SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
BANGLADESH PROGRESS REPORT 2022

General Economics Division (GED)
Bangladesh Planning Commission
Ministry of Planning
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

December 2022

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M. A. Mannan, MP
Honorable Minister
Ministry of Planning
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

MESSAGE

I am very pleased to learn that the General Economics Division (GED) of Bangladesh Planning Commission has taken initiative to publish the third 'Sustainable Development Goals: Bangladesh Progress Report 2022,' that captured the findings on progress that Bangladesh has made domestically toward meeting the global commitments made in 2015. This report has been prepared in an inclusive and participatory manner, which serves as a source of information on good practices, lessons learned and challenges in SDGs implementation, as well as provides a basis for accountability at the global level.

From the outset, the Government of Bangladesh has consistently applied the "Whole of Society" approach to ensure the wider participation of thought leaders, NGOs, INGOs, development partners, private sector, media, and CSOs in implementing the SDGs. The General Economics Division (GED) of the Planning Commission under the Ministry of Planning, as the SDG Focal Point, oversees the SDG implementation and plays a coordinating and catalytic role. Over and above, the Government has formed an apex committee titled "SDG Implementation and Monitoring Committee" at the Prime Minister's office to oversee and co-ordinate SDG implementation in Bangladesh headed by the Principal SDG Coordinator.

Despite the adverse effects of COVID-19 and recent global economic recession, Bangladesh is on track to graduate the LDC status in 2026. Bangladesh has now earned the respect of the international community and considered as one of the promising economies in the world. This is evident from the last 12 years that Bangladesh has reached a new height in development by almost doubling its GDP growth rate, per capita income and achieving notable success in most aspects of social development.

Alongside impressive gains in GDP growth and poverty reduction, Bangladesh has increased by four notches in Human Development Index 2022 (from 133rd to 129th). It is particularly encouraging that Bangladesh is pursuing economic development, focusing on other fundamental human rights. Establishing a peaceful and inclusive society is a precondition for achieving SDGs. SDG's 5P's – peace, people, planet, prosperity, and partnership also embedded in all our strategic plans and policies, which seek a sustainable, inclusive, and just society. With this backdrop, the country is well on track to achieve the SDGs. I firmly believe that SDGs' objectives can only be reached if we

continue to prepare development plans in light of the Government's development aspirations. In this process, we would also achieve the objectives of the SDGs as we did in the case of MDGs.

For SDG monitoring and evaluation and informed policy decisions, the importance of data availability cannot be overlooked. Continuous monitoring of SDG progress can help track the goals through which implementation actions can be evaluated for course correction. This underlines the importance of the availability of timely and quality data. To assess the SDG progress, we rely on data generated by Government agencies, particularly by the national statistics office (BBS). Unfortunately, paucity of data is a major hinderance for monitoring the SDGs implementation in Bangladesh.

I take this opportunity to thank relevant Ministries/Divisions/Agencies, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) and the broader stakeholders for providing valuable inputs in preparation of this publication of SDGs Progress Report 2022. I would also like to express my appreciation to the UNDP Bangladesh for providing financial and technical support in preparing this important publication.

I hope the Sustainable Development Goals: Bangladesh Progress Report 2022 will be a pivotal publication in illustrating advancement towards achieving the SDGs and challenges that the country might face in upcoming years. I hope the GED will take the initiative to prepare and publish this progress report on SDGs implementation regularly so that a comprehensive report on progress tracking can be made available for a wider audience regularly.

(M. A. Mannan, MP)

Dr. Shamsul Alam
Honourable Minister of State
Ministry of Planning
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

MESSAGE

Since its inception in 2015, delivering the 2030 Agenda and SDG commitments has been Bangladesh's first priority under the visionary and dynamic leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Following the commendable achievements of Bangladesh in achieving the MDGs, the Government of Bangladesh has taken various steps to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. Bangladesh published its first SDG Progress Report in 2018 as a starting point to measure the progress of the implementation of the SDGs. Now it will publish the third SDG Progress Report 2022 to see what changes have been made since 2015.

Alongside this, The Sustainable Development Report (SDR) 2022 a global assessment of countries' progress towards achieving the SDGs, was published in June. This SDR report also demonstrated that multiple and simultaneous international crises had slackened SDGs progress globally. The SDG dashboard shows that despite the substantial SDG gaps, Bangladesh has earned relatively high scores compared to many other countries. As per the SDG index rank, Bangladesh ranked 104 out of 163, and the score is 64.22.

Therefore, the SDG Progress Report 2022 is an opportunity to see progress in realizing our commitments to attaining SDGs. As time evolved, new issues emerged, for example, Bangladesh's LDC graduation and the impact of the Covid-19 crisis, and a recent regional war in Ukraine made realizing the objectives of the Bangladesh's 8th Five Year Plan and SDGs implementation a daunting as well as challenging task. The latest available data also revealed the economic recovery and our resilience to various shocks, including natural disasters and the impact of climate change which have a constant scale of impact on our people. All these crises have impacted immense financial challenges, especially for developing countries like Bangladesh, with a significant rise in debt distress and dramatic decreases in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).

Bangladesh's performance has thus far been commendable in various fields, including poverty reduction, achieving gender parity, strengthening rural transformation, promoting financial inclusion, and providing sustained and inclusive economic growth. The proportion of population living below the national upper poverty line consistently declined from 31.5 percent in 2010 to 20.5 percent in 2019, while the extreme poverty rate has declined from 17.6 percent to 10.5 percent over the same period. Similarly, progress in expanding coverage of social protection and the

proportion of government expenditure on services as a share of total government expenditure has been remarkable during the last decade. The report also painted that Bangladesh has significantly reduced its disaster-related vulnerability by demonstrating an all-inclusive manner in coastal resilience due to its significant continuing investment in protecting lives. According to the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report 2022, Bangladesh has achieved gender parity with 71.4 percent. It has been ranked 71st in the global list and first among South Asian countries.

The SDG Progress Report 2022 also underscored the importance of investing in data to implement the SDGs fully. A demand-driven funding mechanism needs to be ensured for accurate and timely data on Leave No One Behind (LNOB) groups. Bangladesh still has eight years in order to achieve SDGs. Therefore, we should act now and put our collective efforts towards a sustainable future for our communities and planet. However, Bangladesh is moving ahead in a planned way toward achieving the SDGs. We hope under the pragmatic leadership of Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Bangladesh will be able to accomplish the SDGs successfully by 2030.

I sincerely appreciate the GED officials for their comprehensive and thoughtful review and suggestions. The technical and financial support provided by the UNDP Bangladesh also deserve special thanks. I also acknowledge the support and invaluable contribution of the different ministries, divisions and agencies.

(Dr. Shamsul Alam)

Zuena Aziz
Principal Coordinator (SDG Affairs)
Prime Minister's Office (PMO)
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

MESSAGE

I am happy to learn that the General Economics Division (GED) of the Bangladesh Planning Commission is going to release the "Sustainable Development Goals: Bangladesh Progress Report 2022," which has been prepared for the third time to track the implementation of the SDGs at the local and national levels. When we will prepare the next Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) of our nation, I hope that the updated progress on the SDGs' various targets will serve as a stocktake.

Our Hon'ble Prime Minister, Sheikh Hasina, is a strong owner of the SDGs. Over the past seven years, the Government of Bangladesh has made integrating the SDGs into its national plans, programmes, and strategies a primary priority. By this point, the Government has assigned specific duties to several Ministries and Divisions depending on the allocation of business, designating them as lead, co-lead, or associate implementators of the SDGs' targets. A SDGs Action Plan aligned with the 7th Five-Year Plan has been produced by the lead and co-lead Ministries/Divisions. The Action Plan is being examined, and the second SDG Action Plan that corresponds to the 8th Five-Year Plan is currently being finalized. The Monitoring and Evaluation Framework of the SDGs (from where to where), the financing strategy of the SDGs, and the SDGs Data Gap Analysis have all been finished side by side. The SDG online tracker has been introduced to monitor development and accelerate Bangladesh's adoption of the SDGs.

The Government also began localizing the SDGs, particularly at the District and Upazila levels. As a result, the Government has determined a set of 39+1 priority indicators for the localization of SDGs in order to initially engage and reach out to those who are the most behind. In this regard, the Government has chosen to implement the SDGs using a "Whole of Society Approach" that includes representatives from local governments, academic institutions, NGOs, INGOs, and CSOs in addition to government agencies and other key stakeholders. In order to achieve the SDGs in a coordinated and synergistic manner, coordinating ministries/divisions are given crucial milestones. Additionally, Ministries, Divisions, and Agencies have been charged with the lead, co-lead and associate leadership roles in executing the SDGs' objectives.

The Government of Bangladesh has emphasized data generation because, without credible and quality data, illustrating progress on SDGs implementation would be challenging. Therefore, the National Data Coordination Committee (NDCC) has been constituted to identify data gaps,

ensure the availability of quality data, and coordinate among Ministries and Divisions to make data available for the SDGs and monitor other international commitments. This process has improved the data available in the third progress report over the past two reports.

Similar to other nations, Bangladesh has faced some significant obstacles that have hampered its ability to advance toward its sustainable development goals. These obstacles include the Covid-19 crisis' effects, the fallout from the Russia-Ukraine crisis, and the climate change. Therefore, in the eight years left, we should work together to achieve inclusive, human-centered, and holistic development.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the officials of the General Economics Division (GED), the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), and all data-producing agencies for providing updated data on which the report is prepared.

I hope the SDGs Progress Report 2022 will be pivotal in demonstrating the overview of advances made toward achieving each of the 17 Global Goals. I am confident Bangladesh will be a significant achiever of the SDGs.

(Zuena Aziz)
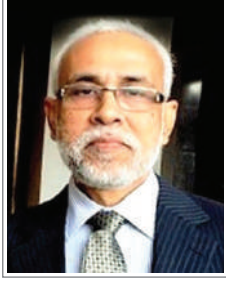
Dr. Md. Kawser Ahmed
Member (Secretary)
General Economics Division (GED)
Bangladesh Planning Commission

FOREWORD

The preparation of SDGs progress report was embedded in the Government of Bangladesh's vision since the adoption of the SDGs in 2015. In line with that, Bangladesh has integrated SDGs into its plans and policies. As a part of SDGs oversight responsibility, the General Economics Division (GED) of the Bangladesh Planning Commission has led the process to assess the progress of SDGs achievement. We are delighted that the 'Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Bangladesh Progress Report 2022' is going to be published. The report has been finalized after extensive scrutinization and inputs from the National Statistical Office and different Ministries/Divisions/Agencies implementing various action programmes/projects.

Publishing the SDG Progress Report 2022 has created a significant opportunity to review the SDG implementation progress on 17 SDGs and 169 targets in Bangladesh. This report could mark a new beginning, as Bangladesh just recovered from the pandemic. I hope this report will also lead us as a pathway of national sustainable recovery from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, LDC graduation and the recent regional conflict in Europe. This must help Ministries/Divisions/Agencies and Local Level Authorities to prepare their own roadmap prioritizing what types of projects/programmes need to achieve 8FYP plan and SDGs.

The SDG Progress Report 2022 captured the good practices from global and regional contexts, detailed indicators wise update, key challenges as well as conveying way forward, which include good practices, challenges, and areas for support. The report shows that the poverty rate has declined to 20.5 percent while the extreme poverty rate has been reduced to 10.5 percent in 2019. Global MPI Report 2022 shows that in 2014, around 41.7 percent of the population was MPI poor, which has decreased to 24.6 percent in 2019. The government has adopted 'whole-of-the-society approach' in their policies and programmes to address multidimensional poverty for inclusive, responsive, and adaptable growth in the country.

To combat the impact of Covid-19, the government has announced and implemented various stimulus packages. On the economic front, the government adopted a series economic stimulus packages estimated at BDT 1,877 billion with a view to protecting the income of the poor and vulnerable and helping the revival of economic activities.

Bangladesh has made remarkable progress in reducing the number of women who die from any cause related to pregnancy or childbirth per 100,000 live births. Bangladesh has successfully reduced the Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR), which dropped to 163 per 100,000 live births in 2020 from 447 in 1995. A continuous decline has also been observed in Under-five mortality rate during 1995-2020. U5MR has decreased from 125 in 1995 to 28 in 2020 (by more than three times), putting Bangladesh in line towards achieving the 2025 target for U5MR (which is set at 27).

Bangladesh has achieved equality in ensuring access to education across gender and geographical areas. The country has made remarkable progress over the last two decades by raising the gross enrolment ratio at the pre-primary level from 17 percent in 2000 to around 34 percent in 2016. MICS (2019) reports that the participation rate in organized learning (one year before the official primary entry age) is 77.5 percent, with 76.1 percent for males and 78.8 percent for females and 80 percent for urban and 76.8 percent for rural areas.

Bangladesh has achieved Gender Parity Index (GPI) value higher than one at the primary and secondary levels. However, in technical education and disability, the value of GPI is 0.37 and 0.64 respectively. In addition to this, according to the Global Gender Gap Report 2022 by World Economic Forum, Bangladesh is placed 71 out of 146 countries. It has kept its position as the best performing South Asian country for eight consecutive years.

Bangladesh has been achieving sustained and high economic growth for more than a decade which has already contributed to achieving LDC graduation by 2026. Bangladesh will become a developed country by 2041 if it sustains its growth momentum. The shift of Bangladesh's average annual growth rate of real GDP per capita to 5.74 percent in FY2020-21 from 5.34 percent in the baseline FY 2016-17 is remarkable, especially from the recent Covid-19 pandemic. GDP per capita based on PPP was reported at USD 6,613 in 2021 and USD 5,995 in 2020 from USD 849.6 in 1990.

The Government of Bangladesh approved the Delta Plan 2100 in 2018 to secure the future of water resources and mitigate the likely effects of climate change and natural disasters. The GoB currently spends US$ 1 billion a year on climate change adaptation, around 6 to 7 percent of its annual budget. Seventy-five percent of the country's resources on climate change come directly from the government, while the rest come mostly from international development partners. Bangladesh registered a positive change for 20 out of the 92 environment-related SDG indicators. A total of 6 out of the 92 environment-related indicators have registered little positive or negative change, clearly signifying the need for accelerated action.

Under the esteemed and visionary leadership of the Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Bangladesh has become the first to make the best progress between 2015 and 2020. Bangladesh ranked 104th out of 163 countries in the global ranking. In recognition of Bangladesh's steady progress in SDGs, the hon'ble Prime Minister of Bangladesh was conferred with the SDG Progress Award in September 2021 by the UN-sponsored Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN).

However, still we have challenges in few vital areas, including reducing inequality, lowering carbon emissions and tackling climate change impacts, which may hinder the progress of SDG implementation. The report also accentuated the availability of high-quality data is also pivotal. This will help decision makers to understand where resources can be made the highest effect. However, improved data collection will happen only when data financing is increased from both global and domestic levels.

I express my immense gratitude to all relevant ministries, divisions, agencies, custodian agencies and BBS for providing data/information to prepare this report. I am also gratified to all my colleagues in GED and UNDP-Bangladesh for providing technical and financial support in completing this vital publication.

Finally, we all from GED are grateful to our Hon'ble Minister, Mr. M. A. Mannan, MP and Hon'ble Minister of State, Dr. Shamsul Alam, Ministry of Planning, for their inspiration and wholehearted support in preparing this report on SDGs progress. Principal Coordinator's Office on SDGs Affairs and the SDG Cell of BBS also supported us in bringing out this report and we earnestly express our thanks to them.

(Dr. Md. Kawser Ahmed)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF TABLES

LIST OF FIGURES

LIST OF BOXES

ACRONYMS

a2i		Aspire to Innovate
ADP		Annual Development Programme
ADR		Alternative Dispute Resolution
AFOLU		Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use
AfT		Aid for Trade
AIMS		Aid Information Management System
AIS		Automatic Identifier System
ANC		Antenatal Care
AOI		Agriculture Orientation Index
APAs		Annual Performance Agreements
APSC		Annual Primary School Census
APTA		Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement
AQI		Air Quality Index
ARF		ASEAN Regional Forum
ASCM		Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures
ATM		Automated Teller Machine
BANBAIS		Bangladesh Bureau of Educational Information and Statistics
BARI		Bangladesh Agriculture Research Institute
BAU		Business-as-Usual
BB		Bangladesh Bank
BBIN		Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal
BBNJ		Biodiversity in Areas beyond National Jurisdiction
BBS		Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics
BCC		Behaviour Change Communication
BCCSAP		Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan
BCCTF		Bangladesh Climate Change Trust Fund
BCIM		Bangladesh, China, India and Myanmar Economic Corridor
BDF		Bangladesh Development Forum
BDHS		Bangladesh Demographic Health Survey
BDP		Bangladesh Delta Plan
BdREN		Bangladesh Research and Education Network
BDRS		Bangladesh Disaster-Related Statistics
BDT		Bangladesh Taka
BERC		Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission

BEZA	Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority
BFD	Bangladesh Forest Department
BFIS	Bangladesh Forest Information System
BFRI	Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute
BGMEA	Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association
BIDA	Bangladesh Investment Development Authority
BIMSTEC	Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation
BIWTA	Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority
BLRI	Bangladesh Livestock Research Institute
BMDA	Barind Multipurpose Development Authority
BMET	Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training
BNRS	Bangladesh National REDD+ Strategy
BP	Bangladesh Police
BPDB	Bangladesh Power Development Board
BPFA	Beijing Platform for Action
BPS	Bangladesh Parliament Secretariat
BREB	Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board
BRIS	Birth Registration Information System
BRRI	Bangladesh Rice Research Institute
BRTA	Bangladesh Road Transport Authority
BSCCL	Bangladesh Submarine Cable Company Limited
BSP	BRTA Service Portal
BTC	Bangladesh Tariff Commission
BTRC	Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission
BWDB	Bangladesh Water Development Board
CAAB	Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh
CAMS	Continuous Air Monitoring Stations
CBHE	Cross Border Higher Education
CCTF	Climate Change Trust Fund
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CETPs	Common Effluent Treatment Plants
CFF	Climate Fiscal Framework
CFP	Climate Fiscal Policy-making
CGR	Compound Growth Rates
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

CLS	Child Labor Survey
CMSD	Central Medicine Service Department
CMSMEs	Cottage, Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises
CO2	Carbon dioxide
COP	Climate Change Conference of the Parties
CPEIR	Climate Public Expenditure and Institutional Review
CPHS	Citizen Perception Household Survey
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CRFs	Country-owned Results Frameworks
CRI	Climate Risk Index
CRR	Cash Reserve ratio
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
DAC	Development Assistance Committee
DAP	Detailed Area Plan
DCC	Dhaka City Corporation
DE	Domestic Extraction
DIA	Disaster Impact Assessment
DIFE	Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishments
DM	Disaster Management
DMC	Domestic Material Consumption
DMTCL	Dhaka Mass Transit Company Limited
DNCC	Dhaka North City Corporation
DoE	Department of Environment
DOTs	Directly Observed Treatments
DPE	Directorate of Primary Education
DPHE	Department of Public Health Engineering
DPs	Development Partners
DRF	Development Results Framework
DRIP	Digital Risk Information Platform
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
DSCC	Dhaka South City Corporation
DSE	Dhaka Stock Exchange
DWASA	Dhaka Water and Sewerage Authority
DWPWP	Domestic Workers Protection and Welfare Policy
EBA	Everything but Arms

ECA	Ecologically Critical Area
ECD	Early Childhood Education
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
EGPP	Employment Generation Programme for the Poorest
EMRD	Energy and Mineral Resource Division
EPI	Expanded Programme on Immunisation
EPZs	Export Processing Zones
ERD	Economic Relations Division
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
ESD	Education for Sustainable Development
ESP	Essential Service Package
ETPs	Effluent Treatment Plants
EU	European Union
TDGDP	Freedom of Association and Collective Bargaining
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
FD	Forest Department
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
FFW	Food for Work
FIED	Foreign Investment and External Debt
FIES	Food Insecurity Experience Scale
FIP	Forest Investment Plan
FLW	Food Loss and Waste
FMP	Forestry Master Plan
FPMU	Food Planning and Monitoring Unit
FRI	Fisheries Research Institute
FRL	Forest Reference Level
FSM	Financial Sector Management
FTAs	Free Trade Agreements
FY	Financial Year
FYP	Five Year Plan
GAP	Global Action Programme
GATS	Global Adult Tobacco Survey
GBM	Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna
GCED	Global Citizenship Education
GCERF	Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund
GCF	Green Climate Fund

GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GED	General Economics Division
GEF	Global Environmental Facility
GER	Gross Enrollment Rate
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GIS	Geographic Information System
GLOF	Glacier Lake Outbursts Flooding
GNI	Gross National Income
GoB	Government of Bangladesh
GPEDC	Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation
GPI	Gender Parity Index
GRB	Gender Responsive Budgeting
GRS	Grievance Redress System
GSP	Generalised System of Preferences
HCWMP	Health Care Waste Management Plan
HFO	Heavy Fuel Oil
HICs	High Income Countries
HIES	Household Income and Expenditure Survey
HLM	High-Level Meeting
HLPF	High Level Political Forum
HPNSP	Health, Population and Nutrition Sector Programme
HRH	Human Resources for Health
HSD	Health Services Division
HTR	Hard to Reach
ICM	Integrated Crop Management
ICT	Information and Communication Technologies
IDCOL	Infrastructure Development Company Limited
IDM	Integrated Disease Management
IEA	International Energy Agency
IFFs	Illicit Financial Flows
IFPA	Indicator of Food Price Anomalies
IHR	International Health Regulations
ILO	International Labor Organisation
IMF	International Monetary Fund
INM	Integrated Nutrient Management
IORA	Indian Ocean Rim Association

IPCC-AR5	Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
IPPs	Independent Power Producers
IRF	Institutional and Regulatory Framework
ISIC	International Standard Industrial Classification
IT	Information Technology
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
IUU	Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated
IWRM	Integrated Water Resources Management
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
JMP	Joint Monitoring Programme
JRC	Joint Rivers Commission
KBA	Key Biodiversity Areas
km	Kilometer
kWh	Kilowatt-hour
LCG	linear Congruential Generator
LDCs	Least Developed Countries
LFS	Labor Force Survey
LGD	Local Government Division
LGED	Local Government Engineering Department
LGIs	Local Government Institutions
LIC	Low-Income Countries
LMIC	Lower Middle-Income Country
LNG	Liquefied Natural Gas
LNOB	Leaving No One Behind
LPG	Liquefied Petroleum Gas
MCP	Micro Credit Programmes
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MENA	Middle East and North Africa
MF	Material Footprint
MFIs	Microfinance Institutions
MFN	Most Favoured Nation
MFS	Mobile Financial Service
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
MIS	Management Information System
MJ	Mega Joule

MMR	Maternal Mortality Ratio
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
MoC	Ministry of Commerce
MoCA	Ministry of Cultural Affairs
MoDMR	Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief
MoE	Ministry of Education
MoEFCC	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
MoEWOE	Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment
MOFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MoHA	Ministry of Home Affairs
MoHFW	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
MoL	Ministry Of Labor
MoLGRD&C	Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives
MOLGRDC	Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives
MoPA	Ministry of Public Administration
MoPME	Ministry of Primary and Mass Education
MoSW	Ministry of Social Welfare
MoWCA	Ministry of Women and Children Affairs
MoWR	Ministry of Water Resources
MPA	Marine Protected Areas
MPI	Multidimensional Poverty Index
MRT	Mass Rapid Transit
MSMEs	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
MSP	Marine Spatial Planning
MSPVAW	Multi-Sectoral Programme on Violence Against Women
MVA	Manufacturing Value Added
MVAR	Mega Volt Amps (Reactive)
MVMT	My Village My Town
MW	Megawatt
NAP	National Adaptation Plan
NAPA	National Adaptation Programme of Action
NAW	National Accounting Wing
NBCC	Nutrition Behaviour Change Communication
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NCC	Narayanganj City Corporation
NCDs	Non-communicable Diseases

NCLWC	National Child Labor Welfare Council
NCM	National Coordination Mechanism
NCMEC	National Center for Missing & Exploited Children
NDB	New Development Bank
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
NDCC	National Data Coordination Committee
NEET	Not in Education, Employment or Training
NFI	National Forest Inventory
NFIS-B	National Financial Inclusion Strategy Bangladesh
NFMS	National Forest Monitoring System
NFNSP	National Food and Nutrition Security Policy
NGOs	Non-Government Organisations
NHRCB	National Human Rights Commission, Bangladesh
NHRIs	National Human Rights Institutions
NIPORT	National Institute of Population Research and Training
NIS	National Integrity Strategy
NNS	National Nutritional Services
NOSCOP	National Oil and Chemical Spill Contingency Plan
NP	National Park
NPA	National Plan of Action
NPAN2	2nd National Plan of Action for Nutrition
NPDC	National Policy on Development Cooperation
NPDM	National Plan for Disaster Management
NPT	National Priority Indicator
NS	National Service
NSAs	Non-State Actors
NSDA	National Skills Development Authority
NSDES	National Strategy for Development of Education Statistics
NSDS	National Strategy for Sustainable Development
NSSS	National Strategy for Social Protection
NTDs	Neglected Tropical Diseases
NTVQF	Vocational Qualifications Framework
OCCs	One-stop Crisis Centres
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
OECMs	Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures

OPHI	Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative
OTT	Over-the-Top
PAs	Protected Areas
PEDP	Primary Education Development Programme
PHC	Primary Health Care
PHL	Postharvest Losses
PM	Particulate Matter
PMO	Prime Minister's Office
ppm	Parts per Million
PPM	Parts per Million
PPP	Public-Private Partnership
PPP	Purchasing Power Parity
PSHT	Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking
PSMP	Power System Master Plan
QLFS	Quarterly Labor Force Survey
R&D	Research and Development
RAJUK	Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha
REACT	Rights, Education, Access, Content, and Targets
REDD	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
RFID	Radio Frequency Identi¬fication
RHD	Roads and Highways Department
RLI	Red List Index
RMEEX	Raw Material Equivalents of Exports
RMEIM	Raw Material Equivalent of Imports
RMGs	Ready Made Garments
ROSC	Reaching-out-of-School Children
RPP	Rental Power Producer
RTHD	Road Transport and Highways Division
RTIs	Road Traffic Injuries
SAARC	South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation
SASEC	South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation
SCADA	Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition
SCP	Sustainable Consumption and Production
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SEDP	Secondary Education Development Programme
SESIP	Secondary Education Sector Investment Programme

SEZ	Special Economic Zone
SFDRR	Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction
SHS	Solar Home System
SID	Statistics and Informatics Division
SIPPs	Small Independent Power Producers
SIPs	Solar Irrigation Pumps
SLR	Sea Level Rise
SME	Small and Medium-sized Enterprises
SMS	Short Message Service
SPP	Social Protection Programme
SREDA	Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority
SSC	South-South Cooperation
SSK	Shashtho Shurokkha Karmashuchi
SSNPs	Social Safety Net Programmes
STI	Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution
SVRS	Bangladesh Sample Vital Statistics
SWAPNO	Strengthening Women's Ability for Productive New Opportunities
T&D	Transmission and Distribution
TA	Technical Assistance
TB	Tuberculosis
TDGDP	Tourism Direct GDP
TRIPS	Trade-related Intellectual Property Rights
TVET	Technical-Vocational Education and Training
U5MR	Under-Five Mortality Rate
UHC	Universal Health Coverage
ULGIs	Urban Local Government Institutions
UMIC	Upper-Middle-Income Country
UN	United Nations
UNAIDS	United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNCAC	United Nations Convention Against Corruption
UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children Fund
UNO	Upazila Nirbahi Officer
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNOSSC	United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation
UNPSO	United Nations Peace Support Operations
UNSD	United Nations Statistics Division
UNSTAT	United Nations Statistics Division
UNU-WIDER	United Nations University-World Institute for Development Economics Research
UPL	Upper Poverty Line
URP	Urban Resilience Project
USD/ US$	US Dollar
VAT	Value Added Tax
VAW	Violence Against Women
VGD	Vulnerable Group Development
VNR	Voluntary National Review
WASAs	Water Supply and Sewerage Authorities
WASH	Water Sanitation and Hygiene
WB	World Bank
WCO	World Customs Organisation
WDI	World Development Indicator
WHO	World Health Organization
WHO FCTC	WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control
WPD	Women Development Policy
WS	Wildlife Sanctuary
WTO	World Trade Organisation
WTTC	World Travel and Tourism Council

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In recognition of Bangladesh's steady progress in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Sheikh Hasina, the hon'ble Prime Minister of Bangladesh was conferred with the SDG Progress Award in September 2021 by the UN-sponsored Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN). This award is an international recognition of Bangladesh's success in spearheading the SDGs. According to the Sustainable Development Report 2022, Bangladesh has made remarkable progress in implementing SDGs. Bangladesh has ranked 104 among 163 countries in 2022 whereas it's ranking was 116 in 2019. In accordance to the same report, East and South Asia has progressed on the SDGs more than any other region since their adoption in 2015, Bangladesh along with the Cambodia showing the most progress of all countries.

The Government of Bangladesh is striving towards the ambitious goal of reaching the furthest behind first, through adopting the 'whole-of-society' approach and implementing the 'leaving no one behind' agenda. Since 2020, the challenge of achieving the SDGs has been magnified by an increase in the frequency and intensity of human-made crises and natural disasters in the global economy, as well as the challenges of responding to the Covid-19 pandemic. Although the economy started to rebound in 2021, it slowed down again towards the end of the year due to new Covid-19 variants and continued global vaccine inequity, along with rising inflation, supply chain disruptions, policy uncertainties, and the global impact of the Russia-Ukraine war.

The Sustainable Development Goals Bangladesh Progress Report 2022 provides an analysis of progress on 17 SDGs and 169 targets in Bangladesh where there are unique challenges, resources, and opportunities for progress. The report also provides an analysis of data gaps that constrain the monitoring of progress along with potential sources and priority areas that the government is exploring for enhancing SDG data availability.

Since the beginning of the SDGs, the Government of Bangladesh started to coordinate national efforts and evaluate performance against the SDGs. Furthermore, it was also recognized how challenging it would be to meet the SDGs at the national level, without active engagement with subnational stakeholders. Public participation and collective action by local stakeholders are identified as key determining factors in achieving inclusive and sustainable development to meet the 2030 targets defined by the SDGs. With the above in view, the government has consistently applied the 'whole-of-society' approach to the preparation of national development plans and policy documents of national importance.

The SDGs recognize the importance of action across all scales to achieve a sustainable future, to contribute to overall national-scale SDG achievement, the government is working towards encouraging local communities to focus on the locally-relevant subset of goals and understand potential future pathways for key drivers which influence local sustainability. To complement and augment national implementation, initiatives such as localizing the SDGs have been adopted

to encourage local authorities and communities to implement the SDGs at the local scale. The expectation is that this will empower the communities and give them an autonomous voice to advance their local sustainability agenda.

Covid-19 Pandemic and SDGs Implementation

Since March 2020, the Covid-19 pandemic has had an unprecedented impact on society, the livelihoods of communities, and the wellbeing of families--redefining the everyday life of people in Bangladesh as elsewhere around the world. By now, Bangladesh has vaccinated the majority of its population and implemented other recovery measures. As a result, Bangladesh has witnessed a short-term recovery since the second half of 2021, but there remain significant uncertainties relating to medium- to long-term recovery prospects. On the socioeconomic front, losses were unprecedented, especially in 2020. GDP growth slowed considerably, export earnings were down sharply, private and public investment rates had fallen and government fiscal revenues had been badly hurt.

The government moved swiftly to contain the damage taking action on both the human health front and the economy. On the health front, policy responses sought to contain the spread of the virus, strengthen healthcare facilities and provide other support measures. On the economic front, the government adopted a series of economic stimulus packages estimated at BDT 1,877 billion to protect the income of the poor and vulnerable and help the revival of economic activities.

To address the challenges, the government has taken prompt measures to offset the short-term impacts and many of the macroeconomic indicators have already started to rebound. The real GDP growth rate robustly bounced back from 3.45 percent in FY2019-20 to 6.94 percent in FY2020-21 and further to 7.25 percent in FY2021-22. Other key macroeconomic indicators are also returning to their normal growth trajectory. With the return of normalcy on the economic front, the social indicators have also started to overcome the transitory adverse effects to return to their improvement paths. Bangladesh has ranked fifth out of 121 countries worldwide and 1st in South Asia on Nikkei's COVID-19 Recovery Index. However, the full impact to stem the tide of the downturn will take time to unfold, until such time that the full impact of Covid-19 is managed, the economy bounces back to an accelerated growth path, depending on how quickly the global economy gets back to normal.

This 2022 Report reflects on the past seven years of Agenda 2030 implementation and allows for adjustments in priorities and course corrections providing a key window of opportunity to inject urgency and catalyze updated or new commitments from all stakeholders.

Measuring Progress: Bangladesh's SDGs Tracker

SDG1: No Poverty

In 2020, Covid-19 caused a temporary spike in poverty due to the loss of income and employment for many poor and vulnerable households. With the government adopting prompt policies and

actions to reduce poverty and strengthen efforts where necessary, the recovery process has substantially strengthened. Poverty incidence measured as the proportion of the population living below the national upper poverty line has consistently declined to reach 31.5 percent in 2010 and 20.5 percent in 2019; while the extreme poverty rate has declined from 17.6 percent to 10.5 percent over the same period.

For promoting accelerated, inclusive, and resilient growth, the government, during the 7th FYP, has taken initiative to develop the National Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) and linked Child Multidimensional Poverty Index (C-MPI) as a prelude to preparing a national MPI for Bangladesh. The MPI analysis will help the government to establish a robust baseline for tracking progress in non- monetary poverty reduction over time and to identify and target the poorest areas or the poorest sub-groups within those areas. Increased investments in human development, social safety nets, and other programs for addressing the leave-no-one behind (LNOB) issues; achieving gender parity; strengthening rural transformation; promoting financial inclusion; and providing a stable macroeconomic environment are key dimensions of the government's efforts to achieve SDG1.

SDG2: Zero Hunger

Bangladesh is close to achieving the milepost for 2025 of reducing the prevalence of undernourishment to 12 percent in the SDG2 target, as it has gone down to around 14.7 percent in 2017 from 16.4 percent in 2016. As per WFP Report, the prevalence of undernourishment is 9.7 percent in 2020 (WFP, W., 2021). Similarly, progression in the reduction of wasting is observed from 14 percent in 2014 to 9.8 percent in 2019.

The 2nd National Plan of Action for Nutrition (NPAN2, 2016-2025) and NFNSP 2020 highlight the importance of safe and nutritious food. A Plan of Action for the National Food Safety Strategy based on the Food Safety Act (2013) is being finalized, with an emphasis on strengthening food standardization, regulation, monitoring, quality assurance, and quality control under the purview of the Bangladesh Food Safety Authority. Resilience is an underlying requirement for the achievement of SDG2. Bangladesh is exceptionally vulnerable to natural calamities, which are being exacerbated by the effects of climate change. The socioeconomic impact of Covid-19 has aggravated existing vulnerabilities, threatening hard-earned progress in the economy, and gains made in food and nutrition security. The government has articulated these challenges and policies are in place to achieve SDG2.

SDG3: Good Health and Well-being

Although many of the health-related indicators were on the right track before the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, the pandemic has once again demonstrated the importance of universal health coverage and multisectoral coordination for health emergency preparedness. Covid-19 disproportionately affects the elderly, the poor, refugees and migrants, and a broad range of vulnerable groups due to their specific health and socioeconomic circumstances, poor living conditions, and lack of access to high-quality public health care. Bangladesh has achieved significant

success in reducing the maternal mortality ratio (MMR). A continuous decline is also observed in the Under-five mortality rate (U5MR) during 1995-2020. It has dropped to 163 per 100,000 live births in 2020 from 447 in 1995.

Bangladesh is committed to achieving universal health coverage (UHC) by 2030; to this end, the government is exploring all policy options to increase the fiscal space for health and expand coverage while improving service quality and availability. The focus is on customized and context-specific policy adjustments for progress toward UHC.

SDG4: Quality Education

In the post-Covid-19 world, there is a need for Bangladesh to revisit every target of SDG4 in the light of evolving emergency responses, priorities, and financing. As per MICS (2019), it is observed that around 74.5 percent of children are developmentally on track in health, learning, and psychosocial well-being with 71.4 percent males and 78 percent females. Bangladesh has achieved a GPI value higher than one at the primary and secondary levels as per the latest data of BANBEIS and MICS. Also, according to Bangladesh Education Statistics 2021, the GPI at the tertiary level is 0.80.

Although access to primary education is in good shape, the quality of education is a matter of concern. Also, as secondary school enrolment rates lag behind primary completion rates, more efforts are needed toward secondary education. For achieving SDG4, the best policy is universal access to good education. In digital Bangladesh, education will be the 'people's asset'; and the more education for all, the lower the inequality in the long run. There is a need for targeted public programs to bring good education to the poor.

SDG5: Gender Equality

Bangladesh has made significant progress and has been ranked 71 out of 146 countries in 2022 in the Global Gender Gap Index while India and Pakistan have been ranked 135 and 145 respectively. Bangladesh has stayed ahead of its South Asian neighbors for the eighth time consecutively, indicating significantly better performance in promoting women's empowerment compared with its South Asian neighbors.

The Global Gender Gap Report 2022 shows that 53.3 percent of women faced gender violence in their lifetime in Bangladesh. Child marriage is a major problem in Bangladesh. As of the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2019, 15.5 percent of women aged 20-24 years were married or in a union before age 15, and 51.4 percent were married before age 18. In terms of the Political Empowerment Indicator in the Global Gender Gap Index 2021, Bangladesh is ranked 9th out of 146 countries in the world. According to Bangladesh Parliament Secretariat, at present, 20.86 percent of national parliament members are women, and the proportion of seats held by women in local governments is 23.1 in 2021.

SDG6: Clean Water and Sanitation

Bangladesh has progressed towards achieving several milestones of SDG6, such as attaining access to adequate water, sanitation, and hygiene for all and ending open defecation. Around 47.9 percent of the population currently use safely managed drinking water services, which is 44.7 percent in urban areas (MICS 2019, BBS). Further, in 2019, 42.8 percent of household members used safely managed sanitation facilities (MICS 2019, BBS). Moreover, nearly three-fourths of the population use hand-washing facilities with soap and water. Nonetheless, a challenge to achieving SDG6 by 2030 in Bangladesh is the high level of arsenic contamination in groundwater, which does not meet the safety standards. Exposure to arsenic can cause cancer and severely damage the immune system of the human body. According to WHO, 30-35 million people in Bangladesh are affected by arsenic poisoning.

After the outbreak of Covid-19, awareness of health and hygiene among the people has increased. Yet, awareness of health and hygiene programs should be further improved and maintained. Protecting the water sources and introducing sustainable management of groundwater and surface water are priorities for Bangladesh because of the country's extreme reliance on limited groundwater sources and high vulnerability to climate change. Awareness regarding health and hygiene needs to be further improved as well. Additionally, it is critical to improving the quality of water (at the source, in storage, and the point of consumption)—and sanitation facilities to limit the transmission of infection.

SDG7: Affordable and Clean Energy

Bangladesh has achieved yet another milestone as it has brought 100 percent of the population under electricity coverage by March 2022. To fulfil the demand, several distribution projects have been taken up for implementation during the period FY2021-2025, which include expansion of the network, GIS implementation, and Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) installation.

Renewable energy sources can be harnessed to provide affordable power supply to off-grid rural areas of the country as well as connect to the national grid. However, natural gas is still playing a major role as primary energy whereas renewable energy is still playing an insignificant role. The present share of renewable energy sources in total final energy consumption is estimated to be 3.49 percent in 2020. Bangladesh has a target to produce 10 percent of total power generation from renewable sources by 2030. As of 2020, 649.51 MW of electricity was generated from renewable sources.

To expedite the long-term development of the energy sector, the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) is carrying out activities for creating a favourable environment in electricity generation, energy transmission, transportation, and marketing as well as for management and operation of the sector. In addition, the BERC has been working to ensure transparency in tariff fixation, protect consumers' interests and create a competitive market. In addition, the Revised Power Generation Plan 2030 has been prepared to cover 2020 to 2030 considering PSMP2016, progress during the 7FYP period (2016-2020), SDGs, and change of planning perspective of the power sector.

SDG8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

The shift of the average annual growth rate of real GDP per capita of Bangladesh to 5.74 percent in FY2020-21 from 5.34 percent in the baseline FY 2016-17 is remarkable, especially because of the Covid-19 shock after the pandemic, GDP per capita based on PPP is reported at USD 6,613 in 2021 and USD 5,995 in 2020, according to the World Bank. The unemployment rate does not show any noticeable change during the period. Along with a fluctuating trend from 1999 to 2012, Bangladesh's long-term unemployment rate has been steady at around 4.4 percent.

In addition to other challenges, Covid-19 has been a big blow to the core principles of the concept of sustainable development: inclusiveness and leaving no one behind. This has created significant challenges which Bangladesh will have to face to achieve SDG8. Increasing labor productivity, reducing the unemployment rate, especially for young people and women, and improving access to financial services and benefits are essential components of sustained and inclusive economic growth in Bangladesh.

SDG9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure

In keeping consistency with the targets of SDG9 and the 8th Five Year Plan (2021-2025), the government has undertaken various initiatives to expand information technology. While 3G technology coverage was 95.5 percent and the 4G coverage 98.10 percent in 2021, the target of 100 percent has been set for 2025 for both 3G and 4G technology. As SDG9 is based on three interconnected pillars: infrastructure, industry, and innovation, several key challenges are associated with the implementation of SDG9 in Bangladesh including the high cost of doing business; lack of quality infrastructure; delays in developing one-stop service points; managing land constraints; scarcity in skilled human resources; shortcomings in attracting FDI; low access to efficient utility services; and shortcomings in ensuring transparent and accountable institutions.

However, Bangladesh has taken the initiatives to overcome the aforesaid challenges and achieve SDG9 successfully. For instance, to improve the investment facilitation services in Bangladesh, Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA) launched the One Stop Services (One Stop Shop) or OSS platform in early 2019. The One Stop Services under BIDA ultimately serves as a single window and the only point of contact between the Government and investors for investment-related services who are operating outside special economic zones established by BEZA, BEPZA, and BHTPA. As of December 2022, the number of OSS stood 58 – 18 are from BIDA's own and 40 from 18 other organizations.

To achieve SDG9 by 2030, Bangladesh's priority is in the policy framework in the areas of transport, information and communications technology, and trade. The specific areas include, among others, rail, road, and maritime transport, increasing the availability and affordability of broadband internet, and implementing paperless trade. To facilitate "connecting the unconnected" through quality telecommunication and information technologies at an affordable price by introducing new technologies, BTRC is working on implementing the national dream of "Digital Bangladesh". In December 2021, BTRC has launched the initial 5G network in Bangladesh in collaboration

with state-owned mobile operator Teletalk. E-commerce platforms are also gaining rapidly rising popularity in Bangladesh.

SDG10: Reduced Inequality

The 2022 Social Progress Index, which measures a country's performance on a wide range of aspects of social and environmental performance, ranks Bangladesh as 119th across 169 countries. In the basic human needs dimension, Bangladesh ranked 112; in the foundation of wellbeing dimension, it is 121; and in the opportunity dimension, it is 146. The social progress index for Bangladesh is 56.06 in 2022, increasing from 49.78 in 2011. Although Bangladesh is grouped as a 'low social country', it is also identified as one of the countries where the largest improvements in the Social Progress Index have taken place. Bangladesh ranked 129th among 191 countries in this year's Human Development Index, according to Human Development Report 2021-22. In the previous report published in 2020, Bangladesh ranked 133 out of 189 countries.

Bangladesh has already stabilized consumption inequality at around a Gini coefficient value 0.32, but income inequality has increased, measured in terms of both the Gini coefficient and the Palma ratio. To facilitate and coordinate inequality-reducing efforts, the 8th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) has adopted a broad-based strategy of inclusiveness to promote prosperity through deriving full benefit from the development process and help the poor and vulnerable with social protection-based income transfers. The focus is on a sustainable development pathway that is resilient to disaster and climate change, entails sustainable use of natural resources; and successfully manages the inevitable urbanization transition.

SDG11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

Keeping consistency with the targets of SDG11 and for effective implementation of the 8th Five Year (2021-2025) and the Perspective Plan (2021-2041) objectives, the government has significantly increased investment in infrastructure. The Padma Multipurpose Bridge (6.15 km long) is the largest infrastructure undertaking in Bangladesh which has been opened for traffic in June 2022. Besides, the long-awaited metro rail project has finally become a reality as the country's first overhead electric train has been launched in December 2022.

As Bangladesh targets to become an upper middle-income country by 2031, along with greening the transportation system, ecological hazard-free high-rise buildings, and co-ordination among RAJUK, DCC, WASA; polluters-pay industrial system, these contexts demand that urbanization in Bangladesh be based on the theory of intelligent urbanism. For sustainable cities and communities, the areas of housing, transport, environment, drinking water, electricity, gas lines, clay, drainage system, and governance system need to be more focused. All sectoral developments depend much on how well urban development is planned, coordinated, and managed.

SDG12: Responsible Consumption and Production

Bangladesh, to achieve SDG12 by 2030, has prepared a 10-year SCP framework. The aggregate consumption footprint shows that the overall trend in the consumption-GDP ratio is declining in Bangladesh despite the significant rise in the standard of living. The relationship between consumption in terms of per unit of GDP (constant prices) and per capita consumption shows a growing convergence between the two. This indicates that the economy is heading toward a path of sustainable consumption. Further, the reduction of energy consumption per unit of production indicates that the economy is approaching a sustainable path through efficient utilization of energy resources and sustainable production. Energy consumption (primary energy) per $1,000 GDP is declining over time in Bangladesh, showing rising energy efficiency in production.

A circular economy scenario is particularly relevant to Bangladesh, given the economic weight of the extractive sectors and low recycling rates. For meeting the SDG12 targets, Bangladesh has been working with its development partners by adopting a whole-of-society approach. To ensure sustainable development in terms of ecosystems, cities, energy, and response to climate change, it is essential to modify production and consumption patterns —particularly concerning energy and land use— and to implement adaptation measures.

SDG13: Climate Action

To address the climatic challenges, the government has prepared several key strategic plans and laws to mainstream the climate-related concerns in Bangladesh. The government has also undertaken specific and strategic measures under different policy guidance including National Environment Policy 2018, Ecologically Critical Areas (ECAs) Management Rules 2016, National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP 2016-2021), Bangladesh Biological Diversity Act 2017, Biosafety Policy of Bangladesh, National Oil and Chemical Spill Contingency Plan (NOSCOP), Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100 and others.

The Economic Relations Division (ERD) of the Ministry of Finance, as Bangladesh's National Designated Authority to Green Climate Fund (GCF), has adopted a $4 billion pipeline for GCF and as of 30th April 2020, Bangladesh has received financing for four projects, with cumulative support of US$ 94.7 million.

In 2018, Bangladesh has received funding from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) for three projects namely the clean cooking program, enhancing adaptive capacities of coastal communities, and climate-resilient infrastructure mainstreaming. Some of these programs are funded by other development partners as well. Under the clean cooking program, barriers are being removed to allow rural communities to adopt improved cooking stoves to reduce fuel-wood consumption, and promote substitute fuels like briquette, LPG, and biogas use at the household level. In 2019, more than 211,000 Rohingya refugee families received the LPGs and this has reduced fuel wood consumption in the camp and adjacent areas by about 80 percent.

In 2020, IDCOL received approval of $256.5 million from GCF to promote private-sector investment through the large-scale adoption of energy-efficient technologies in the textile and garment sectors. This is the first concessional GCF credit line for Bangladesh, as well as the first private sector financing under GCF in the country. In addition, IDCOL has four projects in the GCF pipeline with a total financing value of $256.15 million in both climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Although Bangladesh has invested billions of dollars in efforts to reduce the effects of climate change, more is needed. Further, it needs to be recognized that climate change is a long-term problem with short-term effects. Thus, Bangladesh needs to begin ramping up programs to address the human cost of climate change that is imminent especially since the country regularly faces floods and cyclones as two major natural disasters. The government has developed, through adopting participatory processes, the relevant strategies, including the mapping of responsibilities of different ministries; but their successful implementation and achievement of SDG13 require a whole-of-society approach along with required global partnership.

SDG14: Life below Water

Bangladesh's development progress in the future is dependent on its capacity to explore untapped resources. Against the context, the 8th Five Year Plan (2021-2025) prioritizes the exploration of marine resources which is an area that Bangladesh needs to explore optimally and sustainably to ensure sustainable development, For Bangladesh, the Bay of Bengal opens a source for the valuable asset that also facilitates international trade and commerce. The Blue Economy conceptualizes oceans and seas as 'development spaces' where spatial planning integrates conservation, sustainable use of living resources, oil and mineral wealth extraction, bio-prospecting, sustainable energy production, and marine transport.

Bangladesh has adopted the Blue Economy initiative – the maritime pillar of the future strategy – to promote smart, sustainable, and inclusive growth and employment opportunities in the country's maritime economic activities over the short, medium, and longer terms. The initiative specifically aims to promote synergies and foster framework conditions that support specific maritime economic activities and their value chains for which developing skilled human resources, performing institutions, and sustainable technologies is the key challenge for Bangladesh.

SDG15: Life on Land

According to World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC), in 2019, tourism in Bangladesh accounted for an estimated 3 percent of the total economy, around US$ 9.11 billion. The forestry subsector achieved an average growth rate of 6.1 percent in the first four years of the 7FYP (2016-2020). An updated Forestry Master Plan (FMP) has been developed for the period 2017-2036 after the completion of the previous FMP in 2015 to address the upcoming and on-going challenges related to anthropogenic issues and climate change.

Protecting biodiversity is particularly essential for Bangladesh because agriculture accounts for around 40 percent of the employment of its labor force. Biodiversity also has implications for

public health as loss of biodiversity has serious implications for the availability of medicines; given approximately half of all synthetic drugs have a natural origin. Bangladesh, in this context, has had a rich heritage of a diverse ecosystem, which has come under severe threat from environmentally damaging economic transformations. Deforestation and forest degradation, the degradation of land, sea, and river water pollution, indiscriminate filling of water bodies for land acquisition, unsustainable use of ground water and fishery resources in ponds, lakes, and rivers, and unsustainable ways of shrimp farming have collectively taken a huge toll on the degradation of the eco-system and consequent loss of biodiversity.

SDG16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions

There are several key challenges in implementing SDG16 especially since the Covid-19 pandemic has increased violence and reversed steps for several of the SDGs. The international community is weakened and focusing more on hard security than on human security in peace processes. The government is working towards putting adequate emphasis on SDG16 and meeting the gaps in data and information on target indicators.

A mixed-mode approach has also been adopted in Bangladesh under the multi-donor Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF), in which the government and civil society actors join hands to mobilize and enhance the resilience of the community at the grassroots level against radicalization and extremist tendencies. Similar programs have been envisaged in the 8th Five Year Plan (2021-2025) and 'Perspective Plan 2041'of Bangladesh. The formation of the National Human Rights Commission in 2009, the issuance of the Right to Information Act 2009, the introduction of the Grievance Redress System (GRS), the Annual Performance Agreement (APA), and similar other measures have set the foundation for which the government is proceeding towards attaining good governance and by that achieving SDG16.

SDG17: Partnerships to achieve the Goal

For Bangladesh, SDG17 requires a new global partnership – this includes financing development, connecting people through information technology networks, international trade flows, and strengthening data collection and analysis. People around the world as well as in Bangladesh are coming closer together through physical and digital networks. As a cross-cutting goal, SDG17 directs resources and partnerships in three core areas (i.e. economy, society, and biosphere), and has a diverse set of targets and indicators under five different areas including finance, technology, trade, capacity building, and systemic issues.

The government has adopted various measures for smooth and sustainable graduation from LDC which will complement SDGs implementation and has established the South-South Cooperation Cell to harness the potential of SSC and Triangular Cooperation. Measures have been adopted to reinforce green and circular economy by facilitating increased financing for renewable energy including SHS and solar irrigation programs. South-South cooperation has been a crucial part of this, as is Bangladesh's membership and leadership in institutions like ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), BIMSTEC, NDB, and SAARC, as well as with UN agencies and programs around the world.

Status of National Priority Indicators

Among the 17 SDGs, 12 SDGs (1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,10,11,15 and 16) directly require integrated strategies at the community level to overcome the interlinked challenges of poverty, ill-health, other social ills, and environmental destruction; while the remaining five (9, 12, 13, 14 and 17) need local efforts indirectly. To this end, a framework for localization covering divisional, district, and upazila levels has been adopted by Bangladesh after elaborate discussions in the SDGs Implementation and Review Committee. As a pilot, the district of Natore had first put into practice the localization model (called the Natore model) at the district level chalking out action programs for all government agencies of the district. Moreover, the Government, is conducting a baseline study on SDGs localization in selected five Upazilas of five Divisions on a pilot basis. The objective of this study is to assess the current socio-economic situation, environmental status, and other relevant issues in these Upazilas and develop an integrated programmatic framework for implementing the SDGs at the local level successfully.

For localizing the SDGs, the government has identified 39 national priority indicators along with an additional 1 indicator for each district and upazila (+1) which is well known as the 39+1 priority indicator to be implemented at the local level for achieving respective targets of the SDGs. The aim is to create a space where people at the grassroots level can interact regularly for sharing knowledge and involve themselves with the SDGs. To ensure that no one is left behind, one spatial indicator has been selected at the local level where they are relatively worse off or vulnerable. Data on priority indicators from 492 upazilas in 64 districts have been collected and these are being coordinated and analyzed by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) and recommended by the National Data Coordination Committee (NDCC). Finally, it has been approved by the SDG Implementation Coordination Committee. BBS has also completed the exercise on data sources of the finalized +1 indicators.

The process of localization, as adopted in Bangladesh, aims to make the aspirations embedded in the SDGs real to the communities, households, and individuals, especially focusing on those who have been left behind or are at risk of falling behind. Under the adopted process, local communities and stakeholders, who have the best knowledge and information regarding individual and collective needs and capacities, are entrusted with planning, implementing, and realizing global goals.

Challenges and Moving Ahead

Bangladesh has reached a pivotal point in its implementation journey of development agenda including the 2030 Agenda with only 8 years remaining to achieve the targets, Bangladesh needs to assess the progress achieved so far, identify the gaps, build back better and accelerate the implementation of the SDGs. One way to fast-track progress is to accelerate the process of localization and further mobilize the local government institutions (LGIs) and the local communities to pursue sustainable goals at their levels since localization is a strong driver of the 2030 Agenda in the country. Many of the targets rely on the contributions and responsibilities of the LGIs in Bangladesh. As basic service providers in health, education, housing, food systems, and water and sanitation, among others, these institutions play an important role in delivering the SDGs.

No doubt, Bangladesh has made significant headway in the process of localization; but still, there are considerable barriers to effectively localizing the SDGs. Some of the general challenges include

inadequate local capacity and shortages of financial and other resources; problems in policy coherence and coordination among national and local efforts; limited awareness of the SDGs at the subnational level; and challenges related to the availability of data and capacities to perform subnational monitoring. Bangladesh is working towards meeting these challenges which have become more urgent with Covid-19 and the country is giving a fresh look at how to scale up SDG localization quickly.

The transformative aspirations of the 2030 Agenda rely to a great extent on the inclusion, participation, and collaboration of the full range of cross-sector stakeholders including civil society organizations. The Government of Bangladesh is urging all citizens, private sector organizations, and all levels of the governance structure to work in close coordination with relevant stakeholders to bring about the large-scale systemic change needed for such a transformative change.

Conclusions and Way Forward

The Bangladesh Progress Report 2022 highlights that Bangladesh has achieved progress in terms of most of the indicators (for which data/information are available) of SDGs since 2015, at least until the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic. Among the 17 goals, Bangladesh is 'on track with a few important goals such as 'no poverty' and 'quality education'. Bangladesh is also improving its performance against several goals including zero hunger; good health and well-being; gender equality; clean water and sanitation; affordable and clean energy; industry, innovation, and infrastructure; and sustainable cities and communities. On the other hand, more efforts are needed in areas like decent work and economic growth; life below water; peace, justice, strong institution; and partnerships for the goals.

While the Bangladesh economy as well as the global economy was recovering strongly from the Covid-19 pandemic in 2021, the Russia-Ukraine war has posed a setback to the ongoing process of recovery. A rise in global commodity prices and sluggish economic activities were affected by the war-induced supply chain disruptions across the world as well as in Bangladesh. Since the global macroeconomic prospects remain uncertain due to the war-induced crisis and fallout of the Covid-19 pandemic, future developments of the Bangladesh economy will significantly depend on the path of the pandemic, war situation, policy actions, evolution of financial conditions and commodity prices in the global economy, and the capacity of the domestic economy to adjust to the emerging impediments.

To remain competitive and keep the growth trajectory upwards in a steady manner after graduation in 2026, Bangladesh needs to focus on a knowledge-based economy, utilize demographic dividends, mobilize increased local resources, ensure a congenial business environment, shift towards manufacturing high-value goods, promote export-oriented industries, and increase regional and global connectivity. The need will be to turn the challenges into opportunities. The key aspect for Bangladesh will be to handle the transition prudently to make it sustainable. Bangladesh will have to become more innovative and productive to complete the remaining stages for achieving the SDGs--a journey in which the development partners will have to play a more supportive role to bring higher levels of prosperity along with achieving the SDGs.

INTRODUCTION

BANGLADESH:
SEVEN YEARS OF SDGs

Background

The SDGs have set a transformative agenda for the global community that emphasizes integration and balance among economic, social, and environmental aspirations. As such, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has major implications for national development efforts in Bangladesh. Although the goals themselves are universal, Bangladesh has selected national targets and has determined its priorities and level of ambition in terms of the scale and pace of transformation. Bangladesh's political commitment to the SDGs is demonstrated by the fact that the implementation of the SDGs is coordinated at the highest political level.

Additionally, Bangladesh has designed the SDG Tracker to create a data repository for monitoring the implementation of the SDGs and other national development goals. This also facilitates the tracking of progress against each goal and target through multiple visualization schemes. In recognition of the fact that SDGs are transformative and comprehensive, the Government of Bangladesh has adopted a 'whole of society' approach to achieving the SDGs in line with its principle of 'Leave no one behind.

In effect, the integrated and nationally-owned SDG strategies are at the center of the national effort of Bangladesh. In the process, the government has successfully overcome many challenges in choosing realistic yet ambitious national targets and setting out the most cost-effective and appropriate pathways for achieving these goals. Given the broad scope of the SDGs, Bangladesh has also prioritized the task of assessing the economic, social, and environmental implications of the strategies in an integrated way over both the short and long terms.

SDGs Implementation Pathway

For all countries, SDGs provide a comprehensive and inclusive framework and one that addresses some of humanity's biggest challenges, even beyond 2030. The SDGs are a set of 17 goals that all UN member states have agreed to achieve by 2030, covering key global issues like climate action, poverty eradication, and reduced inequalities. The 17 SDGs represent a shared vision for global development towards a sustainable economy, society, and environment.

Since the adoption of the SDGs in 2015, the Government of Bangladesh started to coordinate national efforts and evaluate performance against the SDGs. Furthermore, it was also recognized how challenging it would be to meet the SDGs at the national level, without active engagement with subnational stakeholders. Public participation and collective action by local stakeholders were recognized as key determining factors in achieving inclusive sustainable development to meet the 2030 targets defined by the SDGs.

The government has consistently applied the 'whole of society's approach to the preparation of national development plans and policy documents of national importance. The government has also been applying this approach throughout the process of SDGs preparation and implementation with

inputs from multiple stakeholders including national experts, private sector and CSO (civil society organization) representatives, and development partners. For the implementation of the SDGs, consultations on 'Stakeholders' Engagement on the SDGs Implementation in Bangladesh' was held with representatives from NGOs, CSOs, businesses, development partners, ethnic minorities, professional groups, labor associations, women's network, and the media. The consultations sought to raise more awareness, interest, and commitment to create deeper engagement from all stakeholders toward attaining SDGs.

Since the SDGs recognize the importance of action across all scales to achieve a sustainable future, to contribute to overall national-scale SDG achievement, the government is working towards encouraging local communities to focus on a locally-relevant subset of goals and understand potential future pathways for key drivers which influence local sustainability. To complement and augment national implementation, initiatives such as localizing the SDGs have been adopted by the government to encourage local authorities and communities to implement the SDGs at the local scale. The expectation is that this will empower the communities and give them an autonomous voice to advance their local sustainability agenda.

Integrating SDGs into National Development Agenda

The key to implementing the 2030 Agenda is to formulate comprehensive plans to achieve the development goals which also creates an opportunity for the SDGs to promote national goal-setting processes and influence domestic policymaking. The process of adopting and mainstreaming the SDGs into domestic policies and plans and integrating the three sustainable development dimensions within the national development agenda is critical for Bangladesh to create a significant impact on policy.

From the very beginning, Bangladesh has integrated the SDGs into the country's national development agenda through several processes, as these have been integrated within the country's 7th (2016-2020) and 8th (2021-2025) Five Year Plans; ministry, and division wise SDGs mapping has been done; SDGs monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework has been adopted; SDGs need assessment and financing strategy have been completed; SDGs action plan has been undertaken, and several other actions have been initiated to strengthen the integration process.

Bangladesh has also created institutional arrangements (e.g. apex SDGs Implementation and Review Committee supported by implementation committees at the division, district, and sub-district levels) that would be devising appropriate policies, programs, and institutional and financial arrangements to accelerate the implementation of the SDGs. To this end, the government has started the process of localizing the SDGs, particularly at the district and upazila levels. In line with this, the government has identified a set of 39+1 priority indicators for the localization of SDGs to reach out and involve the people living the furthest.

As a part of tracking the implementation status of the SDGs, Bangladesh has already published two SDGs Progress Reports in 2018 and 2020. Now, the country has prepared the third 'Bangladesh SDGs Progress Report 2022' to highlight the progress made across all 17 Goals since 2015. Moreover, one key aspect of the present assessment of the progress towards reaching the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs is the grievous blow of Covid-19 —one that will be far-reaching for years to come--that presents an enormous challenge for the country towards achieving the SDGs.

Impact of Covid-19 on SDGs Implementation in Bangladesh

As indicated in the Bangladesh SDG Progress Reports of 2018 and 2020, Bangladesh had been making solid progress in implementing the SDGs before the Covid-19 pandemic. The impacts of Covid-19 combined with stringent containment measures have seriously impacted the country's long-standing macroeconomic stability; and have disrupted people's livelihood, thereby creating adverse consequences on the progress towards achieving the SDGs. For instance, the pandemic has created many 'new poor' who are under severe temporary poverty stress due to socioeconomic dislocations in the economy.

The pandemic has also overstressed the country's health system, education, human development, basic public services delivery, and social up-liftmen. Furthermore, mitigating the adverse impact of the pandemic is challenging in Bangladesh because of multiple vulnerability transmission channels. The country is disproportionately dependent on the informal sector (85 percent of total employment). Thus, it has been crucial that the government, private sector, and development partners in Bangladesh all step up and work together to alleviate the pandemic's impacts.

Since March 2020, when Covid-19 was declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization (WHO), the pandemic has had an unprecedented impact on society, the livelihoods of communities, and the well-being of families--redefining the everyday life of people in Bangladesh as elsewhere around the world. With extraordinary scientific breakthroughs, vaccines have been rolled out and Bangladesh has vaccinated the majority of its population and implemented other recovery measures. As a result, Bangladesh has witnessed a short-term recovery since the second half of 2021, but there remain significant uncertainties relating to medium- to long-term recovery prospects. In common with many developing countries, Bangladesh may also suffer from the medium- to long-term socioeconomic effects of the Covid-19 pandemic in ways that are not yet fully exposed and understood.

To begin with, Bangladesh has been hit hard both on the human health and socioeconomic front due to Covid-19. Fortunately, the levels of known infections and deaths were modest in Bangladesh in many parts of the world. However, on the socioeconomic front, losses were unprecedented. GDP growth slowed considerably, export earnings were down sharply, private and public investment rates had fallen and government fiscal revenues had been badly hurt (Table 1).

The government moved swiftly to contain the damage taking action on both the human health front and the economy. On the health front, policy responses sought to contain the spread of the virus through full and partial lockdowns, providing safety gear and other support to protect the healthcare workers and other essential staff, strengthening healthcare facilities with supplies and equipment, undertaking to test, and educating the masses on the adoption of health safety measures including physical distancing, use of face masks, hand washing and personal hygiene, and other support measures. On the economic front, the government adopted a series of economic stimulus packages estimated at BDT 1,877 billion to protect the income of the poor and vulnerable and help the revival of economic activities.

Table 1: Major Macroeconomic Effects of Covid-19

Indicator	Actual outcome FY2019-20	Expected Outcome Pre-Covid FY2019-20
GDP growth (%)	3.45	8.19
Nominal GDP (BDT billion)	27,964	28,859
Private investment (% of GDP)	23.6	24.6
Exports (US$ billion)	33.67	45.5
Tax revenues (BDT billion)	2,207	3,401
Fiscal deficit (% of GDP)	5.5	5.0
CPI Inflation rate (%)	5.65	5.5

Source: 8FYP, GED.

The macroeconomic effects of Covid-19 are still unfolding in Bangladesh's economy and society. Based on available evidence, the main macroeconomic effects for FY2020 outcomes are summarised in Table 2. The effects were severe with substantial losses in GDP (BDT 800 billion), exports (US$8 billion), investment (BDT500 billion), and tax revenues (BDT 200 billion). Additionally, in the short-term, unemployment, poverty, and inequality may have risen as well. To address the challenges, the government has taken prompt measures to offset these short-term impacts and many of the macroeconomic indicators have already started to rebound. For example, the real GDP growth rate robustly bounced back from 3.45 percent in FY2019-20 to 6.94 percent in FY2020-21 and further to 7.25 percent in FY2021-22.

Other key macroeconomic indicators are also returning to their normal growth trajectory. With the return of normalcy on the economic front, the social indicators have also started to overcome the transitory adverse effects to return to their improvement paths. However, the full impact to stem the tide of the downturn will take time to unfold, until such time that the full impact of Covid-19 is managed, the economy bounces back to an accelerated growth path, depending on how quickly the global economy gets back to normal.

Table 2: Selected Targets of 7FYP Macroeconomic Framework and Actual in FY2019-20

Policy area	Performance indicator	Baseline FY2014-15	Plan target FY2019-20	Actual FY2019-20
Fiscal policy	Tax to GDP ratio (%)	8.5	14.1	7.9
	Public expenditure to GDP ratio (%)	13.5	21.1	14.9
	Fiscal deficit (% of GDP)	3.7	4.7	5.5
	Total debt (% of GDP)	33.6	36.3	35.98
External sector	The average growth rate of exports (nominal US$) (%)	...	12.0	1.6
	Exports (% of GDP)	15.7	16.2	12.32
	Current account balance (% of GDP)	1.5	(-) 2.5	(-) 1.24
	Remittances (% of GDP)	7.8	7.6	5.6
	Foreign reserves (month of imports)	6.3	7.3	7.2
	External debt (% of GDP)	12.3	11.2	13.4
Monetary policy	Rate of CPI inflation (%)	6.5	5.5	5.65
	Growth of M2 (%) (end of the year)	12.4	15.9	12.64
	Growth of private-sector credit	13.2	15.0	13.14

Source: 8FYP, GED.

Since the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, the government has been fighting to mitigate the adverse effects based on the 'whole of the society and 'leaving no one behind (LNOB)' principles. A forward-looking response to Covid-19 was taken as crucial for Bangladesh to recover quickly from the economic shock and setback of the pandemic. For this purpose, the government has been working—since the beginning of the pandemic--towards making the state institutions more responsive, inclusive, transparent, and accountable through capacity development, decentralization, building democratic institutions and social capital; enabling more innovative and inclusive public services; enhancing development effectiveness; and mainstreaming and localizing the SDGs. The government has extended the socioeconomic response to Covid-19 within a framework that looks beyond recovery toward achieving the SDGs and leaving no one behind. The approach focuses on SDG integration, linking immediate response efforts to medium and longer-term sustainable development needs and the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

The economic fallout from the pandemic has indeed pushed many people into poverty, in addition to significant employment losses, especially during 2020 and the early period of 2021. Because of the reduction in incomes of many families due to job losses both within the country and abroad (overseas workers), expenditure on nutrition, health, and education has declined. With inequality in access to quality internet connection and electricity and since online and long-distance education has become the norm, the inequality has affected a large number of children during the pandemic who do not have access to quality internet and electricity. This is likely to further the existing social, economic, and regional inequalities in the country. In the context of gender equality, the pandemic has made the matter worse. Women are more affected than men due to the pandemic in all markets

like health, economy, social protection, and access to food. Unpaid care work for women has increased due to the proliferation of disease and domestic violence during the lockdown period.

The collapse of international trade has caused huge economic losses in major labor-intensive sectors such as readymade garments (RMGs), leather products, handicrafts, and shrimp. Similarly, the tourism and hospitality sectors, which have been heavily affected by the pandemic, are sources of major income losses for many people in the country. International remittance inflows, which are significant sources of the country's economy and livelihoods, reduced drastically due to the pandemic. Likewise, the backbone of the Bangladesh economy—the cottage, micro, small and medium enterprises (CMSMEs)—have also been heavily affected by supply chain disruptions, liquidity crunch, demand collapse, and labor shortages. The resulting loss of income and jobs due to all these factors also harmed Bangladesh's journey toward achieving the SDGs. The large number of people living at the margin, fragmented social protection coverage, the high number of informal employment and economic activities, and underdeveloped public health infrastructure have exacerbated the impact. Besides affecting the lives and livelihoods of the people, the economic fallout also has adverse consequences on budgetary commitments toward the SDGs.

The above shows that, depending on specific situations and contexts, the impacts of the pandemic on critical SDGs vary based on several factors. In Bangladesh, SDG1 (No Poverty), SDG8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), and SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) have been critical in securing the capacity for tolerance among the people during the pandemic. If people had been wealthier, they would have more surpluses (e.g. savings). If people had more social protection, they would not need to worry about their current employment status. Finally, if the urban settlements had been more organized, it would have been much easier to control the infection and prevent the emergent situation from being prolonged. Thus, the tolerance capacity needs to be strong in the face of catastrophe shocks and make the country's development sustainable.

The downturn has also negatively affected the potential SDG funding mechanisms, including remittances and foreign direct investment (FDI) along with a decline in private sector investment flows to key SDG sectors. Pandemic lockdowns and restrictions have also meant that children now have below-minimum reading proficiency levels, and there has been an increase in child marriage, placing girls at risk. Covid-19 has also exacerbated inequalities, pushing back on SDG progress. Thus, the pandemic-led rise in unemployment and disruption in global supply chains have increased poverty and hunger severely, probably pushing millions of people into extreme poverty. In effect, the multiple falls out of the pandemic have affected the implementation and achievements of all SDGs in Bangladesh, particularly those involving poverty (SDG1), hunger (SDG2), health and wellbeing (SDG3), quality education (SDG4), gender equality (SDG5), clean water and sanitation (SDG6), decent work and economic growth (SDG8), industry, innovation and infrastructure (SDG9), reduced inequalities (SDG10), and climate action (SDG13).

The Government of Bangladesh has been implementing the National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) to speed up reforms in the country's fragmented social protection system. Social protection, including cash transfers, universal health coverage, and access to other basic services are taken

as critical for moving forward, especially for the disadvantaged population groups. The drive for gender equality is leading towards changes to address the discrimination and bias that emanate from entrenched social norms, including the re-distribution of unpaid care work, leadership, and the digital economy. Public-private partnerships are being promoted to build resilient social protection systems that can weather shocks, improve the conditions of informal sector workers, and promote a new generation of resilient, green jobs that support youth entrepreneurship.

The present development pathway is now more sensitive to nature and climate along with a greater realization that nature could flourish when human interference could be minimized. This realization has been taken as an opportunity to shape the Covid-19 response and recovery policies and move away from the high carbon-intensive path. The government has successfully launched efforts to ensure an effective crisis response through digital platforms significantly in telemedicine, teleworking, and digital financial services. Many sectors of the economy are now increasingly operating 'remotely' powered by digital technologies and emerging as the 'new normal to define the future of work.

