

## **NIHR's Statement on World Health Day**

### **Manama on April 7, 2019**

On 7<sup>th</sup> April each year, the world celebrates the World Health Day in commemoration of the founding of the World Health Organization (WHO) in 1948. The theme of this year's campaign is "Universal Health Coverage", which is at the top of WHO's list of goals, considering that the achievement of comprehensive health coverage is the guarantee for everyone to receive the care they need in their livelihoods, as millions of people are still deprived of any access to health care, and millions of others are forced to choose between spending on health care or their daily needs like food, clothing and shelter.

Article (8) of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bahrain guarantees the right to health, where sub-clause (A) states that: "Every citizen shall have the right to health welfare. The State shall care for public health and ensure means of prevention and treatment by establishing various kinds of hospitals and provide medical facilities.", and sub-clause (B) states that: "Individuals and bodies may establish hospitals, clinics or infirmaries under the supervision of the State and in accordance with the law". The Bahraini legislature has also paid particular attention to the right to health through the enactment of several legislations related to the promotion and protection of this right, mainly the Decree No. (5) of 2013 establishing the Supreme Council of Health, in addition to Bahrain's accession under the Law No. (10) of 2007 to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the promulgation of the Health Insurance Law under the Law No. (23) of 2018, which aims to improve the quality and efficiency of health services and the provision of comprehensive treatment for all patients, whether citizens or residents. This system will contribute to the enjoyment by all of the highest standard of healthcare, in line with the theme of the World Health Organization (WHO) this year.

Based on the mandate of the NIHR set forth in its Incorporation Law No. (26) of 2014, as amended by the Decree-Law No. (20) of 2016, aiming at the promotion and protection of the right to health in the Kingdom of Bahrain, the NIHR continues to work hard to promote the right to health in cooperation with all relevant bodies, through the provision of advisory opinion, periodic and parallel reports, study of national legislation and ensuring their conformity with international human rights standards, cooperation with national bodies, regional and international organizations and human rights institutions, receiving complaints and provision of legal assistance, which all serve the area of the promotion and protection of all rights, including the right to health.

The NIHR affirms that it works with its broad mandate established by its Incorporation Law pursuant to the Paris Principles to exert more effort with all partners and concerned bodies, both locally and regionally, in order to promote and protect the right to health, and to guarantee its practice without any discrimination in order to achieve the 3<sup>rd</sup>

Sustainable Development Goal 2030 to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.