



Empowering people: ensuring inclusiveness and equality

For Bangladesh Delegation to
HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM 2019



High-level Political Forum
9-18 July 2019

General Economics Division (GED)

Bangladesh Planning Commission

Ministry of Planning

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

July 2019

Empowering people: ensuring inclusiveness and equality

For Bangladesh Delegation to HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM 2019

First Published : July, 2019

Prepared by
Dr. Shamsul Alam
Nepolean Dewan
General Economics Division (GED)

Published by
General Economics Division (GED)
Bangladesh Planning Commission
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Sher-E-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207

This document is printed with the technical and financial support from **Engaging with institutions (EI)**, IP project, UNDP Bangladesh.

Copyright: General Economics Division (GED), Bangladesh Planning Commission Building-14, Ministry of Planning, Sher-E-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207

Copies Printed : 300

Designed & Printed by
turtle
+880 1925 865 364
67/D (3rd Floor), Green Road, Dhaka-1205

Preface

Empowering people: ensuring inclusiveness and equality

Empowerment is all about ensuring education, financial access, freedom, dignity, and opportunity. These are some of the basic conditions for inclusive development and equity. In its pursuit of economic progress, the underlying mission of becoming a middle income country displays the concern for the poor and marginalized with a strong commitment to ensure that justice and fairness remain the cardinal principles governing the distribution of the fruits of growth. We like to emphasize on policies, institutions and programmes that will support lowering of income inequality and empowering the citizens.

The government of Bangladesh endorses the notion of citizens' empowerment as the creation of economic opportunity, the ability to freely choose one's own path of profession in life in accordance with one's distinctive talents and abilities.

We embrace the idea that development will be meaningful when its benefits are widely shared by all citizens through their participation and empowerment stemming from the strengthening of inclusive institutions within pluralistic democracy being one, but many more institutions spread across various sectors such as gender equality in access to education and employment opportunity, social protection schemes for the poor, elderly and disabled, protecting labour rights to organize and strive for decent wages and safe working conditions. Human capital development, especially by ensuring education and health, is recognized as uniquely powerful force of empowerment.

We have adopted a broad-based strategy of inclusiveness in the national development plan with a view to empowering every citizen to participate and be benefited from the development process. It is a strategy for inclusive growth which empowers people by creating employment opportunities, fostering the scope for greater labour force participation, particularly of women, supporting skill development in response to market demand, enabling access to credit for micro, small and medium enterprises, and improving health and education for people to be more productive.

We also want to recognize that poor people's choices are limited, both by their lack of assets and by their powerlessness to negotiate better terms for themselves with a range of institutions, both formal and informal. In this context, empowerment requires the expansion of assets and capabilities of poor people to participate in, influence, and hold accountable institutions that affect their lives. Accordingly, growth accompanied with poverty reduction are recognized as the means to create assets and capabilities of poor people to facilitate their empowerment.

We consider inclusiveness as a means of equity, equality of opportunity, and protection in market and employment transitions in course of the growth process. If not addressed, systemic inequality of opportunity has the potential to derail the growth process. Thus, inclusiveness is meant to capture more than income, to include opportunity, productive employment, and access to services for the marginalized and physically challenged people.

Taming persistent inequality, a win-win for the economy and its citizens will spur both empowerment and economic advancement. Supporting policies for this avenue of empowerment include policies to boost spending on health, education, gender equality, and worker safety and wellbeing. The Government has developed a new broad-based strategy for social protection known as the Bangladesh National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) and has been in implementation since 2015.

The elimination of extreme poverty, reduction of vulnerability and inequality will all benefit from the implementation of the NSSS. NSSS will provide a strong basis for Bangladesh to extend proper social protection to its poor and vulnerable population. The reforms are considered instrumental in eliminating leakages, improving targeting, increasing the average value of the transfers, lower the risks faced by the poor and vulnerable population, reduce poverty, help reduce income inequality and build social capital. This year's budget (FY2019-20) allocated 2.58 percent of GDP to social protection programs.

However, there are emerging challenges and concerns primarily in the area of reaping the benefit of demographic dividend, making growth employment enhancing, creating better business and investment climate, managing urbanization, minimizing climatic effect, boasting competitiveness and ease of doing business, investing in skill development, making strong Institutions and good governance.

The inclusiveness and equality will be ensured through a range of measures including improving farm productivity and incomes, sharpening the focus on equity aspects of public spending on education, health, family planning; nutrition and water supply, reducing the regional disparity, improving the access of the poor to means of production (fertilizer, seeds, water, electricity and rural roads), improving the access of the poor to institutional finance and scaling up resource on social safety net and social insurance.

The government of Bangladesh is firmly committed to fulfill the aspirations of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) - “leave no one behind”. In recognition of the fact that SDGs are overarching, the Government of Bangladesh has adopted a “whole of society” approach for implementation and attainment of the SDGs, through integrating Agenda 2030 into the five year planning cycles of Bangladesh. In this report we have used the measuring indicators against the targets for which data have been existed and available.

Shamsul Alam Ph.D.

Summary

Quality Education

Bangladesh has immense scope in improving quality education: The government has ample opportunities to implement other SDGs by focusing on improving quality education. The areas that must be addressed include achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in reading and mathematics, increasing participation rate in organized learning at preprimary stage, achieving at least a fixed level of proficiency in functional (a) literacy and (b) numeracy skills, providing access to basic services and facilities such as drinking water, sanitation, computer, internet in schools specially in hard to reach areas, giving at least the minimum organized teacher training among others. Increase in quality of education will accelerate labor productivity and thus will facilitate increasing GDP growth.

Gender Parity is impressive in primary and secondary education: One of the areas that Bangladesh has made significant stride is achieving gender parity in primary and secondary education thanks to government efforts in keeping girl in school although girl's participation in tertiary education and most particularly technical education is considerably low. More efforts are necessary to attract female students in technical education while youth and adult must be equipped with ICT skills.

Decent Work and Economic Growth

Bangladesh has witnessed sustained growth rate of real GDP per capita: Bangladesh's economic success story has been subject to discussion in recent years. With growth rate of above 7 percent over the 4 consecutive years (8.13 percent is projected in 2018-19), growth rate of real GDP per capita continues to grow above 6 percent while annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person remains stable.

While unemployment rate remains constant, proportion of youth not in education, employment or training poses a serious concern: The rate of unemployment has improved but the female unemployment rate is more than double than the male one. On the other hand, 29.8 percent of youth (15-29 years) are not in education, employment or training, of them 10 percent are male and 50 percent are female.

There is a sizable gap between commitment and disbursement of aid for trade:

The difference between aid for trade commitment and disbursement is more than double in the period 2015-17.



Reduced Inequalities

Despite continued effort, income inequality has increased: Although the government is following a pro poor and inclusive growth strategy which combines promoting growth while focusing on poverty reduction, income equality has been on the rise. This has an important policy implications for policy makers on how to make growth pro-poor. From the last Household Income and Expenditure Survey 2016, it is revealed that income Gini coefficient (measure of inequality) has risen up to 0.48 from 0.45 in 2010. Measures have been taken to hold down gini coefficient by increasing social protection expenditures in budgetary allocation.

Both Official Development Assistance (ODA) and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) show upward trend: FDI reached a record US\$ 3613 million in 2018, a staggering 68 percent increase from 2017 thanks to Japanese company's acquisition of a local company worth US\$ 1.47 billion. Despite significant improvement in investment, the country has to improve ease of doing business, for which the government is working to introduce a One Stop Service for business. ODA registers a growth of 17 percent in fiscal year 2018 to US\$ 4662.52 million.

Climate Action

Bangladesh continues to show strong resilience in fighting climate change and disaster: In terms of operationalization of integrated policy/strategy/plan, the country demonstrates its willingness to foster climate resilience. Bangladesh generated its own fund called “Bangladesh Climate Change Trust Fund” to redress the adverse impact of climate change.

The country received little international support relative to its exposure and vulnerability to climate change: Three projects related to adaptive capacities of coastal communities, clean cooking, and climate resilience infrastructure have been supported by Green Climate Fund (GCF) with a total amount US\$ 195 million indicating that the country is in need of capacity for harnessing fund from global sources.

Peace, Justice and Strong Institution

Attention is needed in taming physical, psychological or sexual violence against women: The proportion of women subjected to physical, psychological or sexual violence seems to be high particularly among the poorest households.

Partnership for the Goal

Raising government revenue will require consolidated efforts: Tax GDP ratio and hence revenue GDP ratio is painfully low. Without resource mobilization in the form of tax, implementation of SDGs will be far from satisfactory.

Remittance is bouncing back to its peak: Remittance is considered as one of the major drivers of the sustained growth of the economy. After two years of sluggishness, it is returning back to normal level. Remittance accounts for 5.5 percent of GDP in fiscal year 2018.