Aspire to Innovate (a2i), a special program of the government's Digital Bangladesh agenda has been working as one of the key drivers of the country's goal of becoming a developed country by 2041 and in achieving the SDGs. For example, a2i's electronic filing management system (eNothi) has ensured that many decision-making in public authorities does not suffer during the lockdown. Further, a2i in partnership with relevant national and international agencies is helping the government to provide necessary data to identify the geographical location of Covid positive patients. Data from the technology-enabled epidemiological health surveillance from various sources are analyzed to empower the health system to identify or predict the hot zones.

Digital payments during the Covid-19 crisis have also taken a new form. 'Ek Desh'--the first Crowdfunding FinTech Platform in Bangladesh is being used to disburse Zakat and relief payments digitally. Workers in the RMG sector with mobile wallets are having their salaries debited directly into their accounts using mobile digital technology. The online marketplace 'Anondomela' directly links buyers and micro-entrepreneurs on an e-commerce platform. 'Phone-e-Nittoponno', a digital platform has been introduced where daily necessities through the Ekshop platform are addressed and delivered through a National Volunteer Network.

While we do not yet have a full picture of exactly how Covid-19 has impacted SDG progress in Bangladesh, the available evidence shows that it no doubt has threatened the past progress. Despite these trends, there are 'rays of hope' — including urgent new social protection measures brought in by the government, an increased focus on digital transformation, and added focus on the health system — and building on these strong foundations. Further, there is an opportunity to use the lessons learned from the pandemic — resilience, leadership, and mutual collaboration — and channel them into jump-starting the SDGs in the post-pandemic era.

It is also time to integrate new sources of private capital with scalable and innovative approaches to fill the investment gap as it is not possible for the public sector alone to fund this gap. Financial guarantees can be scaled up to attract private capital and reduce investors' exposure to risks. Financial bonds are another tool for bringing additional capital to fund the SDGs. The government is exploring the feasibility of issuing new green, social and sustainability bonds. This is also taken as an opportune time to rethink the economic growth path, which is coming at a high cost to the people and the planet. Bangladesh is a country that is most vulnerable to climate change and also has high water and air pollution, especially in the cities. Against this background, economic growth will have to be achieved by keeping a long-term vision with the goal of environmental sustainability. Accordingly, economic stimulus packages are being designed to have social inclusion and environmental sustainability as major objectives.

The government policy agenda is also exploring the possibilities of gradually changing the fossil fuel subsidy in a manner that is aligned with the environmental goals of the SDGs. The government is putting more emphasis on projects that will build greener and more sustainable energy systems. More funds are being channelized to boost health infrastructure in the country. Increasing annual health expenditures and introducing universal health coverage are being explored to help not only in meeting SDG 3 (Good health for all) but also to build resilience to future risks. Universal social protection systems play the role of automatic stabilizers during crises by providing basic incomes. The introduction of such systems and scaling up of existing social safety net programs are also on the agenda to help cover the more vulnerable.

At the same time, the pandemic has also shown us the wisdom of what is inherent in the SDGs-- the challenges we face cannot be dealt with in isolation. Bangladesh, in partnership with all partners, is already dealing with the pandemic's negative effects. In particular, the country has taken several steps concerning the 'leave no one behind agenda, since the pandemic has disproportionately, and more detrimentally, affected the members of the most vulnerable social groups -- including people living in poverty, the elderly, persons with disabilities, youth, women, and transgender people. The urgent challenge for the country is to get these groups and the rest of society back on track and thus ensure sustainable development. The government is trying its level best to meet these challenges head-on and come out on top.

The government's main agenda is to realize the value of the SDG framework which lies in its interdisciplinary links, bringing multiple aspects of development together and encouraging synergies of the SDG framework. In the post-Covid-19 situation, the focus on inclusion embedded in the SDG framework also takes on great relevance for recovery. The 2022 Report will reflect on the past seven years of the Agenda 2030 implementation and would allow for adjustments to priorities and course corrections providing a key window of opportunity to inject urgency and catalyze updated or new commitments from all stakeholders.

Limitations and Way Forward

Data unavailability: As with such comprehensive reports, Sustainable Development Goals Bangladesh Progress Report 2022 has some limitations. The Report has not been able to provide a uniform degree of assessment for all SDGs due to a lack of data and/or non-availability of up-to-date data for the relevant indicators. Even after seven years into the implementation period of the 2030 Agenda, only 44 percent of SDG indicators have sufficient data for proper global and regional monitoring ('Tier I' indicators) at the global level. These gaps in global reporting thwart the ability to take effective action and catalyze the transformative changes required to achieve the 2030 Agenda. Although the government has been making all-out efforts to overcome the key data limitations, it takes time and resources. As a stop-gap measure, the Report has used linear projections where data for two consecutive years from the start of SDGs are available to see if the progress is on track. In other cases, the Report does not provide any quantitative judgment.

Despite these limitations, the Report has been produced to reflect on the progress, particularly because of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, and allow for adjustments to priorities and course corrections. This will also help realize the inner problems of SDG implementation and to be aware of the limitations. The expectation is that the Report will help inject urgency and catalyze updated or new commitments from all stakeholders for implementing the SDGs agenda in post-Covid-19 pandemic Bangladesh.

Moreover, the Sustainable Development Goals Bangladesh Progress Report 2022 reflects the deep commitment of the Government of Bangladesh to its pledges made to the international community at the UN by signing the Agenda 2030 to take comprehensive steps to design and implement policies and programs for achieving the SDGs by 2030. The Report is also a source of motivation for all stakeholders to undertake actions to enhance performance in SDGs implementation to achieve the SDGs in Bangladesh.

OVERVIEW OF PROGRESS IN SDGs

1 NO POVERTY

END POVERTY IN ALL ITS FORMS EVERYWHERE

1.1 Global/Regional Context

Globally, the number of people living in extreme poverty declined from 36 percent in 1990 to 10.1 percent in 2015. But the pace of change has been decelerating in recent years and the Covid-19 pandemic risks have been reversing decades of progress in the fight against poverty. Research by the World Institute for Development Economics Research (UNU-WIDER) warns that the economic fallout from the Covid-19 global pandemic could increase global poverty by as much as half a billion people, or 8 percent of the total human population. This would be the first time that poverty has increased globally in thirty years, since 1990.

The Global SDGs Report 2021 shows that the share of the world's population living in extreme poverty fell from 10.1 percent in 2015 to 8.6 percent in 2018. This means that the number of people living on less than $1.90 per day dropped from 741 million to 689 million over the period. However, due to the impact of Covid-19 on the economy, the global poverty rate increased sharply from 2019 to 2020, from 8.3 percent to 9.2 percent (Global SDGs Report 2022). However, the rate of reduction is observed to slow down to less than half a percentage point annually between 2015 and 2017, compared with the one percentage point annual decline between 1990 and 2015.

Along with global conflict and climate change, the Covid-19 pandemic has aggravated the threats to progress in poverty reduction. Estimates suggest that 2020 saw an increase of between 119 million and 124 million global poor, of whom 60 percent are in Southern Asia. This reflects a rise in the extreme poverty rate for the first time since 1998, from 8.4 percent in 2019 to 9.5 percent in 2020, undoing the progress made since 2016. The impact of the pandemic is not likely to be short-lived. The forecasts for 2022 show that 75 million more people than expected before the pandemic will be living in extreme poverty. Rising food prices and the broader impacts of the war in Ukraine could push that number even higher, to 95 million, leaving the world even further from meeting the target of ending extreme poverty by 2030.

Additionally, the share of the world's employed workforce living in extreme poverty fell by more than half from 2010 to 2019 – from 14 percent to 6.6 percent. However, social distancing measures, lockdowns, and related public health measures due to Covid-19 have severely affected the informal economy, where the vast majority of the working poor are employed. Therefore, the associated loss of income threatens to roll back global progress in reducing poverty.

Suitable anti-poverty policies should be adopted at the national level across all regions to eradicate poverty in all its forms to meet SDG1. This is especially true for regions such as Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia where poverty is still concentrated. Poverty is not reflected in low levels of income alone but it is, rather, multifaceted. Addressing multidimensional poverty implies reaching the last mile of exclusion, those living in remote communities or belonging to marginalized groups face multiple, compounding sources of social and economic discrimination, that plunge them into a vicious cycle that perpetuates exclusions over generations.

1.2 Assessment of Progress on SDG1

Indicator 1.1.1 Proportion of population living below the international poverty line, by sex, age, employment status, and geographical location (urban/rural)

The proportion of the population living on less than $2.15 a day measured at 2017 international prices, adjusted for purchasing power parity (PPP), shows decreasing trend in poverty over the last 30 years. In Bangladesh, the population living below the international poverty line dropped to 13.47 percent in 2016 from 18.22 percent in 2010. Despite notable progress in poverty reduction, a large number of populations are still poor in Bangladesh.

Table 1.1: Percentage of Population below the International Poverty Line

	1991	2000	2005	2010	2016
$2.15 a day	41.94	33.32	23.97	18.22	13.47

Source: PovcalNet, WB, 2022

Indicator 1.2.1 Proportion of population living below the national poverty line, by sex, age, employment status, and geographical location (urban/rural)

National poverty measured as the proportion of the population living below the national upper poverty line has consistently declined to reach 31.5 percent in 2010 and 24.3 percent in 2016. The most recent official poverty estimate in Bangladesh shows remarkable progress in poverty reduction since 2000. The poverty rate has declined to 20.5 percent while the extreme poverty rate has reduced to 10.5 percent in 2019 (GED, 8FYP) (Table 1.2).

Table 1.2: Trends in Poverty using Upper Poverty Line (UPL) and Lower Poverty Line (LPL) 1992-2019 (Percent)

	1992		2000		2005		2010		2016		2019 (indi-rect esti-mate)	
	UPL	LPL	UPL	LPL	UPL	LPL	UPL	LPL	UPL	LPL	UPL	LPL
National	56.7	41	48.9	34.3	40	25.1	31.5	17.6	24.3	12.9	20.5	10.5
Urban	42.8	24	35.2	19.9	28.4	14.6	21.3	7.7	18.9	7.6	...	...
Rural	58.8	43.8	52.3	37.9	43.8	28.6	35.2	21.1	26.4	14.9	...	...

Note: UPL=Upper Poverty Line; LPL= Lower Poverty Line.

Source: BBS, Household Income and Expenditure Survey, various years and 8FYP, Planning Commission. 2019 data are derived from GDP-based indirect estimates by BBS.

Although the rate of poverty has consistently declined over the entire period, the rate of decline shows some weakening during the 2010-2016 period compared with the 2005-2010 period. The poverty rate declined by an average annual 1.7 percentage points in the 2005-2010 period, but it fell to 1.2 percentage points in the 2010-2016 period.

It is also evident from Table 1.2 that till 2016, rural poverty has been falling at a relatively faster rate compared with urban poverty resulting from the rapid transformation of the rural economy. A notable feature of poverty reduction is that not only the poverty rate has declined but also their absolute number. The total number of poor has declined from 83.06 million in 1992 to 39.60 million in 2016 implying millions of people have been lifted out of poverty during the period.

Indicator 1.2.2 Proportion of men, women, and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions

Global MPI Report 2019 and 2022 shows that in 2014, around 41.7 percent population was MPI poor, which has gone down to 24.6 percent in 2019 (OPHI, 2019 and 2022)(Table-1.3)

While measuring poverty, although income is important, it needs to be complemented by other welfare measures. Alkire and Foster (2007) developed a new international measure of poverty – the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) – which directly measures the combination of deprivations that each household experiences. Global MPI is measured using data on people's deprivations across three key dimensions – health, education, and living standards, lacking amenities such as clean water, sanitation, adequate nutrition, or primary education. Those who are left behind in at least a third of the MPI's components are defined as multidimensionally poor. In decreasing MPI poor, Bangladesh has shown significant progress. The GED is in the process of constructing the National MPI and Child-focused MPI for Bangladesh.

Table 1.3: Trends in Multidimensional Poverty Index, 2014-2019

	2014	2019
MPI		
National	0.198	0.104
Urban	0.103	0.060
Rural	0.233	0.116
MPI headcount, %		
National	41.7	24.6
Urban	23.0	14.5
Rural	48.6	27.4
MPI intensity (% of deprivations suffered by each person on average), %		
National	47.5	42.2
Urban	44.9	41.6
Rural	47.9	42.3

Source: OPHI Country Briefing 2019 & 2022—Bangladesh using BDHS 2014; MICS 2019

Box 1.1: Improving Living Standards of Extreme Poor Communities

For alleviating extreme poverty and improving the living standards of extremely poor households in society, the Government of Bangladesh has adopted the life cycle approach to social safety under which different social safety net programs have been adopted. In the fiscal year 2021-22, a total of BDT. 1,076.14 billion has been allocated for these social safety net programs, which is 17.8 percent of the total budget and 3.1 percent of GDP. Several general safety net programs have been adopted, such as ensuring food security, distribution of free food, food for work and test relief, and many others. In addition, the government is implementing several special programs such as 'Ashrayan', 'Grihayan', and 'Ghore Phera' to ensure a hunger and poverty-free Bangladesh. In addition, the government offers allowances for widows, destitute women, old aged people, and other disadvantaged population groups.

Since 2019-20, the government is running a separate program called 'The living Standards Development Programme for the Backward People. Under the program, in 2021-22, the total number of beneficiaries in case of allowance is 45,250, 21,903 are getting stipends and 2,000 are getting training. The total number of a beneficiary is 69,153 and the budget is BDT. 0.58 billion.

Under the Programme for Improving the Livelihood of Transgender (Hizra) People, the government works for the transgender (Hizra) people, one of the neglected communities in society. In 2012-13, the government started this program in seven districts of the country on a pilot basis. At present, the program is being executed in the entire country. In 2021-22, a total of BDT. 0. 06 billion has been allocated for the program. About 3,825 transgender people directly benefit from the program.

In 2021-22, a total of 52 projects/programs have been undertaken for poverty reduction under the social empowerment sector at BDT. 137.88 billion.

Source: Bangladesh Economic Review 2022, Ministry of Finance

Indicator 1.3.1 Proportion of population covered by social protection floors/systems, by sex, distinguishing children, unemployed persons, older persons, persons with disabilities, pregnant women, new-borns, work injury victims, and the poor and the vulnerable

The Social Protection Programmes (SPPs) of Bangladesh have been designed to tackle the challenges of poverty, vulnerability, and marginalization. In 2015, the government has adopted the National Social Security Strategy to create an inclusive social protection system that can better mitigate lifecycle risks and prioritizes the poorest and the most vulnerable. The BBS provides data on coverage of Social Safety Net Programmes (SSNPs) beginning with the Household Income and Expenditure Survey 2005. Between 2016 and 2019, the proportion of program beneficiaries has increased remarkably by more than double. The coverage of SSNPs has increased from 28.7 percent in 2016 to 58 percent in 2019. A similar picture is observed both in rural and urban areas (Table 1.4).

Table 1.4: Trends in Coverage of Social Safety Net Programmes, 2016-2019 (Percent)

	National	Urban	Rural
2019	58.1	53.1	59.5
2016	28.7	10.9	35.7
2010	24.6	9.4	30.1

Sources: HIES (2016), BBS and MICS 2019, BBS

Indicator 1.4.1Proportion of the population living in households with access to basic services

In terms of access to basic services in households, significant progress has been achieved. The percentage of households having access to improved sanitation has gone up to around 84.6 percent in 2019 from 56 percent in 2012 (Table 1.5). Similarly, access to clean fuel and antenatal health care services has improved. As per MICS (2019), around 75 percent of households have antenatal support, which was only 58 percent in 2012. However, the rate of increase in primary school completion rate is somewhat stagnant. Households having access to safe drinking water and electricity were respectively 98.5 percent in 2019 and 100 percent in June 2022.

Table 1.5: Trends in Access to Basic Services

	2012-13	2019
Percentage of household members using improved sanitation facilities	55.9	84.6
Percentage of households having access to clean fuel	9.9	19
Percentage of households having access to antenatal health care	58.7	75.2
Primary school completion rate, %	79.5	82.6
Households using improved sources of drinking water, %	...	98.5
Households having access to electricity, %	...	92.23 (100 in June 2022)

Source: BBS and UNICEF: MICS 2019

Indicator 1.5.1 Number of deaths, missing persons, and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 populations

Bangladesh is one of the countries that are most vulnerable to climate change impacts. The frequency and magnitude of natural disasters tend to increase with global warming and climate change impact. Climate change and subsequent natural disasters in Bangladesh is a critical issue because of its unique geographical location with the Himalayas to the north and the Bay of Bengal to the south. Examples of major natural disasters in the country are riverine floods, river erosion, flash floods, tropical cyclones, storms/wave surges, water logging, droughts, earthquake, and landslides.

For enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to mitigate the impacts of the disaster, the government has implemented measures to establish an elaborate disaster

management system involving the central and local governments, non-government organizations, and community-level organizations. Therefore, deaths from natural disasters have seen a large decline over the past several years. In 2019, a total of 4,318 persons per 100,000 persons were affected by climate-related disasters, which was 12,881 persons in 2014 (BDRS, BBS, 2015 and 2020); and the number of death was 0.3160 per 100,000 persons in 2019, which was 0.2045 in 2016[1] (MoDMR, 2016 and 2019). Under this indicator, the number of directly affected persons per 100,000 was 4,318 in 2019. The target is to reduce it to 2,000 and 1,500 per 100,000 persons by 2025 and 2030 respectively.

Indicator 1.5.2 Direct economic loss attributed to disasters about global gross domestic product (GDP)

The estimates of Bangladesh disaster-related statistics 2015 by BBS (2015) show the direct economic loss inflicted by disasters as a proportion of GDP, which stood at 1.3 percent in 2014 (taken as baseline). The target is to reduce it to 1.1 percent by 2025 and 1 percent by 2030. Direct economic loss is estimated as the monetary value of the total or partial destruction of physical assets existing in the affected areas. These include homes, schools, hospitals, commercial and governmental buildings, transport, energy, telecommunications infrastructures, and other infrastructures; business assets and industrial plants; products such as standing crops, agricultural infrastructure, and livestock. They may also include environmental and cultural heritage (OECD, 2016).

Indicator 1.5.3 Number of countries that adopt and implement national disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030

The Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR) has prepared the National Plan for Disaster Management (NPDM, 2016-2020) based on the Sendai Framework [2] for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR, 2015-2030) and other international protocols ratified by the Government of Bangladesh. The NPDM 2016-2020 has a set of strategic aims reflecting its alignment with SFDRR, strategy guidance to relevant stakeholders, recognition of emerging risks, and phased implementation of prioritized actions. A set of objectives allow operationalizing the aims through identifying priority actions, providing a roadmap for implementation of at least 20 core investments, incorporating DM aspects in sectoral plans, exploring public-private investments, ensuring inclusivity, addressing emerging risks, promoting risk governance and illustrating how the work of various stakeholders can contribute to the government's DM vision.

Indicator 1.5.4 Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies

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1   https://www.sdg.gov.bd/page/indicator-wise/1/163/3/0#1
2   The Sendai Framework is the first major agreement of the post-2015 development agenda which aims to achieve substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health and economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries. The agenda includes seven global targets and four priorities for action. The agreement is non-binding and envisages that the government has the primary responsibility to reduce disaster risk. But the responsibility has to be shared with other stakeholders including the local government, the private sector and other stakeholders

As of 2019, 8.33 percent[3] of the country's City Corporation and .91 percent of Paurashavas have adopted and implemented local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies (MoDMR).

Indicator 1.a.1 Total official development assistance grants from all donors that focus on poverty reduction as a share of the recipient country's gross national income

Official Development Assistance (ODA) is defined as resource flows to developing countries and multilateral organizations, which are provided by official agencies (e.g. Government) or their executive agencies, where each transaction is administered with the promotion of the economic development and welfare of developing countries as its main objective and is concessional. The proportion of domestically generated resources allocated by the government directly to poverty reduction programs was 80.07 percent in 2014-15 and 80.60% in 2019 (FD).

Indicator 1.a.2 Proportion of total government spending on essential services (education, health, and social protection)

There has been an increasing trend in the absolute level of government spending on education, health, and social protection. In FY2015, the government spending on these essential services as a proportion of total government expenditure stood at 5.10 percent for health, 13.71 percent for education, and 14.99 percent for social protection. According to allocations of government spending in FY2021-22, around 12 percent of government expenditure has now been allocated in support of the education sector. The share of social protection peaked at 16.83 percent in FY2021-22. However, given the Covid-19 pandemic, the health sector needs more attention.

Table 1. 6: Proportion of Government Expenditure on Services as a Proportion of Total Government Expenditure (Percent)

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Education	13.71	11.95	14.39	11.8	9.27	11.69	11.9
Health	5.1	4.8	5.14	5.1	2.48	5.15	5.40
Social protection (SSNP)	14.99	13.6	13.28	14.5	14.21	16.83	17.83

Source: Finance Division, indexmundi.com, and Budget documents

Indicator 1.b.1 Pro-poor public social spending

This indicator highlights the proportion of government spending (e.g. cash/food benefits, education, health, social welfare) on the poor. Government spending taken into consideration is any amount spent on direct transfers of cash benefits, education services, and health and pro-poor services. In 2021-22, the proportion of government spending on education is 11.9 percent, on health, it is 5.4 percent and on social protection (SSNP) it is 17.83 percent (Table 1-6).

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3   https://www.sdg.gov.bd/page/indicator-wise/1/334/3/0#1

1.3 Policies and Efforts to Achieve SDG1

Along with raising the levels of income and access to basic services, enhancing social protection measures and financial inclusion are two important strategies for the reduction of poverty and inequalities in Bangladesh. With the vast majority of the workforce engaged in informal employment, enhancing the coverage of social protection is critical and is a smart investment for SDG1. A whole-of-the-society approach has been adopted to address SDG1 along with the adoption of 'leaving no one behind' principles. The mapping of the ministries for various SDGs targets reveals that 44 ministries/divisions are involved in addressing SDG1.To ensure that the 'farthest behind are reached first' the government is working to improve beneficiary targeting and selection and gradually shift from the humanitarian approach of safety nets to the rights-based approach of social protection.

The 8th Five-Year plan (8FYP): In the 8FYP, the government plans to strengthen its initiatives to ensure inclusive growth that will bring down the incidence of poverty to 15.6 percent and extreme poverty to 7.4 percent by 2025. The 8th Plan strategy centers around six core themes, which are: (i) rapid recovery from Covid-19; (ii) GDP growth acceleration, employment generation, and rapid poverty reduction; (iii) a broad-based strategy of inclusiveness; (iv) a sustainable development pathway that is resilient to disaster and climate change; (v) improvement of critical institutions necessary to lead the economy to Upper Middle Income Country status by 2031; and (vi) attaining SDGs targets and mitigating the impact of LDC graduation.

Employment generation: The short-term unemployment resulting from Covid-19 including the retrenchment of overseas workers presents a challenge in the very first year of the 8FYP. In the 8FYP, job creation accordingly is taken as a top priority.

Proper monitoring: The proper implementation of any plan needs efficient monitoring and evaluation. The 8FYP accepts a better monitoring system, where, both core macro and sectoral quantitative results are monitored, with the help of 104 Development Results Framework (DRF) indicators (61 of which are Global SDG indicators), to measure the effective implementation of the Plan. A mid-term review of implementation progress is planned at the end of FY2023, while a final implementation review will be done at the end of FY2025, i.e. after the completion of the plan.

Stimulus packages to tackle the impact of Covid-19: The Covid-19 pandemic has affected all spheres of life and businesses; however, the hardest hit is the already vulnerable livelihoods of the poor and vulnerable people and women entrepreneurs. To combat the impact of Covid-19, the government has announced and implemented various stimulus packages. On 15 April 2020, the Government of Bangladesh introduced stimulus packages of a total of BDT 1,000 billion which is 3.3 percent of the total GDP [4]. On 19 June 2020, the World Bank approved $1.05 billion for three projects to help Bangladesh create quality jobs and accelerate economic recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic as well as build resilience to future crises.[5]

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4   https://www.lightcastlebd.com/insights/2020/05/government-stimulus-packages-in-covid-19-will-it-be-effective-for-bangladesh/
5   https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2020/06/19/world-bank-provides-bangladesh-over-1-billion-to-create-quality-jobs-and-respond-to-covid-19-pandemic

Other policies: The Government of Bangladesh has already adopted several strategies for rapid economic growth along with complementary strategies and policies to make the growth path inclusive, responsive, and adaptable to the transformation process. Along with the growth agenda, the policies focus on inclusiveness. The government has invested heavily in social safety net programs to create opportunities for marginalized communities and the 8th Plan (2021-2025) places a key focus on two core themes: promoting prosperity and fostering inclusiveness. Bangladesh has successfully prepared the National Financial Inclusion Strategy Bangladesh (NFIS-B) covering July 2021 to June 2026 for ensuring financial inclusion for all. Besides, the 8th Plan incorporates measures for creating an LNOB strategic fund, increasing public expenditure, and removing social and gender exclusion and discrimination for eradicating poverty. Additionally, due to various government initiatives, gender parity has been achieved in primary and secondary education but its reflection is yet to be visible in the labor market. To address income inequality, several measures have been incorporated within the policy framework to ensure better distribution of the benefits of development.

1.4 Key Challenges

The major challenges to achieving SDG1 are as follows:

- Along with health, education, and other sectors, Covid-19 has adversely affected informal sector employment and overseas employment. Rapid recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic to restore human health, confidence, employment, income, and economic activities is required.

- Traditional sources of funding are inadequate and the government needs to find innovative ways for SDG financing. Financing for SDG1 is also a challenge. Additionally, resource mobilization particularly from external sources is also a big challenge.

- The National Social Security Strategy requires a substantial increase in resources and streamlined efforts and better targeting techniques for implementation.

- The professional capacity of the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), the national statistical organization, needs to be significantly enhanced to meet the data requirements for tracking the progress of SDG1 through generating quality data and validating data of other organizations.

- In Bangladesh, many households live close to the poverty threshold and any unexpected shock can push these households below the poverty line ruining the gains in poverty reduction. Specific support measures are needed for these households to withstand shocks and recover from disasters.

- Bangladesh faces frequent floods, droughts, cyclones, hailstorms, and other natural disasters that implement SDG1 challenging particularly in the coastal areas. In addition, managing the Rohingya refugees is another challenge in attaining the goal.

1.5 Way Forward

By increasing opportunities for women, growing the economy, increasing digital power, concentrating on lagging regions, and improving infrastructure, Bangladesh is moving forward in providing its people with a more prosperous life by 2030. More specifically, the adopted poverty reduction methods help achieve SGD1 comprehensively in Bangladesh.

Although good progress has been made in social development, the poor still have low access to basic services. The focus of policies has therefore been on improving access to economic resources and basic services – primary health care, clean water, proper sanitation, and basic education – which is a key element in the poverty reduction strategy. Lack of access to basic social and economic services impacts the basic living standards of the poor. If there is limited access to health services, people will remain unhealthy; children will die, and any epidemic can have catastrophic results. If there is poor access to clean water, again health will suffer. And if there is poor access to education, children will in the future share the limitations confronting their parents today. Basic social services constitute the building blocks for human development.

Poor rural livelihoods are highly exposed and vulnerable to weather-related hazards and have low resilience to loss because they have little or no surplus capacity to absorb crop or livestock income losses and recover. Rapid urbanization is also leading to the growth of vulnerable communities in informal settlements (slums) with inadequate land management. Even a small loss might feed back into further poverty and future vulnerability. Disaster risk management has, therefore, emerged at the forefront of efforts to eradicate poverty in Bangladesh. For moving forward in achieving SDG1, Bangladesh has several priority issues:

- Ensure significant mobilization of resources from new and innovative sources, including through enhanced development cooperation, to provide adequate and predictable means to implement programs and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions.

- Create sound policy frameworks based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies to support accelerated investments in poverty eradication actions.

- Focus on national skills development policy, empowering women. Adopt a job strategy based on skills improvements and job search. Jobs should increasingly be generated in the manufacturing sector, such as Special Economic Zones (SEZs), Export Processing Zones (EPZs), Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs), micro-enterprises, self-employment (both formal and informal), and the agricultural sector (in terms of innovation and expansion of new types of work in fisheries and primary agriculture). Any policy or strategy should include the active participation of youth and women in the labor market. Inclusiveness, in terms of people with disabilities, regional disparities, ethnic minorities, etc., and geographic disparities should also be taken into account.

- In Bangladesh, SMEs are a major source of employment for the population and a key driver for higher economic growth. However, they face various challenges including inadequate

funds. The advent of Covid-19 has intensified the challenges for SMEs as well. After the outbreak of Covid-19, special attention has been given to SMEs for sustaining their significant role in large-scale employment generation and fostering inclusive growth. Alongside various containment measures, the Government has declared several stimulus packages amounting to BDT 1,877 billion. To support these programs, Bangladesh Bank has provided adequate liquidity and financial support through refinancing schemes and other measures to keep the banking sector functional and ensure smooth credit flows to the real economy. Furthermore, BB took several cohesive policy measures, e.g., a notable cut down in repo rate, Cash reserve ratio (CRR), and Bank Rate, and an increase in ADR to facilitate the money market to address the liquidity challenges in the context of the pandemic.

- Several measures and reforms are needed to enhance quality education. It is also important to provide training to the poor for making them employable along with enhancing financial inclusion and strengthening the quality of market-linked skill training.

- To fulfill the pledge of leaving no one behind, the most disadvantaged need to be empowered. Regarding children from small ethnic communities, dalits and disabilities, quotas and facilities in education and jobs should be adopted as necessary.

- Although the role of the development partners (DPs) in the development process has been shrinking over time in Bangladesh, they are still major players as far as socioeconomic development is concerned. The NGOs can also play a significant role in implementing SDG1 at the grassroots level by operating in remote areas and helping people to combat the adverse effects of climate change.

- The government needs to put more emphasis on improving the investment climate to increase private investments in areas such as land development, energy, trade logistics, contract enforcement, and tax issues. Public investment will need a boost to reduce the infrastructure-energy deficits and improve trade logistics through increased mobilization of resources.

1.6 Summary

Growing at an average pace of 7 percent per year, Bangladesh is amongst the fastest-growing countries in the world. As a result, Bangladesh moved out from the World Bank-defined list of low-income countries (LIC) to Lower Middle-Income Country (LMIC) in 2015, much earlier than the targeted date of 2021, and in 2018, it met all the UN criteria to graduate from the list of Least Developed Countries (LDC) to a developing country. In 2020, Covid-19 caused a temporary spike in poverty due to the loss of income and employment for many poor and vulnerable households. However, the government has adopted prompt policies and actions to reduce poverty and strengthen efforts where necessary. Bangladesh is expected to formally graduate from LDC in 2026.

Similarly, progress in expanding coverage of social protection and the proportion of government expenditure on key services (health, education, and social protection) as a share of total government expenditure is also remarkable. With higher expected economic growth (based on recent positive developments), it is possible to achieve the SDG1 milestones if the increase in income inequality does not offset the impact of higher growth on poverty reduction.

For promoting accelerated, inclusive, and resilient growth, the government has adopted policies and programs to address the multidimensional nature of poverty in the country. Profound investments in human development, social safety nets, and other programs for addressing the LNOB issues, achieving gender parity, strengthening rural transformation, promoting financial inclusion, and providing a stable macroeconomic environment are key dimensions of the government's efforts to achieve SDG1.

2 ZERO HUNGER

END HUNGER, ACHIEVE FOOD SECURITY AND IMPROVED NUTRITION, AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

2.1 Global/Regional Context

According to recent UN reports[6], the world is not on track to achieve Zero Hunger by 2030. If recent trends continue, the number of people affected by hunger would surpass 840 million by 2030. The World Food Programme (WFP) reports that 135 million suffer from acute hunger largely due to man-made conflicts, climate change, and economic downturns. The Covid-19 pandemic is likely to have increased the number. To deal with the situation, a profound change in the global food and agriculture system is needed to nourish the more than 690 million people who are hungry today – and the additional 2 billion people the world will have by 2050. Increasing agricultural productivity and sustainable food production is crucial to help alleviate the perils of hunger.

The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2021 shows that before the Covid-19 pandemic, worldwide some 650 million people were going hungry, and 2 billion people were suffering from food insecurity[7] . The status of food security and nutrition in the world got further worsened due to the Covid-19 pandemic, underscoring the immense challenge of achieving zero hunger targets by 2030. The pandemic has aggravated the situation of hunger and food security, due to disruptions in food supply chains, income losses, widening social inequities, altered food environment, and price hikes. UN reported that in 2020, between 720 and 811 million people in the world faced hunger.[8]

For ensuring access to enough, safe and nutritious food, agricultural productivity and incomes of the small-scale food producers need to be increased. Viable food production systems and resilient agricultural practices are the key factors in achieving this goal. Sustainable agricultural practices that protect biodiversity and genetic resources are essential for future food security. This will require increased investment in rural infrastructure, agricultural research and development, and extension services.

Increased agricultural production will enhance food availability; at the same time, improved food security will also require efficient food markets through reducing trade restrictions and elimination of export subsidies and other export measures that have similar effects. To avoid excessive price fluctuations, the proper functioning of food commodity markets will also require access to market information.

2.2 Assessment of Progress on SDG2

Indicator 2.1.1 Prevalence of undernourishment

The prevalence of undernourishment[9] in Bangladesh has fallen gradually from 16.4 percent in 2016 to 9.7 percent in 2020 (WFP, W., 2021). However, as per FAO (2019), obesity in the adult population has increased to 3.4 percent. On the other hand, the prevalence of anemia among women decreased between 2012 (40.3 percent) and 2016 (39.9 percent).

6 https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/hunger/
7 https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2021/
8 https://www.un.org/en/global-issues/food
9   Undernourishment is one of the crucial factors that instigate poverty. Malnutrition at young age can retard the normal growth of children and thus constrain their capacity to learn. An undernourished person is likely to be caught up by diseases easily. Further, treatment cost imposes a burden on the household budget worsening poverty. In recent years, Bangladesh has made good progress in dealing with malnutrition.

Table 2.1: Percentage of Undernourishment

	2016	2018	2019	2020
Prevalence of undernourishment among the population (%)	16.4	14.7	10	9.7

Source: FAO, The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World, 2019 and WFP, W., 2021

Indicator2.1.2 Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population, based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES)

By using the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES), the severity of food insecurity experienced by individuals or households can be measured. As per FAO (2019), around 30.5 percent of the population experience moderate food insecurity, and 10.2 percent of the population experience severe food insecurity in Bangladesh.According to the report entitled 'Asia and the Pacific – Regional Overview of Food Security and Nutrition 2021' by FAO, as much as 31.9 percent of the population in Bangladesh experienced moderate to severe food insecurity. By this indicator, internationally-comparable estimates of the proportion of the population facing moderate or severe difficulties in accessing food can be understood.

Indicator 2.2.1 Prevalence of stunting (height for age <-2 standard deviation from the median of the World Health Organization (WHO) Child Growth Standards) among children under 5 years of age

Stunting indicates insufficient access to nutrition over a long period and represents a vulnerability to chronic illness. According to Asia and the Pacific – Regional Overview of Food Security and Nutrition 2021 Report, the percentage of stunted children under 5 years of age has been 30.2 percent in 2020 (WFP, WHO, 2021), which was 28 percent in 2019 (MICS, 2019).

Indicator2.2.2 Prevalence of malnutrition (weight for height >+2 or <-2 standard deviations from the median of the WHO Child Growth Standards) among children under 5 years of age, by type (wasting and overweight)

The proportion of wasted children has also gone down by half with some annual fluctuations. The proportion of wasted children has gone down to 9.8 percent in 2019 from 14 percent in 2014. The proportion of underweight children under five years also declined by almost half between 2007 (41 percent) and 2019 (22.6 percent). MICS (2019) also reports that the percentage of overweight children is around 2.4 percent.

Table 2.2: Trends in Nutritional Status of under 5 Children (Percent)

Indicator	1996-1997	1999-2000	2004	2007	2011	2014	2017	2019
Stunted	60	45	51	43	41	36	31	28
Wasted	17.7	10	15	17	16	14	8	9.8
Underweight	…	…	…	41	36	33	22	22.6
Overweight	…	…	…	…	…	…	…	2.4

Source: NIPORT, Bangladesh DHS, 2018 and BBS, and UNICEF: MICS (2019)

Indicator 2.2.3 Prevalence of anemia in women aged 15 to 49 years, by pregnancy status (percentage)

In the base year (2012), 40 percent of women were suffering from anemia at their reproductive age.[10] The target is to reduce it to 30 percent by 2025 and 20 percent by 2030. According to WHO, the anemia status of women is assessed by calculating the percentage of women aged 15–49 years with a hemoglobin concentration less than 120 g/L for non-pregnant women and lactating women, and less than 110 g/L for pregnant women, adjusted for altitude and smoking[11] .

Indicator 2.5.1.several plant genetic resources for food and agriculture secured in either medium or long-term conservation facilities (BRRI)

In Bangladesh, the number of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture[12] secured in either medium or long-term conservation facilities has gone up from 8,051 in 2015 to 8,578[13] in 2019 as per Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI, MoA).

Indicator 2.5.2 Proportion of local breeds classified as being at risk, not-at-risk or at an unknown level of risk of extinction

Preserving plant and animal genetic variety permit future generations to select stocks or develop new breeds to cope with emerging issues, such as climate change, diseases, and changing socioeconomic factors. The indicator reflects the percentage of local livestock breeds among local breeds with known risk status classified as being at risk of extinction at a certain time, as well as the trends of this percentage. This provides a key to safeguarding precious animal varieties and supporting the livelihood of the world's population with sufficient, diverse, and nutritious diets long into the future.

In this context, it is important to know the percentage of local breeds at risk, not at risk, or at an unknown level of risk of extinction at a point in time as well as its trend. In 2015, the percentage of local breeds at risk was 64 in Bangladesh. As per Bangladesh Livestock Research Institute (BLRI), it has gone down to 5 in 2019.

Indicator 2.a.1 Agriculture orientation index (AOI) for government expenditures

The agriculture orientation index (AOI) for government expenditure shows the type of government dedication to agriculture relative to other sectors. The AOI is the ratio of the share of government expenditures on agriculture to the contribution of agriculture to the economy where agriculture comprises crops, forestry, fishing, and hunting sectors. It is calculated as:

AOI = ((Central government expenditures on agriculture/Total government expenditure)/

(Agricultural value added/ GDP))

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10   https://www.sdg.gov.bd/page/indicator-wise/1/578/3/0#1
11   https://www.who.int/data/gho/indicator-metadata-registry/imr-details/4552
12   The conservation of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture in medium or long term conservation facilities represents the most trusted means of conserving genetic resources worldwide. This provides an overall assessment of the extent to which we are managing to maintain and/or increase the total genetic diversity available for future use and thus protect it from any permanent loss of genetic diversity which may impact on-farm and natural habitat.
13   https://www.sdg.gov.bd/page/indicator-wise/1/22/3/0#1

If the value of AOI exceeds one, that indicates, the government gives more importance to agriculture relative to its contribution to the economy. On the contrary, a value of less than one indicates other sectors receive more importance from the government.

AOI for government expenditures in Bangladesh has gone up to 0.409 in 2019 from 0.20 in 2001. However, the value is much less than unity. The scenario entails that agriculture receives less priority in government investment compared with its contribution to the country's GDP. It also means non-agricultural sectors receive higher priority in budgetary allocations. However, countries with the same malnutrition rate have very different AOI values. Thus, there is no systematic relationship between malnutrition rate and low AOI. Yet, a very low AOI involves risks for environmental sustainability and food security.

Table 2.3: Trends in Agriculture Orientation Index of Bangladesh, 2001-2019

	2001	2005	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2019
AOI	0.20	0.28	0.52	0.58	0.78	0.56	0.53	0.41	0.409

Source: UNSTATS: SDG Indicators

https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/?indicator=2.a.1

Indicator 2.a.2 Total official flows (official development assistance plus other official flows) to the agriculture sector

Available aid to developing countries from developed countries closes the gap between required investment and available domestic resources for public investment in agriculture. The total official flow to Bangladesh's agriculture sector shows an upward trend with annual fluctuations; the flow peaked at US$ 363 million in 2014 but declined to US$ 192.58 million in 2017, which was followed by an increase in 2018 (US 194.42 million) and again a decrease to US$ 131.09 million in 2019. In 2020 and 2021, total official flows to the agricultural sector have shown an upward trend, which was US$211.8 million in 2020 and US$356 million in 2021.
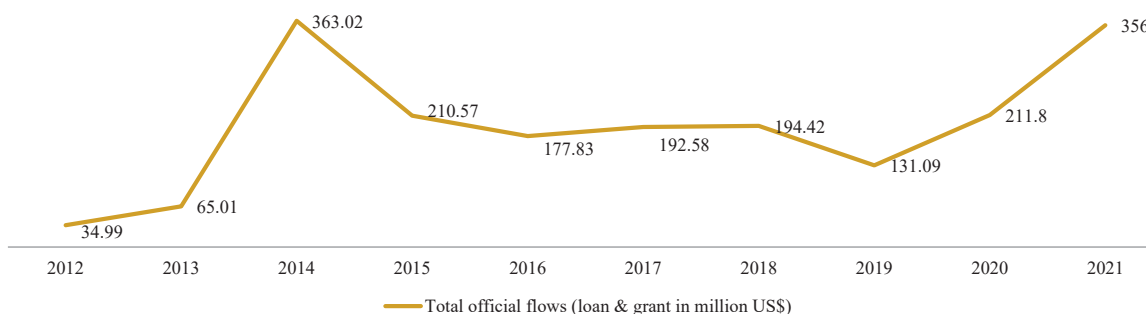
Source: AIMS web portal, Economic Relations Division (ERD)

Figure 2.1: Total Official Flows to Agriculture Sector (Million US$)

Indicator 2.b.1 Agricultural export subsidies

Export subsidies are subsidies given to traders to cover the difference between internal market prices and world market prices. Export subsidy is a government policy to encourage the export of agricultural goods and discourage sales in the domestic market through direct payments, low-cost loans, tax relief for exporters, or government-financed international advertising. Over time, agricultural export subsidies show an upward trend with annual fluctuations; the flow peaked at US$113.9 million in 2019-20 but declined to US$ 99.7 million in 2020-21.
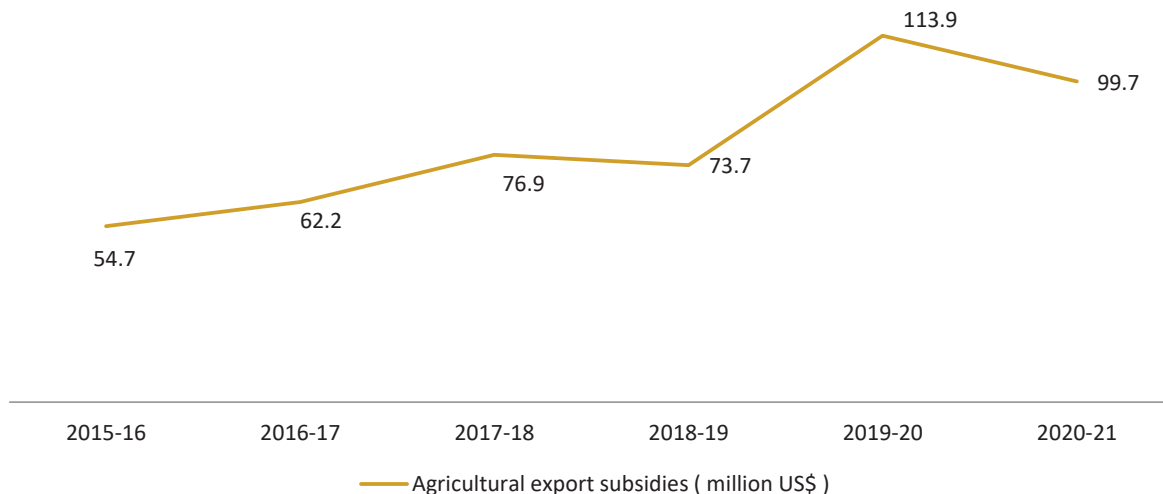
Source: BB, FID

Figure 2.2: Agricultural Export Subsidies over Time (Million US$)

2.3 Policies and Efforts to Achieve SDG2

Rapid economic growth and increased agricultural productivity over the past two decades have resulted in a significant decline in undernourished people in Bangladesh. The country can now meet the nutritional needs of the most vulnerable and has made huge progress in eradicating extreme hunger. Bangladesh's policies aim to end all forms of hunger and malnutrition by 2030, ensuring that all people – especially children – have access to sufficient and nutritious food all year round.

To end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture by 2030, the National Food and Nutrition Security Policy 2020 (NFNSP) has been adopted covering the period until 2030 in consistence with the SDGs. Previously, the national social security strategy (NSSS) in 2015, which has been made consistent with SDG2, as well as the Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100 (BDP 2100) in 2018 have been adopted to allow agricultural and overall planning to be adaptive and dynamic to climate change, socio-economic development, population growth, and regional cooperation.

At United Nations Food Systems Summit 2021, the Hon'ble Prime Minister expressed her strong commitment to ensuring food security for all and emphasized higher food production to meet global demand. There she also discussed the actions taken by the government of Bangladesh to ensure long-term food security through the promotion of climate-resilient agriculture and the food system along with food safety and quality food for everyone. She also suggested key actions to enhance the resiliency of the global food system through more investment in research, technology sharing, increased funding for developing countries, developing regional and global coalitions and partnerships, reducing food waste, and disbursing the committed fund to adapt the climate-led extreme events.

The Government of Bangladesh has also adopted the National Agricultural Policy 2018. The major objective of the Policy is to ensure food security and socioeconomic development by raising the productivity of crops, boosting production and raising farmers' incomes, diversifying crops, producing safe foods, and developing marketing systems profitable to agriculture. To provide regular nutritional services, Bangladesh has undertaken an operational plan titled National Nutritional Services (NNS) to streamline the country's nutrition programs. Further, the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) provides extension services for different crops fortified with nutrition elements.

To ensure evidence-based spatial targeting in light of leaving no one behind, BBS has published the 'Undernutrition Maps of Bangladesh 2019' which will help the intervening ministries, agencies, and other key stakeholders to an efficient allocation of resources for eradicating hunger and undernutrition.

Among the three WASH components (water, sanitation, and hygiene), Bangladesh has made the most progress in sanitation, followed by access to safe drinking water (albeit spoiled, to a certain extent, by arsenic contamination), but remains below the desired level in terms of personal hygiene. The MICS 2019 shows that around 75 percent of households use soap for hand wash. The percentage is lower in rural areas (around 71 percent). The nutritional status of children and adults alike is also greatly influenced by the quality of WASH.

The fisheries and livestock have also made tremendous progress and this further ensures the sufficiency of food. The government provides different incentives, credit facilities, and tax rebate facilities to encourage the profitable expansion of the sector. Women are also increasingly playing an active role in the food production system. All these efforts are also contributing towards increasing food security and nutrition for the poorest, as well as food production for local and global markets. The government has also ensured 100 percent electricity coverage in the country. This is ensuring more food production to meet future demand and in reducing hunger.

The government is also working towards ensuring the proportion of cultivable land at a minimum of 55 percent of the total land area[14] . The government has also adopted measures to ensure the

14   https://www.sdg.gov.bd/page/indicator-wise/5/426/2/5#1

proper functioning of food commodity markets and their derivatives and facilitate timely access to market information, including on food reserves, to help limit extreme food price volatility. It is required to show the price of food in the markets to help monitor price anomalies. A national helpline number 333 is also available where complaints can be made about food-related anomalies. The Consumer Rights Protection Act 2009 also provides a safety net against overpricing, food contamination, etc. The government is also working towards being self-reliant on food production.

2.4 Key Challenges

The 8FYP (2021-2025) has identified several major challenges in the path of achieving SDG2, such as low productivity, institutional bottlenecks in research-extension-farmer linkage, climate change and associated challenges, degrading natural resource base and depleting groundwater, declining availability of agricultural land, difficulties in accessing credit, food safety and nutrition, storage, agro-processing and commercialization of agriculture, etc.

- The government's challenging task is to operationalize the food policy plan of action within the framework of the Delta Plan 2100. The impact of climate change on the food grains sector is likely to obstruct sustainable agricultural growth in the future. Global warming and climate change will trigger major adverse changes in crop production, such as increased incidences of pests, protozoa, bacteria, and multicellular parasites. An added complication arises from the fact that a total of 64 local fish breeds have already been identified at risk for extinction in Bangladesh.[15]

- The official aid flows to the agriculture sector are highly volatile at present. In addition, Bangladesh is losing agricultural land at a rate of 0.5 percent per year due to various factors including urban encroachment of agricultural land, expansion of road infrastructure, water logging, depletion of groundwater and soil fertility, land erosion, and salinity. In the last three decades, about 170,000 hectares of agricultural land have been degraded by increased salinity (FAO, 2014). Moreover, the budget allocation in the field of agricultural research and development (R&D) is limited in Bangladesh.

- The scenario of hunger is diverse across the country. There has been only little change in the incidence of poverty in the northern Rangpur division. One-third of children still suffer from stunting and, during food shortages, women still suffer the most within households. Some problems are widespread in leading an urban life which are: lack of food safety (e.g. adulteration); increasing obesity (especially among women and children); and increasing difficulty of combining the pursuit of work outside the home and caregiving which is essential for the nutritional well-being of children. Secured daycare centers for working moms are very essential nowadays, which will encourage more women to join the labor force.

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15   https://en.prothomalo.com/environment/64-species-of-fresh-water-fish-face-extinction

- Over the next decades, significant demographic, economic, and other factors will alter the context in which Bangladesh's agriculture will have to compete, both domestically and globally. Bangladesh will experience further urbanization and a large expansion of the middle class. The dietary patterns and food expenditures of domestic consumers will continue to change with reduced consumption of rice and increased consumption of animal products, fruits and vegetables, and processed foods. Climate change is likely to give rise to more erratic weather patterns. Although the share of primary agriculture in GDP will decline, the share of the agro-industry, together with food distribution, logistical and other services would account for a much larger share of total GDP.

- The trend towards greater domestic market integration and globalization will affect the links between primary agriculture and upstream and downstream sectors in different ways. On the one hand, market integration will weaken the links between agriculture and the local economy, but will open up new links to larger national and global markets creating new challenges of domestic and foreign competition for small farmers. The rural nonfarm economy will also be subjected to greater competition from consumer goods of supermarkets and other retail outlets. This may force small-scale and artisanal food processing to give way to more organized and capital-intensive processing including other activities in up or downstream primary agriculture.

- The Russia-Ukraine war imposes a further hazard to food insecurity, with the impending danger to aggravate a surge in levels of hunger and malnutrition, especially among the most vulnerable and poorest communities.

2.5 Way Forward

Bangladesh has set a vision to achieve SDG2 for which it is critical to make modern technologies available. While modern agricultural technologies would come from private as well as public sectors, the government's central role is important through investing in R&D. The national agricultural research system needs to work at the local levels to find new technologies suitable for local conditions, and the government needs to have effective extension systems to disseminate these technologies. It is also important to note that the achievement of SDG2 requires that the agri-food sector, people's livelihoods, and management of natural resources are addressed in an integrated manner where the focus is not solely on the end goal but also on the process of achieving these to promote sustainability of the food and agriculture system.

The knowledge and capacity of the farmers to use nature-based solutions for agricultural and animal husbandry practices will be enhanced, promoting ecosystem health, and biodiversity and making sure the food system operates within planetary boundaries. Measures will be taken to strengthen backward and forward linkages so that local producers have easy access to wider markets. Private investment in inputs, processing, storage, packaging, transportation, and marketing of agri-food products and services will be promoted, with special attention given to the hard-to-reach areas.

To boost on-farm productivity, access to extension services will be enhanced, and aggregation models such as producer groups and cooperatives will be promoted to bring economies of scale to operations.

Improving human and social capital, with particular emphasis on women, adolescents, and youth, is essential for effective food systems transformation. Women account for about half of the workforce in agriculture and, nearly three-fourths of the rural female workforce is engaged in agriculture; their increased role in decision-making is crucial. Measures will be enhanced to improve women's access to productive resources.

2.6 Summary

Bangladesh has already achieved the milepost for 2025 of reducing the prevalence of undernourishment to 12 percent set in the SDG2 target, as it has fallen from 16.4 percent in 2016 to 9.7 percent in 2020 (WFP, 2021). The national social security strategy adopted by Bangladesh in 2015 is in line with achieving SDG2. The measures have also introduced nutrition-fortified rice and undertaken the distribution of iron-folic supplementation among pregnant and lactating women and adolescent girls, Vitamin A distribution for children, deworming, salt iodization, maternity leave for mothers to assist breast-feeding, and implementation of WASH program emphasizing quality water, sanitation and hygiene are several steps towards achieving SDG2.

As laid out in the 8th FYP, under the 'My Village My Town' (MVMT) initiative, rural growth centers/markets will be identified around the country and the infrastructure improved to enable better market linkages. Specialized markets will be further developed to reduce intermediaries and improve the profitability of smallholder producers.

Bangladesh is finalizing a 10-year sustainable consumption and production national action plan in consonance with SDG2. Other initiatives to be taken up include the promotion of mechanization, affordable climate-smart loss reduction technologies, and on-site food processing and waste recycling technologies. Awareness building, shortening the value chain, and encouraging consumption of locally produced food including indigenous food, will be undertaken to reduce food loss. Developing reliable and sustainable access to energy, adopting best food safety practices by the private sector, and enforcement of regulatory and oversight systems for food safety, are other priorities to enhance off-farm value addition and commercialization of food and food products.

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

ENSURE HEALTHY LIVES AND PROMOTE WELL-BEING FOR ALL AT ALL AGES

3.1 Global/Regional Context

Ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being at all ages is essential to sustainable development. Before the pandemic, major progress was made in improving the health of millions of people. Significant strides were made in increasing life expectancy and reducing some of the common killers associated with child and maternal mortality. Still, more efforts are needed to fully eradicate a wide range of diseases and address many persistent and emerging health issues. By focusing on providing more efficient funding of health systems, improved sanitation, and hygiene, and increased access to physicians, significant progress can be made in helping to save the lives of millions.

Over the last few years, substantial progress has been made toward ending preventable child deaths. The global under-5 mortality rate was halved from 2000 to 2019 – falling from 76 to 38 deaths per 1,000 live births (UN SDG Tracker). Over the same period, the global neonatal mortality rate (death in the first 28 days of life) fell from 30 to 17 deaths per 1,000 live births. Still, 5.2 million children died before their fifth birthday in 2019, with almost half of these deaths (2.4 million) occurring in the first month of life. Globally, 83 percent of births were assisted by skilled health professionals, including medical doctors, nurses, and midwives, according to data from 2014 to 2020. This represents a 17 percent increase from 2007 to 2013. The global adolescent birth rate also showed progress – falling from 56.4 to 41.2 births per 1,000 adolescents aged 15 to 19 from 2000 to 2020.

SDG3 aims to achieve universal health coverage that seeks equitable access to healthcare services for all men and women. It proposes to end the preventable death of newborns, infants, and children under five (child mortality) and end epidemics. One cannot deny the fact that good health is essential to sustainable development and the 2030 Agenda. It focuses on broader economic and social inequalities, urbanization, climate crisis, continuing burden of HIV and other infectious diseases, not forgetting emerging challenges such as non-communicable diseases. Considering the global pandemic of Covid-19, there is a need to give significant attention to the realization of good health and well-being on a global scale.

The Global Action Plan for Healthy Lives and Well-being for All brings together 13 multilateral health, development, and humanitarian agencies to better support countries to accelerate progress toward the health-related SDGs. The 13 agencies are Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance; Global Financing Facility for Women, Children, and Adolescents (GFF); International Labor Organization (ILO); Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria (The Global Fund); Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS); United Nations Development Fund (UNDP); United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); United; United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women); World Bank Group; World Food Programme (WFP) and World Health Organization (WHO).

3.2 Assessment of Progress on SDG3

Indicator 3.1.1 Maternal mortality ratio (per 100,000 live births)

The maternal mortality ratio (MMR) measures the number of women who die from any cause related to pregnancy or childbirth per 100,000 live births. It is a crucial mortality indicator of mothers who are vulnerable to the risk of death during childbirth. Bangladesh has achieved significant success in reducing MMR. It has dropped to 163 per 100,000 live births in 2020 from 447 in 1995. However, in rural areas, the ratio is considerably higher than in urban areas by 40 deaths per 100,000 live births although the gap has narrowed down relative to previous years.

Table 3.1: Maternal Mortality Ratio, 1995-2020

	1995	2000	2005	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
National	447	318	348	216	181	178	172	169	165	163
Rural	452	329	358	230	191	190	182	193	191	178
Urban	380	261	275	178	162	160	157	132	123	138

Source: SVRS, BBS, SID and PHC, BBS, SID

Indicator 3.1.2 Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel

The proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel is an important indicator of SDG3. It is a key factor to reduce maternal mortality and infant mortality rates. The number of births attended by skilled health personnel has remarkably improved from 9.5 percent in 1994 to 75.30 percent in 2020. However, the urban-rural disparity in terms of access to skilled health personnel is still a challenge for Bangladesh. Data from MICS, BBS, SID; SVRS, BBS, SID and HMSS, BBS, SID, around 85.80 percent of the population in the urban areas have access to skilled health personnel compared with around 68.80 percent in the rural areas.

Table 3.2: Births Attended by Skilled Health Personnel, 1994-2020 (Percent)

1994	2004	2007	2009	2010	2011	2013	2014	2016	2019	2020
9.5	15.6	20.9	24.4	26.5	31.7	34.4	42.1	50.0	75.2	75.3

Source: MICS, BBS, SID; SVRS, BBS, SID and HMSS, BBS, SID

Indicator 3.2.1 Under-five mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)

A continuous decline is observed in U5MR during 1995-2020. U5MR has decreased from 125 in 1995 to 28 in 2020 (by more than three times), putting Bangladesh in line towards achieving the 2025 target for U5MR (which is set at 27) (SVRS, BBS, SID and PHC, BBS, SID). However, the infant mortality rate has shown a decreasing trend over the last five years.

Indicator 3.2.2 neonatal mortality rate in Bangladesh (per 1,000 live births)

Regarding the neonatal mortality rate, there has been a persistent decline. Recent statistics from (SVRS, BBS, SID, and PHC, BBS, SID) show that the neonatal mortality rate has declined from 20 in

2015 to 15 in 2020. The target is to reduce it further to 14 by the year 2025 which should not be difficult for Bangladesh through strengthening past policies.

Indicator 3.3.1 Number of new HIV infections per 1,000 uninfected population, by sex, age, and key populations

Bangladesh is already a low HIV/AIDS prevalence and incidence country. As per the UNAIDS, the incidence of HIV was 0.015 per 1,000 uninfected populations at the national level in 2018. The low prevalence rate is due to the preventive efforts targeting the high-risk population such as injecting drug users, female sex workers in towns bordering neighboring countries, unprotected sex partners, and returnee migrant workers from abroad. The target is to reduce it to 0.01 per 1,000 uninfected populations in 2025.

Indicator 3.3.2 Tuberculosis incidence per 100,000 population

Bangladesh is consistently fighting a successful battle against tuberculosis. According to the Bangladesh SDG tracker, the incidence of tuberculosis has decreased from 225 per 100,000 population in 2015 to 148 in 2017. WB (2020) reported that in 2020 tuberculosis incidence per 100,000 population was 218. According to WHO, Bangladesh is one of the world's 30 high TB burdened countries The spread of TB among temporary migrant workers living in overcrowded and poorly ventilated shacks, lack of awareness about TB infection as well as freely available treatment (DOTS) and lack of access to good quality diagnostic services underlay the high TB prevalence rate. The target is to reduce it to 112 per 100.000 population in 2025.

Table 3-3: Tuberculosis Incidence per 100,000 Population

2016	2017	2018	2020
287	148.56	161	218

Source: DGHS 2016-18 and WB, 2020

Indicator 3.3.3 Malaria incidence per 1,000 population

Bangladesh is considered one of the major malaria-endemic countries in South Asia. . As per NMEP, DGHS, and HSD, the incidence of malaria has dropped down to 0.92 per 1,000 population in 2019 from 1.64 in 2017. Government interventions for malaria eradication independently as well as in collaboration with NGOs have resulted in a decline in incidence nationally, although most endemic areas (northeast and southeast districts) are yet to experience many declines. The target is to reduce it to 0.09 per 1,000 populations in 2025.

Indicators 3.3.4 Hepatitis B incidence per 100,000 population

Bangladesh, along with other South Asian countries, is recognized as a country with a moderate prevalence of hepatitis B. As per the Bangladesh SDG tracker, the incidence of hepatitis B was 1.38 per 100,000 population in 2018. The target is to reduce it to 0.7 per 100,000 population in 2025.

Indicators 3.3.5 Number of people requiring interventions against neglected tropical diseases (NTDs)

The average annual number of people requiring treatment and care for NTDs is the number that is expected to decrease towards the end of NTDs by 2030, as NTDs are eradicated, eliminated, or controlled. The number of people requiring other interventions against NTDs (e.g. vector management, veterinary public health, water, sanitation, and hygiene) are expected to be maintained beyond 2030 and are therefore to be addressed in the context of other targets and indicators, namely universal health coverage (UHC) and universal access to water and sanitation. As per the latest update from Bangladesh Health SDG Profile (2019) by WHO, there are around 56.34 million people requiring interventions against NTDs in 2019. The target is to reduce it to 40 million in 2025.

Indicator 3.4.1 Mortality rate attributed to (between 30 and 70 years of age) cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes, or chronic respiratory disease

The incidence of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) is rising fast in Bangladesh as in other developing countries because of aging and other factors, such as changes in food habits, environmental degradation, and physical inactivity. Cardiovascular diseases, cancer, diabetes, and chronic respiratory diseases are the main causes of NCD burden in the country. The probability of dying between 30 and 70 years of age from NCDs is defined as the percentage of 30-year-old people who would die before their 70th birthday from NCDs. Bangladesh Health SDG Profile (2019) by WHO shows that the mortality rate due to NCDs has been relatively unchanged in recent years. It is 19.20 percent in 2018 which was around 21 percent in 2015. The target is to reduce it to 10 percent by 2025. The mortality rate attributed to cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes, or chronic respiratory disease from 2016 to 2018 is shown in Figure 3.1
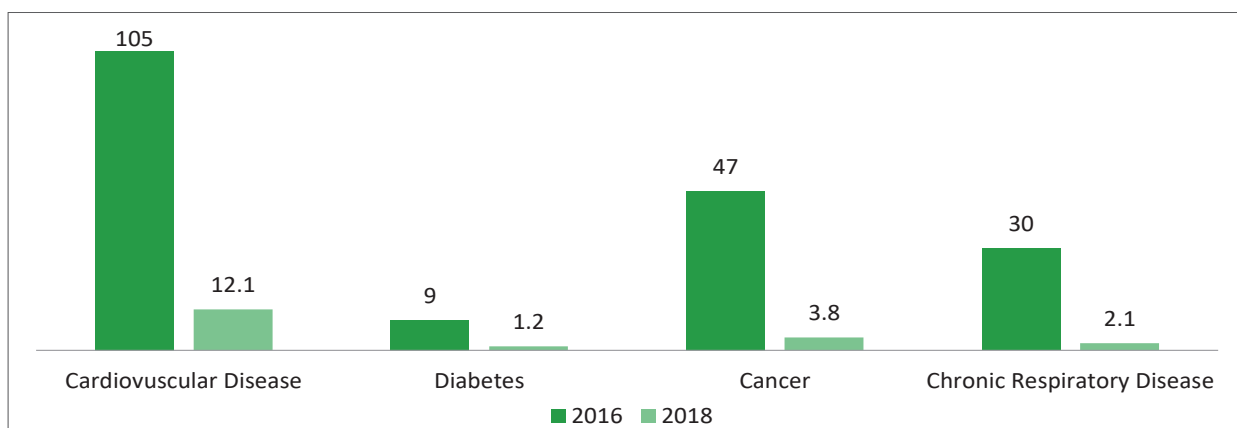
Figure 3.1: Mortality rate (Percent) Attributed to Cardiovascular Disease, Cancer, Diabetes, or Chronic Respiratory Diseases.

Indicator 3.4.2 Suicide mortality rate (per 100,000 population)

Suicide is a common cause of unnatural death in Bangladesh with a higher proportion of women tending to commit suicide. While mental disorders such as depression and anxiety are common

causes of suicide in many societies, there are other proximate causes of women's suicide in Bangladesh, such as physical and domestic violence. The suicide mortality rate (per 100,000 population) shows a consistent figure hovering around 7 per 100,000 population. However, in 2017, it declined to around 4 per 100,000 population but rose again to 7.56 in 2019 as per BP, MoHA (2019). The target is to reduce it to 3.5 by 2025.

Table 3.4: Suicide Mortality Rate (per 100,000 Population)

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
7.68	7.84	3.79	7.69	7.56

Source: BP, PSD, MoHA (2019)

Indicators 3.5.1: Coverage of treatment interventions (pharmacological, psychosocial and rehabilitation, and aftercare services) for substance use disorders

The treatment facilities for substance use disorders indicate the status of treatment services and support to the people using drugs, and their families and friends. According to the Bangladesh SDG tracker, 30,133 persons received treatment services in 2020 for substance use disorders.

Indicators 3.5.2: Harmful use of alcohol, defined according to the national context as alcohol per capita consumption (aged 15 years and older) within a calendar year in liters of pure alcohol

Bangladesh has always been a country with very low use of alcohol due to its cultural and religious practices. Hence, the harmful use of alcohol per capita consumption (aged 15 years and older) is observed at 0.041 in 2020 (Table 3.5).

Table 3.5: Alcohol Consumption per Capita in Litre of Pure Alcohol per Year

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Alcohol per capita consumption	0.083	0.085	0.084	0.083	0.0770	0.0410

Source: DNC, SSD, MoHA (Accessed from SDG tracker

http://www.sdg.gov.bd/page/indicator-wise/1/40/3/0#1)

Indicator 3.6.1 Death rate due to road traffic injuries (per 100,000 population)

Road traffic injury (RTI) is one of the fastest-growing causes of death across the world, especially in developing countries. This is true in the case of Bangladesh as well. Rapid motorization and lack of road safety awareness, among many other factors, contribute to increasing RTIs causing death, illness, and disability. The death rate due to road traffic injuries is defined as the number of road traffic fatal injury deaths per 100,000 population. In SVRS, 2020, BBS the figure was 7 in Bangladesh.

Indicator 3.7.1 Proportion of women of reproductive age (aged 15-49 years) who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods

Modern family planning methods enable women and their partners to have a stable family life. This also contributes to improved maternal and child health by preventing unwanted pregnancies and enabling planned and spaced pregnancies. If modern methods satisfy 75 percent or more of the demand, it is termed as high while 50 percent or less is termed as low. In 2020, around 62.32 percent of women of reproductive age (15-49 years) met their need for family planning using any modern method; and they report that they are satisfied with the method (BDHS, NIPORT, MEFWD; MICS, BBS, SID and SVRS, BBS, SID). The target is to increase the share to 80 percent in 2025.

Indicator 3.7.2 Adolescent birth rate (aged 10-14 years; aged 15-19 years) per 1,000 women in that age group

The adolescent birth rate is defined as the number of live births born to women aged 15-19 years during a given year divided by the population of women in the same age group. The adolescent birth rate per 1,000 women in the 15-19 age group has significantly declined in Bangladesh from 144 in 1999 to 74 in 2020. With the expansion of higher education for women, increased labor force participation, and delayed marriage, this is likely to continue to fall in the future. However, the disparity between urban and rural areas in adolescent birth rates is high. The adolescent birth rate is around 88 in rural areas whereas the figure is about 55 in urban areas in 2020.

Table 3.6: Adolescent (aged 15-19 years) Birth Rate per 1000 Women in the Age Group

1999	2004	2007	2011	2014	2016	2019	2020
144	135	126	118	113	78	83	74

Source: (BDHS, NIPORT, MEFWD; MICS, BBS, SID and SVRS, BBS, SID)

Indicators 3.8.1 Coverage of essential health services

The indicator is an index ranging between the scales of 0 to 100, which is computed as the geometric mean of 14 tracer indicators of health service coverage. The tracer indicators are organized by four components of service coverage: (i) reproductive, maternal, newborn, and child health; (ii) infectious diseases; (iii) non-communicable diseases; and (iv) services capacity and access. According to the Bangladesh Health SDG Profile (2019) by WHO, it is 54 in 2019, which was 52 in 2016. The target is to increase it to 80 by 2025.

Indicators 3.8.2 Proportion of the population with large household expenditures (>10% of the total household expenditure or income) on health as a share of total household expenditure or income

High health expenditures are more likely to expose households to financial hardship in particular when they exceed a pre-defined threshold of the household's ability to pay. When this happens, they are characterized as being catastrophic. Within the SDG monitoring framework (SDG indicator 3.8.2), the proportion of the population facing catastrophic expenditures is measured as

the population-weighted average of the number of households with 'large household expenditures on health as a share of total household expenditure or income (household's budget). In Bangladesh, the number is rising at a high rate. According to the Health SDG Profile Bangladesh WHO (2019), around 24.67 percent of the population (26.05 percent of the rural population and 21 percent urban population) had to spend more than 10 percent of their total income on health services in 2019 compared to with around 15 percent in 2000 (Table 3.7).

Table 3.7: Proportion of Population with Large Household Expenditures on Health (Percent)

Year	2000	2005	2010	2016
Value (%)	14.85	12.34	13.86	24.67

Source: Health SDG Profile Bangladesh, WHO (2019) and HIES, BBS

Indicator 3.9.1 Mortality rate attributed to household and ambient air pollution (per 100,000 populations)

The mortality as a consequence of exposure to ambient (outdoor) and indoor (household) air pollution from polluting fuels used for cooking is rising in Bangladesh. Mortality rates are calculated by dividing the number of deaths by the total population multiplied by 100,000 which stood at 68.6 in 2012 (WHO, 2012). As per UNSTAT: SDG Indicators, in 2016, around 149 per 100,000 population died as a result of air pollution in Bangladesh (DGHS, HSD; DIFE, MoLE, and WHO).

Indicator 3.9.2 Mortality rate attributed to unsafe water, unsafe sanitation, and lack of hygiene (exposure to unsafe Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene for All (WASH) services)

Inadequate water, sanitation, and hygiene lead to death which can be prevented by improving these services and practices. Bangladesh has made considerable progress in the coverage of water and sanitation services. However, hygiene services require more attention in the future. The mortality rate attributed to exposure to unsafe WASH services per 100,000 population was estimated at 5.96 in 2012. As per UNSTAT: SDG Indicators, in 2016, 11.9 per 100,000 populations died due to unsafe water, unsafe sanitation, and lack of hygiene. The target is to reduce it to 5 in 2025.

Indicator 3.9.3 Mortality rate attributed to unintentional poisoning (per 100,000 population) air pollution

Deaths from unintentional poisonings indicate the lack of proper management of hazardous chemicals and pollution in the country and the lack of an effective health system. These deaths can be prevented with adequate management. According to Health SDG Profile Bangladesh WHO (2019), the mortality rate attributed to unintentional poisoning in 2019 is 0.3 per 100,000 population in Bangladesh. The target is to reduce it to 0.25 in 2025.

Indicator 3.a.1 Age-standardised prevalence of current tobacco use among persons aged 15 years and older

Tobacco use is identified as a major cause of illness and death from non-communicable diseases (NCDs). Bangladesh is one of the countries with a high prevalence of current tobacco use.

