CHAPTER 13

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
13. SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

This chapter describes the development objectives, policies and programs aimed at promoting the well-being of Saudi society through the provision of social services such as health care, social and youth services, cultural and information services, and religious and judicial services. In addition, the chapter addresses the key issues relating to social development in the Fifth Plan.

13.1 HEALTH SERVICES

13.1.1 Role and Development Objectives

The Ministry of Health is the agency with overall responsibility for health care in the Kingdom. The National Guard, the Ministry of Defence and Aviation and the Ministry of Interior provide primary, secondary, and advanced levels of health care for their staff and segments of the general population. The Red Crescent Society provides emergency services and assists pilgrims during the Hajj. High level specialized health care is provided in the Kingdom by specialist hospitals, while the Royal Commission for Jubail and Yanbu provides health facilities for employees at the two industrial cities. School health units attend to the immediate primary health care needs of male and female students. The services of the General Organization for Social Insurance and Youth Welfare provide health facilities for specialized clientele. Through their programs and medical colleges, the universities provide primary and specialized health care services, conduct essential health research, and provide medical education programs. University training and education develops further the capabilities of physicians, nurses and allied health technicians in the Kingdom, while enlarging the overall supply of professional manpower available to provide health services.

The medical services of the private health sector play an increasingly significant role in the Kingdom and are coordinated with the referral network and the regulatory requirements of the health sector as a whole.

The fundamental development objective of the health sector is to improve the health conditions of all citizens through the provision of comprehensive preventive and curative health services throughout the Kingdom, with particular emphasis on equitable and efficient primary care. Specific long term objectives for the health sector include:

- The completion of all preventive and primary health care facilities, and the full implementation of the referral system for the optimal provision of preventive and curative health services;
- Development of the health information system necessary for efficient, effective health care delivery;
• Further development of national health manpower, through programs that raise productivity and improve performance and that provide the specializations needed to maintain a high level of health services.

13.1.2 Achievements and Key Issues

The Kingdom’s health services have made great progress in recent years in improving the overall health of the population. The policy emphasis on primary health care has led to advances in the control of many preventable diseases, especially through immunization programs for diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, poliomyelitis and measles. Through an integrated referral system, mothers, infants, young children and accident victims now have improved access to health care facilities. Furthermore, there has been a marked decline in the incidence of specific diseases such as bilharzia and leishmania, because of successful endemic disease control activities and the public health awareness campaigns at primary health centers.

The Fourth Development Plan was a period when many health care projects came into operation. During the period 1404/05 to 1408/09, the number of hospitals increased by 70.3 percent, the number of hospital beds by 44.9 percent, while the number of primary health centers (Ministry of Health) increased from 1,119 in 1404/05 to 1,477 in 1408/09, an increase of 32 percent (see Table 13.1). The primary health centers of the Ministry of Health began to apply the referral system through the use of family health card files. By 1408/09, these files were in use in 73 percent of all urban health centers and in 89.6 percent of all rural health centers.

The expansion of the Kingdom’s health services during the Fourth Plan is also reflected in improved health service supply indicators:

- the number of hospital beds per thousand population increased from 2.66 to 3.35;

- the number of physicians increased, so that the population per physician declined from 726 to 548 persons;

- the supply of nurses also increased, with the population per nurse falling from 363 persons to 264.

Figure 13.1 shows the number of Ministry of Health hospital beds in each region during the period 1404/05 to 1408/09.
Figure 13.1

Ministry of Health Hospital Beds per 1000 Population by Planning Region

[Bar chart showing hospital beds per 1000 population by planning region for two years: 1404/05 and 1408/09.]
TABLE 13.1
Expansion of Hospitals, Hospital Beds, and Primary Health Centers
(1404/05 to 1408/09)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1404/05 (Number)</th>
<th>1408/09 (Number)</th>
<th>Increase (Percent)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hospitals</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Health</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>88.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Agencies</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>7.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private Sector</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>77.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>247</td>
<td>70.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital Beds</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Health</td>
<td>17,961</td>
<td>26,315</td>
<td>46.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Agencies</td>
<td>5,432</td>
<td>6,577</td>
<td>21.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private Sector</td>
<td>3,412</td>
<td>5,956</td>
<td>74.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>26,805</td>
<td>38,848</td>
<td>44.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary Health Centers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Health</td>
<td>1,119</td>
<td>1,477</td>
<td>32.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Agencies</td>
<td>287</td>
<td>298</td>
<td>3.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private Sector</td>
<td>224$^{*}$</td>
<td>313$^{*}$</td>
<td>39.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1,630</td>
<td>2,088</td>
<td>28.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Includes dispensaries and clinics.

The utilization of the Kingdom’s health services during the Fourth Plan has risen along with the supply of these services. In-patient admissions to Ministry of Health hospitals rose by 40.4 percent. Outpatient visits also rose, both at Ministry of Health hospitals (by 16 percent)
and more importantly, at primary health centers (by 17.8 percent), a reflection of the successful use of primary health centers as the basis of the Kingdom’s referral system (see Table 13.2).

Although total hospital outpatient visits have risen, the increase in the number of MOH hospitals during the Fourth Plan and the application of the referral system, have led to a decrease in the average number of daily outpatient visits to MOH hospitals, from 528 visits per hospital in 1404/05 to 393 in 1408/09, thus reflecting improved performance in the health service.

**TABLE 13.2**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Utilization of Ministry of Health Facilities</th>
<th>(1404/05 to 1408/09)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Outpatient Visits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1404-05 ('000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOH Hospitals</td>
<td>20,035</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary Health Centers</td>
<td>29,948</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Key Issues**

Notwithstanding the achievements in the health sector in recent years, a number of important and challenging issues have emerged which must be addressed during the Fifth Development Plan period. Some of these issues can be dealt with in the short term, while others are more structural in nature and therefore require intensive evaluation and review before the appropriate solutions can be identified and implemented. One theme underlying many of these issues is the need to achieve an efficient and effective allocation of financial, material and human resources.

**Emergence of New Health Problems**

Epidemiological and clinical studies of the Fourth Plan period suggest that a growing number of chronic health conditions, accidental injuries, industrial and urban-related health problems have been added to the traditional burden of illness posed by endemic and infectious diseases. While more extensive implementation of the referral network will improve the efficacy of the Kingdom’s health care system in the future, the rising incidence of these more complex
health problems will place increasing strain upon the service capacity, the financial strength and
the data and information base of the health sector.

New programs will be needed during the Fifth Plan period to meet these emerging needs
of a more industrialized and urban society, involving worksite screening, occupational medi-
cine, and comprehensive initiatives for mental health care. Rehabilitation and health educa-
tion programs relating to the high rates of road traffic accidents must be intensified if advances
in the treatment of accident victims are to be sustained. In addition, decisions about priorities
among programs and between preventive and curative health care will be forced upon the health
sector in the course of the Fifth Plan, since these new programs must be integrated with existing
activities and within available health sector resources.