Proportion of individuals using internet is rising but not enough to fulfill the vision of digital Bangladesh by 2021: The use of internet is substantially on the rise at individual level, which reached 55.8 percent in 2018 from 30.39 percent from baseline in 2015. However, this rate is not enough considering our dream of digital Bangladesh. Internet has to be made available, cheaper across all areas of the country.



ENSURE INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE QUALITY EDUCATION AND PROMOTE LIFELONG LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

4 QUALITY
EDUCATION



Gender Parity Index (GPI) exceeded 1 at primary and secondary levels of education and has remained above 1 for more than a decade. GPI at tertiary education reached to 0.701 in 2016. Concerted efforts are needed to reverse the direction of change in GPI, at tertiary level.

About half of the students at the end of lower secondary levels were unable to achieve the minimum proficiency in reading Bangla and mathematics and less than 20 per cent students achieved the minimum proficiency in English reading in 2015. The Gross Enrolment Ratio in Pre Primary education has been increasing at a pace of 1.45 percentage points per annum since 2013.

The Government has continued to implement policies and programmes to increase access to education and training, improve quality and relevance of education, and reduce inequality in education and leveraging on knowledge and skills in science, technology and innovation. Despite various government efforts and progress achieved in the education sector in different dimensions significant challenges remain. They concern inclusive and equitable education, quality of education at all levels, quality of teaching, adult literacy and lifelong learning.

4.1 Assessment of Progress on SDG 4

Target 4.1 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes

Indicator 4.1.1 Proportion of children and young people achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in reading and mathematics by sex¹

In 2015, the minimum proficiency in reading Bangla is achieved by 54 per cent of the students at the end of lower secondary level with 55 per cent boys and 54 per cent girls. English reading proficiency is achieved by only 19 per cent students with 22 per cent boys and 18 per cent girls. A higher percentage

of boys are proficient in all these subjects. The low proportion of students achieving minimum proficiency in English, which is the second language in schools, is alarming. In mathematics the minimum proficiency is achieved by 57 per cent of the students with 62 per cent boys and 52 per cent girls (LASI 2015).

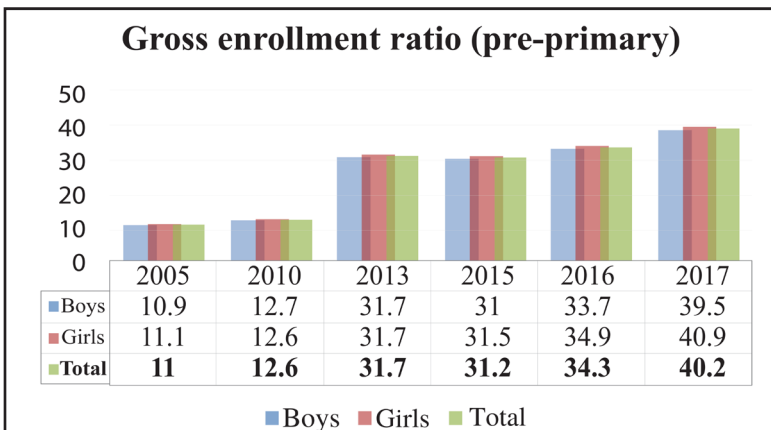
Target 4.2 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education

1. *Measuring indicators were selected for which data are available.*

Indicator 4.2.2 Participation rate in organized learning (one year before the official primary entry age)

“National Education Policy 2010” has emphasized the inclusion of pre-primary education in the school system. Informal baby classes have existed for pre-school age children of less than 6 years along with government primary school from long ago. The major objective of baby classes in primary school is to adapt children to the school environment to avoid drop out later on. Early Childhood Development (ECD) has shown a lot of promise in terms of equalizing learning outcomes, such as enrolment, retention, and cognitive development among children from diverse backgrounds.

Figure 1: Gross enrollment ratio



Source: World Development Indicators, World Bank

GER more than tripled between 2005 and 2017. The GER for girls has been marginally higher than for boys. The scaling of GER has consisted of two major initiatives: First, creating a national curriculum, training materials and an additional 37,762 assistant teacher posts for Pre-Primary Education. Second, School Learning Improvement Plan (SLIP) has been complementing to devolve decision-making and planning on pre-primary to the grassroots level.

Target 4.5 By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations

Indicator 4.5.1. Gender Parity Indices in Education

In the beginning of the new millennium GPI exceeded 1 at primary and secondary levels of education and has remained above 1 with annual fluctuations. Tertiary level GPI almost tripled in the beginning of the new millennium from its level in 1990. It has continued to improve but was still below one in 2015.

Table 1: Gender Parity Index in Education, 2000-2017

Levels of education	2005	2011	2013	2015	2016	2017
Primary	1.046	1.059	1.044	1.08	1.06	1.07
Secondary	1.066	1.152	1.083	1.129	1.105	1.17
Tertiary	0.521	0.693	0.737 (2014)	NA	0.701	0.70
Technical	0.350	0.297 (2010)	0.394	0.315	0.315	NA

Sources: World Development Indicators, World Bank

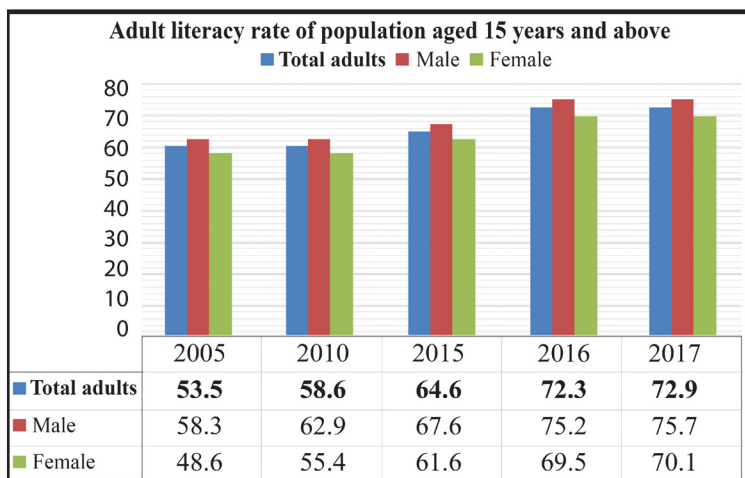
Government programs increasing physical access to schools, food for education/cash for education programs for girls at the primary level and stipend and tuition programs at the secondary level have been very crucial in rapid increase in girls' school enrolment.

Target 4.6 By 2030, ensure that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy

Indicator 4.6.1 Percentage of population in a given age group achieving at least a fixed level of proficiency in functional (a) literacy and (b) numeracy skills, by sex

There was acceleration in the adult literacy rate during the last decade. The literacy rate was close to 52 per cent in 2000. There has been sustained increase in the adult literacy rate reaching 72.9 per cent in 2017 with 75.7 male and 70.1 per cent female.

Figure 2: Adult literacy rate of population aged 15 years and above



Source: BBS, Report on Sample Vital Registration Statistics, various years

Target 4.A Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all

Indicator 4.a.1 Proportion of schools with access to basic services and facilities

Coverage of schools by basic services is uneven varying from 82 per cent schools having basic drinking water to less than 1 per cent having internet and computers for pedagogical purposes. Bangladesh's efforts to ensure safe water and sanitation throughout the country have resulted in wider coverage of schools by water and sanitation services.

4.C By 2030, substantially increase the supply of qualified teachers, including through international cooperation for teacher training in developing countries, especially least developed countries and small island developing States

Indicator 4.c.1 Proportion of teachers who have received at least the minimum organized teacher training for teaching at the relevant level

Teachers play a pivotal role in ensuring the quality education in an institution. Ideally all teachers should receive appropriate pedagogical training to teach at the relevant level of education. They should also be well-qualified in the subjects they teach. The only data available on teachers receiving organized teacher training is that of primary level teachers receiving DPED/C-in-Ed training. The proportion of primary school teachers with C-in-Ed degree has been rising reaching to 75.5% in 2016 from 73 per cent of total teachers in 2015.

Table 2: Percentage of C-in-Ed teachers in primary schools

	2015	2016
% of C-in-Ed Teachers	73	75.5

Sources: Annual Primary School Census various years, Ministry of Primary and Mass Education

4.2 Government Efforts

The broad goal of the education sector is to increase access to education and training, improve quality and relevance of education, reduce inequality as well as leverage on knowledge and skills in science, technology and innovation for global competitiveness.

The Government has been implementing certain programs/projects which contribute to achieving the education sector targets. A succession of programs titled “Primary Education Development Program (PEDP)” is being implemented in phases to support primary education and PEDP 4 has also been approved in the ECNEC Secondary Education Development Program (SEDP) has been adopted for the period 2017/18 to 2022/23 to support secondary education covering grades 6-12 as well as post 12 grade technical and vocational education and training. Higher Education Quality Enhancement Project is being implemented to support quality improvement initiatives at the tertiary level in both public and private universities with the aim to delineate strategies to accelerate reform in the education sector.

