

Country profile prepared for the  
*Education for All Global Monitoring Report 2007*  
*Strong Foundations: Early Childhood Care and Education*

# **Bahrain**

## **Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) programmes**

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## BAHRAIN

### Early Childhood Education and Care (ECCE) programs

#### **A. GENERAL INFORMATION, STATISTICS AND INDICATORS**

##### **Starting age of compulsory education (if applicable):**

Children enter primary education at age 6.

#### **1. ISCED 0 PROGRAMS (USUALLY, PRE-PRIMARY EDUCATION)**

(ISCED = International Standard Classification of Education)

##### **1.1. National definition of ISCED 0 programs:**

Pre-school education (kindergarten)

##### **1.2. Normative age group(s) covered by ISCED 0 programs:**

3-5 years of age

##### **1.3. ISCED 0 programs: statistics and indicators** (*Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics–UIS*)

###### *1.3.1. Enrolment:*

	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Year</b>
Gross enrolment ratio	44.7	2003/04
Net enrolment ratio	44.5	2003/04
Percentage of children entering primary education with previous preschool experience	73.4	2003/04

1.3.2. *Enrolment ratio by age group, 2002/03 (percentage, also including the first years of primary education when applicable):*

Less than 3 years of age	Age 3	Age 4	Age 5	Age 6	Age 7
0.0	18.2	40.5	49.1 11.2(*)	1.7 84.6(**)	0.2 87.0(**)

UIS estimation. (\*) Enrolled in primary education. (\*\*) Primary education enrolment ratio.

1.3.3. *Teachers:*

Total number of teachers	Of whom female (%)	Percentage of trained teachers (all)	Percentage of trained teachers (males)	Percentage of trained teachers (females)
741	99	82	–	82

Source: Ministry of Education, January 2006.

1.3.4. *Funding: Not available*

	Percentage
Public current expenditure per pupil as percentage of the Gross National Product per capita	...

1.3.5. *Main source(s) of financing: Not available*

## **2. OTHER ECCE PROGRAMS**

*(Generally preceding ISCED 0 programs)*

### **2.1. National definition of other ECCE programs:**

Nursery education

### **2.2. Normative age group(s) covered by other ECCE programs:**

Children under 3 years of age

### **2.3. Estimate number of children covered by other ECCE programs:**

*Not available*

## **B. BACKGROUND INFORMATION CONCERNING ECCE PROGRAMS (INCLUDING ISCED 0)**

### **3.1. Legislation concerning ECCE:**

*Not available*

### **3.2. Official body/bodies in charge of supervision or coordination:**

Kindergartens are supervised by the Ministry of Education, Directorate of Private Education. Nurseries fall under the responsibility and control of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs.

### **3.3. Other entities involved in the provision (e.g. municipalities, local governments) and main types of providers (e.g. public, private, mixed, community-based, etc.):**

Pre-school education is provided by the private sector only. Kindergartens cater to children aged 3-5, nurseries cater to children under 3 years of age. The pre-primary education stage is not integrated into the national education system.

### **3.4. Type of personnel involved:**

*Not available*

### **3.5. Type of staff training (requirements):**

The University of Bahrain plays a major role in training the educational staff. The college of education offers the Associate Diploma in Early Childhood (ADEC). This diploma aims at preparing early childhood teachers capable of helping learners acquire experiences in an integrated form. The total number of credits to be completed in this programme is 65. There are also private educational institutions which provide training for early childcare education teachers, such as the Delmon Academy, the Nama Center and the Montessori Center.

### **3.6. Recent national policies and reforms:**

The Ministry of Education has recently adopted the kindergarten curriculum project. A Committee has been established for this purpose that consists of curriculum and

private education specialists, in order to prepare a unified curriculum document. The document has been submitted to the concerned bodies at the Ministry to be reviewed and discussed for final formulation. The final version of the document has been distributed to all kindergartens to be implemented in the school year 2005/2006.

### **3.7. Efforts targeted at vulnerable or disadvantaged children:**

*Not available*

### **3.8. Special projects/programmes aiming at expanding or improving ECCE:**

The Ministry of Education is preparing a study in order to set up a Directorate and a Centre for kindergarten teacher training.

### **3.9. Information concerning the curriculum (if applicable) or the contents of ECCE programs**

#### *3.9.1. Objectives and aims:*

The main objectives of pre-primary education are:

- developing the child's attitudes and behaviours in accordance with the Islamic religion, belief and heritage;
- promoting the child's mental, psychological, social and physical development;
- establishing the principles of the child's self-sufficiency;
- developing the child's skills and abilities;
- encouraging the child's creativity;
- preparing the child for further education.

#### *3.9.2. Learning areas and teaching-learning methods:*

Currently, each kindergarten prepares its own curriculum. The curricula vary according to the type of system applied, i.e. Bahraini, British, American, etc. Unlike other schools, kindergartens do not follow a rigid timetable. Children move freely under the direction and guidance of teachers and supervisors. Some kindergartens allocate a certain amount of time for reading and writing, as well as playing individual and group games.

Each kindergarten prepares an evaluation form which includes teacher's notes and comments regarding the child's skills and practices in the different developmental aspects, and a description of the child's development in each aspect.

#### *3.9.3. Average number of hours per week and average amount of weeks per year:*

*Not available*

### **3.10. Any other relevant and pertinent information**

*Not available*

*[Main Source: National Report of Bahrain on the Development of Education, 2004.]*

**C. SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION REGARDING ECCE (TO BE COMPILED IN COLLABORATION WITH UNICEF OFFICES WHERE POSSIBLE)**

**4.1. Parenting programmes are usually addressed to parents and families of children less than 6 years of age. Please provide information about any parenting programmes in your country according to the table below: *Not available***

Type of programme	Yes or No (note for each programme)	Please estimate the number of beneficiaries (if possible)
Parenting education through early learning centres and child care centres		
As component of health and nutrition programmes, such as information about child development included in health and nutrition visits		
Parent groups that meet to discuss issues of their young children, including health, nutritional status, and development		
As component of adolescent, livelihood or literacy programmes		
Media broadcast, such as <i>Sesame Street</i> , with media for and with children		
Other (please specify)		

**Are any of these programmes targeted specifically toward the vulnerable, poor, disadvantaged or excluded? If so, which ones? (Please provide/attach any additional and relevant information if available).**

*Not available*

**4.2. Is there a national-level system for monitoring children's development or school readiness prior to entering primary school?**

*Not available*

**4.3. Is there a policy on early childhood (ECCE, ECD, etc.) that has been accepted? If not, is there one under development?**

*Not available*

*[Information revised by the Ministry of Education, January 2006.]*