





BE Determined

Public Awareness Campaign to Combat Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Bill Gates calls for COVID-19 meds to go to people who need them, not 'highest bidder'

Reuters

Billionaire philanthropist Bill Gates called for COVID-19 drugs and an eventual vaccine to be made available to countries and people that need them most, not to the "highest bidder," saying relying on market forces would prolong the deadly pandemic.

"If we just let drugs and vaccines go to the highest bidder, instead of to the people and the places where they are most needed, we'll have a longer, more unjust, deadlier pandemic," Gates, a founder of Microsoft, said in a video released yesterday during a virtual COVID-19 conference organised by the International AIDS Society.

With hundreds of vaccine projects under way and governments in Europe and the United States investing billions of dollars in research, trials and manufacturing, there is concern that richer nations could scoop up promising medicines against the new coronavirus, leaving developing countries empty-handed.

Tawasul, emerging tech drive Bahrain to the top

Bahrain maintains 2nd place among Arab countries in 2020 United Nations E-Government Survey

- Bahrain moved to the very high EGDI Group in 2020
- Survey highlights the role of the pandemic in renewing and anchoring digital government
- UN hails Bahrain's blockchain developments

TDT | Manama

Riding on the success of Tawasul and usage of emerging technologies to provide advanced government services, Bahrain maintained its supremacy amongst the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) nations after the United Arab Emirates on the United Nations E-Government Survey which tracks the e-government development status of all United Nations Member States.

The report, which places Bahrain in the very high United Nations E-Government De-



Bahrain is mobilising the potential of emerging technologies to provide advanced government services and ensure a high level of user satisfaction

UN E-GOVERNMENT SURVEY

velopment Index (EGDI) group and second among GCC nations, speaks highly about the Kingdom's national suggestion and complaint system, Tawasul launched in 2014.

UN report says the service enables people to submit suggestions and complaints to any government entity in the Kingdom of Bahrain from anywhere at any time, with it solving more than 95 per cent cases received.

By ranking Bahrain highly on the index, the report also points out that Bahrain Digital Government Strategy 2022 is aligned with the Economic Vision 2030, which focuses on sustainable development, and with the Government Action Plan 2019-2022.

The report views that higher-income countries such as

Bahrain mobilised the potential of emerging technologies to provide advanced government services and ensure a high level of user satisfaction.

The UN report also highlights Bahrain Economic Vision 2030 for its provisions for digital development and initiatives related to digital government transformation.

It also points out that Bahrain implemented Legislative Decree No. 54/2018 for the Issuance of Letters and Electronic Transactions, which provides a legal framework for the use of new technologies such as blockchain for government services.

The report also highlights the role of the pandemic in renewing and anchoring the role of digital government both in its

conventional delivery of digital services as well as new innovative efforts in managing the crisis.

The E-Government survey 2020, now in its 10th edition, ranks Bahrain 38th globally on the E-government Index, a 12 point jump from the 2018 rank of 26. The ranking involves a composite index that consists of sub-indexes, which are smart services, human capital, and the telecommunication infrastructure and information technology sectors, in addition to the E-participation index that falls within the smart services.

On the E-Participation Index, Bahrain is ranked 51 out of the 193 countries.

In the E-Government Development Index, Bahrain's score is 0.8213, against the score of World leader Denmark 0.9758. The regional average is 0.6373.

In the E-Participation Index, Bahrain's score is 0.7738. Estonia is the world leader in this segment with a score of 1.0000.

The index and its accompanying report, launched Friday by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), also highly ranked Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Oman.

Launching the report, LIU Zhenmin Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs United Nations urged world leaders to "remain steadfast in their missions in the digital transformation of their countries, constantly innovating even during difficult times."

He said the 2020 Survey findings are encouraging, showing significant uptakes in digital services in different geographic

regions, countries and cities. The survey, prepared over two years, is the only global report that assesses the e-government development status of all United Nations Member States. In addition to the English edition, the Survey will also be made available in Arabic, Chinese, Russian and Spanish, thanks to the collaboration with external partners.



YOU KNOW WHAT

The National Suggestion & Complaint system "Tawasul" is one of the essential eChannels that enable citizens and residents to submit their suggestions and complaints to any government entity in Bahrain easily at any time and from anywhere.

E-government development in the member countries of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC)

Country	Rating class	EGDI Rank	Sub-Region	OSI value	HCI value	TII value	EGDI (2020)	EGDI (2018)
United Arab Emirates	V3	21	Western Asia	0.9000	0.7320	0.9344	0.8555	0.8295
Bahrain	V2	38	Western Asia	0.7882	0.8439	0.8319	0.8213	0.8116
Saudi Arabia*	V2	43	Western Asia	0.6882	0.8648	0.8442	0.7991	0.7119
Kuwait*	V1	46	Western Asia	0.8412	0.7470	0.7858	0.7913	0.7388
Oman*	V1	50	Western Asia	0.8529	0.7751	0.6967	0.7749	0.6846
Qatar	HV	66	Western Asia	0.6588	0.6698	0.8233	0.7173	0.7132

* Countries that moved from the high to the very high EGDI group in 2020.



BAHRAIN COVID-19

TOTAL CASES

32,470

ACTIVE CASES

4,538

DEATHS

104

DISCHARGED

27,828

NEW CASES

431

CRITICAL

53

210 fils (includes VAT)

