



Over 45 technical staff from the Ministry of Health, including focal points for universal health coverage, nutrition, noncommunicable diseases, mental health, road safety, maternal and child health, and health emergencies, took part in the Strategic and Operational Planning Workshop. Photo credit: WHO/WHO Bahrain

2 January 2024, Manama, Bahrain – A workshop held in late 2023 sparked a healthy dialogue on WHO's cooperation with Bahrain, helping to identify core focus areas for WHO collaboration over the next 2 years. Efforts in these areas will seek to promote, maintain, recover, and improve the health of all people, in line with the Government Plan 2023–2026.



Regional Office experts facilitated the event, including Dr Christoph Hamelmann, Chef de Cabinet; Ms Samah Abdelaziz, Governing Bodies Officer; Dr Ruth Mabry, Global Health

consultant; Dr Mohammed Abdel Wahab, Technical Assistant; and Ms Micaela Pereira, Technical Officer. Photo credit: WHO/WHO Bahrain The WHO Country Office in Bahrain organized the 2-day Strategic and Operational Planning Workshop on 15–16 November 2023, in close collaboration with the Ministry of Health. Her Excellency Dr Ejlal Al-Alawi, former Assistant Undersecretary for Public Health, and Dr Tasnim Atatrah, WHO Representative in Bahrain, launched the workshop.

“As we mark the 75th anniversary of the founding of WHO, we must be proud of the remarkable partnership between the Organization and Bahrain. This partnership is long-standing and has deepened over time, as evidenced by the establishment of the WHO Country Office in Bahrain in 2021,” said Dr Atatrah.

“Fundamental to the Country Office’s work in and with Bahrain is how we align our operations with identified national needs and priorities towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and WHO’s Triple Billion targets,” she continued.

More than 45 technical staff from the Ministry of Health took part in the workshop, addressing WHO strategic priorities such as universal health coverage, health emergencies, and better health and well-being. Experts from the WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean and WHO Bahrain facilitated the event.

Dr Christoph Hamelmann, Chef de Cabinet at the Regional Office, stressed the importance of having spaces, such as the workshop, in which governments and WHO can engage in strategic and operational discussions. This will ensure that WHO provides valuable cooperation to its host countries. “WHO is a membership organization,” said Dr Hamelmann. “It is the Member States that are WHO, and they are the ones who give the guidance.”

