



The Transition from Millennium Development Goals to Sustainable Development Goals: Is Bahrain Ready for Another 15-year Mission?

Abdulkarim Hasan Rashed

Independent researcher and expert in Environment and Sustainable Development, Manama 323, Bahrain.

How to cite this paper: Abdulkarim Hasan Rashed. (2024). The Transition from Millennium Development Goals to Sustainable Development Goals: Is Bahrain Ready for Another 15-year Mission? *Advance in Sustainability*, 4(2), 1-11.

DOI: 10.26855/as.2024.12.001

Received: July 26, 2024

Accepted: August 23, 2024

Published: September 20, 2024

Corresponding author: Abdulkarim Hasan Rashed, Independent researcher and expert in Environment and Sustainable Development, Manama 323, Bahrain.

Abstract

The Rio Earth Summit (Rio+20) represents a pivotal milestone in the history of sustainability. The significance of sustainability across all sectors is becoming increasingly evident. Consequently, the challenges and opportunities associated with sustainable development have never been more pronounced. Transitioning to a new development agenda can be particularly challenging for countries, as progress in the new agenda is often contingent upon the achievements of the previous one. Therefore, the outcomes of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) should be taken into account when formulating an integrated, holistic, and strategic framework for the 2030 Agenda, with the aim of localizing its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the national level. In this context, Bahrain has recognized the importance of aligning with the global community's efforts and addressing shared concerns on various issues. The findings from Bahrain's MDGs reports have contributed to advancing sustainable development and enhancing governance effectiveness within their strategies, thereby facilitating the implementation of the SDGs and their incorporation into government action plans. This study concludes that Bahrain has successfully transitioned from the MDGs to the SDGs era. The two Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) indicate that Bahrain is making steady progress toward achieving the SDGs outlined in the 2030 Agenda. Furthermore, the study proposes a framework for attaining the SDGs related to the industrial sector in Bahrain.

Keywords

MDGs; SDGs; 2030 Agenda; Voluntary National Review; Sustainable Development; Policy Coherence

1. Introduction

In 2015, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) era announced their mission deadline, ushering in a new era for the future we want. Even though tangible achievements have been made, significant gaps remain, such as climate change and environmental degradation [1]. On the advantageous side, the MDGs created unique and innovative partnerships, stimulated public opinions, and revealed the enormous value of forming ambitious goals and reshaping decision-making [2]. It is important to note that Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are not meant to replace MDGs, but rather to build on the progress already made by MDGs [3]. Thus, the aspirations are still beating with hope towards a better and brighter humanity future through a new agenda and 17 sister goals.

The new mission has a broad transitioning scope from eight MDGs to seventeen SDGs that will carry a heavy burden legacy of remaining universal challenges based on the principle that no one is left behind and aiming to create a better sustainable future. For instance, the MDGs did not address the economic dimension specifically [4] and did not prioritize the development needs

[5]; thus, the new 17 goals are broader in terms of purposes and concepts and address many of the major shortcomings of the MDGs [6]. Therefore, substantial policy questions are looming about global development, such as the climate change crisis, environmental legislation, unsustainable consumption of natural resources, and corporate power [7].

This article focuses on analyzing the advancements made by the Kingdom of Bahrain in the MDGs Agenda. Consequently, it examines Bahrain's shift from the MDGs to the SDGs era. The study was conducted based on six published Bahrain MDGs reports from 2003 to 2015, and the first and second SDGs' voluntary national reviews. Additionally, it proposes a framework for the industrial sector to implement the SDGs.

The article is structured as follows: Section 2 explains the main challenges faced in the MDGs era, and Section 3 discusses the transition from MDGs to SDGs. Section 4 presents the MDGs' achievements in Bahrain, while Section 5 discusses the progress of SDGs in Bahrain. The last section, Section 6, provides a proposed framework for the implementation of SDGs in the industrial sector.

2. The Challenges of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Era

The MDGs' successes are lessons learnt that should be strengthened, and failures are challenges that should tackle; both are expected outcomes of any project. Therefore, evaluating the MDGs era at local and global levels is essential to succeed in the SDGs mission. In this vein, it is worth highlighting the United Nations Development Programme report for 2016 entitled "From the MDGs to Sustainable Development for All: Lessons from 15 Years of Practice", which suggests a set of ten valuable recommendations based on the distilled lessons of evaluation of MDGs mission. Those recommendations -e.g., "act early to leave no one behind", "prioritize policy accelerators", and "set targets that reflect people's priorities for the future"- should constitute the basis of the 2030 Agenda work plan to accelerate SDGs implementation successfully [8].

The MDGs were not aspirant sufficiently and were mainly the responsibility of developing countries [9] and the goals are limited in scope [10]. Arguably, the MDGs lack emphasis sufficient on unemployment and stagnant wages [6], lack focus on human rights [11], lack focus on disabled people [12], conflicts and peace [1, 13], environmental sustainability, and economic development [7], dearth of financial resources [14], absent of communication goals [15], lack of valid data makes measuring progress is often too narrow [16], absence of civil society participation [10], lacked a transformative vision [17], the goals did not cover the regional and international commitments [18] and did not fully integrate the three pillars of sustainable development [19], and lack of transparency in the formulation the goals [20]. Furthermore, McCloskey argues that the absence of a crucial consciousness that considered the structural reasons for poverty led to unfulfilling all the MDGs' targets [7]. In addition, the MDGs did not refer to monitoring, evaluation, or accountability, where evaluation plays a significant role in the SDGs' attainment [4, 21].

