



Professional Tools

for training and capacity building

Professional Tools for Training and Capacity Building

Research and Studies Unit

Arab Gender Gap Reports Series

2026 Edition

Gender Gap Report

Kingdom of Bahrain – 2025

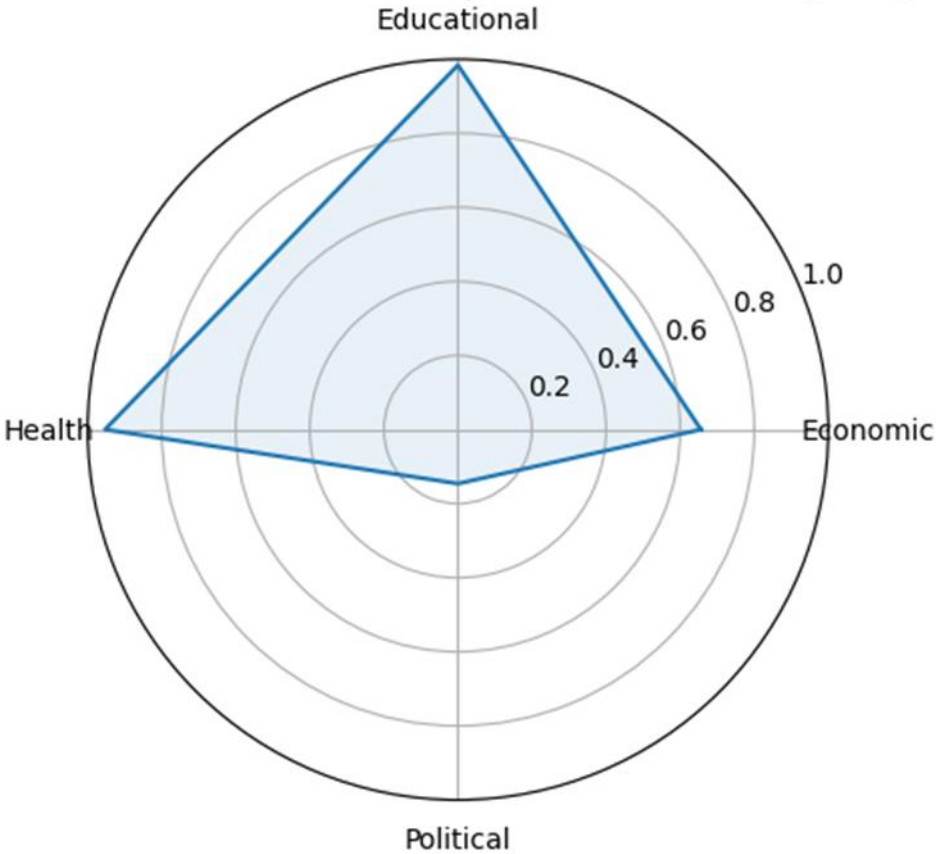
Institutional Analytical Report Based on the

