

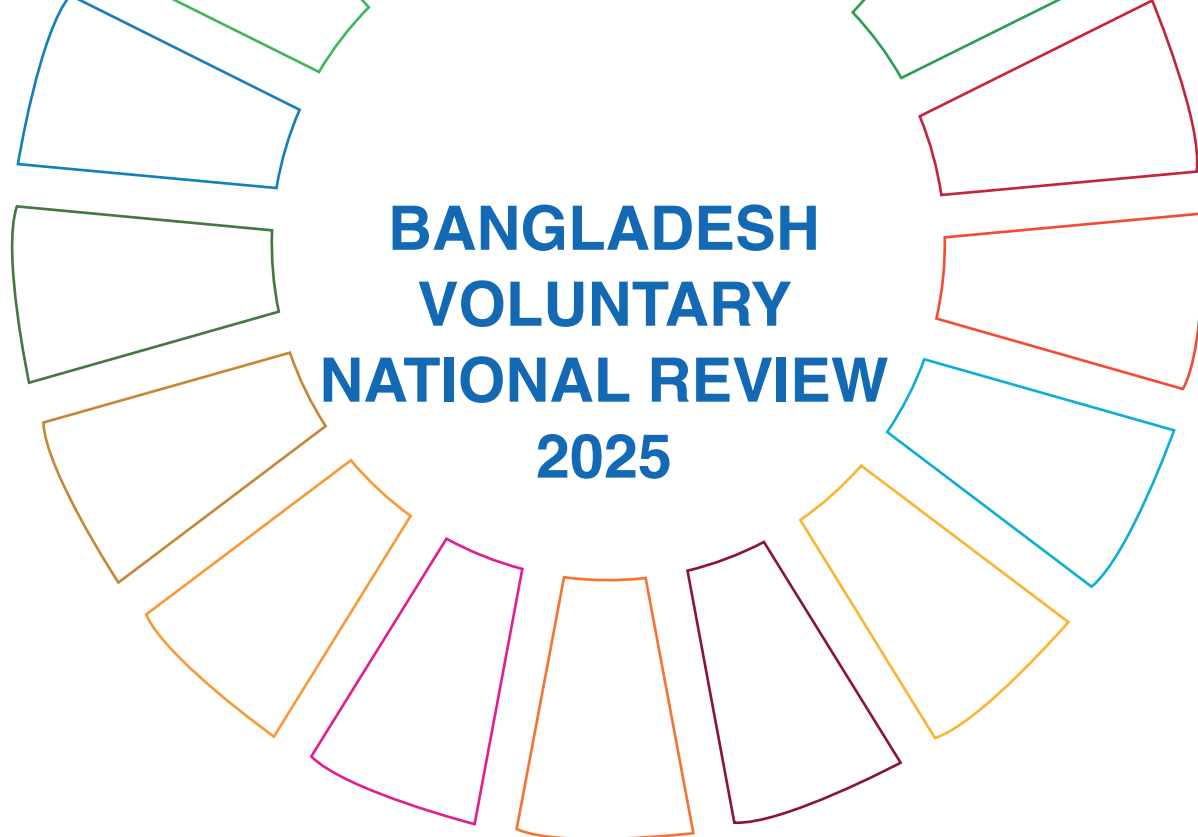


BANGLADESH VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW 2025



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





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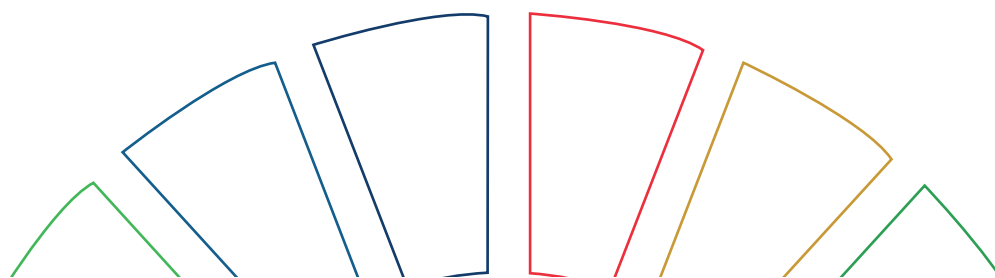
General Economics Division (GED)
Bangladesh Planning Commission
Ministry of Planning
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

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CHIEF ADVISER

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF
BANGLADESH

OPENING STATEMENT

Bangladesh's third Voluntary National Review (VNR), centered around the unifying theme of "Leave No One Behind", is being released at a historic juncture – following a powerful, youth led mass uprising that ushered in a new era of democratic reform and accountability. The emergence of a new interim government, shaped by public demand for equity, justice and reform, has created space to reimagine our national development trajectory. The mission of this Interim Government is to bring in institutional reforms, initiate justice and accountability processes and hold a free and fair election. We are now inspired to pursue a model grounded in trust, inclusivity, and shared responsibility.