The effectiveness of evaluation will contribute to a broader understanding of the root reasons for challenges and deficiencies, which will lead to tangible solutions. Therefore, to ensure a smooth transition process from MDGs to SDGs, it is essential to consider the evaluation outcomes and recommendations of MDGs in the transition process via the broader agenda of the SDGs to tackle the shortcomings and leave no one behind.

3. Transitioning Towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The 2030 Agenda and its SDGs will not replace the MDGs—where the MDGs are reshaping into SDGs—but will continue the mission by building upon what has been achieved through the MDGs. The 2030 Agenda emphasized the concept of sustainability, and that is evident in 11 out of the 17 SDGs - specifically the environmental aspects and development-; which returned this concept to the front of global politics again. Thus, the year 2015 formed a crucial milestone in the sustainability transition journey between two eras, where the scope of the new era is broader, and the legacy of the MDGs era is saddled with unfinished agenda business. One strong critique is that the SDGs are too ambitious; because they used words with 'no' and 'end' meanings in some goals, such as 'SDG 1: no poverty' and 'SDG 2: end hunger', which presents a challenge for countries to achieve it or failure risk [9]. Further, the implementation of the 2030 Agenda requires a big data revolution to improve data quality, availability, and disaggregation that can assist in tracking the performance of achievement progress [1, 22]. Another issue is the implementation cost, the UNCTAD report for the year 2014 estimates the cost to achieve the SDGs, where the "global investment needs are in the order of \$5 trillion to \$7 trillion per year. Estimates for investment needs in developing countries alone range from \$3.3 trillion to \$4.5 trillion per year, mainly for basic infrastructure (roads, rail, and ports; power stations; water and sanitation), food security (agriculture and rural development), climate change mitigation and adaptation, health, and education" [23].

The transition process from MDGs to SDGs has started, and it is difficult to predict the results early, whether SDGs will be achieved in 2030 or not, but the countries' positive interaction with the 2030 Agenda bodes well. Interestingly, the results of the assessment for 26 Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) showed that the majority had completed or were in the process of finalizing the prioritization/adaptation of SDGs targets and indicators [24]. These results are sobering and affirm the achievements of MDGs.

4. Methods

This study aims to assess the degree of MDGs and SDGs implementation in Bahrain based on national disclosure reports. The methodology employed to achieve this goal involved analyzing four MDGs and two VNR reports (Figure 1). The content analysis method is considered high-yield and multipurpose and a form of textual analysis that combines qualitative and quantitative research approaches, and can be both descriptive and interpretative because this method based on texts is a worthy source of rich data with considerable potential to reveal important information [25, 26]. It can be employed to analyze open-ended or semi-structured data to answer study questions using categories, concepts, or themes [27].

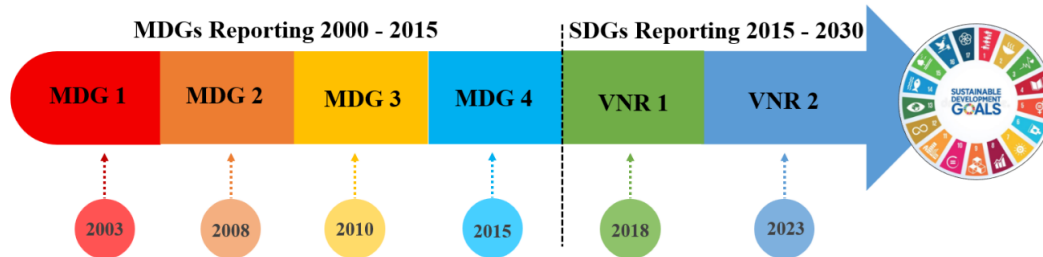


Figure 1. The reporting timeline of progress MDGs and SDGs.

The study used a content analysis approach to focus on Bahrain's MDGs and SDGs' main outcome reports. This helped assess the progress of sustainable development and explain the implementation status at the national level. This is crucial for the successful transition from MDGs to SDGs; and assists in developing a framework operationalizing and facilitating the implementation towards 2030.

5. Bahrain's MDGs Achievements (2000-2015)

The Kingdom of Bahrain ratified the United Nations Millennium Declaration in September 2000, affirming its continued commitment to fulfilling its obligations nationally, regionally, and globally. Therefore, Bahrain adopted the MDGs to assess and improve the country's development. Consequently, the first report on the MDGs was issued in 2003 and presented the state of Bahrain's development. The report concludes Bahrain has successfully fulfilled most of the MDGs, with recommendations for each goal to accelerate progress.