4.3 Key Challenges

Bangladesh made significant progress in increasing enrolment rate at different levels of education in the past. However, the country faces considerable challenge in ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all.

Quality is a major concern at all levels of education beginning at the primary level which spills over to successive levels of education. The quality and

relevance of higher education and training are inadequate to meet the skills demand of the labour market. Bangladesh will need to design lifelong learning programs including workplace learning, continuous professional development, refresher courses, orientation programs, open learning, distance learning and e-learning for sustaining economic growth and employment generation.

4.4 Way forward

The primary and secondary education systems should focus on (a) access to ensure that all school age children of different socio-economic groups, regions, ethnicity and health status attend schools; (b) retention in school; and (c) improved teaching-learning of foundational skills through appropriate curriculum and pedagogy skills, management of teachers focusing on fair selection and recruitment, pre-service training, professional development and continuous assessment.

School and teacher performance at school level can be improved through (a) articulating and consistently measuring standards of performance for students and teachers and schools; (b) enhancing teacher performance through quality pre-service and relevant in-service training and continuous lifetime education and (c) enhancing accountability and incentives for good performance of teachers and schools.

Quality and relevance of tertiary education can be improved through (a) infrastructural development at the universities; (b) establishing more public universities focusing on science and technology; (c) updated curricula to provide knowledge, skills and relevant competencies; (d) restructuring and empowering University Grants Commission (UGC) to ensure accountability and transparency in the higher education sector led by eminent educationists; (e) inclusion of experts, employers and expert alumni in curriculum design; (f) establishing effective institutions-industry linkages through partnership in research and development, experience sharing, and internships; (g) implementing the Quality Assurance Mechanism; (h) develop promotion system based on comprehensive performance assessment, and (i) operationalization of competency based skills qualifications, and recognition system in the TVET sector.

High quality research and innovation has to be encouraged in both public and private universities through (a) development of research infrastructure and enabling research environment (b) access to competitive research funding; (c) inter-university, university-industry and university-national research organizations collaboration; (d) partnerships with foreign universities and international institutions; and (e) partnerships with Non-resident Bangladeshis.



PROMOTE SUSTAINED, INCLUSIVE & SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH, FULL & PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT & DECENT WORK FOR ALL

8 DECENT WORK AND
ECONOMIC GROWTH



Bangladesh has made an upward shift in the average annual growth rate to more than 7 per cent in the recent years (FY2015-FY2018) and an 8 percent in the last year from the 6-7 per cent rate experienced earlier. This coupled with slower population growth led to increasing per person GDP growth and the country is nearly on track to achieve the 2020 target. The estimated unemployment rate in Bangladesh has been closer to 4 per cent for a long time and it can be reasonably expected to remain closer to this long run level in the near future.

There has been sustained improvement in financial inclusion which will contribute to growth and poverty reduction. There has been gradual improvement in financial inclusion variables in recent years indicating increased access of households and businesses to financial services.

Increasing informality which undermines government efforts to ensure decent jobs and higher unemployment rate of women and persons aged 15-29 years that need to be addressed to achieve the 2020 targets. About 29 per cent of youth was not in education, not in employment (NEET) in the base year (2015) which increased to about 30 per cent in the following year. While the proportion of youth male NEET is closer to 10 per cent the proportion of youth female is closer to 50 per cent in 2016/17.

Achieving SDG 8 targets face some key challenges concerning increasing informality in job market, high youth unemployment rate, skills demand and supply mismatch, low female labour force participation, low inflow of foreign resources – ODA and FDI, workplace injuries, child labour and problems involving migration of workers. The Government's growth enhancing and job creating policies and programmes would be revamped by other policies and programmes such as increasing growth through diversification of the economy, better integration of education system and labour market, enhancing women employment opportunities, lifelong education and attracting more external resources.

8.2 Assessment of Progress on SDG 8

Target 8.1 Sustain per capita economic growth in accordance with national circumstances and, in particular, at least 7 per cent gross domestic product growth per annum in the least developed countries

Indicator 8.1.1 Annual growth rate of real GDP per capita

In the recent years Bangladesh has attained sustained impressive economic growth which contributed to its transition from low – to lower middle income country status in July 2015 and graduation in the first triennial consideration from least developed to a developing country status in March 2018.

In 2018 real growth in GDP per capita has increased to 6.61 per cent from 5.14 per cent in the baseline year of 2015. The substantial growth in real GDP of 7.86 per cent combined with successful population management policy as reflected in falling population growth rate of 1.16 per cent per annum in 2017 as well falling TFR of women aged 15-49 years 2.05 per woman in 2018 contributed to accelerate per capita income growth. As a result, per capita GDP grew substantially from US\$ 757 in 2010 to US\$ 1675 in June 2018 to US\$ 1827 in 2019.

Target 8.2 Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high-value added and labour-intensive sectors

Indicator 8.2.1 Annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person

Growth rate of real GDP per employed person increased to 4.99 per cent in 2016 from 4.49 per cent in 2015. According to the 2017 labour force survey number of persons employed, defined as persons in employment or engaged in economic activity in the age group of 15 years and above, is 60.8 million (55.8 percent of the total), up by 2.18 per cent over the previous year. This employed population comprises 33.9 per cent women and 29.5 per cent in the younger age group of 15-29 years and 66.5 per cent in adult group of 30-64 years. Annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person has been increasing early.

Table 3: Economic growth (per cent)

	Baseline 2015	2015-16	2016-17
8.1.1 Annual growth rate of real GDP per capita	5.14	5.77	6.05
8.2.1 Annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person	4.49	4.99	5.0

Source: BBS

Target 8.3 Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services.

Indicator 8.3.1 Proportion of informal employment in non agriculture employment, by sex

According to the recent labour force survey of 2016-17, informal employment comprises 85.1 per cent with 82.1 per cent male and 91.8 per cent female. Non-agriculture sector, comprising industry and services sectors, account for 59.4 per cent of the total employment, formal and informal combined. The proportion of informal employment in the non-agriculture sector employment has increased slightly from 77.5 per cent in 2015 to 78 per cent in 2016.

In the informal sector, 15-29 year old youth population accounts for 31 per cent of employment, declined from 35.6 per cent in 2015. For the 30-64 year group, informal sector employment has increased from 62.4 per cent in 2015 to 64.9 per cent in 2017. The shift in the age structure of employment implies that workers delay in entering the labour market as well as it takes longer time to get absorbed in the labour market.

Target 8.5 By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value

Indicator 8.5.1 Average hourly earnings of female and male employees, by occupation, age and persons with disabilities

According to the recent BBS survey, average monthly wage has improved slightly in FY 2016-17 over the baseline amount of Tk. 12,897 although real wage has declined for both male and female workers in the last 4 years. Average monthly wage in FY 2016-17 was Tk. 13,258 which was estimated at Tk. 14,152 in 2013.

Reduction in wage rate for female workers is estimated to be 3.8 per cent in 2016 compared to 1.9 per cent for male workers from the 2013 figure indicating greater degree of wage disparity between male and female for the same type of work. In 2016, average wage for male and female workers is estimated at Tk. 13,583 and Tk. 12,254 respectively.

Indicator 8.5.2 Unemployment rate, by sex, age and persons with disabilities
The rate of unemployment does not show any noticeable change during the period from 2013 to 2017 when it varied between 4.2 and 4.3 per cent. The overall unemployment situation has marginally improved in the recent years, from 4.6 per cent in 2010 to 4.2 per cent in 2017. The female labour has experienced higher unemployment marked with declining trend since 2013. Female unemployment rate is more than double the male unemployment rate. Unemployment rate for male has increased marginally from 3 per cent in 2013 to 3.1 per cent in 2016. Among all the age groups, 15-24 age group youth has the highest unemployment rate of 12.3 per cent in 2017 which declined from 20.6 per cent in 2015-16 (BBS).

The estimated unemployment rate in Bangladesh has been closer to 4 per cent for a long time. Increasing informality which undermines government efforts to ensure decent jobs and higher unemployment rate of women and persons aged 15-29 years need to be addressed in a planned manner.

Target 8.6 By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training

Indicator 8.6.1 Proportion of youth (aged 15-24 years) not in education, employment or training (NEET)

About 29.8 per cent of youth (aged 15-29 years) was not in education, employment or training (NEET) in the base year which increased to about 30 per cent in the following year. While the proportion of youth male NEET is closer to 10 per cent the proportion of youth female is about 50 per cent in 2016-17.