Bangladesh signed the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) in 2003. The age-standardized prevalence of current tobacco use among persons aged 15 years and older is 46 for males and 25 for females in 2017 (GAT Survey, BBS, SID). The Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GAT Survey, BBS, SID) shows that the age-standardized prevalence of current tobacco use among persons aged 15 years and older has declined from 43.3 percent in 2009 to 35.3 percent in 2017. The target is to reduce it to 30 percent in 2025 through adopting different measures including tobacco tax and awareness creation to reduce tobacco use in the country Bangladesh aims to become a tobacco-free country by 2040.

Indicator 3.b.1 Proportion of the target population covered by all vaccines included in the national program

Bangladesh has developed an effective national immunization program starting in 1979 with the implementation of the Expanded Programme on Immunisation (EPI) of the World Health Organisation (WHO). The program consists of vaccination against six childhood diseases: polio, measles, pertussis, tetanus, diphtheria, and tuberculosis. The proportion of the population with access to affordable medicines and vaccines on a sustainable basis stood at 78 percent in 2014. According to EPI Coverage Evaluation Survey, DGHS, and HSD, from both vaccination cards and mother's reports, 86 percent of all children were fully vaccinated in 2018. The target is to increase the coverage to 98 percent by 2025.

Indicator 3.b.2: Total net official development assistance to the medical research and basic health sectors

Data from ERD, HSD, and MEFWD show that total net official development assistance to the medical research and basic health sectors has risen from US$177.4 million to US$291.9 million in 2021. This indicator is on the right track to achieve the target of US$ 400 million in 2025.

Indicator 3. c.1 Health worker density (per 10,000 population) and distribution (physician: nurse: health technologist)

Resources for health (HRH) constitutes a key component of the health system. The success of the health system to deliver quality health services depends largely on the quality of health workers including physicians, nursing and midwifery personnel, dentistry personnel, and pharmaceutical personnel. Bangladesh suffers from a shortage and mal-distribution of health workers. Health worker density per 10,000 population stood at 7.4 in 2016. Physicians, nurses, and health technologists are distributed in the proportion 1: 0.5: 0.2 indicating imbalances in the composition of the workforce. In 2019, the density has increased to 8.3 percent (MIS, DGHS, HSD)

Indicator 3.d.1 International Health Regulations (IHR) capacity and health emergency preparedness

The International Health Regulations (IHR) 2005 define core capacity requirements for each of the 194 countries that are party to the IHR to ensure that all countries can detect, assess, notify and report events, and respond to public health risks and emergencies of national and international

concern. The 13 core capacities are: (i) national legislation, policy, and financing; (ii) coordination and national focal point communications; (iii) surveillance; (iv) response; (v) preparedness; (vi) risk communications; (vii) human resources; (viii) laboratory; (ix) points of entry; (x) zoonotic events; (xi) food safety; (xii) chemical events; and (xiii) radio nuclear emergencies. According to Bangladesh SDGs Tracker, the index has dropped to 58 in 2019 from 87 in 2016; and it is much below the 2020 milestone of 90 (WHO, 2020).

3.3 Policies and Efforts to Achieve SDG3

To build a healthy, strong, and functioning population, the government has intensified its efforts to ensure affordable and quality healthcare for all citizens through the development of health, nutrition, and population sectors. The 2030 Agenda was integrated with the relevant strategies and policies of the 7th Five Year Plan (2016-2020),4th Health, Population, and Nutrition Sector Programme (HPNSP, 2016-2020) as well as the 8th Five Year Plan (2021-2025).

Bangladesh aims to attain some targets on the road towards universal health coverage, consistent with SDG3 and the overall SDGs framework. Promoting and sustaining health and nutrition along with containing population growth are priorities in the human development strategy. Vision 2041 envisions a high-income Bangladesh with no poverty and with conditions that allow individuals to reach and maintain the highest attainable level of health. It incorporates appropriate strategies and activities for focused improvements in health service delivery for increasing access to, and quality of care and improving equity along with financial protection to meaningfully realize the objectives of universal health coverage (UHC) by 2030.

Box 3.1: e-Health and m-Health in Bangladesh

Electronic health (e-Health) and mobile health (m-Health) have rightly gained considerable attention as potential tools for healthcare delivery in Bangladesh. Both e-Health and m-Health comprise a set of different concepts, including health, commerce, and technology. It is generally understood to be the application of computers, the Internet, mobile phone, and other technologies to improve the patient's health status in a country. E-Health and m-Health involve the application of advanced ICT, such as the Internet, wireless, and other sophisticated devices to provide healthcare delivery to patients to improve health in general and the healthcare system in particular.

The government has a wide range of specific programs to improve the e-Health and m-Health infrastructures and their use in the country. Currently, health services through the internet, health services through mobile phones, telemedicine service, complaints-suggestions through SMS, pregnancy care advice through SMS, online population health registry, GIS in health service, and bulk SMS are available in a government hospital in Bangladesh. Private clinics and hospitals are also using their electronic database systems for patient health records.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW) has adopted programs for the development and implementation of a national digital health strategy, an essential step towards harnessing digital solutions to improve the accessibility, quality, and affordability of health services. Furthermore, the development of a digital health strategy facilitates the move to advance in a more structured and planned way toward the development of infrastructure, connectivity, quality, and validation of digital applications in healthcare ecosystems. Bangladesh is already at a better stage to use digital technology across all sectors and provides scope for the general population to access the digital

solutions to enable the advancement of SDG3 and achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

The government is working towards devising a framework to ensure effectiveness, accountability, and equity in delivering health services through the electronic platform. The key challenge has been to develop the most effective means of integrating e-Health and m-Health into the health systems within the mandate of Digital Bangladesh to become the steward of e-Health and m-Health and support the link between technology and health in the country.

The 8FYP emphasizes the continuation of efforts to strengthen core systems to support overall improvement in service efficiency, e.g., the reorganization of the financial management, and restructuring of the Central Medicine Service Department (CMSD) as the major procurement unit and other agencies/institutes. It will continue to emphasize Primary health care (PHC), EPI, MNCH, NCD, nutrition, etc. in consideration of achieving the equity goal and to implement the updated ESP as part of its strategy to achieve the UHC as proposed in SDG3.

During the 8FYP, the level of readiness at all tiers of the health system will be strengthened for emergency response; the capacity of the sector will be increased for coordinated post-disaster management and protecting people's health from climate change. The existing health research agenda will include the adverse effect of climate change on health, and field surveys and studies will be conducted to identify the effects of climate change on health.

The MOHFW has also developed an updated essential service package (ESP) for the provision of quality health, nutrition, and FP services from the community to the district level. To implement the updated ESP cost-effectively, a harmonized service delivery system is being put in place during the implementation of the 4th HPNSP. To expand the nutrition service throughout the country, the Operational Plan (OP) 'National Nutrition Services (NNS)' has been taken up under the 4th HPNSP.

The government has already taken National Health Policy, 2011, and Bangladesh Population Policy, 2012. It has also developed the 'Strategy for Finance in the Health Sector: 2012-2032' to provide universal health care in the country by 2030. The 'Shashtho Shurokkha Karmashuchi (SSK)' has been developed following the policy to fund healthcare services for those living in poverty. The pilot program under the SSK has been initiated to reduce the out-of-pocket expenses of the poor population and protect them from catastrophic health expenditures in receiving hospital-based services. While receiving inter-departmental services from hospitals, every family holding a card gets free treatment including the costs of diagnosis and medicine.

3.4 Key Challenges

To accelerate progress and address new health challenges, all actors, including the private sector need to partner to develop healthcare solutions that work for all people, families, communities, and nations. All stakeholders have a responsibility to respect all human rights, including the right to health. All stakeholders can both benefit from and contribute to achieving healthy societies. SDG3 provides a new opportunity especially for the private sector to support the delivery of health needs through their products, services, and business activities including value chains and distribution

networks, communication activities, occupational health and safety practices, and provision of employee benefits. Ensuring that workers have safe working conditions and access to health services, healthier staff, and better relationships which in many cases have positive effects on productivity can also be established.

- Bangladesh currently lags in several SDG3 indicators, the progress of which has slowed down due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Further, there exist wide disparities between rural and urban areas and the poor and non-poor population groups as well as among different disadvantaged groups and geographic locations in accessing essential health services; as well as across various educational levels and wealth quintiles.

- The challenges facing the sector mainly relate to improving maternal health through medically-trained provider care during childbirth; ensuring urban primary health care service delivery, especially for the poor; reducing out-of-pocket expenses; improving the doctor-patient ratio (particularly in the rural and hard-to-reach areas); increasing burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs); rising incidence of injuries including burn and acid injuries, drowning and other accidents including road traffic injuries; aging and geriatric diseases; spread of infectious diseases; reducing further child marriages, adverse health effects of geo-climatic disasters and increasing suicide mortality rate.

- Some structural challenges need adequate attention. Ensuring more effective coordination between two major related ministries--MOHFW and MOLGRDC--for developing an effective urban health services delivery mechanism with functional referral between the primary health care providers (LGIs) and secondary/tertiary health care facilities (MOHFW) is a challenge that needs to be effectively resolved.

Bangladesh is committed to achieving universal health coverage (UHC) by 2030; to this end, the government is exploring all policy options to increase the fiscal space for health and expand coverage while improving service quality and availability. The focus is on customized and context-specific policy adjustments for progress toward UHC.

Although in national policies and strategic documents emphasis is given to strengthening the multi-sectoral approach in the implementation of the SDG3, necessary actions do not always follow in the required quantity and quality for the execution of these strategies. In this regard, the lack of leadership is also a major challenge in the implementation of the strategies.

3.5 Way Forward

For reaching SDG3, specific and targeted efforts are needed to address the limited scope of accessing quality health services in the lagging regions and marginalized communities. The policies should focus on improving child and maternal health, reducing disparity regarding healthcare services, and reducing out-of-pocket expenses, particularly in rural and hard-to-reach areas. The focus should also be placed on sectors, geographic locations, and groups that are more isolated and disadvantaged through increasing availability and quality of social services and programs for

the poorest and most excluded groups. To improve family planning and welfare services in hard-to-reach and low-performing areas, adequate capacity needs to be developed and trained staff needs to be deployed to accelerate the catching-out process.

Investing in multi-stakeholder partnerships to remove barriers to equitable health services which are responsive to increasingly diverse population health needs, and to reach those most further behind first is also essential. More attention is needed on protection from financial risks, primary health care inputs, the satisfaction level of the users with the health care system, and ways to tackle the prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and management of various diseases. There is a need to focus on financial risk protection and user satisfaction in using health care services. If people are not protected against the financial implications of using the healthcare system, this can lead to a decrease in access to care. The patient's level of satisfaction with the healthcare system can negatively impact future interactions with the healthcare system.

3.6 Summary

The Covid-19 pandemic is a serious threat to the progress of SDG3 which aims to ensure healthy lives and well-being for all. The lockdowns during the pandemic put a hold on various health services such as child vaccination, family planning, cancer screening, etc. The pandemic has also led to overloading and overcrowding of health facilities and many people have become afraid of visiting these centers for fear of being infected.

Over the years, Bangladesh has made reasonably good progress in policy planning for the implementation of SDG3. The mapping of stakeholders in the public sector has been completed including the identification of data gaps. However, relatively less progress has been made in the multi-sectoral engagement for implementation of SDG3, although more initiatives are underway by both the public and private sectors. For SGD3, under the leadership of the MOHFW and applying the health MIS, the country remains on track for monitoring SDG3 by pooling data from various sources. Although Bangladesh has a pool of research institutions and local capacities to contribute to the formulation of national health and related policies and programs, capacity building is needed in health policy institutions in policy synthesis for evidence-based policymaking.

4 QUALITY EDUCATION

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

4.1 Global/Regional Context

According to a 2020 report by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), 24 million learners from the pre-primary to university level are at risk of not returning to school. Worldwide in 2019, only 59 percent of children in grade three were proficient in reading. The pandemic is projected to have caused an additional 101 million children (roughly 9 percent of those in primary and lower secondary school) to fall below the minimum reading proficiency threshold, increasing the total number of students falling behind to 584 million in 2020. This wipes out the progress achieved in education over the past 20 years (UN SDG report 2021). In the field of mathematics, a similar scenario has been observed.

Advancement toward ensuring that all children complete primary and secondary school is slow.[16] Globally, primary school completion rates have risen from 82 percent in 2010 to 85 percent in 2019. The secondary school completion rate increased from 46 percent in 2010 to 53 percent in 2019. Huge discrepancies among population groups remain prevalent too. In terms of primary school completion, around half of the countries did not reach gender parity. Disparities by location and wealth are even starker; only a third of the countries reached parity in primary school completion between rural and urban students, and just one-sixth of countries reached parity between students in the poorest and richest households.

The global action program (GAP) on education for sustainable development (ESD) has identified five priority areas to advance the ESD agenda. Those are policy support, whole-institution approaches, educators, youth, and local communities. While education needs globally are immense, non-government actors can also leverage their resources and core competencies to support the governments in delivering on their promise of education for all. Long-term strategic investments in education are needed that will lead to a larger, more talented pool of future employees. Education is often a local issue, which will require working within local education systems and in communities to determine the best utilization of resources.

4.2 Assessment of Progress on SDG4

Indicator 4.1.1 Proportion of children and young people: (a) in grades 2/3; (b) at the end of primary; and (c) at the end of lower secondary achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in (i) reading and (ii) mathematics, by sex

As per MICS (2019), the minimum proficiency in reading Bangla is achieved by 25.9 percent of the students, when it is tested on Grade 2 and 3 students. Math-solving proficiency is achieved by only 13 percent of students in grades 2 and 3. According to the Learning Assessment of Secondary Institutions (2015), 54 percent of the students at the end of the lower secondary level achieved the minimum proficiency in reading Bangla, which is 55 percent for boys and 54 percent for girls. On the contrary, English reading proficiency is achieved by only 19 percent of students with 22 percent of boys and 18 percent of girls. The lack of competent teachers is a major reason for this poor performance. In mathematics, the minimum proficiency is achieved by 57 percent of the students

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16   https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2021/goal-04/

with 62 percent of boys and 52 percent of girls. In 2015, 52 percent of children and young people at the end of lower secondary achieved at least a minimum proficiency level in mathematics. Thus for this indicator (minimum proficiency level in mathematics), Bangladesh is still behind in achieving the milestone of 2025 and 2030.

Indicator 4.1.2 Completion rate (primary education, lower secondary education, upper secondary education)

This indicator reflects the percentage of a group of children or young people aged 3-5 years above the intended age for the last grade of each level of education who have completed that grade. The projected age for the last grade of each level of education is the age at which pupils would enter the grade if they had started school at the official primary entrance age, had studied full-time, and had progressed without repeating or skipping a grade. According to the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2019 (MICS, 2019, BBS, SID), completion rates were 82.6 percent for primary, 64.7 percent for lower secondary, and 29.4 percent for upper secondary education in Bangladesh.

Indicator 4.2.1 Proportion of children under 5 years of age who are developmentally on track in health, learning, and psychosocial well-being, by sex

The Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2019 (BBS and UNICEF: MICS (2019) reports this indicator for 2019 disaggregating by sex and region. It is observed that around 74.5 percent of the children are developmentally on track in health, learning, and psychosocial well-being with 71.4 percent males and 78 percent females. In the base year (2012-13), it was 63.9 percent. It is also noted that urban areas (77.9 percent) have more 'developmentally on track' children than rural areas (73.7 percent). For this indicator, the target is to achieve 80 percent by 2025 and 100 percent by 2030.

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

The National Education Policy 2010 emphasizes early childhood education (ECD) in the school system. ECD ensures the rights and opportunities for education from a very early age. According to the World Development Indicators (WDI), Bangladesh has made remarkable progress in this respect over the last two decades, by raising the gross enrolment ratio at the pre-primary level from 17 percent in 2000 to around 34 percent in 2016. MICS (2019) reports that the participation rate in organized learning (one year before the official primary entry age) is 77.5 percent with 76.1 percent for males and 78.8 percent for females and 80 percent for urban and 76.8 percent for rural areas. This indicates that at the pre-primary level, Bangladesh has achieved equality in ensuring access to education across gender and geographical areas.

Indicator 4.3.1 Participation rate of youth and adults in formal and non-formal education and training in the previous 12 months, by sex

This indicator is defined by the percentage of youth and adults in a given age range (e.g. 15-24 years, 25-64 years, etc.) participating in formal or non-formal education or training in a given period (e.g. last 12 months). Formal education and training are defined as education provided by the system of schools, colleges, universities, and other formal educational institutions that normally constitute a continuous 'ladder' of full-time education for children and young people, generally beginning at

the age of 5 to 7 and continuing up to 20 or 25 years old. According to the Bangladesh Bureau of Educational Information and Statistics (BABIES), the participation rate of youth and adults in formal secondary education and training in the previous 12 months has increased from 72.78 percent in 2015 to 76.38 percent in 2020, which was 67.13 percent for male and 85.19 percent for female. For higher secondary education, this indicator has risen from 38.99 percent in 2015 to 48.39 percent in 2020.

Indicator 4.4.1 Proportion of youth and adults with information and communications technology (ICT) skills, by type of skill

As per MICS (2019), only 1.4 percent of youth and adults (15-49 years) have information and communications technology (ICT) skills, which is 4.1 percent for urban areas and 0.60 percent for rural areas. The same report shows that around 4.6 percent of the women have used computers, 71.4 percent own a mobile phone and 14.2 percent of women have used the internet. Urban women are more technologically skilled than rural women. It is found that around 11.2 percent of urban women have used a computer against only 2.5 percent of rural women and, 71.4 percent of urban women own a mobile phone against 68.6 percent of rural women. Moreover, 25.1 percent of urban women have used the internet whereas this figure is around 10.9 percent for rural women.

Indicator 4.5.1 Parity indices (female/male, rural/urban, bottom/top wealth quintile, and others such as disability status, indigenous peoples, and conflict-affected, as data become available) for all education indicators on this list that can be disaggregated

This indicator represents the ratio of the indicator value for the more disadvantaged group to the indicator value of the other sub-population of interest. Typically, the likely more disadvantaged group is the numerator. A value of exactly 1 indicates parity between the two groups. The gender parity index (GPI) is defined as the ratio of female to male enrolment rates, gross or net. When GPI has a value of one, female enrolment and male enrolment rates are equal. A value of less (more) than one indicates that proportionately fewer (more) females have enrolled than males. Bangladesh has achieved a GPI value higher than one at the primary and secondary levels as per the latest data of BANBEIS and MICS (Table 4.1). Also at the tertiary level, it is not far from one. However, in technical education and disability, the value of GPI is 0.37 and 0.64 respectively. Several government initiatives, such as food/cash for education programs for girls at the primary level and stipend and tuition programs at the secondary level have increased physical access to schools.

Table 4 .1: Gender Parity Index in Education, 2015-2020

Level	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Primary	1.08	1.06	...	1.075	...	1.06
Secondary	1.15	1.18	1.16	1.19	1.17	1.22
Tertiary	0.65	0.67	0.71	0.70	0.74	0.75
Technical	0.38	0.39	0.38	0.38	0.34	0.37
Disability	0.61	0.62	0.65	0.68	0.53	0.64

Source: BANBEIS, Technical Education Statistics (2018), MICS (2019); EHS, BBS, SID; MIS, DSS, MoSW; DIS, DSS, MoSW; APSC, DPE, MoPME; MICS, BBS, SID; ASPR, DPE, MoPME.

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

The government has taken several education programs targeting adults, both males, and females, with poor skills and low income to provide them access to education. There has been a shift in focus of the adult literacy programs from providing basic literacy skills to basic literacy with skills development linked to livelihood. In addition to the government, NGOs and civil society organizations are also actively engaged in running adult literacy programs in the country. The adult literacy rate has increased significantly from around 53 percent in 2005 to 75.6 percent in 2020 (Table 4.2). Also, over time the differences between male and female adult literacy rates have significantly narrowed down.

Table 4.2: Adult Literacy Rate of Population Aged 15 Years and above

	2005	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
All adults	53.5	58.6	64.6	72.3	72.9	73.9	74.7	75.6
Males	58.3	62.9	67.6	75.2	75.7	76.7	77.4	78.2
Females	48.6	55.4	61.6	69.5	70.1	71.2	71.9	73.0

Source: SVRS, BBS of various years

Indicator 4.a.1 Proportion of schools offering basic services, by types of services

For an education program to be effective, several key basic services and facilities are necessary for schools. These include electricity to avail the benefits of ICT, internet and computer to enhance teaching and learning, adapted infrastructure (ramp) and materials such as books for students with disabilities, basic drinking water for use during school hours, separate sanitation facilities for boys and girls and hand washing facilities with soap and water. As per APSC, DPE, and MoPME, in 2020, around 87.6 percent of the primary schools have access to electricity, 76.89 percent have access to the internet for pedagogical purposes, and 89.87 percent of the schools have computers for pedagogical purposes, 37.52 percent of primary schools have access to adapted infrastructure and materials for students with disabilities, 86.41 percent have access to basic drinking water, 77.90 percent have access to single-sex basic sanitation facilities 43.50 percent have basic hand washing facilities.

Data from BES, BABIES, and MoE show that in 2020, 95.96 percent of secondary schools have access to electricity, 18.76 percent have access to the Internet for pedagogical purposes, 76.85 percent have access to computers for pedagogical purposes, 18.76 percent have access to adapted infrastructure and materials (ramp) for students with disabilities, 97.48 percent have access to basic drinking water, 96.59 percent have access to single-sex basic sanitation facilities and 54.90 percent have access to basic hand washing facilities. Shreds of evidence show that Bangladesh still lacks key basic services and facilities to provide a safe and effective learning environment in schools. Therefore, it needs to cover a long distance yet to achieve SDG4 milestones for this indicator.

Indicator 4.b.1 Volume of official development assistance flows for scholarships by sector and type of study

This indicator is based on gross ODA flows for scholarships, training in donor countries, etc. The ODA flow for educational purposes decreased from 8.76 million US dollars in 2015-16 to 7.6 million US dollars in 2016-17.

Indicator 4.c.1 Proportion of teachers with the minimum required qualifications, by education level

Ideally, all teachers should receive the required educational training to teach at the relevant level of education. According to the annual Primary School Census (APSC), DPE, MoPME, in 2020, 80.06 percent of teachers in primary education have the minimum required qualifications, 63.80 percent of teachers in lower secondary education have the minimum required qualifications and 61.33 percent of teachers in upper secondary education have the minimum required qualifications.

4.3 Policies and Efforts to Achieve SDG4

The government is a strong advocate of quality education for all and is ensuring equitable and quality education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes. The government's long-term vision and framework for the development of secondary education have two major objectives: extension of basic education to eight years; and restructuring and improving the outcome of secondary education. Along with facilities expansion and quality improvement (e.g. teacher training, curriculum, and examination reform, and strengthened supervision), the measures for restructuring and improving secondary education aim to undertake several interventions like strengthened capacity for policy and planning, improved monitoring and evaluation, and efforts to reach the underserved populations. Bangladesh faces several challenges in establishing an adequate educational system. To tackle such an expansive issue, the government has set multiple targets in its aim to achieve SDG4 in Bangladesh.

Hon'ble Prime Minister at the UN Secretary General's Transforming Education (TES) Summit held on 19 September 2022 emphasized the importance of the Blended Education Master Plan to ensure quality education for all. She discussed the new national curriculum in Bangladesh developed in alignment with the Fourth Industrial Revolution and Vision-2041 to become a developed, knowledge-based economy. She also highlighted the importance of international cooperation for mutual recognition of qualifications and improved access to foundational and life-long learning, more investment in teachers' training, and safe classrooms for all children to ensure a rights-based approach and equity in education for all.

The government's objectives for the primary sub-sector are to improve school quality and system efficiency; establish a sustainable, better-managed education system; and ensure universal coverage and equitable access to quality primary schooling. The main target is to achieve SDG4 by ensuring quality education for all children by 2030. The government's education policies and strategies have largely attempted to bring about reforms in the education sector for expanding enrolment and improving its quality and governance.

The 8FYP (2021-2025) will address the outstanding issues and challenges related to primary education, such as reducing dropout and absenteeism and ensuring a better quality outcome in education, creating better citizens, and developing better tools to measure learning outcomes. For addressing the challenges of secondary education, 8FYP will take several actions, such as developing better tools to measure learning outcomes, reforming the examination and evaluation method of student learning, increasing science enrolment, introducing the common curriculum up to class X, improving equity, the greater role of ICT-based learning, improve the TVET stream and better industry-academia collaboration.

The government has approved the National Education Policy 2010 intending to foster humanity among the future citizens of the country. The policy aims to assist the students to grow as creative, rational, tolerant of others' opinions, and liberals who will be able to lead the country towards inclusive development and sustained progress. The government has adopted the National Skill Development Authority Act 2018 (NSDA 2018) to formulate and implement all strategies to develop skills and bring coordination between different institutions and stakeholders regarding skills training, etc. The NSDA 2018 specifically targets disadvantaged people and people with specialized needs and provides them with access to education and training.

To achieve the targets, the government is implementing various programs such as the third primary education development program (PEDP-III); stipend program; reaching-out-of-school children (ROSC) project, and the school feeding program in poverty-prone areas as well as the second chance education program and basic literacy program in all 64 districts of the country.

The government plans to expand and enhance the scope and quality of higher education in the country. For this purpose, the government has passed the Cross Border Higher Education (CBHE) Act 2014 to facilitate the permanent campus establishment of world-standard private universities in Bangladesh. To encourage the research-based educational environment in higher educational institutions, an Academic Innovation Fund is operational. Further, the government has taken initiatives to increase technological skills and the Bangladesh Research and Education Network (BdREN) has been established.

The expansion of the country's technical and vocational education aims to transform the young population into productive and skilled manpower. It is targeted that 20 percent of schools and colleges will be enrolled in Technical-Vocational Education and Training (TVET) by 2020 and 30 percent by 2030 for better utilization of human resources. The National Technical and Vocational Qualifications Framework (NTVQF) has been adopted to widen TVET. Under the leadership of MoPME and MoE, a strategic framework and Action Plan on SDG4 has also been prepared.

4.4 Key Challenges

- Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, there is a serious risk that learning loss as a consequence of school closures and lack of access to remote learning materials will undermine the cognitive capital of the country going forward. The extent to which this will be the case depends on the reach and quality of responses to mitigate learning loss. Developing remediation measures to prevent further learning loss will require significant technical support and

financial investment in the education sector. Marginalized children, the young, and those with disabilities have been particularly disadvantaged during the pandemic despite the wide range of learning provisions and support.

- Public expenditure on education is around 2 percent of Bangladesh's GDP which is one of the lowest in South Asia and among the developing countries. Reaching almost 4 million out-of-school children at the primary level throughout the country with specific groups of children facing greater constraints to access, such as working children, disabled children, indigenous children, and children living in remote areas or slums or living in poverty, is a huge challenge to attain the targets of SDG4.

- Although the net enrolment rate is 97.97 percent, the dropout rate is also high (18.8 percent) and a large proportion of the primary students cannot make the transition to secondary schools and/or take the necessary steps to address the problem.

- Lack of teachers with professional training, adequate knowledge of their subjects, and pedagogical skills in secondary schools are also some issues that threaten to cripple the education system. Also, education service delivery is heavily centralized, with most policy decisions and implementation managed from the capital.

- To eradicate gender discrimination, rural-urban and economic disparity in the enrolment of secondary school children aged 11-15 years are also critical challenges to achieving SDG4. Further, the implementation of any equity-based and quality-assuring educational measures is likely to face difficult challenges in the existing infrastructural settings.

4.5 Way Forward

Despite the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic, Bangladesh has responded with many innovative approaches which can be replicated, learned from, and applied in different contexts for achieving SDG4. One of the important lessons learned during the pandemic relates to the strength of cross-sector collaboration between health and education at all levels enabling a comprehensive response and communication of messages to support safe school reopening. Although access to primary education is in good shape, the quality of education is a matter of concern. Also as secondary school enrolment rates lag behind primary completion rates, more efforts are needed toward secondary education. Action plans also need to focus on reaching out-of-school children, particularly the specific groups facing greater constraints such as working children, disabled children, indigenous children, and children living in remote areas or slums or living in poverty.

For the 8th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025), the policy is universal access to good education. In digital Bangladesh, education will be the 'people's asset'; and the more education for all, the lower the inequality in the long run. To promote information and communications technology (ICT) for education, the government has also taken initiative by equipping all classrooms with audio-visual aids, including multimedia classrooms and digital smart boards. Teachers are also receiving training to ensure interactive classes and on using e-books and e-learning materials. Under the secondary

education sector investment program (SESIP), the MOE is establishing ICT learning in all districts of the country, while ICT for pedagogy is another effort for enhancing ICT. As a part of this process, the Bangladesh Bureau of Educational Information and Statistics (BABIES), the statistical office for education, has developed a National Indicator Framework (NIF), along with data mapping and data quality assessment framework and a national strategy for the development of education statistics (NSDES) and action plan for Bangladesh. The framework consists of 130 national-level indicators of which 97 will feed directly into SDG4.

4.6 Summary

In reality, the proportion of the school population to benefit from quality learning opportunities is heavily weighted in favor of the higher socioeconomic status of households. Widening inequalities have meant that the most disadvantaged learners continue to be left behind due to discrimination, inadequate policies to mitigate exclusion, and inequitable budget allocation and data collection. Disparities have worsened during the pandemic between rich and poor, urban and rural, girls and boys, and other marginalized groups, as well as those with disabilities and displaced children. The need is to overcome these constraints to achieve SDG4 for realizing inclusive and equitable quality education for all.

The government's efforts such as food/cash for education programs for girls at the primary level and stipend and tuition programs at the secondary level have increased physical access to schools. Additionally, the government has also undertaken programs to enhance girls' enrolment in technical education to improve GPI in technical education. Although access to primary education is in good shape, the quality of education is a matter of concern. Also as secondary school enrolment rates lag behind primary completion rates, more efforts are needed toward secondary education. For achieving SDG4, the best policy is universal access to good education.

If universities produce graduates with creative and innovative skills, opportunities will then be created for them to get decent jobs, and graduates can be successful as entrepreneurs and self-employed workforce. Such dispositions demand changes in curricular, teaching, and assessment methods to function the young generation as active learners and creators. Higher education is, therefore, now about developing flexible, creative, and well-rounded individuals. Subsequently, a university's challenge is now to produce graduates with the knowledge and right skills to drive growth and productivity.

5 GENDER EQUALITY

ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS

5.1 Global/Regional Context

In addition to social norms, collective attitudes concerning women's paid and unpaid work, inheritance and ownership, and mobility outside of the home impact the division of labor within the household thereby affecting gender equality and women empowerment. These social norms negatively affect women's ability to benefit from outside economic opportunities—in turn, many women are not able to access and use financial and social services that would help them to achieve gender equality. These informal rules are often highly gendered in that different norms apply to men, women, boys, and girls, and they impact and resonate in varying ways.

According to the UN Sustainable Development Goals Report 2022, nearly one in five young women in 2021 was married before the age of 18. The global proportion of young women who were married as children has decreased by 15 percent, from nearly one in four to one in five. However, the profound effects of the Covid-19 pandemic are putting girls at higher risk of early marriage due to a combination of economic shocks, school closures, and interruptions in reproductive health services.

According to ILO, the present global labor force participation rate for women is just under 47 percent and for men, it is 72 percent. That represents a difference of 25 percentage points, with some regions facing a gap of more than 50 percentage points.[17] Although women are participating more in the workforce globally, they continue to be disproportionately represented in vulnerable employment. Though women accounted for nearly 39 percent of the global labor force in 2019, they occupied only 28.2 percent of managerial positions, only 3 percentage points higher than in 2000 (UN, 2021). The pandemic's disproportional impact on women in the workforce, and especially on women entrepreneurs, threatens to roll back the little progress that has been made in reducing the global gender gap in managerial positions.

To achieve gender equality, it is critical to address key areas of inequality, inequalities in opportunities, discrimination in law and practice, unfair social norms and attitudes, women's and men's unequal opportunities in the labor market, unequal division of unpaid care and domestic work, women's limited control over assets and property, decision-making on sexual and reproductive issues, low levels of political participation and lack of gender-responsive budgeting[18] . Bangladesh is preparing gender budget reports as a part of gender-responsive budgeting activities, providing a targeted fiscal instrument for closing gender inequality. Finally, Gender equality can improve women's sense of self-worth, their right to have access to opportunities and resources, their right to have the power to control their own lives, both within and outside the household, their right to have and to determine choices and their ability to influence the direction of social changes to create a better social and economic order.

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17   https://www.ilo.org/infostories/en-GB/Stories/Employment/barriers-women#global-gap
18   Gender-responsive budgeting uses a variety of tools to 'follow the money' from government budgets to its impacts and outcomes for different groups of men and women, boys and girls. It also involves strategies for changing budgetary processes and policies so that expenditures and revenues reduce inequalities between men and women.

5.2 Assessment of Progress on SDG5

Bangladesh has closed 71.9 percent of its gender gap so far. According to the Global Gender Gap Report 2022 by World Economic Forum, Bangladesh is placed 71 out of 146 countries. Despite falling 6 places from last year, it has kept its position as the best-performing South Asian country for eight consecutive years (Table 5.1).

Table 5.1: Women's Empowerment in South Asia in 2022

	Bangladesh	Nepal	Sri Lanka	Maldives	Bhutan	India	Pakistan	Afghanistan
Global ranking	71	96	110	117	126	135	145	146
Regional ranking	1	2	3	4	5	6	8	9
Score	0.714	0.692	0.670	0.648	0.637	0.629	0.564	0.435

Source: World Economic Forum, Global Gender Gap Report 2022

The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on economic and social perspectives has adversely affected the progress toward gender equality. The decline in child marriage is expected to increase; violence against women and girls has deepened, and women need to spend more hours on domestic work at home. However, a major component of Bangladesh's development strategy is raising gender awareness among the policymakers, planners, and programmers by incorporating a gender perspective into the poverty/inequality reduction policies and programs and actively involving women as decision-makers.

5.2.1 Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual, or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by the form of violence, and by age

According to BBS's Violence against Women (VAW) Survey 2015 (BBS, 2016), 54.7 percent of ever-married women (age 15+) faced physical and/or sexual violence by their intimate partner at least once in their lifetime. The same report shows that around 27 percent of ever-married women faced physical and/or sexual violence by their intimate partner in the last 12 months. In the absence of updated data and evidence, the most recent situation (after 2015) of this indicator cannot be assessed. The Global Gender Gap Report 2022 reports that 53.3 percent of women faced gender violence in their lifetime in Bangladesh.

Indicator 5.2.2 Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by age and place of occurrence

In Bangladesh, 6.2 percent of women and girls aged 15 years and above were subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months in 2015 (VAW 2015, BBS). According to WHO, 'sexual violence is defined as any sexual act, attempt to obtain a sexual

act, unwanted sexual comments or advances, or acts to traffic, or otherwise directed, against a person's sexuality using coercion, by any person regardless of their relationship to the victim, in any setting, including but not limited to home and work'.

Indicator 5.3.1 Proportion of women aged 20-24 years who were married or in a union before age 15 and before age 18

Child marriage is a major problem in Bangladesh. As of the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2019 (BBS/UNICEF: MICS, 2019), 15.5 percent of women aged 20-24 years were married or in a union before age 15, and 51.4 percent were married before age 18. This indicator has improved since 2015. BBS's Violence against Women (VAW) Survey 2015 (BBS, 2016) shows that around 22 percent were married before the age of 15 and 59 percent of women were married before the age of 18. According to UNICEF, Bangladesh has the fourth-highest incidence of child marriage globally and the second-highest number of child brides, which is 4.45 million. According to Global Gender Gap Report 2022, in Bangladesh, 45.20 percent of women were married between 15 to 19 years in 2019.
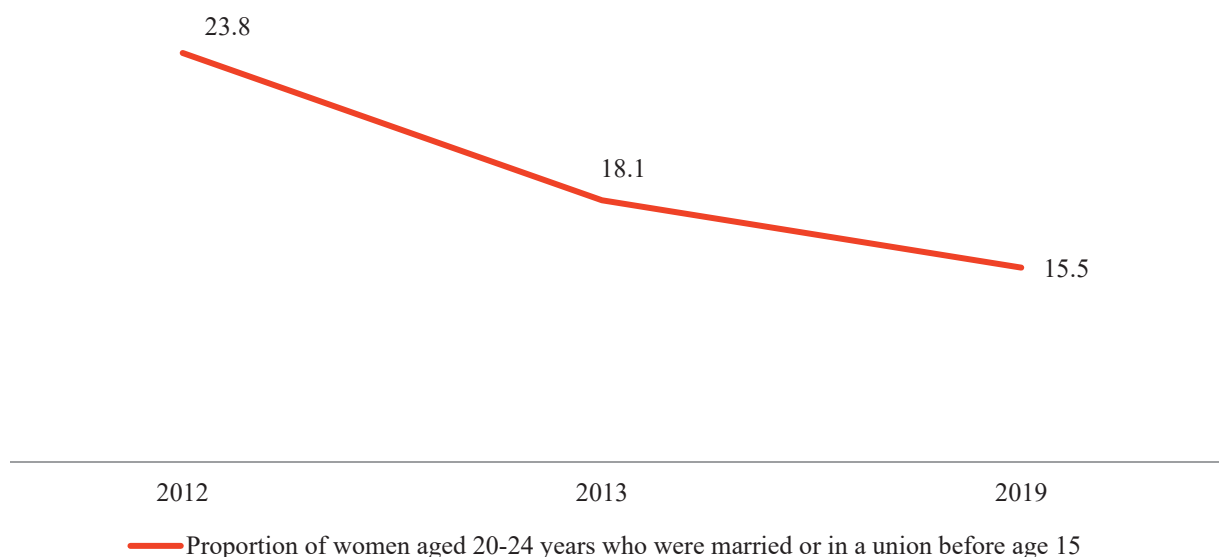
Figure 5.1: Proportion of women aged 20-24 years who were married or in a union before age 15

Indicator 5.4.1 Proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work, by sex, age, and location

Unpaid domestic and care work refers to the household provision of services for own consumption. This indicator has been measured by dividing the average per day number of hours spent on unpaid domestic and care work by 24 hours. Evidence in Bangladesh implies that women are responsible for the vast majority of the unpaid domestic and care work and they generally work longer hours than men. According to BBS's Labor Force Survey 2016-17 (BBS, 2017) and Gender Statistics of Bangladesh 2018, in 2016-17 while men spend on average 7 percent of their time, women spend 24 percent of their time on this work. This indicates that women spend three times more in unpaid

domestic and care work compared with men in Bangladesh. However, the situation has slightly improved from the past. In 2012, women spent 25.8 percent[19] of their time on unpaid care work, more than five times as much as men, whereas men spent only 5 percent of their time in such work.

Indicator 5.5.1 Proportion of seats held by women in (a) national parliaments and (b) local governments

In terms of the Political Empowerment Indicator in the Global Gender Gap Index 2022, Bangladesh is ranked 9th out of 146 countries in the world. According to Bangladesh Parliament Secretariat, at present, 20.86 percent of national parliament members are women (BPS and WB) and the proportion of seats held by women in local governments is 23.1 in 2021 slightly declining from 25.21 percent in 2018. Currently, the Prime Minister, Speaker of the National Parliament, and Leader of the Opposition of the Parliament are all women.

Table 5.2: Proportions of Female Members in the Parliament, 1991-2021

	1991	1996	2001	2008	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
No female members	42	43	41	64	70	71	71	72	71	73	73	73
No of total seats	330	330	330	345	350	350	350	350	350	350	350	350
Percentage	12.73	13.03	12.42	18.55	20	20.29	20.29	20.57	20.30	20.86	20.86	20.86

Source: Bangladesh Parliament Secretariat (BPS) and World Bank data

Indicator 5.5.2 Proportion of women in managerial positions

According to data from the Labor Force Survey (LFS), BBS, and SID, the Proportion of women in managerial positions has decreased from 11.4 percent in 2015-16 to 10.7 percent in 2016-17.

Indicator 5.6.1 Proportion of women aged 15-49 years who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use, and reproductive health care decisions regarding sexual relations

According to the National Institute of Population Research and Training (NIPORT), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, in 2014 only 2.5 percent of women aged 15-49 years can make their own decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use, and reproductive health care decisions regarding sexual relations.

Indicator 5.b.1 Proportion of individuals who own a mobile telephone, by sex

The proportion of individuals who own a mobile telephone has slightly reduced from 79.76 percent in 2015 (BTRC 2015) to 78.1 percent in 2018 (CPHS, 2018, BBS). In 2018, 83.4 percent of males and 72.34 percent of females owned mobile telephones. SVRS Survey of BBS estimates in 2020 that a total of 75.4 percent of the 15 years and above population own a mobile telephone. The rate is significantly higher in males (87.6%) than the females (63.4%).

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19   https://www.sdg.gov.bd/page/indicator-wise/1/47/3/0#1

5.3 Policies and Efforts to Achieve SDG5

As an approach to include women in the mainstream development process and to end all forms of discrimination against women and girls everywhere, the Government of Bangladesh endorsed CEDAW in 1984, the Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA) in 1995, and committed itself to the MDGs in 2000 and SDGs in 2015. The approach has been to focus more on the human rights of women and their empowerment in an inclusive development process. Successive five-year plans and poverty reduction strategies have also gradually integrated specific measures and approaches that promote gender equality and women's rights.

In the Eighth Five-Year Plan (2021-2025), all policies have focused on gender issues; while gender empowerment, social inclusion, and social protection have been adopted as the basis of gender equality. Additionally, another significant step taken by the government is in targeting education to achieve women's empowerment. The Education Trust Act has enabled stipend schemes for girls at the secondary level and the exemption of tuition fees for girls in rural areas. This policy has significantly improved girl child's attendance in educational institutions.

Intending to empower women, the current government has increased the number of reserved seats in the national parliament by 5 to 50. To create opportunities for increased participation of women in politics, the seats reserved for women in Union Councils and Upazila Parishads and municipalities have been increased to one-third and direct elections have been arranged. The rate of elected women representatives in local government is 25 percent. The United Nations honored Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina with the 'Planet 50-50 Champion' and 'Agent of Change Award' in September 2016 for her unique contribution to women's empowerment. Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has been honored with the 'Global Women's Leadership Award' at the Global Women's Summit 2018.

Policy and legal framework: Bangladesh has adopted several legal and policy actions to advocate the rights of women, Overseas Employment and Migration Act 2013; reformulation of the Women Development Policy (WPD) 2011; Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act 2010; Domestic Violence Prevention and Protection Rules 2013; Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking (PSHT) Act 2012; Hindu Marriage Registration Act 2012; National Children's Act 2013; Child Marriage Restraint Act 2014 and others.

Box 5.1: Government Programmes for Women and Child Development

The government is committed to women's political, economic, and social empowerment, as well as the abolition of gender inequity, the establishment of child rights, and their integration into the mainstream of overall development. As a consequence, the role of women in empowerment and development in Bangladesh has significantly strengthened over time. Necessary laws and regulations have been formulated for the establishment of equal rights in all spheres of state and public life and the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women.

An incentive package has been implemented for women to enable them to address the impact of Covid-19 and facilitate economic recovery. Maternity allowances and working and lactating mother allowances have been provided to meet the health and nutritional needs of poor pregnant women in rural and urban areas and ensure the complete development of the child. A total of 67 One-Stop Crisis Cells (OCCs) have been set up in 47 District Sadar Hospitals and 20 Upazila Health Complexes under the Multisectoral Programme to provide services to women and children victims of persecution across the country and 13 One-Stop Crisis Cells have been set up in Government Medical College Hospitals. Besides, instant support is being provided through the mobile app 'Joy'.

The government is also conducting various activities for psychological and cultural development as well as flourishing the latent genius of the children to develop them as competent citizens of the country.

Source: Ministry of Finance, Bangladesh Economic Review 2022.

Specific measures and approaches that promote gender equality and women's rights are as follows,

Empowering women against gender-based violence: Gender-based violence affects every sphere of life. Special measures are being taken by the government to reduce the risk of child marriage, gender-based violence, human trafficking, and violent extremism. The government along with development partners such as USAID is working to provide shelter services, psycho-social counseling, legal services, job skills training, and job-placement support for the survivors.

Promoting women's entrepreneurship: By providing various incentives and support for access to markets and finances, monitoring workplace safety measures, and provision of childcare support, the government is working towards promoting women's economic participation in small-scale entrepreneurship. Appropriate vocational and technical education is also being provided while ensuring safety and security. Rural women's entrepreneurship in the form of self-employment requires different kinds of training, financing, and management. Orientation on entrepreneurship including management of finances is being included in the secondary school curriculum and as a part of continuing education.

Promoting food security and healthy communities: In Bangladesh, 36 percent of children under the age of five are stunted and 33 percent are underweight. In addition, 31 percent of women and girls aged 15 to 19 are undernourished. The government is working towards improving women's practices around nutrition to providing valuable sources of sustainable income for households;

promoting social behavior change for nutritional messaging and zinc-fortified rice promotion particularly among women; increasing access to finance, environmental compliance, nutrition, and gender equity in partnership with local organizations and NGOs to improve the situation.

Expand women's competencies: At the national level, Bangladesh has already achieved gender parity in primary and secondary education due to specific public interventions focusing on girl students, such as stipends and exemption of tuition fees for girls in the rural areas, and the stipend scheme for girls at the secondary level. This has contributed to promoting the objectives of ensuring gender equality and empowerment of women. Several other inequality-reducing policies such as gender education, quality education for all, health care services, nutritional interventions, free school meals, and similar other interventions will have the greatest impact on expanding women's competencies.

Boost women's economic benefits: Women's economic benefit is highly correlated with women's access to or control over productive assets, resources, services, skills, property, employment, income, information, technology, financial services, and other economic opportunities including community resources such as land, water, and forest. In the Global Gender Gap Index, Bangladesh ranked 141 out of 146 countries in 2022 in terms of economic participation and opportunity indicators.

Advocating for Women's Leadership in Society: Higher participation in political and public life, legal and policy support, effective promotion of greater social justice, and congenial social norms are key issues to create an enabling environment for increasing women's leadership in society. Enforcement of laws, regular collection of sex-disaggregated data, gender and social analysis skills including the capacity to develop, implement, and monitor gender strategies, and understanding of gender issues in the sector are important considerations.

Introducing gender responsive budget: The government has started incorporating gender dimensions in the budgeting process and has also issued a set of guidelines to prepare development projects in a gender-sensitive way. In 2005, the government introduced gender-responsive budgeting (GRB). The number of ministries undergoing GRB has increased to 43 in FY2019 from 4 in FY2010. The share of expenditure on women's development as a proportion of the total budget increased to 30.82 percent in FY2019-20 (5.56 percent of GDP) from 24.65 percent in FY2010 (FD 2019).

5.4 Key Challenges

- *Inadequate project design:* In gender equality and women empowerment efforts, social norms change programming is rarely embedded in the project design. A majority of these interventions are norm aware—initiatives that work within existing social norms to address social constraints for women. These interventions do not attempt to change unequal power relationships between individuals within a community or challenge deeply rooted expectations regarding women's unpaid care work, ownership rights, or appropriate professions. Norm-aware programming that works to increase women's access to

economic opportunities is no doubt critical for achieving gender equality in development interventions. However, it is increasingly recognized that creating workarounds to address norms and barriers without changing underlying social dynamics can limit the effectiveness and impact of these interventions and, in some cases, can lead to unintended negative consequences, such as loans diverted to male relatives, increased workloads that do not alleviate another household/community responsibilities and increased intimate partner violence.

Norm transformative interventions that explicitly work to change social norms through direct engagement of men, women, and the broader community around these barriers are much less common, but increasingly being considered. Unlike norm-aware approaches that seek to create alternative channels for women's empowerment, norm-transformative solutions attempt to change or remove those barriers and open up equal access for women to the formal sector.

Understanding the social norms at play and the potential influence they may have on women empowerment programming is not always straightforward, given the hyperlocal of informal rules, which can differ dramatically by context, even within the same country. Common norms, such as restrictions on women's mobility and safety, intra-household decision-making, unpaid work, and perceptions of appropriate roles for women in the community, tend to restrict women's access to and use of finance. Knowing exactly how norms apply in any given context and the opportunities for shifting behaviors through both norm-aware and norm-transformative efforts will be critical for closing the gender gap.

- *Unpaid work and unequal domestic work distribution:* The burden of unpaid care and domestic work disproportionately falls on women and girls and this disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work means that women and girls work longer hours and have less time for rest, learning, self-care and activities like political participation. These gender gaps are one of the most pressing labor market challenges, calling for promoting equal pay for work of equal value; tackling root causes of occupational and sectoral segregation; recognizing, reducing, and redistributing unpaid care work; and preventing and eliminating discrimination, harassment, and violence in the world of work, among other actions, to improve labor equality and reshape gender roles.

- *Violence against women:* While Bangladesh has been progressing towards higher women empowerment and has adopted several initiatives; still there is lots of scope to improve. Awareness against violence towards women should be started from home to workplaces as well as public domains. These include motivation of family, enhancing community support, enforcement of legal provisions, improving women's capabilities, access to low-cost trial services, and economic self-reliance of women.

- *Child marriage:* Under the leadership of the Ministry for Women and Children Affairs, the National Plan of Action (NPA) to end child marriage was launched in August 2018. The goal of the NPA is to lessen the rate of child marriage of girls aged 18 years by one-third in 2021 and to eliminate child marriage by 2041. The government has taken several initiatives

to prevent and eradicate child marriage in the country and there is a gradual decline in the marriage of girls aged below 18. However, dowry, child marriage, wife beating, unfair wages, and rape are still prevalent among a major percentage of the population, mostly in poverty-stricken groups. Creation of community awareness and motivation against violence against women, depiction of laws to address sexual harassment, full prosecution of violence against women committed in public spheres, and publicizing the punishment are some of the areas of action to improve the workplace and public place environment.

- *Gender aspects of inequality of opportunities:* Inequalities in opportunities persist in society due to the prevalence of discriminating and dominant norms. The goal of development is to improve the condition of people's lives and outcomes needed to ensure fairness and considerable equity in society through a process of social transformation. However, socially determined differences, traditional power relations between men and women, and the dominant patriarchal nature of society frequently disregard women's rights which, as a consequence, affect their roles, quality, and behavior at all levels, from the household to the community and at the national level. Moreover, disparities in labor force participation, and wage rates, along with limited access to and control over resources, and decision-making positions seriously limit women's economic opportunities. These disparities are more prevalent among poverty-stricken groups.

- *Financial empowerment:* A big gender gap is prevalent in financial inclusion in Bangladesh. There is a 29.2 percent gender gap in bank account ownership, a 13 percent gender gap in phone ownership, a 14 percent gender gap in mobile financial service (MFS) account ownership, and a 44.8 percent gender gap in labor participation. Financial empowerment and inclusion of women is a route for improving certain critical elements at the household and family levels, but it is certainly not the only solution for empowerment. A contextual milieu is needed whereby people's choices for improving their ability to expand their routes to new livelihoods and better incomes would be possible.

- *Digital gender divide:* The digital gender divide is still an important challenge, with women facing challenges in accessing information and communication technologies (ICT), which affects their educational and employment opportunities. Extreme gender inequalities also exist in internet access, digital skills, and online rights, which need a series of actions, related to Rights, Education, Access, Content, and Targets (REACT) to close the gender divide.

- *Lack of adequate gender-sensitive data:* A key challenge hindering the implementation and monitoring of SDG5 is a lack of adequate gender-sensitive data, including data that are disaggregated by sex, age, and other socioeconomic characteristics, as well as a lack of data on trends in SDG5 implementation. There is no comprehensive overview of data on legal frameworks to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination based on gender.

- *Climate vulnerability: C*limate change remains a major challenge for achieving SDG5.

5.5 Way Forward

Still, there are some major challenges, including child marriage, domestic violence, sexual violence, the burden of unpaid domestic and care work, inequality of opportunity, and others. These also underline the importance of incorporating a gender perspective into the poverty/inequality reduction policies and programs and in actively involving women as decision-makers. Several specific strategies are needed for better gender equality in Bangladesh.

- Adopt a broader perspective and undertake women's right based agenda, programs, and policies that specifically recognize and promote poor and disadvantaged women's contribution to family incomes, wealth creation, and development of human capital.

- Include gender equality concerns in all policies, programs, administrative and financial activities, and organizational procedures, thereby contributing to a profound organizational and societal transformation.

- Increasing investment for gender equality and women and girls' empowerment is important not just in gender equality but across all sectors, including agriculture, education and culture, care services, social protection, health, infrastructure, justice, and water and sanitation.

- A comprehensive approach to SDG5 that leverages synergies between SDG5 and other goals and promotes systematic mainstreaming of gender perspectives in implementing the SDGs will contribute both to realizing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls as well as to ensure progress across all goals and targets in Bangladesh.

- Work to more fully integrate a gender perspective and an active role for women in decision-making in development and poverty/inequality reduction.

- Encourage the collection and dissemination of sex-disaggregated statistics and data on gender issues such as the extent and importance of women's unpaid work, particularly in rural areas, to provide a better information base for policy formulation and programming.

- Support the conduct of public information campaigns especially in rural areas to increase recognition of the extent and importance of women's productive work to improve the accuracy of data on women's labor force participation

5.6 Summary

Bangladesh has made significant progress and has been ranked 65 out of 156 countries in 2021 in the Global Gender Gap Index, calculated by using several key indicators--educational attainment, health and survival, economic participation, and political empowerment. Additionally, Bangladesh has stayed ahead of its South Asian neighbors for the seventh time consecutively, indicating significantly better performance in promoting women's empowerment compared with its South Asian neighbors.

It is important that programs specifically targeting women incorporate a social-norms dimension to any upfront diagnostic work to look beyond classic supply-side constraints to access and use socioeconomic services. Diagnostics that explore how women use existing services, expectations around women as economic actors, perceptions around access, and ownership of new technology will be critical to designing programs that bring together men and women to promote development goals that benefit the entire community.

A client-centric approach, where practitioners and implementers collaborate with organizations that understand social norms change and experiment to embed this learning into future programming will be essential as we think about impactful and transformative approaches to gender equality and women empowerment.

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

ENSURE AVAILABILITY AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF WATER AND SANITATION FOR ALL

6.1 Global/Regional Context

Globally, from 2015 to 2020 the proportion of the global population using safely managed drinking water services increased from 70 percent to 74 percent with the largest numbers of people gaining access in Central and Southern Asia. Around half of the rural population in Asia and the Pacific has no access to improved sanitation while the region's urban population has more than doubled between 1950 and 2000, creating a huge demand for water and wastewater treatment systems (UNESCAP). Despite the progress across the world, another 2 billion people still lacked safely managed to drink water in 2020, including 771 million who were without even basic drinking water. Half of those lacking basic drinking water services (387 million) live in sub-Saharan Africa (WHO/UNICEF, 2021).

The global population using safely managed sanitation services increased from 47 percent in 2015 to 54 percent in 2020. However, 3.6 billion people still lacked safely managed sanitation in 2020, including 1.7 billion who were without even basic sanitation. Of these people, 494 million practiced open defecation, which decreased from 739 million in 2015.

In terms of basic hygiene practices, the proportion of the global population with basic hygiene rose from 67.3 percent in 2015 to 70.7 percent in 2020. This means that, at the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, 2.3 billion people worldwide (one in three) still lacked a basic hand-washing facility with soap and water at home, and 670 million had no hand-washing facility at all (United Nations, The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2022).

Relevant data on SDGs show that achieving universal access to even basic sanitation services by 2030 would require a doubling of the current annual rate of global progress. More efficient use and management of water are critical to addressing the growing water demand, threats to water security, and the increasing frequency and severity of droughts and floods resulting from climate change. At present, most countries are unlikely to reach the full implementation of integrated water resources management by 2030.

High level of water stress poses serious threats to human lives, livelihoods, and business stability. Twelve out of the 17 most water-stressed countries are in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). The region is hot and dry, so the water supply is low, to begin with, but growing demands have pushed countries further into extreme stress.

Globally, 153 countries share rivers, lakes, and aquifers. However, only 24 countries had all of their transboundary basin area covered by operational arrangements in 2020; 22 countries had more than 70 percent covered. On average, 58 percent of transboundary basin areas have an operational arrangement for water cooperation.

Access to water resources also involves other water issues related to sustainable management, such as water quality and wastewater management, water scarcity and usage efficiency, water resources management, and the protection and restoration of water-related ecosystems. Providing sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation has been a development focus for decades in South Asia.

6.2 Assessment of Progress on SDG6

Indicator 6.1.1 Proportion of the population using safely managed to drink water services

An improved source is a water point that is accessible on premises, available when needed, and free from fecal and priority chemical contamination. Improved water sources include piped water, boreholes or tube wells, protected dug wells, protected springs, and packaged or delivered water.

The proportion of the population using safely managed drinking water services stood at 47.9 percent at the national level, while the proportion for urban areas is 44.7 percent and for rural areas, it is 48.8 percent (MICS 2019). In 2019, 98.5 percent of household members used improved sources of drinking water (MICS 2019). According to WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation (UNJMP) 2021 data, in Bangladesh 58.52 percent of people using safely managed drinking water services, which is 52.78 percent in urban areas.
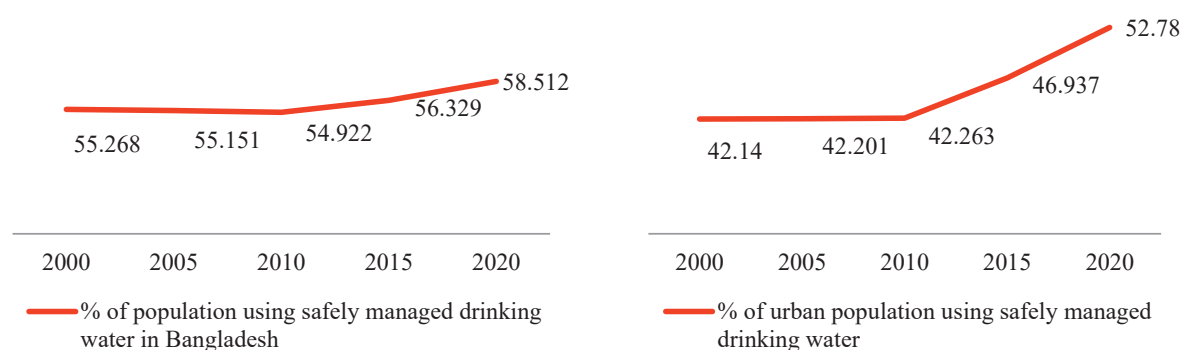
Source: UNJMP/WB, 2021

Figure 6.1: Change in % of the population using safely managed drinking water in Bangladesh over time

Figure 6.2: Change in % of the urban population using safely managed drinking water over time

Indicator 6.2.1 Proportion of the population using (a) safely managed sanitation services and (b) a hand-washing facility with soap and water

In 2019, 42.8 percent of household members used safely managed sanitation facilities (MICS 2019, BBS). In the same year, 74.8 percent of households reported practicing a hand-washing facility with soap and water, which is 87 percent in urban areas and 71.4 percent in rural areas (BBS and UNICEF: MICS 2019).

According to 2021 WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation (JMP) Report, in 2020 only 38.67 percent of the population using safely managed sanitation services, which was 33.65 percent in 2015.

According to MICS, 74.8 percent of the population in 2019 use a hand-washing facility with soap and water, which is 87 percent in urban areas and 71.4 percent in rural areas. Therefore, there is a vast scope for improving the situation.

Additionally, the arrival of almost one million Rohingya refugees in the Teknaf area has put enormous pressure on drinking water and sanitation facilities. They are living in 36 different locations in Cox's Bazar area, in south-eastern Bangladesh. It is an extremely difficult situation to arrange safe drinking water and proper sanitation in Teknaf (a geographically challenging area) although the best efforts are being made by all concerned national and international agencies.

Indicator 6.3.1 Proportion of domestic and industrial wastewater flows safely treated

This indicator tracks the percentage of wastewater flows from households, services, and industrial premises that are treated in compliance with national or local standards. The household component includes both sewage and fecal sludge, treated on-site and off-site, and is monitored as part of the sanitary chain with direct links to indicator 6.2.1 on access to sustainably managed sanitation services. The services and industrial premises are defined based on the International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC).

Data from WASA for City Corporations and LGD show that the proportion of domestic and industrial wastewater flows safely treated has increased from 32.8 percent in 2020 to 40.73 percent in 2021.

Indicators 6.4.1 Change in water-use efficiency over time

This indicator is measured as the change in the ratio of gross economic value added by irrigated agriculture, industry, and the services sector to the volume of water withdrawn over time. According to DPHE, LGD data, in 2020 Water Collection Treatment and Supply were 9.82 in Bangladesh (DPHE, LGD).

Indicator 6.4.2 Level of water stress: freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources

According to FAO data, freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources was at 6 percent in 2017, which is low compared with the global average of 13 percent and the water stress threshold of 25 percent (VNR, 2020). In Bangladesh, the level of water stress for surface water is 10 percent and for groundwater is 90 percent (BMDA, 2019). According to BMDA, MoA, freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources was 12 percent.

Indicator 6.5.1 Degree of integrated water resources management implementation (0-100)

According to UNEP, the degree of integrated water resources management implementation (0-100) was 50 percent in 2017 and in 2019 it was 52 percent in (BWDB, 2019). The target is to make it 60 percent in 2025 and 70 percent in 2030.

Indicator 6.5.2 Proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation

Transboundary water cooperation permits countries to advance sound and sustainable regional and national infrastructures for storing, regulating, and exploiting their water resources. In Bangladesh,

38 percent of transboundary basin areas have an operational arrangement for water cooperation [20](Joint Rivers Commission, Ministry of Water Resources, 2018). Bangladesh has 57 transboundary rivers. The country shares 54 rivers with India and 3 rivers with Myanmar. Among these rivers, a treaty for the Ganges River was signed with India in 1996, which is effective till 2027. According to the Treaty, the quantum of waters to be released by India to Bangladesh at Farakka is based on an agreed formula for ten days period from 1 January to 31 May every year. A joint committee monitors the flow below the Farakka point. The committee is responsible for implementing the arrangements and resolving any difficulty arising out of the implementation of the above arrangements and the operation of the Farakka Barrage. Any difference or dispute, if not resolved by the committee, is referred to the Indo-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission. Further, guided by the principles of equity, fairness, and no harm to either party, both countries have agreed to conclude water-sharing treaties/agreements concerning other common rivers as well.

Indicator 6.6.1 Change in the extent of water-related ecosystems over time

The Halda River in Chattogram is an important riverine ecosystem of the country and this is the only tidal freshwater river where major Indian carps spawn naturally. The Halda River restoration project is an example of changes in the extent of water-related ecosystems over time in Bangladesh. The fish egg collection has dropped rapidly in recent years due to the deterioration of the ecosystem (Figure 6.3). Several human activities such as water abstraction for irrigation, illegal fishing, sand mining of river beds, and industrial pollution are also liable for the decline of the ecosystem.
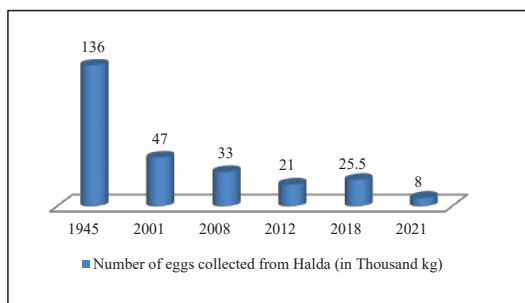
Figure 6.3: Gradual Fall of Fish Egg Collection from Halda River over Time

The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) has formed a committee to restore the river where all concerned agencies and local government bodies are directly involved to take necessary steps in this regard. Several measures including stopping sand lifting from the river, plying of mechanized boats, lowering the rubber dams, ban on fishing in a river stretch (to save the broodfish), and raising the local people's awareness are undertaken within a planned approach. The combined outcome has been turning 2018 into a year with higher fish egg collection in Halda.

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20   https://www.sdg.gov.bd/page/indicator-wise/1/320/3/0#1

Indicator 6.a.1 Amount of water- and sanitation-related official development assistance that is part of a government-coordinated spending plan

The amount of ODA on water and sanitation follows an upward trend in recent years. In FY 2014-15, the total ODA on water and sanitation was US$ 301.1 million; which has increased to US$ 496.8 million in FY 2017-18 and further to US$ 526.64 million in FY 2018-19 (ERD, FY 2018-19). In 2020 ODA on water and sanitation was US$ 524.8 million which has reduced to 457.6 million in 2021.
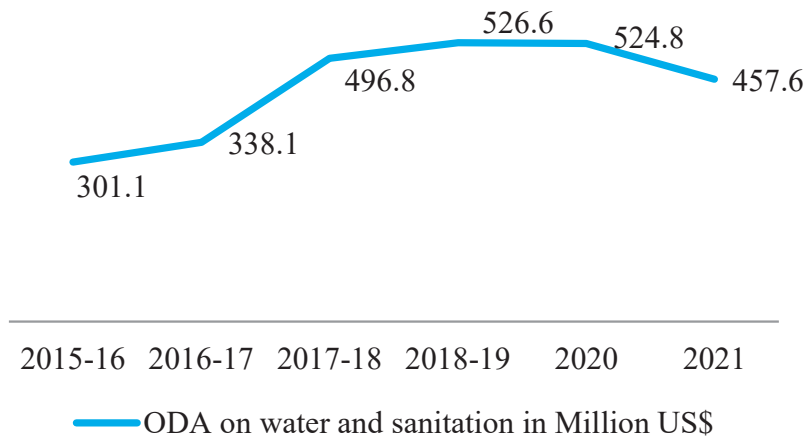
Source: ERD

Figure 6.4: Official Development Assistance (ODA) on Water and Sanitation over Time

6.3 Policies and Efforts to Achieve SDG6

Water has been seen as a conduit to overarching development objectives. However, better managed water resources have the potential to generate synergies, instead of trade-offs. Bangladesh's Hon'ble Prime Minister was a member of the United Nations and World Bank High-Level Panel on Water (HLPW), which prioritized valuing water as a foremost action toward sustainable water resources management. The government is now focusing on valuing water and Managed Aquifer Recharge to assist in achieving the SDG 6 targets.

Bangladesh has prepared the draft "National Strategy for Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR) in Bangladesh" by drawing knowledge from existing national and international strategies and experiences plus consultations with relevant stakeholders in line with existing policy and plans such as the Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100, Draft National Industrial Water Policy 2019, Bangladesh National Building Code 2020 and Green and Resilient Economic Zones Guideline 2020, etc.

Bangladesh's policies strongly recognize that improved WASH interventions are necessary for reducing undernutrition but not sufficient alone to create a dent in the undernutrition problem. Adequacy of food, health care, and WASH are all critical for reducing undernutrition. To fully realize

the impact of WASH interventions, the policies encompass multisectoral actions. Further, it is recognized that it is important to design the programs so that they address a full spectrum of WASH-related issues. These include, for instance, clean water, proper sanitation facilities, and reduction of fecal matter (both human and animal) in the environment (including soil and children's play areas); availability of water and soap for handwashing; and behavioral issues, such as instilling the habit of hand washing with soap at critical times (after using the toilet, before preparation of food, after cleaning babies, before eating, and so forth).

In the water and sanitation sector in Bangladesh, progress has been made in the coverage of water and sanitation facilities, but in hygiene promotion, the progress is relatively slow. The qualities of water and sanitation facilities also need improvements. The key achievement in sanitation has been the shift from open defecation to "fixed point defecation", but not all use "improved sanitation facility". In water, the transition from traditional sources (such as ponds and canals) to piped or improved sources (mostly tube wells and piped water) has been considered a significant achievement. Further improvements in the quality of water have been prioritized, as a small share has access to water piped to the premises and arsenic-free tube well water. To ensure the sustainability of public goods, the government has been increasing its share of financing along with ensuring routine monitoring.

To achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all by 2030, the Government of Bangladesh has been implementing several strategies. The government has adopted Sector Development Plan for Water Supply and Sanitation Sector in Bangladesh (FY 2011-25) and a national policy on water, water supply, sewerage, and environmental protection rules and enacted the Water Act to facilitate the implementation of SDG6. Although the water demand is increasing fast in Bangladesh due to industrial and agricultural growth, a huge volume of water is being wasted as well because of natural adversities including climate change, drought, flood, and water surges.

Bangladesh has various national policies for water management that takes into account all related issues with an emphasis on using surface water to reduce dependence on the aquifer. The government has also adopted the Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100 (BDP 2100) outlining the water resources management strategy for the next 100 years. The BDP 2100 aims to implement adaptive strategies and strengthen governance across the broader water sector over the long term. As such, financial sector management (FSM) is becoming a new priority in the sector. Bangladesh has also been establishing the institutional and regulatory framework for FSM. Several activities are currently ongoing to further address the SDG6 issues. For instance, standards for WASH in healthcare facilities are being established. Bangladesh is also working to establish national targets for sanitation that are both contextually appropriate and aligned with SDG6.

6.4 Key Challenges

Bangladesh is one of the densely populated countries, which is vulnerable to basic water, sanitation, and hygiene services. Though the country has achieved remarkable achievements in reducing open defecation and increasing the use of safely managed drinking water and sanitation, there are still some major challenges.

- People living in urban and rural slums usually share unhygienic toilets with other families. Poor water, sanitation, and hygiene contribute to undernutrition by causing frequent parasite infections and episodes of diarrhea, which can result in intestinal dysfunction through chronic ingestion of pathogens.

- Another challenge to achieving SDG6 by 2030 in Bangladesh is the high level of arsenic contamination in groundwater, which does not meet the safety standards. Exposure to arsenic can cause cancer and severely damage the immune system of the human body. According to WHO, 30-35 million people in Bangladesh are affected by arsenic poisoning.

- Climate change has a significant impact on freshwater systems and their management. Most effects due to climate change will be experienced through changes in the hydrological cycle, such as overall water availability, water quality, and frequency of extreme weather events (e.g., floods and droughts). Water-related hazards account for a large part of disaster loss and impact in the country.

- Increasing the efficiency of existing financial resources and mobilizing additional ones in the form of domestic public finance and domestic and international finance (ODA, loans, grants, etc.) are major challenges for Bangladesh. Domestic and public finance can be leveraged to increase the role of private financing, by promoting innovative financing streams such as blended finance and microfinance.

Achieving SDG6 is crucial for achieving the rest of the SDGs, such as the energy sector's role in water withdrawals and the possibility of reducing water pollution to increase access to fresh water. Achieving universal access to water is linked to SDG6 to achieve gender equality. Women and girls are responsible for water collection in eight out of 10 households where water is not accessible at home. Bringing water sources closer to people reduces the time needed to collect water and makes more time available for educational activities, especially for females. Water availability for agricultural activities is essential, as approximately 70 percent of water withdrawals are for agriculture. Therefore, achieving SDG6 is very crucial for Bangladesh.

6.5 Way Forward

After the outbreak of Covid-19, awareness of health and hygiene among the people has increased. Yet, awareness of health and hygiene programs should be further improved and maintained. To safeguard the water resources of the country and to achieve SDG6, more targeted efforts are needed. Similarly, to protect the water flow of transboundary rivers, lakes, and aquifers, significant efforts are needed to ensure that effective cooperation is forthcoming in all transboundary basins.

More efficient use and management of water are critical to addressing the growing water demand, threats to water security, and the increasing frequency and severity of droughts and floods resulting from climate change. Several actions have been highlighted in this regard, such as:

(i)   policies on zero discharge for maintaining e-flow in all rivers throughout the country as well as suggesting the government mainstream the value of water in plans and projects;

(ii)   work towards regional convergences on the use of the outcomes of plans of action to support regional cooperation/transboundary issues through honest brokerage/proactive water diplomacy;

(iii)   capacity building/empowerment by educating farmers to increase irrigation efficiency as well as initiating conversations with marginal people in ensuring safe drinking water for all, keeping provision for ample subsidy, where needed;

(iv)   adopting methods to make valuation more explicit and useful for advocacy and knowledge gathering through updating macro-level planning and transparent incorporation of multiple values of water while ensuring involvement of local government in formulating policies;

(v)   enforcing regulations on the use of groundwater to harmonize a balance between annual abstraction and recharge, and engage in consultation on transboundary aquifer management; and

(vi)   adopt a comprehensive framework based on SDGs for creating balance and synergy through reinforcing water allocation rules and applicable compliance mechanisms devised through inter-sectoral conversations and proper and timely dissemination using appropriate media which will also ultimately help in the multiplication and scaling up of plans of action to mobilize greater efforts into action.