Finally, the medical treatment of many complex health problems will require even great-
er coordination and assessment of advanced medical technologies to determine their cost-
effectiveness and appropriate allocation to health facilities in the Kingdom. The universities
of the Kingdom and the King Abdul Aziz City for Science and Technology will be called upon
increasingly to perform the task of advanced medical technology assessment.

Financial Requirements

Health care systems throughout the world are faced with a growing demand for services
combined with rising costs and shortages of finance. In this regard Saudi Arabia is no excep-
tion, although its ability to adapt to these new conditions is far greater than that of many other
countries.

Largely as a result of the growing hospital bed supply and associated manpower require-
ments, the health sector’s share of total government expenditure increased rapidly during the
Fourth Plan period, so that by 1409/10, the Ministry of Health’s share exceeded 5 percent. Fur-
thermore, the expansion of health facilities during the Fourth Plan had brought about increased
outlays for Ministry of Health management, operation and maintenance costs, and imports of
increasingly expensive advanced medical equipment, pharmaceuticals and other supplies. These
developments contrasted sharply with the significant decline in total government revenues available
to support the expanded facilities and service base of the Ministry of Health, which is responsi-
ble for providing nearly 85 percent of all health services delivered in the Kingdom.

Health services of high quality and reliability are a permanent feature of development. Because fluctuating levels of funding will necessarily undermine the effectiveness of health care,
sufficient and appropriate resources must be combined with cost-effective service delivery to
sustain the achievements of the health sector.

Thus, the financing constraints now prevailing are a symptom of the growing need to
secure additional resources for the health sector in the years ahead. In this regard, a major
initiative of the Fifth Plan will be an extensive review and evaluation of alternative options for greater support in the financing of the Kingdom’s health care system.

**Health Data and Information Base**

Epidemiological data and information on the economics of health care represent the essential underpinning of modern health service efficiency. An information base that links continuous surveillance of disease conditions and measurable standards of health care is a necessary condition for the assessment of health service performance and cost-effectiveness. Appropriate licensure of physicians and other health professionals plays a critical role in upgrading the quality and standards of the Kingdom’s health services. Finally, an improved information base is also necessary for assessing and coordinating the use of expensive medical technologies and specialized services, in order to promote resource sharing within the health sector.

Essential information about health conditions in all regions will be linked with the full implementation of the referral system of the Kingdom in the Fifth Plan period, so that quality assurance and cost-containment will be possible throughout the health sector.

**Coordination and Utilization of Health Services**

While the number of primary health centers and hospitals has increased, utilization of these services has also grown steadily, thus adding to the resource constraints facing the health sector. Declining levels of funding for individual health agencies during the Fourth Plan period have had a negligible effect upon the demand for services, especially for technologically advanced services delivered at hospitals. This raises the issue of the responsible use of costly health sector resources. During the Fifth Plan, means must be sought of educating the population about the high cost of health services, and about the importance of effective use of these services. A critical component in the effective use of health facilities is the coordination of health services, through which duplication can be eliminated, regional balance can be achieved and resources can be utilized effectively. This requires studying the establishment of a National Council for Health Services Coordination, consisting of representatives from all health service providers (including the private sector), in addition to other related agencies and the Ministry of Planning. The functional objectives of this council would include the following:

- To achieve optimal utilization of health facilities;
- To eliminate duplication in health services;
- To achieve regional balance of health services;
- To conduct research and studies in the area of health services;
- To set regulations pertaining to the practice of the medical professions.
Distribution of Health Services

In the absence of a currently adequate balance in the regional distribution of primary health centers, remotely located and inaccessible segments of the population are forced to endure the burdens of illness and disease. Furthermore, a shortage of preventive health care services for such people results in a growing demand for curative services. In response to this issue, the Fifth Plan aims at expanding the referral system and achieving adequate coverage by primary health care services in cities, villages and hamlets, according to specific ratios of population per PHC:

- cities with more than 200,000 residents will be served by one primary health center per 10,000 persons;
- cities with less than 200,000 residents will have one primary health center per 5,000 to 6,000 persons;
- villages and remote populations will be served by one primary health center per 500 to 2,000 persons.

More PHCs will be established and linked to the development centers in the Kingdom.

Health Manpower

While improved health manpower ratios represent a major accomplishment for the health sector, manpower increases emphasize the need for further educational initiatives and incentives designed to draw Saudi students into careers as health professionals, and to increase Saudi manpower in the areas of general practice, community medicine, obstetrics and pediatrics. Ultimately, the Kingdom's health services rely upon the success of the universities, medical and nursing colleges, health institutes, and intermediate polytechnic health colleges to produce sufficient numbers of graduates who can provide these services.

Rapid growth in manpower demand has strained the capacity of educational and training institutions to keep pace with the expansion of health services. The need for new programs at medical colleges, the establishment of new intermediate polytechnic health colleges affiliated to the Ministry of Health and licensure for practicing health professionals, should be considered in order to increase health manpower supply, diversify specializations and upgrade efficiency.

13.1.3 Role of the Government and the Private Sector

Strategic objectives for the Fifth Plan period aim to increase private sector participation in socioeconomic development. The operation and management of facilities by the private sector represents a key element in this strategy and aims at greater health service efficiency and higher
staff performance levels. Public-private collaboration in the health sector will require careful study and the availability of adequate information on the problems of managing and operating health facilities.

Extensive links between the public and private sectors in the Fifth Plan period will require an expanded resource base in the health sector. The generation of new resources may be promoted by the private sector itself, through the operation of health facilities owned by the government, or through joint ventures with the public health sector.

The long term development of public-private relationships should lead the Ministry of Health to concentrate on the promotion and implementation of numerous basic health policy measures. Among these are:

- the establishment of appropriate quality controls at health facilities;
- the establishment and monitoring of health care standards and licensure requirements;
- education of the public to encourage the proper use of health care services;
- integration of private sector health services with the referral system of the Kingdom in each region.

Full public-private cooperation and coordination could be achieved through a National Council for Health Services Coordination and other private sector institutions capable of exploring such major issues as the local manufacture of medicines and pharmaceuticals, and the possible establishment of a private health insurance system.

13.1.4 Policies and Main Programs

During the Fifth Plan, the health sector will sustain its commitment to primary health care and to preventive and curative medical services of high quality, while promoting new policies for long-term collaboration between the public and private health sectors. Policies for the Fifth Plan offer an integrated response to the health care needs of the population, institutional issues, and financial requirements for the health sector, and include:

- Providing appropriate and essential primary and preventive health care services;
- Delivering curative and preventive health services in an efficient manner;
- Expanding manpower training programs and incentives for students entering the health professions;
- Encouraging adequate distribution, appropriate utilization, and resource base enhancement for the health services;

- Supporting and increasing the capacity of health care services through provision of data and information on public health conditions and promoting coordination through a National Health Council;

- Expanding public-private collaboration throughout the health sector;

- Continuing efforts to reduce mortality and mobility due to road traffic accidents;

- Establishing uniform standards for the health professions, hospital and primary health care services, laboratory tests, the treatment of 'high risk' patients, nurses' and health technicians' proficiency, and collecting necessary data for evaluating performance;

- Improving the capability to assess the cost-effectiveness of new and advanced medical technologies.