The SDGs were envisioned as a universal blueprint for building a more just and sustainable world by 2030. Yet today, the global effort is at risk. Only 17% of SDG targets are on track. The world has been severely impacted by polycrisis—a COVID-19 pandemic, ongoing geopolitical conflicts, economic instability, an escalating climate emergency and weakening political will for development financing—which together have slowed or reversed gains across many countries.

In this challenging context, Bangladesh has continued to make meaningful strides in reducing poverty (19%) and extreme poverty (6%), ensuring universal access to electricity (99%) and safe drinking water (77%) while expanding primary education access and completion (87%). However, global supply chain disruption due to conflict, rising trade protectionism against developing countries, persistent inflation, environmental degradation, growing wealth concentration, and widening global uncertainty have hindered momentum in other areas. As a result, inequality across income, gender, and geography has widened, limiting opportunities for many and challenging the principle of leaving no one behind.

Despite these setbacks, Bangladesh remains firmly committed to the 2030 Agenda. Our government is undertaking a comprehensive reform agenda to create a governance ecosystem capable of advancing such sustainable development. Through a participatory and inclusive process, we have taken reform initiatives to restore institutional integrity, promote inclusive governance, and ensure transparency. The interim government has prioritized judicial independence, electoral integrity, press freedom, anti-corruption efforts, women's rights, access to finance for entrepreneurship, technical skills development and better access to healthcare. These reforms lay the foundation for revitalizing our economy and expanding opportunity for all. We are proactive in cultivating a whole-of-society approach, where public institutions, civil society, the private sector, and global partners co-create solutions.

As we prepare for our graduation from Least Developed Country (LDC) status, Bangladesh is calling for a renewed multilateral spirit that can provide an institutional pathway to support smooth transition and

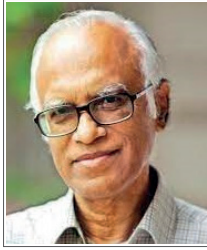
sustainable transformation of the economies of the graduating countries. Bangladesh stands ready to take on a leadership role—as a constructive, credible, and principled advocate for equitable development and shared prosperity across the world.

This Voluntary National Review reflects our progress, our lessons learned and underlines the challenges ahead. I would like to express my deepest appreciation to all stakeholders whose time and efforts shaped this report. Along with government agencies, development partners, civil society and academia, over 4,000 citizens participated in the VNR consultations that included the youth, indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities and marginalized communities, ensuring that the voices of those often excluded are incorporated. This participatory approach brought the principle of Leaving No One Behind (LNOB) into the heart of the review process.

As we review Bangladesh's journey through the SDGs, we do so with a profound sense of responsibility and a renewed optimism. We want to reimagine a new world where there is zero poverty, zero unemployment and zero net carbon emissions. We remain steadfast in our commitment to the global pursuit of these Sustainable Development Goals.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Muhammad Yunus', written in a cursive style.

(Professor Muhammad Yunus)



Professor Wahiduddin Mahmud
Adviser, Ministry of Planning
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

MESSAGE

I am happy that Bangladesh's third Voluntary National Review on the country's status of implementation of the SDGs has been prepared for presentation at the UN High-Level Political Forum in July 2025.

Despite considerable progress, Bangladesh has experienced significant slippages from its roadmap towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. There are several reasons for such slippages. With an extremely high density of population, and comprising almost entirely of the Ganges delta region with shifting rivers and vast stretches of floodplains, Bangladesh has one of the most ecologically and environmentally vulnerable landscapes in the world. Increasing urbanization and industrialization in such a landscape necessarily impinge on scarce environmental resources and make sustainable economic progress a challenging task.