Table 4: Proportion of youth not in education, not in employment (NEET)

	Baseline 2015	2016-17
8.6.1 Proportion of youth (aged 15-24 years) not in education, employment or training (Per cent)	28.88 (M: 9.9, F: 46.9)	29.8 (M-10.3; F-49.6)

Source: BBS, QLF5 2015-16 and 2016-17

Target 8.7 Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms

Indicator 8.7.1 Proportion and number of children aged 5-17 years engaged in child labour, by sex and age

In 2010, the National Child Labour Policy was formulated with the objective of making meaningful changes in the lives of the children by withdrawing them from all forms of labour including the hazardous work and worst forms of child labour. The Child Labour Survey 2013 is the most recent survey conducted in Bangladesh. According to the survey, 8.7 per cent (3.45 million) of the 39.65 million population in the age group of 5-17 years are classified as working children, 4.3 per cent (1.7 million) as child labour, and 3.2 per cent (1.28 million) as engaged in hazardous child labour.

Target 8.8 Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment

Indicator 8.8.1 Frequency rates of fatal and non-fatal occupational injuries, by sex and migrant status

Recent data on occupational injuries indicate that significant improvement has taken place at the workplaces that is reflected through substantial reduction in fatal injuries from 382 in 2015 to 75 in 2016, the target set for 2030. On the other hand, non-fatal injuries have increased substantially to 488 in 2017 from 246 in 2015.

Table 5: Fatal and non-fatal occupational injuries

	Baseline 2015	2016	2017
8.8.1 Frequency rates of fatal and non-fatal occupational injuries, by sex and migrant status (per year)	a)Fatal injuries: 382 (Male: 362 Female: 20) b)Non-fatal injuries: 246 (Male:177; Female: 19)	a)Fatal injuries: 103 (Male: 124 Female: 08) b)Non-fatal injuries: 90 (Male: 62 Female: 39)	Fatal injuries: 75 (Male:105 Female:27) Non-fatal injuries: 488 (Male:285 Female: 248)

Source: MoLE, Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishments

Target 8.10 Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and expand access to banking, insurance and financial services for all

Indicator 8.10.1 (a) Number of commercial bank branches per 100,000 adults and (b) number of automated teller machines (ATMs) per 100,000 adults

In 2016, number of commercial bank branches for every 100,000 adults increased to 8.57 in 2017 from 8.37 in 2015. Access to ATMs has also improved significantly in the recent years, from 6.79 in 2015 to 8.07 in 2017 indicating increasing financial accessibility.

Table 6: Financial Inclusion Indicators

	2010	Baseline 2015	2016	2017
8.10.1 (a) Number of commercial bank branches per 100,000 adults and (b) number of automated teller machines (ATMs) per 100,000 adults	(a) 7.44 (b) 2.05	(a) 8.37 (b) 6.89	(a) 8.44 (b) 7.77	(a) 8.57 (b) 8.07

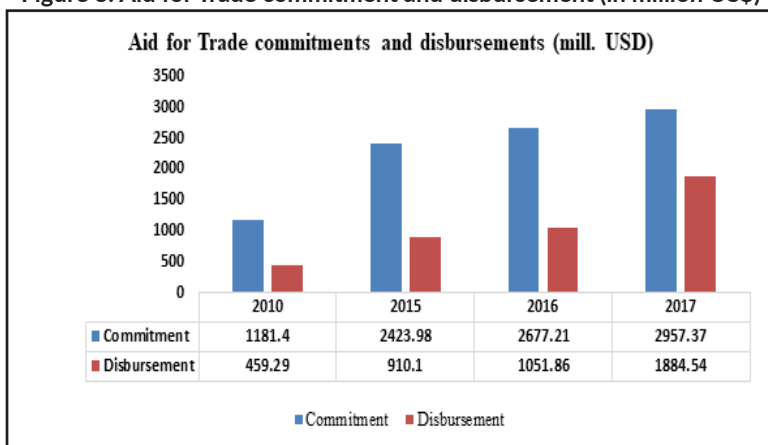
Source: World Development Indicators, World Bank

Target 8.A Increase Aid for Trade support for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, including through the Enhanced Integrated Framework for Trade-Related Technical Assistance to Least Developed Countries

Indicator 8. A.1 Aid for Trade commitments and disbursements

Bangladesh received US\$ 7617.88 million as aid for trade during the period 2010-2017 against commitment of US\$ 15670.69 million indicating yawning gap between commitment and disbursement. The difference between aid for commitment and disbursement is more than double in the period 2015-17. Aid for Trade is provided to improve trade logistics and trade related institutions.

Figure 3: Aid for Trade commitment and disbursement (in million US\$)



Source: Query Wizard for International Development Statistics, OECD

8.3 Key challenges

The economy has to create more jobs and more productive jobs to absorb the flow of new entrants with higher average schooling. The majority of workers are employed in the informal sector. Unemployment rates among youths continue to be a cause of concern. There seems to be some inconsistencies between skills demand and supply. In the formal sector where about 15 per cent of the labour force is engaged, half of the employment demands are for less than secondary education graduates. High cost of migration, fraudulent practices, substitution of contracts in destination countries and unacceptable conditions of work and living constrain the outward flow of workers.

Female labour force participation (FLFP) remains low (36.3%) by international standards (49%) and while women's education at higher secondary level and above is now widespread, highly educated women face high unemployment rates, much higher than those for comparably educated men. FDI along

with other sources of foreign resources will be important for attaining SDGs including the growth and decent work goal. The net annual FDI flow has been low and concentrated on a few sectors such as textiles and apparels, telecommunication, energy and power although this year FDI reached to 3.61 US\$ billion thanks to increasingly improving favourable business environment. The challenges remain in improving ease of doing business and introducing One Stop Service (OSS), improving service delivery particularly in the ports.

8.4 Way forward

The economy needs to grow at a higher rate at least 8 per cent per annum to absorb the surplus labour force. Since manufacturing will be the main driver of growth, it has to grow at the rate of 12-15 per cent per annum during the next 15 years (ADB and ILO, 2016).

At the same time the economy has to diversify its production structure. Bangladesh has been succeeded in creating manufacturing employment especially employment for women by expanding labour intensive textiles and garment industry. There is a need for diversification with more such industries growing with diversified market destinations.

The education system needs to provide more skill which the labour market requires. Second, there has to be effective communications between educational and training institutions and employers. There has to be systematic support to the graduates of educational and training institutions for job placement. The employers have to regularly communicate with the educational and training institutions about their skill needs.

Bangladesh has to address the multifarious barriers faced by women in order to enhance their labour force participation rate. The Government has developed legal framework to address issues such as child marriage and violence against women.

Foreign direct investment has been gradually increasing in Bangladesh but the absolute amount is still low and focused on few sectors. As FDI not only augments investment but also brings new technology and management skills which have spill over effects. Bangladesh should attract larger volume of FDI as part of its strategy to mobilize significantly bigger amount of resources for achieving accelerated growth, poverty reduction and employment generation.

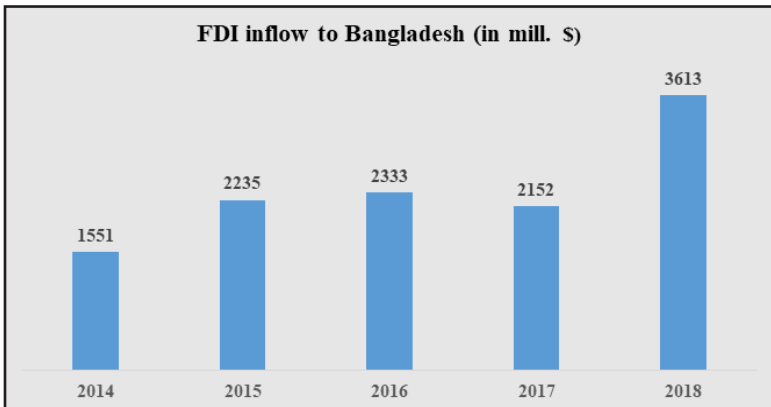
REDUCE INEQUALITY WITHIN AND AMONG COUNTRIES



The Government has been following a pro-poor development strategy which combines promotion of economic growth and reduction of poverty and inequality. While the policies have been largely effective in enhancing growth and reducing poverty but they have not succeeded that much in reversing the worsening income distribution. According to recent available data (HIES 2016) income inequality has increased while consumption inequality has remained relatively stable.

There have been some developments with regard to reducing inter-country income inequality. Bangladesh has adopted Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Policy 2016 in January, 2016 with a view to ensuring and encouraging safe migration and protection of migrants and their families.

Official development assistance has an increasing trend which has continued in the SDGs period. Foreign Direct Investment shows an increasing trend reaching US\$ 3613 million in 2018, a staggering 68 percent increase from 2017.