Smart technologies supported by information technology can effectively improve all aspects of water resources and WASH management. The use of Earth observations, citizen science, and private sector data is increasing, but these are not yet sufficiently incorporated into data-monitoring systems at all levels. Furthermore, local adaptation of technology and sharing of knowledge can be supported through collaborative partnerships for sustainable development.

6.6 Summary

Bangladesh has progressed towards achieving several milestones of SDG6, such as attaining access to adequate water, sanitation, and hygiene for all and ending open defecation. Around 58.5 percent of the population currently use safely managed drinking water services, which is 52.8 percent in urban areas (UNJMP, WB, 2020). Further, in 2020, 38.7 percent of the population are using safely managed sanitation services (UNJMP, WB, 2020). Moreover, nearly three-fourths of the population use hand-washing facilities with soap and water. Protecting the water sources and introducing sustainable management of groundwater and surface water are priorities for Bangladesh because of the country's extreme reliance on limited groundwater sources and high vulnerability to climate change. Awareness regarding health and hygiene needs to be further improved as well.

Bangladesh has adopted policies that emphasize the improvement of the quality of water and sanitation facilities. It is critical to improving the quality of water (at the source, in storage, and the point of consumption)—and sanitation facilities to limit the transmission of infection. There is also a need to ensure that households that have a piped water supply also have water that is safe for drinking. Awareness campaigns along with emotional/social drivers are taken as effective measures in meeting these needs. The key is to strengthen the implementation of hygiene-related activities since hygiene remains the weakest link in the water and sanitation sector.

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

ENSURE ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE, RELIABLE, SUSTAINABLE, AND MODERN ENERGY FOR ALL

7.1 Global/Regional Context

At the present juncture, without urgent action, the world will fall short of achieving the targets in SDG7 and consequently other SDGs. The transformation of the world's energy systems is already underway and being accelerated by advanced in technologies; rapid decreases in costs; strategic shifts in policies, regulatory frameworks, and investments; new business models; and increased cooperation and sharing of best practices.

Although access to electricity, use of renewable energy, and energy efficiency have increased over the last decades the Covid-19 pandemic is reversing the overall rate of progress across the world. Along with the pandemic, oil and gas price fluctuations are likely to discourage the uptake of clean energy technologies. As a result, much higher levels of ambition are required about renewable energy, including transportation and heating to meet the SDG7-related goals.

Although many countries in the world are now designing stimulus plans for boosting economic growth, protecting workers, and creating jobs, scaling up the deployment of clean energy technologies needs to put much effort into this sector. The global electricity access rate has improved from 83 percent in 2010 to 91 percent in 2020 and 1.1 billion people are now receiving electricity for the first time. Despite the progress, basic electricity services are still unaffordable for more than 25 million people who had previously gained access in Africa and Asia, due to population growth, increasing levels of poverty, and the overall effect of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The global share of the population with access to clean cooking fuels and technologies reached 69 percent in 2020, up from 57 percent in 2010. This means that around 2.6 billion people still rely primarily on inefficient and polluting cooking systems. The renewable energy share of total final energy consumption increased from 16.4 percent in 2010 to 17.7 percent in 2019, although much faster change is required to meet the climate goals. The main contribution has come from the electricity sector. The share of renewables now exceeds 25 percent.

However, the traditional uses of biomass– such as the burning of wood for heat– still account for almost 14 percent of global heat consumption. Global primary energy intensity (defined as total energy supply per unit of GDP) improved from 5.6 megajoules per dollar in 2010 to 4.7 in 2019. As a result, progress in energy intensity up to 2030 will now need to average 2.7 percent a year.

On the other hand, international financial flows to developing countries in support of clean energy have been $10.9 billion in 2019, 24 percent lower than in 2018. The amount was low mostly due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Public financial flows continue to be concentrated in a few countries but many receive far less international public funding than the global average when measured on a per capita basis.

7.2 Assessment of Progress on SDG7

Bangladesh has achieved yet another milestone as it has brought 100 percent of the population under electricity coverage by March 2022 which was 90 percent in 2018. This has resulted in an

increasing per capita generation of 560 kWh (including captive) in February 2022 from 371 kWh in FY2014-15. The overall system loss of transmission and distribution of electricity substantially declined to 9.54 percent in FY 2021-22 (up to January 2022) from 14.73 percent in FY 2010-11. However, the share of renewable energy (including hydro) in the total electricity generation declined from 3.6 percent in FY 2014-15 to 3.25 percent in FY2019-20.

Besides, there are also 36,590 MVA substations and 955 MVAR capacitor banks for reactive power compensation. The total investment estimated by Power Division for this is Tk. 1,150 billion during FY 2021-2025. Besides, Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board (BREB) has taken three projects on system up-gradation, one project for pre-payment e-metering, one project for overloaded transformer replacement, and another ten for line construction and consumer connection. These projects besides constructing/renovating a 38,379 km new distribution line, and construction/augmentation of 198 sub-stations, will help connect 2.14 million different category consumers and install 1.0 million pre-paid meters under the rural electrification category.

Indicator 7.1.1 Proportion of the population with access to electricity

Electricity demand in Bangladesh is growing very rapidly and the residential sector consumes more electricity than any other sector. The proportion of the population with access to electricity increased to 100 percent in 2022 from 31.2 percent in 2000. Different measures have been taken to meet electricity demand including pre-paid metering, tariff adjustment, rationing of new connections, and reduction of system loss. The government has prepared an Action Plan up to 2030 to achieve SDG7. A revised Power Generation Plan 2030 has now been prepared from 2020 to 2030 considering PSMP 2016, progress during the 7FYP (2016-2020) and 8FYP (2021-2025) as well as changes in planning perspectives of the power sector.

Table 7.1: Proportion of Population with Access to Electricity (Percent)

	2000	2005	2010	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2022
National	31.2	44.23	55.26	75.92	85.3	90.1	92.23	97	99.25
Urban	80.4	82.61	90.10	94.01	...	...	97.80	...	...
Rural	18.7	31.19	42.49	68.85	...	...	90.70	...	...

Source: BBS, SVRS, SID, HIES, Population and Housing Census 2022.

Indicator 7.1.2 Proportion of the population with primary reliance on clean fuels and technology

Households that use clean fuels and technologies for cooking are those mainly using electric stoves, solar cookers, LPG (liquefied petroleum gas)/cooking gas stoves, biogas stoves, or a liquid fuel stove burning ethanol/alcohol. The proportion of the population with access to clean fuels and technology increased to around 30 percent in 2020 from 20.8 percent in 2015. To attain the target of 35 percent by 2030, more work is needed on this indicator.

Table 7.2: Proportion of Population with Access to Clean Fuels and Technology for Cooking (Percent)

2015	2019	2020
20.8	26.3	29.9

Source: BBS, SVRS, SID 2020.

Indicator 7.2.1 Renewable energy share in the total final energy consumption

Generally, available renewable energy sources including solar energy, biomass gasification, waste biogas, hydropower, and wind can be harnessed to provide affordable power supply to off-grid rural areas of the country as well as connect to the national grid. Natural gas is still playing a major role as primary energy; followed by heavy fuel oil (HFO) and high-speed diesel (HSD), and renewable energy is still playing an insignificant role. The present share of renewable energy sources in total final energy consumption is 3.49 percent in 2020. Bangladesh has a target to produce 10 percent of total power generation from renewable sources by 2030. As of 2020, 649.51 MW of electricity was generated from renewable sources.

Table 7.3: Renewable Energy Share in Total Final Energy Consumption (Percent)

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
2.79	2.85	2.87	3.15	3.25	3.49

Source: SREDA

Indicator 7.3.1 Energy intensity measured in terms of primary energy and GDP

Energy intensity is an indicator to measure how much energy is consumed per economic production; therefore, the lower the figure, the better the performance. It is measured as the units of energy (megajoule (MJ)) used to produce one unit of constant PPP dollar GDP. It is affected by several factors such as climate, the structure of the economy, and the nature of economic activities in the economy. As such, it is an imperfect proxy for energy efficiency. SREDA has formulated an 'Energy Efficiency and Conservation Master Plan up to 2030' in which the Master Plan has set a target of improving 20 percent energy intensity by 2030 (compared with FY2013-14).

Table 7.4: Energy Intensity Level of Primary Energy (Kiloton of Oil Equivalent (Ktoe) per Billion BDT)

2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020
4.03	3.73	3.67	3.55	3.49

Source: SREDA

Indicator 7.a.1 International financial flows to developing countries in support of clean energy research and development and renewable energy production, including in hybrid systems

Data from ERD shows that international financial flows to Bangladesh in support of clean energy research and development and renewable energy production, including hybrid systems have increased from USD 301.1 million in 2015-16 to USD 496.8 million in 2018-19.

Indicator 7.b.1 Installed renewable energy-generating capacity in developing countries (in watts per capita)

This indicator shows a continuously increasing trend. Data from SREDA show that installed renewable energy-generating capacity in Bangladesh (in watts per capita) has increased from 2.66 watts per capita in 2015 to 4.214 watts per capita in 2020.

7.3 Policies and Efforts to Achieve SDG7

The government has identified the power sector as a priority and undertaken immediate, short, medium, and long-term plans to meet the increasing electricity demand. At present, the installed generation capacity of the country is 25,284 MW including captive and renewable energy. Per capita power generation has increased to 560 kWh. The power distribution line has increased to 0.619 million km and the number of consumers has increased to 41.9 million. The system loss has come down to 9.54 percent in December, FY 2021-22 which was 14.73 percent in FY 2010-11.

As the projected demand for electricity is likely to increase to 34,000 MW by 2030, the government is planning to invest around $70 billion in the power sector over the next 15 years. This investment is based on using the least cost options and renewable energy to the extent technically possible to lower the cost of electricity, ensure the sustainability of the primary energy supply and reduce carbon pollution. Several strategies are also formulated and the 8FYP (2021-2025) strategy comprising of several components:

i.   Move to an efficient least-cost power production structure based on (a) an optimal and efficient primary fuel mix; and (b) transmission, and distribution of electricity through further reduction of T&D losses;

ii. Continue to enhance the generation capacity to match the expansion of demand from all segments of the economy, particularly industry and manufacturing, to ensure the supply of unhindered quality power from the grid, with a 100 percent population connected to quality electricity supply.

iii. Enhance the exploitation of gas, coal, and renewable resources, and increased energy imports particularly hydropower from neighboring Bhutan and Nepal to optimize the energy mix and reduce the dependence on imported furnace oil and HSD. In this regard hydropower, given its abundance in the neighboring countries and expected cheaper cost of production, will be given prime importance among other renewable resources.

iv. Revised Power Generation Plan 2030 has now been prepared from 2020 to 2030 considering PSMP2016, progress during the 7FYP, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and change of planning perspective of the power sector.

The present power sector development efforts in Bangladesh highlight several strategic priorities:

- Diversify fuels. Bangladesh's high dependence on limited domestic gas supplies requires that new power supplies will have to come from imported LNG, coal, nuclear, and regional electricity imports.

- Attract financing and private sector participation. Bangladesh will have to explore a wide range of investment options to meet future requirements, including green bonds and capital from insurers, pension funds, and sovereign wealth funds. The government will also have to put in place incentives to enhance independent power producer (IPP) investments and liberalized private involvement in gas production.

- Modernise grid infrastructure. Inadequate transmission and distribution systems, especially in the southern and western regions of the country, are major bottlenecks. The need is to build new transmission and distribution lines urgently.

- Harness renewable energy resources. Due to seasonal water flows and the limited land area, renewables may not be a sustainable primary contributor to the energy mix, although developments such as rooftop photovoltaic (PV) energy have potential.

- Enhance energy efficiency. In a situation where demand exceeds available power at prevailing prices, energy efficiency improvements across the supply and demand chains can minimize the demand-supply gap at prevailing prices. The Energy Efficiency Master Plan prepared by SREDA aims to reduce primary energy consumption per unit of GDP by 20 percent by 2030.

- Expand regional cooperation for cross-border power trade. Bangladesh can import power from Bhutan, India, Nepal, and Thailand (via Myanmar) and explore potential co-investments in hydropower plants.

Bangladesh has also undertaken the construction of the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant with a capacity of 2,400 MW in two units to meet the growing demand for electricity in the country. It is expected that power connection from this power plant to the national grid will be possible by 2023. To enhance the development of the power sector, the government is also working with neighboring countries as well as SAARC, BIMSTEC, South Asia Sub-regional Economic Cooperation (SASEC), and D-8 for regional cooperation. Collaboration effort with the SAARC countries is continuing. Also, Bangladesh has taken initiative in cross border trade of electricity through bilateral cooperation with Nepal, Bhutan, and India. Bangladesh has been working for the overall development of the power sector as an active member of regional, and sub-regional cooperation and various cooperation forums.

At CoP 26 summit held in Glasgow in 2021, the Hon'ble Prime Minister mentioned Bangladesh having one of the world's most extensive domestic solar energy programs hoped to have 40 percent of the country's energy from renewable sources by 2041.

To expedite the long-term development of the energy sector, the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) is carrying out activities for creating a favorable environment in electricity generation, energy transmission, transportation, and marketing as well as for management and operation of the sector. In addition, the BERC has been working to ensure transparency in tariff fixation, protect consumers' interests and create a competitive market.

7.4 Key Challenges

Bangladesh faces several challenges in attaining SDG7.

- Bangladesh will require an investment of about USD 35 billion in the power generation sector alone by 2041. Total investment requirements in the energy sector (power and primary energy) add up to 2.5 percent of GDP per year, of which it is estimated that the public sector will cover 1.7 percent per year on average. Private sector investments in the energy sector for 2015–2020 have mainly been pursued through public-private partnership (PPP) and would account for about 1 percent of GDP per year during the period. The share of ODA in GDP has generally been declining. Therefore, the need for intensifying current efforts and venturing into newer avenues are major challenges for the coming years. Given these large financing requirements and the multiple claims on the budget, especially the need to invest in the health sector and social protection in response to Covid-19, a sound financing strategy for the energy sector is essential.

- Addressing the future electricity demand will need a major shift in demand management. More focus will be needed on the quality of electricity services such as uninterrupted supply and responding to consumer issues with service quality including billing and payments which require substantial additional effort.

- The expansion of transmission lines as per grid capacity (MW/km) remains at a low level -- this has increased only moderately in recent years. In FY2018-19, a considerable number of transmission line-related projects have been undertaken by the government along with those related to generation and distribution. On the other hand, the system loss has decreased but it is still at a double-digit level.

- Several new policies have been adopted to conserve power and improve the operational efficiency of the power sector. In this regard, the proper implementation of renewable energy generation will be a major institutional challenge.

Access to clean, modern, sustainable energy is critical for improving the health and livelihoods of all people. There is growing evidence linking socioeconomic benefits with access to a reliable and affordable supply of electricity. The key challenge for Bangladesh is: How do we waste less,

pollute less and do more to promote energy access? The SDG7 focuses on a concerted global effort to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all. Energy is interconnected with all of the other SDGs, and recognizing these linkages is important to effectively implement them.

7.5 Way Forward

The Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources has prepared the SDGs Action Plan up to 2030 to achieve the targets of SDG7 embracing universal access to affordable, reliable, and modern energy services, increase in the share of renewable energy in total energy and improving energy efficiency in the country. In addition, the Revised Power Generation Plan 2030 has been prepared to cover 2020 to 2030 considering PSMP2016, progress during the 7FYP period (2016-2020), Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and change of planning perspective of the power sector.

Bangladesh mostly started emphasizing solar power in recent years, and 61.5 percent of renewable energy has been measured from solar sources. Currently, solar power production capacity is 393 MW including off-grid. In 2019, about 26.61MW of renewable energy was installed on-grid grid, and 18.261MW was installed off-grid. Both of those energy sources are solar. Hydropower has been considered the second-highest renewable source of power in terms of generation capacity. Since 1988, no hydropower plant was established in Bangladesh. The only hydro power-plant "Karnafuli Hydro Power Station" has a capacity of 230MW. Except for, Feni Wind Power Plant, since 2006, Bangladesh has not been able to run any other on-grid wind power plant, though there are four ongoing wind power projects. Currently, very little electricity is produced from biogas and bio-mass, but those are off-grid.

7.6 Summary

Bangladesh has moved successfully to ensure access of all households to clean and reliable electricity in 2022, well ahead of the target time in 2025. But the country lags in other energy indicators. However, the government's ongoing efforts to ensure a reliable energy supply to all households have been complemented by yet another effort to achieve SDG 7. Future projects in Bangladesh indicate that the total amount of renewable energy use will be increased; however, the share of renewable energy in total consumption may not improve.

Despite being one of the world's most climate-vulnerable countries, Bangladesh has demonstrated climate leadership, particularly in pioneering solar energy for all. The government has ensured access to affordable and reliable electricity for all citizens by 2022. With appropriate support for energy projects by international financial institutions (IFIs), Bangladesh can implement the Paris Agreement on climate change and SDG7 on universal energy access – and blaze a new sustainable development pathway for the country.

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

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

8.1 Global/Regional Context

Global economic growth is forecasted to decelerate from 5.9 percent in 2021 to 4.4 percent in 2022 (IMF, 2022). Even before the pandemic hit, global economic growth had slowed. The Covid-19 crisis disrupted economic activities around the world and caused the worst recession since the Great Depression. For many countries, economic growth is not expected to return to pre-pandemic levels until 2022 or 2023.

By 2020, the global unemployment rate reached 6.5 percent, up 1.1 percentage points from the previous year.[21] The number of people unemployed worldwide increased by 33 million, reaching 220 million. Another 81 million people left the labor market altogether. Youth and women were especially hard to hit, with employment losses of 8.7 percent and 5.0 percent, respectively, in 2020, compared with 3.7 percent for adults and 3.9 percent for men. Before the pandemic, the unemployment rate of youth was already three times that of adults. During the crisis, women were more likely than men to drop out of the labor force to care for children. This further increased longstanding gender gaps in labor force participation rates.

Estimates suggest that three-quarters of informal economy workers (1.6 billion) were significantly affected by lockdown measures and/or were working in the hardest-hit sectors (ILO, 2020). Among them, women were overrepresented in so-called high-risk sectors: 42 percent of women workers were engaged in those sectors, compared with 32 percent of men. These workers face a high risk of falling into poverty and experience greater challenges in regaining their livelihoods during the recovery.

In 2019, 22.3 percent of the world's youth were not engaged in education, employment, or training (NEET),[22] a share that has shown no reduction in over a decade. Moreover, figures indicate that the NEET rate worsened after the pandemic. This is not surprising, as young workers were more severely affected than older workers by employment losses in 2020. Both technical and vocational education and on-the-job training suffered massive disruption, forcing many to quit their studies.

Inclusive green economic growth and decent employment are of key importance for the development and prosperity of the global community and the well-being and personal fulfillment of individuals. For economic growth to be truly sustainable, it needs to be accompanied by eco-efficiency improvements, climate action, and resilient measures, alongside active labor market and social inclusion policies, in order to ensure that the transition to a climate-neutral economy is just and inclusive. Sustainable economic growth thus also means generating employment opportunities for all and improving working conditions for those already in employment and supporting citizens in their labor market transitions.

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21   https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2021/goal-08/
22https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2021/goal-08/

8.2 Assessment of Progress on SDG8

Indicator 8.1.1 Annual growth rate of real GDP per capita

Bangladesh has been achieving sustained and high economic growth for more than a decade which has already contributed to its transition from low to lower middle-income country status in 2015 along with fulfilling all three criteria for graduation from the UN's LDC status in 2018.

The shift of the average annual growth rate of real GDP per capita of Bangladesh to 5.74 percent in FY2020-21 from 5.34 percent in the baseline FY 2016-17 is remarkable especially due to the recent Covid-19 shock since, after the pandemic, the annual growth rate of real GDP per capita was only 2.34 percent in FY 2019-20.

GDP per capita based on PPP was reported at USD 6,613 in 2021 and USD 5,995 in 2020, according to the World Bank.[23] In Bangladesh, over the last 30 years, GDP per capita based on PPP grew substantially from USD 849.6 in 1990 to USD 6,613 in 2021 at an increasing annual rate.
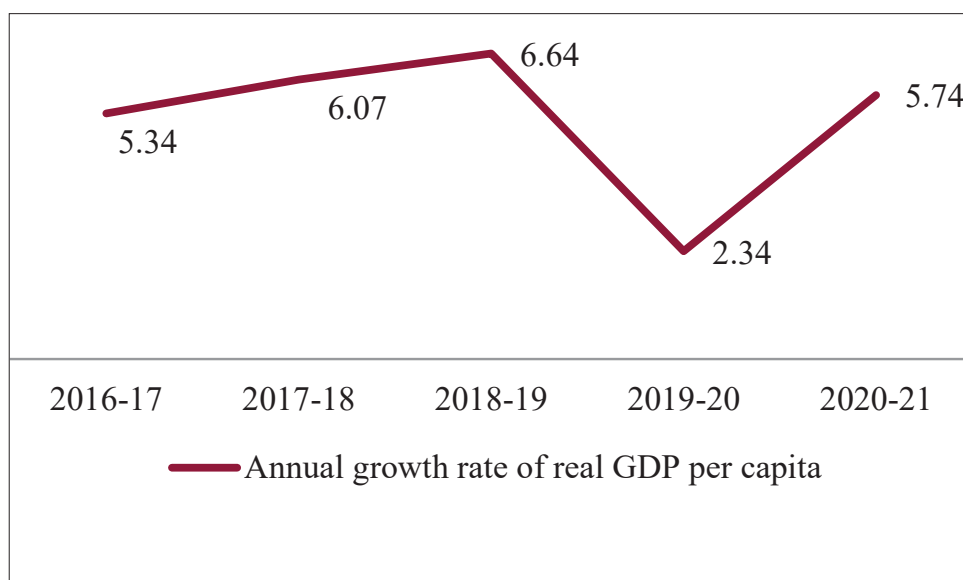
Source: NAW, BBS, SID

Figure 8.1: Annual Growth Rate (%) of Real GDP per Capita over Time in Bangladesh

Indicator 8.2.1 Annual Growth Rate of Real GDP (Per Employed Person)

The real GDP per employed person--being a measure of labor productivity-- represents labor productivity growth, providing information on the evolution, efficiency, and quality of human capital in the production process. Economic growth is ascribed either to increased employment or more effective work by those who are employed.

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23   https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.PCAP.PP.CD?locations=BD

Due to the recurrent shocks of Covid-19 and consequent containment measures in terms of mobility restrictions and nationwide lockdowns, the preliminary estimates suggest that in 2020 annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person decreased to 1.24 percent from 5.58 percent in 2019. However, the economy has been recovering from the situation and in 2021 annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person was estimated to be 4.66 percent.

Figure 8.2: Annual Growth Rate (%) of Real GDP per Employed Person over Time in Bangladesh

Indicator 8.3.1 Proportion of informal employment in total employment, by sector and sex

The informal sector is the overwhelmingly large source of total employment in Bangladesh. The labor force participation rate in the country's informal sector has remained vast over the last several decades. According to the Labor Force Survey 2016-17, 85.1 percent of the total employed persons (age ≥ 15) are in informal employment, which is 91.8 percent for females and 82.1 percent for males. In the urban areas, 13.1 million (77.3 percent) of the labor force is in informal employment, and in the rural areas, it is 38.6 million (88.1 percent). Additionally, the proportion of informal employment in non-agriculture sectors, including industry and services, has increased slightly from 77.5 percent in 2015 to 78 percent in 2016.

Although the informal sector contributes considerably to the country's economy by creating huge employment opportunities, the high rate of informal employment creates a major challenge for SDG8. These informal sector jobs lack legal security and employment benefits as well as including activities that are unregulated and considered less productive. The target is to reduce the overall proportion of informal employment in total employment to 75 percent by 2025 and 65 percent by 2030.

Moreover, the distribution of informal employment by age structure has been changing. The share of the 15-29-year-old youth population in total informal employment has decreased from 35.6 percent in 2015 to 31 percent in 2017. For the 30-64 year group, the share of informal sector

employment has increased from 62.4 percent in 2015 to 64.9 percent in 2017. This change in the age structure of informal employment can partly be attributed to delayed entry into the labor market of the youth population.

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

The average monthly earnings of all workers slightly improved in FY2016-17 over the baseline (2015-16). The average monthly earnings in FY2016-17 have been BDT 13,258 which was BDT 12,897 in 2015-16.

The monthly average earning for male workers was estimated at BDT 13,583 in 2016-17, which was BDT 13,127 in 2015-16. For female workers, the average earnings slightly increased from BDT 12,072 in 2015-16 to BDT 12,254 in 2016-17. Wage disparity by gender exists in several occupations, such as craft and related trade workers, elementary occupations, and agriculture workers. Gender differences in earnings between rural and urban areas are also widespread. The estimated number of unemployed persons in rural areas is 1.81 million and, in urban areas, 0.87 million in 2017.

The gender-based wage gap has shown a worsening trend as the real wage rate of females has declined faster than that of males. For a similar type of work, a female worker's wage decreased by 3.8 percent during the years 2013-2016, whereas a male worker's declined is 1.9 percent over the same period.

Indicator 8.5.2 Unemployment rate, by sex, age, and persons with disabilities

In Bangladesh, the unemployment rate, defined as the percentage of unemployed persons in the total labor force, does not show any noticeable change over the period from 2013 to 2017; varying between 4.2 percent and 4.3 percent.

However, a very marginal advancement has been observed by analyzing the recent unemployment data. The World Bank puts Bangladesh's unemployment rate at 4.29 percent in December 2019, slightly declining from 4.31 percent in December 2018. Along with a fluctuating trend from 1999 to 2012, Bangladesh's long-term unemployment rate has been steady at around 4.4 percent.

Irrespective of various initiatives to involve more females in the formal labor force, still unequal unemployment rates by sex is very prevalent. The unemployment rate of females is more than double the male unemployment rate. The unemployment rate for males increased marginally from 3 percent in 2013 to 3.1 percent in 2016-17. Among all the age groups, youth in the 15-24 age group had the highest unemployment rate of 12.3 percent in 2017.

Table 8.1: Unemployment Rate, by Sex, Age

	2013	Base year 2015-16	2016-2017
8.5.2 Unemployment rate, by sex, age, and persons with disabilities (percent)	4.3 Male: 3.0 Female: 7.3	4.2 Male: 3.0 Female: 6.8 Age group: 15-17: 10.5 18-24: 10.1 25-29: 6.7 30-64: 1.9 65+: 4.2	4.2 Male: 3.1 Female: 6.7 Age group: 15-24: 12.3 25-34: 5.5 35-44: 1.2 45-54: 0.8 55-64: 0.6 65+ : 0.0

Source: BBS, LFS, 2013, QLFS 2015-16 and LFS 2016-17

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

The proportion of the population aged 15-24 who are not employed and not involved in education or training (NEET) is the potential entrants to the labor market. A high NEET rate and a lower youth employment rate indicate lower job opportunities in the labor market. In 2016-17, 26.8 percent of the working-age population aged 15-24 is not in education, employment, or training (NEET).[24] Among the males aged between15-24, 9.2 percent are NEET youths and among the females aged between 15-24, 43.9 percent are NEET youths. While the proportion of youth male NEET was 10 percent, the proportion of youth female NEET was about 47 percent in 2015-16. The higher percentage of NEET for young women indicates their much greater involvement in household duties, and/or the presence of barriers preventing female participation in the labor market. Multiple Indicators Cluster Survey 2019 (MICS 2019, BBS) shows that in 2019, 26 percent of children of upper secondary school age were out of school in Bangladesh.

Table 8.2: Proportion of Youth (aged 15-24 years) Not in Education or Training, Not in Employment (NEET)

	Baseline 2015-16	2016-2017
8.6.1 Proportion of youth (aged 15-24 years) not in education, employment, or training (percent)	28.90 Male: 10.3 Female:46.7	26.8 Male: 9.2 Female: 43.9

Source: BBS, Labor Force Survey 2016-2017 and Quarterly Labor Force Survey 2015-2016

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

According to BBS's Child Labor Survey (CLS) 2013, child labor was classified as children engaged in economic activities into three categories: working children, child labor, and hazardous child labor. The CLS 2013 shows that 8.7 percent (3.45 million) of the 39.65 million population in the age

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24   https://www.sdg.gov.bd/page/indicator-wise/1/125/3/0#1

group of 5-17 years are classified as working children, 4.3 percent (1.7 million) as child labor, and 3.2 percent (1.28 million) as hazardous child labor.

The Multiple Indicators Cluster Survey 2019 (MICS 2019, BBS) shows that in 2018, 6.8 percent of children aged 5-17 were engaged in child labor. The MICS 2019 reports that around 4.6 percent of female and 8.8 percent of male children aged 5-17 were engaged in child labor. In urban areas, 6.1 percent and in rural areas 6.9 percent of children were involved in child labor. Around 8 percent of children aged 5-17 years were engaged in hazardous works, such as, carrying heavy loads; working with dangerous tools or operating heavy machinery; exposed to dust, fumes, or gas; exposed to extreme cold, heat, or humidity or too loud noise or vibration; working at heights and working with chemicals or explosives.

Child labor is harmful and needs to be discouraged in Bangladesh society. While significant progress has been made in various efforts to reduce child labor, there are still 1.28 million children who are trapped in hazardous work, and, among them, 0.26 million child laborers are engaged in notified hazardous work according to the 2015 National Child Labor Survey. The number of children engaged in any kind of work is 2.47 million in rural areas, 0.57 million in urban areas, and 0.43 million in city corporations.

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

An occupational injury is defined as any personal injury, disease, or death resulting from an occupational accident. An occupational injury is therefore distinct from an occupational disease, which is a disease contracted as a result of exposure over a while to risk factors arising from work activity.

There has been a substantial reduction in fatal injuries from 382 in 2015 to 70 in 2020. Non-fatal injuries have also reduced to 118 in 2020 from 196 in 2015. But in 2021 both the occurrence of fatal and non-fatal injuries increased. This indicator shows that Bangladesh needs to improve the safety of workplaces.
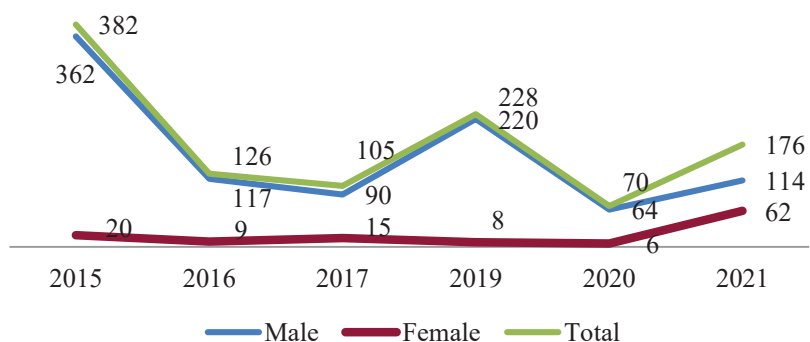
Figure 8.3: Frequency Rates of Fatal Occupational Injuries, by Sex over Time in Bangladesh
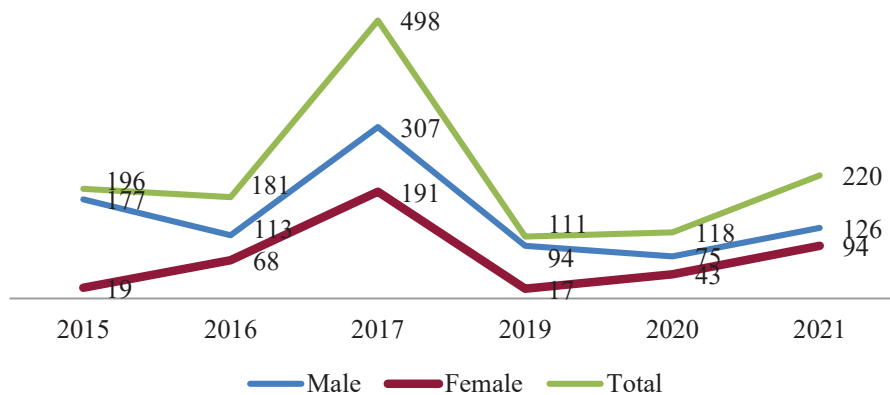
Source: DIFE, MoLE

Figure 8.4: Frequency Rates of non-Fatal Occupational Injuries, by Sex over Time in Bangladesh

Indicator 8.8.2 Level of national compliance with labor rights (freedom of association and collective bargaining) based on International Labor Organization (ILO) textual sources and national legislation, by sex and migrant status

The indicator measures the level of national compliance with fundamental rights at work (freedom of association and collective bargaining, FACB) for all ILO member states based on the coding of six ILO supervisory body textual sources and also on national legislation against a list of evaluations criteria and then converting the coding into indicators. Data on this indicator is unavailable for Bangladesh.

Indicator 8.9.1 Tourism direct GDP as a proportion of total GDP and in growth rate

Tourism Direct GDP (TDGDP) is defined as the sum of the part of gross value added (at basic prices) generated by all industries in response to internal tourism consumption plus the amount of net taxes on products and imports included within the value of this expenditure at purchasers' prices. According to BBS's Tourism Satellite Account 2020, in 2019, the share of tourism in terms of direct contribution to GDP as a proportion of total GDP was 3.08 percent.[25] The target is to make it 4.5 percent by 2025 and 5 percent by 2030.

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

Increasing financial inclusion will help households and businesses to utilize formal financial services such as loans, deposit and saving accounts, payment services, and insurance to meet their specific needs for consumption and investment. Bangladesh's policies recognize financial inclusion as one of the crucial elements for the economic progress of the society, and the country has prepared the National Financial Inclusion Strategy (2021-2026) for ensuring financial inclusion for all by 2026.

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25   https://www.sdg.gov.bd/page/indicator-wise/1/133/3/0#1

Higher access to finance and financial inclusion indicates increased availability and affordability of financial services for the inhabitants of the country.

However, the number of commercial bank branches for every 100,000 adults has reduced to 9.55 in 2020 from 9.61 in 2015. Access to ATMs has improved significantly in recent years, from 7.96 in 2015 to 10.61 in 2020.
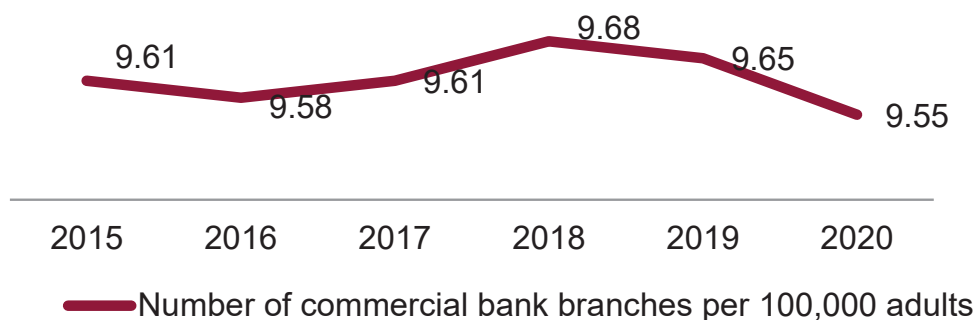
Figure 8.5: Number of Commercial Bank Branches per 100,000 Adults over Time in Bangladesh
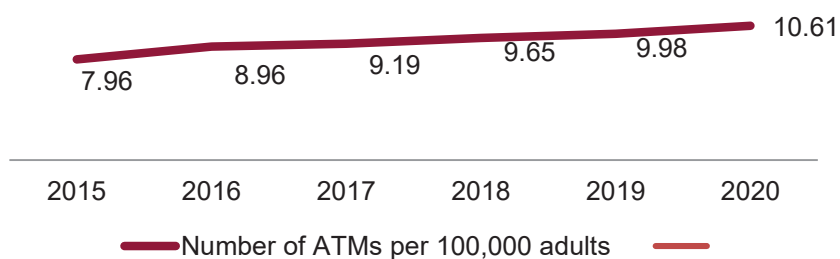
Source: BB, FID

Figure 8.6: Number of Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) per 100,000 Adults over Time

Indicator 8.10.2 Proportion of adults (15 years and older) with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider

Financial inclusion ensures improved access to and better utilization of resources, and better access to services that ensure a better quality of life. There has been a significant change found over the years. The proportion of adults (15 years and older) with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider has increased to 79 percent in 2020 from 70 percent in 2019 and 50 percent in 2015.

50   54   63   69   70   79

2015   2016   2017   2018   2019   2020

Proportion of adults (15 years and older) with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider
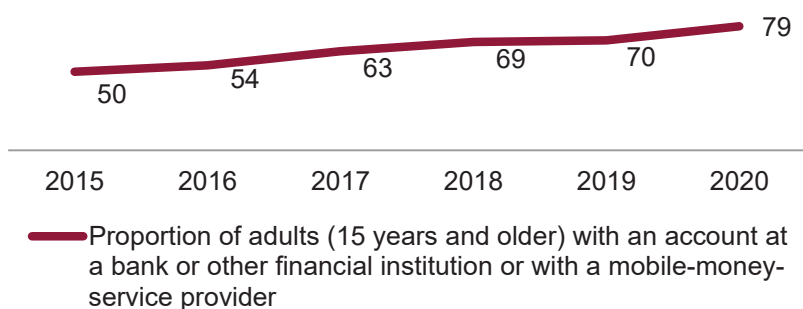
Source: BB, FID

Figure 8.7: Proportion of Adults (15 Years and Older) with an Account at a Bank or other Financial Institution or with a Mobile Money Service Provider

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

Since the launch of 'Aid for Trade' (AfT), it has contributed towards reducing the costs of export and import as well as global commitments and disbursement have increased for trade-related development in Bangladesh. Bangladesh received USD 910.1 million as AfT in 2015, against the commitment of USD 2,424.3 million. AfT provides technical assistance to trade, intended to enhance the ability of the recipient country to comply with international trade rules and to develop its trade, along with other types of trade-related aid, such as the provision of physical infrastructure and productive capacity for trade, or adjustment assistance to firms and households in the case of trade liberalization. The review report, jointly prepared by the Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and World Trade Organisation (WTO), shows that in 2017, Bangladesh received $1.89 billion in aid for trade against the annual commitment of $2.96 billion. The target is to receive USD 1.5 billion in aid for trade against the annual commitment of USD 4 billion in 2025 and receive USD 2 billion in aid for trade against the annual commitment of USD 5 billion in 2030. [26]

Statistics show that the disbursement of the fund increased gradually in the last 10 years while commitment from donors fluctuated regularly. In 2017, the country's top three priorities for AfT were trade facilitation, transport infrastructure, and networking infrastructure. In 2015, these were trade facilitation, international competitiveness, and services development.

Indicator 8.b.1 Existence of a developed and operationalized national strategy for youth employment, as a distinct strategy or as part of a national employment strategy

The purpose of SDG indicator 8.b.1 is to indicate the progress of countries in addressing youth employment issues. In this respect, it is assumed that having officially adopted what can be recognized as a structured strategy for youth employment would mean larger attention given by a country to youth labor market challenges, compared to countries with no strategy. The development of such a strategy usually entails broad participation and consultation/coordination among different

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26   https://www.sdg.gov.bd/page/indicator-wise/1/143/3/0#1

stakeholders. This indicator is conceptually clear, has an internationally established methodology and standards are available. Nonetheless, Bangladesh is yet to generate data on this indicator.

8.3 Policies and Efforts to Achieve SDG8

The policies and efforts to achieve SDG8 in Bangladesh aim to encourage sustained economic growth by achieving higher levels of productivity and through technological innovation. Promoting policies that encourage entrepreneurship and job creation is key to this, as are effective measures to eradicate child labor, raise productivity and ensure decent wages. With these targets in view, Bangladesh's goal is to achieve full and productive employment, and decent work, for all women and men by 2030. The government of Bangladesh has finalized the National Youth Policy 2017 aligning with the SDGs.

The strategies and policies in Bangladesh prioritize moving from an agro-based economy to a manufacturing and service sectors-based economy. With an abundant supply of productive labor, such a structural transformation in the economy—moving from an agro-based to a manufacturing economy—will have the twin effects of employment expansion and improved and better wages. The Ministry of Labor and Employment (MoLE) is the lead agency responsible for implementing SDG8.5.1 which aims to reduce poverty and unemployment through the creation of productive employment and human resource development and the maintenance of industrial relations between workers and employers. Since poverty alleviation and the expansion of employment opportunities fall into the jurisdiction of several other government agencies and ministries, the Bangladesh Government has designated several ministries as 'associate ministries' for this as well.

One of the core themes of 8FYP is employment generation. The 8th Five Year Plan (2021-2025) strategies and policies aim to harness the new technologies to generate quality jobs and use spaces for social dialogue to address the challenges of the future of work. Geospatial data will be employed to show that informality and child labor is more widespread in the most vulnerable sectors.

8.4 Key Challenges

The provision of decent work is an important aspect of the pursuit of human dignity. Workplace safety, living wages, career development, the right to unionize, freedom of expression, non-discrimination between gender and races, non-exploitation of workers including children and women, and social protection for the family are some of the key principles of decent work (ILO, 2019). SDG8 is designed to address these important issues.

- Poor and unsafe working environments have caused a significant number of industrial disasters (e.g. in the RMG industry), killing or affecting hundreds of workers. In this context, full and productive employment along with the provision of decent work and their contributions to sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth and prosperity have long remained an issue. While inclusive, sustainable, and sustained economic development is a key precondition of decent work, growing inequality and exploitation of labor pose a challenge to such development. It is important to understand the contextual variation

and requirements of a development agenda where the so-called 'one-size-fits-all' approach would not be imposed externally. Building partnerships, both locally and globally, at all levels is an important way forward in this regard.

- There are demographic challenges and international movements of people that have an impact on the world of work and must be addressed. Bangladesh has to ensure the right to information on employment conditions and contributions for domestic workers, guarantee standard hours and payment for overtime, holidays, and bonuses, and eradicate the practice of payment in kind (food and accommodation). The main challenge for Bangladesh is to realize the mutually supportive relationship between economic and social policies, full employment, and decent work.

- The marginal groups, women, migrants, and low-skilled and low-wage informal workers are the worst sufferers. Covid-19 has been a big blow to the core principles of the concept of sustainable development: inclusiveness and leaving no one behind. This has created significant challenges which Bangladesh will have to face to achieve SDG8.

- Remittance sent home by migrant workers is one of the key pillars of the economy of Bangladesh, contributing 12 percent to the GDP and generating 9 percent of employment of the total active workforce of Bangladesh (BMET, 2020). According to BMET (2020), each year around 700,000 Bangladeshi migrant workers go abroad for employment. The economic effects of Covid-19 on migrant workers tremendously influenced the remittance flows to the economy. The Covid-19 pandemic has affected the RMGs sector hard and has dropped the employment rate considerably.

- Due to the higher NEET rate, youths in their crucial years are deprived of employable professional experiences or gaining or increasing skills through educational or vocational programs. There is a concern about unambiguous gender differences. There still exists a huge gender gap in labor force participation in Bangladesh. Several barriers such as unequal opportunities at the household level as well as community level, absence of childcare facilities at the workplace, violence against women both in the workplace and outside, social stigma, etc. still prevent many women from participating in the labor market.

According to a 2019 World Bank Report, 99 percent of the non-farm enterprises in Bangladesh are CMSMEs, and in 2013, CMSMEs created about 20 million jobs (WB, 2019). Most are informal, and the majority of these informal enterprises are providing services to the domestic markets including trading activities. The Covid-19 pandemic has affected all domains of life and business and blown the hardest to the already vulnerable CMSMEs.

For Bangladesh, the key agenda is to recognize the importance of sustained economic growth and high levels of economic productivity for the creation of well-paid quality jobs, as well as resource efficiency in consumption and production. This also calls for opportunities for full employment and decent work for all alongside the eradication of child labor, and the promotion of labor rights and safe and secure working environments.

8.5 Way Forward

As for the 'leave no one behind' agenda, both cross-border and internal migrants should be effectively included in income-generating activities. Some organizations have started working on the reintegration of returning migrant workers, many of whom are affected survivors of violence. The CSOs and the government can increase efforts in identifying alternative work opportunities for those at risk of environmental hazards and disasters.

Bangladesh's growth perspectives need also to look beyond GDP and aim at decent and quality employment and desired structural transformation. Differentiated policy mixes are to be tailored to specific circumstances of the country, especially in the formal and informal economy. The approach should spur growth from below, in particular in the rural and informal economy.

Achieving many other SDGs also depends on the progress of SDG8. Mobilizing the policy priorities, instruments, partnerships, and resources that SDG8-related interventions can bring are therefore crucial for ending all forms of poverty and reducing inequalities, while ensuring that no one is left behind. Furthermore, progress towards SDG8 alone "means nothing", if it allows environmental degradation and social exclusion.

In particular, better, more secure, and varied jobs are urgently needed in the rural areas where most of the poor live and work. Agriculture is the single largest employer, and it generates a sizeable share of the GDP. There is a largely untapped reservoir of farm and non-farm employment opportunities in agriculture and beyond - in agri-food chains linked to sustainable agriculture, agri-business development, and related support services. Bangladesh needs to develop policies that generate decent jobs in rural areas, increase access to finance and investments for small producers, help strengthen technical and entrepreneurial capacities, and improve working conditions and labor standards, particularly for youth, women, and migrant workers.

Creating jobs that are gender inclusive, provide safe working conditions, and offer fair wages is critical for developing and sustaining economic growth and eliminating poverty. The important issue for Bangladesh is to adopt an integrated approach that can contribute to institutional learning, foster innovative cross-sector partnerships, and, based on these, more informed prioritization of goals and better-targeted interventions and investments by public and private sectors and civil society for promoting SDG8.

8.6 Summary

Economic growth contributes to sustainable development where it extends benefits to all people, actively reduces inequalities, and avoids harm to the environment. For growth to be inclusive, it must be decent work equally accessible to women and men. With women still less likely to participate in the labor force, and more likely to take the worst jobs in it—insecure, unsafe, and poorly paid jobs—inclusive growth remains far out of reach.

Sustained and inclusive economic growth is a prerequisite for sustainable development, which can contribute to improved livelihoods for the people. Economic growth can lead to new and better employment opportunities and provide greater economic security for all. Moreover, rapid growth can help reduce gender and other wage gaps, thereby diminishing glaring inequalities between the rich and poor.

Continuous, concerted efforts on the part of the government, civil society, and the private sector are needed for the effective realization of SDG8 recognizing the priorities of Bangladesh for achieving SDG8 and assessing the role of CSOs and private sector actors. The CSOs should invest in identifying the ultra-poor and marginalized communities to inform how to best enable access to training and placement services. Simultaneously, the government needs to assess market demand using models of training, philanthropic, or cost recovery.

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

BUILD RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE, PROMOTE INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIALIZATION, AND FOSTER INNOVATION

9.1 Global/Regional Context

For achieving SDG9, industrialization, improvements in infrastructure, and the promotion of technological innovation by increasing investment in research and development are the key components globally. The global share of manufacturing value added (MVA) in total GDP increased from 16.2 percent in 2015 to 16.9 percent in 2021 (UN Sustainable Development Goals Report 2022).

Manufacturing in LDCs is projected to have grown by a negligible 1.9 percent in 2020 compared with 8.7 percent in 2019. The share of MVA in these countries' total GDP grew from 10.1 percent in 2010 to 12.5 percent in 2021 – far too slowly to reach the target of doubling that share by 2030. On a per capita basis, MVA was only $135 in LDCs in 2021, compared with $5,000 in Europe and Northern America.

Global investment in research and development reached $2.2 trillion (purchasing power parity) in 2018, up from $1.4 trillion in 2010. The proportion of global GDP invested in research and development increased from 1.61 percent to 1.73 percent from 2010 to 2018, and policy commitments towards financing for R&D, especially in developing economies are very poor. Spending on R&D as a share of GDP ranged from 0.37 percent in sub-Saharan Africa to 0.86 percent in Northern Africa and Western Asia. For LDCs and landlocked developing countries, the average was 0.20 percent. There has been an increase in the number of researchers per million inhabitants worldwide which jumped from 1,022 in 2010 to 1,235 in 2018.

Due to the pandemic, small-scale industries have been severely affected and many continue to face existential challenges. Credit constraint is one of the major issues and remains uneven across countries and regions of the world. Access to finance will play an essential role in economic recovery.

In 2021, almost the entire world population lived within the range of mobile networks, with 85 percent covered by a fourth-generation (4G) network. Between 2015 and 2021, global 4G coverage doubled. However, "coverage" does not necessarily mean "usage": only 51 percent of the population used the Internet in 2019, leaving 3.7 billion people without Internet access. In LDCs, only one in five people was online in 2020, failing to achieve the target of universal and affordable Internet access. A more rapid increase in domestic and international financial mobilization, transport support, research and innovation, and increased access to information and communication technology is required to achieve SDG9.

9.2 Assessment of Progress on SDG9

Indicator 9.1.1 Proportion of the rural population who live within 2 km of an all-season road

According to LGED 2016 data, around 83.45 percent of the rural population lives within 2 km of an all-season road in Bangladesh. It is expected that the proportion will reach 90 percent in 2025.

Indicator9.1.2 Passenger and freight volumes, by mode of transport

According to CAAB, 2009, the passenger and freight volumes were 13,098,716 and 41,228 m. tons respectively in 2019. During 2018, these figures were 12,398,000 and 383,018 m. tons respectively. The targeted passenger and freight volumes have been set as 14.634 million and 0.498 million m. tons respectively for 2025.

Indicator 9.2.1 Manufacturing value added as a proportion of GDP and per capita

In terms of individual subsectors, the contribution of the manufacturing sector is the highest in GDP. The government is persistently taking comprehensive measures for developing and flourishing the manufacturing sector. As a result, the contribution of the manufacturing sector to real GDP reached 24.45 percent in FY 2021-22 which was 23.36 percent in FY 2020-21. Table 9.1 shows the manufacturing value-added share from the start of the SDGs era.

Table 9.1: Share of Manufacturing Value Added in GDP (Percent)

2005-06	2010-11	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
16.13	17.75	20.16	21.25	21.36	21.98	22.86	22.40	23.36	24.45

Source: Bangladesh Economic Review, 2022

Indicator 9.2.2 Manufacturing employment as a proportion of total employment

Dominant segments of the manufacturing sector such as textiles, RMGs, jute goods, and leather are labor-intensive and consequently, there have also been rapid increases in these manufacturing employment. The government has enacted the Product Manufacturers (Conditions of Employment) Act 2018 to implement the recommendations of the National Wage and Productivity Commission 2015.

Table 9.2: Manufacturing Employment as a Proportion of Total Employment (Percent)

2002-03	2005-06	2009	2010	2013	2015-16	2016-17
9.71	11.03	13.53	12.46	16.4	14.4	14.4

Source: BBS, Labor Force Survey 2016-2017 and Quarterly Labor Force Survey 2015-2016

Indicator 9.5.1 Research and development expenditure as a proportion of GDP

Research and development (R&D) expenditure as a proportion of GDP is the amount of R&D expenditure divided by the total output of the economy. In 2015, the proportion was 0.30. Budgetary trends suggest that the proportion has remained less than one in recent years. The targeted rate has been set at 1.00 for the year 2025.

Indicator 9.5.2 Researchers (in full-time equivalent) per million inhabitants

The researcher (in full-time equivalent) per million inhabitants is a direct measure of the number of research and development workers per 1 million people. Due to higher dependence on imported

technology especially in the export-oriented manufacturing sector in Bangladesh, little motivation exists for having a dedicated unit for research and development. As a result, Bangladesh lags in scientific research. Table 9.3 shows that the number of researchers per million inhabitants is increasing over time though at a relatively slow rate.

Table 9.3: Researchers (in Full-Time Equivalent) per Million Inhabitants

2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
5.56	5.66	5.69	5.98	6.16	6.63

Source: Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of Bangladesh

Indicator 9.a.1 Total official international support (official development assistance plus other official flows) to infrastructure

Development partners including Asian Development Bank (ADB), World Bank, JICA, and others are providing financial support to different infrastructure projects in Bangladesh. The volume of official international support to infrastructures stood at USD 4,041.90 million in FY2018-19 which was USD 4,564.80 million in FY2017-18.

Indicator 9.b.1 Proportion of medium and high-tech industry value added in total value added

For efficient industrialization, more investments are needed in medium and high-tech products that dominate manufacturing production. However, without technology and innovation, industrialization will not happen, and the aim of creating decent jobs in the economy will remain unfulfilled. Table 9.4 shows the proportion of medium and high-tech industry value added in total value added over time.

Table 9.4: Proportion of Medium and High-Tech Industry Value Added in Total Value Added (Percent)

2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020*
14.61	12.64	12.26	12.65	12.79	12.85	11.57	11.54	11.27

Source: National Accounting Wing, BBS, *projected value

Indicator 9. c.1 Proportion of population covered by a mobile network by technology (percent)

The 2G technology coverage reached close to 100 percent in 2019; while 3G technology coverage was 95.5 percent in 2021 and the 4G coverage has reached 98.10 percent in 2021. The 3G and 4G target of 100 percent has been set for 2025.

Table 9.5: Coverage of Proportion of Population by a Mobile Network by Technology (Percent)

Technology	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
2G	99	99	99	99.4	99.46	99.49	99.54	99.60	99.60	99.60
3G	...	...	...	71.0	90.2	92.55	95.23	95.40	95.54	95.5
4G	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	82.00	..	98.10

Source: Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission

9.3 Policies and Efforts to Achieve SDG9

The government has been prioritizing the building of resilient infrastructure, promoting inclusive sustainable industrialization, and fostering innovation in its overall policy framework. The Road Sector Master Plan (2010-2030) guides investments in the road sector with the objectives of protecting the value of RHD assets, increasing connectivity, and improving road safety, among others. To alleviate traffic congestion and to improve the environment in Dhaka Metropolitan City and its adjoining areas, Dhaka Mass Transit Company Limited (DMTCL), a government-owned company has laid out a time-bound action plan to build a network of six Metro Rail systems by 2030. To maintain an uninterrupted road network, initiatives have been taken to build new bridges at a different locations.

The improvement of rail communication and transport services has been included as a priority sector in the national document on the 8th Five-Year Plan and Perspective Plan, Vision 2041 and more budgets have been provided for the development of the railways than at any time in the past. Bangladesh is developing a National Adaptation Plan (NAP) under UNFCCC to formulate an integrated adaptation strategy and activities to meet the long-term impact of climate change. Meanwhile, a NAP Road Map has also been prepared. In addition, Bangladesh has prepared a Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) Plan to manage growing emissions without compromising the required development. According to this Plan, it is estimated to reduce 5 percent of carbon emissions voluntarily and an additional 10 percent reduction if international assistance is available by 2030. The government has also developed the NDC Implementation Road Map.

The policies aim to ensure a developed and efficient transport and communication system that will connect Bangladesh with international and regional road networks as well as with other ICT networks. From the point of view, Padma Bridge, Metro-rail, Bus Rapid Transit, Dhaka Elevated Expressway, Karnaphuli Tunnel, and some other mega-projects are being implemented which are contributing to the GDP growth of the country. The total length of highways in the country is 22,433 km in February 2022.

Several measures have been undertaken for the development and maintenance of navigability of different river routes, ensuring the safe movement of watercraft, development of inland river ports, creating infrastructure facilities to carry container goods in inland waterways, etc. About 92 percent of international trade is happening through the Chattogram seaport. In FY2021-22 (up to January 2022), the average growth rate of import-export was 4.21 percent for cargoes and 1.81 percent for containers.

To modernize, develop and expand the country's telecommunication system, various measures have been undertaken by the government. At present Bangladesh Submarine Cable Company Limited (BSCCL) alone is satisfying about 60 percent of demand in the case of the country's overall internet bandwidth, whose amount is about 2,060 Gbps (Gigabyte Per Second) in February 2022.

Keeping consistent with the targets of SDG9 and the 8th Five Year Plan, the government has undertaken various initiatives to expand information technology. Various development projects and programs are in progress to ensure the use and application of information and communication technology by increasing digital literacy at all walks of life, extending public service through IT-based activities, and building a modern and developed Bangladesh through the introduction of e-governance and e-commerce.

9.4 Key Challenges

SDG9 is based on three interconnected pillars: infrastructure, industry, and innovation. These pillars all share the objective of achieving socially inclusive and environmentally sustainable economic development. Realizing SDG9 by 2030 will require overcoming resource constraints, building and strengthening capacities, and exploring innovative ways to solve development challenges, build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization, and foster innovation. SDG9 has approximately 20 targets and indicators related to its three pillars and is closely linked to other SDGs related to job creation, sustainable livelihoods, improved health, technology, and skills development, gender equality, food security, green technologies, and climate change.

Several key challenges are associated with the implementation of SDG9 in Bangladesh including the high cost of doing business; lack of quality infrastructure; delays in developing one-stop service points; managing land constraints; scarcity of skilled human resources; shortcomings in attracting FDI; low access to efficient utility services; and shortcomings in ensuring transparent and accountable institutions.

- A major challenge in project implementation in the transport and communication sector is the capacity constraint often leading to delays in project completion. Delays and underfunding result in cost escalation and a lower rate of return on investments. Inadequate maintenance affects the reliability and quality of infrastructure services with a negative effect on growth.

- Bangladesh's major challenges also include bringing more transparency through the digitalization of business processes; and fostering economic diplomacy to strengthen inter-government initiatives for access to modern technologies and avail best practices. Adequate investments in research and development together with technology transfer and innovation also need greater attention. The promised international commitment to the transfer of technology is a major hindrance for developing countries and LDCs alike.

- One challenge is the need to improve Internet access by CMSMEs. Moreover, sometimes access does not translate into use because of issues related to affordability, low ICT literacy rates, scarce local content, and lack of trust. Building ICT skills of individuals and enterprises, developing relevant Internet content, strengthening regulatory frameworks, and promoting trust are needed to ensure that improved access leads to improved use.

- Another challenge relates to inadequate transport, which leads to higher trading costs, decreased export competitiveness, and less attraction for foreign direct investment (FDI),. Overcoming this challenge requires transit cooperation, multimodal transport, transport corridors, and efficient transit facilities. In addition, poor access to infrastructure, particularly for transportation, electricity, and energy, hinders development, diversification, and value addition in agriculture and agro-industry in rural areas.

9.5 Way Forward

To achieve SDG9 by 2030, Bangladesh needs much more attention in the policy framework in the areas of transport, information and communications technology, and trade. The specific areas include, among others, rail, road, and maritime transport, increasing the availability and affordability of broadband internet, and implementing paperless trade. In these areas, both regional cooperation and national implementation are necessary.

The current global industrial trend towards automation and new technology, known as the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR), results in fast and transformative change due to technological advances--from artificial intelligence to robotics, new energy sources, and storage. To facilitate "connecting the unconnected" through quality telecommunication and information technologies at an affordable price by introducing new technologies, BTRC is working on implementing the national dream of "Digital Bangladesh". The BTRC is playing an important role to expand internet and broadband connectivity throughout the country by effective utilization of public and private sector resources. Bangladesh has moved to 4G mobile technology in February 2018. In December 2021, BTRC has launched the initial 5G network in Bangladesh in collaboration with state-owned mobile operator Teletalk.

The faster internet of this new 5G technology will have a more positive impact on the day-to-day life and business of the people of the country. Users will be able to communicate with each other faster than ever before. The ed-tech industry will also grow due to the 5G Internet. All industries will benefit from the implementation of 5G technology, but the healthcare sector will be most affected. With the completion of 5G technology implementation at the individual and industrial levels, a smart ecosystem, digital society, or smart city framework is expected to be implemented. Starting from home-used gadgets, personal vehicles, and all services used in daily life will be digitally interconnected, which will help different regions of Bangladesh to move towards smart cities in the future.

These changes are likely to happen quickly and disrupt the way manufacturing and services have traditionally been carried out, bringing with them both challenges and opportunities for Bangladesh. Technological innovation is at the root of current industrialization trends, and among other things, can provide a basis for climate-adapted infrastructure and climate-resilient development in Bangladesh. Bangladesh's implementation of SDG9 needs to be aware of these developments to remain relevant in the coming years and should embrace these dimensions in development plans, policies, and programs.

9.6 Summary

In Bangladesh, inclusive and sustainable industrialization, together with innovation and infrastructure, can unleash dynamic and competitive economic forces that generate employment and income. These play a key role in introducing and promoting new technologies, facilitating international trade, and enabling the efficient use of resources. However, Bangladesh still has a long way to go to fully tap this potential. Bangladesh needs to accelerate the development of its manufacturing sector if it is to meet the SDG9 targets and scale up investment in scientific research and innovation. Innovation and technological progress are keys to finding lasting solutions to both economic and environmental challenges, such as increased resource and energy efficiency.

While SDG9 implementation is progressing in many areas, Bangladesh needs more resources and capacities since the industrialization rate is still relatively slow and the benefits of the digital revolution remain largely elusive. The key for Bangladesh is to ensure policy coherence among development, infrastructure, industrialization, and STI; integrated national policy approaches; and the identification of gaps and successes. Along with adopting advanced technologies and infrastructures, Bangladesh needs to attract a higher level of international collaboration that will help advance SDG9, motivate the increased public and private sector investment, and inspire more South-South cooperation as well.

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

REDUCE INEQUALITY WITHIN AND AMONG COUNTRIES

10.1 Global/Regional Context

The SDGs framework identifies inequality as a key issue to tackle since reduced inequalities can ensure truly inclusive development and drive human progress towards sustainability and universal wellbeing. Although relative global inequality has fallen steadily over the decades driven by a dramatic decline in inequality among countries, absolute inequality measures show global inequality has increased substantially over the last decades.

The Global Wealth Report 2021 shows that the outcomes of the Covid-19 pandemic have led to widespread rises in wealth inequality in 2020. Before Covid-19, the average Gini index for emerging markets and developing countries had been falling. Though, the World Economic Outlook 2020 of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) estimates that Covid-19 will increase the average Gini index for these countries by 2.6 points to 42.7 (a 6 percent increase). This will reverse the fall in inequality since the global financial crisis in 2007–2009. For low-income countries, the impact is projected to be even larger.

The UN Sustainable Development Goals Report 2021 shows that despite thousands of migrant deaths each year, out of 111 countries, only 54 percent of the countries had a comprehensive set of policy measures to facilitate orderly, safe, regular, and responsible migration and mobility of people as of 2019. In terms of reducing the transaction cost of remittances, significant progress has been made over the past decade. The global average cost of sending US dollars 200 was 9.3 percent in 2011. Despite the pandemic, the cost of sending money reached a record low of 6.5 percent in 2020.

In developing countries, inadequate resourcing for health, education, sanitation, and investment in the poorest citizens drives extreme inequality. One reason is tax avoidance and other illicit outflows of cash. The policy makers need to rectify the harmful tax regimes, including the move towards lowering general corporate taxation. After falling during much of the twentieth century, current inequality is worsening in rich countries as well. One suggestion is to reach an international agreement establishing a wealth tax. Since wealth tends to accumulate over generations, fair and well-designed wealth taxes could go a long way toward combating extreme inequality.

Further, governments across different countries could establish and enforce national living wages. Low and unliveable wages are a result of worker disempowerment and concentration of wealth at the top. To reduce inequality, policies should be universal in principle, paying attention to the needs of disadvantaged and marginalized populations. Inclusion has to be promoted actively, in social as well as political spheres, for all ages, sexes, races, religions, and ethnicities to create conditions of equity within the countries in South Asia and other regions.

10.2 Assessment of Progress on SDG10

The 2022 Social Progress Index, which measures a country's performance on a wide range of aspects of social and environmental performance, puts Bangladesh as a 'low social country' with

a rank of 119 across 169 countries[27]. In the basic human needs dimension, Bangladesh ranked 112, in the foundation of wellbeing dimension it is 121 and in the opportunity dimension, it is 146 (www.socialprogress.org). The social progress index for Bangladesh was 56.06 in 2022, increasing from 49.78 in 2011, growing at an average annual rate of 1.17 percent.

Though Bangladesh was grouped as a 'low social country', it was also identified as one of the countries where the largest improvements in the Social Progress Index have taken place. This improvement suggests that Bangladesh, with a relatively low level of social progress, can improve more rapidly since it both has more opportunities for improvement and can draw on lessons from success cases in other countries. Bangladesh also improved in human development andranked 129th among 191 countries in this year's Human Development Index, according to Human Development Report 2021-22. In the previous report published in 2020, Bangladesh ranked 133 out of 189 countries.

Inequality can be quantified by measuring the Gini coefficient. The Gini coefficient of the income distribution was 0.483 nationally in 2016; which was 0.498 in rural areas and 0.454 in urban areas. The trend of income inequality from 1963 to 2016 is shown in Figure 10.1. Over the entire period of 1963-2016, the national Gini has risen from 0.36 to 0.483—an increase of more than 34 percent—while rural Gini increased by nearly 38 percent and urban Gini by 21 percent over the same period. The estimates suggest that Bangladesh has faced increases in the Gini coefficient for the last half century but the rate has accelerated especially since the 1990s. Also, inequality in rural areas experienced a sharp increase whereas, inequality in urban areas experienced a modest increase.
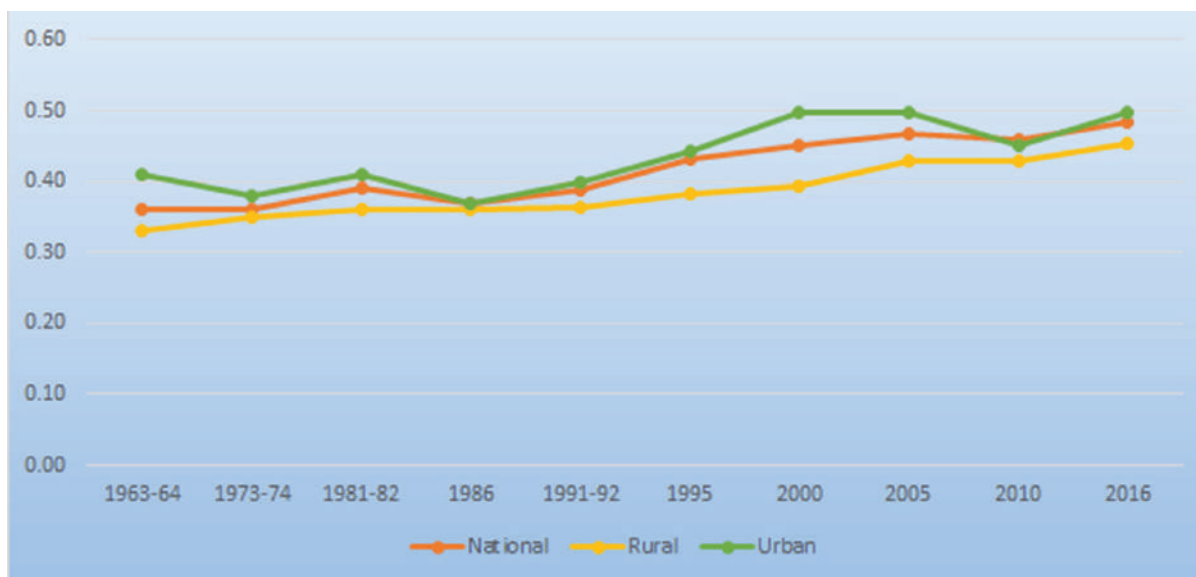
Figure 10.1: Gini Coefficient of Income in Bangladesh, 1963-2016

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27   The 2022 Social Progress Index covers 12 components and 60 distinct indicators. The framework not only provides an aggregate country score and ranking, but also allows   benchmarking on specific areas of strength and weakness. Transparency of measurement based on a comprehensive framework allows change-makers to set strategic priorities, acting upon the most pressing issues in specific societ-ies. The component level framework comprises of basic human needs (nutrition and basic medical care, water and sanitation, shelter, personal safety), foundations of well-being (access to basic knowledge, access to information and communications, health and wellness, environmental quality) and opportunity (personal rights, personal freedom and choice, tolerance and inclusion, access to advanced education).

39.5

33.4   33.2   32.1   32.4

2000   2005   2010   2016   2018

——Gini Index in Bangladesh (%), 2000-2018
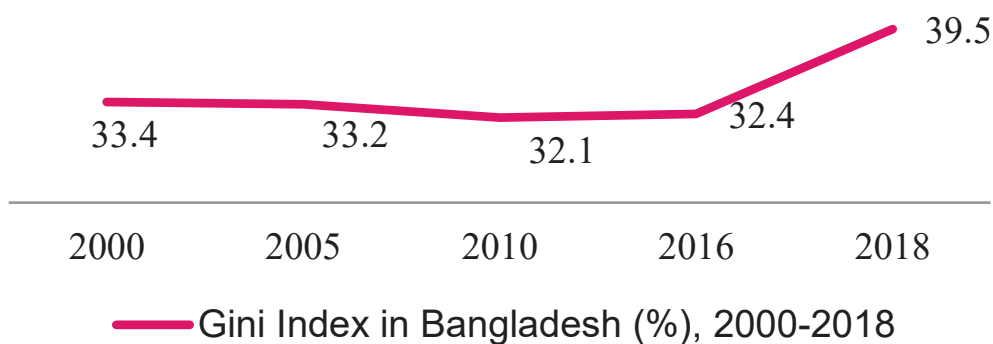
Source: HIES, different years

Figure 10.2: Gini Index in Bangladesh, 2000-2018

The share of income over time among the poorest 40 percent, middle 50 percent, and the richest 10 percent in the income distribution at the national level can be observed in the following Figure (Figure 10.3). Evidence shows that the share of the middle 50 percent is comparatively steady; while the poorest 40 percent generally loses in terms of income share while the richest 10 percent gains. Bangladesh should give special attention to its 'extreme' inequalities that do the most harm to inclusive and sustainable economic growth.
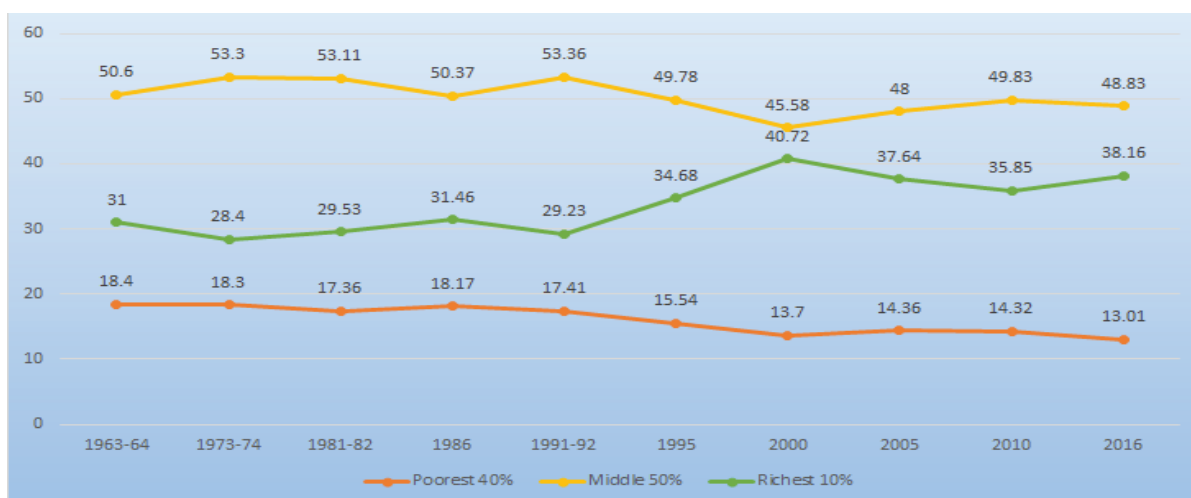
Source: GED's calculation from HIES data

Figure 10.3: Share of Deciles in Total Household Income at the National Level, 1963-2016

Table 10.1 shows that inequalities in education, health, and other basic services are significantly related to income and wealth. Recent data available from the Demographic and Health Survey 2017-18 conducted by BBS show that the percentage of malnourished children under 5 (stunted) is about 40 percent in the poorest quintile whereas it is 17 percent for the richest quintile, and only about 64 percent of the population in the poorest quintile in 2017-18 received antenatal care (ANC) from the medically trained provider while it is around 97 percent for the richest quintile. Around 26 percent of women in the poorest quintile delivered in a health facility while it is around 78 percent in the richest quintile.