During about two decades since the beginning of the 1990s, which coincided with a transition to democracy, Bangladesh has had achieved rapid and remarkable progress in many social development indicators, such as reducing poverty along with rapid decline in the fertility rate and child mortality, and increasing school enrolment, specially of female children, These achievements were all the more remarkable because the progress was made despite very low public social spending and poor governance of the public service delivery systems.

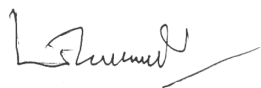
These seemingly surprising achievements were possible because of the widespread adoption of low-cost solutions by the poor, like the oral saline treatment for diarrhea that greatly contributed to reducing child mortality, and because of successful social campaigns such as for child immunization or for getting the girls to school. A vigorous presence of the non-government organizations played a crucial role in reaching these campaigns from door to door. But, as the gains from the low-cost solutions were mostly reaped, further progress was difficult, such as requiring more costly medical interventions for reducing maternal and child mortality, or better-quality education to prevent school dropouts. Predictably, most of the social development indicators either stagnated or even worsened during the last one and a half decades or so.

The most important underlying impediment in making further social and economic progress and achieving the SDG goals, however, was the nature of the ruling regime that became increasingly authoritarian and repressive. Under such a regime, the grassroots organizations and local government bodies became severely weakened in an environment of malfunctioning of the overall governance system. It is noteworthy that the earlier gains in the social development indicators were made possible by targeting the interventions at the individual family level, especially by using the agency of the female members of the households. Achieving the SDGs, in contrast, requires leveraging community-based organizations that can sustainably manage local commons like forests or water bodies, create awareness about protecting the environment and can sanction or demand access to public services.

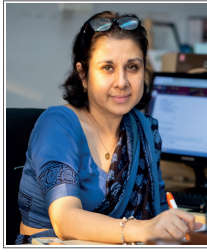
It is in this context that there are reasons to be optimistic about SDGs in the aftermath of the mass upsurge in July 2024 that overthrew the previous authoritarian regime. The current Interim Government is mandated to undertake deep reforms towards transition to a well-governed democratic system. Reforming state institutions along with strengthening local governance are part of this reform agenda. There is thus a commitment to regain the lost ground and make rapid progress towards achieving the SDGs.

I am thankful to the various stakeholders who have participated in consultations and provided valuable inputs and suggestions in preparing this document. I also appreciate the role of the various committees in collating the data, editing, and finalizing the report. I am grateful to the UN Resident Mission and the UNDP for their technical support. I especially thank Ms. Lamiya Morshed, the Principal Coordinator for SDG affairs, and Dr. Monzur Hossain, Member, General Economics Division of the Planning Commission, and their respective teams for undertaking and successfully completing this Herculean task.

Let's strive for achieving the SDGs and create a better world for all.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wahiduddin Mahmud', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Wahiduddin Mahmud



Lamiya Morshed
Principal Coordinator for SDG Affairs
Chief Adviser's Office
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

MESSAGE

The 2025 Voluntary National Review (VNR) of Bangladesh is being presented during a period of profound national transition, marked by a renewed public mandate for reform, inclusion, and integrity in governance. This report reflects the Interim Government's commitment to reposition Bangladesh's development trajectory with greater accountability, transparency, and a deeper citizen engagement in pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals. The reform initiatives undertaken by the Interim Government have served as a vital cross-cutting force that reinvigorated Bangladesh's SDG progress at this critical juncture.

Despite the Covid pandemic and other challenges Bangladesh demonstrated some significant milestones. The proportion of people living in extreme poverty has been reduced from 13.47% in 2016 to just 5% in 2022 (SDG 1). Social protection coverage has doubled since 2016, reaching 50% of the population—surpassing the 2030 SDG target of 40%. In Zero Hunger (SDG 2), child stunting has decreased to 26.4% in 2022.

For Good Health and Well-being (SDG 3), innovative models have improved access to non-communicable disease treatment and affordable care in underserved areas. In Climate Action (SDG 13), disaster resilience has improved significantly. This success is attributed to effective early warning systems, evacuation protocols, and local disaster preparedness.

The Agricultural Orientation Index (AOI) has increased rapidly from 0.48 in 2020 to 0.78 in 2024, reflecting the country's focus on developing its agricultural productive capacity. Bangladesh has also achieved near-universal enrolment in primary education.