The increasing inequality which has implications for poverty reduction and relative deprivation poses a challenge confronting Bangladesh. Partly it is a problem of the inability to bring all types of income under progressive taxation and partly a problem of not being able to appreciably increase the share of expenditure on education, health, rural development, and social protection in total government expenditure.

More focused policies and programmes, other than reinvigorated social protection programmes which have larger impact on reducing inequality have been identified. These include better governance and institutions to combat transfer of income and wealth through rent seeking behavior, corruption in public procurement and spending, illegal land grabbing, and transparent delivery of public services.

10.2 Assessment of Progress on SDG 10

For over a decade (FY2010-11 to FY2017-18) Bangladesh grew at an average annual rate of 6.7 per cent. The growth rate increased to 7.11 per cent in 2015-16 and increased further to 7.86 per cent in 2017-18. Based on IMF, World Economic Outlook data base Bangladesh has been found to be one of the top 20 high growth performing countries in the world during the last 10 years (2008-2017). Further according to IMF World Economic Outlook 2019, Bangladesh is among the three fastest growing economy in the world. However, sustained growth has not been associated with declining income inequality. On the contrary inequality shows an increasing trend with periodic fluctuations. Gini coefficient, a common measure of the degree of inequality in the distribution of income (or consumption) increased from 0.338 in 1991-92 to 0.467 in 2005 which was followed by a marginal decline to 0.458 in 2010. During the period 2000-2010 income Gini was stable around 0.45. The latest HIES (2016) shows that Gini is back to its long run trend with a value of 0.483 in 2016 indicating an increase in income inequality in the last six years.

Remarkably, consumption Gini has been lower than income Gini and has remained relatively stable around 0.32 during the 2010-2016 period. This implies that the consumption expenditure of the poorer segments of the population has grown closely in line with average growth with positive impact on poverty reduction (as poverty is measured in terms of consumption expenditure not in terms of income).

Target 10.7 Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies

Indicator: 10.7.1 Recruitment cost borne by employee as a percentage of yearly income earned in the country of destination

At present, around 10 million Bangladeshis are working in 161 countries around the globe and have been sending remittance which contributes to economic growth and poverty reduction. A larger proportion of temporary workers could have migrated and sent remittance but having complaint of high recruitment cost. In this context, the Government decided to reduce the cost of recruitment as proportion of annual income of migrant workers based on the migration cost and income in 17 countries in 2016 which have been used as baselines. It may be noted that recruitment cost/yearly income ratio varies from 10 per cent in Qatar to 67 per cent in Egypt in the baseline year.

Target 10.A Implement the principle of special and differential treatment for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, in accordance with World Trade Organization agreements

Indicator 10.a 1 Proportion of tariff lines applied to imports from least developed countries with zero tariffs

The proportion of tariff lines applied to imports from least developed countries with zero tariffs remains the same as Doha round negotiation of WTO.

Target 10.B Encourage official development assistance and financial flows, including foreign direct investment, to States where the need is greatest, in particular least developed countries, African countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, in accordance with their national plans and programmes

Indicator 10.b.1 Total resource flows for development by type of flow (e.g. official development assistance, foreign direct investment and other flows)

Official development assistance has an increasing trend which has continued in the SDG period. Foreign direct investment shows an increasing trend with annual fluctuation and reached US\$ 4662.52 million in 2018. On the other hand, official development assistance continued to increase to US\$ 4662.52 million in 2017-18.

Table 7: Resource flows for development by type of flows (US \$ million)

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
ODA	3104.50	3349.40	3966.28	4662.52
FDI*	2235.39	2332.72	2151.56	3613.30

Source: ERD *calendar year

10.3 Government efforts to reduce inequality

The Government has been following a pro-poor development strategy which combines promotion of economic growth and reduction of poverty and inequality. The policies that aimed to reduce inequality include employment generation and enhancing labour productivity and wages, development of human capital- education and training, health and nutrition, with greater access to poor, development of lagging regions, increased spending on social protection and improving its effectiveness, expansion of micro-credits and loans to SMEs, emphasis on agriculture and rural development, undertaking tax reforms focusing on progressive personal income taxation. It may be pointed out that the proportion of government expenditure on social protection has increased to 2.44 per cent of GDP in FY2017-18 from 2.02 per cent in FY 2014-15.

10.4 Key Challenges

The increasing inequality or growing concentration of wealth which has implications for poverty reduction and relative deprivation poses a challenge confronting Bangladesh. Tax reform to bring all types of income under progressive taxation could not be fully implemented.

Remittance-led SMEs in the rural community can be promoted to address economic empowerment of women as well as alleviation of poverty in their locality. More targeted financial support, necessary training can facilitate SMEs development. Particular attention should be paid to enhancing the regulation of financial entities providing credit and micro-credit. Entrepreneurs should also be offered information and opportunities for training and support protection against risks e.g. insurance, to prevent them from failing into unsustainable debt burden. The Government is also working to help reintegrate the returnees with the mainstream socio-economic activities of the country.

10.5 Way forward

The Government is cognizant of the upward trend of inequality in the country and its implications for growth and poverty reduction. An important way to reduce inequality is to ensure access of all people especially the poor and the disadvantaged to quality education and health services. This helps the poor to break the cycle of poverty by getting better jobs and also helps increase the rate of growth as well as improve income distribution.

Micro-credit helps accumulate assets by the poor and get out of poverty. Similarly, SME loans help accumulate assets of micro and small entrepreneurs and create jobs for less skilled workers.

The Government has been expanding coverage of social protection to the poorest people, and improving the timing of safety net responses to mitigate the effects of various natural disasters and global shocks, to ensure that growth remains inclusive.

Migration of workers and its appropriate role in promoting pro poor growth needs to be emphasized. In this context migration will also be mainstreamed with national development process. Expatriate Welfare and Overseas Employment Policy 2016 has been adopted in March 2016. Awareness building efforts are their among the aspirant workers so that they are not exploited through their expatriate friends, family members and employees.

TAKE URGENT ACTION TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS IMPACTS

13 CLIMATE ACTION



Number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population (Indicator 13.1.1) now stands at 12,881 with a target of reducing to 6500 by 2020 and 1500 by 2030. Given the track record of Bangladesh in disaster management, this target will not be difficult for her to achieve. MoDMR has prepared Disaster Risk Reduction Strategies of Bangladesh (2016-2020) in line with the Sendai Framework which will be helpful in this regard.

In facing the climate change scenarios, Bangladesh is well prepared with a number of climate change related strategies, plans and actions. Through BCCTF, it has spent around 2700 crores of taka over last 8 years in climate change adaptation. Revision of BCCSAP and preparation of NAP is already underway. International cooperation and funding are also forthcoming. It has received grants from GCF for three projects related to adaptive capacities of coastal communities, clean cooking, climate resilient infrastructures in 2018.

13.2 Assessment of progress

Target 13.1 Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries

Indicator 13.1.1 Number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population

Impacts of climate change are visible in Bangladesh in the form of temperature extremes, erratic rainfalls and increased number of intensified floods, droughts, and prevalence of rough weather in the Bay of Bengal. From Bangladesh Disaster-related Statistics 2015, it is reported that about 13 percent households and 12.65 percent population live in disaster prone area. The number of persons affected by disaster per 100,000 people is counted as 12,881 in 2014.

Indicator 13.1.2: Number of countries that adopt and implement national disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030

Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR) has prepared Disaster Risk Reduction Strategies of Bangladesh (2016-2020) in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and other international protocol ratified by the Government of Bangladesh.

Target 13.2 Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning

13.2.1: Number of countries that have communicated the establishment or operationalization of an integrated policy/strategy/plan which increases their ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change, and foster climate resilience and low greenhouse gas emissions development in a manner that does not threaten food production (including a national adaptation plan, nationally determined contribution, national communication, biennial update report or other)

Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (BCCSAP): BCCSAP (2009-2018) is the key climate change national action plan and basis for climate investment in Bangladesh. BCCSAP provides an overall framework for action, recognizing the need for adaptation and highlighting the GoB's willingness to follow a low carbon pathway towards achieving development. BCCSAP is a strategy/plan and a basic reference for aligning investments adapting with climate change objectives.

A roadmap for developing the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) was prepared in 2015, supported by the Norwegian Government. Institutional arrangements have been set up for the NAP process, through the formulation of an Inter-Ministerial Steering Committee, a Technical Advisory Committee and a core NAP formulation team. The Government of Bangladesh has prepared and enacted the Climate Change Trust Act 2010 to address the adverse impacts of climate change. Bangladesh was the first government to set up a trust fund namely 'Bangladesh Climate Change Trust Fund' to create a national resource for climate change investments with the aim to support implementation of the BCCSAP. Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC): INDC (now National Determined Contributions – NDC), lays out adaptation and mitigation strategies to increase climate resilience.