Table 10.1: Selected Social Indicators for Poorest and Richest Quintiles in Bangladesh

Indicator	Quintile	
	Poorest	Richest
Percentage of children under age 5 malnutrition rate (% of children under age 5 are stunted)	40	17
Under-5 mortality per 1,000 live births	55	36
Total fertility rate	2.6	2
Teenage mothers (% of women 15-19 years)	37	18
Percent women receiving Antenatal care (ANC) from a medically trained provider	64	97
Percentage of women delivered in a health facility	26	78
Educational attainment of the male household population (More than secondary)	3.2	33.9
Percent of women have no education (%)	31	12
Percent of men have no education (%)	30	8
Educational attainment of the female household population (More than secondary)	1.9	23.7

Source: Demographic and Health Survey 2017-18, BBS

Indicator 10.1.1.a Growth rates of household expenditure or income per capita among the bottom 40 percent of the population

According to HIES, BBS, growth rates of household expenditure or income per capita among the bottom 40 percent of the population was 7.7 percent in 2018. The SDG tracker indicates that this growth rate is targeted to be 9.5 percent by 2025 and 10 percent by 2030.

Indicator 10.1.1.b Growth rates of household expenditure or income per capita among the total population

The growth rate of household expenditure or income per capita among the total population was 9.1 percent in 2018 same as the base year 2016 (HIES 2016, BBS). The SDG tracker indicates that the growth rates are targeted to be 9.3 percent by 2025 and 9.7 percent by 2030.

Indicator 10.2.1 Proportion of people living below 50 percent of median income, by sex, age, and persons with disabilities

According to HIES, BBS, in 2018, 15.98 percent population lived below 50 percent of median income, by sex, age, and persons with disabilities. The value is the same as in 2016.

Indicator 10.3.1 Proportion of population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed in the previous 12 months based on a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law

In Bangladesh, 35.6 percent population reported having personally felt discriminated against or harassed in the previous 12 months based on a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law (CHPS, BBS 2018). This was 36.30 percent for females and 35.60 percent for males.

Indicator 10.5.1 Financial Soundness Indicators

Table 10.2: Financial Soundness Indicators in Bangladesh

	2015	2020
Regulatory Tier 1 capital to assets	5.4	4.77
Regulatory Tier 1 capital to risk-weighted assets	8	7.42
Non-performing loans net of provisions to capital	44.19	34.49
Non-performing loans to total gross loans	8.4	7.74
Return on assets	1.86	0.77
Liquid assets to short-term liabilities	51.13	52.44
Net open position in foreign exchange to capital	4.72	9.91

Source: BB, FID

Indicator 10.6.1 Proportion of members and voting rights of developing countries in international organizations

Data from MOFA and ERD show that the proportion of members and voting rights of developing countries in international organizations was 28 percent in 2020.

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

The Cost of Migration Survey BBS, SID shows that overseas recruitment costs borne by employees as a percentage of yearly income earned in the country of destination is very high, almost 17.60 percent; which is 19.10 percent for males and 5.6 percent for females. Evidence also shows that the percentage of recruitment cost of younger employees to yearly income earned is higher compared with mature employees.

Indicator 10.7.2 Number of countries that have implemented well-managed migration policies

This indicator describes the state of migration policies and tracks the evolution of such policies over time. The information collected identifies both progress made and challenges, thus contributing to the evidence base for actionable recommendations for the implementation of SDG target 10.7 "Facilitate orderly, safe, and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies". In Bangladesh, the Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Policy 2016 has been approved in January 2016.

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

The WTO Cell, Ministry of Commerce (MoC) shows that in 2015 this was 50.30 percent for all developing countries and 65.1 percent for least developed countries (LDCs).

Indicator10.b.1.a Total official development assistance (ODA) for development, by recipient and donor countries

Bangladesh is no longer an aid-dependent country. Two decades ago, foreign aid was 6 percent of GDP; at present, it is less than 2 percent. However, ODA plays a vital role in the country's poverty alleviation, social sector activities, and infrastructure development. Data on ODA indicate modest growth although the share of ODA in GDP has been generally declining in recent years. During 2010-2014, ODA registered a remarkable growth of 14.97 percent that slowed down in later years. Total official development assistance (ODA) for development, by recipient and donor countries, has improved over time. It has increased to US$7,957 million in 2021, rising from US$3,006 million in 2014-15 (ERD). The target is to increase the amount to about US$9,000 million by 2025 and US$11,000 million by 2030.
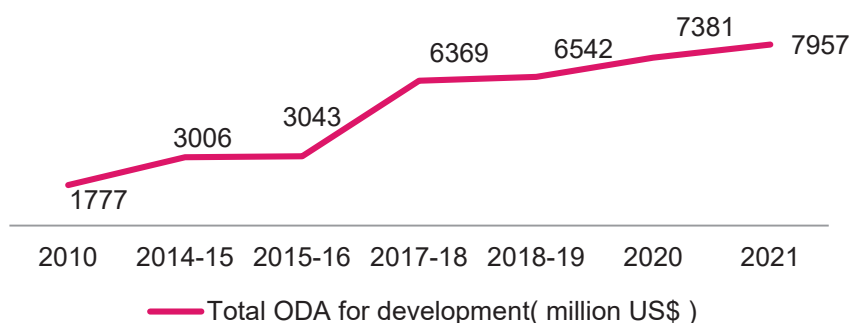
Figure 10.4: Total Official Development Assistance (ODA) for Development over Time

Indicator 10.b.1.b: Total foreign direct investment for development, by recipient and donor countries

According to Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA, 2021), Bangladesh received USD 1,967.17 million in actual net FDI inflow until March of FY2020-21. The services sector received the largest portion (73 percent) and the Netherlands topped the list of contributors (USD 332.44 million) in net FDI inflow. Total FDI stock until March of FY2020-21 was worth USD 20,069.85 million. The United States holds the biggest portion of FDI stock, which amounts to USD 3,828.35 million.

The FDI grew at an average annual rate of 14.4 percent during 2010-2014 basically due to increased investment in telecommunications, textiles, and power and gas sectors. The FDI growth increased to about 18 percent in the latter period. The above shows that the increased flow of FDI as part of the country's strategy to mobilize significantly bigger amounts of resources for achieving accelerated growth with the renewed emphasis on domestic resource mobilization can be effective with the adoption of the right approach.
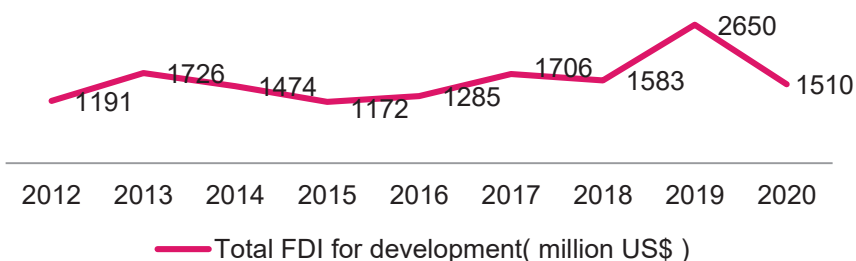
Source: BB, FID

Figure 10.5: Total Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) for Development over Time

Indicator 10. c.1 Remittance costs as a proportion of the amount remitted

International migration is costly compared with other migrant-sending countries; Bangladesh has the highest financial cost for migration. Because of the high migration cost, it is very hard for the poor to migrate to other countries. The exact cost of migration is, however, hard to estimate as the cost varies depending on various factors like skills, gender, type of visa as well as the extent of involvement of intermediaries (Siddiqui 2010). The government policy is to lessen the cost of recruitment as a proportion of the annual income of migrant workers based on the migration cost and income in 17 countries in 2015, taken as the base. Data available from the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment (MoEWOE) show that the recruitment cost borne by employees as a percentage of yearly income earned in the country of destination has not changed much in 2018 from their base values. Remittance costs as a proportion of the amount remitted were 4.06 percent in 2015, which slightly increased to 4.48 percent in 2018 (BB, 2018). However, this has shown a slightly upward trend in the past few years. Remittance costs as a proportion of the amount remitted were 4.68 percent in 2019, which has increased to 5.38 in 2020.
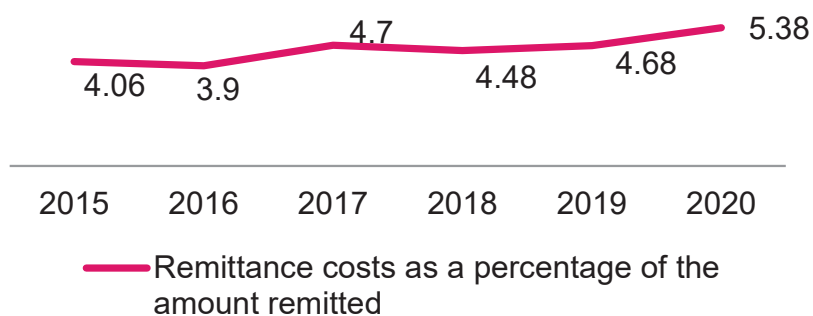
Source: BB, FID

Figure 10.6: Remittance Costs as a Percentage of the Amount Remitted

10.3 Policies and Efforts to Achieve SDG10

Based on the achievements of the 7th Plan, the 8th Five Year Plan (2021-2025) has adopted a broad-based strategy of inclusiveness intending to empower every citizen to participate in full and benefit from the development process, and help the poor and vulnerable with social protection-based income transfers. The focus is on a sustainable development pathway that is resilient to disaster and climate change, entails sustainable use of natural resources, and successfully manages the inevitable urbanization transition.

During the 8th Plan, the government's comprehensive multi-dimensional poverty reduction strategy will be the most important tool for containing and eventually reducing inequalities. Since assets and human capabilities are unequally distributed, the benefits of growth in the context of Bangladesh's market economy tend to favor those who have a better endowment of assets and human capabilities to start with. The long-term inequality reduction strategy must, therefore, focus on reducing this initial gap. Human development strategy with an emphasis on alleviating the access gap for the poor is one powerful instrument. Facilitating asset accumulation through better access to credit for the poor can help reduce income inequality. A better strategy for social inclusion by eliminating physical and social barriers is another important instrument. Fiscal policy can be a very powerful instrument for the reduction of inequality. This calls for both increased public spending on social sectors (health, education, sanitation, water supply, and social protection) and importantly a well-designed personal income tax system that taxes all sources of income at a progressive rate.

Further, the financial requirement for SDGs is being reassessed keeping in view two recent developments; (a) Covid-19 recovery and (b) Bangladesh's LDC graduation. In terms of attaining SDG10, at the local level, three key policy pillars have been earmarked: (i) moderate income inequality through inclusive growth, redistributive policies, income opportunities for low-income people, and other measures; (ii) reduce gaps in health, nutrition, and education by better targeting, improved delivery channels, strengthened institutions for quality services, and expanded access to un/underserved locations; and (iii) remove social and gender exclusion and discrimination through affirmative action and institutional policies.

National Social Security Strategy 2015 provides a comprehensive strategy that defines the various life cycle risks faced by the poor and vulnerable populations and seeks to lessen those risks by instituting a well-designed income transfer system to reach the poorest and most vulnerable segment of the population (the young children, school going children, vulnerable women, the elderly and the physically challenged). The NSSS is a socially inclusive approach that seeks to modernize social security by combining tax-funded safety net programs with contributory social insurance and employment regulations to protect the workers. It also seeks to considerably improve the administrative arrangements for social protection programs by consolidating complementary programs, strengthening staffing and institutions, and instituting a modern MIS system. These reforms are instrumental in eliminating leakages, improving targeting, increasing the average value of the transfers, lowering the risks faced by the poor and vulnerable population, reducing poverty, helping reduce income inequality, and building social capital.

10.4 Key Challenges

Rising inequalities have always been considered a major policy issue in Bangladesh. It is acknowledged that the gravity of the problem of growing income inequality becomes more complex if differentials in wealth accumulation are taken into account. In Bangladesh, the number of poor at USD 3.10 a day (2011 PPP) is 86.12 million who can hardly save for wealth accumulation compared with the richer groups. Thus, future levels of inequality are likely to be much worse if existing wealth ownership and prospects of future wealth accumulation are taken into account.

- Global evidence shows that income inequality and poor institutional quality reinforce each other. In theory, weak institutions may be conducive to income inequality. Where the poor are not given the protection of an independent judicial system, for example, their ability to extract rents is inferior to that of the rich. It is also suggested that high-income inequality allows the rich to wield stronger political influence, thereby subverting institutions. Thus, institutional reforms could be good instruments to reduce inequality; but political feasibility is also important for implementing such reforms in a country like Bangladesh.

- For implementing SDG10, three serious challenges are identified; these are (i) measurement challenge, (ii) aggregation challenge, and (iii) localization challenge. While measuring the progress of SDG 10 indicators, only a few of the indicators can currently be measured rigorously and regularly in Bangladesh. The government and civil society must therefore take the measurement issue deeper with flexibility in data sources to provide a comprehensive estimate of SDG10 performance even where formal indicators may not exist at any point in time. Additionally, SDG10, by definition, provides a list of goals rather than an overarching model. Bangladesh needs to devise a conceptual model that would allow aggregation to explore complementarities and synergies across indicators for carrying the measurement effort forward. Finally, much of the efforts on SDG10 implementation will take place at the sub-national level, and will require local data to track performance. The local-level institutions, including NGO-MFIs and civil society think tanks, need to be deployed extensively by district, city, and upazila/union-level LGIs to provide practical tools for SDG10 localization.

Intending to reduce inequality, the target was to increase the spending on education to 3 percent of GDP, on health to 1.2 percent of GDP, and on social protection to 2.3 percent of GDP by 2020. However, except for social protection, the other targets are not fulfilled. The spending on social protection will also significantly be reduced if public sector pension schemes are excluded. This shows that special focus is needed on budget allocations for health and education, including strengthening of health and education system governance, management and service delivery capacities, and implementation of essential services package, with a focus on the lagging regions and excluded populations.

10.5 Way Forward

In the context of SDG10, the country's policy framework aims to: progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 percent of the population at a rate higher than the national average; empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or another status. The aim is to ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, eliminate discriminatory laws, policies, and practices, and promote appropriate legislation, policies, and action in this regard.

Inequalities of outcomes and opportunities are highly inter-dependent. Without equal opportunities, systemic patterns of discrimination and exclusion prevent the poor and disadvantaged groups from accessing economic, political, and social resources. As a result, they fall into inequality traps — creating the persistence of inequality across generations. Equal opportunities can level the playing field so that the circumstances of birth (such as race, gender, and rural or urban location) do not adversely influence an individual's chances to get ahead in life. Since inequalities of outcomes and opportunities are interlinked and mutually reinforcing, a comprehensive policy framework to reduce inequality needs to address both.

10.6 Summary

The GDP growth rate of Bangladesh has reached impressive levels in the last decade, but less so on the inclusiveness front. Bangladesh needs to reverse these premises: with yearly GDP growth crossing the 8 percent mark in real terms, it is also time for Bangladesh to make better progress on inequality. The narrower the gap between the rich and the poor in society, the better off everyone in the country in terms of health and other indicators, compared with societies where the gap is wider.

Inequality is a complex challenge. Only through providing safety net programs, the problem cannot be tackled. Multidimensional steps have been taken by the government to reduce inequality such as, following an inclusive development strategy that combines the promotion of economic growth and the reduction of poverty and inequality. Moreover, inequality-reducing policies including living wages, quality education, health care services, nutritional interventions, free school meals, and similar other interventions are focused on which can have the greatest impact if introduced at the national level.

The government's strategy is to develop the growth centers to spur pro-poor growth in agriculture, fisheries, livestock, and other sectors and create efficient markets for equitable development and social interaction among the people for the exchange of ideas on irrigation, fertilizer or improved variety of seeds and local and global businesses. Growth centers dominate the service delivery and infrastructure development to ensure social sustainability and create productive employment opportunities and economic expansion through initiating various income-generating activities and businesses. All these developments will contribute to reducing inequalities and promoting sustainable development in the catchment areas of the growth centers.

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

MAKE CITIES AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS INCLUSIVE, SAFE, RESILIENT, AND SUSTAINABLE

11.1 Global/Regional Context

The 2030 Agenda recognizes the interconnectedness of contemporary challenges and the need for comprehensive and participatory approaches to address them. Within this lens, SDG11 aims at building inclusive societies by focusing on city safety and resilient city governments. There is a strong link between the quality of life in cities and how cities draw on and manage the natural resources available to them. So far, the trend towards urbanization has been accompanied by increased pressure on the environment and accelerated demand for basic services, infrastructure, jobs, land, and affordable housing, particularly for the nearly 1 billion urban poor who live in informal settlements.

Due to the high concentration of people, infrastructures, housing, and economic activities, cities are particularly vulnerable to climate change and natural disaster impacts. Building urban resilience is crucial to avoid human, social, and economic losses while improving the sustainability of urbanization processes is needed to protect the environment and mitigate disaster risk and climate change. Resource-efficient cities combine greater productivity and innovation with lower costs and reduced environmental impacts while providing increased opportunities for consumer choices and sustainable lifestyles.

The key to achieving SDG11 is to collectively engage in pursuing the targets to make cities more competitive, safe, resource-efficient, resilient, and inclusive. Key areas in achieving progress on SDG11 are; (1) identifying and agreeing on the most sustainable ways to achieve the targets-what activities should be ceased and which ones accelerated; (2) building appropriate capacity and skills across the stakeholder groups to deliver; (3) attracting/securing finance, innovative designs, and delivery models and projects for integrated city infrastructure– including buildings, energy, mobility, telecommunications, water, sanitation and waste management services; and (4) ensuring practical processes for multi-stakeholder engagement in all stages of urban development that build consensus, inclusion, resilience, and sustainability.

Making cities sustainable means creating career and business opportunities, safe and affordable housing, and building resilient societies and economies. It involves investment in public transport, creating green public spaces, and improving urban planning and management in participatory and inclusive ways.

According to the UN Sustainable Development Goals Report 2021, only about half of the world's population lives within 500 meters of walking distance of low-capacity transport systems (such as buses or trams) and 1,000 meters of high-capacity systems (such as trains and ferries). Based on data from 610 cities from 95 countries in 2019, on average, 49.5 percent of urban residents in all regions had convenient access to public transport, from a low of 32.9 percent in Northern Africa and Western Asia to a high of 82.8 percent in Australia and New Zealand. For making safe, reliable, and sustainable public transport systems, countries and cities need to provide a well-planned and managed transport system that should be well-integrated with walking and cycling paths through long-term policies, sustainable urban mobility plans, and targeted investments.

11.2 Assessment of Progress on SDG11

Indicator 11.1.1 Proportion of urban population living in slums, informal settlements, or inadequate housing

According to the World Bank data 2020, the share of the population living in urban areas in Bangladesh is approximately 38 percent. This is a significant increase from 2011 when 31 percent of the population in Bangladesh was living in urban areas. This rapid urbanization has led to the growth of slums and the share of the urban population living in slums is still unacceptably high. Around 47 percent of the urban population lives in slums in 2018 (World Bank 2020). More than 50 percent of the population in Bangladesh is expected to live in urban areas by 2050. The target for 2030 is to ensure that only 20 percent of the urban population lives in slums. Four metropolitan cities, e.g. Dhaka, Chattogram, Khulna, and Rajshahi account for nearly 47 percent of the total urban population; and the Dhaka division overwhelmingly holds the highest rank both for the level of urbanization and the share of the national urban population. On the other hand, the Sylhet division has the lowest rank for the share of the national urban population while the rank of the Rangpur division is the lowest for the level of urbanization (percent of urban population).

Indicator 11.4.1 Total per capita expenditure on the preservation, protection, and conservation of all cultural and natural heritage, by the source of funding (public, private), type of heritage (cultural, natural), and level of government (national, regional, and local/municipal)

This indicator is vital to global efforts to gauge the overall magnitude of investment in heritage. According to MoCA, during 2019-20, the total expenditure (public and private) per capita spent on safeguarding, and protecting national cultural heritage is PPP$ 1.80.

Indicator 11.5.1 Number of deaths, missing persons, and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population

Various types of natural disasters such as river erosion, cyclones, droughts, tornadoes, cold waves, floods, flash floods, and earthquakes as well as human-induced disasters such as fire and building collapse make the country more vulnerable. In recent years, there has been a significant reduction in natural disaster-related deaths. According to Bangladesh Disaster-related Statistics (BDRS) 2021, the number of persons affected by disaster per 100,000 people is counted as 3765.80 in 2020 which was 12,881 in 2014.

Indicator 11.5.2 Direct economic loss attributed to disasters concerning the global gross domestic product (GDP)

Direct economic loss includes the destruction of physical assets like homes, schools, hospitals, commercial and governmental buildings, transport, energy, infrastructures, business assets, and production such as standing crops, agricultural infrastructure, and livestock. According to Bangladesh Disaster-related Statistics (BDRS) 2021, 1.32 percent of GDP was lost in 2020 due

to disasters and it was 1.30 percent in 2015. The apprehension is that it is likely to increase in the future due to climate change's impact.

Indicator 11.6.1 Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed in controlled facilities out of total municipal waste generated, by cities

The scenario of disposal of solid wastes in all urban areas is inadequate in Bangladesh. In urban areas, only around 63 percent of the solid wastes generated daily are collected by City Corporations. It is expected that by 2025, around 75 percent of the solid waste generated daily will be collected by City Corporations.

Box 11.1: Strengthening Disaster Risk Governance to Manage Disaster Risk

For mainstreaming and integrating disaster risk reduction within and across all sectors and review and promote coherence and further development, as appropriate, Bangladesh has been adapting the national and local frameworks of laws, regulations, and public policies, which, by defining roles and responsibilities, guide the public and private sectors in (i) addressing disaster risk in publically owned, managed or regulated services and infrastructures; (ii) promoting and providing incentives, as relevant, for actions by persons, households, communities, and businesses; (iii) enhancing relevant mechanisms and initiatives for disaster risk transparency, which may include financial incentives, public awareness-raising, and training initiatives, reporting requirements and legal and administrative measures; and (iv) putting in place coordination and organizational structures. The key action areas are:

- To adopt and implement national and local disaster risk reduction strategies and plans, across different timescales, with targets, indicators, and time frames, aimed at preventing the creation of risk, the reduction of existing risk, and the strengthening economic, social, health, and environmental resilience;

- To assess the technical, financial, and administrative disaster risk management capacity to deal with the identified risks at the local and national levels; - To encourage the establishment of necessary mechanisms and incentives to ensure high levels of compliance with the existing safety-enhancing provisions of sectoral laws and regulations, including those addressing land use and urban planning, building codes, environmental and resource management and health and safety standards, and update them, where needed, to ensure an adequate focus on disaster risk management;

- To develop and strengthen, as appropriate, mechanisms to follow up, periodically assess, and publicly report on progress on national and local plans; and promote public scrutiny and encourage institutional debates, including by parliamentarians and other relevant officials, on progress reports of local and national plans for disaster risk reduction;

- To assign, as appropriate, clear roles and tasks to community representatives within disaster risk management institutions and processes and decision-making through relevant legal

frameworks, and undertake comprehensive public and community consultations during the development of such laws and regulations to support their implementation;

- To establish and strengthen government coordination forums composed of relevant stakeholders at the national and local levels, such as national and local platforms for disaster risk reduction, and a designated national focal point for implementing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2020–2030. Such mechanisms must have a strong foundation in national institutional frameworks with clearly assigned responsibilities and authority to, inter alia, identify sectoral and multisectoral disaster risk, build awareness and knowledge of disaster risk through sharing and dissemination of nonsensitive disaster risk information and data, contribute to and coordinate reports on local and national disaster risk, coordinate public awareness campaigns on disaster risk, facilitate and support local multisectoral cooperation (e.g. among local governments) and contribute to the determination of and reporting on national and local disaster risk management plans and all policies relevant for disaster risk management. These responsibilities should be established through laws, regulations, standards, and procedures;

- To empower local authorities, as appropriate, through regulatory and financial means to work and coordinate with civil society, communities and indigenous peoples and migrants in disaster risk management at the local level;

- To encourage parliamentarians to support the implementation of disaster risk reduction by developing new or amending relevant legislation and setting budget allocations;

- To promote the development of quality standards, such as certifications and awards for disaster risk management, with the participation of the private sector, civil society, professional associations, scientific organizations, and the United Nations;

- To formulate public policies, where applicable, aimed at addressing the issues of prevention or relocation, where possible, of human settlements in disaster risk-prone zones, subject to national law and legal systems.

Source: Adapted from National Disaster Management Plan 2021-2025, MoDMR, 2020

Indicator 11.b.2 Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies

It has been expected that by 2020, the substantial increase in the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement can be achieved, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, using holistic disaster risk management at all levels, According to MoDMR 2019, at the local level, the ratio of City Corporation is 0.0833 (1/12) and the ratio for Pourashava is 0.0091 (3/330) in terms of adoption and implementation of local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies.

11.3 Policies and Efforts to Achieve SDG11

The government policies for ensuring sustainable cities and communities stand upon the features of livability, functionality, and resilience by maintaining the socio-cultural fabric and environmental sustainability. In this context, Bangladesh is adopting the New Urban Agenda which is the outcome document agreed upon at the Habitat III cities conference in Quito, Ecuador, in 2016. The New Urban Agenda shares a vision of cities for all, referring to the equal use and enjoyment of cities and human settlements, seeking to promote inclusivity and ensure that all inhabitants, of present and future generations, without discrimination of any kind, can inhabit and produce just, safe, healthy, accessible, affordable, resilient, and sustainable cities and human settlements, to foster prosperity and quality of life for all.

The New Urban Agenda aims to achieve cities and human settlements where all persons can enjoy equal rights and opportunities, as well as their fundamental freedoms. In this regard, the New Urban Agenda is grounded in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, international human rights treaties, the 2005 World Summit Outcome, and other instruments such as the Declaration on the Right to Development.

The following initiatives have been undertaken for road safety, the standard of service, preventing environmental pollution, and reducing traffic jams:

- The Roads and Highways Department has taken initiatives to implement the "Construction of axle load station on the entry point of important highways". Several axle load control stations will be constructed at 21 places throughout the country under the project.

- RHD has taken initiatives to implement a project named "Construction of restrooms with parking facilities for truck drivers at four National Highways". The highways are: Dhaka-Chattrogram, Dhaka-Sylhet, Dhaka-Rangpur and Dhaka-Khulna.

- A central platform named 'BRTA Service Portal (BSP)' has been launched to bring all BRTA services to the doorsteps of the people. All services of BRTA will be provided online through the BRTA Service Portal (BSP) in phases.

- To reduce road accidents and enhance road safety consciousness, a total of 52,689 professional drivers have been provided training till 2021.

- Till January 2021, a total of 268,883 sets of Retro Reflective Number Plates and Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tags have been produced.

- As of January 2021, a total of 4,701 smart Card Driving Licenses have been produced and distributed.

- A modern central Data Centre has been established for preserving different vehicle and driving license data.

- To facilitate the journey of the students of different educational institutions, 60 buses have been donated to 33 educational institutions from the BRTC fleet up to January 2020.

- BRTC is providing free transport services to designated and war-wounded freedom fighters. In addition, BRTC reserves 15 seats in each bus city service for women, children, physically challenged people, and freedom fighters.

- Different types of 1,558 new buses have been added to the BRTC bus fleet during 2009-2020 to increase the quality of passenger service and facilitate the travel of passengers.

Through the successful implementation of various projects, LGED has developed about 63,747 km of roads and also periodically maintained about 80,825 km of paved roads. Through the successful implementation of various projects, 321,322 meters of bridges/culverts have been constructed on rural roads. Besides, LGED has developed 2,154 growth centers/village markets and constructed 1,438 Union Parishad Complex Bhaban, 346 upazila Complex Bhaban, and 1,762 cyclone centers.

11.4 Key Challenges

Bangladesh faces a host of challenges related to the implementation of SDG11. Rapid urbanization poses a risk for Bangladesh since the country has the low technical expertise, limited financial capacity, and inadequate infrastructural facilities to address the needs of the urban poor. Overpopulated cities such as Dhaka suffer from an array of problems, which include reduced access to goods and services, insufficient number of decent jobs, lack of affordable housing, water-logging, fire hazards, air and water pollution, and traffic congestion.

Although the proportion of the urban population living in slums has fallen significantly from 87.3 percent in 1991 to 55.1 percent in 2014, the total number of people living in urban slums increased from 19.99 million in 1991 to 29.27 million in 2014 (UN-HABITAT, 2015). Moreover, rapid unsustainable urbanization results in climate change since urban inhabitants have a much larger environmental foot-print compared with their rural counterparts. The key challenges for ensuring sustainable and inclusive urbanization in Bangladesh that have to be addressed are given below:

- Environmental issues: The declining quality of the urban environment results in poor health and safety for urban residents, particularly the urban poor. Dhaka is one of Asia's fastest-growing cities, with some 400,000 new residents arriving each year from rural areas seeking a better life, Dhaka is straining under the pressure of its rapidly swelling population (World Bank, 2007). The city's environment is already threatened and the declining quality of the urban environment causes irreparable damage to natural ecosystems in cities and surrounding areas. Air pollution is a major environmental problem in urban areas, especially, the big cities like Dhaka and Chattogram. To address the air pollution issues, it is important to know the possible sources, locations, and their strengths, so that actions can be taken that can effectively improve air quality.

- Housing: Over the last few decades, the land price in urban areas of the country sky-rocketed, and in Dhaka city the increase was as much as 80 times. Ever-increasing land price has also contributed to the deterioration of the housing situation as the land prices have driven poor households out of the formal land markets and forced them into the informal land markets which are characterized by slums and squatter settlements.

- Transport system: Public transport systems are poorly organized especially in urban areas. Buses are in short supply and there is an inadequate rail system to handle day-to-day commuter traffic. The lack of an efficient public transport system has multiple related effects. Huge working hours are lost on the road and, as a result, productivity declines. Besides, this incurs higher fuel consumption and emission. The big challenge for the government as well as the transport planners and engineers is to cater to the demand for mobility for the ever-increasing urban population in a more sustainable way.

- Disaster management in urban areas: Flooding and water-logging have become major problems in urban areas, especially big cities. The problem becomes quite serious during the monsoon season with widespread and lengthy disruption of roads, telecommunications, electricity supply, and water supply. Recurrent floods and water logging are the major natural events that create havoc and disrupt socioeconomic life in the cities. Planning, construction, and maintenance of drainage systems in cities are normally shared by several agencies. In Dhaka, for example, the development and maintenance of drainage systems are shared by DWASA, DNCC, DSCC, BWDB, RAJUK, and the Cantonment Board. Lack of capacity and poor coordination among these agencies are often cited as one of the major reasons for the poor performance of Dhaka's drainage system.

- Resource constraints: Rapid urbanization and overall socioeconomic development in the country in recent years have substantially increased demand for improved urban services. Perhaps the most fundamental constraint is the inadequacy of resources available to urban LGIs and the associated poor financial autonomy.

- Governance problem: Although urban LGIs are elected local bodies, they have very limited political and administrative authority. They function as extended arms of the central agencies. Lack of autonomy often results in favor distribution in matters of contract awards and selection of staff. At the administrative level, there are coordination problems with national government staff posted at the district level.

11.5 Way Forward

The over-whelming predominance of the capital city of Dhaka is dominating not only in terms of its share of the urban population but also in terms of the concentration of civil administration, economy, trade, commerce, and industry. Currently, Dhaka accounts for about 34 percent of the country's GDP. Such excessive concentration of population and economic activities has probably exceeded the optimal limits and the ranking of Dhaka by the Economist Intelligence Unit as the 3rd lowest city in terms of liveability bears ample testimony to this fact. The need is to address the disparities between the rich and the poor, along with insecurity and social unrest for ensuring sustainable urbanization.

For sustainable cities and communities, the areas of housing, transport, environment, drinking water, electricity, gas lines, clay, drainage system, and governance system need to be more focused. All sectoral developments will depend much on how well urban development is planned, coordinated, and managed.

To date, the trend towards urbanization has been accompanied by increased pressure on the environment and accelerated demand for basic services, infrastructure, jobs, land, and affordable housing, particularly for the urban poor who live in informal settlements. Due to the high concentration of people, infrastructures, housing, and economic activities, cities are particularly vulnerable to climate change and natural disaster impacts. Building urban resilience is crucial to avoid human, social, and economic losses while improving the sustainability of urbanization processes is needed to protect the environment and mitigate disaster risk and climate change.

11.6 Summary

Resource-efficient cities combine greater productivity and innovation with lower costs and reduced environmental impacts while providing increased opportunities for consumer choices and sustainable lifestyles. The priority of Bangladesh for achieving SDG11 is to adopt a holistic multi-stakeholder approach to address urban resilience and provide support to the local governments, and other city/regional/national stakeholders in building multi-level governance and institutional capacities. Such forging of partnerships is necessary to deliver more coherent and inclusive food security and nutrition policies and leverage investments for making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable.

Based on the development realities for the cities and communities in Bangladesh, the government is working with informality, instead of bypassing it. In addition, addressing safety and security, and disasters through prevention and adequate inclusive planning is being undertaken considering local contexts and scenarios. Furthermore, addressing climate change and bridging the green agenda through environmental management and planning has been given special priority to achieve the goal of sustainable cities and communities. By and large, an integrated and holistic approach has been adopted by the urban local bodies for building sustainable cities and communities for different levels of urban areas in Bangladesh.

12

RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

ENSURE SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION PATTERNS

12.1 Global/Regional Context

Globally, domestic material consumption per capita, the total amount of materials directly used by an economy to meet its consumption needs, rose by more than 40 percent from 2000 to 2017 – from 8.7 to 12.2 metric tons (UNSD, SDGs Overview 2022). All regions except Europe and Northern America and Australia and New Zealand experienced significant increases over the past two decades. Rising domestic material consumption in developing regions is mainly due to industrialization, including the outsourcing of material-intensive production from developed regions.

Concerning SDG12, the priorities of South Asia relate to several factors, such as (i) lifestyles and behavior--chemicals and waste more specifically; (ii) promoting sustainable public procurement practices; (iii) encouraging companies to adopt sustainable practices; (iv) reducing waste generation; (v) responsible management of chemicals and wastes and reducing releases to air, water, and soil; and (vi) halving per capita food waste. These are necessary to achieve sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources by 2030 and implementation of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes (10YFP) on Sustainable Consumption and Production.

The 10-Year Framework of Programmes (10YFP), adopted at the Rio+20 Conference in 2012, aims to develop, replicate, and scale up sustainable consumption and production (SCP) and resource efficiency initiatives at regional and national levels while decoupling environmental degradation and resource use from economic growth. Postharvest losses (PHL) are also alarmingly high across the world and efficient postharvest technologies can contribute to food security in multiple ways. They can reduce PHL, thereby increasing the amount of food available for consumption by farmers and poor rural and urban consumers. The benefits to consumers from reducing losses can emerge from multiple sources including lower prices and improved food security.

12.2 Assessment of Progress on SDG12

Indicator 12.1.1 Number of countries developing, adopting, or implementing policy instruments aimed at supporting the shift to sustainable consumption and production

The indicator provides quantification and monitoring of countries making progress along the policy cycle of binding and non-binding policy instruments aimed at supporting sustainable consumption and production (SCP). Bangladesh, to achieve SDG12 by 2030, has adopted a 10-year SCP framework. The aggregate consumption footprint shows that the overall trend in the consumption-GDP ratio is declining in Bangladesh despite the significant rise in the standard of living (Figure 12.1). The relationship of consumption in terms of per unit of GDP (constant prices) and per capita consumption shows a growing convergence between the two which implies that, while individual consumption expenditure (at constant prices) is growing at more than 11 percent, the trend in consumption expenditure per unit of GDP (at constant prices) is growing at more than 6 percent. This indicates that the economy is heading toward a path of sustainable consumption (Figure 12.2).
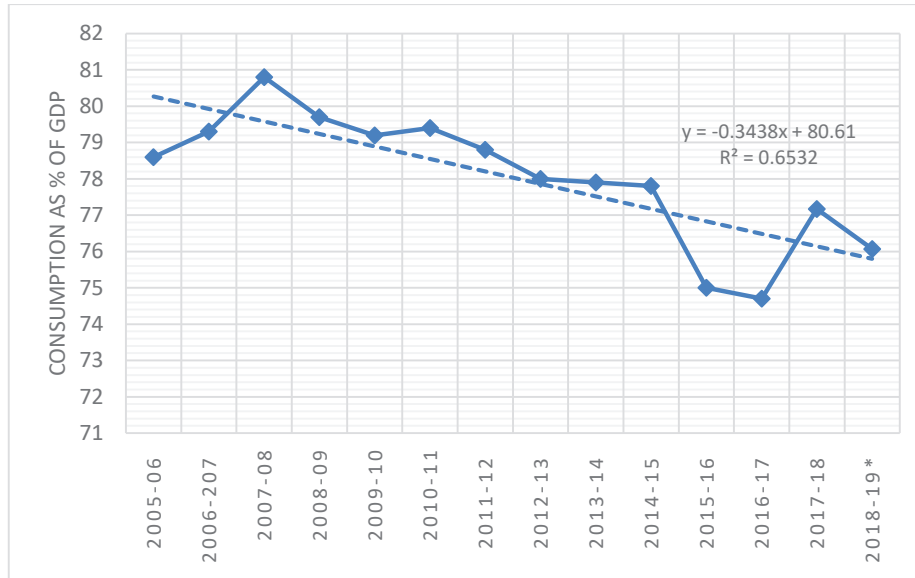
Source: Bangladesh Economic Review 2022

Figure 12.1: Trends in Consumption as a Percent of GDP
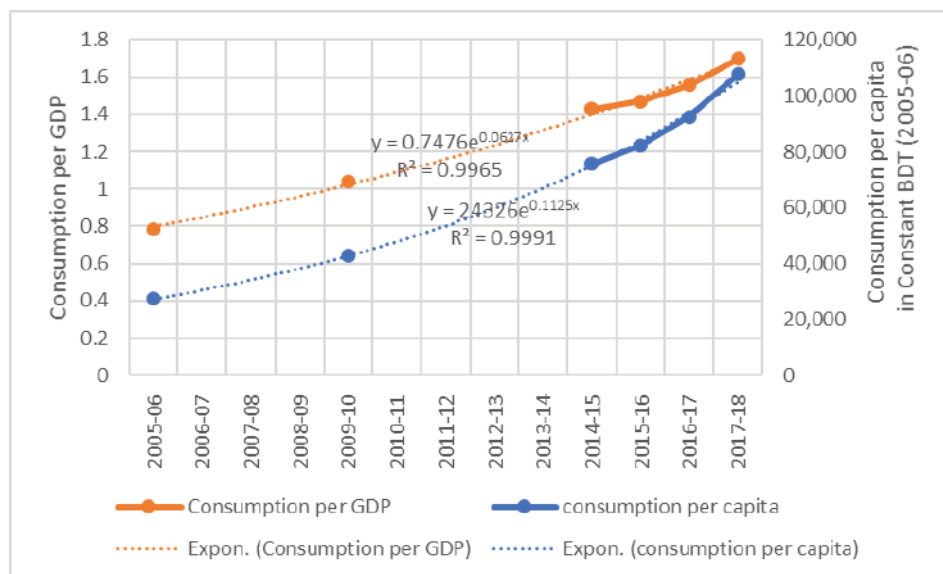
Source: Bangladesh Economic Review 2022

Figure 12.2: Trends in Consumption Expenditure

Further, the reduction of energy consumption per unit of production indicates that the economy is approaching a sustainable path through efficient utilization of energy resources and sustainable production. Energy consumption (primary energy) per $1,000 GDP is declining over time in Bangladesh, showing rising energy efficiency in production (Figure 12.3).
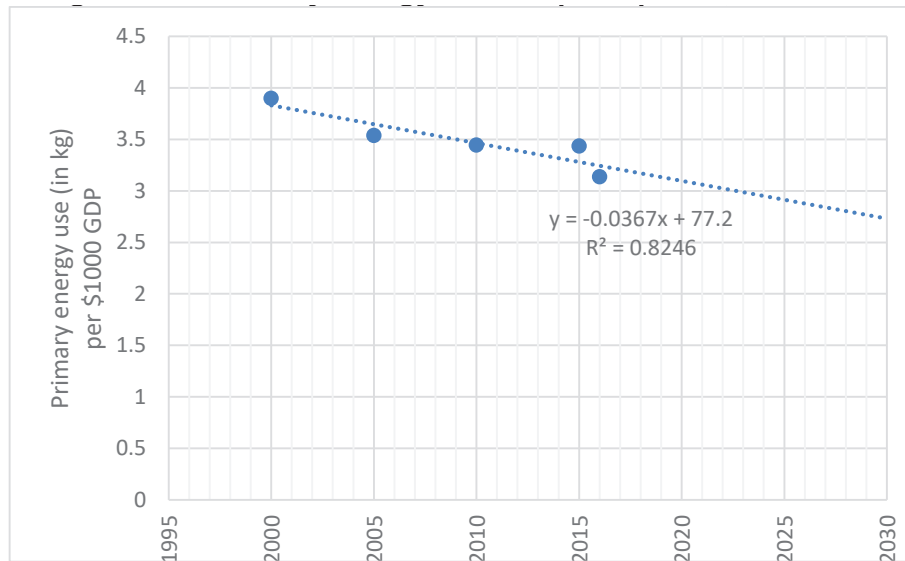
Source: World Bank data.

Figure 12.3: Primary Energy Consumption per $1,000 of GDP

Indicator 12.2.1 Material footprint, material footprint per capita, and material footprint per GDP

Material Footprint (MF) is the attribution of total material extraction to domestic final demand in a country. The total material footprint is taken as the sum of the material footprint for biomass, fossil fuels, metal ores, and non-metal ores. Total MF is calculated as the raw material equivalent of imports plus domestic extraction, minus the raw material equivalent of exports. The material footprint indicates the number of resources or emissions that can be attributed to national demand (consumption and capital investment) in a country.

It shows the responsibility of a country's consumption along the supply chain of resources and emissions which may occur anywhere in the world to satisfy the national demand of the country. The footprint approach corrects the direct indicators for the upstream requirements of the trade. The MF indicator can be disaggregated into four main material categories--a varying number of economic sectors whose expenditure requires materials and three domestic final demand sectors (household consumption, government consumption, and capital investment) and foreign final demand (i.e. exports).

For useful analysis, domestic material consumption (DMC) and MF need analysis in combination as they cover two aspects of the economy, production, and consumption. The DMC reports the actual amount of material in an economy, MF the virtual amount required across the whole supply chain to service final demand. A country can, for instance, have a very high DMC. It has a large primary production sector for export or a very low DMC because it has outsourced most of the material-intensive industrial processes to other countries. The material footprint corrects for both of these phenomena. The MF of Bangladesh is given in Table 12.1.

Table 12.1: Material Footprint of Bangladesh

	Biomass (tons per capita)	Non-metallic minerals (Kg per unit of 2010 USD GDP)	Fossil fuels (tons per capita)	Material footprint, total (million tons)
2000	1.00813	1.3594	0.0622425	228.107
2005	1.01226	1.22487	0.0820399	259.207
2010	1.12289	1.02762	0.120879	304.99
2015	1.14456	1.01459	0.156907	367.467
2016	1.15829	0.979071	0.161623	378.168
2017	1.17181	0.943513	0.166256	388.87

Source: UNESCAP 2020

Indicator 12.2.2 Domestic material consumption, domestic material consumption per capita, and domestic material consumption per GDP

Domestic material consumption (DMC) measures material flow accounting (MFA) and shows the apparent annual consumption of materials in a national economy. It can be measured as domestic material consumption per capita (excluding imports), consumption of biomass (kg per constant 1 USD GDP), non-metallic minerals (kg per constant 1 USD GDP), fossil fuel (tons per capita or Kg per 1 USD GDP) or in terms of metal ores (Table 12.2).

Table 12.2: Domestic Material Consumption (DMC) of Bangladesh

	DMC per capita (tons)	DMC - biomass (Kg per 1 2010 USD GDP)	DMC- non-metallic minerals (Kg per 1 2010 USD GDP)	DMC - fossil fuelsper capita (tons)	DMC - fossil fuels (Kg per 1 2010 USD GDP)	DMC - metal ores (million tons)
2000	2.00376	2.71868	1.00203	0.0784864	0.152989	2.10256
2005	2.22888	2.29895	1.14882	0.0987062	0.160849	2.00599
2010	2.47672	2.07705	0.922865	0.131908	0.170001	2.52258
2015	2.65531	1.67475	0.801238	0.165963	0.166683	3.7583
2016	2.70028	1.60119	0.773525	0.170631	0.161752	3.88413
2017	2.7445	1.52954	0.745732	0.175212	0.156693	4.00996

Source: UNESCAP, 2020

Indicator 12.3.1 Global food loss index

As in many other developing countries, food loss during consumption and food waste are major concerns in Bangladesh. It is particularly true when there are millions of people who remain malnourished and are suffering due to inadequate food intake. With increasing access to electricity (currently 100 percent) and the use of refrigerators, a significant reduction in food waste during

preparation is being achieved. In addition, improvements in the transport networks, training, and other interventions are contributing towards improved efficiency in food consumption as well as during storage, transportation, and preparation stages.

According to Food Waste Index Report 2021 by United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and WRAP, a Bangladeshi wastes 65 kg of food each year on average, which is much higher than what a person wastes in such rich countries as Russia (33 kg), United States (59 kg) and Ireland (55 kg). Every year 10.62 million tons of food are wasted by households in Bangladesh, according to the Report.

Indicator 12.4.1 Number of parties to international multilateral environmental agreements on hazardous and other chemicals and waste that meet their commitments and obligations in transmitting information as required by each relevant agreement

There are several international agreements on hazardous waste management, such as the Basel Convention of the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal; the Rotterdam Convention on prior informed consent procedure for certain hazardous chemicals and pesticides in international trade; the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants; Montreal Protocol on substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer; and Minamata Convention on Mercury. Based on the points scale, the score is determined using specific point distributions for each of the conventions (UNESCAP, 2020). The compliance score on agreements on hazardous wastes is shown in Figure 12.4.
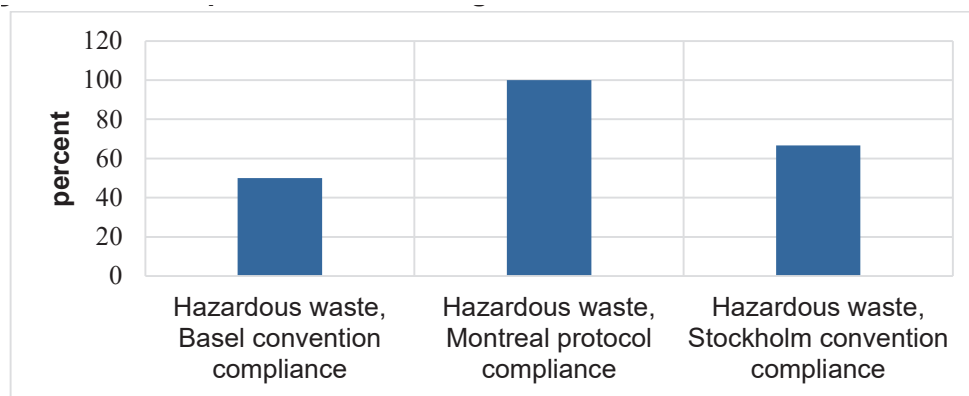
Source: UNESCAP, 2020.

Figure 12.4: Compliance Score on Agreements on Hazardous Wastes

Indicator 12.4.2 Hazardous waste generated per capita and proportion of hazardous waste treated, by type of treatment

Waste management is a major problem as Bangladesh is working to manage rapidly rising municipal solid wastes, industrial wastes, and air pollution in the cities. Bangladesh has also taken initiatives toward building smart-cities. The smart-city's core dimensions are smart governance, smart people, smart economy, smart mobility, smart living as well as smart environment. The major sustainability dimensions of a smart city are transport, education, public safety, land use, data privacy and security, energy, environment, resource, healthcare, and waste management. While this remains a challenge

for big metropolises like Dhaka and Chittagong, smaller cities have been targeted towards building smart cities along with the rapid development of recycling, reusing, and composting of wastes in the bigger ones.

There are several initiatives both at the public and private levels to promote 'smart-city' concepts in Bangladesh. Jessore city has recently developed the first integrated landfill and resource recovery facility in Bangladesh under which it is recycling daily city wastes into biogas, electricity, and fertilizers. The Sylhet City Corporation has also promoted the green city concept and promoted recycling of wastes into fertilizer using citizen's initiatives.

Indicator 12.a.1 Installed renewable energy-generating capacity in developing countries (in watts per capita)

Table 12.3 shows an increasing pattern for Installed renewable energy-generating capacity.

Table 12.3: Total Installed Renewable Energy-Generating Capacity

Time Period	Total/Disaggregation	Status (M$)
2015	Total	2.6600
2016	Total	2.8070
2017	Total	3.1880
2018	Total	3.4830
2019	Total	3.8180
2020	Total	4.2140

Source: SREDA

Indicator 12.c.1 Amount of fossil-fuel subsidies per unit of GDP (production and consumption) and as a proportion of total national expenditure on fossil fuels

The scale and impact of fossil fuel subsidies pose challenges and opportunities on the path to achieving the SDGs. On the one hand, the use of fossil fuels and their promotion through subsidy schemes negatively affects the ability of governments to achieve key objectives, such as reducing poverty, improving health, achieving gender equality, access to energy, and the fight against climate change. At the same time, it is necessary to ensure that poor households, especially vulnerable to price increases, can obtain or maintain access to energy.

For measuring fossil fuel subsidies at the national, regional, and global level, three sub-indicators have been recommended for reporting on this indicator: (i) direct transfer of government funds; (ii) induced transfers (price support); and as an optional sub-indicator (iii) tax expenditure, other revenue foregone, and under-pricing of goods and services. In practice, the definitions of the IEA Statistical Manual (IEA, 2005) and the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures (ASCM) under the World Trade Organization (WTO, 1994) are used to define fossil fuel subsidies. Standardized descriptions from the United Nations Statistical Office's Central Product Classification can be used to classify individual energy products.

Table 12.4: Fossil-Fuel Subsidy

	Fossil-fuel pre-tax subsidies (consumption and production) (US dollars per capita)	Fossil-fuel pre-tax subsidies (consumption and production) (million US dollars)	Fossil-fuel pre-tax subsidies (consumption and production) (% of GDP)
2013	27.40	4,289.97	2.652
2015	15.52	2,481.64	1.186
2018	1.80	294.11	0.63

Source: Finance Division, Government of Bangladesh and UNESCAP, 2020

12.3 Policies and Efforts to Achieve SDG12

SDG12 is about doing more and better with less, increasing net welfare gains from economic activities by reducing resource use, degradation, and pollution along the whole life cycle, while increasing quality of life. 'More' is delivered in terms of goods and services, with 'less' impact in terms of resource use, environmental degradation, waste, and pollution. This is about increasing the sustainable management of resources and achieving resource efficiency along both the production and consumption phases of the lifecycle, including resource extraction, the production of intermediate inputs, distribution, marketing, use, waste disposal, and re-use of products and services.

A circular economy scenario is particularly relevant to Bangladesh, given the economic weight of the extractive sectors and low recycling rates. There is a strong expectation that production and consumption patterns will change. The Ministry of Labor and Employment has adopted National Employment Policy 2020 aiming to create about 30 million new jobs by 2030. The policy has emphasized employment based on subjects and sectors with a special focus on youth. In a scenario of the adoption of circular economy principles, job creation in sectors such as the reprocessing of metals and wood would more than offset the losses associated with the extraction of minerals and other raw materials. This is because the value chain in reprocessing is longer and more employment-intensive than in mining and increased recycling rates would boost demand for waste management services.

The Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), has made a strong pledge to achieve the goal of achieving 50% of the Sustainable Material Mix by 2030. BGMEA has already taken proactive steps in achieving this goal by engaging in several initiatives which include a multi-stakeholder approach including manufacturers, brand engagement, and also assistance from the government in terms of policy and regulations. The BGMEA has already developed a cross-sectoral platform called Circular Fashion Partnership (CFP) and through this platform, along with the support of P4G, the BGMEA has successfully created a certain level of readiness throughout the industry to approach the next stage.

BGMEA has also recently become part of a project, named SWITCH2CE, supported by UNIDO to accelerate the focused work on establishing a more circular manufacturing process within the

textile and RMG industry of Bangladesh. There might need policy changes and regulations which may further seek to correct the loss in income and employment that could be generated from the recycling industry, further adding to the revenue generation of Bangladesh's economy.

The 8th Five Year Plan (8FYP, 2021-2025) has especially focused on promoting sustainable and inclusive economic growth in Bangladesh. While the Plan stipulates an average yearly growth rate of around 8 percent, it also includes strategies and policies to ensure that the growth is both inclusive and sustainable for a long period without damaging the environment. Among others, the strategies include: empowering people by creating jobs, fostering greater labor force participation of women, supporting skills development among the workforce, providing access to credit to small and medium enterprises, and so on.

The government has adopted plans to work with the producers and provide them with training and materials to reduce waste. Some of the steps taken by the Ministry of Agriculture include: partnership among the public-private and international organisations to make sustainable agriculture to work; protecting and conserving the environment by promoting Integrated crop management (ICM), integrated nutrient management (INM), integrated disease management (IDM), integrated pest management (IPM) (Sexpheromone, botanical pesticides, biological control, etc.), surface and rainwater utilisation, utilisation of solar energy in farm activities; capacity building at all segments of agriculture: farmers, extension providers, dealers, distributors, entrepreneurs, agribusiness people, trainers and researchers (men, women, and youth will be the target groups) through knowledge and skill development; improving rain-fed agriculture; technology transfer through famer group approach; protecting biodiversity (plant, animal, fisheries, pollinator, etc.); promoting food safety, nutrition and dietary diversification; sustainable natural resource management (land, water and biodiversity); sustaining economic viability of farming practices; and creating enabling environment for institutions.

The government has set several targets to meet the SDG12 commitments. It plans to ensure that 100 percent of industries install and operate waste management systems by 2030. Most of the industries in the textiles sector including RMGs in Bangladesh have installed ETPs on their premises. Of the brickfields operating in the country which are emitting into the air, nearly three quarters have been equipped with new technologies by 2020, which was 50.2 percent in 2015 (base year). If the trend continues, 100 percent of the brickfields will be equipped with environmentally friendly technologies by 2025.

12.4 Key Challenges

Decoupling economic growth from the use of natural resources requires structural changes in production and consumption patterns. In this context, the development challenge for Bangladesh is to reconcile economic growth with changes in energy patterns needed to decouple growth from GHG emissions by giving more space to renewable energy sources, especially in transport, thereby making the production structure and the functioning of cities more efficient. Greater access to and affordability of energy for the poorest people is also needed to ensure that no one is left behind.

Further, it is essential to promote resource efficiency through sustainable consumption and production patterns, the construction of environmentally friendly infrastructure, improved access to basic services, and the creation of green jobs, described as decent jobs that help to reduce the negative environmental impact of enterprises and economies, leading to sustainable development.

- The unsustainable extraction of resources leads to negative environmental impacts, the loss of natural heritage, and greater risks for the poorest and most vulnerable communities. Bangladesh's growing material intensity and consistently high levels of carbon and energy intensity, which increase GHG emissions and waste, are rooted in its very low-technological production base. Achieving environmental sustainability also means increasing the efficiency with which the economy's resources are extracted and used and reducing the production of waste.

- Overall, the development of national policy on SCP patterns indicates the challenge of documenting the country's macro-policies, regulatory, voluntary, or economic instruments that support the shift toward SCP. Further, the application and implementation of these to foster concrete and tangible changes in practices and impacts are major issues in Bangladesh.

- Moreover, as fossil fuels directly impact the environment in various ways, the need to decouple their use from economic growth is a key to achieving SCP. Regarding food loss and waste, several efforts and interventions designed to tackle food loss and waste are being implemented in Bangladesh by a broad spectrum of stakeholders including public and private sectors. However, more targeted efforts are needed including research and practical ways to identify the causes and to recommend solutions to the problems; target-setting, development of policies, frameworks, and the enactment of the legislation, use of market-based instruments (e.g. taxes, incentives, and subsidy schemes), investment in infrastructure as well as the implementation of national campaigns and education to promote awareness and advocacy on these issues.

Serious challenges also exist concerning the lack of an adequate monitoring framework for many of the targets under SDG12. Monitoring of the shift to SCP across sectors and organizations is essential to identify emerging trends and strategic gaps, to scale up and replicate innovative and impactful practices, and to demonstrate and showcase the benefits of SCP to build greater momentum for change. To respond to different levels of development and differing capacities to address the challenges of SDG12, capacity-building and sustainable finance are critical to Bangladesh. In particular, the availability of, and access to, financial resources to support actions that are transformational and at scale are key challenges in successful implementation.

12.5 Way Forward

Municipal waste management is a priority in the country. Waste management requires working with households, manufacturers, and construction companies to ensure that all wastes (including e-waste) are either converted into energy or fertilizers or recycled through manufacturers or other industries to reduce the growing volume of municipal waste. More importantly, municipal solid wastes often find their way into the aquifers to increase the risk of contaminating the groundwater tables. Studies show that the per capita generation of solid wastes in cities is increasing with the rising standard of living in the absence of effective policies, and it has increased from 0.5 kg per capita per day to nearly one kg per capita per day for households living in high-rise apartments.

To ensure sustainable development in terms of ecosystems, cities, energy, and response to climate change, it is essential to modify production and consumption patterns —particularly regarding energy and land use— and to implement adaptation measures. These, in turn, depend on coherent policies across all areas to enable the transformations necessary to withstand the negative effects of climate change on economic activities, ecosystems, and social well-being. To promote economic growth and employment while mitigating related environmental impacts, policies must be designed to foster investment in technologies, goods, and services linked to a low-carbon development path and a smaller material footprint. Such a path forms the productive and technological basis of sustainable development. To channel investments in the desired direction and make them viable, incentives and institutional frameworks must be redefined, to strengthen the guiding role of public investment and foster public-private partnerships.

12.6 Summary

For meeting the SDG12 targets, Bangladesh has been working with its development partners by adopting a whole-of-society approach. The country is likely to convert all its brickfields to adopt environment-friendly technologies by 2025 for reducing emissions from the brickfields (which are major air polluters). In terms of waste management, there are several initiatives to deal with solid waste management in cities. The government is working towards adopting a comprehensive strategy for managing municipal solid wastes and ensuring that industrial wastes are managed efficiently. In this context, there is a risk of using factory-based ETPs since monitoring is a challenging task; instead, the strategy would be to equip agencies engaged in managing the industrial sites to install Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) and the municipalities to install STPs in major urban centers. At the same time, policies will be needed to transform waste into energy and fertilizer involving the private sector.

For Bangladesh, SCP offers opportunities such as the creation of new markets, green and decent jobs as well as more efficient, welfare-generating natural resource management. It is an opportunity to "leapfrog" to more resource-efficient, environmentally sound, and competitive technologies,

bypassing the inefficient, polluting, and ultimately costly phases of development that were followed by most developed countries in the past. The concern is to cut carbon emissions and change current consumption and production pattern to escalate economic growth along with the attempt to realize sustainable development.

Waste and resource management is a crucial target to achieve sustainable consumption and production goals. Demanding and urging industries to manage their waste could be a big step to realize SDG12. Sustainable consumption and production can also contribute substantially to poverty alleviation and the transition towards low-carbon and green economies. It needs cross-sector and multi-stakeholders collaborations throughout countries in the world to make it happen. However, sustainable consumption and production pattern is possible to be applied on the smallest scale of community that is in the households.

13 CLIMATE ACTION

TAKE URGENT ACTION TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS IMPACTS

13.1 Global/Regional Context

SDG13 is about climate action and covers a wide range of issues surrounding climate action. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change. The decade between 2010 and 2019 was the warmest decade recorded in human history. Currently, climate change is affecting the global community in every nation across the world. The impact of climate change not only impacts national economies, but also lives and livelihoods, especially those in vulnerable conditions. In 2019, at least 120 of 153 developing countries had undertaken activities to formulate and implement national adaptation plans. SDG13 and SDG7 on clean energy are closely related and complementary. The leading sources of greenhouse gas savings that countries need to focus on to realize their commitments under the Paris Agreement are switching fuels to renewable energy and enhancing end-use energy efficiency.

In the face of looming catastrophe, climate action is gaining momentum. In June 2020, the Race to the Zero campaign was launched to form a coalition of businesses, cities, regions, and investors around net-zero carbon emission initiatives, and set out specific near-term tipping points for more than 20 sectors of the global economy. As of December 2020, over two-thirds of the world's GDP was being generated in places with actual or intended "net zero by 2050" targets, covering over half of the world's population and emissions. As countries move towards rebuilding their economies after Covid-19, the UN has proposed six climate-positive actions for governments to take once they go about building back their economies and societies during the post-Covid-19 era:

- **Green transition:** Investments must accelerate the decarbonization of all aspects of our economy.

- **Green jobs and sustainable and inclusive growth.**

- **Green economy:** Making societies and people more resilient through a transition that is fair to all and leaves no one behind.

- **Invest in sustainable solutions:** Fossil fuel subsidies must end and polluters must pay for their pollution.

- **Confront all climate risks.**

- **Cooperation:** No country can succeed alone.

To address the climate emergency, post-pandemic recovery plans need to trigger long-term systemic shifts that will change the trajectory of CO2 levels in the atmosphere. Governments around the world have spent considerable time and effort in recent years to develop plans to Figure out a safer and more sustainable future for their citizens. Taking these on board now as part of recovery planning can help the world build back better from the current crisis. With global emissions reaching record levels, realistic plans are needed in line with reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 45 percent over the next decade, and net zero emissions by 2050. Limiting global warming to 1.5°C would require rapid, far-reaching, and unprecedented changes in all aspects of society.

13.2 Assessment of Progress on SDG13

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

Due to high population density, socioeconomic environment, and climatic features, Bangladesh is one of the world's most climate-vulnerable countries and, at the same time, the most resilient country as well; because of the frequent, regular, and devastating disasters. The major disasters that affect Bangladesh are floods, cyclones, tornadoes, and earthquakes, among others. Nearly 70 percent of the land mass of Bangladesh is prone to flooding. As climate change is likely to bring in changes in precipitation and increase the risk of GLOF (glacier lake outbursts flooding) in the Himalayan region, Bangladesh will face an increased risk of flooding in the future. This, combined with forecasts of SLR (sea level rise) due to climate change will further aggravate the situation. In addition, there are risks of increased cyclones and droughts. Most of the disasters in Bangladesh are climate-related and hence require multi-prone strategies.

In coastal regions and the northwestern regions, the number of persons affected by disaster per 100,000 people counted at 12,881 in 2016 which reduced to 4,318 in 2019. Recently, an important breakthrough on the strategy and policy front has happened with the adoption of the Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100 in 2018. This is a comprehensive strategy for managing climatic and other risks (Box 13.1). Therefore, speedy implementation of the Delta Plan will be a major input to the reduction of climate-related vulnerabilities and will vastly improve the prospects for sustained development and poverty reduction. As the number of disasters is likely to increase with the intensification of global temperature rise, the government has set a target to reduce the number of persons affected by disasters to 1,500 per 100,000 population by 2030.

> ### Box 13.1: Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100
>
> The Bangladesh Delta Plan (BDP) 2100 is a long-term integrated techno-economic mega plan that integrates all delta-related sector plans and policies, enveloping a Delta Vision and strategies that make it possible to integrate sector plans and policies for the long term and to present actionable interventions with a roadmap for realisation. The Government of Bangladesh has approved the Delta Plan 2100 in 2018 to secure the future of water resources and mitigate the likely effects of climate change and natural disasters.
>
> The BDP 2100 is a broad-based long-term vision about the likely changes and necessary interventions to make the Bangladesh Delta safe by the end of the 21st Century. Thus, an integrated, comprehensive and long-term Delta Vision is 'achieving safe, climate resilient and prosperous delta' with a Mission to 'ensure long term water and food security, economic growth and environmental sustainability while effectively reducing vulnerability to natural disasters and building resilience to climate change and other delta challenges through robust, adaptive and integrated strategies and equitable water governance'.

This long-term vision has been translated into specific goals or targets for its implementation by combining long-term development outcomes in terms of economic growth and poverty reduction with targets for reducing long-term vulnerability from water and climate change related hazards plus targets for environmental conservation.The BDP 2100 has three higher level national goals and six BDP 2100 specific goals that contribute to achieving these higher-level goals:

Goal 1: Eliminate extreme poverty by 2030.

Goal 2: Achieve upper middle-income status by 2030.

Goal 3: Being a Prosperous Country beyond 2041.

The six specific goals cover: Ensure safety from floods and climate change related disasters; Enhance water security and efficiency of water usage; Ensure sustainable and integrated river systems and estuaries management; Conserve and preserve wetlands and ecosystems and promote their wise use; Develop effective institutions and equitable governance for in-country and trans-boundary water resources management; and Achieve optimal and integrated use of land and water resources.

Source: Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100, GED, 2018.

The government, with support from the development partners, has created an exemplary disaster-management program – globally considered to be a role model for disaster preparedness for many countries - and has effectively reduced the number of fatalities due to disasters.

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

Disaster risk reduction (DRR) and emergency management are integrated into the disaster management (DM) policies of the Government of Bangladesh. The government has approved the Disaster Risk Reduction Strategies of Bangladesh (2016-2020) in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and other international protocols ratified by Bangladesh. These have been translated into the National Plan for Disaster Management (NPDM 2016-2020). The Plan has three core goals of saving lives, protecting investments, and effective recovery. It builds on the country's past success in disaster management and international DRR frameworks and adopts a phase-wise approach with 34 core targets to be implemented in partnership with relevant stakeholders in the context of rapid change in Bangladesh. The Plan places importance on emerging risks linked to urbanization and climate change, the necessity of DRR for sustainable development, and is flexible and adaptive in cognizance of the changing nature of risks in Bangladesh. The NPDM was produced through a participatory and inclusive approach through extensive stakeholder and expert consultations. The government has adopted the "Whole of Society" approach and attaches importance to the engagement of the private sector.

The NPDM 2016-2020 has a set of strategic aims reflecting its alignment with SFDRR, strategy guidance to relevant stakeholders, recognition of emerging risks, and phased implementation of

prioritized actions. A set of objectives allow operationalizing the aims through identifying priority actions, providing a roadmap for implementation of at least 20 core investments, incorporating DM aspects in sectoral plans, exploring public-private investments, ensuring inclusivity, addressing emerging risks, promoting risk governance and illustrating how the work of various stakeholders can contribute to the government's DM vision. In addition, the government's many national strategic documents including the 8FYP (July 2020 - June 2025), National Social Security Strategy (NSSS), Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100, National SDG Action Plan, the LDC Graduation Study, and the Perspective Plan 2041 also consider the disaster-related risks, challenges, and opportunities faced by Bangladesh.

Indicator 13.1.3 Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies

The government has adopted the National Disaster Management Plan along with provisions to engage civil society organizations and local government authorities to work together during any natural disasters. According to MoDMR, in 2019, 8.33 percent of the City Corporations and 0.99 percent of the Paurashavas have adopted and implemented local disaster risk reduction strategies.

Indicator 13.2.1 Number of countries with nationally determined contributions, long-term strategies, national adaptation plans, and adaptation communications, as reported to the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

The Government of Bangladesh has operationalized the Climate Fiscal Framework (CFF), developed by the Ministry of Finance, which provides the principles and tools for climate fiscal policy-making (CFP), helping to identify the demand and supply sides of climate fiscal funds and ensure that CFP is transparent and sustainable in the longer term. Forest Investment Plan (FIP 2017-2022) has been developed to identify future investment opportunities to increase forest cover, reduce deforestation and forest degradation, improving the livelihoods of forest-dependent people through the implementation of participatory/social forestry. An updated Forestry Master Plan (FMP) has been developed from 2017 to 2036 after the completion of the previous FMP in 2015 to address the upcoming and ongoing challenges related to anthropogenic issues and climate change.

Indicator 13.2.2 Total greenhouse gas emissions per year

Bangladesh has expressed its commitment to the NDC (Nationally Determined Contributions) to take action on mitigation to reduce GHGs emissions by following a low-carbon development pathway. The country has committed voluntarily to reduce 12 Mt CO_2 equivalent in power, transport, and industry sectors by 2030 or 5 percent below business-as-usual (BAU) emissions for those sectors. It has also committed an additional 24 Mt CO_2 equivalent in these three sectors by 2030 or 10 percent below BAU emissions if required international support is received.

Indicator 13.3.1 Extent to which (i) global citizenship education and (ii) education for sustainable development are mainstreamed in (a) national education policies; (b) curricula; (c) teacher education; and (d) student assessment

This indicator measures the extent to which the country mainstreams global citizenship education (GCED) and education for sustainable development (ESD) in its education system. GCED aims to empower learners of all ages to assume active roles, both locally and globally, in building more peaceful, tolerant, inclusive, and secure societies. GCED is based on the three domains of learning - cognitive, socio-emotional, and behavioral. The key learning outcomes, key learner attributes, topics, and learning objectives suggested in GCED are based on the above three domains of learning, these are interlinked and integrated into the learning process.

Education in the context of ESD is very broadly defined and consists of formal, non-formal, and informal learning. ESD often enters formal education through environmental education or subjects such as geography or natural sciences. Additionally, ESD is embraced in non-formal and informal education through a wide variety of outdoor and environmental education initiatives and organizations (such as NGOs). However, while ESD originates from global concerns related to environmental problems, it encompasses environmental, economic, and social aspects as well. The relevant ministries including MoEFCC, MoE, MoPME, and others are taking appropriate actions, in consultation with GED, to incorporate GCED and ESD in the country's national education policies, curricula, teacher education, and student assessment.

Indicator13.a.1 Amounts provided and mobilized in United States dollars per year with the continued existing collective mobilization goal of the $100 billion commitment through to 2025

The Economic Relations Division (ERD) of the Ministry of Finance, as Bangladesh's National Designated Authority to Green Climate Fund (GCF), has adopted a $4 billion pipeline for GCF and as of 30th April 2020, Bangladesh has received financing for four projects, with cumulative support of US$ 94.7 million.

Indicator 13.b.1 Number of least developed countries and small island developing States with nationally determined contributions, long-term strategies, national adaptation plans, and adaptation communications, as reported to the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

In 2018, Bangladesh has received funding from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) for three projects namely the clean cooking program, enhancing adaptive capacities of coastal communities, and climate-resilient infrastructure mainstreaming. Some of these programs are funded by other development partners as well. Under the clean cooking program, barriers are being removed to allow rural communities to adopt improved cooking stoves to reduce fuel-wood consumption, and promote substitute fuels like briquette, LPG, and biogas use at the household level. In 2019, more than 211,000 Rohingya refugee families received the LPGs and this has reduced fuel wood consumption in the camp and adjacent areas by about 80 percent.

The Infrastructure Development Company Limited (IDCOL) – a public-private partnership financing company – provides financial support to promote solar rooftop projects and other renewable energy initiatives, including solar irrigation pumps (SIPs), solar mini-grids, grid-tied solar systems, biogas/biomass-based power plants and domestic biogas plants for cooking needs in Bangladesh. Furthermore, IDCOL has developed a market for improved cookstoves that are replacing inefficient traditional stoves in rural households. As a result, indoor air pollution has declined significantly, reducing the risk of diseases such as acute and chronic respiratory conditions, lung cancer, heart disease, stroke, and cataract in rural households.