The preparation of this VNR was marked by one of the most inclusive stakeholder engagement processes to date. Stakeholders were engaged through local and national dialogues, including youth, persons with disabilities, indigenous groups, grassroots voices, the private sector, civil society and development partners. Each contributed to shaping this report not only as observers, but as co-authors of Bangladesh's SDG journey.

More than 45 ministries and national stakeholders oversaw the report's preparation, coordinated by the General Economics Division, with support from the United Nations system and key strategic guidance from the SDG Wing of the Chief Advisor's Office. Although the progress on SDG attainment is slow, the process of review, reflection and improvement have been strengthened. This whole-of-society approach is now central to how we envision delivering on the SDGs: not as a top-down agenda, but as a shared national compact.

We present this report not only as a record of progress, but as a reaffirmation of our values. The SDGs are a roadmap for dignity, justice, and sustainability—and we remain committed to fulfilling them with a renewed purpose and inclusive resolve.

Lamiya Morshed



Dr. Monzur Hossain
Member, General Economics Division
Bangladesh Planning Commission
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

PREFACE

We are proud to present our third Voluntary National Review (VNR) at the UN High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) in July 2025, marking the tenth anniversary of the HLPF. This VNR presents the country's transformative journey towards achieving the 2030 Agenda, highlighting its implementation status, innovative best practices, challenges, and lessons learned. Since the publication of the last Bangladesh VNR in 2020, the country has encountered numerous difficulties, stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic, geopolitical tensions, and the conflict between Russia and Ukraine. Furthermore, macroeconomic instability, dwindling financial sectors, lack of accountability, and good governance in the absence of democracy at home have complicated the post-COVID recovery. These events have disrupted the smooth implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and hindered the progress of many of their goals, targets, and indicators. However, the youth uprising in Bangladesh in July and August 2024 led to the fall of the previous repressive regime, creating an opportunity to restore economic order, establish a sustainable democracy, enhance governance, and promote an equitable and just society.

Against this backdrop, Bangladesh's success in eradicating poverty through innovative microcredit and microcredit-plus programs is widely recognized. Bangladesh is now focusing on digitalizing microfinance to enhance its effectiveness and promote digital financial inclusion as a tool for accelerating poverty eradication. The government has also undertaken various initiatives to revitalize the rural economy through the sustainable development of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), aiming to create employment, foster and sustain poverty eradication, and ensure a pollution-free environment. Apart from its success in poverty reduction, Bangladesh needs to accelerate its progress in implementing some goals, including achieving gender equality, reducing inequalities, promoting sustainable cities and communities, and fostering partnerships.


Although Bangladesh took the initiative to integrate sustainability aspects into its development policies and programs, mainstreaming sustainability goals in every aspect of development requires significant financing and technology transfer. Green financing is crucial for developing nations to align their actions with green technology and adapt to the changing landscape. Supportive and collaborative actions and partnerships among global players are necessary for a clean energy future. I hope that promoting synergies between the SDGs and climate actions will facilitate an inclusive, just, and equitable transition.

The preparation of the VNR spans over eight months. The SDGs Implementation and Review (SIR) Committee, led by the Principal Coordinator for SDG Affairs at the Chief Adviser's Office, oversees the process and progress. Seventeen ministries and divisions are assigned as goal coordinators, responsible for monitoring and reporting on specific goals in collaboration with the lead, co-lead, and associate ministry. The General Economics Division (GED) serves as the secretariat for the implementation of the SDGs. Adequate consultation was conducted with all concerned parties, including the Federation of Bangladesh

Chamber of Commerce and Industries (FBCCI), Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), and the final report was approved following extensive consultation undertaken in an inclusive and participatory manner. The Report incorporates both qualitative and quantitative analysis to gauge the implementation status of different targets across the Goals.

I would like to thank my colleagues in GED and the officials of the Chief Adviser's Office, especially the Principal Coordinator of SDG Affairs, for their support and guidance. I also appreciate the SIR Committee members, the SDG Working Team, officials from the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, and all other stakeholders for their valuable inputs, suggestions, and feedback, which are reflected in this VNR 2025. Additionally, I would like to extend my warmest thanks to the UNDP for its technical and financial support. I especially thank Professor Abu Eusuf for his contribution to this VNR.