Target 13.B Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries and Small Island developing States, including focusing on women, youth and local, and marginalized communities

Indicator 13.b.1 Number of least developed countries and small island developing States that are receiving specialized support, and amount of support, including finance, technology and capacity-building, for mechanisms for raising capacities for effective climate change-related planning and management, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities

In 2018, Bangladesh has already received funding from Green Climate Fund (GCF) for the following three projects:

1. *Global Clean Cooking Program – Bangladesh; Removing barriers in the development of a sustainable market for the adoption of improved cook stoves in Bangladesh.*

About 66 percent of Bangladesh's population live in rural areas, where women predominantly do the cooking using traditional and wood fueled stoves. Burning wood for cooking releases carbon dioxide, methane and black carbon. It also leads to deforestation and negative health impacts, causing an estimated 46,000 casualties every year in Bangladesh. Currently only 3 to 5 percent of households in the country use improved cook stoves.

2. *Enhancing adaptive capacities of coastal communities, especially women, to cope with the impacts of climate-induced salinity*

The strengthening of adaptive capacities in this project is projected to reduce the adverse impacts to agricultural livelihoods that are freshwater dependent, and to address the availability and quality of drinking water in vulnerable coastal communities. This community-based approach in planning and managing climate-resilient water supply targets the highly vulnerable, specifically women and girls.

3. *Climate resilient infrastructure mainstreaming in Bangladesh*

This project is aimed to develop urban infrastructure and safeguard vulnerable people from climate risk in rural coastal region of Bangladesh. With a lifespan of six years, the project costs estimated has been US\$ 80 million.

13.3 Key Challenges

Over the years, the country has invested heavily in disaster management infrastructures such as flood embankments, flood shelters, cyclone shelters etc. due to which mortality rate has fallen significantly in recent times. However, many of such structures are suffering from lack of proper operation and maintenance. As a result, when disaster strikes the structures fail to provide adequate protection. Rehabilitation of these structures after a disaster is also becoming a major problem due to requirement of large funds. As a case in point is the considerable time required to rehabilitate the coastal polders after Cyclones Sidr in 2007 and Aila in 2009. People within the polder had to suffer for long time as the polders remained water congested in the meantime. Such situations will become more common as cyclones and floods are expected to be more frequent due to climate change.

13.4 Way forward

Bangladesh is a signatory to Paris Climate Agreement. According to this agreement, Bangladesh can expect adaptation fund from industrialized countries. Significant funding will be required to build a disaster resilient future for the country. It is only fair that Bangladesh receives such funding from industrialized countries. Some funding are being made through Green Climate Fund of which Bangladesh has been a recipient in recent times. In order to maximize the gathering and utilization of such highly competitive funds, the country needs to build institutional capacity and mainstream climate policies. Moreover, the government needs to undertake steps to effectively implement the Delta Plan 2100, a forward looking plan which has been adopted to address climate change adverse impacts.



The victims of intentional homicide reduced significantly. Appropriate measures undertaken by the government of Bangladesh contributed significantly to improving human trafficking and youth mental and physical abuse. Improvement has also taken place in other vital sectors. For example, number of victims of human trafficking declined more than the required rate in the past couple of years. If the current average performance continues, majority of the SDG targets of Goal 16 will be achieved ahead of the estimated time frame.

Some important challenges to ensuring peace and justice include lack of comprehensive and updated data on various types of offences, proper enforcement of laws, capacity of the judicial system to handle heavy volume of cases and lack of reporting/timely reporting of incidence of violence/crime.

To build effective and accountable institutions and combat corruption in public service the Government has been implementing some governance related initiatives, e.g., Annual Performance Agreement (APA), Citizen Charter, National Integrity Strategy (NIS), and Grievance Redress System (GRS). These tools will ensure creation of more responsive and corruption free public institutions in the future.

16.2 Assessment of Progress on SDG 16

Despite significant improvement in the intentional homicide victim rates, reported in the official statistics, violence and insecurity remains a reality in Bangladesh. In particular, violence against women is quite common and a major issue in the society. Due to social reasons, rate of reporting such incidence to others is quite low. However, the 2015 survey on 'Violence Against Women Survey' indicates that 72.6 per cent of the ever-married women experienced some form of violence at least once in their lifetime by their husband. A large proportion of them also suffered injuries due to physical or sexual violence.

Also, 27.8 per cent of women reported incidence of violence perpetrated by a non-partner. However, the situation has improved in 2015 in comparison with 2011 for all forms of violence against women. Political violence, challenges with expression of opinion remain areas of concern and have negative implications for economic growth.

Target 16.1 Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere

Indicator 16.1.1 Number of victims of intentional homicide per 100,000 population, by sex and age

Intentional homicide rate during 2003-2014 remained unchanged, around 2.7 victims per 100,000 population. However, according to the Ministry of Home Affairs, in 2015, the rate has dropped to 1.8 with 1.4 for male and 0.4 for female. Proactive moves by the law enforcement agencies have contributed to significantly improving the law and order situation and reducing the violent crime rates in the country. Intentional homicide rate in 2017 decreased further to 1.65 (SIR, 2018). However, over the past couple of years this indicator registered an impressive 4.26 percent annual average decline.

Table 8: Number of victims of intentional homicide

Indicator	2010	Baseline [2015]	2017	Milestone by 2020
16.1.1 Number of victims of intentional homicide per 100,000 population, by sex and age	2.6	Total: 1.8 Male: 1.4 Female: 0.4 (MoHA, 2015)	Total 1.65 Male 1.23 Female 0.42	Total 1.6 Male 1.3 Female 0.3

Source: Synthesis Report on First National Conference on Implementation Review 2018

Indicator 16.1.3 Proportion of population subjected to physical, psychological or sexual violence in the previous 12 months

According to the VAW (Violence Against Women) survey 2015, 57.7 per cent of the ever-married women experience any form of violence by their husband. Proportion of women subject to any form of violence in the previous 12 months is 38.0 per cent. Proportion of them experiencing physical or sexual violence is 54.2 per cent and 26.9 per cent respectively in the previous 12 months. However, majority of these women (61.4 per cent) come from poorest households

Target 16.2 End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children

Indicator 16.2.2 Number of victims of human trafficking per 100,000 population, by sex, age and form of exploitation

As of 2017, number of victims of human trafficking has decreased to 0.58 from the baseline 0.85 in 2015 for every 100,000 population. This indicator recorded an average 17.4 percent rate of decline annually during the 2015-2017 period.

Table 9: Victims of human trafficking and sexual violence

Indicator	Baseline [2015]	2017	Milestone by 2020
16.2.2 Number of victims of human trafficking per 100,000 population, by sex, age and form of exploitation	0.85 (M: 0.53; F 0.32) (MoHA, 2015)	0.58 Male 0.36 Female 0.22 (MoHA, 2018)	Total 0.5 (MoHA, 2018)
16.2.3 Proportion of young women and men aged 18-29 years who experienced sexual violence by age 18 (Per cent)	Female: 3.45 (VAW Survey, 2015)		3 (MoWCA, 2018)

Source: Synthesis Report on First National Conference on Implementation Review 2018

Target 16.3 Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all

Indicator 16.3.1 Proportion of victims of violence in the previous 12 months who reported their victimization to competent authorities or other officially recognized conflict resolution mechanisms

In 2015, 72.7 per cent of the women who experience violence from their partner never reported their experience to others. Only 2.1 per cent victims reported to local leaders and 1.1 per cent sought help from police.

Since 2015 impressive progress has been achieved in this area. Although an annual target of providing legal aid to 37000 beneficiaries by 2020 was set, in 2017 legal aid has been provided to 80000 beneficiaries.

16.3.2 Un-sentenced detainees as a proportion of overall prison population

This indicator helps assess performance of judicial system in finalizing cases and providing access to an effective judicial system. Available data suggests that, currently, the proportion of un-sentenced detainees is quite high (79 per cent in 2015) in Bangladesh, about double the target rate for 2030. Low rating in rule of law compared to the average of both lower middle-income countries and least developed countries need proper attention for the sake of sustainable development.

Target 16.9 By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration

16.9.1 Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority, by age

This indicator measures the level of social inclusion, and recognition and protection of a person's human right. This right is protected by Article 7 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. According to the MICS 2012-13 survey jointly conducted by BBS and UNICEF, 37 per cent of the children under 5 years of age have been registered.

Target 16.10 Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements

Indicator 16.10.2 Number of countries that adopt and implement constitutional, statutory and/or policy guarantees for public access to information

Right to Information Act 2009 has been enacted in Bangladesh making provisions for ensuring free flow of information and people's right to information. The freedom of thought, conscience and speech is recognized in the Constitution as a fundamental right. In line with the act, an Independent Information Commission has also been established.