Bangladesh's NDC roadmap specifically identifies solar pumps as an 'immediate means of reducing GHG in the agricultural sector by switching from diesel-based pumps'. The IDCOL targets installing 50,000 SIPs by 2027. These SIPs can be expected to help avoid CO2 emissions from diesel irrigation by up to 0.83 million tonnes per year. Thus, SIPs have a great potential of mitigating carbon emissions in Bangladesh's irrigation sector. So far, a total of 1,969 SIPs across 25 districts (installed capacity at 46.98 MW) have been set up, mainly by IDCOL. IDCOL, the primary agency working for mainstreaming of solar pumps in Bangladesh, uses the fee-for-service model. In this model, an NGO/private entrepreneur (sponsor) gets a 50 percent grant and a 35 percent loan from IDCOL to set up SIPs in the villages. Then, these sponsors sell irrigation services to farmers in exchange for a fee.

In 2020, IDCOL received approval of $256.5 million from GCF to promote private-sector investment through the large-scale adoption of energy-efficient technologies in the textile and garment sectors. This is the first concessional GCF credit line for Bangladesh, as well as the first private sector financing under GCF in the country. In addition, IDCOL has four projects in the GCF pipeline with a total financing value of $256.15 million in both climate change mitigation and adaptation.

13.3 Policies and Efforts to Achieve SDG13

To address the climatic challenges, the government has prepared several key strategic plans and laws to mainstream the climate-related concerns in Bangladesh. In 2009, the country adopted the Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (BCCSAP). Similarly, a National Strategy for Sustainable Development (NSDS 2010-2021) was formally adopted in 2013, which aims to integrate environmental management while pursuing the broader objectives of the Perspective Plan 2041. The government has also undertaken specific and strategic measures under different policy guidance including National Environment Policy 2018, Ecologically Critical Areas (ECAs) Management Rules 2016, National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP 2016-2021), Bangladesh Biological Diversity Act 2017, Biosafety Policy of Bangladesh, National Oil and Chemical Spill Contingency Plan (NOSCOP), Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100 and others. The government has integrated environmental degradation and climate change in the medium-term planning process and identified specific objectives and strategies for environmental protection and climate change. Therefore, one of the core themes of the Eighth Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) is a sustainable development pathway that is resilient to disaster and climate change.

Box 13.2: Investments in Green Growth and Bangladesh's Climate Change Adaptation

In the long term, investments in green growth would outperform business as usual by accelerating growth, income, job creation, poverty eradication, improved health, and decent work, through a reallocation of public and private investments supported by appropriate enabling conditions and strong institutions capable of safeguarding social and ecological floors. Enhancing natural capital such as forests, water, soil, and fish stocks is particularly important for the well-being of those more dependent on it, such as the rural poor and women. Women are beneficiaries as well as key enablers of sustainable pathways to manage local landscapes, adapt to climate change, produce and access food, and secure sustainable water, sanitation, and energy services.

The Government of Bangladesh currently spends US$ 1 billion a year on climate change adaptation, around 6 to 7 percent of its annual budget. Seventy-five percent of resources spent on climate change in the country come directly from the government, while the rest comes mostly from international development partners. The government has initiated the incorporation of climate action within the public financial management systems, by completing a Climate Public Expenditure and Institutional Review (CPEIR) and adopting the Climate Fiscal Framework.

However, the Covid-19 pandemic and now the Russia-Ukraine conflict has reversed several years of income gains, resulting in more countries at risk of debt distress and affecting the ability to develop to raise resources and borrow affordably to respond to crises and invest in sustainable development. The crises have resulted in higher energy and commodity prices, supply chain disruptions, higher inflation coupled with lower growth, and increased volatility in financial markets. While the international community has already taken significant steps to address the socioeconomic fallout of the Covid-19 pandemic, it might not be enough.

In 2021, ODA rose by 4.4 percent in real terms compared with 2020 but at 0.33 percent of GNI was still below the UN target of 0.7 percent of GNI. About 60 percent of LDCs and other low-income countries are now assessed at a high risk of or in debt distress, double the 30 percent in 2015. Against the estimated US$ 4.35 trillion needed annually by 2030 to meet the global climate targets, total climate finance flows in 2019-2020 could reach US$ 632 billion only. To address these challenges, the Inter-agency Task Force on Financing for Development has recommended that financing gaps and rising debt risks must be urgently addressed, all financing flows must be aligned with sustainable development and enhanced transparency and a more complete information ecosystem is needed.

Source: UNEP/UNESCAP

Climate change, caused by human activity, poses growing risks to people and the environment. Rising temperatures have made storms and droughts more severe. Catastrophic storms destroy lives and homes. Sea level rise threatens low-lying areas. Women and children bear much of the brunt, being more likely than men to die during a disaster. Through their experiences and traditional knowledge as stewards of many natural resources, women can offer valuable insights into better managing scarce resources and mitigating climate risks. They also have a right to all capacities

needed to adapt to climate shifts and to participate in decisions with profound implications for people and the planet.

Bangladesh is a champion in disaster management. Resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters have been strengthened. Shelters have been built across the country. Houses are being built for the victims of natural disasters. The initiative has also been taken to safeguard the farmers from the effects of climate disasters through the provision of insurance. A fund for addressing the issues of natural disasters has also been created.

Awareness, impact reduction, and early warning systems have improved. During events of the cyclone, early warning is provided and people are moved to shelters where there is a real-time risk. The needs of those affected by natural disasters are also met by way of the provision of food, clothes, etc. To address the impacts of natural disasters, a long-term plan has also been undertaken. Solar water pumps are being encouraged in agriculture in place of diesel pumps. Improved cooking burners have been distributed among villagers. Investments in sustainable projects such as renewable energy, waste-to-energy treatment, etc. are also being made.

Box 13.3: Measuring Progress on Environmental Dimension of SDGs - SDG Gateway's Scorecard for Bangladesh

Through the SDG Gateway for Asia Pacific, UNEP and ESCAP provide a country summary of all 92 indicators which make up the environmental dimension of the SDGs. Bangladesh has registered a positive change for 20 out of the 92 environment-related SDG indicators and a negative change for 12 indicators, indicating the need for trend reversal. A total of 6 out of the 92 environment-related indicators have registered little positive or negative change, clearly signifying the need for accelerated action. The clearest indication from the scorecard is the presence of significant data gaps, with little to no data currently available for most of the 92 environment-related indicators.

A detailed look at the progress shows that the indicators registering positive change are: 2.4.1 (Proportion of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture) , 2.5.1 (Number of plant and animal genetic resources for food and agriculture secured in either medium or long term conservation facilities), 3.9.3 (Mortality rate attributed to unintentional poisoning), 6.2.1(Proportion of population using (a) safely managed sanitation services and (b) a hand-washing facility with soap and water), 6.4.1 Change in water-use efficiency over time, 6.a.1 (Amount of water- and sanitation-related official development assistance that is part of a government coordinated spending plan), 7.1.2 (Proportion of population with primary reliance on clean fuels and technology), 7.3.1 (Energy intensity measured in terms of primary energy and GDP), 8.4.1 (Material footprint and MF per capita, per GDP), 8.4.2 (Domestic material consumption, domestic material consumption per capita, and domestic material consumption per GDP),8.9.2 (Number of jobs in tourism industries as a proportion of total jobs and growth rate of jobs, by sex), 12.2.1 (Material footprint and MF per capita, per GDP), 12.2.2 (Domestic material consumption, domestic material consumption per capita, and domestic material consumption per GDP), 12.4.1 (Number of parties to international multilateral environmental agreements on hazardous waste, and other chemicals that meet their commitments and obligations in transmitting information as required by each relevant agreement)

, 12.a.1 (Installed renewable energy-generating capacity in developing countries in watts per capita), 12.c.1 (Amount of fossil-fuel subsidies per unit of GDP and as a proportion of total national expenditure on fossil fuels), 15.1.2 (Proportion of important sites for terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity that are covered by protected areas, by ecosystem type), 15.8.1 (Proportion of countries adopting relevant national legislation and adequately resourcing the prevention or control of invasive alien species), 15.9.1.a (Number of countries that established national targets in accordance with Aichi Biodiversity Target 2 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 in their NBSAP and the progress reported towards these targets), 17.9.1 (Dollar value of financial and technical assistance committed to developing countries).

Progress in implementing key multi-lateral environmental agreements also contributes to progress towards the SDG goals, beyond the 92 environment-related indicators. For example, the Paris Agreement contributes to all 17 SDGs and 154 out of the 169 SDG targets, with the strongest linkages to SDGs 7,15,2,11,6 and 17. The Convention on Biological Diversity contributes to 39 SDG targets related to all SDG Goals, except for SDGs 7, 9, and 10. The Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Conventions contributes to 35 SDG targets related to all SDG Goals, except for SDGs 7,9,10,15,16.

Source: UNEP/UNESCAP

13.4 Key Challenges

Bangladesh is rated as the seventh most affected country in the world according to Germanwatch's 2021 Global Climate Risk Index (CRI). The country faces such a high risk despite producing only 0.56 percent of the global emissions changing the climate. Depending on the extent of sea level rise in the coming decades, an estimated 15 to 30 million Bangladeshis could be displaced from coastal areas. UNICEF's 2021 Children's Climate Risk Index rates the climate risk facing children in Bangladesh 'extremely high'— the index's most severe rating. Amid the complex interaction of poverty and climate change, Bangladesh's coastal communities have already begun migrating inland, mostly to urban areas. Strong local governance and urban management will be promoted to reduce domestic fragility, climate-driven migration, and poverty to address conflict challenges.

As such, there has been a shift in the strategy to deal with mitigation. As Bangladesh is moving towards the goal of becoming an upper-middle-income country (UMIC) by 2030, it needs to expand its mitigation strategies to include safeguarding jobs and assets for its millions of people. It has to develop strategies to protect the income sources of the large rural population whose life is dependent on agriculture, poultry, livestock, and fisheries. Most of them face a significant negative effect during disasters. The recent outbreak of Covid-19 is another event that seriously threatens the achievements that the country has made over the past two decades. Other major challenges include:

- One of the main challenges is data accessibility and quality. The technical data on environmental performance is also scarce and not regularly monitored or updated to check the progress.

- There is a shortage of financial resources. The resource scarcity severely limits the scope of institutions within the government to support a comprehensive set of activities for sound environmental management and execute climate change adaptation programs.

- Fund disbursement from GCF is very slow. There is a need to improve the efficiency of the GCF disbursement process to ensure that countries like Bangladesh are better prepared against the effects of climate change.

- Strategies are absent and/or limited to protect the income sources of the large rural population whose life is dependent on agriculture, poultry, livestock, and fisheries. Most of them face a significant negative effect during disasters.

- Climate change induced-rise in sea levels, temperature, and increased incidence of storms and flooding, induced by climate change, will bring significant damage to forest resources and harm climate species sensitive to the climate.

- The world's largest mangrove forest, the Sundarbans, is extremely vulnerable to climate change as the rise in the sea level will increase saltwater intrusion, which will deteriorate the health of the overall ecosystem of the forest. Forest cover is already threatened by cyclones and human interference as a segment of the poor people depend on forest resources for their livelihood.

13.5 Way Forward

The government has developed, through adopting participatory processes, the relevant strategies, including the mapping of responsibilities of different ministries; but their successful implementation and achievement of SDG13 require a whole-of-society approach along with required global partnership.

In the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow held in October–November 2021, a total of about 200 countries including Bangladesh, actively participated to discuss ways to accelerate action towards the goals of the Paris Agreement and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. The outcome of COP26 – the Glasgow Climate Pact – takes important steps but also reflects the interests, the conditions, the contradictions, and the state of political will in the world. Importantly, cuts in global greenhouse gas emissions are far from where they need to be to preserve a livable climate, and support for the most vulnerable countries affected by the impacts of climate change still falls far short. But COP26 did produce new 'building blocks' to advance the implementation of the Paris Agreement through actions that can get the world on a more sustainable, low-carbon pathway forward.

Bangladesh has signed the Paris Climate Agreement, under which it is expected to receive funds for strengthening its capacity to adapt against the onslaught of climate change. For more efficient outcomes, the fund disbursement process of GCF needs overhauling since, as of 2019, only 32.4 percent of the approved funds for low-income countries have been disbursed. The rate is 34.4 percent for low-middle-income countries and 25.1 percent for upper-middle-income countries (UN Statistical Office). This shows the need to improve the efficiency of the fund disbursement process to ensure that countries like Bangladesh can be better prepared against the effects of climate change.

Although still a small portion of the bond market, green bond issuances have grown rapidly. Since the first issuance of a 'Climate Awareness Bond' in 2007 by the European Investment Bank, and the first explicitly labeled Green Bond issued in 2008 by the World Bank, the green bond market has grown significantly. In Bangladesh, green bond finance is necessary and the market is growing rapidly in the areas of renewable energy, energy efficiency and inclusive green buildings, environmentally sustainable management of living natural and land use, clean transport, eco-efficient products, production, technologies and process, and climate change adaptation. But the main challenges for green bonds are the absence of guidelines for green bonds; the high cost of green projects and low coupon rates; the lack of awareness of issuers and investors regarding the social and environmental benefits of green bonds; and the difficulty to ensure the utilization of green bond proceeds in eco-friendly projects.

13.6 Summary

Bangladesh is preparing the comprehensive Mujib Climate Prosperity Plan which is a strategic investment framework to mobilize financing through international cooperation to implement climate-resilience initiatives. Several initiatives will be taken under the Plan including renewable energy, energy-storage infrastructure, power-grid modernization, and emission trading. The instrument also extends its spotlight to future-proof Bangladesh's industries, locally led adaptation outcomes, and the financial protection of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). In addition, the development of climate-resilient and nature-based agriculture and fisheries, environment-friendly transport, and climate-resilient well-being programs are pivotal to this visionary document.

SDG13 has particular relevance to climate change in Bangladesh. However, many other SDGs are also linked to issues relating to climate change. It suggests initiating urgent actions to combat climate change and its impacts. These impacts will, directly and indirectly, threaten the full and effective enjoyment of a range of human rights by the people of Bangladesh. However, the SDGs also stipulate the means of strengthening the 'Global Partnership for Sustainable Development'. It refers to financial and technological aspects, capacity building especially in developing countries, promotion of universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory, and equitable multilateral trading system, and also addresses issues like policy and institutional coherence, multi-stakeholder partnerships, etc. Concerted efforts of all stakeholders are to be taken on board to achieve SDG13 and thereby uphold the human rights of all citizens of Bangladesh.

14 LIFE BELOW WATER

CONSERVE AND SUSTAINABLY USE THE OCEANS, SEAS AND MARINE RESOURCES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

14.1 Global/Regional Context

Healthy oceans and seas, covering 70 percent of the planet, are essential to human existence and humans rely on them for food, energy, and water. Oceans and fisheries support the global population's economic, social and environmental needs. Oceans are the source of life on the planet and the global climate system regulator. They are the world's largest ecosystem, home to nearly a million known species. Over 3 billion people depend on marine life for their livelihood.

Yet, tremendous damage to these precious resources has been done with an adverse effect on the functioning of ecosystems and biodiversity. Overfishing threatens livelihoods, unmanaged aquaculture expansion can cause pollution and rising levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere contribute to ocean acidification. As per the UN Statistics Division, there has been a 26 percent increase in acidification since the first industrial revolution. Effective strategies to mitigate the adverse effects of increased ocean acidification are needed to advance the sustainable use of oceans. It is estimated by FAO that 30 percent of the world's fish stocks are overexploited, reaching below the level at which they can produce sustainable yields. Analyses reveal that the fraction of world marine fish stocks that are within biologically sustainable levels declined from 90 percent in 1974 to 66.9 percent in 2015.

Achieving SDG14 requires the implementation of international instruments, through legal and institutional frameworks, for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans in a cross-sectoral and integrated manner. While progress has been made, implementation varies among the instruments, highlighting the need for renewed effort and increased support. To date, 168 Parties (including the European Union) have ratified or acceded to UNCLOS. In addition, Member States have also ratified or acceded to its implementing agreements (150 Parties for the 1994 Part XI Agreement and 91 Parties for the 1995 United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement). A large number of State Parties to these treaties have taken steps to implement them through legal, policy, and institutional frameworks.

14.2 Assessment of Progress on SDG14

Bangladesh has a 710 km-long coastline starting from the Sundarbans to St. Martin Island. St. Martin Island is a hotspot of the critical ecosystem, with corals on its south and west coasts along with a turtle breeding ground. It is the only coral community located on the east coast in association with the high diversity and moderate density of marine algae and mollusks. Several living small coral colonies are found in small sheltered pools very near the low tide level around the Island. They also occur in the surrounding shallow sea, mostly growing on the beach rocks and calcareous sandstone concretions. On the other hand, the Sundarbans mangrove forest is one of the largest such forests in the world (140,000 ha) which lies on the delta of the Ganges, Brahmaputra, and Meghna rivers on the Bay of Bengal. The Sundarbans, a World Heritage property, is intersected by a complex network of tidal waterways, mudflats, and small islands of salt-tolerant mangrove forests, and presents an excellent example of ongoing ecological processes. The area is known for its wide range of fauna, including 260 bird species, the Royal Bengal Tigers, and other threatened species such as the estuarine crocodile and the Indian python.

The Bay of Bengal is full of fisheries resources. Coral reefs are highly productive areas being the home of various types of fish and other marine fauna and are rich in biodiversity. In terms of economic and ecological value, these are very significant areas. Reef-building corals are found in shallow waters close to the water's edge and these are vulnerable to toxic elements, contaminants, and silt. About 10 percent of these have been tainted and the other 30 percent would degrade within the next twenty years.

Bangladesh gets about 660 thousand metric tons of fish every year from the Bay of Bengal. It is about 16 percent of the world's total fish production. Marine fisheries contribute around 15 percent of total fish production in Bangladesh and 500,000 people are directly dependent on the sector. It shows that Bangladesh's ability to capture deep-sea resources is still very limited. Since the income elasticity of demand for fisheries products is high, the Bay of Bengal can be a great source of fisheries products to meet the huge demand of the rising population in the country.

Indicator 14.5.1 Coverage of protected areas in relation to marine areas

This indicator shows the temporal trends in the mean percentage of each important site for marine biodiversity that is covered by designated protected areas. Protected areas (PAs) have long been considered the cornerstone of all national and regional conservation strategies. Table 14.1 illustrates the coverage of marine protected areas (MPAs) in Bangladesh which are located in the coastal districts of Bangladesh and the Bay of Bengal. The figures reflect a steady growth. The coverage of protected areas stands at 4.73 percent in 2020.

Table 14.1: Coverage of Marine Protected Areas

Year	Protected areas in relation to marine area (EEZ) (% of territorial water)	Protected marine area (EEZ) (KM2)	The proportion of marine key biodiversity areas covered by protected area status (Percentage)
2014			34.4686
2015			34.4686
2016			34.4686
2017	5.35694	4,529.99	34.4686
2018	5.27221	4,458.35	34.4686

Source: IUCN Bangladesh Country Office.

As a signatory of the Nagoya Protocol, Bangladesh is committed to declaring 10 percent of its EEZ as MPA by 2020. When the commitment was made, the country's EEZ was about 60,000 km2 which subsequently increased to 111,672 km2 due to a favorable verdict by ITLOS on the conflicts of the maritime boundary between Bangladesh and Myanmar. The government established the country's first marine protected area 'the Swatch of No Ground Marine Protected Area' in October 2014 to protect whales, dolphins, turtles, sharks, and other marine animals under the Bangladesh Wildlife (Conservation and Security) Act, 2012. Another area in the 'Middle Ground and South Patches' of the Bay of Bengal, has been declared under the Marine Fisheries Ordinance 1983 together

comprising 243,600 hectares constituting 2.05 percent of the total marine area of 11,881,300 hectares (118,813 sq. km) of Bangladesh. If the area protected during the spawning season of Hilsa fish is included, then the protected area rises to 7.94 percent. The current target is to reach a 10 percent level by 2030.

Indicator 14.6.1 Degree of implementation of international instruments aiming to combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing

Concerned authorities (DoF, MoFL; BN, MoD; FAO) are working on the indicator. The baseline is ¾ Medium Level implementation (FAO, 2015) while the Milestone by 2025 is 4/5 High-Level implementation.

Indicator 14.7.1 Sustainable fisheries as a proportion of GDP in small island developing States, least developed countries, and all countries

This indicator expresses the value-added of sustainable marine capture fisheries as a proportion of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Fisheries and aquaculture offer ample opportunities to alleviate poverty, hunger, and malnutrition, generate economic growth, and ensure better use of natural resources. Bangladesh has sustainable fisheries valued at 3.14 percent of the total GDP, as per NAW (2018). It has decreased compared with the base year 2015 when the value was 3.29 percent of GDP. Based on FAO's monitoring of stocks at regional and global levels, the percentage of fish resources that are within biologically sustainable levels has exhibited a downward trend from 90 percent in 1974 to 67 percent in 2015, while 33 percent are considered to be overexploited.

Indicator 14. c.1 Number of countries making progress in ratifying, accepting, and implementing through legal, policy, and institutional frameworks, ocean-related instruments that implement international law, as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, for the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans and their resources

According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Bangladesh Government, Bangladesh has granted ratification of or accession to 100 ocean-related instruments till 2019 that implement international law, as endorsed by the United Nations. Among these, the Convention on the Law of the Sea relates to the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans and their resources. Bangladesh has implemented around 90 ocean-related instruments to date.

14.3 Policies and Efforts to Achieve SDG14

The 8th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) prioritizes the exploration of marine resources which is an area that Bangladesh needs to explore optimally and sustainably to ensure sustainable development, For Bangladesh, the Bay of Bengal opens a source of a valuable asset that also facilitates international trade and commerce. Furthermore, with the settlement of maritime border disputes with India and Myanmar, the territorial waters are now ripe for developmental exploration. In particular, the maritime settlements have given Bangladesh entitlement to 118,813 km2 in the Bay of Bengal

comprising its territorial sea. The shallow shelf sea and continental shelf constitute about 20 percent and 35 percent respectively, while the rest (45 percent) is lying in deeper waters.

The Blue Economy conceptualizes oceans and seas as 'development spaces' where spatial planning integrates conservation, sustainable use of living resources, oil and mineral wealth extraction, bio-prospecting, sustainable energy production, and marine transport. The approach is built upon the assessment and incorporation of the real value of the natural (blue) capital into all aspects of economic activity (conceptualization, planning, infrastructure development, trade, travel, renewable resource exploitation, and energy production/consumption). Bangladesh has recently gained a vast swath of marine territory. This marine area is rich in natural gas resources and biodiversity. Sustainable management of these resources is a big challenge. In recent times, Bangladesh has declared two marine protected areas, one targeting the Hilsa breeding ground and Cetaceans. The total protected marine area now stands at 2.05 percent of the total marine area (Target 14.5). A major success has been achieved in Hilsa protection with production almost doubling over the last 15 years.

Bangladesh has begun the Blue Economy initiative – the maritime pillar of the future strategy – to promote smart, sustainable, and inclusive growth and employment opportunities in the country's maritime economic activities over the short, medium, and longer terms. The initiative specifically aims to promote synergies and foster framework conditions that support specific maritime economic activities and their value chains for which developing skilled human resources, performing institutions, and sustainable technologies is the key challenge for Bangladesh.

SDG14 aims to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources. A significant number of people in Bangladesh depend on marine and coastal biodiversity for their livelihoods and sustainable use of ocean resources is one of the priorities of Bangladesh because it is still under-exploited and with the advent of technologies, there is a growing competition to use ocean resources among the countries. It is a reservoir for the future supplier of food, protecting the climate – a great carbon sink, providing energy resources, and minerals, and also a supplier of medical care. Bangladesh needs to ensure that it is not polluted but protected and that its resources can be used sustainably.

In the Bay of Bengal, Bangladesh has a total of 121,110 square kilometers of marine area including the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). With the marking of the maritime boundary, the government has now poised to formulate policies and mobilize resources. The Blue Economy is one of the important tools available for achieving sustainable development in Bangladesh. The Bay of Bengal is full of fisheries resources. The government policies aim to easily access the benefits of utilizing fisheries resources from the sea. Bangladesh has proposed the formation of the Bay of Bengal Partnership for a Blue Economy to sustainably utilize marine resources. At the core of the Blue Economy lies the idea of the 'optimization of natural marine resources within ecological limits', and the 'de-coupling of socioeconomic development from environmental degradation'. The management paradigm for Bangladesh's marine resources is anchored in these points.

14.4 Key Challenges

Oceans and seas face the threats of marine and nutrient pollution, resource depletion, and climate change, all of which are caused primarily by human actions. These threats place further pressure on environmental systems, like biodiversity and natural infrastructure, while creating global socio-economic problems, including health, safety, and financial risks. To combat these issues and promote ocean sustainability, innovative solutions that prevent and mitigate detrimental impacts on marine environments are essential.

- In Bangladesh, only a petite region on St. Martins Island consists of coral reefs. Even that is being defenseless. The Marine Sciences Institute, Chattogram had isolated 13 genera of corals in the area along with several species of fish and algae. The island supports 85 species of birds, 12 species of mammals, more than 20 species of reptiles, and 4 species of amphibians. The ecological humiliation of this minute coral ecosystem, the only one in Bangladesh, is due to assorted on-site and off-site anthropogenic and natural hazards. On-site and off-site pollution from household, manufacturing, and ship sources and fishing trawlers plying on the waters are focal threats to the coral reef ecology. Agricultural run-offs from plain land and the processing of fish for drying also contribute to the contamination of reef waters.

- Several challenges are associated with the proper management of marine resources. The knowledge gap about ascertaining the concentration and size of the resources is wide and there is a lack of ocean governance framework and adoption of 'Ocean Policy' to address the complex interactions of the resource base, users, stakeholders, opportunities, threats, and marine spatial planning (MSP). The legal and institutional framework also needs refinement, for example, to limit maximum catch, fishing boat registration, maximum/minimum depth determination, environmental norms, etc. The inadequacy of knowledge, research, needed human resources, and technology base is yet another stumbling block for Bangladesh. Further, the paucity of data is a major challenge for monitoring and evaluating the progress of SDG14. Financing and the absence of a concrete institutional framework are other major challenges that need to be addressed on a priority basis.

- In the past, ocean and sea use were limited to navigation and fishing. Hence, the conflict between different uses of the sea and coast were few and far between. As a result, single-sector management approaches gained wide acceptance as effective management tools for marine and ocean resource management. But with the increase of multiple uses of these resources, conflicts among different uses of the sea have arisen and the single-sector management approach is no longer effective. Integrated coastal and ocean management (ICOM) is needed to manage not only coastal areas but EEZ and large marine ecosystems as well. The challenge for Bangladesh is to adopt an integrated approach to manage the diverse coastal habitat, productive estuaries, existing and potential fishing grounds, and other marine resources. Bangladesh has ample opportunities for developing biotechnology, bio-resources, pharmaceuticals, mineral extraction, aquaculture, and deep-sea fishing.

- One of the major challenges of managing protected areas in Bangladesh is the pressure of population on the protected area both in terms of recreation use as well as intrusion inside these areas. Monitoring the marine protected areas is also a major challenge for Bangladesh due to resource limitations. The total sea area of Bangladesh is 118,813 square km which is similar to the size of Bangladesh. As such, Bangladesh needs international cooperation to monitor the area using automatic identifier system (AIS) based technologies. The implementation of a fish catch ban for 65 days a year is also a challenge given the 433 km long stretch of several rivers in the coastal areas of Bangladesh.

- Besides, ocean science needs to adopt a holistic approach toward understanding and addressing the cumulative impacts of various threats such as climate change, acidification, pollution, coastal erosion, sedimentation and erosion, and overfishing. Ocean research or related services and the acquisition of sufficient credible scientific data and information are weak in Bangladesh mainly due to the high cost. Technical education in marine-related fields is also inadequate.

- Another major challenge for Bangladesh is river water pollution and the survival of riverine life. Bangladesh has about 230 small and large rivers, and a large chunk of the country's 165 million people depend on them for a living and transportation. But many of them are drying up or are choked because of pollution and encroachment. The government has taken measures to combat waste disposal and secure the rivers from illegal encroachers.

The steps undertaken by Bangladesh to attain SDG14 and to mainstream Blue Economy into national policies and programs are significant stairs towards conserving the country's ocean resources and strengthening coastal communities.

14.5 Way Forward

Life below water provides livelihoods to millions of people and plays a vital role in the food systems of Bangladesh. However, life below water faces significant challenges that threaten their health and ability to sustain life. Wild fish stocks are under threats of environmental degradation, overfishing, and climate change, but frequently the extent of damage is unknown. As a first key point have to invest efforts and resources in research, data collection, and monitoring of marine habitats and wild stocks. Fisheries management is very effective in preserving wild stock, and this is the best conservation.

Protection of marine biodiversity and industrial activities in and around the coasts has to be maintained with a sharp balance. The government has already declared two months fishing ban at the time of the fish breeding season to conserve fish resources properly. Diverse researches mention that natural resources particularly, minerals - copper, magnesium, nickel, and precious metals, including cobalt in the seabed in Bangladesh are available. Through exploring mineral resources, the country can supply industrial raw materials in different industries.

SDG14 has seven targets that include prevention and reduction of marine pollution; sustainable management and production of marine and coastal ecosystems; minimizing and addressing over-acidification of the ocean; regulating and preventing illegal and overfishing; conserving at least 10 percent of marine areas; banning certain fisheries subsidies that contribute to over-capacity and over-fishing; and sustainable use of marine resources. The implementation of these targets by Bangladesh would require closer coordination, and efficient and effective management of marine resources by relevant public entities like the ministries of fisheries and livestock, shipping and water resources, department of fisheries as well as defense organizations like the Navy and the Coast Guard.

Marine protected areas are designed to protect critical resources (both biotic and abiotic) to preserve them in situ for the benefit of future generations. Bangladesh recognizes the value of ocean resources and has established a total of 38 protected areas in Bangladesh of which eight are coastal and marine protected areas. Bangladesh's ability to capture deep-sea resources is still very limited. In addition, Bangladesh is yet to implement effective strategies to extract oil and gas from its deep-sea reserves. The fish Hilsa, locally known as Ilish, has been designated as the national fish of Bangladesh. In 2017 it has been patented as a GI for Bangladesh by the Patent Authority. It is one of the major marine fish in Bangladesh and accounts for nearly 16 percent of the total fish catch.

14.6 Summary

Marine resources face the threats of marine and nutrient pollution, resource depletion, and climate change, all of which are caused primarily by human actions. These threats place further pressure on environmental systems, like biodiversity and natural infrastructure, while creating socioeconomic problems, including health, safety, and financial risks. To combat these issues and promote sustainability, innovative solutions that prevent and mitigate detrimental impacts on marine environments are essential. The need is to work to protect marine species, and support the people who depend on oceans, whether it be for employment, resources, or leisure.

Bangladesh has huge scopes for ocean-based traditional as well as new economic activities. If the coastal and marine ecosystem resources can be used effectually, they can be a great asset for the economy in increasing food security, generating employment, alleviating poverty, and reducing inequality. Nonetheless, promoting a sustainable blue economy requires huge investments. To be successful, Bangladesh will need to adopt a solid approach to mobilizing funds through developing fixed-income securities or sustainable bonds, e.g., Blue Bonds.

The Blue Bond can be an innovative approach to finance the blue economy in Bangladesh. However, there is a lack of consciousness and expertise on Blue Bond since it is a relatively new concept. Knowledge products and more action-oriented interactions are needed to sensitize all stakeholders on the blue economy and sustainable financing solutions. For moving forward, Bangladesh needs to deeply explore the dynamics of its blue economy and prospects, the development of the bond market, the suitability of bond financing, and the likelihood of releasing a Blue Bond along with mapping the pathway of releasing such a bond.

15 LIFE ON LAND

PROTECT, RESTORE AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE USE OF TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS, SUSTAINABLY MANAGE FORESTS, COMBAT DESERTIFICATION, AND HALT AND REVERSE LAND DEGRADATION AND HALT BIODIVERSITY LOSS

15.1 Global/Regional Context

Humans depend on the earth and the oceans to live. SDG15 aims at securing sustainable livelihoods that will be enjoyed for generations to come. The human diet is composed of 80 percent of plant life, which makes agriculture a prime economic resource. Forests cover 30 percent of the Earth's surface; provide vital habitats for millions of species, and are important sources of clean air and water, as well as being crucial for combating climate change.

Preserving diverse forms of life on land requires targeted efforts to protect, restore and promote the conservation and sustainable use of terrestrial and other ecosystems. SDG15 focuses specifically on managing forests sustainably, halting and reversing land and natural habitat degradation, successfully combating desertification, and stopping biodiversity loss. Together, all these efforts aim to ensure that the benefits of land-based ecosystems, including sustainable livelihoods, will be enjoyed by the present as well as future generations.

The world's forest area continues to shrink, although at a slightly slower pace than in previous decades. From 2015 to 2020, the annual rate of deforestation is estimated at 10 million hectares, down from 12 million hectares from 2010 to 2015. The proportion of forest area globally declined from 31.9 percent in 2000 to 31.2 percent in 2020. This represents a net loss of almost 100 million hectares, primarily due to agricultural expansion. These lost forests mean the disappearance of livelihoods in rural communities, increased carbon emissions, diminished biodiversity, and the degradation of land. At present, out of 4.06 billion hectares of forest, more than half are subject to management plans. Additionally, the share of forests designated primarily for soil and water protection is increasing, growing especially over the last decade.

Globally, species extinction risk has worsened by about 10 percent over the last three decades, with the Red List Index declining from 0.82 in 1990 to 0.75 in 2015, and 0.73 in 2020 (a value of 1 indicates no species are at risk of extinction in the immediate future, while a value of 0 indicates all species are extinct). This translates into more than 31,000 species threatened with extinction due primarily to habitat loss from unsustainable agriculture, deforestation, unsustainable harvest and trade, and invasive alien species. If current trends continue, the Red List Index will drop to or below 0.70 by 2030 (UN Sustainable Development Goals Report 2021).

According to UN Sustainable Development Goals Report 2021, the global mean percentage of each key biodiversity area covered by protected areas increased from 33.1 percent in 2000 to 43 percent in 2021 for terrestrial areas, from 30.5 percent in 2000 to 42 percent in 2021 for freshwater areas, and from 32.9 percent in 2000 to 41 percent in 2021 for mountain areas. In South Asia, the main innovation would be to integrate this goal with other SDGs. However, there are both opportunities and challenges but there are also synergies and opportunities that require recognition.

15.2 Assessment of Progress on SDG15

SDG15 aims to protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

Terrestrial ecosystems

Bangladesh is a bio-diverse country. There are an estimated 133 species of mammals, 711 birds, 173 reptiles, 64 amphibians, 653 freshwater fishes, 185 crustaceans, and 323 butterflies in Bangladesh, to name a cursory few from a list that grows year on year through more in-depth research. Bangladesh does not have any endemic species, being a continental country with habitat types contiguous with its neighbors.

The IUCN Red List of Bangladesh (2015) assessed 1,619 species of Bangladesh of which 31 species (2 percent) were Regionally Extinct, 56 species (3.45 percent) were Critically Endangered, 181 species (11.18 percent) were endangered, 153 species (9.45 percent) were Vulnerable, 90 species (6 percent) were Near Threatened and 802 species (50 percent) were Least Concern. The IUCN Red List of Bangladesh found 38 mammals, 39 birds, 38 reptiles, 10 amphibians, 64 freshwater fishes, 13 crustaceans, and 188 butterflies are threatened throughout the country.

The natural ecosystem of Bangladesh includes several clusters such as terrestrial, inland waters, and coastal and marine ecosystems. The major terrestrial forest types in Bangladesh are Tropical Wet Evergreen Forests; Tropical Semi-Evergreen Forests; Tropical Moist Deciduous Forests (Sal Forests); Mangrove Forests; Freshwater Swamp Forest; Homestead Forests; and Plantation Forests. Around half of the total area of Bangladesh is wetlands. These ecosystems are made up of a wide variety of habitats, including the main three rivers (the Ganges, the Brahmaputra, and the Meghna) and their 700-plus tributaries and distributaries and their floodplains; about 6,300 beers (permanent and seasonal shallow lakes in floodplain depressions); at least 47 major haors (deeply flooded depressions in the northeast), bars (oxbow lakes); vast areas of seasonally flooded land; and fish ponds and tanks. The country is located at the crossroads of the Indo-Himalayan and Indo-Chinese sub-regions under the Oriental region. Thus, the country acts as an important merging and sharing habitat, land bridge, and biological corridor of the flora and fauna between these sub-regions. There are about 750 species of animal groups and 10,300 species of plant groups that cover the diversity of the country and the North-East region of India.

Indicator 15.1.1 Forest area as a proportion of total land area

The indicator is measured as the proportion of forest area in square kilometers, and as a proportion of the land area. 'Forest area' is defined as: 'land spanning more than 0.5 hectares with trees higher than 5 meters and a canopy cover of more than 10 percent, or trees able to reach these thresholds in situ. It does not include land that is predominantly under agricultural or urban land use'. More specifically: The forest includes both the presence of trees and the absence of other predominant land uses. The trees should be able to reach a minimum height of 5 meters. It includes areas with young trees that have not yet reached but are expected to reach a canopy cover of at least 10

percent and a tree height of 5 meters or more. It also includes areas that are temporarily unstocked due to clear-cutting as part of a forest management practice or natural disasters, and which are expected to be regenerated within 5 years. Forest area (as a percentage of land area) in Bangladesh was 14.1 percent in 2015 and in 2020 it was 14.47 percent, according to the World Bank collection of development indicators, compiled by Bangladesh Forestry Department. The target to be attained by 2025 is 18 percent.

Indicator 15.1.2 Proportion of important sites for terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity that are covered by protected areas, by ecosystem type

The indicator measures the sites protected under terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity and shows temporal trends in the percentage of each important site for terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity (i.e., those that contribute significantly to the global persistence of biodiversity) that is covered by designated protected areas. Protected areas, as defined by the IUCN, are clearly defined geographical spaces, recognized, dedicated, and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long-term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values (UNESCAP, 2020). In Bangladesh, the proportion of terrestrial biodiversity that is covered by protected areas, increased from 1.7 percent in 2014-15 (MoEF) to 3.06 percent in 2019 (MoEF). The target to be attained by 2030 is 5 percent. However, the proportion of important sites for freshwater biodiversity that are covered by protected areas was 1.8 percent in 2013-14. The targeted rate is 9 percent by 2025 and 14 percent by 2030.

A total of 1,443,000 ha of land in Bangladesh are now labeled as a protected area which is about 9.7 percent of the total land area. This land area, however, excludes areas of wetland protected as fisheries sanctuaries. In addition to these protected areas, the government has converted all of its forestlands into parks with no provision for collecting timber except firewood and other non-timber forests. As such, estimates show that the total area of land under protected areas and parks is around 17.5 percent of the land mass of Bangladesh and Bangladesh intends to raise it to 20 percent by 2030 (Figure 15.1). Currently, Bangladesh has 40 protected areas (PAs), as shown in Figure 15.3 and given in Table 15.4. In addition, Bangladesh has about 10,000 ha of land protected for ex-situ conservation (Table 15.2).

To conserve its rich biodiversity, Bangladesh has listed two Ramsar[28] sites (TanguarHaor and three Wildlife Sanctuaries of Sundarbans, 1992) and the entire Sundarban Forest (the largest mangrove tract) is also listed as a World Heritage Site in 1997. It has defined its protected areas under two different laws – the Wildlife Preservation Act 1974 and Wildlife Conservation and Security Act 2012. Under the first Law, there are three different types of protected areas: National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries, and Game Reserves; under the Second Law, protected areas are defined as National Parks, Sanctuary, Ecopark, Botanical Gardens, Community Conservation Areas, Safari Park, and Kunjaban.

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28   Ramsar Sites are wetlands of international importance that have been designated under the criteria of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands for containing representative, rare or unique wetland types or for their importance in conserving biological diversity.
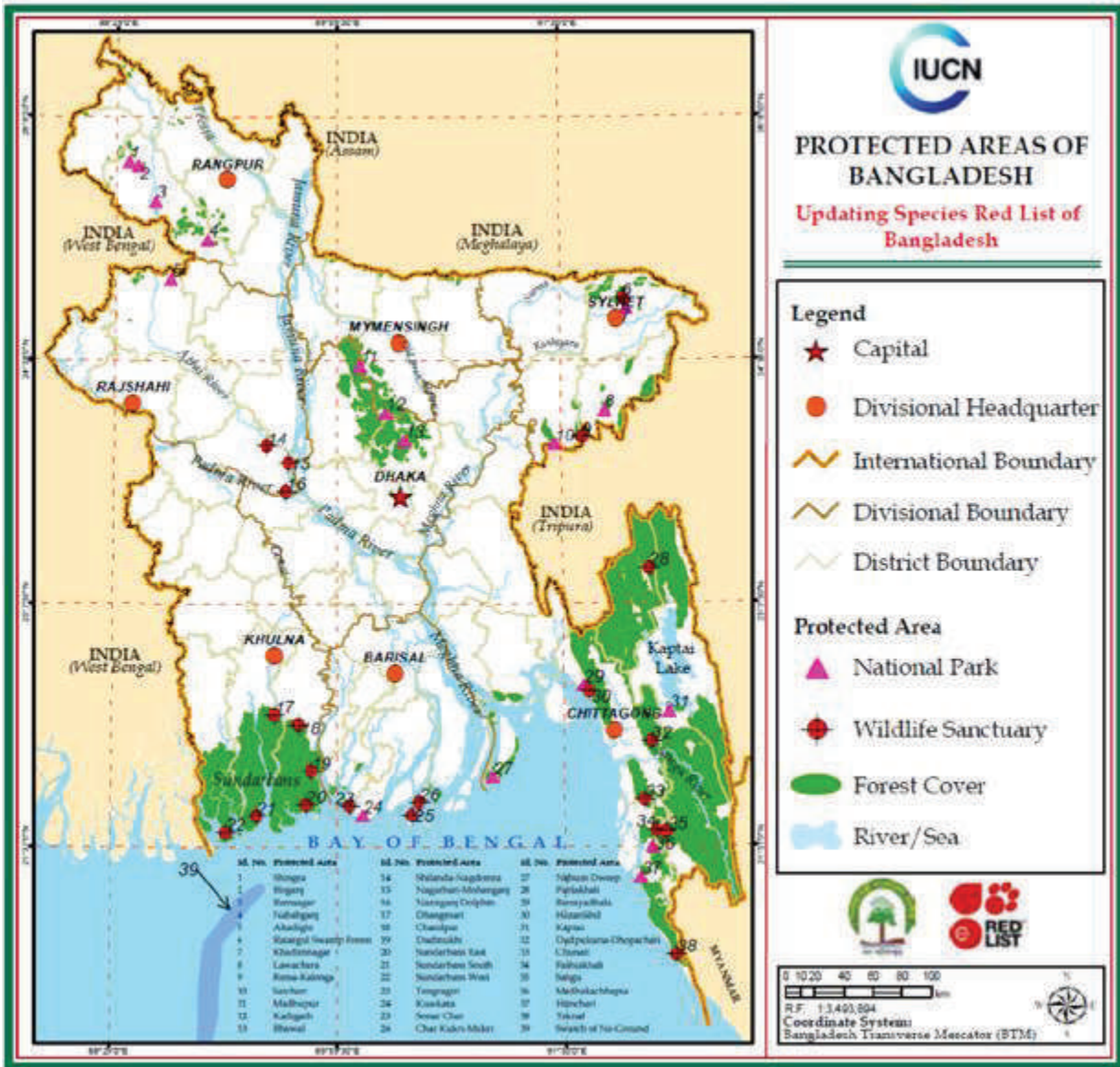
Figure 15.1: Map of Protected Areas (two Marine Protected Areas are not shown on the Map)

Table 15.1: Protected Areas of Bangladesh

Sl. No.	Year	Protected Area	Ecosystem	District/Location	Areas (ha.)
1	2006	Khadimnagar NP	Mixed Evergreen	Sylhet	678.8
2	1996	Lawachhara NP	Mixed Evergreen	Maulvibazar	1250
3	2005	Satchhari NP	Mixed Evergreen	Habiganj	242.91
4	1996	Rema-Kalenga NP	Mixed Evergreen	Habiganj	1795.54
5	1983	Pablakhali NP	Mixed Evergreen	Khagrachhari	42069.37
6	1999	Kaptai NS	Mixed Evergreen	Rangamati	5464.78
7	2010	Shangu WS	Mixed Evergreen	Bandarban	2331.98
8	1983	Teknaf WS	Mixed Evergreen	Cox's Bazar	11614.57
9	1980	Himchhari NP	Mixed Evergreen	Cox's Bazar	1729
10	2004	Medha-Kachchhapia WS	Mixed Evergreen	Cox's Bazar	395.92
11	2007	Fashiakhali WS	Mixed Evergreen	Cox's Bazar	1302.42
12	1996	Chunati WS	Mixed Evergreen	Chattogram	7763.97
13	2010	Dudpukuria-Dhopachhari WS	Mixed Evergreen	Chattogram	4716.57
14	2010	Hazarikhil WS	Mixed Evergreen	Chattogram	1177.53
15	2010	Baroiyadhala NP	Mixed Evergreen	Chattogram	2933.61
16	2001	NijhumDweep NP	Planted Mangrove Forest	Noakhali	16352.23
17	1981	Char-Kukri-Mukri WS	Planted Mangrove Forest	Bhola	40
18	2010	Kuakata NP	Planted Mangrove Forest	Patuakhali	1613
19	2012	Sonar Char WS	Planted Mangrove Forest	Patuakhali	560
20	2010	Tengragree WS	Natural Mangrove Forest	Barguna	4048.58
21	2017	Sundarban East WS	Natural Mangrove Forest	Bagerhat	122920.90
22	2017	Sundarban West WS	Natural Mangrove Forest	SaBDThira	19718.88
23	2017	Sundarban South WS	Natural Mangrove Forest	Khulna	75310.30
24	2012	Chandpai WS	River/Marine	Bagerhat	560
25	2012	Dudmukhi WS	River/Marine	Bagerhat	170
26	2012	Daingmari WS	River/Marine	Bagerhat	340
27	1982	Bhawal NP	Shal Forest	Gazipur	5022.29
28	1982	Madhupur NP	Shal Forest	Tangail/Mymensingh	8436.13

Sl. No.	Year	Protected Area	Ecosystem	District/Location	Areas (ha.)
29	2010	Kadigarh NP		Mymensingh	344.13
30	2001	Ramsagar NP		Dinajpur	27.75
31	2010	Shingra NP		Dinajpur	305.69
32	2010	Nababgonj NP		Dinajpur	517.61
33	2011	Birgonj NP		Dinajpur	168.56
34	2011	Altadighi NP		Naogaon	264.12
35	2013	Nogorbari-Mohongonj WS	River	Pabna	408.11
36	2013	Shilonda-Nagdemra WS	River	Pabna	24.17
37	2013	Nazirgonj WS	River	Sirajgonj/Pabna	146
38	2014	Swatch of No Ground park		Bay of Bengal	173800
39	2014	Ratargul Swamp Forest		Bay of Bengal	69800
40		Marine		Sylhet	204.25
41	2015	Charmuguriaecopark	River	Madaripur	4.20
42	2015	Ratargul a special biodiversity reserve		Sylhet	204.25
43	2016	Altadighi National Park		Naogaon	17.37
44	2018	National Botanical Garden		Dhaka	87.10
45	2019	Tilagor Eco Park		Sylhet	45.33
46	2019	Madhobkundo Eco Park		Moulvibazar	202.35
47	2019	Sheikh Jamal Inani National Park		Cox's Bazar	7085.16
48	2020	Pankhali Wildlife (Dolphin) Sanctuary		Khulna	404.00
49	2020	Sibsha Wildlife (Dolphin) Sanctuary		Khulna	2155.00
50	2020	Vodra Wildlife (Dolphin) Sanctuary		Khulna	2155.00
51	2020	Padma Bridge Wildlife Sanctuary		Madaripur, Shariatpur and Faridpur	11772.605
52	2021	Dharmapur National Forest		Dinajpur	704.70
53	2022	Saint Martin Marin Ptocted Area		Bay of Bangle	174300.00

Note: WS – Wildlife Sanctuary, NP – National Park

Source: Ahsan et al., 2016, BFD 2022

Table 15. 2: List of Ex-Situ Conservation Areas

	Protected areas	Ecosystem	District	Area in ha	Year
1	Baldha Garden	Man-made	Dhaka	1.37	1909
2	National Botanical Garden	Man-made	Dhaka	84.21	1961
3	Dulahazara Safari Parks	Mixed Evergreen	Cox's Bazar	600	1999
4	SitakundaBotanical Garden & Eco Park	Mixed Evergreen	Chittagong	808	2000
5	Madhabkunda Eco Park	Mixed Evergreen	Moulvibazar	265.68	2001
6	Madhutila Eco Park t	Deciduous Forest	Sherpur	100	2001
7	Banshkhali Eco-Park	Mixed Evergreen	Chittagong	1,200.00	2003
8	Kuakata Eco-Park	Eco-Park	Patuakhali	45.34	2006
9	Tilagorh Eco-Park	Mixed Evergreen	Sylhet	5,661.00	2005
10	Borshijora Eco-Park	Mixed Evergreen	Moulvibazar	326.07	2006
11	Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Safari Park	Mujib Safari	Gazipur	1,542.51	2014

Source: MoEFCC
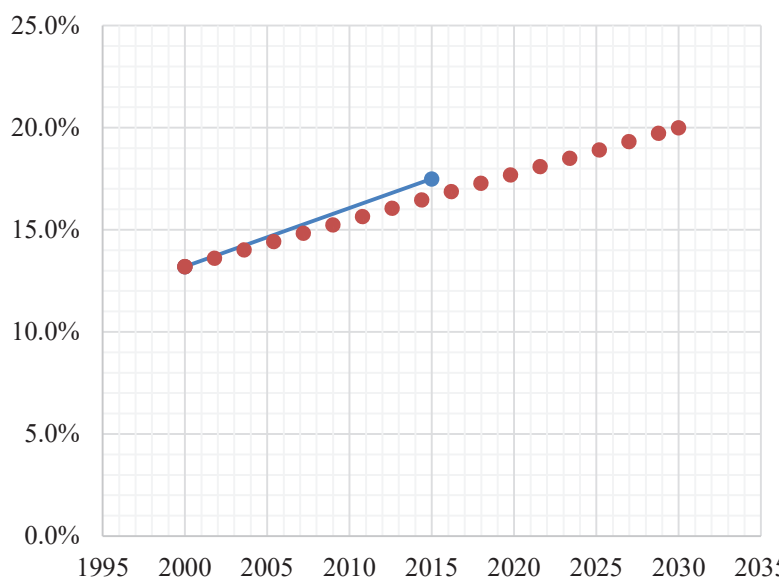
Source: MoEFCC

Figure 15.2: Trends in Protected Areas in Bangladesh

Indicator 15.2.1 Progress towards sustainable forest management

The indicator is composed of five sub-indicators that measure progress toward all dimensions of sustainable forest management. The environmental values of forests are covered by three sub-indicators focused on the extension of forest area, biomass within the forest area and protection and maintenance of biological diversity, and natural and associated cultural resources. The social

and economic values of forests are reconciled with environmental values through sustainable management plans. The sub-indicator provides further qualification to the management of forest areas, by assessing areas that are independently verified for compliance with a set of national or international standards. The sub-indicators are: (i) Forest area annual net change rate; (ii) Above-ground biomass stock in the forest; (iii) Proportion of forest area located within legally established protected areas; and (iv) Proportion of forest area under a long term forest management plan.

Existing information suggests that: (a) the forest area's annual net change rate was 0.23 percent in 2019; (b) above-ground biomass stock in the forest is 67.66 tons (2019); (c) the proportion of forest area located within legally established protected areas are 14.68 percent (2019); and (d) in 2019, 35.10 percent of forest land is currently under a long term forest management plan.

Indicator15.4.1 Coverage by protected areas of important sites for mountain biodiversity

The coverage by protected areas of important sites for mountain biodiversity is 0.35 percent in Bangladesh (BFD, 2019).

Indicator 15.4.2 Mountain Green Cover Index

The Green Cover Index is meant to measure the changes in the green vegetation in mountain areas - i.e., forest, shrubs, trees, pasture land, cropland, etc. –to monitor progress on the mountain target. The index provides information on the changes in the vegetation cover and, as such indicates the status of the conservation of mountain environments. In 2015, Mountain Green Cover Index was 96.05 percent (BFD, 2015).

Indicator 15.5.1 Red List Index (RLI)

Threatened species are those listed on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species in the categories Vulnerable, Endangered, or Critically Endangered (i.e., species that are facing a high, very high, or extremely high risk of extinction in the wild in the medium-term future). Changes over time in the proportion of species threatened with extinction are largely driven by improvements in knowledge and changing taxonomy. The indicator excludes such changes to yield a more informative indicator than the simple proportion of threatened species. It, therefore, measures the change in aggregate extinction risk across groups of species over time, resulting from genuine improvements or deteriorations in the status of individual species. More than one in five of the world's reptiles are threatened with extinction, according to the Global Reptile Assessment published on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species in 2022 (IUCN).

For Bangladesh, 13 species were marked as extinct from the country in the IUCN Red List of 2000 which have been reassessed along with all other species in 2015. The IUCN's Red List assessed 138 species under Class Mammalia, 566 species under Class Aves, 167 species under Class Reptiles, 49 species under Class Amphibia, 253 species under Class Osteichthyes, Class Crustacea, and Class Insecta. The report mentions that "out of 1,619, the remaining species, 90 or 6 percent species were assessed under the Near Threatened Category and 802 species or 50 percent as

Least Concern. Another 278 species or 17 percent were being assessed as Data Deficient, meaning no Threatened Category could be assigned to these species due to lack of sufficient supporting documents or literature or field information when 28 species or just 2 percent were considered under the Category of Not Evaluated" (IUCN, 2015).

Ten species of mammals were evaluated as Extinct in the previous Red List. Among these extinct species, Gaur and Hog Deer have been rediscovered during the last decade. However, the recent edition of the Red List listed one species of mammal, the Sloth Bear, as Extinct from the country. Two birds were assessed as extinct in Red List 2000 which are also included in the present assessment. According to the present assessment, 17 bird species are newly declared regionally extinct. Marsh Crocodile (Reptile) was listed in the Red List 2000 extinct list, which is also assessed as extinct from Bangladesh in Red List 2015 (BFD).

For Bangladesh, Table 15.3 compares the status of species belonging to different animal groups in 2000 and 2015. The statuses are not directly comparable as the protocol and criteria of assessment for 2015 are different than those of 2000. What can be said is that among the animal groups, mammals and fishes are facing greater threats. Some improvements are also observed, such as the reduction in the Least Concern Category from 53 percent in 2000 under the Not Threatened Category to 50 percent Least Concern in 2015. Eleven resident bird species have been identified and 2 mammal species among 11 mammal species reported to be extinct in 2000 have been traced in 2015.

Table 15 3: Comparison of Species Status in 2000 and 2015

Group	Red List species in 2000		Red List species in 2015	
	No. of species	Threatened	No. of species	Threatened
Fish (Freshwater and brackish water)	266	54 (20%)	235	59 (23%)
Amphibians	22	8 (36%)	49	10 (20%)
Reptiles	127	63 (50%)	167	38 (23%)
Birds	628	47 (7%)	566	39 (7%)
Mammals	113	43 (38%)	138	36 (26%)
Crustaceans	...	141	12 (8.7%)	...
Butterflies	...	305	57 (19%)	...

Source: IUCN, 2015

15.3 Policies and Efforts to Achieve SDG15

Article 18A of the Constitution of Bangladesh provides that 'The State shall endeavor to protect and improve the environment and to preserve and safeguard the natural resources, biodiversity, wetlands, forests, and wildlife for the present and future citizens.' Wildlife (Conservation and Security) Act 2012 further ensures the conservation of wildlife, forest, and biodiversity. Bangladesh has also ratified the Big 5 international wildlife laws which are: the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) 1973, Convention on

the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals 1979, Convention on Biological Diversity 1992, Ramsar Conservation 1971, and The World Heritage Convention 1972.

The Eighth Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) envisions a sustainable development agenda and is focused accordingly on synchronizing economic and environmental planning to produce coherent decision-making on both economic and environmental fronts. It highlights the need to address the environment, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and disaster risk reduction in a broader development context, recognizing the environmental concerns as an added challenge to reducing poverty, hunger, and diseases and facilitating growth. Some of the objectives and activities that were considered under the Sixth and Seventh Plans but were not addressed or implemented adequately have also found consideration under the Eighth Plan, as long as they have an instrumental role in aiding the key objectives of the Plan and the long-term agendas articulated in the Perspective Plan 2041.

Bangladesh is generally optimistic about SDG15. In this context, several efforts have been initiated:

Improved Coastal Afforestation: Coastal afforestation in freshly accreted chars in coastal areas has been prioritized, with plantations covering around 23,818 hectares. The Forest Department has mapped prospective freshly accreted char land and appropriate barren lands for afforestation to construct a green belt along the coastal region.

Established Forest and Carbon Inventories: The Forest Department conducted the National Forest Inventory (NFI) during 2016-2019 to identify the status of forest and tree resources, carbon and biomass stock, dependency of local people on trees and forests, etc. The forest cover of Bangladesh is 12.8 percent of the country. The government has estimated the carbon emission for the agriculture, forestry and other land use (AFOLU) sectors to develop the Forest Reference Level (FRL) for submission to the UNFCCC. To reduce the carbon emission from the forestry sector, Bangladesh has formulated Bangladesh National REDD+ Strategy (BNRS) and established the National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) for periodical monitoring of trees and forest cover using satellite imagery. Bangladesh Forest Information System (BFIS) has been established for supporting the dissemination of information and data to the stakeholders.

Increased Commitment to Social Forestry: The government has remained committed to the objectives of social forestry. At present, more than half a million people are involved with the overall social forestry programs. Additionally, encroached forest lands, depleted forest areas, vacant marginal land, and road-side areas were reforested during the last few years. The major components of these programs were to establish woodlots, agro-forestry, and strip plantations throughout the country. The plantations established under social forestry programs are being harvested at the end of the rotation (10 years) and of which the benefit will also go to the participants.

Moratorium on tree felling: The moratorium on tree felling in reserve forests has been extended till 2022 in 2016. The ban was extended for better conservation of the environment and biodiversity.

Ecologically critical areas (ECAs): The ecologically critical area (ECA) is an environmentally protected zone where the ecosystem is considered to be endangered to reach a critical condition by the changes brought through various human activities. Bangladesh Environment Conservation (Amendment) Act 2010 states that ECA means such an area that is rich in unique biodiversity

or due to the importance of environmental perspective necessary to protect or conserve from destructive activities. The ECA also falls within the category of natural and cultural heritage.

The Government of Bangladesh declared eight areas as ECAs in 1999, e.g. Cox's Bazar and Teknaf Peninsula, St. Martin's Island, Sonadia Island, Hakaluki Haor, Tanguar Haor, Marjat Baor, Gulshan-Baridhara Lake, and the Sundarbans. Subsequently, in 2009, four rivers (e.g. Buriganga, Sitalakhya, Balu, and Turag) around Dhaka city were also declared as ECAs.

The Department of Environment has also declared several areas as ECAs which are protected under the Environment Conservation Rules. Figure 15.3 and Figure 15.4 show the area distribution of threatened species across Bangladesh. Given all the different types of protected areas, the current estimates show that the terrestrial critical area is about 1.7 percent and the freshwater critical area is about 1.8 percent of the land area in Bangladesh. It is expected to rise to 2.4 percent and 5 percent respectively by 2030.

In addition, Bangladesh has also created a vulture safe zone in the northeast and southwest regions of Bangladesh in 2014. In the Sylhet region, the total area of the safe zone within   Bangladesh is 19,663 sq. km and the core area is 7,459 sq. km. while in the Khulna region the total area of the safe zone within Bangladesh is 27,717 sq. km. and the core area is 7,846 sq. km.

Table 15 4: Ecologically Critical Areas (ECAs) of Bangladesh

Ecologically Critical Areas	Ecosystem	Location	Area in ha	Year
Cox's Bazar Teknaf Peninsula	Coastal-Marine	Cox's Bazar	20.373	1999
Sundarbans Coast	Coastal-Marine	Bagerhat, Barguna, Pirojpur, SaBDThira	292.926	1999
St. Martin Island	Coral reefs	Cox's Bazar	1214	1999
Hakaluki Haor	Freshwater wetland	Sylhet and Moulvibazar	40466	1999
Sonadia Island	Marine Island	Cox's Bazar	10298	1999
Tanguar Haor	Freshwater wetland	Sunamganj	9727	1999
Marjat Baor	Oxbow Lake	Jhenaidah and Jashore	326	1999
Gulshan-Baridhara Lake	Urban wetland	Dhaka	101	2001
Buriganga River	River	Dhaka	1336	2009
Turag River	River	Dhaka	1184	2009
Sitalakhya River	River	Dhaka	3771	2009
Balu River and TongiKhal	River and Canal	Dhaka	1315	2009
Jaflong-Dawki	River	Sylhet	1493	2015

Source: IUCN Bangladesh, 2015
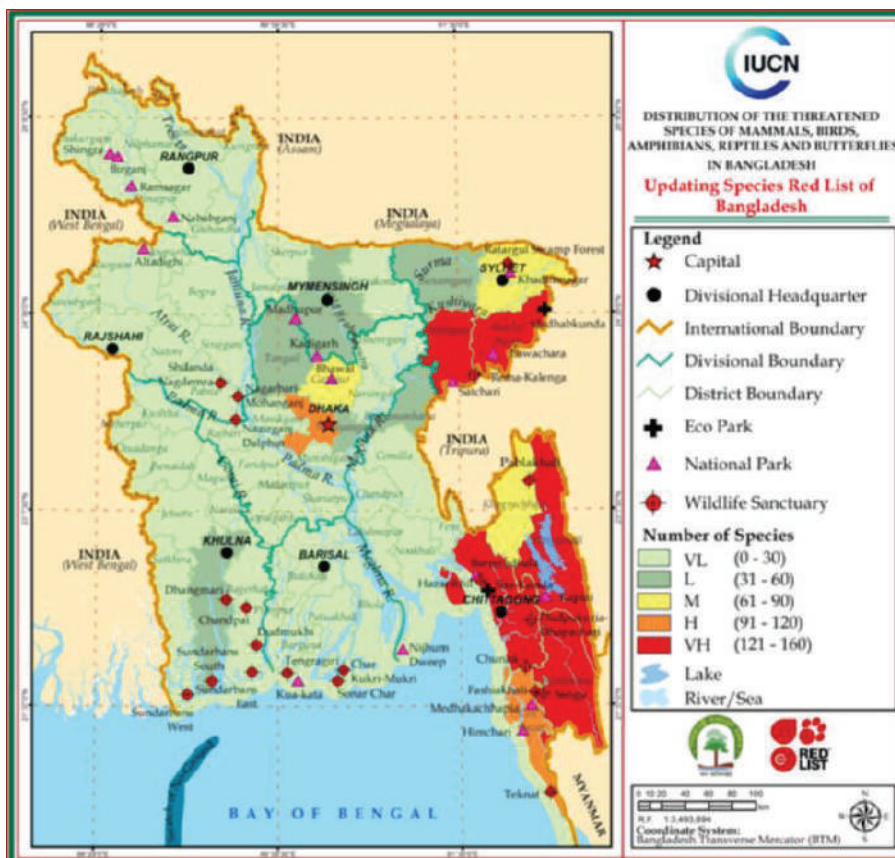
Source: IUCN, 2015

Figure 15.3: Concentration of Threatened Mammals, Birds, and other Amphibian Animals
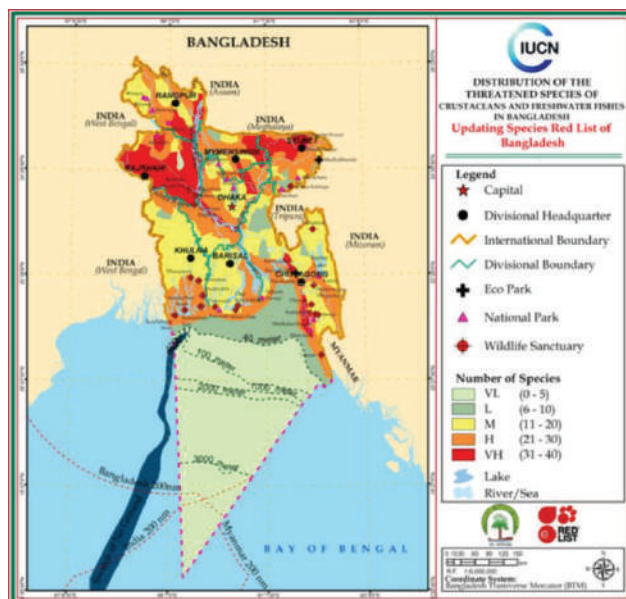
Source: IUCN, 2015

Figure 15.4: Distribution of Threatened Aquatic Species

Special biosphere reserve - Ratargul swamp forest: Ratargul is a small freshwater swamp in the haor basin of the northeast region of Bangladesh. It is the last stronghold and refuge of freshwater swamp forest biodiversity in the country. Therefore, to protect the forest's environment and ecosystem, the government declared Ratargul a special biosphere reserve in 2015. The ecosystem in Ratargul is a typical freshwater wetland forest and remains dry in winter but is inundated to a depth of about eight feet during the monsoon.

15.4 Key Challenges

The 5th Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC-AR5) has predicted that sea-level rise threatens coastal and deltaic rice production areas in Asia, such as those in Bangladesh and the Mekong River Delta. By 2050, Bangladesh will face an incremental cost to flood protection of US$ 2.6 billion in initial costs and US$ 54 million in annual recurring costs. Therefore, it is evident that climate change will be a serious threat to Bangladesh in achieving the SDGs. Bangladesh needs to concentrate more on good governance so that the desired developments at the right time can be achieved.

- The loss of biodiversity has implications for the wider population, especially those who depend on agriculture, fisheries, and forestry for their livelihoods. Protecting biodiversity is particularly essential for Bangladesh because agriculture accounts for around 40 percent of the employment of its labor force. Biodiversity also has implications for public health as loss of biodiversity has serious implications for the availability of medicines; given approximately half of all synthetic drugs have a natural origin. Bangladesh, in this context, has had a rich heritage of a diverse ecosystem, which has come under severe threat from environmentally damaging economic transformations. Deforestation and forest degradation, the degradation of land, sea, and river water pollution, indiscriminate filling of water bodies for land acquisition, unsustainable use of groundwater and fishery resources in ponds, lakes, and rivers, and unsustainable ways of shrimp farming have collectively taken a huge toll on the degradation of the eco-system and consequent loss of biodiversity.

- The key challenges of Bangladesh to protect life on land are to develop and effectively implement appropriate management strategies for its protected and critical areas with the full participation of the local stakeholders. In five of the national parks, 50 percent of the entry fee is allowed to be used for the benefit of the local communities. The challenge is to develop an efficient strategy to ensure that entry into these areas is also controlled keeping in view the carrying capacity of these ecosystems. The data available on the specific indicators is also a great challenge for Bangladesh.

Several direct threats and challenges to biodiversity also exist in Bangladesh. The pressure of the huge population on the environment, expansion of human settlements and agriculture, shifting cultivation, habitat degradation, and destruction are several major threats to biodiversity in Bangladesh. In recent years, Rohingya refugees are also a severe threat to achieving many of the SDG15 targets in Bangladesh.

15.5 Way Forward

The Forest Department of Bangladesh has been working for a long time to conserve biodiversity and wildlife. Overall, Bangladesh has adopted a holistic approach to ecosystems, which also includes the people who use them sustainably and focuses on their experiences in dealing with changes in ecosystems for the sustainable implementation of SDG15. The approach recognizes that biodiversity and its conservation should not be reduced to monetary valuation and ecosystem services, but non-monetary and intangible assets as well as non-economic incentives such as appropriate recognition of indigenous territories should be given greater consideration.

The 8th Five Year Plan (2021-2025) targets to increase the tree density significantly by halting the felling of trees in the natural forests, increasing tree density of the existing forests and older plantations through 'enrichment planting' and 'assisted natural regeneration', and intensification of plantation activities in the coastal zones. About 50,000 ha of land in hill forests and 5,000 ha in plain land forests will be planted during the period. The productivity of the plantations will also be increased manifold. Multi-purpose trees will receive special attention to increasing the productivity of land under forests. The existing coastal afforestation and enrichment plantation will also be continued. The existing mature coastal plantations will remain for reinforcing the green belt. An area of 30,000 ha will be planted and replanted in the coastal areas.

SDG15 is particularly devoted to environmental resources (e.g., forests, wetlands, land). These resources are gravely threatened by human-induced climate change and intense anthropogenic activities. In Bangladesh, one of the most climate-vulnerable countries, climate change, and human interventions are taking a heavy toll on environmental resources. Ensuring the sustainability of these resources requires regular monitoring and evaluation to identify challenges, concerns, and progress of environmental management.

15.6 Summary

Bangladesh is composed of a patchwork of complex and species-rich ecosystems. These are in generic terms: hill ranges; evergreen and semi-evergreen forests; dry-deciduous and moist deciduous forests; grasslands; reed lands; floodplains; rivers; low-lying islands (charlands); ox-bow lakes (baors); river back swamps (haors); open woodlands (village groves); low-lying deep depressions (beels); ponds/canals/ditches; estuarine; coastal mudflats, coastal islands; mangrove swamps; one coral-bearing island; and marine ecosystems.

Bangladesh is moving in the right direction to achieve SDG15. Bangladesh is formulating different policies and taking steps to implement those which are assisting to protect ecosystems, species, plants, and animals. As a developing country with rich natural diversity, Bangladesh's National

Science and Technology Policy has identified several priority areas related to SDG15 such as green technology especially for harnessing natural resources; ecosystems as carbon sinks; ICTs, biotechnology, and nanotechnology; and basic sciences. Bangladesh's focus has to be on developing an information and technological knowledge base on green jobs and exploring the creation of green skills in transitioning to a low-carbon economy. To this end, there is a crucial need for capacity building for greening the economy and skills development for green jobs.

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

PROMOTE PEACEFUL AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, PROVIDE ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ALL, AND BUILD EFFECTIVE, ACCOUNTABLE, AND INCLUSIVE INSTITUTIONS AT ALL LEVELS

16.1 Global/Regional Context

Peace, stability, human rights, and effective governance based on the rule of law are important conduits for sustainable development. But, the world is increasingly getting divided. Some regions enjoy sustained levels of peace, security, and prosperity while others fall into seemingly endless cycles of conflict and violence. This is by no means inevitable and must be addressed. High levels of armed violence and insecurity have a destructive impact on a country's development, affecting economic growth and often resulting in long-standing grievances among communities that can last for generations. Sexual violence, crime, exploitation, and torture are also prevalent where there is a conflict or no rule of law, and countries must take measures to protect those who are most at risk. SDG16 aims to significantly reduce all forms of violence, and work with governments and communities to find lasting solutions to conflict and insecurity. Strengthening the rule of law and promoting human rights are keys to this process, as are reducing the flow of illicit arms and strengthening the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance.

Strengthened institutions, rules of law, and enforcement contribute to support the implementation of multi-lateral environmental agreements and progress towards internationally agreed global environmental goals. A better understanding of the links between the environment and human security is vital for effective conflict prevention, post-conflict reconstruction, and the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies. In the past 60 years, 40 percent of conflicts have been tied to natural resources and these are twice as likely to relapse into conflict within the first five years.

National human rights institutions (NHRIs) are independent bodies that promote and protect human rights. They have played a critical role during the pandemic by examining and monitoring impacts on health and other areas and by highlighting the human rights implications of the crisis. In 2020, 82 countries had independent NHRIs that successfully achieved compliance with international standards, a 17 percent improvement from 2015. One in three LDCs now has an internationally compliant NHRI, compared with one in five in 2015. These gains, however, are not enough to meet the 2030 target. Progress has stalled in most regions, where no new independent NHRIs have been recognized or established since 2018. The largest challenge to achieving SDG16 in South Asia is to address the systemic issues. Besides, the majority of the indicators for SDG16 are classified as Tier II in South Asia; indicating that regular data on the indicators are not produced by the countries.