Since independence, Bahrain has made vast strides in its development journey, which is reflected in increasing per-capita income and declining the poverty rate by 0% which assists in track towards meeting most of the MDGs. According to a survey conducted in 2003, only 12.2% of the population has a daily income below US\$5 per person, and none of them have an income below US\$1 [28]. Bahrain has implemented a strategy of diversifying income sources by investing in various industries, such as aluminium, petroleum, petrochemicals, tourism, and various economic sectors (e.g., financial and banking services) [29]. Furthermore, Bahrain has implemented a comprehensive social assistance program to aid vulnerable individuals groups [30].

Education is mandatory and free of charge in Bahrain for all children aged 6 to 17, in public schools covering primary, intermediate, and secondary levels (Figure 2). In terms of gross enrollment, the percentage of primary school students not enrolled in schools is zero [31]. Bahrain has the largest education system and one of the highest literacy rates in the Gulf region [32]. The Ministry of Education has implemented four programs to improve and advancement of education performance: mental disabilities and Down syndrome, learning difficulties, outstanding and talented, and autism spectrum [31]. Further, Bahrain has made impressive progress in reducing adult illiteracy rates (15-44 years). According to the Education for All 2010 Report from UNESCO, the rate currently stands at 2.46%, which is lower than the 2.7% reported in 2001 [30].

Bahrain has implemented a thorough reform of its educational system with the aim of enhancing the quality of education to raise the efficiency of the system, both internally and externally, to meet global standards, ensure that educational outputs are compatible with the requirements of competitive national, regional, and global labor markets, modernize and upgrade curricula, especially in the science and technology fields, increase the use of information and communication technologies in education, prioritize high skills, and develop technical education and vocational training through institutions that are closely tied to the needs of the public and private sectors. As a result of the outstanding performance in advancing the education status, all global targets of MDG 2 have been met in Bahrain.

Concerning MDG 3, this goal was a priority for Bahrain [30] and accomplished since 1996 [31]. The establishment of the Supreme Council for Women in 2001 was a significant milestone that had a positive impact on the status of women in legislative, social, and cultural fields [33]. As an example, the political participation of women in parliament has reached 14% in both the Shura Council and the House of Representatives. Another significant milestone, Bahrain has implemented a national plan to

advance women in their society. This plan, which spans from 2013-2022, incorporates modern strategic planning methods and aims to shift from a traditional approach of advancing women to empowering them to advance themselves. This is achieved through the provision of training, education, and development opportunities that are tailored to individual capabilities. The plan is guided by conscious convictions and a methodology that values inclusiveness and excellence in institutional performance, with the core goal of achieving sustainable impact [31].

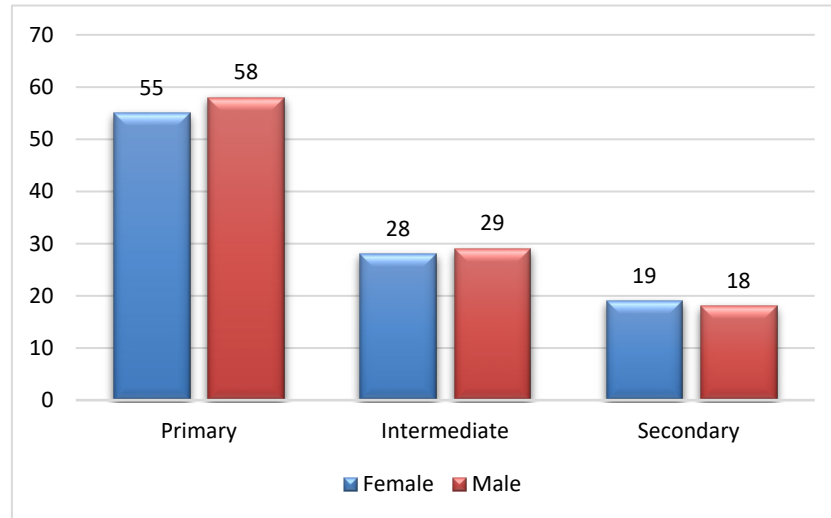


Figure 2. Number of schools in public education by stage and sex 2018/2019.

MDGs 4, 5, and 6 represent the health dimension. The achievements and progress made in health in Bahrain surpass that of other goals accomplished. For instance, children who received vaccinations for measles, paralysis, MMR, and other internationally approved childhood diseases have a 100% vaccination rate. Trained health workers provide prenatal and postnatal care at a 100% rate. Further, the percentage of AIDS cases in the 15-24 age group was zero in 2013, and no deaths have been reported due to malaria in Bahrain since 1995. Additionally, the mortality rate caused by tuberculosis has decreased by over two-thirds between 1996 and 2013. During this time, the number of cases has dropped from 1.4 per 100 thousand people to 0.2. Since 1999, all identified cases have received the necessary treatment [28-31].

It is worth mentioning that Bahrain has implemented a successful system for monitoring, controlling, and following up on health-related issues. This has been achieved through a network of health centers and the efficient use of communication technology. Additionally, Bahrain has introduced various legislative measures, programs (e.g., school health program; immunization and surveillance program), and procedures aimed at improving the overall health status. These include mandatory pre-marriage examinations, welfare programs for individuals with disabilities, antenatal care programs, immunization programs, and early detection of childhood illnesses. Further, the private health sector has shown the most significant improvement, with the number of private hospitals increasing from three in 2000 to 16 in 2013. In contrast, the number of government hospitals has remained the same. Additionally, the number of government health centers has increased from 22 to 27 centers [28-31].