I express my gratitude to our Honorable Adviser, Professor Wahiduddin Mahmud, for his inspiration and guidance in preparing the VNR 2025. I firmly believe that global leaders will embody the spirit of the SDGs and work more proactively together to make our world a better place, ensuring that no one in Bangladesh or around the globe is left behind.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Monzur Hossain', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Monzur Hossain



TABLE OF CONTENTS

List of Abbreviations	11
Executive Summary	13
1. Introduction: Bangladesh Voluntary National Review 2025	16
2. Methodology and process of the VNR report preparation	20
3. Policy and Enabling Environment	24
3.1. Institutional Mechanism for SDGs Implementation	24
3.2. Policy Frameworks for Transformative Development	24
3.3. Leveraging Private Sector Roles in Social and Sustainable Investment	25
3.4. Innovation and Digital Transformation in the Private Sector	26
3.5. Strengthening Evidence-Based Accountability	28
3.6. Localizing the SDGs: From National Plans to Community Action	30
4. Review of progress of the SDGs	33
4.1. SDG 1: No Poverty	34
4.2. SDG 2: Zero Hunger	36
4.3. SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being	38
4.4. SDG 4: Quality Education	41
4.5. SDG 5: Gender Equality	44
4.6. SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation	47
4.7. SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy	49
4.8. SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth	51
4.9. SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	54
4.10. SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities	56
4.11. SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities	58
4.12. SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production	60
4.13. SDG 13: Climate Action	62
4.14. SDG 14: Life Below Water	65
4.15. SDG 15: Life on Land	67
4.16. SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	69
4.17. SDG 17: Partnerships for The Goals	72
5. Leaving No One Behind: Status and Aspirations	76
6. New Context, New Initiatives	82
7. Translating Vision into Reality: Strategic Pathways To 2030	90
Bibliography	93
Annex	95

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

8FYP	Eight Five-Year Plan
ACC	Anti-Corruption Commission
ADR	Alternative Dispute Resolution
AFOLU	Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use
AIDS	Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
AIMS	Aid Information Management System
AOI	Agricultural Orientation Index
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
BBS	Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics
BCCSAP	Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan
BCCTF	Bangladesh Climate Change Trust Fund
BDHS	Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey
BDP	Bangladesh Delta Plan
BFIU	Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit
BIDA	Bangladesh Investment Development Authority
BWBD	Bangladesh Water Development Board
CAO	Chief Adviser's Office
CARE	Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere
CBOs	Community-Based Organizations
CDM	Clean Development Mechanism
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CHT	Chittagong Hill Tracts
CPHS	Citizen Perception Household Survey
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility

DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
EIAs	Environmental Impact Assessments
EPI	Expanded Programme on Immunization
ERD	Economic Relations Division
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
ESD	Education for Sustainable Development
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
FID	Financial Inclusion Department
FMC	Fisheries Monitoring Centre
FTA	Free Trade Agreement
GCED	Global Citizenship Education
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GHG	Green House Gas
GIS	Geographic Information System
GIU	Governance Innovation Unit
GoB	Government of Bangladesh
HIES	Household Income and Expenditure Survey
HIV	Human immunodeficiency virus
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IDCOL	Infrastructure Development Company
ILO	International Labor Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IMO	International Maritime Organization



ISA	International Seabed Authority
IUB	International University Bangladesh
JAC	Judicial Appointments Commission
JMC	Joint Monitoring Cell
LDC	Least Developed Country
LEED	Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design
LFS	Labor Force Survey
LNOB	Leave No One Behind
LPG	Liquefied petroleum gas
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
MMR	Maternal Mortality Ratio
MoE	Ministry of Education
MoF	Ministry of Finance
MPA	Marine Protected Area
MW	Mega Watt
NAP	National Adaptation Plan
NBR	National Board of Revenue
NCD	Non-communicable diseases
NDC	Nationally Determined Contributions
NDCC	National Data Coordination Committee
NEET	Not in Education, Employment, or Training
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NHRC	National Human Rights Commission