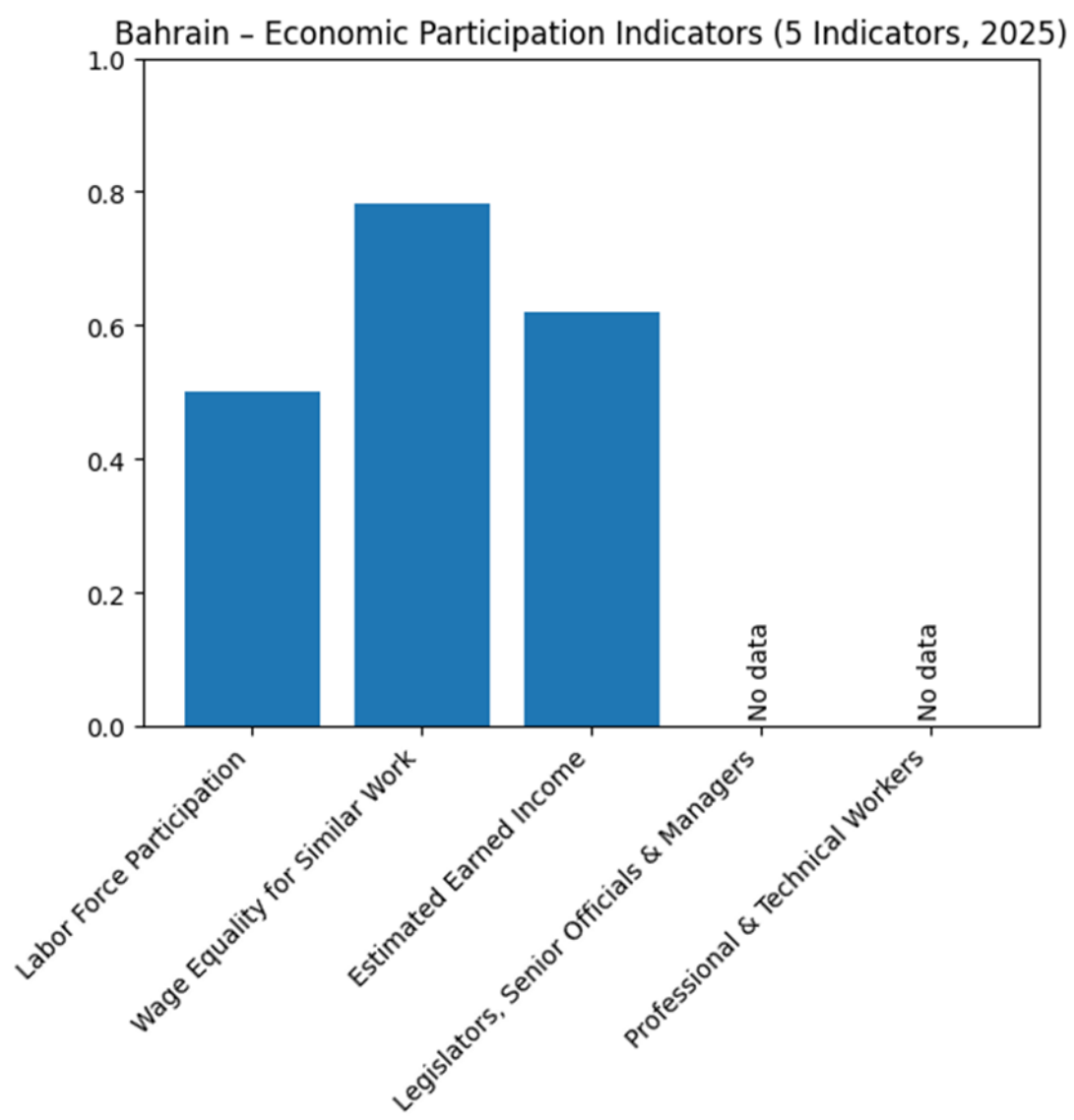
Global Gender Gap Report 2025

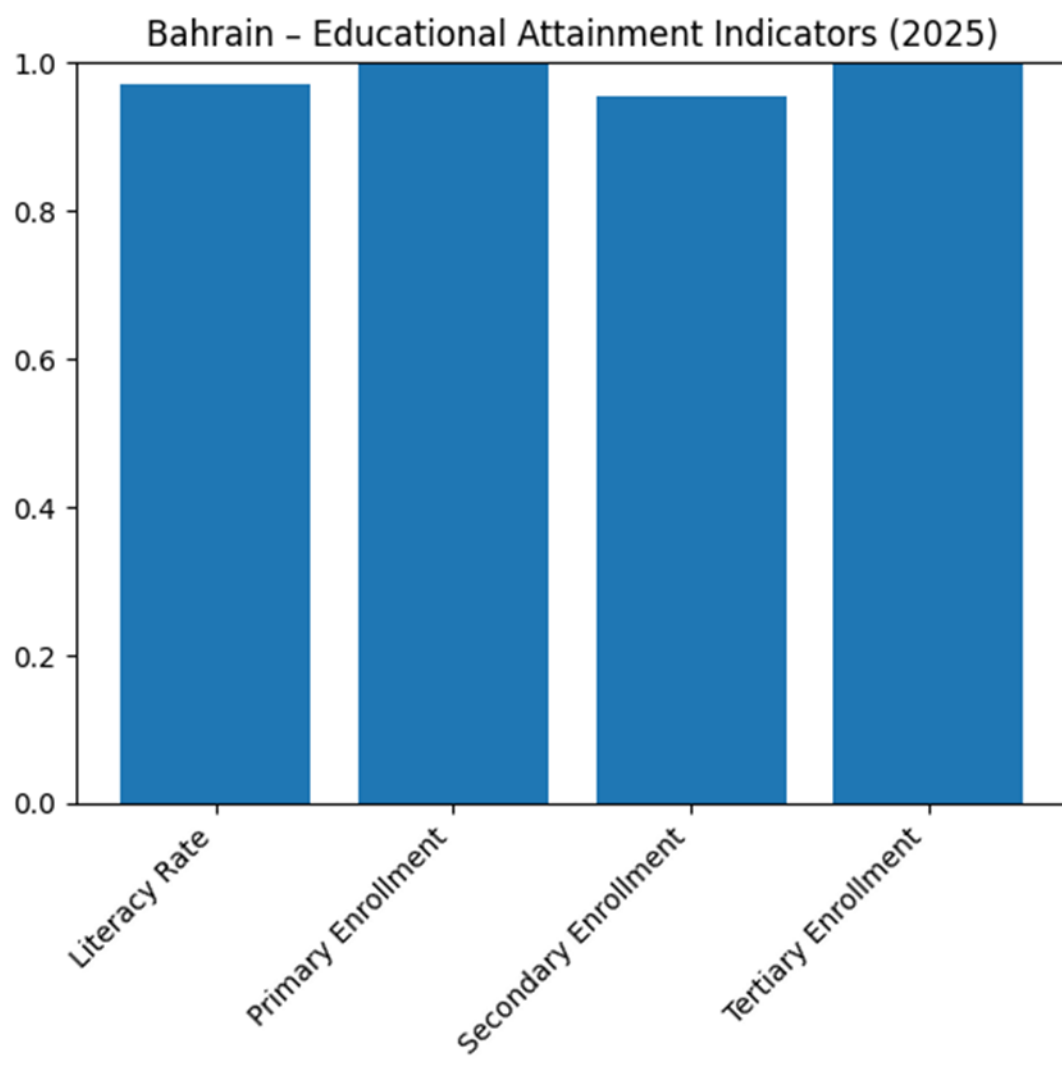
Prepared by

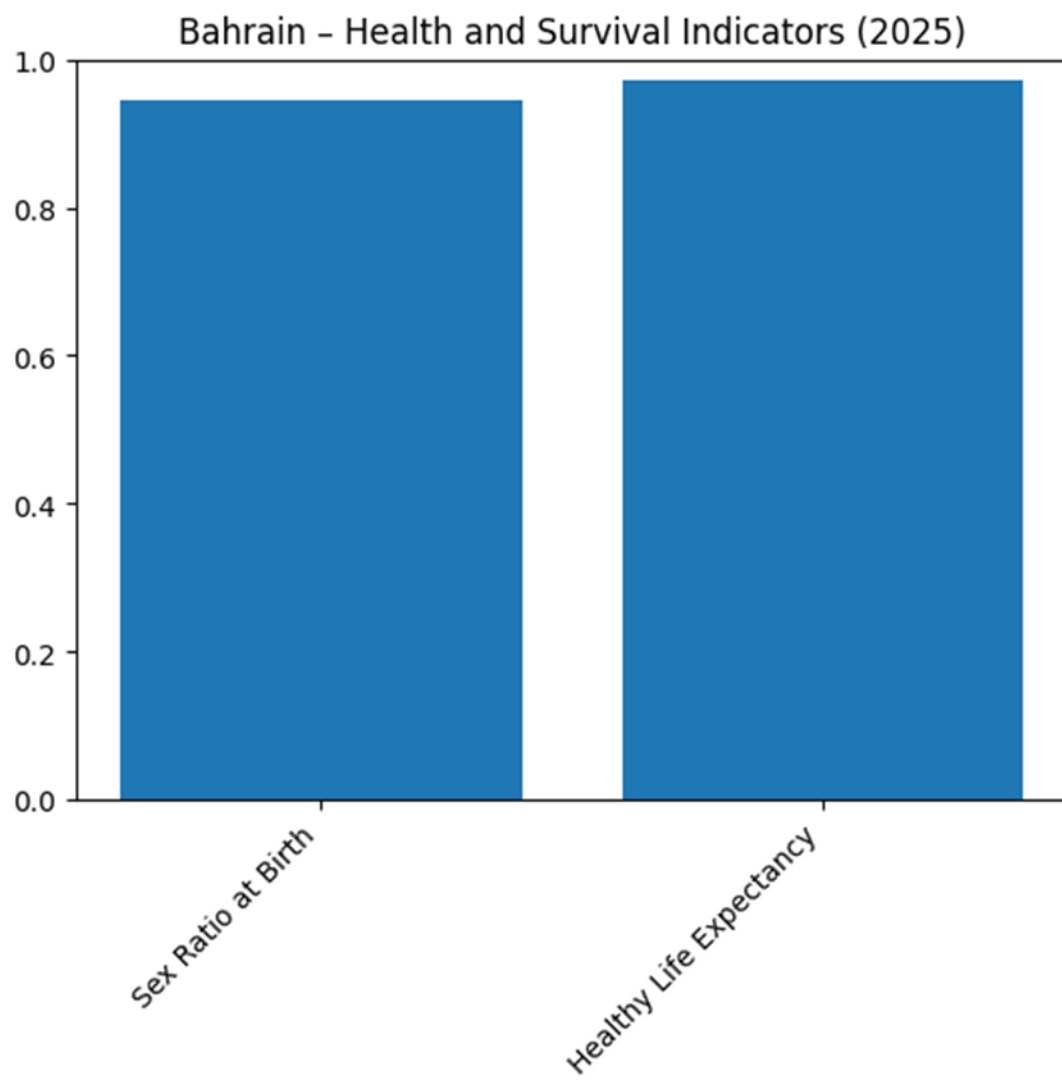
Dr. Maysoon Issa Ahmad Al-Saleem

Bahrain - Global Gender Gap Index Dimensions (2025)









Executive Summary

This report provides an institutional analytical reading of the Kingdom of Bahrain's performance in the Global Gender Gap Index 2025, published by the World Economic Forum. The report examines Bahrain's standing across the four key dimensions of the index: Economic Participation and Opportunity, Educational Attainment, Health and Survival, and Political Empowerment.

According to the 2025 edition, Bahrain ranks 104th globally out of 148 countries, with an overall score of 0.684, indicating that approximately 68.4 percent of the gender gap has been closed.

Within the Arab region, Bahrain occupies a relatively advanced position, ranking second after the United Arab Emirates, which ranks 69th globally. This creates a difference of 35 positions between the two countries in the global ranking.

The results highlight a differentiated structure across the four dimensions. While Bahrain approaches gender parity in education and health indicators, notable gaps remain in economic participation and political representation.

The findings suggest the presence of a structural conversion gap between women's accumulated human capital—particularly in education and health—and their effective participation in economic and political decision-making structures.

Addressing this conversion gap represents a key pathway for strengthening gender equality outcomes and improving Bahrain's position in future editions of the Global Gender Gap Index.