The Ministry of Health has recognized the importance of utilizing Information Technology to support its strategies, particularly in the areas of prevention and primary health care. The focus is on establishing an integrated network of information to enhance health services and offers electronic health services by connecting all hospitals, health centers, and clinics through a comprehensive central health system. This approach aims to provide programs that cater to patients' and citizens' needs. The achievement of MDGs 4, 5, and 6 and their sustained success reflects the high-level political support for the health sector.

The environmental dimension (MDG 7) is associated with several challenges. Bahrain faces significant environmental challenges that require attention from both the government and civil society. While Bahrain has made progress in some areas, there are still major obstacles to overcome due to its limited size and vulnerability to climate change. Bahrain prioritizes environmental sustainability as one of its most urgent concerns. The most significant environmental challenges identified in the MDG reports [28-31]:

- (1) The impact of climate change and its consequences.
- (2) Pressure on resources and services due to population growth.
- (3) Management of limited water resources, including sewage treatment and groundwater salinization.
- (4) The issue of sea reclamation and its effects on the marine environment and fisheries.
- (5) Air pollution (as well as other types of pollution) is caused by economic and industrial activities, high car density, and

energy consumption.

Years ago, Bahrain achieved the third and fourth targets, where entire populations have access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation networks within their homes. Additionally, Bahrain does not have any areas defined as "slums," which could have negative environmental implications.

There has been notable advancement in the management and planning of sustainability and environmental matters at a national level. On September 25th, 2012, the "Supreme Council for the Environment" was established as a replacement for the "General Authority for the Protection of Marine Resources, Environment and Wildlife," which was founded in 2002. This law is a significant step in the right direction as a national authority is necessary to address environmental sustainability due to its important and strategic nature. Further, many efforts have been made to prepare sustainability-achieving strategies, including agricultural strategies, and implement projects aimed at protecting the environment and conserving natural resources. The Strategic Plan 2011-2016 lists national environmental priorities under three headings: health and the environment, energy and climate change, and urban growth and land-use planning. This plan specified the following priorities:

- (1) Air quality.
- (2) Quality of the marine environment and managing its resources.
- (3) Marine dredging and reclamation.
- (4) Industrial and electronic waste management.
- (5) Management of hazardous, damaged and expired chemicals and pesticides.
- (6) Nature Reserves Management.
- (7) The effective implementation of environmental laws and decisions.
- (8) Spreading of environmental awareness and culture.

The MDG 8 focuses on international cooperation and collective responsibility on a global level, which aims to create an environment that accelerates the achievement of other MDGs. Developed countries were obligated to assist developing countries in realizing their developmental goals; however, national governments must adopt economic and institutional policies that align with global economy requirements and rules.

Therefore, Bahrain has made changes to its laws to promote greater access to legal services. The law governing law firms has been updated to allow foreign lawyers and firms to offer their services. Additionally, new laws have been introduced to combat human trafficking and regulate the labor market and labor fund. Bahrain has also joined the international convention to fight against money laundering and terrorism, resulting in amendments to the laws governing these issues [29]. Bahrain is rapidly progressing in economic, trading, and financial openness, aiming to integrate into the global market. This requires amending laws, regulations, and institutions.