NHRC	National Human Rights Commission
NMR	neonatal mortality rate
NPDM	National Plan for Disaster Management
NSAs	Non-State Actors
NSDS	National Sustainable Development Strategy
NSSS	National Social Security Strategy
ODA	Official Development Assistance
PKSF	Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation
PPPs	Public-Private Partnerships
QLFS	Quarterly Labor Force Survey
R&D	Research and Development
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
RMG	Ready-made Garments
SCP	Sustainable Consumption and Production
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SHS	Solar Home System
SME	Small and Medium Enterprise
SOEs	State-Owned Enterprises
STS	Smooth Transition Strategy
UPs	Union Parishads
US	United States
VAW	Violence Against Women
VDCs	Village Development Committees
VNR	Voluntary National Review
WASH	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene
WHO	World Health Organization

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The country's progress towards accomplishing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is detailed in Bangladesh's Voluntary National Review (VNR) 2025. The report, prepared during a period of institutional and political changes, demonstrates the country's renewed and steadfast commitment to advancing the 2030 Agenda through evidence-based policymaking, inclusive governance, and participatory development. The VNR 2025 highlights the advancements, challenges, and significant changes that have taken place in the past few years.

Chapter 1 sets the context by looking back at Bangladesh's journey from its MDG achievement to the more comprehensive SDGs. It explains how the country's earlier initiatives in poverty reduction, improved primary education, and enhanced maternal and child health provided a foundation for addressing the SDGs. The chapter also acknowledges the rise in inequalities, climate vulnerability, and regional disparities.

This VNR draws strength from its process. National statistics, local stories, and policy insights were compiled through an extensive consultation process. Civil society, the private sector, and development partners all played significant roles in this process. More than 20,000 individuals contributed to shaping the findings. The report does not simply record outcomes—it captures lived experiences.

Chapter 3 is devoted to the regulations, plans, and institutions that decide how the SDGs are implemented in Bangladesh. The majority of the country's major development strategies—from the Eighth Five-Year Plan to the Delta Plan and the National Adaptation Plan—are aligned with the goals. Still, progress has not always been smooth. Reforms of the political and administrative systems are underway, aimed at creating more open, efficient, and widely accepted institutions.

Chapter 4 presents a detailed scrutiny of Bangladesh's progress across all 17 SDGs, with particular focus on health, gender equality, decent work, marine ecosystems, and partnerships. There are noteworthy positives that need to be mentioned. Fewer people are living in extreme poverty. More children—especially girls—are in school. Access to electricity has expanded, and social protection coverage has widened. Health care access has improved. RMG workers continue to face risk and low pay. Bangladesh's coasts are degraded by erosion, salination, and destructive fishing. The chapter also highlights persistence and innovations that are closing gaps. Communities are shifting to solar power, mobile health clinics, women-owned cooperatives, and ICT-based services to close service gaps. These are not stopgap solutions—they're blueprints for the future. However, scale, data, and improved coordination are necessary to effect a systemic change nationwide, building on and capitalizing from isolated and sporadic gains.

Chapter 5 is about who's left behind and why. It's based on interviews with individuals whose lives frequently fall outside of policy reports: individuals living with disabilities, minority ethnic groups, working children, women vulnerable to violence, and climate-displaced communities. The accounts are frequently uncomfortable to read, yet they're imperative. Far too many are still being discriminated against, denied legal status, or left out of decisions that affect their lives.

Fixing this requires more than goodwill. It involves utilizing actual resources, listening more acutely, and designing systems that work for everyone. The report recognizes the role of civil society, for example, networks like the Citizen's Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh, in making these voices reach policymakers.

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION



1. INTRODUCTION: BANGLADESH VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW 2025

Background

Bangladesh Voluntary National Review 2025 comes at a critical time, in the aftermath of a historic uprising against a repressive regime, to highlight the country's progress and renewed commitment to implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the High-Level Political Forum of the United Nations. The MDG era spurred advancements in key human development indicators and laid the foundations for an institutional and policy framework for the transition to the SDGs.

Bangladesh's previous Voluntary National Reviews in 2017 and 2020 documented the country's progress, shared good practices, and identified implementation bottlenecks. The SDGs have gained traction in subnational governance, with increased awareness and capacity at the divisional, district, and upazila levels. Efforts have also been made to integrate SDG indicators into the national statistical framework, led by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), which is operationalizing the SDG Tracker and other monitoring tools. The COVID-19 pandemic, combined with global economic uncertainties, a fragile finance sector, and economic mismanagement, particularly by the previous regime, significantly affected development gains. The VNR 2025, therefore, represents a pivotal moment for reflection following the transformative political shift that began in July 2024, catalyzed by a youth-led uprising. It provides an opportunity to evaluate progress, reaffirm the commitment to "Leave No One Behind" (LNOB), and effectively address the policy and institutional reforms necessary to accelerate the SDG agenda.

