Executive Summary of the National Center for Social Studies (NCSS) for the year

2023

المركز الوطني للدراسات والبحوث الاجتماعية
National Center for Social Studies (NCSS)





In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

Introduction

The National Center for Social Studies (NCSS) was established by the Cabinet Decision No. (220) dated 7/7/1433 AH, and it is considered as an independent legal entity. The center is affiliated with the Minister of Human Resources and Social Development (Chairman of the Board of Directors), headquartered in Riyadh. The center commenced its actual work on 1/7/1436 AH corresponding to 20/4/2015 AD. The center specializes in monitoring social phenomena, development obstacles, identifying their indicators, analyzing them, preparing recommendations and proposals, and providing relevant authorities with results, statistics, and data to aid in planning and decision-making. This is achieved through the center's specialized databases in social affairs. Additionally, the center conducts training programs and workshops aimed at enhancing the capabilities of researchers and professional practitioners in the social field.

Strategic Orientation

Our Vision

To be the most influential social expertise hub in providing solutions to social issues and problems in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Our Mission

To provide effective scientific communication, support ideas and research projects in designing effective solutions to social issues and problems in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Our Values:

- Independence
- Confidentiality
- Transparency
- Benefit and Impact
- Professionalism

Center's Tasks and Mandate

- Conducting theoretical and field social research and studies.
- Monitoring social issues, phenomena, and problems that concern Saudi society, studying them, and finding solutions to them.
- Conducting evaluative research to identify deficiencies in various community programs.
- Publishing scientific research, studies, books, and peer-reviewed manuscripts.
- Issuing a peer-reviewed scientific journal specializing in publishing in various fields of social sciences.
- Developing scientific research methods to assist researchers in social fields.
- Providing scientific and technical consultancy services to public and private social institutions to improve and develop their services.
- Contributing to organizing scientific conferences and workshops for specialists and those interested in social sciences in Saudi, Gulf, and Arab societies.
- Training workers in the social field, whether from within the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development or externally.
- Preparing a central database and information for social studies and research for researchers and specialists in social fields.
- Collaborating with specialized research and study centers in social affairs.

Strategic Objectives of the Center

Social Think Tank

Empowering the Research Community

Developing modern practices and methodologies in the field of social research and qualifying research personnel.

Supporting Decision-Making

Developing social policies and programs, evaluating them, and preparing consultative studies and reports to support social decision-making.

Communication and Coordination

Effective communication and coordination with stakeholders and establishing local and international partnerships.

Annual Evaluation of Key Performance Indicators for the Center for the Year 2023

Performance Indicator Name	Overall Target	Indicator Status [1]	Actual Value	Target Value	Measurement Period	Associated Vision Achievement Program
First Goal: Empowering the Research Community Goal Type: -1 Support for Social Research		Goal Description: A set of programs directed towards researchers and specialists in the social field				
National Research	Studies and Research		11	11	2023	Quality of Life Program
First Priority Research Program for Small Research Projects	Studies and Research		8	8	2023	Quality of Life Program
Priority Research Program submitted by the Coordinating Council for Social Research Centers	Studies and Research		3	3	2023	Quality of Life Program
Research and scientific studies related to family institutions program	Studies and Research		4	4	2023	Quality of Life Program
Scientific arbitration of research	Studies and Research		39	39	2023	Quality of Life Program
Second Goal: Enriching Knowledge in Social Fields						
Journal of Social Research and Studies	Studies and Research		14	14	2023	Human Capacity Development Program
Social Research Award	Studies and Research		First Cycle	Fully Achieved	2023	Quality of Life Program
Qualification, training, workshops, and scientific events	Training and Qualification		90	90	2023	Human Capacity Development Program

Performance Indicator Name	Overall Target	Indicator Status [1]	Actual Value	Target Value	Measurement Period	Associated Vision Achievement Program
Second Goal: Supporting Decision-Makers in Social Affairs Goal Type: -1- Specialized Reports and Consultations:		Goal Description: Providing proposals and solutions based on scientific reports to decision-makers, and providing government entities with results to assist them in developing plans related to social development aspects.				
Executive Summaries Sent to Beneficiary Entities	Reports		7	7	2023	Quality of Life Program
Scientific Papers	Reports		21	21	2023	Quality of Life Program
Third Goal: Effective Communication and Coordination with Stakeholders and Establishing Partnerships Goal Type: Coordination with Specialized Parties in Social Affairs		Goal Description: Coordinating with specialized parties in social affairs.				
Coordinating Council for Social Research Centers	Coordination with specialized research entities		49	50	2023	Human Capacity Development Program
Engagement and communication with relevant entities	Communication and partnerships		139	120	2023	Quality of Life Program

(1) Indicator Status Colors

- On Track: Deviation is %5 and below.
- Behind: Deviation is more than %5 to %15.
- Significantly Behind: Deviation is more than %15.