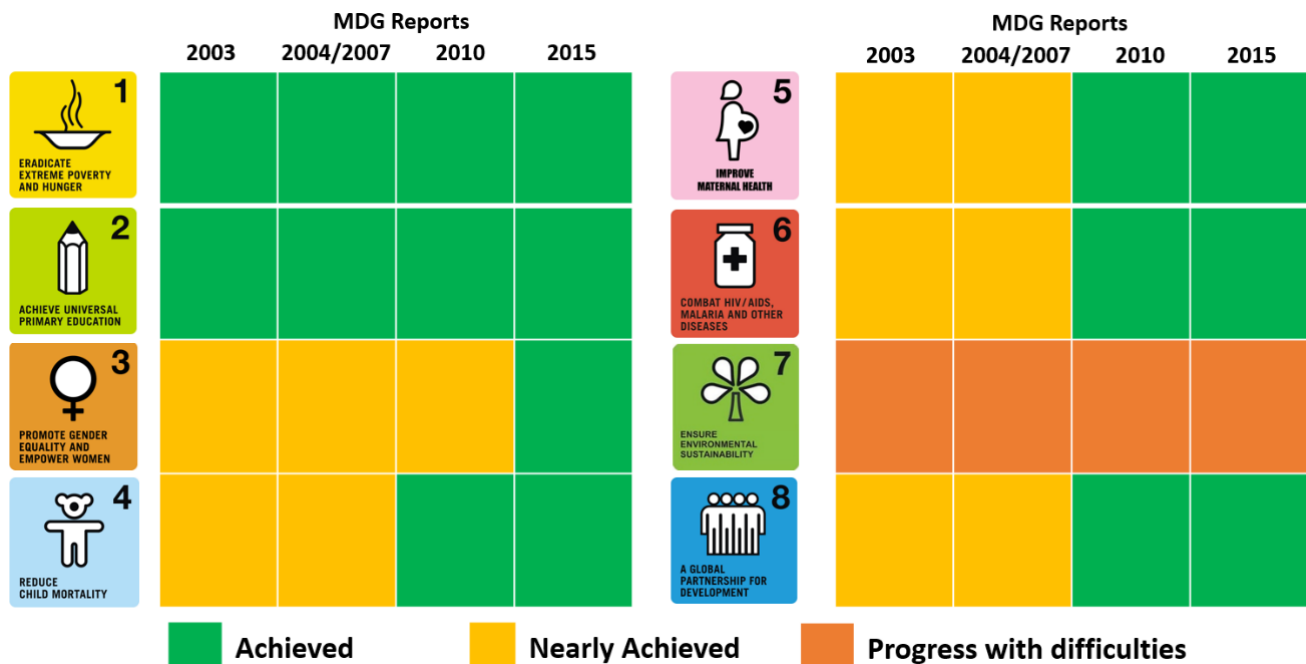


Figure 3. The final progress in achieving MDGs.

Bahrain has made significant progress towards achieving the MDGs and is on track. However, more up-to-date information is required to address environmental and sustainable development concerns [34]. Therefore, a concerted continuous effort is needed to finish MDGs' uncompleted missions, enhance the achievements, and provide the best possible starting conditions for a new agenda.

6. Bahrain's SDGs Progress Status (2015-2023)

Bahrain's Economic Vision and Structural Strategic Plan for 2030 are critical for sustainable development. The global 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development serves as a roadmap to a sustainable future, but implementing it remains challenging. Bahrain has successfully integrated 78% of the targets into its 2015-2018 Government Action Program (GAP) and is committed to further integration and compliance with the principles of the 2030 Agenda in the 2019-2022 GAP for sustainable development. Further, Bahrain signed the Strategic Partnership Framework (SPF) with United Nations agencies for 2018-2022, showing commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The SPF and other initiatives aim to support SDGs and the 2030 Agenda, including preparing first Bahrain's Voluntary National Review (BVNR) on SDGs implementation. In addition, Bahrain's National Charter is a key tool in directing national efforts to achieve the SDGs [35-38].

Based on the First BVNR report, Bahrain has achieved a remarkable feat as 0% of its citizens live below the poverty line, and the country has witnessed an average annual economic growth rate of 37.4% in the last decade. Where the private sector plays a vital role in the development of the country, providing equal employment opportunities with high wages, which has led to a significant drop in the unemployment rate to around 4%. The Constitution of Bahrain ensures gender equality. To promote equal opportunities, the Supreme Council for Women has launched various initiatives such as forming committees and allocating budgets. In Bahrain, women hold 55% of supervisory positions, with 53% in the public sector and 33% in the private sector. Since its establishment, the Labor Fund (Tamkeen) has been a significant force in supporting small and medium-sized enterprises. It has provided over \$2.5 billion in funding to more than 47,000 enterprises, while also providing training to more than 120,000 women, youth, and individuals with disabilities [39].

Bahrain spends more than 35% of its total expenditure on health services, education, and social protection. As a result, the population enjoys free healthcare and medical prescriptions. The maternal mortality rate has significantly dropped to 28.6 deaths per 100,000 live births, which is much lower than the global average of 226 deaths per 100,000 live births. Similarly, the number of deaths of children under the age of five has decreased to 9 deaths per 1,000 live births, which is much lower than the worldwide average of 44 deaths per 1,000 live births. Furthermore, approximately 65% of citizens benefitted from housing services and five sustainable cities are under construction, with water systems, sanitation, and clean energy networks reaching 100% of the population.

Furthermore, the first VNR revealed that Bahrain faces challenges of climate change, population growth, and urbanization. These challenges put pressure on its limited natural resources. The rise in sea levels due to climate change poses a threat to Bahrain's rich coastal ecosystems and requires measures to anticipate the trend in urbanization. This is critical to sustain development and protect large investments in coastal development facilities, ecosystem services, and human well-being. Also, the impact of climate change on its water and agricultural resources, biodiversity, coastal infrastructure, and public health. Addressing these challenges requires the adoption of appropriate green technologies, funding, building national capacity, and community awareness campaigns. It is also crucial to maintain sustainable economic growth, which can attract investment and provide better employment opportunities for citizens. Additionally, establishing evidence-based national statistics that are transparent and of high quality, and regularly monitoring the SDGs indicators, would assist in strengthening Bahrain's position.

Bahrain has shown its full commitment to accelerating the achievement of the SDGs by releasing its second BVNR at the mid-way point of the 2030 Agenda. To further strengthen their efforts, the Ministry of Sustainable Development was established in 2022 to coordinate and promote sustainability projects for the SDGs and beyond [40]. Additionally, the government's 2023-2026 plan, "From Recovery to Sustainability," aims to integrate the SDGs into government projects to promote sustainable development as the driver.