Main programs
Programs for achieving these policies include:

Primary and Preventive Health Care Services

- Essential primary, secondary and preventive health care services for women and children, and other population groups in need of health care;

- Expansion of the health referral system and primary care network to all areas of the Kingdom;

- Development and expansion of national programs for infectious and endemic disease control;

- Information collection about health conditions on a continuous basis;

- Expansion of emergency services to underserved areas.

Management and Operation

- Upgrading the efficiency of hospital services and improving the performance of health professionals;
- Educating the public on the proper use of health resources;

- Achieving further efficiency in the application of the referral system and the development of a health information system.

**Manpower Development**

- Expanded manpower training programs at polytechnical colleges;

- New hospital-based in-service training programs for physicians on rotation from primary health centers;

- Uniform licensure and performance standards for physicians, nurses, and health technicians;

- Incentives for the entry of Saudi students into health professions, especially primary health care.

**Maintenance of Health Facilities**

- Continued expansion of private maintenance of public sector hospitals and facilities;

- Development of additional resources to ensure the full maintenance of government facilities and medical equipment;

- Establishment of uniform standards for the maintenance of medical equipment and health facilities;

- Continuous training and application of emergency care standards to ensure that emergency services equipment and facilities are maintained according to high levels of proficiency.

**Public and Private Sector Collaboration**

- Additional management and operation contracting between the public and private sectors in a manner that supports the referral system in each region;

- Further encouragement and support for the local manufacturing of medical equipment and drugs;

- Exploration of new forms of collaboration between the public and private health sectors in the financing of health services.
Research and Studies

- Exploration of new resources for the provision of health services and for raising the quality of the services provided;

- Continued research on the cost-effective provision of health care, especially with respect to expensive hospital services;

- Further analysis of health problems and endemic and infectious diseases in the Kingdom.

13.1.5 Growth Targets During the Fifth Development Plan

The government is committed to improving the existing health network in the Kingdom, through institutional development, long range policy changes and improvements in the quality of service provided. The targets of the Fifth Development Plan include the following:

- Increasing the coverage rate of immunization against major infectious diseases to reach at least 95 percent of the relevant population;

- Controlling growth in hospital bed supply by stabilizing ratios at a level of 3.35 beds per 1,000 inhabitants, with appropriate adjustments for population growth during the Fifth Plan period;

- Increasing ratios of health manpower to population as follows:

  - one physician per 500 inhabitants

  - one nurse and health technician per 225 inhabitants

- Implementing quality standards and performance indicators for all health facilities, including those in the private sector;

- Construct 150 new primary health centers and operate 500 additional primary health centers with priority given to regions having no primary health care centers;

- Train 4200 physicians, 565 specialist physicians, 5880 nurses, and 7560 health technicians in the hospitals and training centers of the Ministry of Health;

- Expand the computer capability and information systems at Health Directorates, hospitals and PHCs.
13.1.6 Financial Allocations: Health Sector

Table 13.3 shows the financial allocations for the health sector during the Fifth Plan.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>Salaries and Supplies</th>
<th>Operations and Maintenance</th>
<th>Projects</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Health</td>
<td>35,898.0</td>
<td>6,664.0</td>
<td>5,212.0</td>
<td>47,774.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Red Crescent Society</td>
<td>753.1</td>
<td>13.2</td>
<td>38.8</td>
<td>805.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King Faisal Specialist Hospital</td>
<td>3,234.0</td>
<td>120.0</td>
<td>292.0</td>
<td>3,646.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>39,885.1</strong></td>
<td><strong>6,797.2</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,542.8</strong></td>
<td><strong>52,225.1</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

13.2 SOCIAL AND YOUTH SERVICES

13.2.1 Role and Development Objectives

The social and youth services provided by the government help to improve the overall quality of life for the population. They attempt to smooth the processes related to a continuously rapid pace of social, cultural and economic change. The Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs--through the Deputy Ministry of Social Affairs (DMSA)--encourages local participation and fosters the growth of social and civic duty. The Deputy Ministry of Social Care (DMSC) provides rehabilitation and care in institutions and in the family environment in response to physical or mental disabilities or to difficult social circumstances. It assists the disabled and handicapped to adjust to their social conditions. The General Presidency of Youth Welfare (GPYW) contributes to strengthening of the family and the well-being of young people by encouraging standards of athletic excellence and integrating sports, culture and community services. Pensions, benefits and relief assistance to the deprived and temporarily disadvantaged are provided by the Deputy Ministry of Social Security (DMSS). Additional services of the Saudi Credit Bank (SCB) include the extension of interest-free loans to assist low income individuals with household emergencies and to establish small businesses. Finally, the General Organization for Social Insurance (GOSI) and the Retirement Pension Authority provide pensions and social insurance schemes for retired employees of the public and private sectors.
Other income support and poverty relief schemes include price subsidies for basic food items. Cash subsidies for livestock and crops, and loans by the Saudi Arábian Agricultural Bank make a significant contribution to raising incomes in the rural areas. Housing loans granted by the Real Estate Development Fund reduce the cost of housing to families, thereby allowing incomes to be spent on other goods and services, and raising family living standards. Grants given to the poor by private charitable societies are another form of transfer payments to raise incomes.

Overall, these services improve the socioeconomic conditions of the individual and the community, and reduce the burden of social deprivation. The social and youth services sector seeks to address and solve problems that emerge as a result of the broader external conditions in society as a whole. Public and private interventions and partnerships are necessary in order to enhance the effectiveness of these services and to undertake new tasks. Therefore, the development objectives of this sector are:

- to ameliorate and prevent social imbalances resulting from rapid social change;
- to encourage the development of Saudi society and its ability to improve the quality of life of present and future generations;
- to strengthen the family by emphasizing the care, nurturing and desired socialization of children and the development of the mental and physical capabilities of youth in harmony with Islamic principles;
- to enhance the participation of charitable societies and the private sector in implementing social and economic projects that will contribute to upholding the social stability of the Kingdom.