(2) If started, specify the date; if not started yet, indicate so.

(3) Specify the primary goal type, choosing from the following options:

. Core Agency Strategy.
. Vision-Linked Strategy.
. National Strategy.
. Sectoral Strategy.

Capital and Operational Achievements of the Center during the Year 2023

Firstly: Completed Research Projects

During the reporting year, the center successfully completed and concluded (9) research projects as follows:

04

National Research Program

05

Priority Research Program for Small Research Projects

Secondly: Ongoing Research Projects

The center is currently completing (18) research projects as follows:

07
National Research Program

01
Graduate Student Support Program

03
Priority Research Program submitted by the Coordinating Council for Social Research Centers

04
Research priorities related to family institutions

03
Priority Research Program for Small Projects

Strategic Goals Achievements:

Goal (1) Empowering the Scientific Research Community in the Social Field

The center aims to empower the scientific research community in the social field through a set of programs directed towards researchers and specialists in the social field. To ensure the quality of the scientific work carried out by the center, an internal system has been established to monitor its progress according to its prepared plans and regularly monitor them technically, scientifically, and financially, subjecting its outputs to scientific arbitration.

Firstly: Social Research Support Program (SRS)

The SRS program includes conducting evaluative research for various community programs, supporting national priority research, distinguished research for specialists in social studies, as well as qualifying distinguished researchers in the social field, and supporting the development of scientific and research programs in cooperation and partnership with relevant entities.

Secondly: Knowledge Enrichment Program in Social Fields (Enrichment)

The Enrichment program includes disseminating the results of studies, research, and scientific reports, translating distinguished research and scientific articles to serve researchers and specialists in the social field, conducting specialized discussion panels and workshops, and authoring books and specialized publications in a simplified scientific manner for social awareness and education.

A) Journal of Social Research and Studies:

An electronic peer-reviewed scientific journal issued twice a year by the center, dedicated to publishing modern academic studies and research in the social field. It also focuses on publishing reviews of new books related to social issues and brief reports on international conferences in Arabic. Thus, the journal targets all researchers interested in various social issues to represent a cultural horizon of the scientific research movement in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

B) Social Research Award

The award aims to honor researchers who have contributed research that enhances understanding of social phenomena and issues, identifies challenges facing social development, and finds successful solutions. Additionally, it aims to motivate researchers to be creative and excel in addressing social issues in Saudi society, contributing to improving the quality of life in the Kingdom and achieving the goals of Vision 2030.

The award is granted for research specializing in social issues in Saudi society, including issues of poverty, social justice, women, youth, and childhood. Its components include an appreciation certificate bearing the name and logo of the award and the National Center for Social Studies and Research, a shield bearing the name and logo of the award, and a cash prize of one hundred and fifty thousand Saudi riyals for each of the five categories. The winners of the 2023 cycle are as follows:

Branch	Title of Winning Research	Researchers
Social Issues Branch	"Understanding extremist ideas: The mediating role of psychological well-being in the relationship between family functioning and extremism."	Dr. Enas Obaidallah Surour and Dr. Majda Al-Sayed Ali Al-Kushki.
Poverty and Social Justice Branch	"Community empowerment as an approach to social development: A study on using the grounded theory approach to barriers to practice in rural communities."	Prof. Hassan bin Marshid Al-Dhubaiani.
Youth Issues Branch	"Role of Telephone Counseling in Facing the Problems of Adolescents Suffering from Cyberbullying from the Perspective of Student Counselors."	Dr. Jawhara bint Abdulaziz Al-Zamil.
Women's Issues Branch	: "Women Managing Women: Hierarchical Relationships and Career Impact."	Prof. Jawhara bint Muhammad Aba Al-Khail.
Childhood Issues Branch	"Using the Model, Lead, and Test Technique and 'GoTalk NOW' App to Teach Children with Intellectual and Developmental Delays to Correctly Request."	Prof. Nabeel bin Sharaf Al-Maliki.

Achievements of Strategic Goals:

Goal (2): Supporting Decision-Making in Social Affairs

First: Specialized Reports and Consultations:

Providing proposals and solutions based on scientific reports to decision-makers by supplying government entities with their results to assist them in developing plans related to various aspects of social development. Also, engaging with relevant entities to activate the results of research and studies in social fields conducted by the center, or holding scientific meetings that bring together concerned parties, specialists, and experts in social affairs.