The second BVNR highlighted the environmental challenges faced by Bahrain due to its geographical characteristics. Where the environment is considered a top priority for Bahrain's future sustainability plans. In 2021, the Government declared its commitment to achieve net-zero emissions by 2060, thus far, delivered promising results by enacting a new Environmental Law, surpassing its afforestation targets, and collaborating with the highest-emitting industries sectors to meet its goals [41].

During the 2023 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) review, a detailed analysis was conducted on five SDGs including SDG 6, which focuses on clean water and sanitation; SDG 7, which aims for affordable and clean energy; SDG 9, which focuses on industry, innovation, and infrastructure; SDG 11, which aims for sustainable cities and communities; and SDG 17, which focuses on partnerships for achieving the goals. Therefore, the second BVNR primarily focuses on these five SDGs (Figure 4).

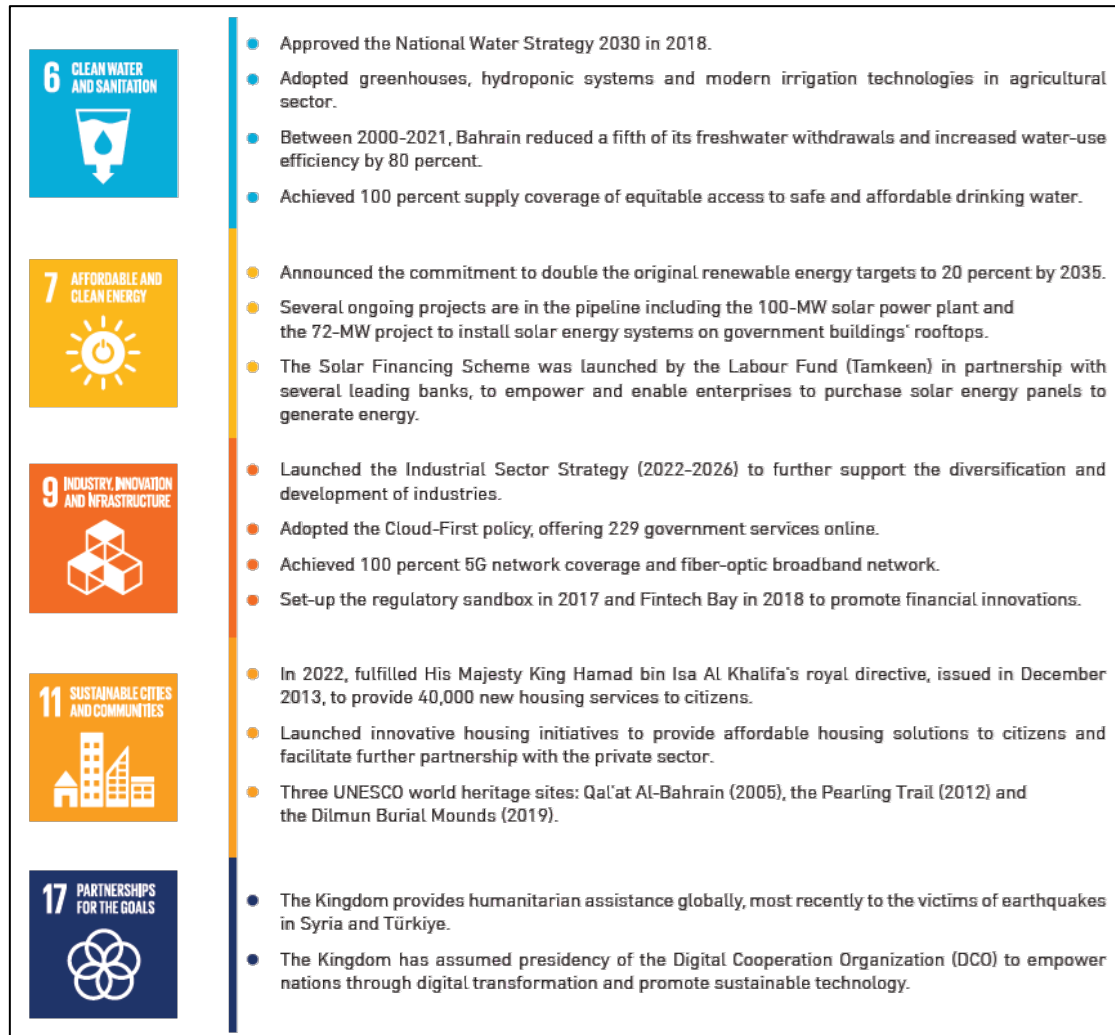


Figure 4. SDGs in Focus at the 2023 HLPF [41].

7. Proposed Framework for Bahrain's Industrial Sector

The industrial sector's interest in integrating the environmental dimension into its strategies and policies, while without an integrated corporate plan or strategy, can be seen as a significant factor exacerbating the complexities of addressing environmental issues. This necessitates genuine joint-coordinated efforts and actions at the national level. Furthermore, the lack of awareness regarding the significance of the environmental dimension results in poor compliance and a lack of commitment to regulations. Furthermore, the ineffective enforcement and weakness of environmental regulations lead to difficulties in controlling industrial impacts on the environment and human health. Additionally, some environmental impacts may manifest late due to their nature, which is another concerning issue that needs to be studied.