13.2.2 Achievements and Key Issues

The providers of social services seek to meet the demand for their services to cope with the impacts of economic growth and associated social change. During the Second and Third Development Plans the dominant task of the sector was to promote balance between growth and traditional and modernizing social forces. Similarly, in that earlier planning period, an increase in the delivery of social and youth services was accompanied by an expansion in the number of service facilities. However, the Fourth Development Plan was a period of consolidation, qualitative improvements and increased functional specialization of services and facilities. As a testament to the effectiveness of social policy and a feature of integrating careful social planning with economic development, social stability was maintained even at a time when government expenditure was reduced.
As shown in Table 13.4, there is a vast and diverse network of services throughout the Kingdom at the end of the Fourth Plan period. In Community Development the number of social development committees increased from 28 to 37, or by 32 percent, while the number of cooperative societies increased from 163 to 170, or by 4 percent. In Social Care, financial support for care in the family setting increased appreciably. The number of beneficiaries of financial support for care at home was as follows: handicapped children beneficiaries increased from 6,801 to 15,549, or by 129 percent; paralyzed children beneficiaries increased from 2,393 to 3,548, or by 48 percent; orphan beneficiaries increased from 650 to 951, or by 46 percent. The number of Charitable Societies increased from 86 to 96, or by 12 percent. The growth in Income Support activities, such as pensions, benefits and relief assistance, is directly related to the higher number of individuals involved in community outreach activities. The number of Social Security pensions distributed during the Fourth Plan period reached 299,746 -- an increase of 2.9 percent. The Youth Services sector has been extremely successful in promoting its sports program by hosting and competing in local, regional and international sports events, as 81,000 youths participated in its programs. The national soccer team won the Asian Cup for the second time in 1409 and the under-16 team won the FIFA world championship in 1410.
### TABLE 13.4

Social And Youth Services Network

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Units at End of Fourth Plan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Local and Community Development</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Community Development Centers</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Community Service Centers</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Local Social Development Committees</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Cooperative Societies</td>
<td>170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Center for Training &amp; Applied Social Research</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Social Care</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Rehabilitation Centers and Institutes for Paralyzed Children</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Residential Nurseries, Orphanages and Care Homes for the Elderly</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Social Guidance and Social Observation Centers</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Charitable Societies</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Social Security</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Field Offices</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Social Insurance</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Field Offices</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Saudi Credit Bank</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Branches</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Youth and Sports</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Sport Stadia and Pavilions</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Sport Clubs</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Private Sport Clubs</td>
<td>154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Coastal and Sport Centers</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Youth Clubs</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Youth Hostels and Permanent Youth Camps</td>
<td>21</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Sports and Recreation Training Institute</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Sports Medicine Hospital</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Nomadic Services

Increasing awareness of the availability of modern technologies and conveniences have motivated many nomads to seek alternative lifestyles. The government assists those who want to remain nomadic, those who want to settle, and those who choose semi-nomadism.

The greatest concentrations of nomads are in the Northern Frontier, the Western and Southern regions. Social services from a wide range of agencies have an impact on the nomadic population. The National Guard provides special training programs and the potential for high level careers, in addition to classes in literacy and modern military sciences, housing, health and social services for dependents and families. MOE has a 'selective awareness campaign' aimed at literacy training; MOH and MOLSA (through DMSS) provide health services and social assistance in all regions; MOMRA provides water taps and markets in cities, towns and villages which are utilized in the marketing of livestock. MOAW provides veterinary services, constructs fodder stores, subsidizes fodder, and drills wells. It also has projects for the improvement and replanting of pastures and rangeland and a range livestock project. In order to preserve the desert ecosystem, MEPAP operates a range surveillance and monitoring program. While their numbers are declining, policies and services for the nomadic population continue to provide opportunities and options for them to choose the life style they wish to pursue.

Key Issues

Notwithstanding these achievements and the available service network, there are a number of issues which must be addressed so that the long term service capacity of these institutions and their effectiveness can be increased.

Transformation of Community Requirements

Saudi Arabia has rapidly become an urban society with the majority of the population now residing in urban centers. Although there have been major advances in the extension of services to the population, a shift in orientation has become necessary in order to meet the special needs of some groups who have been mobilized into the mainstream of society and to assist them in interacting effectively within society, and participating in and benefiting from the development process. At the same time, programs which meet the needs of children, youth and the family in general should be expanded, with due attention to leisure time activities, the development of private sector contributions and the participation of volunteer manpower in social work.

Social Sciences, Social Policy Research, and the Sector

A number of institutions in the Kingdom, including the Center for Training and Applied Social Research at Al-Daraiyah and some university departments, conduct social research and studies. However, a lack of coordination among these agencies leads to an incompatibility between their research, the actual needs of the community and the public policy needs of decision makers. Addressing this issue in the Fifth Plan requires that the feasibility of establishing an
information unit for social science, research and policy, particularly in applied fields, be examined. The unit will allow for more comprehensive and systematic utilization of the social sciences by government agencies; a close association of the disciplines with the policy making process of Social and Youth Services; and access to, coordination and dissemination of social science findings to relevant policy makers, researchers and the general public. Finally, it will assist in the development of the social sciences as a discipline and profession.

Administrative Development and Training

Some poor performance by the social and youth programs can be attributed to duplication and overlapping functions that exist between agencies, and the lack of necessary specialization in planning and implementing service programs. Therefore, the activities of all agencies should be coordinated in order to maximize the utilization of resources and to realize a social return commensurate with the actual needs of social and youth services programs. In addition, agencies need to encourage the development of their professional manpower, establish incentives for in-service training and recruit recipients of social science degrees to work in their programs.

Increase the Utilization of Females in the Sector

As the service area and the number of beneficiaries of social and youth programs have increased, there has not been a corresponding increase in staff or in the utilization of trained Saudi females to match the client load. The need to increase women's participation in the labor force in conformity with the Sharia has affected, and will continue to affect program effectiveness. Maternal and child health, early childhood education, family counseling and care for the elderly are all nurturing and socializing roles which can offer gainful employment for females.

13.2.3 Role of the Government and the Private Sector

In the past, the targeted groups of Social and Youth Services relied upon the charity and generosity of the family, prominent members of the community and other traditional institutions. While these methods have continued during the period of rapid socioeconomic change, the public sector has assumed the major role in social service delivery. The government has expanded the availability of financial and technical support for the activities of private voluntary organizations (charitable or benevolent societies). Government agencies in this sector are seeking enhanced private sector participation in community services to augment their own capacity to undertake new tasks, and to broaden the philanthropic donations from individuals and corporations. With its liquidity and investment capital, GOSI has the potential for being one of the more significant stakeholders in public and private sector partnerships for improving the performance of social services.
13.2.4 Sectoral Policies and Main Programs

Policies which will assist in achieving the development objectives include:

- Improve the capacity of Social and Youth Services to fulfill their mission by establishing a short-term, highly placed Ministerial Committee to recommend a comprehensive social development strategy and to consider how individuals and society as a whole can be protected from the harmful side-effects of development that are contrary to the principles and values of society;

- Establish new parameters for developing and upgrading professional manpower in the sector by identifying technical manpower requirements, reviewing program offerings and curricula of universities and training institutions, and establishing new standards and licensing procedures;

- Identify long term social research requirements and priorities which reflect changing social circumstances and public policy needs, and explore the feasibility of establishing an information unit for social science research and policy;

- Establish and develop parameters for social guidance and more openness in the availability of socially relevant information in order to foster the evolving community spirit and Islamic culture;

- Redefine the scope of community development activities to reflect the community service needs of an increasingly urban society; expand programs in urban and rural areas to include maternal and child health, early childhood education, youth sports, social and cultural activities, adult education, and social activities for senior citizens;

- Encourage family solidarity and contribute to the balanced upbringing and development (socialization) of youths in harmony with Islamic principles and the cultural heritage, by encouraging interests in scientific, cultural, and practical skills; increasing the level of excellence in sports; and establishing and implementing programs for family counseling and guidance and preventive counseling and awareness of infectious social diseases;

- Promote voluntary social work and increase its capacity by encouraging the formation of private voluntary organizations and philanthropic societies, and providing technical assistance and training for volunteers;

- Continue to provide grants, assistance, and subsidies to individuals and families in need, institutional care for individuals if it is not possible in the family setting, and social care for other cases within the family setting;
- Improve Social Insurance services to clients; review the investment strategy of GOSI to guarantee the long term availability of these services.