16.2 Assessment of Progress on SDG16

All forms of violence, absence of rule of law, access to justice, financial and organized crimes, corruption and bribery, limited access to information, and other social constraints act as pivotal constraints in establishing sustainable peace, justice, and strong institutions. As elsewhere, peace, human rights, stability, and effective governance are essential preconditions of sustainable development. In reality, the world is becoming increasingly divided.

The government is working towards upholding the values of peace, justice, and strong institutions which are put forward by SDG16. The formation of the National Human Rights Commission in 2009, the issuance of the Right to Information Act 2009, and similar other measures have set

the foundation on which the government is proceeding towards achieving SDG16. As a result, several indicators have shown rapid progress such as the number of victims of intentional homicide and human trafficking has declined significantly. Towards building accountable institutions and combating corruption in public services, the government is implementing various initiatives including Annual Performance Agreements (APAs), National Integrity Strategy (NIS), and Grievance Redress System (GRS).

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

The number of victims of intentional homicide per 100,000 population decreased to 1.33 in 2020; 0.99 for males and 0.33 for females. The active moves by law enforcement agencies have contributed significantly to improving the law and order situation and reducing violent crime rates in the country.

Table 16 1: Number of Victims of Intentional Homicide

Indicator	2010	Baseline [2015]	2019	2020	Milestone by 2025	Target by 2030
16.1.1 Number of victims of intentional homicide per 100,000 population, by sex and age	2.6	Total: 1.94 Male: 3.1 Female: 0.76	Total: 1.39 Male: 2.1 Female: 0.67	Total: 1.33 Male: 0.99 Female: 0.33	Total: 1.5 Male: 1.2 Female: 0.3	Total: 1 Male: 0.9 Female: 0.2

Source: BP, MoHA

Indicator 16.1.2 Conflict-related deaths per 100,000 population, by sex, age, and cause

Conflict-related deaths have been defined as "deaths in battle-related conflicts between warring parties in the conflict dyad (two conflict units that are parties to a conflict). According to BP 2018, conflict-related deaths per 100,000 population is 0.17; of which 0.08 are males and 0.09 are females. Bangladesh's contribution to UN Peacekeeping is a story of glory and success. It may be mentioned that the Bangladesh Armed Forces and Bangladesh Police have been actively involved in many United Nations Peace Support Operations (UNPSO) since 1988. The footprints of Bangladeshi peacekeepers are now evident in almost all the troubled areas of the world. Bangladesh's position in terms of troops contribution has been the first in 2021, 2015, and 2014 and second in 2020, 2018, 2017, 2013, and 2012 (Armed Forces Division, Prime Minister's Office).

Indicator 16.1.3 Proportion of population subjected to (a) physical violence, (b) psychological violence, and (c) sexual violence in the previous 12 months

The Violence against Women (VAW) Survey 2015 measures five forms of violence: physical violence, sexual violence, economic violence, emotional violence, and controlling behavior. Almost two-thirds (72.6 percent) of ever-married women experienced one or more such forms of violence by their husbands at least once in their lifetime, and 57.7 percent of women experienced violence during the last 12 months. The targeted rate is 30 percent by 2025 and 15 percent by 2030. Of lifetime experiences, controlling behavior was most common, reported by more than half of ever-married women (55.4 percent). This was followed by physical violence (49.6 percent), emotional violence (28.7 percent of women), sexual violence (27.3 percent), and economic violence (11.4 percent). The Multi-Sectoral Programme on Violence Against Women (MSPVAW) under the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA) runs eight One-stop Crisis Centres (OCCs) at the division levels and 60 One-stop Crisis Cells (OCCs) to provide information and referral services to the victims of VAW. This initiative is carried out to provide all required services to the women and child victims of violence in one place.

Indicator 16.1.4 Proportion of the population that feel safe walking alone around the area they live

The Citizen Perception Household Survey (CPHS) 2018, BBS indicates that nearly 86 percent of the population always feel safe walking alone around the area they live; the proportion is 88 percent for males and 84 percent for females. However, the proportion is varied; nearly 89 percent of the urban population and around 85 percent of the rural population feel safe walking alone around the area they live. As per MICS 2019, 74.8 percent of women aged 15-49 years feel safe walking alone around the area they live.

Indicator 16.2.1 Proportion of children aged 1-17 years who experienced any physical punishment and/or psychological aggression by caregivers in the past month

The proportion of children aged between 1 to 14 years who experienced corporal punishment or psychological aggression was 88.5 percent in Bangladesh in 2019 (MICS, 2019), which is 88.9 percent in urban areas and 88.4 percent in rural areas. In terms of geographical distribution by divisions, the highest incidence of corporal punishment or psychological aggression against children is 91.9 percent in the Khulna division (Figure 16.1). In all geographic divisions of the country, the incidence of corporal punishment or psychological aggression against children is higher than 85 percent.
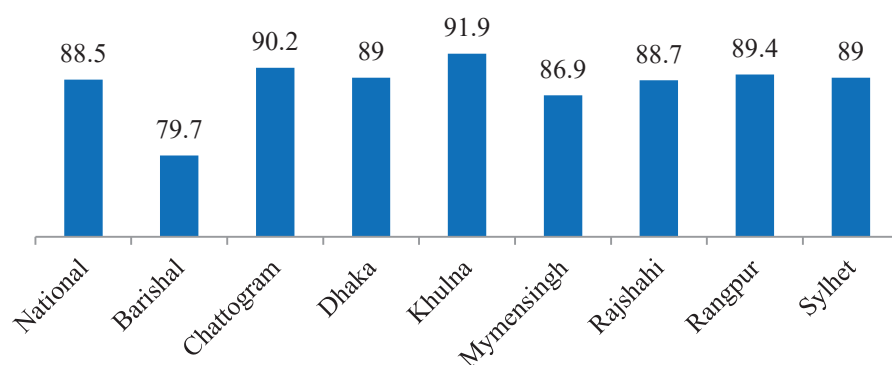
Figure 16.1: Percentage of Children Aged 1-14 Years who Experienced any Violent Discipline Method during the Last Month, Bangladesh, 2019

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

As of 2020, the number of victims of human trafficking has decreased to 0.46 from the baseline of 0.85 in 2015 for every 100,000 population. The number of victims of human trafficking for males and females is close to 0.23.

Table 16.2: Victims of Human Trafficking and Sexual Violence

Indicator	Baseline [2015]	2018	2019	2020	Milestone by 2025
Number of victims of human trafficking per 100,000 population, by sex, age, and form of exploitation	1.78 (Male: 1.14; Female: 0.64)	0.60 (Male: 0.27; Female: 0.33)	1.21 (Male: 0.58; Female: 0.63)	0.46 (Male: 0.23; Female: 0.23)	Total: 0.30

16.2.3 Proportion of young women and men aged 18–29 years who experienced sexual violence by age 18

Sexual violence is one of the most unsettling of children's rights violations. Experiences of sexual violence in childhood hinder all aspects of development: physical, psychological/emotional, and social. Apart from the physical injuries that can result, sexual abuse of children is associated with a wide array of mental health consequences and adverse behavioral outcomes in adulthood. The issue is universally relevant and the indicator captures one of the gravest forms of violence against

children. The right of children to protection from all forms of violence is enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and its Optional Protocols.

The indicator shows the number of young women and men aged 18-29 years who report having experienced any sexual violence by age 18 divided by the total number of young women and men aged 18-29 years, respectively, in the population multiplied by 100. In 2015, data show that 3.45 percent of young women aged 18-29 years experienced sexual violence by age 18. The targeted rate is 1.5 percent for the year 2025 and zero for the year 2030. In collaboration with the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA) and Ministry of Social Welfare (MoSW), Health Services Division (HSD) will carry out the expansion and strengthening of the one-stop crisis centers to serve the affected women.

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

According to MICS 2019, 10.3 percent of women who experienced violence reported it to the police which is 12.20 percent in urban areas, and 9.8 percent in rural areas. The targeted rate is 20 percent by 2025 and 30 percent by 2030.

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

This indicator helps assess the performance of the judicial system in finalizing cases and providing access to an effective judicial system. Available data suggest that, currently, the proportion of un-sentenced detainees is high (81 percent in 2021) in Bangladesh, more than double the target rate for 2030 indicating the need for more intensified efforts in meeting the target. Recent data show that in 2021, out of 81 percent of un-sentenced detainees, the male and female proportion is 96 percent and 4 percent respectively (Bangladesh SDG Tracker).

Indicator 16.3.3 Proportion of the population who have experienced a dispute in the past two years and who accessed a formal or informal dispute resolution mechanism, by type of mechanism

As per the Citizen Perception Household Survey (CPHS) 2018, a total of 97 percent of the population experienced a dispute in the past two years in 2018 and 78 percent had formal access and 22 percent had informal access to dispute resolution mechanisms.

Indicator 16.4.2 Proportion of seized, found, or surrendered arms whose illicit origin or context has been traced or established by a competent authority in line with international instruments

In 2020, the proportion of seized, found, or surrendered arms whose illicit origin or context has been traced or established by a competent authority in line with international instruments was 102. The rate has increased in 2020 mainly due to better monitoring and more effective administration by the relevant authorities.

Table 16 3: Proportion of Seized, Found, or Surrendered Arms whose Illicit Origin or Context has been Traced or Established by a Competent Authority in Line with International Instruments (%)

2018	2019	2020
123	85	102

Source: Ministry of Defence

Indicator 16.5.1 Proportion of persons who had at least one contact with a public official and who paid a bribe to a public official, or were asked for a bribe by those public officials, during the previous 12 months

According to the Citizen Perception Household Survey (CPHS) 2018, 31.3 percent of the population had at least one contact with a public official and who paid a bribe to a public official or were asked for a bribe by those public officials, during the previous 12 months. And around 29 percent of the males and 35 percent of the females in 2018 had at least one contact with a public official and who paid a bribe to a public official or were asked for a bribe by those public officials, during the previous 12 months. The target for 2030 is 10 percent.

Indicator 16.5.2 Proportion of businesses that had at least one contact with a public official and that paid a bribe to a public official or were asked for a bribe by those public officials during the previous 12 months

According to World Bank Enterprise Survey, in 2013, 41 percent of businesses that had at least one contact with a public official and paid a bribe to a public official, or were asked for a bribe by those public officials during the previous 12 months. The target for 2030 is 10 percent.

Indicator 16.6.1 Primary government expenditures as a proportion of the original approved budget, by sector (or by budget codes or similar)

According to the definition of government budget documentation and fiscal reports, primary government expenditures as a proportion of the original approved budget measures the extent to which aggregate budget expenditure outturn reflects the amount originally approved, as defined in government budget documentation and fiscal reports.

Table 16 4: Primary Government Expenditures as a Proportion of the Original Approved Budget

2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
90.75	84.59	95.67	89.65	93.12	92.81	95.26

Source: Ministry of Finance

Indicator 16.6.2 Proportion of the population satisfied with their last experience of public services

As per the Citizen Perception Household Survey (CPHS) 2018, 39.7 percent of the population is satisfied with their last experience of public services. The target for 2025 is 60 percent and for 2030, the targeted rate is 90 percent.

Indicator 16.7.1 Proportions of positions in national and local public institutions, including (a) the legislatures; (b) the public service; and (c) the judiciary, compared to national distributions, by sex, age, persons with disabilities and population groups

In 2019, the proportions of positions of women are (a) Legislatures: 19.2 percent; (b) Public service: 0.53 percent; and (c) Judiciary: 0.56 percent (Source: BPS, LJD, Supreme Court, MoPA).

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

The percentage of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority has increased from 37.0 percent in 2013 to 56.2 percent in 2019. The proportion is higher in rural areas at 56.8 percent than 54.0 percent in urban areas. The target for 2025 is 80 percent and for 2030 is 100 percent (Data source: LGD; MICS; BBS; SID).

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

The Right to Information Act 2009 has been enacted in Bangladesh making provisions for ensuring the free flow of information and people's right to information. In line with the Act, an Independent Information Commission has also been established in 2009. The Commission is responsible for undertaking five main types of functions: issuing directives and guidelines, conducting research and advising the government on improving the access to information regime and compliance with international instruments, building institutional capacity, conducting promotional activities, and resolving complaints.

Indicator16.a.1Existence of independent national human rights institutions in compliance with the Paris Principles

The National Human Rights Commission was established in 2007 by the Government of Bangladesh. It was re-established by the National Human Rights Commission Act 2009 as a national advocacy institution for human rights promotion and protection. It is committed to the accomplishment of human rights in a broader sense, including dignity, worth, and freedom of every human being, as enshrined in the Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and different international human rights conventions and treaties to which Bangladesh is a signatory.

The National Human Rights Commission, Bangladesh (NHRCB) has the mandate to handle complaints relating to the allegation of human rights violations which includes business activity as well. The Commission can inquire into a complaint concerning alleged business-related human rights abuses. The purpose of establishing the institution is to contribute to the embodiment of human dignity and integrity as well as safeguard the fundamental human rights of all individuals. The NHRCB was instrumental in adopting the Child Marriage Restraint Act 2017. The Commission plays a significant role in establishing a culture of respect for human rights with the cooperation of all concerned including civil society and public and private organizations. The Commission has

been working to raise awareness on human rights issues through research, seminars, symposiums, workshops, and other means; investigate any allegation of human rights violations; investigate particular human rights violation allegations discovered through the Commission's monitoring; settle the matter or pass it on to the court or relevant authorities, and mediate and/or conciliate in human rights disputes.

Indicator16.b.1Proportion of population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed in the previous 12 months based on a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law

According to the CPHS 2018, 35.6 percent of the population have reported having personally felt discriminated against or harassed in the previous 12 months based on a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law. According to MICS 2019, 10.5 percent of women aged 15-49 years have personally felt discriminated against or harassed in the previous 12 months. The target for 2025 is 25 percent and for 2030 it is 15 percent.

16.3 Policies and Efforts to Achieve SDG16

Regarding extremist threats, Bangladesh has successfully adopted a zero-tolerance policy to firmly deal with the challenge. In addition to updating relevant laws and rules, the government has sought support from various stakeholders from civil society and the members of the international community. However, International cooperation needs to be strengthened to prevent and suppress human trafficking by way of legalizing entry of guest workers in developed and oil-rich middle-eastern countries as thousands of Bangladeshis look for opportunities abroad. In the domestic arena, several civil society organizations are working with multiple stakeholders, including students, youth, teachers, faith leaders, parents and government agencies, and local government officials to address the challenges.

It is necessary to generate relevant data regularly. At the same time, data quality should be ensured. Therefore, an efficient data monitoring mechanism supported by a credible database can contribute to positive change to achieve the targeted goal. At present, the Rohingya refugees inflow from Myanmar is an important issue for SDG16 in Bangladesh. This is not only worrying for national peace and stability but also regional stability and progress. The Rohingyas have fled to Bangladesh following persecution against the community in the Rakhine state in Myanmar. The safe and orderly return of these refugees, with due citizenship status, to their homes will ensure peace and stability in the region and release resources for use in achieving the SDGs. Effective international pressure is needed for Myanmar to take back its citizens with honor and dignity.

To ensure good governance, the Govt of Bangladesh has introduced a number of pragmatic efforts, including- Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR), National Strategy for Prevention of Money Laundering and Combating Financing of Terrorism 2019-2021, Establishing Information Commission and National Human Rights Commission, National Action Plan to Prevent Violence against Women and Children (2013-2025), Annual Performance Agreement (APA), Citizen Charter, National Integrity Strategy (NIS), Grievance Redress System (GRS).

The United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) has been ratified by Bangladesh. The Convention envisages both taking preventive measures against corruption and creating an enabling environment for ensuring integrity in conducting public affairs and managing public property in the member countries. The Convention delineates, inter alia, its purposes as: "to promote and strengthen measures to prevent and combat corruption more efficiently and effectively" and "to promote integrity, accountability and proper management of public affairs and public property." Similar programs have been envisaged in the 8th Five Year Plan (2021-2025), 'Perspective Plan 2041', and 'Vision 2041' of Bangladesh. Bangladesh has also delineated a coordinated strategy for the prevention of corruption and promotion of integrity based on the abovementioned convention, plans, and vision.

16.4 Key Challenges

SDG16 frames the promotion of sustainable peace and security as a development issue. This reflects the overarching truth that development is impossible without peace. SDG 16 is unique in the fact that it calls for a multi-stakeholder response to implementation. It calls on civil society organizations (CSOs) and other non-state actors (NSAs) to take an active role in implementing the SDG commitments.SDG16 recognizes the need to respond to challenges to build a peaceful and just world. In the context of a transforming global community that is increasingly faced with conflict, the threat of terrorism, and political instability, this goal has become more important than ever.

Peace and justice are recognized as important drivers in creating a sustainable society by bridging the Global North/South divide, the gap between rich and poor, the gap between developed and developing countries, and erasing the increased possibility of isolating marginalized groups such as migrants, woman, and disabled people.

There are several key challenges in implementing SDG16 especially since the Covid-19 pandemic has increased violence and reversed steps for several of the SDGs. The international community is weakened and focusing more on hard security than on human security in peace processes. Although several actions have been implemented, there still exist some factors that impede success in these areas.

- First, available data will have to be updated regularly by the line ministries to undertake appropriate actions and guide them properly. This will also facilitate the process of ascertaining priority areas and adopting appropriate financing strategies, including seeking international cooperation.

- The collection procedure of data has o be simplified and collected data will have to be more authentic.

- The challenge for the government is to take a holistic approach to working with inequality. Specific focus has to be given to improving data collection to identify systematic discrimination and other problems. Particular attention needs to be given to women and children who are often excluded from accessing justice. This has to be done by expanding legal aid systems using paralegals to provide better coverage and more access.

- Lack of capacity especially the technical know-how of the officials also put a serious challenge to achieving SDG16.
- Corruption, exploitation, violence, and illicit financial flows often persist since they serve the interests of powerful groups and actors in society. The key challenge is to carefully balance the winners and losers to avoid any derailment of progress in achieving SDG16. Further, the challenges of many SDG16 indicators involve working in highly political, contested, and unpredictable spaces.

16.5 Way Forward

The core of SDG16 is to acknowledge the need for peace, justice, and accountable institutions in achieving long-term, transformational, and inclusive development. These are also the key channels for reducing violence and corruption, combating human trafficking and organized crime, and providing legal identification for all. Consequently, SDG16 provides a long-awaited and robust mandate for the donors and implementing organizations to exert consistent emphasis on these vital concerns especially by putting governance issues at the front and center of the international community's efforts to alleviate poverty.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), together with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), have initiated a project on 'Statistics and data for measuring illicit financial flows in the Asia-Pacific region'. The project aims to consolidate existing and test new methodological guidelines for the measurement of illicit financial flows (IFFs) and build statistical capacity by providing technical assistance and guidance to pilot countries using the defined standards and concepts developed by UNCTAD and UNODC. The project is being implemented in six countries including Bangladesh. For this purpose, Bangladesh has set up a national coordination mechanism (NCM) among the key national stakeholders and data providers to measure drug-related IFFs.

In this context, one possible approach to accelerate the pace of implementation is to link national and local-level policies, providing greater support to subnational governance institutions. Local government institutions (LGIs) in Bangladesh have already recognized this, arguing that new institutional arrangements and channels of coordination need to underpin more effective, accountable, and transparent institutions, as well as more responsive, inclusive, participatory, and representative decision-making. This is necessary for the LGIs to become more responsive to their communities, and for Bangladesh to deliver on SDG16.

16.6 Summary

SDG16 addresses the need for major intervention to promote peace and inclusive institutions and contribute to other SDGs. Areas of improvement include: reducing lethal violence, reducing civilian deaths in conflicts, and eliminating human trafficking. The SDGs cannot be fully achieved without SDG16 which focuses on inclusive societies, democracy, strong institutions, justice, and

rule of law. Thus, SDG16 is the key goal and the driver of all other sustainable goals. However, growing economic inequality, lack of capacity, and non-inclusive growth are the major challenges in achieving SDG16.

A mixed-mode approach has also been adopted in Bangladesh under the multi-donor Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF), in which the government and civil society actors join hands to mobilize and enhance the resilience of the community at the grassroots level against radicalization and extremist tendencies. More effective organization of workshops, seminars, symposiums, and grassroots-level movements are taken as instrumental in reducing acts of discrimination against women by persons, organizations, or enterprises. Reforms are also necessary to address limitations existing in different laws about ensuring human rights, protection of freedom of speech and expression, right to information, right to life and livelihood, and strengthening institutions in the light of changing dynamics of Bangladesh's society and economy.

The institutional and financial capacity of the institutions should be increased for better performance. Civil society organizations (CSOs) should develop more partnerships with the government on different issues such as capacity building, data generation, service delivery, and information dissemination. The participation of youth volunteers and social workers should be increased, and their capacity should be strengthened to promote good governance, transparency, and accountability of different institutions, and act as a driving force against corruption, human rights violations, violence against women and children, and to promote peace and justice in the social sphere. Coordination among different public and CSO stakeholders should be increased to give special attention to gender-based violence. Legal aid and service providers including state and non-state actors who are working across the country should work together to create a central database that identifies and measures the reach and operations of legal aid and services. To ensure sustainable development of the social groups and regions that are lagging for various reasons, institutional mechanisms have to be evolved to specifically target the improvement of SDG16-related services.

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

STRENGTHEN THE MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION AND REVITALIZE THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

17.1 Global/Regional Context

The success of the 2030 Agenda requires inclusive partnerships — at the global, regional, national, and local levels — built upon principles and values, and upon a shared vision and shared goals placing people and the planet at the center. Most developing countries do not have sufficient domestic resources and fiscal space to fund adequate Covid-19 response and recovery measures. International cooperation and external finance are crucial. The 2020 Financing for Sustainable Development Report outlines measures to address the impact of the unfolding global recession and financial turmoil, especially in the world's poorest countries. To support efforts in low- and middle-income countries, a UN Response and Recovery Trust Fund has been launched. In addition, the UN has set out a Global Humanitarian Response Plan to assist the most vulnerable populations, including refugees and internally displaced persons. The World Health Organization (WHO), the UN Foundation, and partners have launched a Solidarity Response Fund to allow corporations and individuals to directly contribute to WHO's Covid-19 response.

To address issues of open and timely access to critical data needed by governments and all sectors of society to respond to the global Covid-19 crisis, the UN portal provides a space for the global statistical community to share guidance, actions, tools, and best practices to ensure the operational continuity of data programs by National Statistical Offices. To combat the growing scourge of Covid-19 misinformation, the UN has launched Verified, an initiative to increase the volume and reach of trusted, accurate information on three themes: science (to save lives), solidarity (to promote local and global cooperation), and solutions (to advocate for support to impacted populations). Greater investments as well as FDIs, have to be made in priority sectors, such as sustainable energy, infrastructure and transport, and information and communications technologies (ICTs). Along with setting a clear direction, and facilitating monitoring and evaluation frameworks, regulations are needed to attract additional investments.

The priority for low-income countries is to enhance the resource mobilization capacity and ensure long-term debt sustainability through coordinated policies, adopting and implementing investment promotion regimes, and revitalizing the global partnership through sharing knowledge, expertise, technology, and financial resources. Further, domestic policy frameworks, effective institutions, and support for good governance, democracy, rule of law, human rights, transparency, and accountability are essential ingredients of non-financial resources. Net ODA reached a record high of $161 billion in 2020 representing 0.32 percent of donors' GNI, but still short of the target of 0.7 percent of GNI (UNDESA, 2022).

The progress on several means of implementation has been quite fast, such as personal remittances are at an all-time high; there has been a rapid increase in the proportion of the global population with access to the internet, and the Technology Bank for the least developed countries (LDCs) has been established. Despite Covid-19, remittance flows remained resilient in 2020, registering a smaller decline than previously projected.

According to the United Nations Statistics Division, between 2017 and 2019, the worldwide weighted tariff average remained stable at around 2 percent. Moreover, exports of developing

countries and LDCs have been given preferential treatment by developed countries. After reaching the lowest level ever of about 1.1 percent in 2011, the average tariff applied by developed countries to imports from developing countries and LDCs has remained flat due to a lack of new commitments. Agriculture, a particular concern for developing countries, accounted for the highest tariff imposed by developed countries in 2019 (7.9 percent).

The share of LDC exports in global merchandise trade remained constant in 2019 at 1 percent. Over the last decade, that share has stagnated, after significant improvements from 2000 to 2010, largely due to a commodities boom. The target of doubling the global share of LDC exports by 2020 from the 2011 level (increasing it to 2 percent) is unlikely to have been achieved.

17.2 Assessment of Progress on SDG17

As a cross-cutting goal, SDG17 directs resources and partnerships in three core areas (i.e. economy, society, and biosphere), and has a diverse set of targets and indicators in five areas including finance, technology, trade, capacity building, and systemic issues.

Resource Mobilisation

The SDG Financing Strategy, of the General Economics Division (GED) of the Planning Commission, indicates that Bangladesh needs an additional US$928.48 billion which is around 19.75 percent of the country's GDP at constant 2015-16 prices for implementing the SDGs. Further, in 2018, Bangladesh fulfilled all three eligibility criteria for graduation from the UN's LDC list and is on track for graduation in 2026. After graduation, Bangladesh may lose several preferential treatments in trade and aid as an LDC which may pose additional challenges in the future in terms of losing international trade preferences and support mechanisms.

It is well recognized that the current progress in resource mobilization, both domestic and external, needs substantial improvement for delivering the SDGs by 2030. In FY 2020-21, Bangladesh's revenue-GDP ratio is estimated at 9.3 percent which needs significant enhancement (MoF, 2022). Even though Bangladesh is no longer an aid-dependent country, still ODA plays a vital role especially in poverty reduction programs as well as in social and infrastructure development. According to the External Relations Division (ERD) of the Ministry of Finance, even taking into consideration the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic shock in the assessment process; debt remains at low risk of debt distress, and all external debt indicators are below their respective thresholds under the baseline and stress-test scenarios. Bangladesh is in a strong position. The increased flow of FDI as part of the strategy to mobilize significantly bigger amounts of resources for achieving accelerated growth with the renewed emphasis on domestic resource mobilization is currently being emphasized.

Bangladesh has retained its position as the recipient of one of the highest amounts of money transferred by migrant workers among the 10 top recipient nations in 2021. Remittance inflows to Bangladesh increased to $24.8 billion in 2021 (MoF, 2022). According to the World Bank, South Asia has the lowest remittance costs of all regions in the world but it is still about 50 percent above the SDG target of 3 percent.

Table 17.1: External Financing Sources

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
ODA, ml.US$	3,006	3,532	3,649	6,356	6,520	7,371	7,960
FDI (net), ml.US$	2,525	2,502	3,038	3,290	4,946	3,233	3,387
Remittances, bl. US$	15.82	15.28	13.24	15.40	16.86	18.76	24.78

Source: Bangladesh Economic Review 2022, Ministry of Finance; Bangladesh Bank

The Economic Relations Division (ERD) of the Ministry of Finance is responsible for managing external resources from different sources. Along with strengthening its collaboration with line ministries/divisions to speed up resource mobilization and project implementation, ERD has adopted the National Policy on Development Cooperation (NPDC) to ensure predictable and beneficial development cooperation. Further, Bangladesh's active participation in the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) and presenting Voluntary National Review (VNR), and High-Level Meeting (HLM2) of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC) are several steps towards developing an effective global partnership.

Indicators 17.1.1 and 17.1.2 Total government revenue as a proportion of GDP, by source and proportion of domestic budget funded by domestic taxes

Total government revenue as a proportion of GDP is a measure of the government's control of economic resources. This indicates the government's capacity to meet budget requirements. The total government revenue, comprising tax revenue and non-tax revenue, in 2021-22 was Tk.3889.97 billion or 11.4 percent of GDP. The share has improved significantly in recent years due to a substantial increase in the number of registered taxpayers, a rise in tax revenue collection, and the adoption of prudent tax collection and management mechanisms. Tax revenue, accounting for over 90 percent of the total government revenue, has also increased its contribution to the domestic budget in recent years.

Table 17.2: Total Government Revenue and Proportion of Domestic Budget

Indicator	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total government revenue as a proportion of GDP, by source	10.78	10.24	10.18	11.53	12.45	12.45	11.39
The proportion of the domestic budget funded by domestic taxes	68.17	67.05	61.77	69.84	71.54	69.39	65.22

Source: Bangladesh Economic Review 2022, Ministry of Finance, FD, Indicators 2010, Baseline

Indicator 17.2.1 Net official development assistance, total and to least developed countries, as a proportion of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee donors' gross national income (GNI)

According to ERD 2018, in 2017, the total net ODA was US$ 146.6 billion, the total net ODA to LDCs was US$ 65.97 billion and the net ODA to Bangladesh was US$ 4.96 billion.

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

Two major external sources (FDI and ODA) play a critical role in financing Bangladesh's budgetary expenses with a share of around 15 percent. Net ODA in 2021 was US$9.44 billion, about 25 percent higher than in the previous year. It may be mentioned that, in recent years, growth in the size of the national budget has been faster than the growth in ODA to Bangladesh (although in 2021, the amount of ODA was US$9.44 billion, more than thrice the amount in the base year of 2015). The commitment to external resources is rising year-on-year which implies that foreign resources inflow to Bangladesh would also be rising which would bring more investments for developing large infrastructure and other priority sectors.

Table 17.3: Overseas Development Assistance and Annual Budget

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Budget (billon US$)	33.81	33.80	42.58	51.00	55.31	59.16	63.55
ODA (in billon US$)	3.01	3.53	3.68	6.40	6.21	7.38	9.44
ODA as % of the budget	8.90	10.44	8.64	12.55	11.23	12.47	14.85

Source: Bangladesh Economic Review 2022, Ministry of Finance, FD

FDI as a proportion of the government budget declined in 2020 mainly due to the Covid-19 pandemic but has regained its growth momentum in 2021. As a share in financing domestic investment, FDI has fluctuated at around 3-4 percent of domestic investment in recent years without any observable trend. More attention is thus needed to achieve the 2030 milestone and develop an investment-friendly climate for attracting substantial FDIs into the country.

Table 17 .4: FDI as a Proportion of Annual Budget

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
FDI (in billion US$)	2.53	2.50	3.04	3.29	4.95	3.23	3.39
FDI as % of the budget	5.41	5.92	5.75	5.06	7.02	5.46	5.33
FDI as the proportion of domestic investment (%)	3.2	3.6	3.6	2.9	2.8	3.3	2.6

Source: Bangladesh Economic Review 2022, Ministry of Finance, UNCTAD

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

The annual flow of remittances has been increasing since 2015, reaching a record high of $24.78 billion in 2021. Still, the 2020 milestone of reaching the remittance/GDP ratio of 14 percent has not been met.

Table 17. 5: Remittances as a Proportion of GDP

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Remittances (in billion US$)	15.32	14.93	12.77	14.98	16.42	18.21	24.78
Remittances as % of GDP	7.85	6.74	5.77	5.5	6.00	5.64	5.95

Source: Bangladesh Economic Review 2022, Ministry of Finance; World Bank Data.

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

The indicator measures the proportion of debt service, interest, and principal payments, as a share of total export earnings. It is well recognized that large debt service payments reduce the government's capacity to increase development expenditure and impede economic growth. The debt service burden has risen from 3.5 percent in 2015 to 5.19 percent in 2021. Although it is within the safe limits, still the government carefully monitors and watches the trend to take appropriate measures, if necessary, to keep it under control.

Table 17. 6: Debt Service as a Percentage of Exports

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Debt service as a proportion of exports of goods and services (%)	3.5	3.1	3.2	3.8	3.9	5.2	5.19

Source: Bangladesh Economic Review 2022, Ministry of Finance, World Bank Data.

Indicator .17.5.1 Number of countries that adopt and implement investment promotion regimes for developing countries, including the least developed countries

Investment promotion regimes can be defined as those instruments that directly aim at encouraging outward or inward foreign investment through particular measures of the home or host countries of investment. Investment promotion regimes for LDCs are those instruments that home countries of investors have put in place to encourage outward investment in LDCs directly or through measures intended for developing countries.

Indicator 17.6.1 Fixed Internet broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants, by speed

Fixed broadband subscription provides wide scope for searching and sharing knowledge. Connectivity to broadband internet is steadily rising in the country. As per the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC), 5.78 subscriptions are recorded for every 100 population in 2020, nearly double the 2015 rate. Total fixed (wired) broadband Internet subscriptions refer to subscriptions to high-speed access to the public Internet (a TCP/IP connection), at downstream speeds equal to, or greater than, 256 kbit/s. This includes, for example, cable modem, DSL, fiber-to-the-home/building, and other fixed (wired) broadband subscriptions. This total is measured irrespective of the method of payment. It excludes subscriptions that have access to data communications (including the Internet) via mobile-cellular networks.

In 2012, the first 3G service was introduced in Bangladesh. According to the BTRC, the number of mobile internet subscribers was 29.6 million in 2012, which increased to 75 million in 2018.

4G Internet was introduced in Bangladesh in 2018, and in 2021, the number of users stood at 119 million. Bangladesh has entered the era of the 5G internet and conducted a soft launch of the 5G network in May 2022. The faster internet of this new 5G technology will have a more positive impact on the day-to-day life and business of the people of the country. The continuously increasing subscription rate and the indicator require only around 10 percent annual growth in the remaining years to achieve the 20 percent target by 2030.

Table 17.7: Fixed Internet Broadband Subscriptions

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Fixed Internet broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants, by speed	2.41	3.77	4.46	4.85	4.80	5.58	**5.82**

Source: BTRC. Accessed from (https://sdg.gov.bd/page/indicator-wise/1/179/3/0#1)

Indicator 17.8.1 Proportion of individuals using the Internet

The proportion of the population using the internet is a measure of access to the modern communication medium. And this has increased significantly in the country. The total number of internet users increased to 33.46 percent in 2015 from 3.7 percent in 2010. This new communication technology is now being adopted at a faster rate with the proportion of the population using the Internet reaching 43.5 percent in 2020.

Table 17.8: Proportion of Individuals using the Internet (Percent)

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
The proportion of individuals using the Internet	33.46	..	...	...	...	43.5 [Male 52.7, 34.3]

Source: World Development Indicators, World Bank Data 2021, and SVRS, BBS.

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

This indicator assesses the level of assistance, both technical and financial, in building the capacity of developing countries to implement plans for achieving the SDGs. The total amount of assistance committed to Bangladesh was USD 382.42 million in 2018 which is far below the target for 2030 (USD 1,500 million). Further, Bangladesh's graduation from LDCs would entail the loss of a small number of LDC-specific mechanisms for technical or financial support which are not expected to be of major consequences. It has been agreed that, after a smooth transition period of five years, Bangladesh would no longer have access to the LDC Technology Bank. Further, Bangladesh has been an active partner in South-South cooperation (UNOSSC, 2017). A PPP Technical Assistance Fund with an initial endowment of approximately $12 million has been established to provide early-stage project development funding support to sanctioned public-private partnership (PPP) projects.

Table 17.9: Value of Technical Assistance Committed to Bangladesh (Million US $)

	2010	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
The dollar value of financial and technical assistance (including through North-South, South-South, and triangular cooperation) committed to Bangladesh (in million US$)	3457 1,316 0.84	1,678	2,021	1,625	2,005	1,945	11,388

Source ERD, Ministry of Finance

Indicator 17.10.1 Worldwide weighted tariff-average

The worldwide weighted tariff average shows a declining trend till 2019 from the base year value of 2015. In 2015, it was 4.85 percent and in 2019 it declined to 4.64 percent.

Table 17 10: Weighted Tariff Average

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Weighted average tariff rate (%)	4.85	...	...	...	4.64

Source: BTC, 2019, MoC

Indicator 17.11.1 Developing countries and least developed countries' share of global exports

According to BTC, 2019, MoC, Bangladesh's share in the Global Export of Goods was 0.25 percent in 2019. In terms of export of services, the share was 1 percent in 2019.

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

Table 17 11: Average Tariff Rate

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Average tariffs faced by developing countries, least developed countries, and small island developing States	a) MFN: 8.25% b) Preferential: 3.88%	...	...	...	MFN: 8.13% Preferential: 0.04%

Source: BTC, 2019, MoC

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 percent birth registration and 80 percent death registration

Bangladesh conducts Population and Household Census every 10 years. Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics has conducted the 6th Population and Housing Census during 15-21 June 2022. The

census was conducted using full coverage of digital technologies including Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI), and Geographic Information System (GIS) technology.

Birth and death registrations in Bangladesh are regulated as per the Births and Deaths Registration Act 2004 which was effectuated in 2006. The Act was amended in 2013 to make the process sustainable. The Act makes it mandatory to provide a birth certificate while, among other things, applying for a passport, or an ID card and when enrolling a child into the school. Bangladeshi births have been registered directly into the database in the Birth Registration Information System (BRIS) since 2010.

In the base year (2015), birth registration was 37% and death registration was 49%. In 2019, the share of birth registered is 56% and for death, it is 50.5%. Marriage and divorce registration in Bangladesh is still a paper-based system, but it is simple. Currently, the Law and Justice Division are digitizing the marriage and divorce registration system with technical support from the Access to Information (a2i) Programme of the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

17.3 Policies and Efforts to Achieve SDG17

The government has adopted various measures for smooth and sustainable graduation from LDC which will complement SDGs implementation and has established the South-South Cooperation Cell to harness the potential of SSC and Triangular Cooperation. Measures have been adopted to reinforce green and circular economy by facilitating increased financing for renewable energy including SHS and solar irrigation programs.

Bangladesh has also adopted prudent strategies for bringing efficiency in project implementation through the shrinking potential scope and increasing cost of development financing due to double graduation of Bangladesh; avoiding delay in implementation which escalates the cost of the project and makes the loans non-viable; escaping the adoption of accurate project design, activities and revision delays implementation; ensuring coordination among co-financers (in case of multi-partners funded projects) and implementing agencies that can result in slow disbursement; making available disaggregated data; quickly addressing the Covid-19 pandemic and its unprecedented damages and uncertainty as well as resulting disruption of supply chain causing increases in project costs.

The Govt of Bangladesh also took several initiatives to bring efficiency in fiscal sector for inclusive development, which includes- Public Money and Budget Management Act, 2009; Deposit of Surplus Funds of Autonomous; Semi-Autonomous, State-Owned, and Public Non-Financial Corporations into the Government Treasury Act 2020; Formulation of Government Financial Management Reform Strategy (2016-21); Formulation of the PFM Action Plan 2018-23; Payment of pension through Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT); Pay Roll Automation; Roll-Out of the Medium-Term Budget Framework (MTBF); Introduction of new classification System; Simplification of Project's Fund release process; Fund Transfer of Social-Safety-net Programs through G2P Payment System; Automated Challan (P2G); Savings Certificate Automation; Universal Pension System.

The National Data Coordination Committee (NDCC) has been constituted with representatives from various data-providing organizations to prepare and provide standardized, up-to-date, and acceptable data on the indicators of SDGs. To ensure regular, updated, and reliable information in the SDG Tracker, the latest data status of each Ministry/ Division/ Department/ Organization is regularly placed and discussed in the NDCC meeting, chaired by the Secretary of the Statistics and Informatics Division (SID). With the dynamic role of NDCC, the data availability has increased to 176 indicators out of 247 indicators.

To bridge the gap in SDGs, the government has put more emphasis on procuring concessional financing from multilateral organizations; attracting national, regional, and global philanthropic funds; increasing participation in south-south cooperation initiatives; creating a better investment environment to attract additional FDI and building partnership between NRBs and local investors; aligning CSR funds towards SDGs implementation; emphasizing to enhance domestic resource mobilization, and increasing efficiency in project management and ensuring value for money.

with regard to increase the domestic resource mobilization, several initiatives have been undertaken, which includes- Implementation of new VAT law; Automation of VAT systems; Introduction of Electronic Fiscal Device; Enactment of new Customs Law; Upgrading customs automated system; Simplifying Tax Procedures; Programs to expand the number of taxpayers; Discouraging Tax Exemptions; Introducing ADR to Resolve Revenue Disputes; Digitalization of the National Savings Certificate; Submission of surplus funds from SOEs, Introduction of Sukuk Bond.

17.4 Key Challenges

A successful sustainable development agenda requires partnerships between governments, the private sector, and civil society. The 17 ambitious goals and the complex challenges they seek to address fit neither neatly demarcated sectors, nor national borders. Climate change is global, and businesses are just as important in fighting it as governments. Innovation cannot happen without universities and scientists; and certainly not without the exchange of knowledge across continents. Gender equality is as much about communities as it is about legal instruments. If our epidemics are global, their solutions are too. Inclusive partnerships built upon a shared vision and shared goals that place people and the planet at the center are needed at the global, regional, national, and local levels.

- Bangladesh has achieved significant development progress in recent years due to remarkable improvement in domestic resource mobilization (DRM), prudent policy approach in fiscal management, and the emergence of a resilient and vibrant private sector. Steady economic growth has contributed to reducing the country's dependence on foreign assistance which was high during the first two decades after independence.

- At the global level, building on past experiences the international community has been striving to harness the benefits of development assistance and accordingly several high-level meetings on development cooperation set out clear commitments to be adhered to both by providers of development assistance and partner countries. Bangladesh, as an

active member in global discussions and dialogues, is highly committed to international declarations and commitments relating to aid and development effectiveness, effective development partnerships, and SDGs. Accompanied by global commitments to development effectiveness, the government is also undertaking measures to overcome the constraints that hinder development assistance from performing well.

- Although ODA is a major external source of financing budgetary expenses, its contribution in terms of the size of the national budget is rapidly shrinking over time in Bangladesh. Moreover, the transition of Bangladesh from LDC to a developing country status will pose additional challenges in the future in terms of getting grants and low-interest loans. To overcome the challenges, Bangladesh needs to diversify its remittance sources for which skill development of the potential migrant workers needs high priority. Similarly, Bangladesh must also ensure high and sustained growth of FDI. Access to power and gas, property registration, and intellectual property rights are the leading factors behind low foreign investments. The rapid development of special economic zones (SEZs) by the government will accelerate FDI inflows in the country.

- Significant changes and shifts have taken place in the foreign assistance landscape in recent years. Along with traditional development partners, some southern countries have emerged as an important source of economic and technical cooperation for the Global South including Bangladesh. In the wake of severe challenges caused by climate change, climate financing is emerging as an additional complementary window of development financing which is expected to have larger implications on overall foreign assistance and interventions to ensure sustainable development. On the other hand, there is agreement both at national and global discussions for enhanced transparency and accountability of foreign assistance through making all types of aid data public.

- An effective coordination mechanism is important to ensure results-oriented partnership management within the government and between the government and development partners. For this, there is a need to maintain and nurture constructive and mutually beneficial coordination mechanisms. The fundamental of the partnership between the government and development partners is that it should be rooted deep in the spirit of equal partnership. Further, the government aims to ensure coherence, transparency, and predictability for effective climate change finance.

Climate finance shall support the implementation of Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (BCCSAP), National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA), Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMA), and other national and sector action plan on climate change; and develop the capacity to access (both directly or indirectly), leverage, coordinate and deploy climate finance. The government shall in general pursue technical assistance (TA) within a coherent policy approach to ensure the sustainability of skills and knowledge. On principle, Bangladesh aims to establish development cooperation based on mutual respect and shared priorities of promoting inclusive, sustainable, and equitable partnerships based on country development priorities and strategies.

17.5 Way Forward

SDG17 on 'Global Partnership for Sustainable Development' focuses on strengthening international cooperation. The Addis Ababa Agenda recognizes the existence of large financing gaps in meeting the goals across all developing countries including Bangladesh. For Bangladesh, ERD mobilizes external resources for implementing development interventions. Towards attaining LDC graduation and achieving the SDGs, ERD acts as the bridge between the DPs and the executing agencies of the government. In the process, ERD facilitates South-South cooperation along with engagement in new multilateral development banks (e.g. AIIB, NDB) and bridges out to the non-resident Bangladeshis (NRBs) for filling gaps in knowledge, technology, and financing.

Urgent action is needed to mobilize, redirect and unlock the transformative power of resources to deliver on sustainable development objectives. Long-term investments, including foreign direct investment, are needed in critical sectors in Bangladesh. These include sustainable energy, infrastructure, and transport, as well as information and communications technologies. The public sector will need to set a clear direction. Review and monitoring frameworks, regulations, and incentive structures that enable such investments must be retooled to attract investments and reinforce sustainable development. National oversight mechanisms such as audit institutions and oversight functions by legislatures should be strengthened.

17.6 Summary

For Bangladesh, smooth implementation of the SDGs is a priority for which the country is continuously putting its focus on mobilizing resources for green and inclusive development following prudent internal and external strategies. Bringing efficiency in project management and improving coordination among financiers and implementing agencies along with the pursuit of a sustainable LDC graduation strategy are being developed and implemented which would complement SDGs implementation as well. For smooth progress, effective utilization of resources should be ensured by pursuing the four principles of development effectiveness: ownership, focus on results, inclusive partnership, and transparency.

Bangladesh is an important part of the new global partnership, and it has been strengthened by the country's efforts to build networks within the region and with the world. South-South cooperation has been a crucial part of this, as is Bangladesh's membership and leadership in institutions like ARF, BIMSTEC, NDB, and SAARC, as well as with UN agencies and programs around the world.

STATUS OF NATIONAL PRIORITY INDICATORS

Progress in Localization of SDGs

In the context of the SDGs, Bangladesh has adopted 'localization' as a process of taking into account subnational contexts in the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, starting from the setting of goals and targets, to determining the means of implementation and using indicators to measure and monitor progress. As such, the process of localization relates both to (i) how the SDGs can provide a framework for local development policy and (ii) how the local government institutions (LGIs) and local-level institutions (e.g. non-government and civil society organizations) can support the achievement of the SDGs through action from the bottom up. Thus, although the SDGs are global, their achievement will depend on the ability to make them a reality at the local level. This is why localization is at the heart of the 2030 Agenda, and Bangladesh has embarked on a process of localization of the SDGs from the beginning.

Among the 17 SDGs, 12 SDGs (1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,10,11,15 and 16) directly require integrated strategies at the community level to overcome the interlinked challenges of poverty, ill-health, other social ills, and environmental destruction; while the remaining five (9, 12, 13, 14 and 17) need local efforts indirectly. The Bangladesh Constitution also places key responsibilities for social and economic development, including 'the preparation and implementation of plans relating to public services and economic development' at the level closest to the people, with the local government bodies, particularly the union parishad (UP), the body at the doorstep of the people [Article 59(2) (c)]. Such a Constitutional mandate also makes it imperative that Bangladesh must localize the SDGs. The Local Government (UP) Act of 2009 strengthens the local government by incorporating the global best practices for the direct participation of active citizens in planning and social accountability, through ward shaves (meetings) for participatory planning, open budget meetings, and annual reporting.

Since the successful implementation of SDGs largely depends on how effectively these are integrated into national planning as well as localization at district and upazila levels, Bangladesh has ensured that, at the national level, SDGs are fully integrated into the national development plans and strategies. As a result, the implementation at the macro level is in full swing with supportive policy and enabling environment, and through designing national action plans. All these steps and measures are, however, not sufficient to achieve the key thrust of SDGs; which is inclusiveness to leave no one behind and reach the furthest behind.

To this end, a framework for localization covering divisional, district, and upazila levels has been adopted after elaborate discussions in the SDGs Implementation and Review Committee. It has been decided that, at the upazila level, the Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) would coordinate the implementation of the localization model involving government agencies and local government bodies. The purpose is to leverage coordination among multiple stakeholders while ensuring distributional efficiency in public resources by SDG targets. It also aims to maximize the investment of multiple stakeholders, minimize vulnerabilities by keeping marginalized on the Agenda and unlock the potential for human development. Apart from this, the underlying agenda of localization is to continuously focus on capacity development and resource mobilization and utilization at the local level.

The framework for implementing the SDGs is the local administrative unit (upazila) and this model has been replicated at the district levels which are being coordinated by the Deputy Commissioners; while these will be coordinated by the Divisional Commissioners at the division levels. As a pilot, the district of Natore first put into practice the localization model (called the Natore model) at the district level chalking out action programs for all government agencies of the district. Focused areas of activities in the action plan of the framework include, among others, earthwork, maintenance work, canal digging, cleaning, garbage disposal, gardening, tree plantation, sanitation, safe water supply, school feeding, adult education, sports-cultural activities, stopping child marriage, vaccination, supporting alternative dispute resolution (ADR), strengthening village defense, facilitating rainwater harvesting, re-excavating ponds, encouraging solar home system, and skill training activities. All ministries/divisions particularly the Local Government Division (LGD) have been taking steps for localization. It may be noted that LGD is the biggest implementing Division in terms of allocation of the development budget to be spent in the rural areas.

Review of 39+1 National Priority Indicators

For localizing the SDGs in the context of Bangladesh, the government has identified 40 (39+1) national priority indicators to be implemented at the local level for achieving the respective targets of the SDGs. The aim is to create a space where people at the grassroots level can interact regularly for sharing knowledge and involving themselves with the SDGs. To ensure that no one is left behind, one spatial indicator has been selected at the local level where they are relatively worse off or vulnerable. To address the challenge, mechanisms are being crafted to finance this aspect of the vulnerability of the concerned upazilas (sub-districts). The 40 (39+1) national priority indicators are given in Table 3.1. It may be added here that data on priority indicators from 492 upazilas in 64 districts have also been collected and these are being coordinated and analyzed at present by the National Data Coordination Committee (NDCC).

Table 3: Bangladesh SDGs— 40 (39+1) National Priority Indicators

SDGs	National Priority Indicator (NPT)
SDG 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere	NPT 1: Reduce the proportion of the population living below the extreme poverty line below 3% (SDG Indicator 1.2.1) NPT 2: Reduce the proportion of the population living below the national poverty line below 10% (SDG Indicator 1.2.1)
SDG 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture	NPT 3: Reduce the prevalence of stunting among children under 5 years of age to 12% (SDG Indicator 2.2.1) NPT 4: Ensure the proportion of cultivable land at a minimum of 55% of the total land area

SDGs	National Priority Indicator (NPT)
SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages	NPT 5: Reduce neonatal mortality rate to 12 per 1,000 live births (SDG Indicator 3.2.2) NPT 6: Reduce under-5 mortality rate to 25 per 1,000 live births (SDG Indicator 3.2.1) NPT 7: Reduce the maternal mortality ratio to 70 per 100,000 live births (SDG Indicator 3.1.1) NPT 8: Reduce the death rate due to road traffic injuries to 1.2 per 100,000 people (SDG Indicator 3.6.1)
SDG 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all	NPT 9: Ensure 100% completion rate of primary education NPT 10: Ensure 100% completion rate of junior secondary education NPT 11: Ensure the proportion of students in the technical level above 20% of the total students passed every year in secondary education (SSC, Dakhil, and Vocational) NPT 12: Ensure the proportion of schools by 100% with access to the following: A. Electricity; B. Internet; C. Basic drinking water; D. Single-sex basic sanitation facilities (SDG Indicator 4.a.1) NPT 13: Ensure the proportion of schools by 100% with access to adapted infrastructure and materials for the child/students with disability (SDG Indicator 4.a.1)
SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	NPT 14: Reduce the proportion of women aged 20-24 years who were married before age 15 to zero (SDG Indicator 5.3.1) NPT 15: Reduce the proportion of women aged 20-24 years who were married before age 18 to 10% (SDG Indicator 5.3.1) NPT 16: Increase the female labor force participation rate to 50%
SDG 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all	NPT 17: Ensure 100% population using safely managed drinking water services (SDG Indicator 6.1.1) NPT 18: Ensure 100% population using safely managed sanitation services (SDG Indicator 6.2.1)

SDGs	National Priority Indicator (NPT)
SDG 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all	NPT 19: Ensure access to electricity for 100% population (SDG Indicator 7.1.1) NPT 20: Increase renewable energy share in total final energy consumption to 10% (SDG Indicator 7.2.1)
SDG 8: Promote sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all	NPT 21: Increase annual growth rate of GDP to 10% (SDG Indicator 8.1.1) NPT 22: Reduce unemployment rate below 3% (SDG Indicator 8.5.2) NPT 23: Reduce the proportion of the youth population (15-29 years) not in education, employment, or training to 10% (SDG Indicator 8.6.1)
SDG 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and foster innovation	NPT 24: Ensure 100% pucca roads (suitable for all seasons) (SDG Indicator 9.1.1) NPT 25: Increase Industry (manufacturing) value added as a proportion of GDP to 35% (SDG Indicator 9.2.1) NPT 26: Increase manufacturing employment as a proportion of total employment to 25% (SDG Indicator 9.2.2) NPT 27: Increase the number of entrepreneurs ten times in the Information and Communication Technology sector
SDG 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries	NPT 28: Reduce the ratio of income of the top 10% population and the bottom 10% population to 20 NPT 29: Reduce the recruitment cost borne by employees as a proportion of yearly income earned in a country of destination to 10% (SDG Indicator 10.7.1)
SDG 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable	NPT 30: Ensure women, children, the elderly, and persons with disabilities have convenient access to public transport (minimum 20% seats) (SDG Indicator 11.2.1)
SDG 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns	NPT 31: Ensure 100% of industries install and operate a waste management system
SDG 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts	NPT 32: Reduce the number of deaths, missing persons, and directly affected persons attributed to disasters to 1,500 per 100,000 population (SDG Indicator 13.1.1)
SDG 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development	NPT 33: Expand the coverage of protected areas in relation to marine areas by 5% (SDG Indicator 14.5.1)

SDGs	National Priority Indicator (NPT)
SDG 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss	NPT 34: Enhance forest area as a proportion of total land area to 18% (SDG Indicator 15.1.1) NPT 35: Increase the area of tree-covered land by 25% in relation to the total land area
SDG 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels	NPT 36: Increase the proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority to 100% (SDG Indicator 16.9.1) NPT 37: Increase the proportion of complaint Settlement against cognizance of cases by National Human Rights Commission to 60%
SDG 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development	NPT 38: Increase total government revenue as a proportion of GDP to 20% (SDG Indicator 17.1.1) NPT 39: Increase the proportion of individuals using the Internet to 100% (SDG Indicator 17.8.1)
'Leave no one behind agenda	NPT 40: Districts/upazilas to have different targets based on the context and ground reality existing in the locality.

Source: SDG Tracker

These indicators have been identified based on necessity and priority; and considering the resource constraint. The 39 indicators from 17 goals covering such indicators as poverty, stunting, arable land, infant mortality, under-5 mortality, maternal mortality, death in road accidents, attainment in education at primary and secondary levels, safe water, improved sanitation, digital connectivity, inclusive education, child marriage, involvement of women in economic activities, power and renewable energy, GDP growth, unemployment, road connectivity, the ratio of the highest and lowest income, cost of planned migration, safe public transport for women, industrial waste management, loss of life in natural disasters, marine resources, plantation and afforestation, birth registration, human rights, and internet connectivity have been selected which are of critical importance at the local level. The remaining +1 indicator covers the 'leave no one behind' agenda for which, different districts or upazilas have different targets based on the context and ground reality existing in the locality.

Implementation Status of Priority Indicators

For facilitating implementation, the 'Natore Model' of local-level SDG planning and implementation has also been developed for the district level, and a localization framework has been developed and finalized by GED for localizing the SDGs at the upazila level. The Natore model, as discussed above, involves extensive participation of both district and upazila officials and elected public representatives as well as other stakeholders. For a better understanding of the SDGs as well as

preparing the district and upazila plans through adopting the Natore Model, awareness programs through organizing workshops/meetings at the division and district level have been organized. The process would lead the local level people to fix the targets and prepare action plans to implement the SDGs involving all stakeholders. Moreover, each district has been branded with its characteristics (e.g. Chandpur has been branded as 'Elisher Bari Chandpur' meaning Chandpur is the home of Hilsa Fish; Jamalpur as 'Nakshi Kantha' that is home of the embroidered quilt). Along with localization, such branding will facilitate the districts and upazilas to integrate their local opportunity with development and promotional activities within a holistic approach.

Further, the rapid digital transformation of the economy along with localization would allow the government to effectively tailor SDG-related strategies at the local level with active local participation. In the process, the SDGs shall be integrated across all three dimensions of sustainability in all sectors of the economy and society, and from the local to the national level.

The process of localization critically depends on the effective planning capacity of the respective local governments to ensure that the budgetary allocations reflect the priorities of the local communities. For this purpose, effective planning and implementation capacity and the availability of adequate resources for financing the development programs and projects at the local level are important prerequisites. The process also needs the timely and regular generation of required statistics and data at the local level to support planning and decision-making as well as monitoring and evaluation. In this context, the development of institutional competence and capacity to deal with information and data requirements and the adoption of digital technologies for the purpose is also priority agendas of the government.

Thus, the process of localization, as adopted in Bangladesh, aims to make the aspirations embedded in the SDGs real to the communities, households, and individuals, especially focusing on those who have been left behind or are at risk of falling behind. Under the adopted process, local communities and stakeholders, who have the best knowledge and information regarding individual and collective needs and capacities, are entrusted with planning, implementing, and realizing global goals.

During the process of identifying vulnerability and the most deprived segment of the population, the districts and upazilas prioritized the homeless people due to river erosion; followed by agriculture labor as well as children and labor of tea gardens. Several priorities at the local level include child marriage and drug abuse. The priorities at the division, district, and upazila levels also reflect geographical variations: (i) In the coastal locations, the priorities are salinity, river erosion, health, drinking water, and modernization of fish and shrimp cultivation; (ii) In the hilly region, the priorities cover health, education, afforestation, tourism, and drinking water; (iii) In the haor areas, the priorities cover waterlogging, early flash flood, embankment, dredging and skill development.

On the other hand, emphasis on developing planned cities, proper waste management, technical education, and protection of farmland is considered priority issues in urban and semi-urban areas. In the plain land areas, skill development, quality education, waterlogging, road safety, crop intensity, marketing of agriculture products, river and canal dredging, ICT, water reservoir, protection of local fish varieties, and the spread of manufacturing industry have been identified as areas of priority.

Other major identified areas during the process of localization include inclusive and quality education; women's economic empowerment and involvement in productive economic activities; water and sanitation; access to Internet facilities; public transport; river erosion; cottage, micro, small and medium enterprises (CMSMEs); migration; health and nutrition; vocational education; and maternal health.

For monitoring and implementation of SDGs at the local level, the government has formed committees at different levels of administration covering divisions, districts, and upazilas with the participation of the relevant government officials, elected representatives, civil society and NGOs, and other relevant stakeholders to reflect the adoption of the 'whole of society approach'. Different tiers of the local government institutions (LGIs) e.g. Union Parishads, Upazila Parishads, and Zila Parishads are provided with allocations from the national government which, they utilize along with their funds to implement their respective development plans which facilitate the implementation of the SDGs. Although the allocations to the LGIs fall short of the requirements of the LGIs to meet their development needs, the government has started implementing district budgets, which would help to address the issues of +1 and implement the localization of SDGs effectively to ensure that 'no one is left behind'.

Challenges and Moving Ahead

Bangladesh has reached a pivotal point in its implementation journey of development agenda including the 2030 Agenda, particularly given the wide-ranging impact of the Covid-19 pandemic that has created some setbacks in the gains achieved over the past five years and slowed down the rate of progress. With only less than a decade left to achieve the targets, Bangladesh needs to build back better and accelerate the implementation of the SDGs.

One way to fast-track progress is to accelerate the process of localization and further mobilize the LGIs and the local communities to pursue sustainable goals at their levels since localization is a strong driver of the 2030 Agenda in the country. Many of the targets rely on the contributions and responsibilities of the LGIs in Bangladesh. As basic service providers in health, education, housing, food systems, and water and sanitation, among others, these institutions play an important role in delivering the SDGs. While the focus is largely on expenditure assignments, the LGIs also have an important role in local resource mobilization. The government is working towards further vitalizing this channel of implementing SDGs at the local level.

In addition, Covid-19 has made it more urgent to localize the SDGs and demonstrate the critical role of the local governments in immediate crisis response, such as disease containment and emergency relief operations and in promoting water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) practices to prevent the spread of Covid-19. The local governments will also play an essential role in managing the long-term social and economic impacts of the crisis and enabling a sustainable response to and recovery from Covid-19. Ongoing efforts to localize the SDGs are therefore more relevant now than ever before.

Over the years, Bangladesh has been increasingly engaging the local governments in SDG institutional mechanisms to facilitate consultation processes to strengthen localization and develop local data and monitoring approaches. These processes are important vehicles for the local communities to adopt the SDGs. At the same time, they are a valuable source of feedback, information, and data for the SDG processes.

No doubt, Bangladesh has made significant headway in the process of localization; but still, there are considerable barriers to effectively localizing the SDGs. Some of the general challenges include inadequate local capacity and shortages of financial and other resources; problems in policy coherence and coordination among national and local efforts; limited awareness of the SDGs at the subnational level; and challenges related to the availability of data and capacities to perform subnational monitoring. Bangladesh is working towards meeting these challenges which have become more urgent with Covid-19 and the country is giving a fresh look at how to scale up SDG localization quickly.

In this respect, one of the core lessons from the Covid-19 pandemic is the need for greater coordination across different levels of the government. Given the pandemic's multi-dimensional impacts, a core requirement is to ensure integrated and systemic approaches. The SDG agenda builds on interdependencies among multiple sectors and levels of the government to enable transformative change. To move forward, Bangladesh stresses, among others, the need for system-wide alignment, enhanced local governance as well as multi-stakeholder and partnership collaboration for realizing the 2030 Agenda.

For this purpose, the government is increasingly involving local institutions and stakeholders in national SDG-related policy and review processes; streamlining the mandates and capacities of the LGIs so that these are adequately equipped to meet the SDG-related responsibilities, and tailoring local planning and budgeting systems including local SDG data collection and monitoring. The government is also taking all efforts to enhance investments in capacities and financing modalities to allow flexibility in local responsibilities of service delivery while accommodating national priorities. These will further facilitate the effective coordination of bottom-up and top-down approaches needed for realizing the true potential of localizing the SDGs.

The transformative aspirations of the 2030 Agenda rely to a great extent on the inclusion, participation, and collaboration of the full range of cross-sector stakeholders including civil society organizations. The Government of Bangladesh is urging all citizens, private sector organizations, and all levels of the governance structure to work in close coordination with relevant stakeholders to bring about the large-scale systemic change needed for such a transformative change.

CONCLUSIONS AND WAY FORWARD

Summary and Major Opportunities

The 2030 Agenda covers all three core (e.g. economic, social, and environmental) dimensions of development and offers Bangladesh a unique pathway to eradicate poverty and hunger and provide a life of dignity for all while paying attention to environmental sustainability. More than 85 percent of the workforce in Bangladesh is engaged in informal sector jobs with little or no social protection. High economic growth is yet to adequately harness the productivity and innovativeness of the younger generation and realize the full potential of demographic dividend in the country through creating decent and productive jobs. Further, structural transformation in Bangladesh has moved from agriculture towards services, significantly bypassing the industry (manufacturing) sector, and creating challenges for the economy.

Land degradation and inadequate harness of sustainable agricultural practices to enhance agricultural productivity as well as poverty and distributional issues are major problems that hinder the promotion of equitable and sustainable development in the economy. The effects of climate change have exposed the country to the rising incidence of natural disasters. For addressing the above and related development challenges faced by Bangladesh, the SDGs provide a unique opportunity through taking cognizance of inter-relationships and synergies between the 17 overarching goals.

The present Report highlights that Bangladesh has achieved progress in terms of most of the indicators (for which data/information are available) of SDGs since 2015, at least until the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic. Among the 17 goals, Bangladesh is 'on track' with a few important goals such as 'no poverty' and 'quality education'. Bangladesh is also improving its performance against several goals including zero hunger; good health and well-being; gender equality; clean water and sanitation; affordable and clean energy; industry, innovation, and infrastructure; and sustainable cities and communities. On the other hand, more efforts are needed in areas like decent work and economic growth; life below water; peace, justice, strong institution; and partnerships for the goals.

The unexpected Covid-19 pandemic has adversely impacted the country's progress in 2020 and has affected the speed of achievement of several of the SDGs. While the Bangladesh economy as well as the global economy was recovering strongly from the Covid-19 pandemic in 2021, the war in Ukraine has posed a setback to the ongoing process of recovery. A rise in global commodity prices and sluggish economic activities affected by the war-induced supply chain disruption is being observed across the world as well as in Bangladesh. Since the global macroeconomic prospects remain uncertain due to the war-induced crisis and fallout of the Covid-19 pandemic, future developments of the Bangladesh economy will significantly depend on the path of the pandemic, war situation, policy actions, evolution of financial conditions and commodity prices in the global economy, and the capacity of the domestic economy to adjust to the emerging impediments to the socio-economic development process.

Along with consolidating the strong economic recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic, the government has been taking all necessary steps and using all options to face the new headwinds

as global commodity prices increase amid the uncertainty created by the war in Ukraine. Going forward, Bangladesh is closely monitoring the emerging macroeconomic developments and the potential impacts of the war in Ukraine which are important for the country's sustainable and inclusive growth and for regaining the growth momentum towards the SDGs. The key concern is to quickly return to the pre-pandemic trajectory and, with additional efforts, regain accelerated speed of achievement of the SDGs.

For this purpose, effective policies and necessary measures are being adopted towards promoting accelerated, inclusive, and resilient growth and investing in human development, social security, and implementing programs for addressing the 'leave no one behind' agenda through adopting a 'whole of society' approach to eradicate poverty and deprivations.

For moving forward and gaining additional momentum, the government has formed an Inter-Ministerial Committee on SDGs Implementation. The Committee, comprising Secretaries from 20 Ministries/Divisions and members of the CSOs and business community coordinates SDGs monitoring and implementation. The Principal Coordinator (SDGs Affairs), a newly created high-level position in the Prime Minister's Office, heads the Committee. The General Economic Division (GED) of the Planning Commission is the Secretariat of the Committee to coordinates implementation at the policy level along with monitoring and reporting the SDGs status. The GED has published the 'Mapping of Ministries by Targets in the Implementation of SDGs aligning with 7th Five Year Plan' to ensure effective implementation of the SDGs. The Report has also identified the lead ministries for all 169 targets. To collect regular information for proper monitoring and evaluation of SDGs progress, GED has published the 'Data Gap Analysis for Sustainable Development' for which additional resources are necessary to realize the SDGs, In addition, the 'National Monitoring and Evaluation Framework of SDGs: Bangladesh Perspective' and 'National Action Plan of Ministries/Divisions by Targets for the Implementation of SDGs' have been formulated for monitoring and evaluating the implementation of SDGs.

All 17 SDGs were integrated into the 7th (2016-2020) Five Year Plan and have now been integrated into the ongoing 8th (2021-2025) Five Year Plan. Among the 17 goals, 14 goals (82 percent) are thematically fully aligned, and 3 goals (Goal 14, Goal 16, and Goal 17) of the SDGs (18 percent) are partially aligned with the Plans. It is therefore more likely that the achievement of the Five Year Plan objectives and targets will also contribute towards the achievement of the SDGs.

To ensure faster progress towards the SDGs by leaving no one behind in the shortest possible time, a set of 39 indicators has been selected under the instructions of the SDG Working Committee of The Prime Minister's Office. Under the indicators, some are selected from the global SDGs while others are included after modification in the Bangladesh perspective. All relevant ministries are connected with this process. Along with ensuring good progress towards achieving the SDGs, the government is also working towards addressing the problem of the data gap that exists in relation to regular monitoring of the SDGs. The government has identified the data deficit on indicators regarding the implementation of SDGs over the past seven years. In particular, data on several indicators of the SDGs are currently missing. Partial data are available on some indicators, while all data are available on several indicators. Filling the data gap is critical for the effective evaluation

of SDG implementation in the country. Further, there is a lack of adequate and timely data as well as the availability of disaggregated data (including gender-disaggregated data) which hamper the formulation of effective policies. The quality of available data also needs improvement to overcome the problems of reliability, standardization, and consistency.

Overall, the negative impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, although persisted for a relatively short period, on the economy and society as well as the global commodity prices increase amid the uncertainty created by the war in Ukraine have also affected the rate of progress towards the SDGs. Mitigating the pandemic has been challenging in Bangladesh because of the existence of multiple vulnerability transmission channels, limited fiscal space, and the country's high dependence on the informal sector (87 percent of total employment). It has been crucial that the government, private sector, and development partners in Bangladesh all stepped up and worked together to alleviate the pandemic impacts based on the 'whole of the society' and 'leaving no one behind (LNOB)' principles.

The Covid-19 immediate interventions encompassed, among others, socio-economic impact and need assessments for informed policy-making and optimal programmatic interventions including identifying the hotspots and the most vulnerable populace; inclusive and integrated crisis management and response; and emergency health service delivery and procurement. The government's quick response along with recovery measures for meeting economic losses and supporting the poor and vulnerable to fight the impact resulted in quick recovery and turnaround. The government declared 19 stimulus packages to offset the Covid-19 shock, with a total amount of over $12.11 billion, which is 3.7 percent of GDP. In addition, BDT 2 billion was allocated as incentives for farm mechanization. Another refinancing scheme of BDT 30 billion was taken up for small-income farmers and traders in the agriculture sector.

On principle, the government has adopted a forward-looking response to Covid-19 and current global uncertainties since this is crucial for Bangladesh to recover quickly from the economic shock and setback and look beyond recovery for making rational choices and managing complexity and uncertainty in all SDGs.

Challenges in the Post-LDC Graduation Ara

The UN General Assembly (UNGA76), during its 76th session in 2021, adopted a resolution on Bangladesh's graduation from the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) category, which will be effective in 2026. This is a defining moment for Bangladesh, the largest LDC in terms of the size of the economy.

The transition from LDCs comes with both challenges and opportunities for Bangladesh. The common economic challenge that most countries in the post-LDC graduation era face are the loss of LDC-specific international support measures (ISMs), such as preferential market access. The decline of existing privileges and preferences—a normal outcome of graduation—is likely to adversely affect the exports of Bangladesh, especially that of apparel products to the European and North-American markets. Some estimates suggest that Bangladesh may experience a shortfall

of 8-10 percent of its gross export revenue, amounting to almost USD 2.5 billion annually, due to the loss of duty-free and quota-free market access. Besides, the duty-free trading facilities that Bangladesh is currently enjoying under the World Trade Organization's (WTO) generalized system of preferences (GSP) will be curtailed once it graduates from the LDC group. With graduation, Bangladesh will no longer be eligible for LDC-specific special and differential treatment, aimed to facilitate LDCs to increase participation in international trade, under the WTO agreement.

Similarly, the trade-related intellectual property rights (TRIPS) waiver for pharmaceuticals contributed greatly to the advancement of the country's pharmaceutical industry. The exemption in patent licensing for public health-related goods will be shrunk after graduation, which may slow down this industry's growth. Also, Bangladesh will have to comply with the WTO agricultural requirements in the post-graduation era, which will not allow the continuation of subsidies currently being provided to the agriculture sector.

After the transition, Bangladesh will not be considered for grants and soft loans under the official development assistance (ODA) that it has been receiving since its independence. Also, the developed countries committed to providing 0.15-0.20 percent of their GNI in the form of ODA to LDCs will not be available for Bangladesh after becoming a developing country. Moreover, the cessation of access to LDC-exclusive concessional finances may temporarily halt the country's development stride.

The Green Climate Fund (GCF) is a global financing scheme with special consideration for assisting climate-sensitive adaptation and mitigation measures of LDCs. Being one of the most climate-vulnerable countries, Bangladesh's graduation journey will be much more challenging because of the forfeiture of specialized finance opportunities—which includes the GCF—required to counter the climate crisis. Besides, The UN Technology Bank launched to enhance the contribution of science and technology for the sustainable development of LDCs, will also cease assisting Bangladesh once it moves to the group of developing nations.