Target 16.A Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime

Indicator 16.a.1 Existence of independent national human rights institutions in compliance with the Paris Principles

In accordance with the provision of National Human Rights Commission Act 2009, a statutory independent National Human Rights Commission has been established in the country. The purpose of establishing such institution is to contribute to the embodiment of human dignity and integrity as well as to safeguard fundamental human rights of all individuals. Human Rights Commission was instrumental in adopting Child Marriage Restraint Act 2017.

16.3 Key Challenges

Lack of comprehensive and updated database on various forms of offences has been making it difficult to undertake appropriate actions and guide them properly. An efficient monitoring mechanism supported by credible database can contribute to improving the situation.

Capacity building of the law enforcing agencies and a properly functioning accountability mechanism can significantly improve the situation. Ensuring access to an effective judicial system is one of the key challenges in achieving the relevant SDG targets. Shortage in human and technical resources in the judicial department has been constraining quick settlement of disputes

Reporting incidence of violence, particularly domestic violence and violence against women, is a major issue in the country. Actually preventing violence, protecting the at-risk, supporting victims and making the perpetrators more accountable requires timely reporting of the issues to the appropriate authority.

16.4 Way forward

Attention is needed in taming physical, psychological or sexual violence against women. The proportion of women subjected to physical, psychological or sexual violence seems to be high particularly among the poorest households, hence mass awareness and engagement of local elective representative will be necessary, along with enforcement of law and order.



Majority of the indicators, for which data are available, suggest that they achieved remarkable success during the SDG implementation period and are on track. Government revenue as proportion of GDP has increased more than the estimated required rate due mainly to the measures undertaken for increasing the number of tax payers, and prudent tax collection and management mechanism. Data on ODA indicate modest growth although its contribution to the national budget fell marginally in the recent years. Inflow of FDI and remittance requires substantial increase. Other indicators such as access to internet, and use of internet communication facilities by individuals have improved significantly in the recent years. Expansion of fiber optics cable network, increase in optical fiber capacity etc. have been contributing towards achieving the SDG target.

Achieving SDGs will critically depend on the availability of resources including external resources. The need for enhanced international cooperation and support has been emphasized for achieving 42 of the 169 targets. International community will have to provide adequate and timely support to Bangladesh to help implement a comprehensive and all-encompassing development agenda like SDGs by 2030.

17.2 Assessment of progress on SDG 17

Resource Mobilisation:

General Economics Division of the Planning commission (2017) has recently estimated the cost of implementing SDGs and indicated that an additional US\$ 928.48 billion, at constant 2015-16 currency, or an annual cost of US\$ 66.32 billion, would be required from both domestic and foreign sources during 2017-2030 for implementing the SDGs. The potential sources, identified for financing the resource gap, would be private sector (42.09 per cent), public sector (35.50 per cent), public-private partnership (5.59 per cent), and external financing (14.89 per cent), and participation of non-governmental organizations (3.39 per cent).

Substantial inflow of external resources particularly foreign direct investment (FDI), and remittance has been recorded since 2015. In 2018, FDI marked an increase of 68 percent while ODA increased by 71 percent. Remittance growth appeared falling or standstill due largely to reduction in rate of migration to the traditional markets coupled with legal issues of the illegal migrants in the major middle-east countries.

Table 10: External Financing Sources

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
ODA (mill.US\$)*	1777.0	1847.0	2057.2	2760.8	3046.8	3005.5	3531.7	3677.3	6290
FDI(NET) (mill.US\$)	913.0	779.0	1194.9	1730.6	1438.5	1833.9	2003.5	2454.8	3618
REMITTANCE (BL. US\$)*	10.9	11.7	12.8	14.5	14.2	15.3	14.9	12.8	14.98

Source: Ministry of Finance and Bangladesh Bank, *Fiscal year

Target 17.1 Strengthen domestic resource mobilization, including through international support to developing countries, to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection

Indicator 17.1.1 Total government revenue as a proportion of GDP by source

Government revenue, comprising tax revenue and non-tax revenue in 2017-18 is 11.60 per cent of GDP. The tax revenue share has improved to 10.3 percent of GDP from previous year share of 9.7 per cent mainly due to substantial increase in the number of registered tax payers, rise in tax revenue collection, and prudent tax collection and management mechanism.

Tax revenue, accounting for over 85 per cent of the total government revenue, increased its contribution to the domestic budget in the recent years.

Table 11: Proportion of Domestic Budget Funded by Domestic Taxes (Per cent)

Indicator	Baseline [2015]	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
17.1.1 Total government revenue as a proportion of GDP	9.6 (FD, FY15)	10.26	11.1	11.60
17.1.2 Proportion of domestic budget funded by domestic taxes	63 (FD, FY15)	60.6	66.4	62.50

Source: Bangladesh Economic Review various years, Ministry of Finance

Target 17.3 Mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources

Indicator 17.3.1 Foreign direct investments (FDI), official development assistance and South-South Cooperation as a proportion of total domestic budget

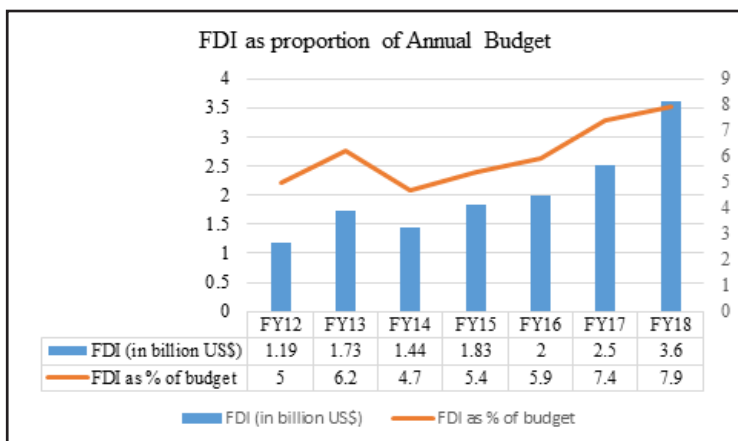
Net official development assistance in 2017-18 was US\$ 6.29 billion, about 70 percent higher than the previous year. But, the ODA contribution to the country's total annual budget increased from 2015 level. It may be mentioned that, in the recent years, growth in the size of national budget has been faster than the growth in ODA to Bangladesh. FDI reached 3.6 US\$ accounting for 7.9 percent of budget.

Table 12: Overseas Development Assistance to Annual Budget

	2009-10	2014-5	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Budget (billion US\$)	18.27	33.81	33.80	33.86	45.25
ODA (in bill. US\$)	1.78	3.01	3.53	3.68	6.29
ODA as % of budget	9.7	8.9	9.6	10.9	13.81

Source: Ministry of Finance

Figure 4: FDI as proportion of Annual Budget



Source: Ministry of Finance

Indicator 17.3.2: Volume of remittances (in United States dollars) as a proportion of total GDP

The annual flow of remittance had been increasing since 2010 peaking to US\$15.3 billion in 2015 and then it plummeted in the following two years. There is downward trend in the remittance/GDP ratio which reached 5.46 percent of GDP in 2017-18.

Table 13: Remittance as proportion of GDP

	FY10	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18
Remittance (in bill US\$)	10.85	12.8	14.5	14.2	15.3	14.9	12.8	14.98
Remittance as % of GDP	8.4	9.6	9.7	8.2	7.9	6.7	5.1	5.46

Source: Ministry of Finance

Target 17.4 Assist developing countries in attaining long-term debt sustainability through coordinated policies aimed at fostering debt financing, debt relief and debt restructuring, as appropriate, and address the external debt of highly indebted poor countries to reduce debt distress

Indicator 17.4.1 Debt service as a proportion of exports of goods and services (%)

Debt service burden in the recent years has improved significantly, from 7 per cent in 2012 to 3.24 per cent in FY2017 and to 3.84 per cent in FY2018. The impressive improvement in the debt service ratio has been possible, due to low aid inflow and, on the other hand, sustained higher growth of exports.

Table 14: Debt service as Percentage of Export

Indicator	FY12	FY13	FY 14	FY 15 (Baseline)	FY16	FY17	FY18
17.4.1 Debt service as a proportion of exports of goods and services (%)	7.0	8.6	6.4	5.12	4.6	3.24	3.84

Source: Ministry of Finance

Target 17.6 Enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation and enhance knowledge sharing on mutually agreed terms, including through improved coordination among existing mechanisms, in particular at the United Nations level, and through a global technology facilitation mechanism

17.6.2 Fixed Internet broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants, by speed
 In 2017, 4.46 per cent subscriptions are recorded for fixed internet broadband for every 100 population, more than double the 2014 figure. However, subscription rate increased by 54.9 percent per annum during 2010 to 2015 and 18.30 percent from 2016 to 2017.