**Main Programs**

The main programs which will support the policies of the social and youth services sector include: Social Development; Social Awareness and Guidance; Cooperatives; Assistance; Pensions; Social Insurance; Investments; Research and Studies; Facilities Support and Development; Youth Welfare Activities; Management and Operation; Maintenance and Operation; and Manpower Development.

13.2.5 **Growth Targets During the Fifth Development Plan**

There is no need for a major expansion of facilities in the Social and Youth Services sector. Exceptions to this rule include some programs related to leisure time activities and Social Care facilities for meeting the needs of women, children and youth.

Quantitative growth will occur as a result of increases in utilization rates of the service network through community outreach activities. Services will reflect the continuity of new partnerships between public programs and increases in private voluntary activities. During the Fifth Plan period 5 additional community development centers will be established along with 50 additional cooperative societies. 60 charitable societies will be established in addition to 3 institutes for paralyzed children, 6 residential nurseries, one orphanage and 6 new care homes for the elderly. 3 social guidance and 10 social observation centers for boys and 4 for girls will be opened, in addition to 16 youth clubs and 4 sports centers. As a percentage of total employment in this sector, Saudis will increase from 90.3 percent in 1409/10 to 96 percent in 1414/15.

13.2.6 **Financial Allocations: Social and Youth Services**

Table 13.5 shows the financial allocations for the social and youth services sector during the Fifth Plan:
Table 13.5

Fifth Plan Financial Allocations: Social and Youth Services
(SR million)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>Salaries and Supplies</th>
<th>Operations and Maintenance</th>
<th>Projects</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DMSA</td>
<td>468.7</td>
<td>10.1</td>
<td>106.3</td>
<td>585.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DMSC</td>
<td>2,261.0</td>
<td>287.0</td>
<td>155.0</td>
<td>2,703.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DMSS</td>
<td>7,926.0</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>7,937.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GPYW</td>
<td>2,115.0</td>
<td>2,119.0</td>
<td>1,023.0</td>
<td>5,257.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAUDI CREDIT BANK</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>195.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>12,770.7</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,426.1</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,285.3</strong></td>
<td><strong>16,677.1</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fifth Plan Financial Allocations for GOSI*  
(SR million)

- Income           | 28,618.7
- Investment       | 18,818.9
- Expenditure      | 9,799.8

* Development Funds are not included in the services provided by GOSI, nor is the Retirement Pension Authority.

13.3 CULTURE AND INFORMATION SERVICES

13.3.1 Role and Development Objectives

Within the prevailing conditions of our contemporary age, imbuied, as it is, with a multitude of theories, approaches and methods of predicting the future, planning for comprehensive development -- either in the short term or in the long term -- has come to be the main instrument through which man can feel secure about his future. Planning for a specific sector cannot be conducted in isolation from other sectors and, in this regard, the government has a major responsibility to ensure that the thrust of comprehensive development activity generates harmony and consistency between all sectors. Hence, planning for social or human resources development must take into consideration prevailing economic conditions. Similarly, planning for economic diversification must reflect society’s needs, and the hopes, ambitions and expectations of individuals for a better future. Thus, although cultural and information services have their own very specific and individual characteristics, they also have extensive links with all other sectors.
It has been argued that certain cultural patterns expressing a nation’s identity emerge naturally in response to the stages and levels of civilized progress experienced by that nation. Equally true, however, is the argument that intellectual and artistic achievements -- where these actually exceed the pace of social progress in general -- can themselves be an important catalyst and support for advancing civilization in both material and cultural terms.

The idea that a nation’s culture can be planned -- in the same way that socioeconomic or infrastructural development can be planned -- is not a plausible proposition, due to the fact that, by its very nature, cultural activity is a spontaneous product of the human mind, which derives its special character and qualitative richness from contemporary society and the level of civilization thus far attained. Planning for the further development of cultural activities, therefore, can only be done by providing support services and creating conditions whereby culture and creativity can be nurtured and allowed to flourish.

Against this background, the following factors deserve special attention:

- Concern about the past and future direction of cultural development and the need for assurance that proper approaches are being followed in attaining its objectives, should find satisfaction in the recognition that comprehensive development has been achieved in most areas and the pace of cultural development has almost matched that of social development in general. In other words, the Kingdom’s cultural progress will naturally inspire the emergence of particular models of artistic expression that will advance in parallel with economic and social development as a whole.

- The keen desire to maintain a national Saudi identity, rooted in Arab and Islamic civilization, is conspicuously manifested in the important role of culture in everyday life and in the fact that cultural development is very much a part of overall development, even where cultural activities in the Kingdom have been enriched by the traditions and human achievements of societies in other parts of the world.

- Although the government provides services, eliminates obstacles and extends support for artistic expression, cultural development is essentially an individual rather than a state responsibility. The continued future development of culture is thereby ensured, in the realization that motivation for intellectual and artistic achievement is an innate human characteristic that is present in many individuals. Nevertheless, the effectiveness of culture’s social role and its ability to serve the wider interests of development in general, depends mainly upon an awareness of the nature, structure, form and level of this culture, and upon an understanding of the necessary balance among its main interacting elements, as they rotate around the three ‘axes’ of authenticity, contemporaneity and the development of original local cultural characteristics. Thus, the indigenous Saudi culture would not lose its own identity in the quest for
modernity or in its eagerness to benefit from cultural achievements in the international arena. At the same time, Saudi culture would not restrict itself to purely national or traditional and archaic interests. Rather, its development would seek to establish a wise equilibrium between both extremes.

Cultural progress in the Kingdom, therefore, must address the two basic issues of heritage and international developments:

**Heritage**

Heritage can be defined as the authenticity deriving from the security of firmly established cultural roots, which in the Saudi context, are founded on Arab and Islamic civilization—giving our contemporary culture its own unique identity and endowing it with an ability to withstand attack or undesirable influences. However, this heritage is only one of many sources of contemporary culture and it should not be the only one. Heritage, after all, is based on the achievements of individuals like ourselves in most ways, but who lived under very different social and economic conditions and whose awareness and consciousness were not shaped by our modern achievements and experience. It is not wise for contemporary society to abandon its achievements and progress to date by promoting a cultural allegiance that is rooted exclusively in the past. On the contrary, all efforts should be made to 'serve' this heritage and not merely to resurrect it intact for exhibition in modern museums. Such envisaged service to our heritage should be granted all possible scientific and academic assistance and expertise. In addition, parts of our heritage should be made appropriately intelligible for the young and inculcated into their consciousness, so as to ensure living contact with our roots and to safeguard the integrity of language.