A - Specialized Scientific Papers:

The number of scientific papers in the social field presented at scientific events organized by the center in collaboration with relevant entities reached 21 scientific papers.

B - Social Affairs Report:

Based on the letter from His Excellency the Head of the Royal Court number 47734 dated 3/8/1443 AH, which included the recommendations of the Council of Ministers, which directed, in its third item, the National Center for Social Studies and Research to expedite the issuance of a semi-annual report on social affairs and the social situation in the Kingdom. The center issued six reports (with limited access), covering the first and second halves of 2021, as well as the first and second halves of 2022, and the same in 2023. Each report includes the following topics:

Social Work and the Non-Profit Sector - Divorce - Care and Empowerment of Orphans - Social Support and Protection Program - Alimony - Elderly Services - Domestic Violence and Child Protection - People with Disabilities and the Services Provided to Them - Begging - Volunteer Work - Youth Care - Drugs - Family Counseling.

Achievements of Strategic Goals:

Goal (3): Engaging with Stakeholders and Establishing Local and International Partnerships

First: Coordinating Council for Social Research Centers:

In accordance with Cabinet Decision No. (220) dated 7/7/1433 AH approving the organization of the National Center for Social Studies and Research, and considering the tasks and competencies of the center in providing scientific and technical consultancy services to public and private social institutions to improve and develop their services, and the cooperation with specialized research and study centers in social affairs, the center sought to form partnerships with specialized social research centers by adopting the idea of establishing a coordinating council for entities concerned with social research.

The following are the most prominent achievements of the coordinating council during the year 2023:

1. Collaboration and partnership with specialized research centers in conducting social studies and research and implementing training programs, workshops, and scientific conferences, as well as exchanging information and data between the council and those entities.

2. Completion of the preparation and design of the introductory guide about the coordinating council for social research centers.

3. Completion of the preparation of the advisory guide for research ethics in social and humanitarian sciences, its scientific review, design, and distribution to all researchers and interested parties in social affairs and graduate students.

4. Assignment of the implementation of some priority research in social affairs to some members of the coordinating council.

5. Completion of the preparation of five training kits owned by the coordinating council, aimed at developing skills in the social field for graduate students and researchers.

6. Implementation of a workshop on managing research projects on 15-17/10/2023.

7. Holding the First Scientific Forum (Social Research Centers in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia: Present and Future) in Riyadh on Sunday, 3rd December 2023.

8. Work is ongoing to build an interactive database for council members.

Secondly: Engagements and Communication with Relevant Entities:

A - Partnerships and Collaboration (Communication):

The Partnerships and Collaboration Program aims to build relationships based on partnership, exchange of experiences, and information with governmental bodies, non-profit organizations, and specialized research and studies centers to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of services, programs, and developmental projects in the social field. The Center signed (8) memoranda of understanding in 2023.

In terms of communication, preparing media materials, coordination, participation, and media coverage of events, the Communication Department made efforts in coverage and media participation as follows:

517	04	32	1805	738
media events	advertising campaigns	workshops and events	text messages	graphic designs

B - Participation and Media Coverage:

These include publications, media coverage, text messages, and platforms used for dissemination by the National Center for Social Research and its initiatives, the Coordinating Council for Social Research Centers, and the Social Research Award.

C - Human Capital Development:

In the areas of training and qualification, the Center implemented and participated in 90 training programs, workshops, and scientific events to qualify and enhance the professional and research capabilities of its staff and those working in the social field.

D - Social Activities:

During 2023, the Center participated in a number of specialized social programs and activities, totaling 116 activities.

E - International Participation and Collaboration:

In 2023, the Center held a meeting with the General Secretariat of the Gulf Cooperation Council to discuss ways of cooperation between the two sides.

The Targeted Situation:

01

Achieving excellence in specific research areas by focusing on emerging social issues and phenomena in society, and opening pathways to support urgent research priorities.

02

Supporting decision-makers by specializing in preparing social research and reports specifically for government agencies that require speed in implementation and confidentiality in information.

03

Implementing prospective studies and research in the social domain.

04

Supporting the scientific publishing movement through authorship and translation in the social field.

05

Transitioning to cloud-based systems in line with the directions of the Digital Government Authority.

06

Specializing in building national strategies for research departments within government agencies that fall within the center›s scope and specialization.

07

Establishing an endowment fund for the center in coordination and cooperation with the General Authority of Endowments.

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