Thus, the national drivers for industrial development (Figure 5) require continuous assessment based on national strategy and legal tools to be improved in response to national and global changes and emerging issues. The manufacturing industrial sector contributes 14.5% of the total Gross Domestic Product (GDP), and other industrial services contribute 18.7%, while the oil sector alone accounts for 20.8%. Bahrain's annual economic growth averages 5% [42]. Bahrain aims to triple the GDP contribution of the industrial sector; therefore, the number of industrial areas has increased from eight to eleven.

Large enterprises employ 40% of the total workforce [43]. Additionally, one of Bahrain's Economic Vision 2030 strategic priorities is to "achieve sustainable quality growth", growth, the private sector at the forefront of driving development through policies that foster entrepreneurship, growth, and innovation" [44]. Besides, the primary objective of the newest latest Industrial Strategy (2022-2026) is to transform the transition sector into the Fourth Industrial Revolution by promoting the circular economy and focusing on environmental, and social governance, investments in technological infrastructures, and digitising [45].

According to Al-Ubaydli, understanding Bahrain's industrial policy evolution supports achieving SDGs related to industry, innovation (SDG 9), and employment, economic growth (SDG 8) [46].

Another important driver is the global demands, changes, and pressures, which encompass the opportunities, threats, competitiveness of the global markets, and the novelty of industrial marketing strategies. This includes the increasing industrial globalization, which was particularly evident during the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the innovation and evolution of products and technologies. Additionally, emerging issues and obligations of the environmental treaties and conventions that are relevant to the entire business sector play a significant role.

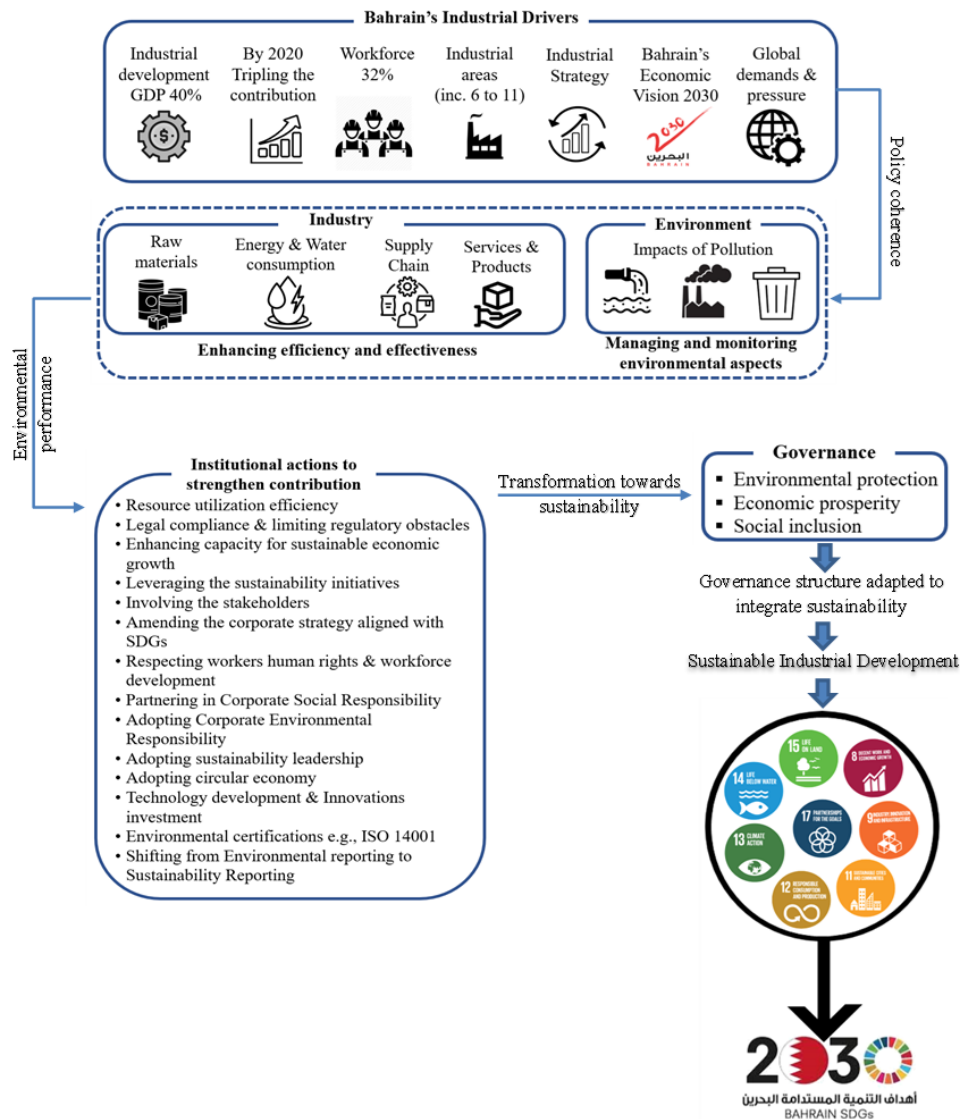


Figure 5. The proposed framework to implement the SDGs in the industrial sector.