**International Culture**

It is important to the vitality of our national culture that it be allowed to draw from a variety of sources and to experiment with new trends. To cite one example: we should not ignore the translation efforts of orientalists, without first identifying who among them are sympathetic or antagonistic towards our interests. Instead of excluding such efforts from mere prejudice, it would be more appropriate for us to study whether or not hostility is intended and how persistent such an intent might be, so that we can develop an appropriate response. The western world is now actively engaged in translating and studying our intellectual works, and benefiting from us as a result. It is our duty to ourselves to behave in the same way as scholars who are respected internationally, and not merely remain the subject of others' study. Benefiting from all human experience is a right to which everyone is entitled. In the case of translations, we should be fully aware of their impact and influence so that we might not lose our genuine identity in our search for the new and the different.

As a concept, culture is no longer elitist, but now embraces all norms of behavior, all beliefs and traditions, and all social attitudes. Hence, there is a need for concerted efforts by
both the mass media and the cultural services agencies to promote public awareness and guidance, and to fulfill their responsibilities in preparing the social order to adjust to new developments and to establish ideal norms for individual and group conduct. The mass media, moreover, are the most effective means of shaping public opinion, disseminating cultural and intellectual works on a large scale, and imparting to the Saudi citizen information on current affairs from all over the world. The primary role of the information media in the Kingdom can thus be classified into three main functions:

- disseminating information on current events;
- disseminating information about, and promoting the development of cultural activities;
- disseminating information about the Kingdom to the rest of the world.

13.3.2 Achievements and Key Issues

Responsibility for the development of cultural activities has been distributed among many government agencies such as the GPYW, MOI, MOLSA, and others. Although those agencies involved in cultural activities have tended to give priority to their basic functions, cultural life has been able to develop and spread through these channels.

Saudi contributions in the field of culture have appeared in cultural magazines and on the literary pages of daily newspapers and in the publications of cultural clubs and societies. Many Saudis have achieved outstanding standards, in the context of Arab cultural life, in the fields of poetry, novels and literary criticism. Saudi university professors have made substantial contributions to the enrichment of cultural life, through their articles, studies and books published by the university presses, private publishing houses, and other publishing agencies. The Kingdom was able to participate in many cultural festivals throughout the Arab world, thereby drawing international attention to Saudi culture. Saudi poetry and stories have been selected for translation into the English language under the ‘Prota project’ of the King Saud University, which translates the best Arabic literature into English.

Furthermore, substantial efforts have been made by the National Guard at the Janadriyah Festivals, which have acquired a magnificent reputation as a great display of Arab culture.

Experimental activities took place in the field of drama, and although not very numerous, these activities show concrete progress and are capable of representing the Kingdom in Arab drama festivals. Artistic achievements in sculpture and pottery now place the Kingdom ahead of many other more experienced countries in these fields, in spite of the shortage of public galleries for their display.
While achievements in the field of music have been small, folklore songs and folklore heritage in general were consistently represented at the Janadriyah Festivals, as well as on radio and TV programs. Folklore poetry, however, witnessed a remarkable decline with regard to the number of publications and their circulation.

In the light of past achievements and the requirements created by the new levels of development, an urgent necessity now exists for quickening the pace of cultural life, to bring it into balance with the Kingdom's socioeconomic achievements, and to enable it to better express citizens' aspirations and ambitions. Major issues emerging are as follows:

**Coordination Amongst Cultural Agencies**
Responsibility for the provision of cultural services is shared by several agencies, which perform their individual tasks without an overall framework through which their activities may be coordinated and streamlined. This lack of coordination impedes the development of a comprehensive approach to meeting the cultural needs of the community. A feasibility study will be conducted to develop a comprehensive national policy for culture, to enhance the private sector's new contribution and support the development and maintenance of national heritage. Towards this end, the Ministry of Planning will undertake coordination among the various agencies engaged in various aspects of culture, and establish guidelines and policies to streamline efforts towards required goals, while the Follow-up Department will monitor and evaluate the activities of various agencies with an aim to ensure proper levels of performance.

**Training and Mastery in the Arts**
The usual source of recruitment and support for the arts is through the education and training systems. While some activities in the arts do exist in the schools and universities, the curriculum offerings are not on a scale that will permit the development of mastery. Although talents are not usually recognized early, where they are recognized, gifted individuals must be highly trained and supported.

To attain mastery, an artist must develop the range, flexibility and intelligence of response which will enable him to interpret his culture and sense of past art refracted through his own experiences, and to relate this interpretation to the present. It is not present in raw talent alone, rising instead from a deep sense of continuity rather than from sudden revelations.

A study will be conducted to determine the feasibility of establishing a Fine Arts Academy at the higher institute level to encourage the preservation of the nation's folklore and foster the creation of new channels for artistic expression. The Academy would have appropriate communication links and coordination with educational institutions and the performing arts section of the King Fahd Cultural Center, scheduled for completion during the Fifth Plan period. This study will also assess the economic well-being of performers, artists and artisans in the absence of fee-paying performances, and the support from the private sector for the development of the arts.
Libraries
There is a need to evaluate acquisitions, distribution and service capacity in the library system. In this context, a feasibility study will be initiated to examine the establishment of a National Committee for Libraries and Information Services under the National Cultural Council, in order to develop a 'master plan' for all public sector libraries. Other aims of the study will be: to conduct an assessment of facilities and services; to foster the utilization of and increased access to libraries by females; to recommend new objectives and policies; and to outline the National Committee's responsibilities for planning, coordination, follow-up and supervision of an implementation plan for both existing and proposed libraries.

Media Transmission and Program Content
Transmission coverage to remote areas should be targeted by Information Services as the primary agent for acculturation and as a contributor to community development and public service. A decision will be made to determine which technology will be utilized to deliver this service, between ground stations and transmitters or satellites. A feasibility study will be undertaken to assess the utilization of cable television for home, education and business services.

Another study will be carried out to determine the feasibility of launching a cultural station, within the currently operating radio broadcasting stations. Operating hours of the proposed station will be the cumulative time currently dedicated to cultural programs at various stations.

Heritage and Modernity
A comprehensive study will be undertaken on the feasibility of establishing a National Commission for Heritage and Culture that will have a central coordinating role for all cultural activities. The proposed Commission will provide its cultural services through various departments and centers, such as the Saudi Book House, the Heritage Historiography Center, the Translation Center, the National Folklore Center, and the General Administration for Cultural Exchange. The proposed Commission will make available all services related to heritage preservation efforts, and will also acquaint the public with many aspects of foreign cultures, all of which could contribute to the formulation of a modern structure for the development of national culture.

