



Background & Objectives

Under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, the Prime Minister of the State of Kuwait, and attendance of H.E. Mrs. Hind Subaih Barrak Al-Subaih, Minister of State for Planning & Development Affairs and Minister of Social Affairs & Labor, the Kuwait Human Development Forum (HD Forum) will take place on November 10-11, 2014, in partnership between the General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development (GS-SCPD), API, and the World Bank. The event will also be the opportunity to launch the 2013 Kuwait Human Development Report.

The HD Forum initiative emerged in support of Kuwait's socio-economic development efforts, and in conjunction with the development of the National Development Plan (NDP) for the years 2015/2016-2019/2020, which places building Kuwait's human capital as a lead priority. The HD Forum is expected to be a transformative event for human development in Kuwait as it embraces a cross-sectoral strategic approach that aims at enhancing synergies between the individual social sectors, and that would ultimately increase the value of interventions and strengthen human capital in Kuwait overall.

Overall, the HD Forum aims to translate human development goals and objectives outlined in the new NDP into concrete implementation plans through specific areas of cross-sectoral linkages and synergy, based on the Kuwait Human Development Report 2013 which is an informative and comprehensive report describing the current situation of the social sectors in Kuwait, and highlighting key developmental challenges facing human development.

The HD Forum serves as a platform to build coalitions for collaboration between the various stakeholders, focusing on specific areas of interest. To accomplish this, the HD Forum convenes human development-related agencies with the following objectives:

- Promote sectoral dialogue
- Highlight regional and international knowledge and good practices
- Seek opportunities towards linking the sectors in support of Kuwait's socio-economic development efforts

The expected outcomes of the Forum include a roadmap for implementing priority reforms which will include the coordination and monitoring mechanism required for implementation of HD Forum output. Attendance includes senior representation from relevant government agencies; civil society organizations; the private sector; academic and research institutions; UN and regional and international agencies active in Kuwait. The working languages are Arabic and English, with simultaneous interpretation during the Meetings.

Preparation for the HD Forum

The HD Forum Steering Group (SG) held a series of meetings to advance the sectoral HD dialogue in preparation for the Forum. Three roundtable discussions were held respectively

on May 6, June 12, and September 22, 2014, and were attended by key officials representing institutions involved in human development in Kuwait. These meetings resulted in the identification of three themes of common sectoral interest and cross-sectoral synergy. Within each theme, priorities were agreed, as in the below:

| Theme | Priority |
|--|---|
| Theme 1: Education & the Labor Market | Linking Education to the Labor Market |
| Theme 2: Social Development & Health | Social Safety Nets Early Childhood Development Social Inclusion |
| Theme 3: Leadership & Capacity Building | Leadership & Capacity at the Public Sector |

Following the SG roundtable discussions, technical meetings were held to further articulate the priorities indicated above, identify the challenges and opportunities, and identify the institutions to be involved in each priority. The outcomes of the five technical meetings will be presented during the Forum, and will feed into the discussions that lead to the elaboration of the roadmap for implementation.

HD Forum Structure

The HD Forum takes place over two days structured as follows:

- **First Day – Setting the Stage:** this will involve (i) formal opening by Her Excellency the Minister, and introduction by the strategic partners; (ii) a panel discussion on human development from

the perspective of the new National Development Plan; and (ii) panel discussions of the three main themes, with a focus on the local context.

- **Second Day – Launching the Kuwait Human Development Report 2013 & Building Coalitions for Implementation:** this will involve identifying specific areas and activities under the above priorities that would, based on priorities in the National Development Plan and the Kuwait Human Development Report 2013, have agencies coalesce around them and to have those agencies break out to develop concrete implementation mechanisms (i.e., roadmap, cooperation model, work plan, expected outputs). The arising discussions/recommendations will support setting up a roadmap/action plan for implementation in view of Kuwait's context and priorities.

HD Forum Outputs

The outputs of the HD Forum will be a Roadmap of cross-sectoral collaboration for each of the indicated priorities that will be discussed on Day Two of the HD Forum. The Roadmap will include objectives for each priority, implementation/coordination mechanism, monitoring process, results indicators, and risk mitigation measures. The Roadmaps are expected to provide concrete and implementable activities and milestones to further the goal of the HD Forum, to contribute to building Kuwait's human capital.