The policy tools' coherence is essential due to the interconnected nature of the SDGs. Policies and actions should align with one of the SDGs to ensure that progress is reflected in other goals while maintaining consistency across all objectives. Furthermore, policy coherence helps policymakers understand how their actions influence future sustainable development progress at local and global levels. The challenge they face is formulating coherent and integrated industrial policies that contribute to achieving the SDGs while sustaining economic growth and minimizing negative environmental impacts on both the environment and human health throughout the economy's lifecycle.

Thus, strengthening the national environmental legal framework is a crucial and essential step in establishing a coherent policy that promotes sustainable industrialization by regulating and mitigating adverse environmental impacts while fostering social

inclusivity. It is typical for policy coherence to align with the government's agenda of prioritizing sustainability measures and incentivizing industrial initiatives for the efficient enforcement of regulations, thereby motivating the sector to improve its environmental practices. In this context, there is a need for earnest national actions to enhance policy coherence for sustainable development [47].

If the environmental performance level is raised, industries will be more capable and willing to adopt additional institutional actions (Figure 5) to enhance their contribution to sustainability. This implies that both robust policy coherence and high environmental performance are key factors leading to sustainability. Consequently, environmental performance is significantly linked to sustainability, which in turn will facilitate the transition towards achieving the SDGs. Most importantly, the industrial sector must transform its business models, plans, and strategies to balance operational impacts and sustainability pillars [48, 49].

Sustainable development (SD) encompasses three pillars: environment, social, and economic. Therefore, to achieve SD, there is a need to balance the three pillars, while the industrial sector is showing more interest in the economic pillar at the expense of the other two pillars. Further, the proposed framework illustrates that governance encompasses the sustainable development pillars; in essence, governance and sustainability are two sides of the same coin. Development and economic growth are essential for maintaining the balance of sustainability pillars; thus, there should be an adoption of governance to enhance sustainable industrial development through the implementation of SDGs. To achieve that, the industrial sector should consider sustainability in its long-term strategic plan beyond 2030 [50]. Additionally, studying policy coherence approaches for sustainable development is essential for gaining a deeper understanding of governance in the context of SDGs [51].

In summary, the proposed framework illustrates that diverse essential national industrial sector drivers - the foundation of the industrial sector - and strong policy coherence will lead to the adoption of sustainable development (governance) and ultimately achieving sustainable industrial development based on the requirements of the SDGs. Environmental performance plays a crucial role because sustainable industrial development aims to ensure ongoing enhancement in all environmental and economic aspects of the company. Therefore, it is essential to establish and implement an industrial policy coherence based on the pillars of sustainable development, particularly focusing on the policy of sustainable industrial development to align with the implementation of the SDGs in the national context.

8. Conclusion

Bahrain has made significant progress in achieving the MDGs targets related to social, employment, environment, economy, education, and health. This progress has been characterized by the active participation of the private sector and social societies and cooperation linkages with the government, thus, the transition from MDGs to SDGs has been smooth. Because the capacity of institutions is crucial for planning, implementing, and monitoring efforts related to the SDGs, Bahrain has made significant efforts to develop institutional capacity. As a part of this strategy, Bahrain has established a Ministry for Sustainable Development to lead the implementation of global agreements on the SDGs at the national level and to track the progress of localizing the SDGs. Furthermore, Bahrain has invested in capacity building and programs to promote, support, and enhance the quality of human skills and institutional capacity to accelerate the achievement of SDGs.

The interrelated nature of global issues is reflected in the attention to moving from one initiative (agenda) to another by adopting synergies approaches to facilitate, catalyze, and accelerate further efforts towards successful progress to tackle significant issues, e.g., climate change. The 2030 agenda and its SDGs seek fulfilment of the promise of sustainable development. The landmark commitment of countries in the SDGs era is a unique opportunity to tackle the challenges ahead of 2015-2030 by putting people and their needs at the core of the agenda, generating global multi-partnerships, involving the private sectors, and investing in the significant value of the sustainability goals. Therefore, the SDGs have a broader perspective seeking global galvanized support for accomplishing and laying a basis for a systemic and integrated approach towards unifying global efforts and the vision of the world's current issues towards environmental, social, governance, and economic.

The interlinkages and integrated nature of the 17 SDGs are crucial in ensuring that the 2030 Agenda's core aim is accomplished. This requires more effective and inclusive governance systems and collaborative efforts to aggregate the data and establish a national database to enhance information flow. Furthermore, the SDGs framework requires countries to take further steps to advance their efforts towards additional progress in the window of their commitments towards international treaties and conventions.

Thus, the government should strategically recognize that the SDGs' era countdown has already begun and that the remaining period is 6 years. Therefore, there is a necessity to develop long-term plans for the environmental legal tools and strategies beyond 2030, and they should be subjected to periodic reviewing and updating so that they align with the emerging environmental issues by creating a participatory mechanism among the key stakeholders. This raises the importance of the government's role in regulating a national roadmap to encourage and support the implementation of the SDGs locally.

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