Despite Bangladesh's remarkable progress in social sectors, especially in the 1990s and 2000s, the pace of progress has slowed in the subsequent decade or so due to institutional impediments under the authoritarian regime. Since COVID-19, Bangladesh has been facing macroeconomic challenges, including episodes of higher inflation, exchange rate volatility, a fragile financial sector, and current account imbalances. The situation was further exacerbated by the weak policy responses of the previous regime, which are now being addressed through the adoption of prudent monetary and fiscal policies. Against this backdrop, the ongoing political transition and reform initiatives present an opportunity to bring the economy back on track to achieve its sustainable development goals.

Reform initiatives have been reinforced focusing on improving fiscal discipline, modernizing public financial management, and enhancing the regulatory environment. At the same time, careful attention has also been given to the selection of prudent development programmes. Structural reforms in state-owned enterprises (SOEs), energy pricing, and labor market flexibility are expected to unlock new productivity gains. Bangladesh's graduation from Least Developed Country (LDC) status, scheduled for November 2026, underscores the urgency of carrying forward these reforms while simultaneously operationalizing smooth transition strategies. As the VNR 2025 acknowledges, these macroeconomic dynamics are not isolated from the SDG agenda—they are intricately linked to poverty reduction, inequality, job creation, and sustainability.

A Transformative Reform Moment

The government has taken significant steps to adopt strategies for a sustainable and equitable economy and build institutions. A national Task Force was formed to come up with recommendations for re-strategizing the economy. Along with this, several reform commissions have generated actionable recommendations that encompass significant changes in electoral processes, constitutional rights, judicial independence, police accountability, public administration efficiency, and anti-corruption mechanisms.

Simultaneously, sectoral reforms have focused on expanding access to healthcare, strengthening labor protections, advancing gender equality, and integrating the informal economy—which represents over 80% of employment—into the formal sector. Environmental and climate resilience also feature prominently, with investments in renewable energy, disaster risk reduction, and ecosystem restoration. On the international front, the interim government has deepened regional partnerships and re-energized diplomacy on critical issues such as LDC graduation and the Rohingya crisis.

These reforms mark a turning point in Bangladesh's development path, presenting a rare opportunity to reset governance, realign development priorities, and reinvigorate progress toward the 2030 Agenda. Along with growth and socio-economic development, the new emphasis on transparency, inclusion, and resilience underscores a reinvigorated commitment by the new Bangladesh to leave no one behind while advancing the implementation of the SDGs.

This VNR report is based on a participatory, evidence-based approach that utilizes official statistics, policy insights, and grassroots consultations. The methodology involves a whole-of-society effort, ensuring inclusivity and rigor in assessing the country's progress toward the SDGs.