Abstract

This report presents an institutional analytical assessment of the Kingdom of Bahrain's performance in the Global Gender Gap Index

2025, published by the World Economic Forum. The report examines Bahrain's position across the four core dimensions of the index: Economic Participation and Opportunity, Educational Attainment, Health and Survival, and Political Empowerment.

The report adopts a descriptive analytical approach based on the indicators of the Global Gender Gap Index. According to the 2025 edition, Bahrain ranks 104th out of 148 countries, with an overall score of 0.684, indicating that approximately 68.4 percent of the gender gap has been closed.

Within the Arab region, Bahrain ranks second after the United Arab Emirates, which occupies the 69th position globally, creating a difference of 35 positions between the two countries in the global ranking.

The findings reveal a differentiated structure across the four dimensions of the index. While Bahrain approaches gender parity in education and health indicators, notable gaps remain in economic participation and political representation. These results point to the presence of a structural conversion gap between women's accumulated human capital—reflected in education and health outcomes—and their effective participation in economic activity and political decision-making processes.

Keywords

Gender Gap, Gender Equality, Women's Economic Participation, Political Empowerment, Arab Countries, Bahrain, Global Gender Gap Index

Methodology

This report adopts a descriptive analytical methodology based on the indicators provided in the Global Gender Gap Report 2025 issued by the World Economic Forum.

The analysis focuses on Bahrain’s performance across the four core dimensions of the index:

- Economic Participation and Opportunity
- Educational Attainment
- Health and Survival
- Political Empowerment

Each dimension is examined through its respective sub-indicators in order to identify the structural factors influencing Bahrain’s performance within the index.

The report also incorporates complementary socio-economic indicators to provide contextual understanding of Bahrain’s economic structure, labor market dynamics, and demographic composition.

This analytical approach allows for a comprehensive institutional reading of Bahrain’s gender gap profile and highlights key structural patterns influencing gender equality outcomes.

Country Profile

Indicator	Value
Country	Kingdom of Bahrain
Index Year	2025

Global Rank	104 out of 148
Overall Score	0.684
Gender Gap Closed	68.4%

Source: World Economic Forum, Global Gender Gap Report 2025.

Overview of the Global Gender Gap Index

The **Global Gender Gap Index** is one of the most widely used international frameworks for measuring gender disparities across countries. Developed by the **World Economic Forum (WEF)**, the index evaluates gender gaps across four fundamental dimensions of socio-economic and political participation.

The index measures gender disparities across the following pillars:

- Economic Participation and Opportunity
- Educational Attainment
- Health and Survival
- Political Empowerment

Scores range from **0 to 1**, where **1 represents full gender parity**.

Bahrain's Overall Performance

Dimension	Score	Global Rank
Overall Index	0.684	104
Economic Participation and Opportunity	0.656	99
Educational Attainment	0.984	95

Health and Survival	0.953	144
Political Empowerment	0.146	106

Source: World Economic Forum, Global Gender Gap Report 2025.

Bahrain's Position within the Arab Region

According to the Global Gender Gap Index 2025, the Kingdom of Bahrain ranks second among Arab countries, following the United Arab Emirates.

The UAE ranks 69th globally, while Bahrain ranks 104th globally, representing a difference of 35 positions between the two countries in the global ranking.

This position reflects Bahrain's relatively advanced standing within the Arab region despite the structural gaps that remain across some dimensions of the index.

First: Economic Participation and Opportunity

Indicator	Score	Global Rank
Economic Participation and Opportunity	0.656	99
Labor Force Participation Rate	0.501	133
Wage Equality for Similar Work	0.781	13
Estimated Earned Income	0.620	79
Legislators, Senior Officials and Managers	Data not available	—

Professional and Technical Workers	Data not available	—
------------------------------------	--------------------	---

Source: World Economic Forum, Global Gender Gap Report 2025.