Table 15: Fixed Internet Broadband Subscriptions

Indicator	2010	2012	2013	2014	Baseline [2015]	2016	2017
17.6.2 Fixed Internet broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants, by speed	0.27	0.39	0.97	1.95	2.41 (BTRC, 2015)	2.41 (BTRC, 2015)	3.77

Source: WDI, WB 2017, and BTRC

Target 17.8 Fully operationalize the technology bank and science, technology and innovation capacity-building mechanism for least developed countries by 2017 and enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology

Indicator 17.8.1 Proportion of individuals using Internet

Number of internet users in 2015 increased to 30.39 percent from 3.7 per cent in 2010. This new communication technology has been adopted at a fast rate with the proportion of population reaching 49.5 per cent in 2017 and 55.80 per cent in 2018.

Table 16: Proportion of Individuals using Internet (Per cent)

Indicator	2010	2012	2013	2014	Baseline [2015]	2016	2017	2018
17.8.1 Proportion of individuals using the Internet	3.7	5.0	6.6	13.9	30.39 (BTRC, 2015)	41.4	49.5	55.8

Source: WB, World Development Indicators 2017, and calculated from BTRC

Target 17.9 Enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all the sustainable development goals, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation

Indicator 17.9.1 Dollar value of financial and technical assistance (including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation) committed to developing countries

Dollar value of financial and technical assistance committed to Bangladesh fluctuates in the last four years with an increase by 12.46 percent to US\$ 596.73 million in 2017 but declined to US\$ 382.42 in 2018.

**Table 17.9 Value of Technical Assistance committed to Bangladesh
(Million US\$)**

Indicator	2012	2013	2014	Base-line 2015	2016	2017	2018
17.9.1 Dollar value of financial and technical assistance (including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation) committed to developing countries (in million US\$)	588.0	726.3	680.7	570.8	530.6	596.73	382.42

Source: ERD

Target 17.12 Realize timely implementation of duty-free and quota-free market access on a lasting basis for all least developed countries, consistent with World Trade Organization decisions, including by ensuring that preferential rules of origin applicable to imports from least developed countries are transparent and simple, and contribute to facilitating market access

Indicator 17.12.1 Average tariffs faced by developing countries, least developed countries and small-island developing States

In 2011 average tariffs imposed by developed countries on agricultural products, textiles and clothing from Bangladesh, was between 0-9 per cent, down from 12 per cent in 2005. This indicator demonstrates that with further trade liberalization in the importing countries Bangladesh would be able to meet the SDG target by 2030.

Table 17: Average Tariff Rate

Indicator	2010	Baseline [2015]	2016
17.12.1 Average tariffs faced by developing countries, least developed countries and small island developing States	12%	a) MFN: 8.25% b) Preferential: 3.88% (MoC, 2014)	a)MFN: Bangladesh faces 10.5% MFN 13.25% Weighted tariff b)Preferential: 9.47%

Source: Synthesis Report on First National Conference on Implementation Review 2018

Target 17.19 By 2030, build on existing initiatives to develop measurements of progress on sustainable development that complement gross domestic product, and support statistical capacity-building in developing countries

Indicator 17.19.2 Proportion of countries that (a) have conducted at least one population and housing census in the last 10 years; and (b) have achieved 100 per cent birth registration and 80 per cent death registration

In 2004, Bangladesh enacted 'Birth and Death Registration Act, 2004' which came into effect in 2006. The act was further amended in 2013 in order to make the process sustainable. Online birth registration is also operational since 2010. All these contributed significantly to a phenomenal increase in birth registration which, by December 2015 reached 139.8 million, roughly about 86 per cent of the population.

17.3 Key Challenges

Despite impressive country performance there are challenges especially in the areas of resource mobilization in order to implement the required interventions towards achieving the SDG targets. Available estimates indicate that domestic resource mobilization potential is yet to be utilized. A large part of the population still remains outside the tax net. Although number of tax payers increased significantly in the current year, about double the size is remaining outside the tax net. Enforcing VAT collection is a big challenge due to human and technical capacity constraint with the concerned departments. Capacity building involves large amount of financial resources that is hard to mobilize due to domestic resource constraints.

ODA is one of the major external sources of financing budgetary expenses. In the recent years, its contribution in terms of the size of national budget is becoming smaller. Moreover, developing country status will pose additional challenges in future in terms of getting grants and low interest loans.

Remittance sources are undiversified. Traditional markets are facing economic and political challenges making it increasingly challenging to generate increase remittance flows. Skill issue with the potential migrant workers requires substantial attention.

17.4 Way forward

The government will continue its efforts to sustain the inflow of ODA and FDI along with improving investment climate, ease of doing business. Side by side, focus should be directed to raise tax base and revenue collection. Internet has to be made available, cheaper across all areas of the country by providing incentives.

Reference

ADB & ILO, 2016. "Bangladesh: Looking Beyond Garments - Employment Diagnostic Study,"

Osmani, S. R.; Ahmed, Akhter U.; Ahmed, Tahmeed; Hossain, Naomi; Huq, Saleemul; and Shahan, Asif. 2016. Strategic review of food security and nutrition in Bangladesh. Dhaka, Bangladesh: World Food Programme (WFP).

National Action Plan of Ministries/Divisions by Targets for the Implementation of SDGs
General Economics Division (GED)
Bangladesh Planning Commission
Ministry of Planning
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
June 2016

Data Gap Analysis for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Bangladesh Perspective
General Economics Division (GED)
Bangladesh Planning Commission
Ministry of Planning
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
January 2017

7th FIVE YEAR PLAN FY2016 - FY2020
Achieving Goals, Empowering Citizens
General Economics Division (GED)
Planning Commission
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
June 2017

GoB Initiative in mainstreaming SDGs Implementation
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Voluntary National Review (VNR) 2017
Empowering people and growing prosperity in a changing world
General Economics Division (GED)
Planning Commission
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
June 2017

SDGs Financing Strategy
Bangladesh Perspective
General Economics Division (GED)
Planning Commission
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
June 2017

EDUCATION SECTOR STRATEGY AND ACTIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 7TH FIVE YEAR PLAN (FY2016-20)
General Economics Division
Planning Commission
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
November 2016

Bangladesh Development Journey with SDGs
Presented for Bangladesh Development in 77 Cities (October 2016)
General Economics Division (GED)
Planning Commission
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
October 2016

A Training Handbook on Implementation of the 7th Five Year Plan
General Economics Division (GED)
Planning Commission
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
November 2016

A Handbook Mapping of Ministries by Targets in the implementation of SDGs aligning with 7th Five Year Plan (2016-20)
General Economics Division (GED)
Bangladesh Planning Commission
Ministry of Planning
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
November 2016

Monitoring and Evaluation Framework of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Bangladesh Perspective
General Economics Division (GED)
Planning Commission
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
March 2016

List of SDG Related Publications by GED since 2016

1.	Integration of Sustainable Development Goals into the 7 th Five Year Plan (February 2016)
2.	A Handbook on Mapping of Ministries by Targets in the Implementation of SDGs aligning with 7 th Five Year Plan (2016-20) (September 2016)
3.	Data Gap Analysis for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Bangladesh Perspective (January 2017)
4.	টেকসই উন্নয়ন অর্জিত, লক্ষ্যমাত্রা ও সূচকসমূহ (মূল ইংরেজী থেকে বাংলায় অনূদিত) (প্রকাশকাল: এপ্রিল ২০১৭)
5.	Bangladesh Voluntary National Review (VNR) 2017: Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world (June 2017)
6.	SDGs Financing Strategy: Bangladesh Perspective (June 2017)
7.	A Training Handbook on Implementation of the 7 th Five Year Plan (June 2017)
8.	Bangladesh Development Journey with SDGs [Prepared for Bangladesh Delegation to 72 nd UNGA Session 2017] (September 2017)
9.	Monitoring and Evaluation Framework of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Bangladesh Perspective (March 2018)
10.	National Action Plan of Ministries/Divisions by Targets for the Implementation of SDGs (June 2018)
11.	Journey with SDGs : Bangladesh is Marching Forward [Prepared for Bangladesh Delegation to 73 rd UNGA Session 2018] (September 2018)
12.	এসডিজি অভিযাত্রা: এগিয়ে যাচ্ছে বাংলাদেশ (সেপ্টেম্বর ২০১৮)
13.	Synthesis Report on First National Conference on SDGs Implementation (November 2018)
14.	Sustainable Development Goals: Bangladesh First Progress Report 2018 (December 2018)
15.	টেকসই উন্নয়ন অর্জিত : বাংলাদেশ অগ্রগতি প্রতিবেদন ২০১৮, প্রকাশ কাল এপ্রিল ২০১৯
16.	Empowering people : ensuring inclusiveness and equality (July 2019)