13.3.3 The Role of the Government and the Private Sector
The Ministry of Information will continue to support and enhance its various activities towards the achievement of the Fifth Plan objectives. It will also increase the scope of cooperation with the private sector -- which will assume a greater role in the production of television and video programs -- and will expand cultural resources for society as a whole, through such facilities as the King Faisal Center for Islamic Research and Studies, the King Fahd Library in Riyadh and museums, and through the preservation of the Kingdom's heritage landmarks.
Furthermore, a wider public audience will also be sought through support for folklore performances and festivals, as well as art exhibitions organized by art students and graduates.

13.3.4 Policies and Main Programs

The following policies will assist in achieving the development objectives of this sector:

- Determine the technology to be used for completing mass media coverage throughout the Kingdom;

- Increase the local preparation and improve the quality and content of radio and television programs, to meet the cultural, educational, scientific and recreational needs of the public, with special reference to women, children and youths; and support the social goals of community service and social guidance;

- Provide incentives for intellectual and creative works and encourage private sector publishers to increase the volume and improve the quality of local publications and translated works;

- Gradually expand the provision of facilities for cultural services, where proven to be feasible, and provide support to such facilities at the time of their establishment;

- Continue exploration of archaeological sites, protect intellectual property and establish museums;

- Use the services of GPYW for increased cultural activities and dissemination in all regions.

Main Programs

The main programs which support the policies of the sector include: Management and Operation; Operation and Maintenance; Manpower Development; Radio and Television Broadcasting; Print Media Development; Libraries; Arts and Humanities; Translation; Folklore, Cultural Heritage and Museums; Research and Studies; and Subsidies.

13.3.5 Financial Allocations: Cultural and Information Services

Table 13.6 shows the Fifth Plan allocations for cultural and information services.
TABLE 13.6

Fifth Plan Financial Allocations: Cultural and Information Services
(SR million)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>Salaries and Supplies</th>
<th>Operations and Maintenance</th>
<th>Projects</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Information</td>
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<td>707.0</td>
<td>4,750.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>King Abdul Aziz Cultural Institute</td>
<td>45.0</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>48.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Antiquities and Museums*</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GPYW*</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>3,418.0</td>
<td>673.0</td>
<td>707.0</td>
<td>4,798.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Program expenditures of the Department of Antiquities and Museums are included under the Ministry of Education in Chapter 12. GPYW expenditures are included in section 13.2 of this chapter.

13.4 RELIGIOUS AND JUDICIAL AFFAIRS

13.4.1 Role and Development Objectives

Since its foundation, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has followed the Sharia as its governing code. As protector of the Holy Places and in compliance with the directives of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, it has a particular duty to Islam and the Islamic states. Through its religious and judicial affairs agencies, the Kingdom preserves Islamic values and supports the propagation and enforcement of the Islamic faith, maintaining at the same time justice and social stability. The Ministry of Justice administers judicial services in accordance with the Sharia as the basis of the legal system in all transactions. The General Presidency for Religious Guidance and Research is responsible for propagation of the faith and for translating, printing and distributing religious books, especially those containing principles of Islamic Call or judicial opinions (Fatawi) on contemporary issues. It is also responsible for the development and dissemination of studies and research in all Islamic fields. The General Presidency for the Holy Mosques provides all services and facilities that assist pilgrims and visitors in performing the Hajj and Umra. The Ministry of Hajj and Endowments, in addition to its responsibility for providing religious guidance, services and care to pilgrims, undertakes the construction and maintenance of mosques and the management of philanthropic endowments. The Morality Committee is responsible for preserving local mores and high standards of public behavior.
The objectives of the Religious and Judicial Affairs agencies are:

- to safeguard Islamic values and traditions;
- to enforce the Sharia;
- to promote understanding and adherence to the teachings and practices of Islam and the Sharia;
- to contribute to social stability;
- to maintain an awareness of creeds contrary to Islamic principles and values.

13.4.2 Achievements and Key Issues

Recent achievements in the sector have been significant. The total area of the Holy Mosque in Makkah was expanded to 310,000 square meters during the Fourth Plan period, in order to accommodate 655,000 worshippers. At the same time, the Prophet’s Mosque in Madinah was expanded to 285,000 square meters to accommodate 362,000 worshippers.

Through its 6 branches and 409 centers the Morality Committee has contributed to deepening the adherence to Islamic principles, teachings and practices. Through its centers in the Kingdom, in the Arab Gulf states (specifically in Bahrain, Dubai, Qatar, Umm al-Qwain) and in other countries around the world, the General Presidency for Religious Guidance and Research has contributed to the propagation of the Islamic faith and to explaining its principles, as well as to printing and distributing Islamic books related to the Islamic Call (Dawa). The Presidency has Islamic callers and preachers in 85 countries.

The Deputy Ministry for Hajj Affairs has provided outstanding facilities and services to pilgrims at all ports of entry in the Kingdom, on roads leading to Makkah and at the Holy Places. It has also provided religious guidance to pilgrims in performing pilgrimage rituals.

The Deputy Ministry for Endowment Affairs has supervised philanthropic endowments and contributed to the improvement of homes for the destitute (Al-Arbatah), in cooperation with the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs. Furthermore, it supported and managed endowed libraries in Makkah, Madinah, Jeddah, Taif and Qassim, and constructed mosques and Eid prayer facilities. The total number of mosques and prayer facilities supervised by this Deputy Ministry exceeded 30,000.

The scope of judicial services during the Fourth Plan has been expanded and the quality improved. The complex to house legal departments in Abha has been completed, as have court buildings in Yanbu, Muhayil, Jubail, Qurayyat and Dawmat Al-Jandal.
In spite of these remarkable achievements, a number of issues must be resolved in order to maintain and increase the level and effectiveness of services.

**To Safeguard Islamic Values and Traditions**

The presence of expatriate workers in the Kingdom, with their beliefs and traditions, and the expansion of trade and cultural interactions require an expansion of religious sector activities to promote a deeper sense of appreciation toward Islamic tenets and ideals, particularly among children and young men and women, so as to nurture among them a positive attitude to their homeland, increase their respect for work, and encourage a positive contribution to society’s development. This also requires extensive training of Islamic Callers, especially in human and social relations.

**Information**

The availability of data processing systems has become a prerequisite for the success of any advanced administrative body. While the Ministry of Justice and many other agencies have been installing computers, an expansion in data systems and the establishment of a data base are necessary to improve the level of service and achieve its objectives.

**Manpower and Judicial Services**

Lack of interest in employment in Judicial Services in general, and particularly in the position of Judge, should be carefully considered. This finding provides the basis for recommendations to review the curricula of Sharia faculties and of the Higher Institute for Judges, to conduct extensive judge training courses that relate closely to social conditions, and to provide incentives that make employment in judicial services attractive.