The LDCs have access to the Investment Support Programme—e.g. on-demand legal assistance—for investment-related negotiation and dispute settlement. And the Enhanced Integrated Framework supports LDCs to use international trade as an engine for economic growth and sustainable development. It is also noteworthy that developed countries offer scholarships and fellowships to the citizens of LDCs for capacity-building. All of these exclusive facilities will come to an end as Bangladesh becomes a developing country. The country will also not be entitled to the caps and discounts on subscriptions available to the LDCs, which will result in higher contributions to different international organizations, like the UN.

However, graduation from the LDC group would brighten Bangladesh's global image as a successful development achiever. This will increase FDI inflow by transmitting positive signals to foreign investors regarding the country's business environment. The growing FDI and structural and policy reforms would result in a higher tax-GDP ratio after graduation. Moreover, Bangladesh may be entitled to GSP+, a special incentive arrangement for good governance and sustainable development, which slashes tariffs on goods being imported to the EU from low and lower-middle-

income countries. The graduation will boost the country's confidence in dealing with international financial actors and enhance its brand value, making the economy more attractive to global lenders. Also, it will upgrade 'sovereign credit rating', an indicator of creditworthiness, once the country moves out of the list of risky LDCs. This implies a reduced cost of international finance due to an improved perception of country-level market risks.

One major challenge to growth and competitiveness for the post-LDC graduation era relates to the fact that Bangladesh is industrializing while gaining productivity. The Bangladesh economy is in transition to industrial production and experiencing a sharp fall in the share of agriculture without experiencing a commensurate rise in industry sector productivity. This is central to falling into the 'middle-income trap'. Thus, a major concern for Bangladesh is to move successfully beyond the so-called middle-income trap. The challenge will be to progress further to a higher-income economy, by shifting its growth model towards more specialization in production and employment, greater reliance on innovation, and more emphasis on the ability to shape new products and processes.

As a developing economy, Bangladesh needs to join different regional trade blocs to enhance its economic performance amid the pandemic gloom. In addition, connecting with different regional trade blocs and signing free trade agreements (FTAs) with individual countries will help the country to redress the probable negative impact of graduation on the balance of trade. This may result in intense competition in the domestic economy from foreign competitors, for which Bangladesh will have to focus on product quality improvement. Along with ensuring rapid implementation of the One-Stop Service of Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA), the country may also follow the footprints of successful developing countries to boost FDI inflow after graduation. It should also focus on improving its position in the Ease of Doing Business ranking and negotiate for concession periods with WTO for not imposing all the conditions of developing countries, considering the economic fallout triggered by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Moreover, the transition does not mean that all the trade-related facilities will be curtailed immediately. Bangladesh has already negotiated an extended period of five years (rather than the standard period of three years) to prepare for minimizing the possible effect of LDC graduation. As such, the country needs to make the best out of the LDC-specific facilities. Since the developing countries also enjoy some trade preferences, Bangladesh needs to use these facilities to the fullest extent for which the challenge is to take the right preparations to act judiciously.

To remain competitive and keep the growth trajectory upward in a steady manner after graduation in 2026, Bangladesh needs to focus on a knowledge-based economy, utilize demographic dividends, mobilize increased local resources, ensure a congenial business environment, shift towards manufacturing high-value goods, promote export-oriented industries, and increase regional and global connectivity. The need will be to turn the challenges into opportunities. The key for Bangladesh will be to handle the transition prudently to make it sustainable.

Way Forward

Several policy issues are important for Bangladesh for moving forward in achieving the SDGs in the post-Covid 19 era. The fiscal capacity of the government is a key condition for ushering in a successful journey. Ultimately, fiscal capabilities are the determinants that define the quality and level of public goods that the government could provide to sustain the country's catching-up progress in the future. Similarly, the process of industrial upgrading that Bangladesh needs to undergo should shift the economy towards technology-intensive production. Bangladesh needs to give more attention to productivity growth by using productivity-specific institutions and prudent policy focus.

For meeting the challenges, the pragmatic strategy for Bangladesh is not to wait for the market to bring development. Since market outcomes of human and social capital are likely to be sub-optimal in a country like Bangladesh, a strong justification exists for state intervention in relevant areas for achieving the SDGs. What is important is to ensure that these are 'smart' interventions. Further, Bangladesh can gain a lot by following a 'developmental state' approach that uses 'market-following' policies, such as supporting the availability of skilled labor to attract enterprises towards greater productivity and value addition.

Bangladesh will also have to work to direct the post-pandemic recovery process toward sustainability. For this purpose, the 2030 Agenda will be a useful tool for the post-pandemic recovery process and future resilience. Although several SDGs have been affected more than others by the pandemic, their interconnectedness influences the progress of all, thus affecting the overall progress of the 2030 Agenda.

For this purpose, Bangladesh will have to identify new SDGs synergies and dependencies fostered by the pandemic in specific contexts to address multiple challenges in clusters. Such a cluster-based approach in specific contexts will minimize resource requirements by exploiting positive synergies. This will help adopt new ways to resolve challenges for the SDGs created by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Bangladesh also needs to seize the opportunity for positive behavioral changes during the pandemic such as moving towards more sustainable lifestyles. Similarly, citizens' awareness regarding the importance of sustainability and balanced ecosystems for better health and enhanced well-being can be usefully mobilized and can be adapted to frame recovery policies based on the sustainable development framework. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which encompasses sustainability in all forms, can be a useful framework to guide toward sustainability.

Furthermore, since 2020, the Covid-19 pandemic has been acting as a driving force for adapting changes in all sectors and highlights the interdependence of sustainability issues embraced in the SDGs. Lockdown-related effects such as livelihood and job losses, health risks, online education, social tensions, and other uncertainties have increased poverty and deprivations and enhanced social-structural injustice and inequality in society (e.g. SDG5 and SDG10). The pandemic has also led to stronger dependencies between SDG3, SDG4, SDG8, and SDG13. On the positive side, the

pandemic has presented a unique opportunity for change, as people are more aware at present of the urgency for achieving sustainability and creating balanced ecosystems. There is also a growing realization now of the need for innovation (SDG9) and global collaboration (SDG17). Bangladesh needs to use these changes and associated synergies to the fullest extent for achieving the SDGs.

In addition, this is a crucial time, when the global ability to achieve the SDGs hangs in the balance due to the Russia-Ukraine war which began in March 2022. The war is causing human suffering on a massive scale, and the ramifications are global. Across the world, supply chains have been disrupted. The prices of food, energy, transport, and other essential supplies have skyrocketed within a short time which has seriously disturbed the hard-earned macroeconomic stability in Bangladesh and other countries. Many low-income countries are now facing the real risk of growing hunger on an unprecedented scale. The scale of the challenges is enormous, but the countries cannot give up on the vision of a better future for all.

Indeed, achieving the SDGs was never going to be easy, but It is even more difficult now. But it is still possible for Bangladesh which requires policy choices more aligned with the SDGs and a clear emphasis on leaving no one behind along with greater international support. For Bangladesh, the ongoing crisis demands more focus on super-charging just and sustainable energy, food, and digital transitions to advance the SDGs. The current energy shock resulting from the conflict can be an accelerator of the energy transition for pushing to ramp up renewable energy production for which revamped global cooperation is essential. This is the time when developed countries need to deliver on their commitments.

Building a just transition also requires more sustainable and resilient food systems. This is even more urgent in light of the global impact of the present conflicts on food security. All nations should cease unjustified trade restrictions and export bans, provide safety nets to the poorest and most vulnerable people, and ensure that farmers, especially smallholders, have access to fertilizers and other essential inputs. More support is also needed to advance digital connectivity and in harnessing the potential of digital tools in education, work and health. Special emphasis is needed to eliminate the large gaps that exist within and between countries. Otherwise, these inequalities risk compounding existing inequality, pushing developing countries further behind and deepening the digital divide.

At present, more international support is needed to build resilience against the pandemic. Widespread vaccination has helped contain the health impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, but large disparities in vaccination rates mask high inequalities between developed and developing countries. Moreover, vaccines alone are not enough. The pandemic must mark a watershed moment to ensure universal health coverage and build more resilient public health and surveillance systems, especially in developing countries. For developing countries, multidimensional poverty and vulnerability indexes can provide crucial inputs toward providing the required international financing for the SDGs. Similarly, the proposed global accelerator for jobs and social protection can provide critical support to these efforts. By working together and with greater transparency, the global community can provide more integrated support to developing countries in pursuing their sustainable development objectives.

No doubt, Bangladesh, which was following the right course towards achieving the SDGs during the pre-pandemic period, now faces the more perilous journey of catching up with the shortfalls caused by the Covid-19 pandemic and jump-starting a faster journey in an increasingly uncertain global environment as exists at present for attaining the SDGs in 2030. While there are significant grounds for optimism, Bangladesh will have to become more innovative and productive to complete the remaining stages for achieving the SDGs--a journey in which the development partners will have to play a more supportive role to bring higher levels of prosperity along with achieving the SDGs.

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ANNEX:

UPDATED STATUS OF 2022 PROGRESS AGAINST BASELINES OF SDGs INDICATORS

Indicator	Baseline Data (Year, Source)	Milestone by 2025	Target 2030	Current Status	Remarks
Goal 1. End Poverty in all its forms Everywhere					
Indicator 1.1.1 Proportion of population living below the international poverty line, by sex, age, employment status, and geographical location (urban/rural)	14.77% (PovcalNet, WB, 2016)	4.80%	0%	14.77% (PovcalNet, WB, 2016)	Lack of Updated Data
Indicator 1.2.1 Proportion of population living below the national poverty line, by sex, age, employment status, and geographical location (urban/rural)	UPL: 24.3% R: 26.4% U: 18.9% LPL: 12.9% R: 14.9% U: 7.6% (HIES, 2016, BBS)	UPL: 12.17% R: 13.22% U: 9.46% LPL: 5.28% R: 6.10% U: 3.11%	UPL: 7.02% R: 7.63% U: 5.46% LPL: 2.55% R: 2.94% U: 1.50%	UPL: 20.5% LPL: 10.5% (HIES Projection 2019, BBS	On Track
Indicator 1.2.2 Proportion of men, women, and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions	MPI: 0.198 HC: 41.7 Intensity: 47.5 (OPHI, 2014)	-	-	MPI: 0.104 HC: 24.6 Intensity: 42.2 (OPHI, 2019)	On Track
Indicator 1.3.1 Proportion of population covered by social protection floors/systems, by sex, distinguishing children, unemployed persons, older persons, persons with disabilities, pregnant women, newborns, work injury victims, and the poor and the vulnerable	28.7% (HIES, 2016)	35%	40%	58.1% (MICS 2019, BBS)	Target Achieved

Indicator	Baseline Data (Year, Source)	Milestone by 2025	Target 2030	Current Status	Remarks
Indicator 1.4.1 Proportion of the population living in households with access to basic services	Sanitation: 55.9% Hygiene: 59.1% Clean Fuel: 9.9% Antenatal Health care: 58.7% Primary completion rate: 79.5% Electricity: 77.9% (MICS 2012-13, BBS)	Sanitation 94%; Hygiene 88%; Clean Fuel 30%; Antenatal Health care 90%; Primary completion rate 93%	Sanitation 100%; Hygiene 100%; Clean Fuel 50%; Antenatal Health care 100%; Primary completion rate 100%	Sanitation 84.6%; Clean Fuel 19%; Antenatal Health care 75.2%; Primary completion rate 82.6%; Electricity: 92.23% (MICS, 2019, BBS)	On Track
Indicator 1.5.1 Number of deaths, missing persons, and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 populations	Affected Persons: 12,881 per 100,000 people Death Person: 0.2045 (MoDMR, 2016)	Affected Persons: 2000 Death person: 0.1800	Affected Persons: 1500 Death person: 0.1500	Affected Persons: 4,318 Death Person: 0.316 (MoDMR, 2019)	On Track
Indicator 1.5.2 Direct economic loss attributed to disasters in relation to the global gross domestic product (GDP)	1.3% of GDP in 2014	1.1% 1.1%	<1.0%	-	Lack of Updated Data
Indicator 1.5.3 Number of countries that adopt and implement national disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030	The Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR) has prepared the National Plan for Disaster Management (NPDM, 2016-2020)	-	-	-	On Track
Indicator 1.5.4 Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies	City Corp: 0.0833 (1/12) Pourashava: 0.0091 (3/330) (MoDMR, 2019)	30% of all local governments	100% of all local governments	City Corp: 0.0833 (1/12) Pourashava: 0.0091 (3/330) (MoDMR, 2019)	Lack of Updated Data

Indicator	Baseline Data (Year, Source)	Milestone by 2025	Target 2030	Current Status	Remarks
Indicator 1.a.1 Total official development assistance grants from all donors that focus on poverty reduction as a share of the recipient country's gross national income	80.07% (FD, 2014-15)	-	-	80.60% (FD, 2019)	Need Attention
Indicator 1.a.2 Proportion of total government spending on essential services (education, health, and social protection)	Health: 5.1% Education: 13.71% SP: 14.99% (FD: FY 15)	Health: 5% Education: 15% SP: 15%	Health: 5% Education: 15% SP: 15%	Health: 5.40% Education: 11.9% SP: 17.83% (Budget documents, 2021-22)	On Track
Indicator 1.b.1 Pro-poor public social spending	Health: 5.1% Education: 13.71% SP: 14.99% (FD: FY 15)	-	-	Health: 5.40% Education: 11.9% SP: 17.83% (Budget documents, 2021-22)	On Track
Goal 2. End hunger, Achieve Food Security and Improved Nutrition, and Promote Sustainable Agriculture					
Indicator 2.1.1 Prevalence of under nourishment	13.3% (FAO, 2016)	12%	<10%	11.4% (FAO 2020)	Target Achieved
Indicator 2.1.2 Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population, based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES)	Moderate: 32.3% Severe: 11.1% (FAO 2014)	Moderate 24.2%	Moderate <12.6%	Moderate: 30.50% Severe: 10.2% (FAO 2019)	Need Attention
Indicator 2.2.1 Prevalence of stunting (height for age <-2 standard deviation from the median of the World Health Organization (WHO) Child Growth Standards) among children under 5 years of age	42% (MICS 2012-13)	20%	15.5%	28.0% in 2019 (MICS, 2019, BBS)	On Track

Indicator	Baseline Data (Year, Source)	Milestone by 2025	Target 2030	Current Status	Remarks
Indicator 2.2.2 Prevalence of malnutrition (weight for height >+2 or <-2 standard deviations from the median of the WHO Child Growth Standards) among children under 5 years of age, by type (wasting and overweight)	a) Wasting: 14.3% (BDHS, 2014) b) Overweight: 1.6% (MICS, 2012-13)	a) 7% b) 1%	a) <5% b) 1%	a) Wasting: 9.8% b) Overweight: 2.4% (MICS 2019, BBS)	On Track
Indicator 2.2.3 Prevalence of anemia in women aged 15 to 49 years, by pregnancy status (percentage)	40% (NMSB, IPHN, 2012)	30%	<20%	-	Lack of Updated Data
Indicator 2.5.1.a Number of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture secured in either medium or long-term conservation facilities (BRRI)	BARI: 8,384 BRRI: 8051 BINA: 1424 BJRI: 6,012 BSRI: 1136 CDB: 448 BFRI: 213 (Fisheries) BFRI: 18,000 (Forests) BTRI: 475 BSRTI: 68 BLRI: Animal: 30 Plant: 40 (MoA, 2015)	13500 8850 2500 6500 1175 570 218 19000 650 98 35 48	15000 9100 3300 6700 1200 600 220 20000 700 108 37 52	10799 8578 2097 6027 1136 528 260 44	On Track
Indicator 2.5.2 Proportion of local breeds classified as being at risk, not-at-risk or at an unknown level of risk of extinction	BFRI: 47 BLRI: 5 (BLRI, 2015)	2	1	BLRI: 5 (BLRI, 2019)	Need Attention

Indicator	Baseline Data (Year, Source)	Milestone by 2025	Target 2030	Current Status	Remarks
Indicator 2.a.1 Agriculture orientation index (AOI) for government expenditures	0.779 (FAO, 2013)	0.800		0.409 (FAO, 2019)	Need Attention
Indicator 2.a.2 Total official flows (official development assistance plus other official flows) to the agriculture sector	215 MUS$ (ERD, FY 15)	400 MUS$	500 MUS$	356 MUS$ (2021) 211 MUS$ (ERD, FY 2020)	On Track
Indicator 2.b.1 Agricultural export subsidies	76.9 MUS$ (BB, FY 15-16)	73 MUS$	70 MUS$	99.7 MU$ (BB, FY 2020-21)	Need Attention
Indicator 2.c.1 Indicator of food price anomalies	Consumer Food Price Index: (-) 0.20 Rice: 0.60 Wheat: (-) 0.70 (FAO, 2016)			Consumer Food Price Index: 1.20 Rice: 1.60 Wheat: 0.60 (FAO, 2017)	Lack of Updated Data
Goal 3. Ensure Healthy Lives and Promote well-being for all at all Ages					
Indicator 3.1.1 Maternal mortality ratio (per 100,000 live births)	181 (SVRS, 2015)	100	70	163 (SVRS, BBS, 2020)	Need Attention
Indicator 3.1.2 Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel	43.5% (MICS, 2012-13)	72%	80%	60.4% (SVRS, BBS, 2020)	On Track
Indicator 3.2.1 Under-five mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	36 (SVRS, 2015)	27	25	28 (SVRS, BBS, 2020)	On Track
Indicator 3.2.2 neonatal mortality rate in Bangladesh (per 1,000 live births)	20 (SVRS-2015)	14	12	15 (SVRS, BBS, 2020)	On Track
Indicator 3.3.1 Number of new HIV infections per 1,000 uninfected population, by sex, age, and key populations	All ages: 0.01 (Women 15-49 years: <0.01, Men 15-49 years: <0.01) (UNAIDS, 2016)	0.01	<0.01	All ages: <0.01 Adults 15-49 years: 0.015 (UNAIDS, 2018)	Lack of Updated Data

Indicator	Baseline Data (Year, Source)	Milestone by 2025	Target 2030	Current Status	Remarks
Indicator 3.3.2 Tuberculosis incidence per 100,000 population	225 (NTP 2015)	112	45	361 (WHO, 2020)	Need Attention
Indicator 3.3.3 Malaria incidence per 1,000 population	2.99 (NMEP, 2015)	0.09	0	0.51 (WHO 2021)	On Track
Indicators 3.3.4 Hepatitis B incidence per 100,000 population	1.38 (WHO, 2015)	0.7	0	1.38 (WHO, 2018)	Need Attention
Indicators 3.3.5 Number of people requiring interventions against neglected tropical diseases (NTDs)	49,873,889 (WHO, 2016)	40,000,000	35,000,000	56,339,392 (WHO, 2019)	Need Attention
Indicator 3.4.1 Mortality rate attributed to (between 30 and 70 years of age) cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes, or chronic respiratory disease	a) Cardiovascular Disease: 105% b) Diabetes: 9% c) Cancer: 47% d) Chronic Respiratory Disease: 30% (SVRS, BBS, 2016)	10%	6%	Total: 13.19% a) Cardiovascular Disease: 13.1% b) Diabetes: 0.015% c) Cancer: 0.03% d) Chronic Respiratory Disease: 0.044% (SVRS, BBS, 2020)	
Indicator 3.4.2 Suicide mortality rate (per 100,000 population)	7.68 (BP, 2015)	3.5	2.4	7.56 (BP, 2019)	Need Attention
Indicators 3.5.1: Coverage of treatment interventions (pharmacological , psychosocial and rehabilitation, and aftercare services) for substance use disorders	16,416 (DNC, 2015, MoHA)	45000	55000	30133 (MIS, DGHS, HSD, 2020)	On Track

Indicator	Baseline Data (Year, Source)	Milestone by 2025	Target 2030	Current Status	Remarks
Indicators 3.5.2: Harmful use of alcohol, defined according to the national context as alcohol per capita consumption (aged 15 years and older) within a calendar year in litres of pure alcohol	0.083 (WHO, 2015)	0.04	0.02	0.04 (WHO, 2020)	Target Achieved
Indicator 3.6.1 Death rate due to road traffic injuries (per 100,000 population)	7 (PSD, 2015)	1.5	1.2	7 (SVRS, BBS, 2020)	Need Attention
Indicator 3.7.1 Proportion of women of reproductive age (aged 15-49 years) who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods	59.2% (BDHS, 2017)	80%	100%	62.32% (SVRS, BBS, SID, 2020)	Need Attention
Indicator 3.7.2 Adolescent birth rate (aged 10-14 years; aged 15-19 years) per 1,000 women in that age group	Aged 15-19 years: 78 (SVRS 2016, BBS)	60	50	74 (SVRS 2020, BBS)	Need Attention
Indicators 3.8.1 Coverage of essential health services	52 (WHO-2016)	80	100	54 (WHO, 2019)	Need Attention

Indicator	Baseline Data (Year, Source)	Milestone by 2025	Target 2030	Current Status	Remarks
Indicators 3.8.2 Proportion of the population with large household expenditures (>10% of the total household expenditure or income) on health as a share of total household expenditure or income	10% National: 24.67 Rural: 26.05 Urban: 21.00 Poorest 20% (q1): 24.05 Second poorest 20% (q2): 24.55 Middle 20% (q3): 24.91 Second richest 20% (q4): 25.92 Richest 20% (q5): 23.92 25% National: 09.53 Rural: 10.22 Urban: 07.71 Poorest 20% (q1): 09.36 Second poorest 20% (q2): 09.30 Middle 20% (q3): 10.04 Second richest 20% (q4): 09.70 Richest 20% (q5): 09.24 (HIES-2016, BBS)	10% National: 20 25% National: 7	10% National: 15 25% National: 5	Total: 24.67 % Rural population: 26.05% 2 Urban population: 21% (HIES 2016, BBS)	Lack of Updated Data
Indicator 3.9.1 Mortality rate attributed to household and ambient air pollution (per 100,000 populations)	149 (DGHS, HSD 2016)	60	55	-	Lack of Updated Data
Indicator 3.9.2 Mortality rate attributed to unsafe water, unsafe sanitation, and lack of hygiene (exposure to unsafe Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene for All (WASH) services)	11.9 (WHO, 2016)	5	4.5	-	Lack of Updated Data

Indicator	Baseline Data (Year, Source)	Milestone by 2025	Target 2030	Current Status	Remarks
Indicator 3.9.3 Mortality rate attributed to unintentional poisoning (per 100,000 population) air pollution	0.30 (WHO 2016)	0.25	0.15	0.3 (WHO, 2019)	Need Attention
Indicator 3.a.1 Age-standardised prevalence of current tobacco use among persons aged 15 years and older	43.3% (GATS, 2009, WHO)	30%	25%	35.3% (GATS, 2017, WHO)	On Track
Indicator 3.b.1 Proportion of the target population covered by all vaccines included in the national program	82.3% (≤12 months old children) 86.8% (≤23 months old children) (EPI Coverage Evaluation Survey, DGHS, HSD, 2016)	98% (≤12 months old children) 98% (≤23 months old children)	100% (≤12 months old children) 100% (≤23 months old children)	86% (BDHS, 2017-18)	On Track
Indicator 3.b.2: Total net official development assistance to the medical research and basic health sectors	177.4 MUS$ (ERD, FY15)	400 MUS$	500 MUS$	291.90 MUS$ (ERD, 2021)	On Track
Indicator 3. c.1 Health worker density (per 10,000 population) and distribution (physician: nurse: health technologist)	(a) 7.4 (WHO, 2016) (b) 1: 0.5: 0.2 (HRH Data Sheet, 2014 HSD)	(a) 31.5 (b) 1: 2.1:3.4	(a) 44.5 (b) 1:3:5	(a) 8.3 (HRB 2019, HSD)	Need Attention
Indicator 3.d.1 International Health Regulations (IHR) capacity and health emergency preparedness	78.0 (WHO, 2016)	95%	100%	58 (WHO, 2019)	Need Attention

Indicator	Baseline Data (Year, Source)	Milestone by 2025	Target 2030	Current Status	Remarks
Goal 4. Ensure Inclusive and Equitable Quality Education and Promote Lifelong Learning Opportunities for all					
Indicator 4.1.1 Proportion of children and young people: (a) in grades 2/3; (b) at the end of primary; and (c) at the end of lower secondary achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in (i) reading and (ii) mathematics, by sex	(a) Grade 3 (Reading Bangla – Total 41%, Maths – Total 28%) (b) End of primary – grade 5 (Reading Bangla – Total 45%, Maths – Total 25%) (NSA, 2015, DPE) (c) End of lower Secondary Reading: Bangla – B: 55, G: 54, T: 54 English – B: 22, G:18, T:19 Math - B: 62, G: 52, T: 57 (LASI, 2015)	c) End of lower Secondary Reading: Bangla – B: 75, G: 75, T: 75 English – B: 55, G: 55, T: 55 Math: B: 75, G: 75, T: 75	c) End of lower Secondary Reading: Bangla – B: 85, G: 85, T: 85 English – B: 75, G: 75, T: 75 Math: B: 85, G: 85, T: 85	a) Grade 2/3 (Reading Bangla – 25.9%, Math – 13.0%) (MICS, 2019, BBS)	Need Attention
Indicator 4.1.2 Completion rate (primary education, lower secondary education, upper secondary education)	Primary: 82.6%; Lower secondary: 64.7%, Upper secondary: 29.4% (MICS, 2019)	Primary: 87%; Lower secondary: 72%, Upper secondary: 35%	Primary: 95%; Lower secondary: 80%, Upper secondary: 50%	Primary: 82.6%; Lower secondary: 64.7%, Upper secondary: 29.4% (MICS, 2019)	On Track
Indicator 4.2.1 Proportion of children under 5 years of age who are developmentally on track in health, learning, and psychosocial well-being, by sex	63.9% (MICS, 2012-13, BBS)	80%	100%	74.50% (MICS, 2019, BBS)	On Track
Indicator 4.2.2 Participation rate in organized learning (one year before the official primary entry age) by sex	Boys: 38% Girls: 40% Total:39% (APSC, 2015)	Boys: 90% Girls: 90% Total: 90%	Boys: 100% Girls: 100% Total: 100%	Boys: 33.7% Girls: 34.9% (WDI, 2016) National: 77.5% (MICS, 2019, BBS)	On Track

Indicator	Baseline Data (Year, Source)	Milestone by 2025	Target 2030	Current Status	Remarks
Indicator 4.5.1 Parity indices (female/male, rural/urban, bottom/top wealth quintile, and others such as disability status, indigenous peoples, and conflict-affected, as data become available) for all education indicators on this list that can be disaggregated	a) Primary GPI: 1.02 b) Secondary GPI: 1.15 Rural: 1.19 Urban: 1.09 c) Higher Secondary GPI: 0.85 Rural: 0.86 Urban: 0.84 d) Tertiary GPI: 0.65 e) Technical GPI: 0.38 f) Disability GPI (6-10): 0.61 g) Teacher (Secondary) GPI: 0.26 h) Teacher (Tertiary) GPI: 0.21 (APSC, 2015 for Primary and BES, 2015 for others)	a) GPI: 1.00 b) GPI: 1.05 c) GPI: 0.95 d) GPI: 0.75 e) GPI: 0.57 f) GPI (6-10): 0.80 g) GPI: 0.42 h) GPI: 0.40	a) GPI: 1.00 b) GPI: 1.00 c) GPI: 1.00 d) GPI: 0.80 e) GPI: 0.70 f) GPI (6-10): 1.00 g) GPI: 0.50 h) GPI: 0.50	a) GPI: 1.06 b) GPI: 1.22 c) GPI: 1.02 d) GPI: 0.75 e) GPI: 0.37 f) GPI (6-10): 0.64 g) GPI: 0.35 h) GPI: 0.39	Need Attention
Indicator 4.6.1 Percentage of the population in a given age group achieving at least a fixed level of proficiency in functional (a) literacy and (b) numeracy skills, by sex	(a) functional literacy (15-45yrs): 53.6% (b) functional numeracy (15-45yrs): 52.8% (LAS 2011, BBS)	(a) functional literacy (15-45yrs): 75% (b) functional numeracy (15-45yrs): 75%	(a) functional literacy (15-45yrs): 100% (b) functional numeracy (15-45yrs): 100%	(a) functional literacy (15-45yrs): 75.6% (SVRS 2020, BBS)	Target on Functional Literacy Achieved

Indicator	Baseline Data (Year, Source)	Milestone by 2025	Target 2030	Current Status	Remarks
Indicator 4.a.1 Proportion of schools offering basic services, by types of services	Primary (a) Electricity: 58% (b) Internet: 0.8% (c) access to computers: 0.8% (d) adapted infrastructure and materials for students with disabilities: 34% (e) basic drinking water: 82% of schools (f) single-sex basic sanitation facilities: 48% of schools (g) basic hand washing facilities: n/a (APSC, 2015) Secondary (same indicators as primary) (a) 86.03% (b) 26.49% (c) 82% (d) Ramp: 14% (BES, 2015) (e) 96.61% (f) 95.55% (g) 19.68% (BANBEIS-BES, 2017	Primary (a) 100% (b) 100% (c) 100% (d) 80% (e) 95% schools (f) 85% schools (g) 100% Secondary (a) 100% (b) 50% (c) 100% (d) 80% (e) 100% (f) 100% (g) 70%	Primary (a) 100% (b) 100% (c) 100% (d) 100% (e) 100% schools (f) 100% schools (g) 100% Secondary (a) 100% (b) 100% (c) 100% (d) 100% (e) 100% (f) 100% (g) 100%	Primary (a) 87.60% (b) 76.89% (c) 89.87% (d) 37.52% (e) 86.41% schools (f) 77.90% schools (g) 43.5% (2019) (APSC 2020, DPE, MoPME) Secondary (a) 95.96% (b) 47.50% (c) 76.85% (d) 18.76 % (e) 97.48 % schools (f) 96.59 % schools (g) 54.90 % (2019) (BES 2020, BANBEIS, MoE)	On Track
Indicator 4.b.1 Volume of official development assistance flows for scholarships by sector and type of study	8.76 MUS$ (2015, ERD)	20 MUS$	25 MUS$	7.6 MUS$ (2016-17, ERD)	Lack of Updated Data

Indicator	Baseline Data (Year, Source)	Milestone by 2025	Target 2030	Current Status	Remarks
Indicator 4.c.1 Proportion of teachers with the minimum required qualifications, by education level	Primary (b) Total: 73% (M: 77% F: 70%) (APSC, 2015) Secondary (c) 59.61% (d) 44.10% (BES, 2015)	-	-	Primary (b) Total: 80.06% (APSC 2018, DPE, MoPME) (c) Total: 62.17% M: 61.55% F: 63.80% (d) Total: 61.33% M: 57.48% F: 72.69% (BANBEIS 2020 (BES), SHED, MoE)	On Track
Goal 5. Achieve Gender Equality and Empower all Women and Girls					
Indicator 5.2.1 Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual, or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by the form of violence and by age	54.70% (VAW Survey 2015, BBS, SID)	20%	0%	-	Lack of Updated Data
Indicator 5.2.2 Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by age and place of occurrence	6.2% (VAW survey, 2015)	3%	0%	-	Lack of Updated Data
Indicator 5.3.1 Proportion of women aged 20-24 years who were married or in a union before age 15 and before age 18	Before 15: 23.8% (MICS, 2012-3) Before 18: 58.6% (BDHS, 2014)	Before 15:0% Before18:20%	Before 15:0% Before18:10%	Before 15: 15.5% Before 18: 51.4% (MICS, 2019, BBS)	Need Attention

Indicator	Baseline Data (Year, Source)	Milestone by 2025	Target 2030	Current Status	Remarks
Indicator 5.4.1 Proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work, by sex, age, and location	Female: 25.8% Male: 5% (TUS, 2012)	Female: 24% Male: 7%	Female: 20% Male: 10%	Female: 23.6% Male: 6.9% (LFS 2016-17, BBS)	Target Achieved
Indicator 5.5.1 Proportion of seats held by women in (a) national parliaments and (b) local governments	(a) 20% (LPAD, 2014) (b) 23% (LGD, 2016)	(a) 35% (b) 27%	(a) 40% (b) 33%	(a) 20.86% (BPS, 2021) (b) 23.4% (LGD, 2021)	Need Attention
Indicator 5.5.2 Proportion of women in managerial positions	11.4% (LFS, 2015-16)	23%	30%	10.7% (LFS, 2016-17)	Need Attention
Indicator 5.6.1 Proportion of women aged 15-49 years who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use, and reproductive health care decisions regarding sexual relations	2.5% (BDHS, 2014)	3.5%	4.0%		Lack of Updated Data
Indicator 5.b.1 Proportion of individuals who own a mobile telephone, by sex	Both sex: 79.76% (BTRC, 2015)	90%	100%	78.1% (CPHS, 2018, BBS)	Need Attention
Goal 6. Ensure Availability and Sustainable Management of Water and Sanitation for all					
Indicator 6.1.1 Proportion of the population using safely managed to drink water services	National: 47.9% Urban:44.7% Rural:48.8% (MICS 2019, BBS) National: 47.9% Urban:44.7% Rural:48.8% (MICS 2019, BBS)	100%	100%	-	Lack of Updated Data

Indicator	Baseline Data (Year, Source)	Milestone by 2025	Target 2030	Current Status	Remarks
Indicator 6.2.1 Proportion of the population using (a) safely managed sanitation services and (b) a hand-washing facility with soap and water	(a) 42.8% (b) 74.8% (MICS, 2019, BBS)	(a) 60% (b) 85%	(a) 80% (b) 100%	-	Lack of Updated Data
Indicator 6.3.1 Proportion of domestic and industrial wastewater flows safely treated	-	-	-	40.73% (WASA, 2021)	Lack of Baseline Data
Indicators 6.4.1 Change in water-use efficiency over time				9.82 (DPHE 2020, LGD)	Lack of Baseline Data
Indicator 6.4.2 Level of water stress: freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources	6.0% (FAO, 2017)	3%	3%	12% BMDA 2020, MoA	Need Attention
Indicator 6.5.1 Degree of integrated water resources management implementation (0-100)	50 (UNEP, 2017)	60	70	58 (BWDB, 2021)	On Track
Indicator 6.5.2 Proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation	38% (JRC, 2016)	40%	50%	38% (JRC, 2018)	On Track

Indicator	Baseline Data (Year, Source)	Milestone by 2025	Target 2030	Current Status	Remarks
Indicator 6.a.1 Amount of water- and sanitation- related official development assistance that is part of a government- coordinated spending plan	301.1 MUS$ (ERD FY15)	400 MUS$	450 MUS$	457.60 MUS$ (ERD, FY 2020-21)	Target Achieved
Goal 7. Ensure access to Affordable, Reliable, Sustainable, and Modern Energy for all					
Indicator 7.1.1 Proportion of the population with access to electricity	78% (SVRS, 2015)	100%	100%	96.2% (SVRS, 2020)	On Track
Indicator 7.1.2 Proportion of the population with primary reliance on clean fuels and technology	20.8% (SVRS, 2015)	30%	35%	29.9% (SVRS, 2020)	Target Achieved
Indicator 7.2.1 Renewable energy share in the total final energy consumption	2.79% (SREDA, 2015)	5%	10%	3.49% (SREDA, 2020)	On Track
Indicator 7.3.1 Energy intensity measured in terms of primary energy and GDP	2.66 Ktoe/billion BDT (HCU, 2016)	4.5 Ktoe/billion BDT	6 Ktoe/billion BDT	3.49 Ktoe/billion BDT (SREDA, 2020)	On Track
Indicator 7.a.1 International financial flows to developing countries in support of clean energy research and development and renewable energy production, including in hybrid systems	301.1 MUS$ (ERD FY 15)	600 MUS$	800 MUS$	496.80 MUS$ (ERD, FY 2018-19)	On Track

Indicator	Baseline Data (Year, Source)	Milestone by 2025	Target 2030	Current Status	Remarks
Indicator 7.b.1 Installed renewable energy-generating capacity in developing countries (in watts per capita)	2.66 watts per capita (SREDA, 2015)	-	-	4.214 watts per capita (SREDA, 2020)	On Track
Goal 8. Promote Sustained, Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Growth, full and Productive Employment and Decent Work for all					
Indicator 8.1.1 Annual growth rate of real GDP per capita	5.12% (BBS, FY 15)	7%	7.5%	5.74% (NAW, 2020-21, BBS)	On Track
Indicator 8.2.1 Annual Growth Rate of Real GDP (Per Employed Person)	5.71% (NAW, BBS, 2016)	5.5%	6.5%	4.66% (NAW, 2020-21, BBS)	Need Attention
Indicator 8.3.1 Proportion of informal employment in total employment, by sector and sex	77.5% (M: 74.9%, F: 88.4%) (LFS, 2015-16)	75%	65%	85.10% (M: 82.10%, F: 91.80%) (LFS, 2016-17, BBS)	Need Attention
Indicator 8.5.1 Average hourly earnings of female and male employees, by occupation, age, and persons with disabilities	Average Monthly earning: Tk. 12,897 (Male: 13,127 Female:12,072) 15-24: 10862 25-34: 12801 35-44: 14053 45-54: 14857 55-64: 13160 65+: 10844 (LFS, 2015-16)	45% increased	70% increased	Average Monthly earning: Tk. 13,258 (Male: 13,583 Female:12,254) (LFS, 2016-17, BBS)	Lack of Updated Data

Indicator	Baseline Data (Year, Source)	Milestone by 2025	Target 2030	Current Status	Remarks
Indicator 8.5.2 Unemployment rate, by sex, age, and persons with disabilities	By sex Male: 3.0% Female: 6.8% By Age 15-17 years: 10.5% 18-24 years: 10.1% 25-29 years: 6.7% 30-64 years: 1.9% 65+ years: 0.9% (LFS 2015-16)	By sex Male: 0.8% Female: 2.1% By Age 15-17 years: 5.4% 18-24 years: 4.4% 25-29 years: 3.0% 30-64 years: 1.0% 65+ years: 0.24%	By sex Male: 0% Female: 0% By Age 15-17 years: 0% 18-24 years: 0% 25-29 years: 0% 30-64 years : 0% 65+ years: 0%	By sex Male: 3.1% Female: 6.7% By Age 15-17 years: 12.3% 18-24 years: 5.7% 25-29 years: 1.2% 30-64 years: 0.8% 65+ years: 0.6% (LFS 2016-17)	Need Attention
Indicator 8.6.1 Proportion of youth (aged 15-24 years) not in education, employment, or training (NEET)	28.9% (M: 10.3%, F: 46.7%) (LFS, 2015-16)	12%	3%	26.8% (M: 9.2%, F: 43.9%) (LFS, 2016-17, BBS)	Need Attention
Indicator 8.7.1 Proportion and number of children aged 5-17 years engaged in child labor, by sex and age	By sex: Male: 953204 (2.40%) Female: 745690 (1.88%) By age: 5 years: 19320 (0.05%) 6-11 years: 432188 (1.09%) 12-13 years: 38766 (0.10%) 14-17 years: 1208620 (3.05%) Child Labor survey, 2013	90% reduction of all forms of child labor	Fully eliminate all forms of child labor. (as per the country's prevailing labor law Bangladesh Labor Act 2006 (as amended in 2013) a person under 14 years is regarded as a child)	-	Lack of Updated Data
Indicator 8.8.1 Frequency rates of fatal and non-fatal occupational injuries, by sex and migrant status	a) Fatal injuries: 382 per year (M: 362; F: 20) b) Non-fatal injuries: 246 per year (M:177; F: 19) (DIFE, 2015)	a) Fatal: 200 b) Non-Fatal: 150	a) Fatal: 100 b) Non-Fatal: 100	a) Fatal: 176 (M: 114; F: 62) b) Non-fatal: 220 (M: 126; F: 94) (DIFE, 2021)	Target on Fatal Injuries Achieved

Indicator	Baseline Data (Year, Source)	Milestone by 2025	Target 2030	Current Status	Remarks
Indicator 8.9.1 Tourism direct GDP as a proportion of total GDP and in growth rate	a) 3.08% (TSA survey, 2020)	4.5%	5%		Lack of Updated Data
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	(a) 8.37 (b) 6.79 (IMF, 2015)	(a) 10 (b) 8	(a) 12 (b) 9	(a) 9.55 (b) 10.61 (BB, 2020)	Target on Automa ted Teller Machines Achieved
Indicator 8.10.2 Proportion of adults (15 years and older) with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider	(a) Bank: 31% (b) FI: 29.1% (c) Mobile: 2.7% (Global Findex, WB, 2014)	(a) Bank: 35% (b) FI: 32% (c) Mobile: 3.5%	(a) Bank: 40% (b) FI: 35% (c) Mobile: 5%	Total: 79.20% (BB, 2020)	Target Achieved
Indicator 8.a.1 Aid for Trade commitments and disbursements	a) Com: 2424.3 MU$ b) Disb: 910.1 MU$ (OECD-WTO, 2015)	a) 4000 MU$ b) 1500 MU$	a) 5000 MU$ b) 2000 MU$	-	Lack of Updated Data
Goal 9. Build Resilient Infrastructure, Promote Inclusive and Sustainable Industrialization, and Foster Innovation					
Indicator 9.1.1 Proportion of the rural population who live within 2 km of an all-season road	83.45% (LGED, 2016)	90%	95%	-	Lack of Updated Data
Indicator 9.1.2 Passenger and freight volumes, by mode of transport	Passenger: 8,311,282 Freight: 2,79,286 M. ton (CAAB, 2015)	Passenger: 12,500,000 Freight: 600,000 M. ton	Passenger: 15,000,000 Freight: 800,000 M. ton	Passenger: 13,098,716 Freight: 412,286 M. ton (CAAB, 2019)	Target Achieved

Indicator	Baseline Data (Year, Source)	Milestone by 2025	Target 2030	Current Status	Remarks
Indicator 9.2.1 Manufacturing value added as a proportion of GDP and per capita	Proportion of GDP: 20.35% Per Capita: $ 337 (NAW, FY 2015-16, BBS)	Proportion of GDP: 28%	Proportion of GDP: 35%	Proportion of GDP: 22.47% Per Capita: $ 444 (NAW, FY 2020-21, BBS)	Need Attention
Indicator 9.2.2 Manufacturing employment as a proportion of total employment	14.4% (LFS 2015-16)	22%	25%	14.4% (LFS, 2016-17, BBS)	Lack of Updated Data
Indicator 9.5.1 Research and development expenditure as a proportion of GDP	0.30% (NAW, BBS, 2015)	1.00%	1.00%	-	Lack of Updated Data
Indicator 9.5.2 Researchers (in full-time equivalent) per million inhabitants	855 (MoST, 2015)	998	1,080	-	Lack of Updated data
Indicator 9.a.1 Total official international support (official development assistance plus other official flows) to infrastructure	1247 US$M (ERD, FY 15)	2600 MUS$	3500 MUS$	4851.10 MUS$ (ERD, 2021)	Target Achieved
Indicator 9.b.1 Proportion of medium and high-tech industry value added in total value added	5.15 (NAW, 2016, BBS)	15.00	20.00	5.94 (NAW, 2021, BBS)	Need Attention
Indicator 9.c.1 Proportion of population covered by a mobile network by technology (percent)	2G: 99% 3G: 71% (BTRC, 2015)	2G: 100% 3G: 100%	2G: 100% 3G: 100%	2G: 99.60% 3G: 95.50% 4G: 98.10% (BTRC, 2021)	On Track

Indicator	Baseline Data (Year, Source)	Milestone by 2025	Target 2030	Current Status	Remarks
Goal 10. Reduce Inequality within and among Countries					
Indicator 10.1.1 Growth rates of household expenditure or income per capita among the bottom 40 percent of the population and the total population	Yearly income growth of- a) Bottom 40% population: 7.7% b) total population: 9.1% (HIES, 2016)	a) 9.5% b) 9.3%	a) 10% b) 9.7%	a) 7.7 b) 9.1% (SID 2018)	Need Attention, especially the Bottom 40% Population
Indicator 10.2.1 Proportion of people living below 50 percent of median income, by sex, age, and persons with disabilities	15.98% (SID, 2018)	-	-	-	Lack of Updated Data
Indicator 10.3.1 Proportion of population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed in the previous 12 months based on a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law	35.6% (CPHS, 2018, BBS)	25%	20%	-	Lack of Updated data

Indicator	Baseline Data (Year, Source)	Milestone by 2025	Target 2030	Current Status	Remarks
Indicator 10.5.1 Financial Soundness Indicators	1 - Regulatory Tier 1 capital to assets: 5.40 2 - Regulatory Tier 1 capital to risk-weighted assets: 8.00 3 - Nonperforming loans net of provisions to capital: 44.19 4 - Nonperforming loans to total gross loans: 8.40 5 - Return on assets: 1.86 6 - Liquid assets to short-term liabilities: 51.13 7 - Net open position in foreign exchange to capital: 4.72 (BB, 2015)	-	-	1 - Regulatory Tier 1 capital to assets: 4.77 2 - Regulatory Tier 1 capital to risk-weighted assets: 7.42 3 - Nonperforming loans net of provisions to capital: 34.49 4 - Nonperforming loans to total gross loans: 7.74 5 - Return on assets: 0.77 6 - Liquid assets to short-term liabilities: 52.44 7 - Net open position in foreign exchange to capital: 9.91 (BB, 2020)	On Track
Indicator 10.6.1 Proportion of members and voting rights of developing countries in international organizations	-	-	-	.28 (MOFA 2020)	Lack of Baseline Data
Indicator 10.7.1 Recruitment cost borne by employee as a percentage of yearly income earned in country of destination	-	-	-	Total: 17.60% Male: 19.10% Female: 5.6% [CMS 2021, BBS]	Lack of Baseline Data
Indicator 10.7.2 Number of countries that have implemented well-managed migration policies				In Bangladesh, the Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Policy 2016 has been approved in January 2016.	On Track

Indicator	Baseline Data (Year, Source)	Milestone by 2025	Target 2030	Current Status	Remarks
Indicator 10.a.1 Proportion of tariff lines applied to imports from least developed countries and developing countries with zero-tariff	-	-	-	All developing countries: 50.30% LDCs: 65.10%	Lack of Baseline Data
Indicator10.b.1.a Total official development assistance (ODA) for development, by recipient and donor countries	a) ODA: 3043.07 MUS$ (ERD, FY15), b) FDI: 2235.39 MUS$ (BB, 2014-15)	a) ODA: 9000 MUS$ b) FDI: 12000 MUS$	a) ODA: 11000 MUS$ b) FDI: 15000 MUS$	a) ODA: 7957 MUS$ (ERD, FY 2021)	On Track
Indicator 10.c.1 Remittance costs as a proportion of the amount remitted	4.06% (BB, 2015)	3.5%	<3%	5.38% (BB, 2020)	Need Attention
Goal 11. Make Cities and human Settlements Inclusive, Safe, Resilient and Sustainable					
Indicator 11.1.1 Proportion of urban population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing	55.1% (UN-Habitat, 2014)	30%	20%		Lack of Updated Data
Indicator 11.4.1 Total per capita expenditure on the preservation, protection, and conservation of all cultural and natural heritage, by the source of funding (public, private), type of heritage (cultural, natural), and level of government (national, regional, and local/municipal)	2.5 PPP$ (MoCA, FY 2015-16)	2.30 PPP$	3.54 PPP$	1.81 PPP$ (MoCA, FY 2019-20)	Need Attention

Indicator	Baseline Data (Year, Source)	Milestone by 2025	Target 2030	Current Status	Remarks
Indicator 11.5.1 Number of deaths, missing persons, and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population	Affected Persons: 12,881 per 100,000 people (MoDMR, 2014) Death Person: 0.2045 (MoDMR, 2016)	Affected Persons: 2000	Affected Persons: 1500	Affected Persons: 3765.80 (BDRS, 2021) Death Person: 0.316 (MoDMR, 2019)	On Track
Indicator 11.5.2 Direct economic loss attributed to disasters in relation to global gross domestic product (GDP)	1.30% (BDRH, 2015)	1%	1%	1.32% (BDRS, 2020)	Need Attention
Indicator 11.b.2 Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies	City Corp: 0.0833 (1/12) Pourashava: 0.0091 (3/330) (MoDMR, 2019)			City Corp: 0.0833 (1/12) Pourashava: 0.0091 (3/330) (MoDMR, 2019)	Lack of Updated Data
Goal 12. Ensure Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns					
Indicator 12.a.1 Installed renewable energy-generating capacity in developing countries (in watts per capita)	2.66 watts per capita (SREDA, 2015)	-	-	4.214 watts per capita (SREDA, 2020)	On Track
Indicator 12.c.1 Amount of fossil-fuel subsidies per unit of GDP (production and consumption) and as a proportion of total national expenditure on fossil fuels	0.04% of GDP (FD, FY 2014-15) 0.06% of expenditure on FF(FD, FY 2018-19)	0.02%	0.01%	0.6% of GDP 1.3% of expenditure on FF (FD, FY 2018-19)	Need Attention

Indicator	Baseline Data (Year, Source)	Milestone by 2025	Target 2030	Current Status	Remarks
Goal 13. Take Urgent Action to Combat Climate Change and its Impacts					
Indicator 13.1.1 Number of deaths, missing persons, and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population	Affected Persons: 12,881 per 100,000 people Death Person: 0.2045 (MoDMR, 2016)	Affected Persons: 2000	Affected Persons: 1500	Affected Persons: 3765.80 (BDRS, 2021) Death Person: 0.316 (MoDMR, 2019)	On Track
Indicator 13.1.3 Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies	City Corp: 0.0833 (1/12) Pourashava: 0.0091 (3/330) (MoDMR, 2019)	-		City Corp: 0.0833 (1/12) Pourashava: 0.0091 (3/330) (MoDMR, 2019)	Lack of Updated Data
Goal 14. Conserve and Sustainably use the Oceans, Seas and Marine Resources for Sustainable Development					
Indicator 14.5.1 Coverage of protected areas in relation to marine areas	2.05% (BF, MoEFCC, 2015)	7%	10%	-	Lack of Updated Data
Indicator 14.7.1 Sustainable fisheries as a proportion of GDP in small island developing States, least developed countries, and all countries	3.29 (NAW, 2015, BBS)	3	3	3.14 (NAW, 2018, BBS)	Target Achieved

Indicator	Baseline Data (Year, Source)	Milestone by 2025	Target 2030	Current Status	Remarks
Indicator 14.c.1 Number of countries making progress in ratifying, accepting, and implementing through legal, policy, and institutional frameworks, ocean-related instruments that implement international law, as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, for the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans and their resources	-	-		Ratification of or accession to relevant instruments: 100 Implementation of the Relevant Instruments: 90 [MoFA, 2019]	Lack of Baseline Data
Goal 15. Protect, Restore and Promote Sustainable use of Terrestrial Ecosystems, Sustainably Manage Forests, Combat Desertification, and Halt and Reverse Land Degradation and Halt Biodiversity Loss					
Indicator 15.1.1 Forest area as a proportion of total land area	14.1% (BFD, 2015, MoEFCC)	18%	20%	14.47% (Excluding inland water area) (BFD, 2018)	Need Attention
Indicator 15.1.2 Proportion of important sites for terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity that are covered by protected areas, by ecosystem type	a) Terrestrial: 1.7% (2014-15, MoEFCC) b) Freshwater: 1.8% (2013-14, MoEFCC)	a) 3.3% b) 9%	a) 5% b) 14%	a) 3.06% (BFD, 2019) b) 3.08% (BFD, 2018)	On Track
Indicator 15.a.1(a) Official development assistance on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and (b) revenue generated and finance mobilized from biodiversity-relevant economic instruments	41.07 M$ (UNSTATS, 2015)	150.00 M$	200 M$	-	Lack of Updated Data

Indicator	Baseline Data (Year, Source)	Milestone by 2025	Target 2030	Current Status	Remarks
Goal 16. Promote Peaceful and Inclusive Societies for Sustainable Development, Provide Access to Justice for all, and Build Effective, Accountable, and Inclusive Institutions at all Levels					
Indicator 16.1.1 Number of victims of intentional homicide per 100,000 population, by sex and age	Total: 1.94 Male: 3.1 Female: 0.76 (BP, 2015)	Total: 1.5 Male: 1.2 Female: 0.3	Total: 1 Male: 0.9 Female: 0.2	Total: 1.33 Male: 0.99 Female: 0.33 (BP, 2020)	Target Achieved
Indicator 16.1.2 Conflict-related deaths per 100,000 population, by sex, age, and cause	0.85 (BP, 2015)	-		0.17 (BP, 2018)	On Track
Indicator 16.1.3 Proportion of population subjected to (a) physical violence, (b) psychological violence, and (c) sexual violence in the previous 12 months	57.7% (VAW, BBS,2015)	30%	15%		Lack of Updated Data
Indicator 16.2.1 Proportion of children aged 1-17 years who experienced any physical punishment and/or psychological aggression by caregivers in the past month	82.3 (MICS, 2012-13)	80	70	88.5 (MICS, 2019, BBS)	Need Attention
Indicator 16.2.2 Number of victims of human trafficking per 100,000 population, by sex, age, and form of exploitation	1.78 (Male: 1.14; Female: 0.64) (BP 2015)	Total: 0.30		0.46 (Male: 0.23; Female: 0.23) (BP 2020)	On Track

Indicator	Baseline Data (Year, Source)	Milestone by 2025	Target 2030	Current Status	Remarks
Indicator 16.3.1 Proportion of female victims of violence in the previous 12 months who reported their victimization to competent authorities or other officially recognized conflict resolution mechanisms	Female: 2.45% (VAW Survey, 2015)	Female: 20%	Female: 30%	Female: 10.3% (MICS, 2019, BBS)	Need Attention
Indicator 16.3.2 Un-sentenced detainees as a proportion of the overall prison population	76.5% (DoP, 2016, MoHA)	50%	40%	80.90% (DoP, 2021, MoHA)	Need Attention
Indicator 16.5.1 Proportion of persons who had at least one contact with a public official and who paid a bribe to a public official, or were asked for a bribe by those public officials, during the previous 12 months	Total: 31.32% (CPHS, BBS, SID, 2018)	15%	10%		Lack of Updated Data
Indicator 16.6.1 Primary government expenditures as a proportion of the original approved budget, by sector (or by budget codes or similar)	Education & Technology: 92% Health: 93% Social Protection: 73% Agriculture: 84% LGD & RD: 103% Housing: 95% (FD, FY 2015)			Education & Technology: 81.2% Health: 81.2% Social Protection: 81.2% Agriculture: 81.2% LGD & RD: 81.2% Housing: 81.2% (FD, FY 2018-19)	Need Attention

Indicator	Baseline Data (Year, Source)	Milestone by 2025	Target 2030	Current Status	Remarks
Indicator 16.6.2 Proportion of the population satisfied with their last experience of public services	39.69% (CPHS, BBS, SID, 2018)	60%	90%		Lack of Updated Data
Indicator 16.9.1 Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority, by age	37% (MICS 2012-13)	80%	100%	56.2% (MICS, 2019, BBS) 66.78% [ORG 2020]	Need Attention
Indicator 16.b.1Proportion of population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed in the previous 12 months based on a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law	35.60% (CPHS, BBS, SID, 2018)	25%	15%		Lack of Updated Data
Goal 17. Strengthen the Means of Implementation and Revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development					
Finance					
Indicator 17.1.1 Total	9.6% (FD, FY15)	17%	18%	13% (FD, FY 2019-20)	On Track
Indicator 17.1.2 Proportion of domestic budget funded by domestic taxes	63% (FD, FY15)	67%	70%	65.22% (BER, FY 2020-21)	On Track

Indicator	Baseline Data (Year, Source)	Milestone by 2025	Target 2030	Current Status	Remarks
Indicator 17.2.1 Net official development assistance, total and to least developed countries, as a proportion of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee donors' gross national income (GNI)	a) Total net ODA: 131.6 billion US$ b) Total net ODA to LDCs: 37.3 billion US$ c) Net ODA to Bangladesh: 3.00 billion US$ (OECD, 2015 & ERD, 2015)	-		a) Total net ODA: 146.6 billion US$ b) Total net ODA to LDCs: 65.97 billion US$ c) Net ODA to Bangladesh: 4.96 billion US$ (OECD, 2017 & ERD, 2018)	On Track
Indicator 17.3.1 Foreign direct investments (FDI), official development assistance (ODA), and South-South Cooperation (SSC) as a proportion of the total domestic budget	FDI: 1.1% ODA: 1.50% (BB, FID,FY 2014-2015)	FDI: 1.4% ODA: 1%	FDI: 1.4% ODA: 0.90%	ODA: 1.80% ERD,2021	Need Attention
Indicator 17.3.2 Volume of remittances (in United States dollars) as a proportion of total GDP	6.74% (BB, FY 15-16)	9%	10%	5.95% (BB, 2021)	Need Attention
Indicator 17.4.1 Debt service as a proportion of exports of goods and services (%)	19.14% (BB & ERD, FY16-17)	17%	15%	5.19% (BER, MoF,2021)	Target Achieved
Technology					
Indicator 17.6.1 Fixed Internet broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants, by speed	2.41 (BTRC, 2015)	15	20	5.82 (BTRC, 2021)	Need Attention

Indicator	Baseline Data (Year, Source)	Milestone by 2025	Target 2030	Current Status	Remarks
Indicator 17.8.1 Proportion of individuals using the Internet				43.5% (SVRS, BBS, SID,2020)	Lack of Baseline Data
Capacity-Building					
Indicator 17.9.1 Dollar value of financial and technical assistance (including through North-South, South-South, and triangular cooperation) committed to developing countries.	570.8 MUS$ (ERD, FY 2015-16)	1200 MUS$	1500 MUS$	279.70 MUS$ (ERD, FY 2018-19)	Need Attention
Trade					
Indicator 17.10.1 Worldwide weighted tariff-average	4.85% (MoC, 2015)	5.5%	5.5%	4.64% (BTC, 2019, MoC)	Need Attention
Indicator 17.11.1 Developing countries' and least developed countries' share of global exports		a) Global Service Exports => Developing: 31.04%; LDCs: 0.84% b) Global Merchandise Exports => Developing: 44.56%; LDCs: 0.94%		a) Bangladesh share in Global Export of Services: 0.1% (BTC, 2019, MoC) b) Bangladesh share in Global Export of Goods: 0.25%	
Indicator 17.12.1: Average tariffs faced by developing countries, least developed countries and small-island developing States	a) MFN: 8.25% b) Preferential: 3.88% (MoC, 2014)		MFN: 8.13% Preferential: 0.04% (BTC, 2019, MoC)		On Track
Systemic Issues					
Multi-stakeholder partnerships					

Indicator	Baseline Data (Year, Source)	Milestone by 2025	Target 2030	Current Status	Remarks
Indicator 17.17.1 Amount of United States dollars committed to (a) public-private partnerships and (b) civil society partnerships	$ 807,164,027.86 (NGOAB, 2015-16)	-		$ 1, 098,598, 021.83 (NGOAB, 2018-19)	On Track
Data, Monitoring and Accountability					
Indicator 17.18.1 Statistical capacity indicator for Sustainable Development Goal monitoring	36.6% (SDG Cell, SID,2019)	45%	50%		Lack of Updated Data
Indicator 17.18.2 Number of countries that have national statistical legislation that complies with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics	Bangladesh has the Statistics Act, 2013 which is under review to comply with FPOS.	-		A committee has been formed in BBS to review the act and put the recommen-dations.	On Track
Indicator 17.18.3 Number of countries with a national statistical plan that is fully funded and under implementation, by the source of funding	BBS has approved NSDS covering 2014-2023 which needs to be updated	-		A project has been taken to support the implementation of NSDS.	On Track
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 percent birth registration and 80 percent death registration	(a) Bangladesh conducts Population and Household Census every 10 years. (b) BR: 37% (MICS, 2012-13) DR: 49%			(a) Population and Housing Census 2022 has been conducted during 15-21 June. (b) DR: 50.49% (2019)	Target Achieved

LIST OF NOTABLE PUBLICATIONS BY GENERAL ECONOMICS DIVISION (GED), BANGLADESH PLANNING COMMISSION SINCE 2009

1	Policy Study on Financing Growth and Poverty Reduction: Policy Challenges and Options in Bangladesh (May 2009)
2	Policy Study on Responding to the Millennium Development Challenge Through Private Sectors Involvement in Bangladesh (May 2009)
3	Policy Study on The Probable Impacts of Climate Change on Poverty and Economic Growth and the Options of Coping with Adverse Effect of Climate Change in Bangladesh (May 2009)
4	Steps Towards Change: National Strategy for Accelerated Poverty Reduction II (Revised) FY 2009 -11 (December 2009)
5	Millennium Development Goals: Bangladesh Progress Report-2009 (2009)
6	Millennium Development Goals: Needs Assessment and Costing 2009-2015 Bangladesh (July 2009)
7	এমডিজি কর্ম-পরিকল্পনা (৫১টি উপজেলা) (জানুয়ারি-জুন ২০১০)
8	MDG Action Plan (51 Upazillas) (January 2011)
9	MDG Financing Strategy for Bangladesh (April 2011)
10	SAARC Development Goals: Bangladesh Progress Report-2011 (August 2011)
11	Background Papers of the Sixth Five Year Plan (Volume 1-4) (September 2011)
12	6th Five Year Plan (FY 2011-FY 2015) (December 2011)
13	Millennium Development Goals: Bangladesh Progress Report-2011 (February 2012)
14	Perspective Plan of Bangladesh 2010-2021: Making Vision 2021 a Reality (April 2012)
15	Public Expenditure for Climate Change: Bangladesh Climate Public Expenditure and Institutional Review (October 2012)
16	Development of Results Framework for Private Sectors Development in Bangladesh (2012)
17	ষষ্ঠ পঞ্চবার্ষিক পরিকল্পনা (২০১১-১৫) বাংলা অনুবাদ (অক্টোবর ২০১২)
18	Climate Fiscal Framework (October 2012)
19	Public Expenditure for Climate Change: Bangladesh CPEIR 2012
20	First Implementation Review of the Sixth Five Year Plan -2012 (January 2013)
21	বাংলাদেশের প্রথম প্রেক্ষিত পরিকল্পনা ২০১০-২০২১ রূপকল্প ২০২১ বাস্তবে রূপায়ণ (ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০১৩)
22	National Sustainable Development Strategy (2010-2021) (May 2013)
23	জাতীয় টেকসই উন্নয়ন কৌশলপত্র (২০১০-২০২১) [মূল ইংরেজি থেকে বাংলায় অনুদিত] (মে ২০১৩)
24	Millennium Development Goals: Bangladesh Progress Report-2012 (June 2013)
25	Post 2015 Development Agenda: Bangladesh Proposal to UN (June 2013)
26	National Policy Dialogue on Population Dynamics, Demographic Dividend, Ageing Population & Capacity Building of GED [UNFPA Supported GED Project Output1] (December 2013)

27	Capacity Building Strategy for Climate Mainstreaming: A Strategy for Public Sector Planning Professionals (2013)
28	Revealing Changes: An Impact Assessment of Training on Poverty-Environment Climate-Disaster Nexus (January 2014)
29	Towards Resilient Development: Scope for Mainstreaming Poverty, Environment, Climate Change and Disaster in Development Projects (January 2014)
30	An Indicator Framework for Inclusive and Resilient Development (January 2014)
31	Capacity Building Strategy for Climate Mainstreaming: A Strategy for Public Sector Planning Professionals (2013)
32	Revealing Changes: An Impact Assessment of Training on Poverty-Environment Climate-Disaster Nexus (January 2014)
33	Towards Resilient Development: Scope for Mainstreaming Poverty, Environment, Climate Change and Disaster in Development Projects (January 2014)
34	An Indicator Framework for Inclusive and Resilient Development (January 2014)
35	Manual of Instructions for Preparation of Development Project Proposal/Proforma Part-1 & Part 2 (March 2014)
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37	The Mid Term-Implementation Review of the Sixth Five Year Plan 2014 (July 2014)
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40	GED Policy Papers and Manuals (Volume 1-4) (June 2015)
41	National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh (July 2015)
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43	7th Five Year Plan (2015/16-2019/20) (December 2015)
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45	জাতীয় সামাজিক নিরাপত্তা কৌশলপত্র (অক্টোবর ২০১৬)
46	Population Management Issues: Monograph-3 (March 2016)
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49	Millennium Development Goals: End- period Stocktaking and Final Evaluation Report (2000-2015) (September 2016)
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51	Data Gap Analysis for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Bangladesh Perspective (January 2017)

52	Environment and Climate Change Policy Gap Analysis in Haor Areas (February 2017)
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54	Banking ATLAS (February 2017)
55	টেকসই উন্নয়ন অভীষ্ট, লক্ষ্যমাত্রা ও সূচকসমূহ (মূল ইংরেজি থেকে বাংলায় অনূদিত) (এপ্রিল ২০১৭)
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95	Background Studies for the Second Perspective Plan of Bangladesh (2021-2041) Volume-4 (October 2019)
96	Background Studies for the Second Perspective Plan of Bangladesh (2021-2041) Volume-5 (October 2019)

97	Background Studies for the Second Perspective Plan of Bangladesh (2021-2041) Volume-6 (October 2019)
98	Monograph 4: Population Management Issues (December 2019)
99	Monograph 5: Population Management Issues (December 2019)
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104	Revised Monitoring and Evaluation Framework of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Bangladesh Perspective (April 2020)
105	Sustainable Development Goals: Bangladesh Progress Report 2020 (April 2020)
106	টেকসই উন্নয়ন অভীষ্ট : বাংলাদেশ অগ্রগতি প্রতিবেদন ২০২০ (ইংরেজি থেকে বাংলায় অনুদিত) (এপ্রিল ২০২০)
107	Bangladesh Voluntary National Review 2020 (June 2020)
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114	8th Five Year Plan (July 2020-June 2025) (December 2020)
115	অষ্টম পঞ্চবার্ষিক পরিকল্পনা (জুলাই ২০২০-জুন ২০২৫) বাংলা সংস্করণ (জুন-২০২১)
116	রূপকল্প ২০৪১ বাস্তবে রূপায়ণ: বাংলাদেশের প্রেক্ষিত পরিকল্পনা ২০২১-২০৪১ (সংক্ষিপ্ত সংস্করণ)
117	Promoting Sustainable Blue Economy in Bangladesh Through Sustainable Blue Bond: Assessing the Feasibility of Instituting Blue Bond in Bangladesh (June 2021)
118	Bangladesh Moving Ahead with SDGs (Prepared for Bangladesh Delegation to 76th UNGA session 2021) (September 2021)
119	Integrating Climate Change Adaptation into Development Planning of Bangladesh, Training Manual (December 2021)
120	Monograph 6: Population Management Issues (December 2021)
121	Monograph 7: Population Management Issues (December 2021)
122	8th Five Year Plan (July 2020-June 2025) : Background Papers Volume 01: Financial Sector, Investment Climate, ICT and Governance (December 2021)

123	8th Five Year Plan (July 2020-June 2025) : Background Papers Volume 02: Trade and Industry (December 2021)
124	8th Five Year Plan (July 2020-June 2025) : Background Papers Volume 03: Agricluture, Land Management and Urbanization (December 2021)
125	8th Five Year Plan (July 2020-June 2025) : Background Papers Volume 04: Education, Health, Poverty and Social Inclusiveness (December 2021)
126	8th Five Year Plan (July 2020-June 2025) : Background Papers Volume 05: Issues of Women and Children in Bangladesh (December 2021)
127	Training Needs and Capacity Assessment of Bangladesh Planning Commission (January 2022)
128	Revised Mapping of Ministries/Divisions and Custodian/Partner Agencies for SDG implementation in Bangladesh (January 2022)
129	A Training Handbook on Implementation of The 8th Five Year Plan (June 2022)
130	Workshop Proceedings on Annual High-Level Consultation on SDGs Localization and Efficient Use of Ocean Resources (May 2022)
131	Synthesis Report on Second National Conference on SDGs Implementation Review (SIR) 2022 (June 2022)
132	Sustainable Development Goals: Bangladesh Progress Report 2022 (December 2022)

LIST OF SDGs PUBLICATIONS BY GED SINCE 2016

1	Integration of Sustainable Development Goals into the 7th Five-Year Plan (February 2016)
2	Policy Coherence: Mainstreaming SDGs into National Plan and Implementation [Prepared for Bangladesh Delegation to 71st UNGA session 2016] (September 2016)
3	A Handbook on Mapping of Ministries by Targets in the Implementation of SDGs aligning with 7th Five Year Plan (2016-20) (September 2016)
4	Data Gap Analysis for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Bangladesh Perspective (January 2017)
5	টেকসই উন্নয়ন অভীষ্ট, লক্ষ্যমাত্রা ও সূচকসমূহ (মূল ইংরেজী থেকে বাংলায় অনুদিত) (এপ্রিল ২০১৭)
6	Bangladesh Voluntary National Reviews (VNR) 2017: Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world (June 2017)
7	SDGs Financing Strategy: Bangladesh Perspective (June 2017)
8	A Training Handbook on Implementation of the 7th Five-Year Plan (June 2017)
9	Bangladesh Development Journey with SDGs [Prepared for Bangladesh Delegation to 72nd UNGA Session 2017] (September 2017)
10	Monitoring and Evaluation Framework of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Bangladesh Perspective (March 2018)
11	National Action Plan of Ministries/Divisions by Targets for the Implementation of SDGs (June 2018)
12	Journey with SDGs: Bangladesh is Marching Forward [Prepared for Bangladesh Delegation to 73rd UNGA Session 2018] (September 2018)
13	এসডিজি অভিযাত্রা: এগিয়ে যাচ্ছে বাংলাদেশ (জাতিসংঘ সাধারণ পরিষদের ৭৩তম অধিবেশনের জন্য প্রণীত) (সেপ্টেম্বর ২০১৮)
14	Synthesis Report on First National Conference on SDGs Implementation Review (November 2018)
15	Sustainable Development Goals: Bangladesh First Progress Report 2018 (December 2018)
16	টেকসই উন্নয়ন অভীষ্ট: বাংলাদেশ অগ্রগতি প্রতিবেদন ২০১৮ (ইংরেজী থেকে বাংলায় অনুদিত) (এপ্রিল ২০১৯)
17	Empowering People: Ensuring Inclusiveness and Equality [For Bangladesh Delegation to High-Level Political Forum 2019] (July 2019)
18	Prospects and Opportunities of International Cooperation in Attaining SDG targets in Bangladesh (September 2019)
19	Bangladesh Moving Ahead with SDGs [Prepared for Bangladesh Delegation to 74th UNGA Session 2019] (September 2018)
20	টেকসই উন্নয়ন অভীষ্ট অর্জনে এগিয়ে যাচ্ছে বাংলাদেশ (জাতিসংঘ সাধারণ পরিষদের ৭৪তম অধিবেশনের জন্য প্রণীত) (সেপ্টেম্বর ২০১৯)
21	Consultation on Private Sector Engagement (PSE) in attaining Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Bangladesh: Bonding & Beyond. Proceedings (January 2020)
22	Revised Monitoring and Evaluation Framework of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Bangladesh Perspective (April 2020)
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25	Bangladesh Voluntary National Reviews 2020 (June 2020)
26	Leaving No One Behind (LNOB) in Bangladesh; Recommendations for the 8th Five Year Plan for implementing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (September 2020)
27	Promoting Sustainable Blue Economy in Bangladesh Through Sustainable Blue Bond: Assessing the Feasibility of Instituting Blue Bond in Bangladesh (June 2021)
28	Bangladesh Moving Ahead with SDGs (Prepared for Bangladesh Delegation to 76th UNGA session 2021) (September 2021)
29	Revised Mapping of Ministries/Divisions and Custodian/Partner Agencies for SDG Implementation in Bangladesh (January 2022)
30	Workshop Proceedings on Annual High-Level Consultation on SDGs Localization and Efficient Use of Ocean Resources (May 2022)
31	Synthesis Report on Second National Conference on SDGs Implementation Review (SIR) 2022 (June 2022)
32	Sustainable Development Goals: Bangladesh Progress Report 2022 (December 2022)