Bahrain FinTech Bay — Gulf's First Regulatory-Sandbox-Anchored Fintech Hub

City Innovation Library · Good practice · Bahrain

Quality score: 71/100

Evidence strength: Observational / pre–post

Summary

Launched Feb 2018 by Bahrain's Economic Development Board and 28 partners alongside the region's first central-bank regulatory sandbox, Bahrain FinTech Bay incubated 116+ startups before being absorbed into national payments utility Benefit in 2023.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Evidence of impact / measured results	2/3
Transferability / demonstrated replication	2/3
Scalability	2/3
Sustainability / continuity	3/3
Innovation	3/3
Inclusiveness / equity	0/3
Multi-stakeholder collaboration	3/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

C-NAPSE web research — accessed 2026-08-12

Bahrain FinTech Bay (acquired by Benefit, 2023) — accessed 2026-08-12

Bahrain FinTech Bay — official site — accessed 2026-08-12

Oxford Business Group — Bahrain fintech regulatory sandbox analysis (2024) — accessed 2026-08-12

Fintech News Middle East — Bahrain emerges as regional fintech powerhouse — accessed 2026-08-12

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