Analysis of the Economic Participation Dimension

Bahrain records a score of **0.656** in the Economic Participation and Opportunity dimension, ranking **99th globally**. The data suggest that one of the primary factors influencing this dimension is the relatively lower participation rate of women in the labor force compared with men.

At the same time, the **wage equality for similar work indicator** demonstrates relatively strong performance, with Bahrain ranking among the leading countries globally. This suggests that wage disparities are less pronounced than disparities in access to employment opportunities.

Two indicators—**women in senior leadership positions** and **women in professional and technical occupations**—remain unavailable within the current dataset. The availability of these indicators in future reports may provide a more comprehensive understanding of women's economic participation.

Second: Political Empowerment

Indicator	Score	Global Rank
Political Empowerment	0.146	106
Women in Parliament	0.250	103
Women in Ministerial Positions	0.278	77
Years with Female Head of State (last 50 years)	0.000	81

Source: World Economic Forum, Global Gender Gap Report 2025.

Analysis of the Political Empowerment Dimension

This dimension measures women’s representation in political decision-making positions. The results indicate that women’s participation in parliamentary and ministerial positions remains relatively limited compared with men.

The indicator measuring the number of years during which a woman held the position of **head of state or head of government during the past fifty years** records a value of **0.000**, reflecting the absence of women in such positions during the reference period used by the index.

Third: Health and Survival

Indicator	Score	Global Rank
Health and Survival	0.953	144
Sex Ratio at Birth	0.944	1
Healthy Life Expectancy	0.972	147

Source: World Economic Forum, Global Gender Gap Report 2025.

Analysis of the Health Dimension

Results in this dimension indicate that Bahrain maintains a relatively balanced gender profile across key health indicators. The **sex ratio at birth** remains close to the parity benchmark adopted in the index methodology.

Although the **healthy life expectancy indicator** records a relatively high score, the global ranking is influenced by the limited variation in values across countries within this dimension.

Fourth: Educational Attainment

Indicator	Score	Global Rank
Educational Attainment	0.984	95
Literacy Rate	0.970	87
Primary Enrollment	1.000	1
Secondary Enrollment	0.954	125
Tertiary Enrollment	1.000	1

Source: World Economic Forum, Global Gender Gap Report 2025.

Analysis of the Educational Attainment Dimension

Educational attainment represents one of Bahrain's strongest areas of performance within the Global Gender Gap Index. The data indicate high levels of gender parity across educational stages.

However, the main challenge lies in **transforming this educational capital into broader economic participation and leadership representation within the labor market.**

Concluding Analytical Assessment

Bahrain's performance in the **Global Gender Gap Index 2025** reflects a structural pattern characterized by strong outcomes in education and health alongside more pronounced gaps in economic participation and political empowerment.

This pattern reflects what may be described as a **conversion gap**, referring to the gap between women's accumulated human capital and their ability to translate this capital into effective participation in economic and political structures.

Bahrain's experience illustrates a broader development pattern observed in several countries where advances in education and health outcomes do not automatically translate into proportional gains in economic participation and political representation.

General Recommendations

Based on the findings of this report, several policy directions may contribute to strengthening gender balance in the Kingdom of Bahrain and improving its future position in the Global Gender Gap Index.

- Expanding women's participation in the labor market by addressing structural barriers affecting labor force participation.
- Strengthening policies that promote women's representation in political and decision-making positions.
- Enhancing statistical data systems related to women's economic participation, particularly indicators measuring women's presence in leadership positions and professional occupations.
- Leveraging progress achieved in education and health as a strategic foundation for strengthening women's economic participation.

Reference

World Economic Forum. (2025).

Global Gender Gap Report 2025.

Recommended Citation

Al-Saleem, Maysoon Issa Ahmad. (2026).

Gender Gap Report – Kingdom of Bahrain 2025: An Institutional Analytical Report Based on the Global Gender Gap Report 2025.

Professional Tools for Training and Capacity Building, Research and Studies Unit, Arab Gender Gap Reports Series.