.7	259	0.9
Secondary	10 953	12 365	23 318	362	3.3	283	2.3	645	2.8
Total	56 503	58 166	114 669	646	1.1	443	0.8	1 089	0.9

5. Children with disabilities

Number of children under 19 with disabilities, by sex, age group and type of disability (1991 census)

Type of disability	Male				Total	Female			
	0-4	5-9	10-14	15-19		0-4	5-9	10-14	15-19
Blind	9	18	18	22	67	3	7	10	21
Deaf	3	10	8	11	32	1	3	10	2
Profoundly deaf	6	22	22	24	74	6	18	34	15
Limbless disabled	0	3	7	6	16	0	3	9	4
Mentally retarded	12	52	81	69	214	13	25	60	48
Paralysed	8	25	23	25	81	3	19	15	16
Other	17	35	39	27	118	19	26	31	19
Total	55	165	198	184	602	45	101	169	125

Number of children under 19 with disabilities, by age group and type of disability (2001 census)

Type of disability	Age group				Total
	0-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	
Blind	4	7	9	10	30
Deaf	62	16	23	15	116
Profoundly deaf	12	30	27	36	105
Limbless disabled	2	6	12	6	26
Mentally retarded	23	74	180	153	430
Paralysed	23	26	41	28	118
Other	67	97	152	106	422
Total	193	256	444	354	1 247

All children with disabilities are living with their families, since the institutions which cater for children with disabilities function as health institutions.

6 (a) Number of children who allegedly committed a crime which was reported to the police

Year	Number	Sex	
		Male	Female
1998	13	13	-
1999	16	16	-
2000	17	16	1

6 (b) and (c) Number of children who were sentenced by courts to sanctions and the nature of the sanctions imposed

Year	Number	Sex		Nature of sanction	Number of suspended sentences
1998	17	Male	17	Placed in a juvenile reform institution Placed under the supervision of a guardian	12
		Female	-		
1999	12	Male	12	Placed in a juvenile reform institution	-
		Female	-		
2000	12	Male	12	Placed under the supervision of a guardian	-
		Female	-	Placed in a juvenile reform institution	

6 (d) Period of imprisonment, where the sentence is deprivation of liberty

Sentences involving the placement of a child in a juvenile reform institution ranged between one and three months, since all of the offences concerned consisted of misdemeanours.

6 (e) Percentage of recidivism cases

Between 1998 and 2000 there was one case of recidivism out of a total of 46 cases, representing 2 per cent of the whole.

B. General measures of implementation

1 (a), (b) and (c) National Committee on Childhood

The National Committee on Childhood consists of 15 members, representing ministries and governmental and non-governmental institutions. These members ensure coordination between the Committee and various sectors. The members are responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in accordance with their respective areas of competence. This task is discussed at meetings which are held on a regular basis. The Committee receives and addresses complaints submitted to the organs of various bodies, particularly complaints filed with the Ministry of Health's Committee for the Protection of Children against Abuse, a member of which committee also sits on the National Committee on Childhood. The representatives of the National Committee on Childhood forward complaints to the persons responsible for the aforementioned bodies.

1 (ii) The National Committee on Childhood was established pursuant to Decree No. 15 of 1999 in July of the same year. This body has no operating resources of its own, although its expenditure is paid for out of the budget of the Department of Childhood of the Public Institute for Youth and Sport. In the past, the Committee has applied for contingency funding for a survey, which was carried out in 2000, on the situation of women and children, the purpose of which was to collect data on indicators that had been previously identified in cooperation with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). The survey gathered information on various aspects of the situation of children and women in Bahrain, including health, education and other indicators. The survey, which was conducted by the Committee, was used to create a database about the care offered to children and women in the State of Bahrain. Work is currently under way to establish a regulatory framework for the National Committee on Childhood and to endow it with a general secretariat and operating resources.

1 (iii) There is no functional overlap between the National Committee on Childhood and the Consultative Council's Human Rights Committee. Indeed, we look forward to coordination and cooperation between these two institutions by means of direct communication between them.

1 (iv) On 7 September 2001 the Department of Childhood, represented in the person of the Chairman of the National Committee on Childhood, held a conference to familiarize children

with their rights, offer them an opportunity to express their opinions, draw attention to the most important problems which they face as children and recommend appropriate solutions to those problems. Four hundred and fifty boys and girls attended the conference, which was also shown on live television, with a view to achieving the same purposes.

In addition, a meeting of the Committee proposed that the Convention on the Rights of the Child should be incorporated into the academic curricula of the Ministry of Education. Accordingly, a draft decree has been submitted by the Ministry of Education to the Consultative Council for its consideration.

1 (a), (b) and (c) The Consultative Council's Human Rights Committee

The competences and functions invested in the Consultative Council's Human Rights Committee are set forth in Amiral Decree No. 24 of 1999, concerning the establishment of this same Committee. This body reviews the legislation and executive ordinances of the State of Bahrain as they relate to human rights issues and makes recommendations concerning appropriate amendments thereto. Children's rights are included under the umbrella of human rights issues.

The Committee ensures coordination and cooperation on human rights issues with official agencies and bodies that are concerned with development and human rights monitoring. It endeavours to protect these rights and recommend solutions where appropriate.

1 (ii) The Committee consists of six elected members, an adviser and a secretary. It does not have its own budget either, but is covered under the Consultative Council's general budget.

1 (iii) There is no overlap or duplication between the functions of the Consultative Council's Human Rights Committee and those of the National Committee on Childhood.

1 (iv) There is no comprehensive plan of action for the moment.

PART TWO

Arabic is the official language of the State of Bahrain. Since English is also widely spoken and in order to meet the needs of non-speakers of Arabic, the texts of the Convention and of the World Declaration on the Survival, Development and Protection of Children in the 1990s have been circulated in the Arabic and English languages.

PART THREE

The State of Bahrain is considered one of the leading States in terms of its participation in and accession to numerous international and Arab agreements relating to children and the protection of their legitimate rights. There are also many voluntary organizations in Bahrain which work on behalf of children and seek to safeguard their rights. It is in this light that we have submitted this report, which outlines all of the laws and legislative enactments which have been promulgated for the protection of children and designed by persons concerned with legal and child issues in the State of Bahrain.