**Specialization of Judicial Services**

In response to socioeconomic growth, the scope and number of litigations, commercial and legal transactions have expanded, thus requiring an increase in the number of specialized courts (commercial, conjugal, juvenile, traffic), with special emphasis on commercial courts. The geographical distribution of these courts should be related to the growth of each region and its need for judicial services.

**13.4.3 Role of the Government and the Private Sector**

The government has provided ongoing support for the services of the Religious and Judicial Affairs sector and has paid increasing attention to activities such as the dissemination of Holy Koran teachings, the operation of the King Fahd Complex for printing the Holy Koran, the expansion of the Two Holy Mosques in Makkah and Al Madinah and the development of surrounding areas, as well as the management of the Al-Kiswah factory. Among the government activities in this regard are the translation of the Holy Koran and other religious books into several foreign languages, and the distribution of such books within the Kingdom and abroad.
The government also contributes significantly to the preparation of individuals from Islamic countries so that they can become callers and imams in their home countries. Finally, the government provides many services to pilgrims, including rest houses and centers to ensure their comfort, and guidance on matters related to the performance of their religious rites.

The government undertakes the management and proper investment of charity endowments, and takes care of the Al-Arbatah (indigent) population. Among its activities in this connection are the construction and renovation of mosques, Eid prayer facilities, courts, notary public offices and relevant follow-up units.

The private sector has also participated effectively in these activities, as individuals, families, groups and organizations are involved in the provision of religious services. Citizens contribute towards the construction and maintenance of mosques throughout the Kingdom, and in many cases, they assign some philanthropic endowments for the benefit of poor and needy persons.

13.4.4 Policies and Main Programs

The following policies will contribute to the achievement of the sector's development objectives:

- Provide religious and judicial facilities in areas not covered by such services, in addition to supporting existing facilities;

- Disseminate the Islamic Call within the Kingdom and abroad;

- Continue to implement Hajj-related construction projects, such as pilgrim stations and centers for awareness and guidance at the Kingdom’s ports and along highways leading to the Holy Places;

- Support the construction of mosques and Islamic Centers throughout the Kingdom;

- Continue to supervise and direct Guidance (Tawwafah) organizations, and promote their services;

- Intensify procedures for the classification and control of endowments, and increase their revenues;

- Continue to supervise and develop endowed Islamic Libraries;

- Continue to operate and diversify the output of the King Fahd Complex for Koran Printing;
- Improve the performance of the Al Kiswah Factory, and increase its output;

- Increase the number of general and specialized courts, and distribute commercial courts according to the needs of each region;

- Increase the number of notaries public in parallel with urban growth, and commensurate with the Kingdom’s socioeconomic development;

- Increase the number of follow-up units in order to raise the efficiency of judicial work;

- Revise the curricula of the Sharia Colleges and the Higher Institute of Judges in a manner that is consistent with changing social needs;

- Continue to adopt management information systems and establish an effective information base;

- Intensify and diversify training programs in the Religious and Judicial sector in general, and for judicial field staff in particular;

- Provide necessary incentives for judicial field staff.

Main Programs
The following programs will ensure the implementation of the sector’s policies:

Management and Operation
This program aims at providing the funds which are necessary for the administrative and technical staff as well as coverage of ongoing requirements pertaining to the execution of the activities of the Religious and Judicial Affairs Sector.

Maintenance and Operation
This program’s goal is to provide expenditure necessary for maintenance of the sector’s buildings and facilities, in addition to maintenance of the computer systems.

Manpower Development
This program aims at upgrading efficiency of the Religious and Judicial Sector’s manpower through training in universities, institutes, and specialized centers.

Support and Development of Facilities
This program is entrusted with supporting religious agencies and upgrading their capabilities so that they can perform their assignments in an effective manner. This will be accomplished through construction of more facilities, expansion of existing ones, application of advanced technology and establishment of an effective information base.
Development Of Judicial Services

This program aims at the development and facilitation of judicial services for the citizens throughout the Kingdom and at the simplification of work procedures in the courts and notaries public, through the establishment of additional general and specialized courts and notaries public in areas requiring such services. The program also aims at supporting follow-up units, the utilization of advanced technology and the establishment of an effective information base.

13.4.5 Growth Targets During the Fifth Plan

Ongoing projects will be completed during the Fifth Plan period such as: the expansion and development of the two Holy Mosques and surrounding areas, the establishment and improvement of stations, water tanks and shaded areas at the Holy Places, pilgrim guidance centers, Hajj Affairs Office, Awareness exhibitions in Jeddah. Three pilgrim stations will be established in Makkah and Al-Madinah, 175 mosques will be constructed in the various regions of the Kingdom as well as four public libraries. Furthermore, 74 mosques will be renovated throughout the Kingdom, and the construction of private mosques will be supervised. Construction works will be completed for the Dwaddmi and Hail court buildings as well as for the building of the Ministry of Justice in Riyadh. Comprehensive classification and registration of endowments will be carried out. Three housing units will be constructed for the Arbatah population in Makkah, Al Madinah and Jeddah. Fifty (50) general courts will be opened; 11 specialized courts (juvenile, conjugal, traffic, appeal) will be established; 15 notaries public will be established, in addition to the construction of buildings to replace leased buildings for the two religious court complexes in Khamis Mushait and Hafr Al Batin. Thirty (30) general courts will be opened in the various regions of the Kingdom; 5 follow-up units will be established in Qassim, Jizan, Al-Hassa, Abha and Hail, as well as one office for supervising expert affairs.

Furthermore, work will continue on development of the Religious and Judicial sector’s manpower through filling vacancies, and ongoing efforts for realizing Saudization of posts occupied by non-Saudis, in addition to provision of intensive training programs, application of computer and advanced technology, as well as establishment of an effective information base in these agencies.

13.4.6 Financial Allocations: Religious and Judicial Affairs

Table 13.7 shows the Fifth Plan financial allocations for the Religious and Judicial Affairs sector.
TABLE 13.7

Fifth Plan Financial Allocations: Religious and Judicial Affairs
(SR million)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>Salaries and Supplies</th>
<th>Operations and Maintenance</th>
<th>Projects</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Presidency for the Holy Mosques*</td>
<td>495.0</td>
<td>235.0</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>730.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morality Committee</td>
<td>950.0</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>955.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Presidency for Religious Guidance and Research</td>
<td>885.0</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>900.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deputy Ministry for Hajj Affairs</td>
<td>244.8</td>
<td>9.0</td>
<td>22.5</td>
<td>276.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deputy Ministry for Endowment Affairs</td>
<td>5,265.5</td>
<td>1,959.7</td>
<td>456.1</td>
<td>7,681.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Justice</td>
<td>2,712.4</td>
<td>51.7</td>
<td>91.6</td>
<td>2,855.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>10,552.7</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,270.4</strong></td>
<td><strong>575.2</strong></td>
<td><strong>13,398.3</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* These allocations do not cover funds allocated for expansion and development of the Holy Mosques and surrounding areas.