CHAPTER 2

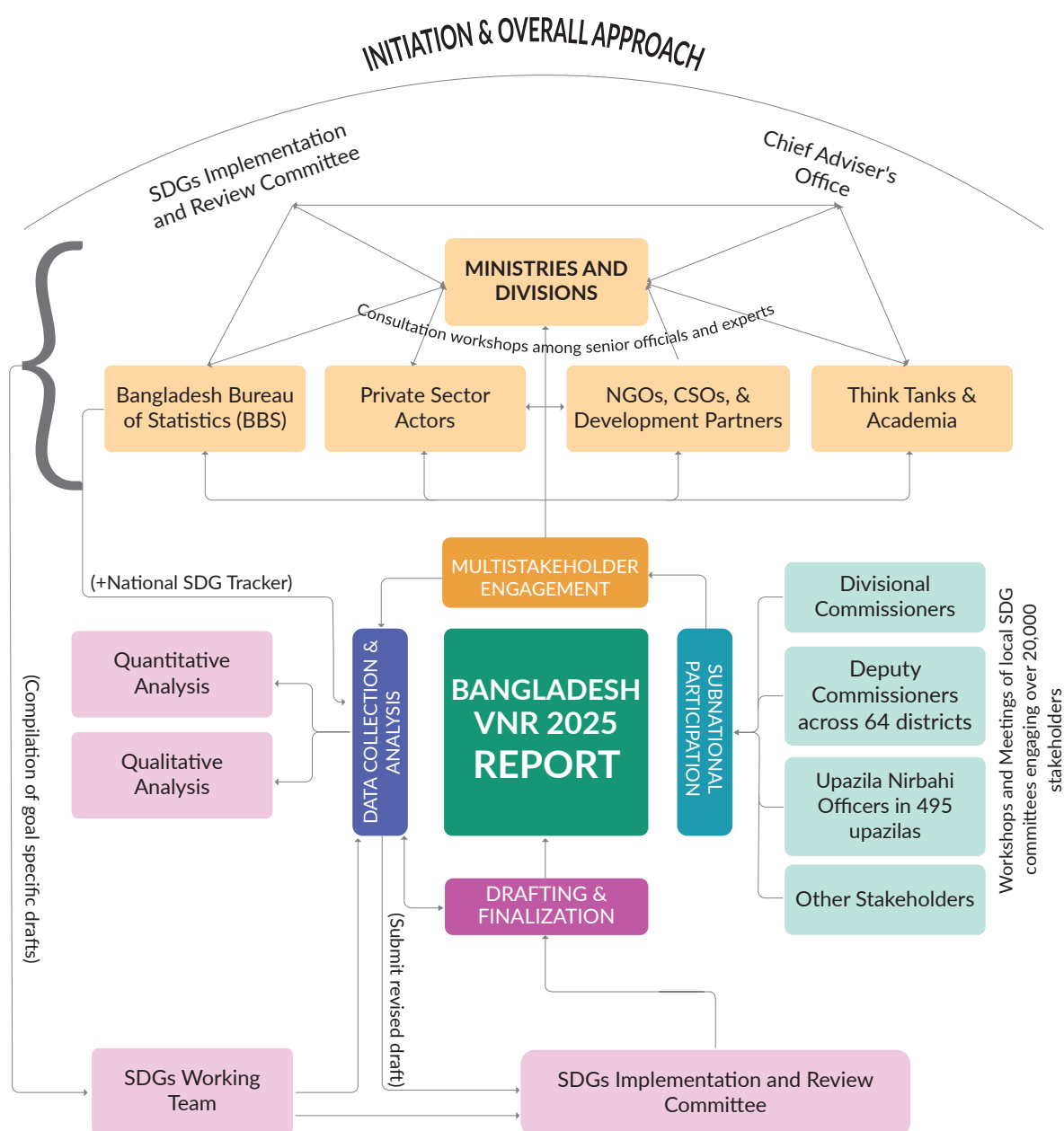
METHODOLOGY AND PROCESS





2. METHODOLOGY AND PROCESS OF THE VNR REPORT PREPARATION

The preparation of third Voluntary National Review (VNR) of Bangladesh for the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) 2025 has been a government-led initiative involving multiple stakeholders and informed by data. Building on previous experiences, the Bangladesh VNR 2025 emphasizes participation, inclusiveness, and evidence-based reporting that identifies both the SDGs' achievements and challenges. The process integrated official data, policy insights, and grassroots perspectives to provide a comprehensive and accurate picture of SDG journey of Bangladesh.



Data Sources and Analytical Framework

The VNR 2025 relied primarily on official national-level data and administrative records. The Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) was the primary data source, complemented by the National SDG Tracker (www.sdg.gov.bd), sectoral databases from relevant ministries and divisions. To bridge data and information gaps, inputs were collected from non-governmental organizations (NGOs), civil society organizations (CSOs), private sector actors, and development partners.

The analytical framework integrated both quantitative and qualitative methods. Quantitative analysis employed descriptive statistics, trend analysis, and comparisons with regions, targets, and other relevant benchmarks. The qualitative analysis utilized thematic and content analysis to integrate insights from policy documents, stakeholder consultations, and grassroots narratives.

Multi-Stakeholder Engagement

The preparation of the VNR was overseen by the SDGs Implementation and Review (SIR) Committee, led by the Principal Coordinator for SDGs Affairs at the Chief Adviser's Office (CAO). Seventeen ministries and divisions were assigned as goal coordinators, responsible for monitoring and reporting on specific goals in collaboration with lead, co-lead, and associate ministries. The UN development system provided technical support throughout the process and engaged closely with ministries aligned with specific goals. The UN Resident Coordinator's Office facilitated coordination support to the government.

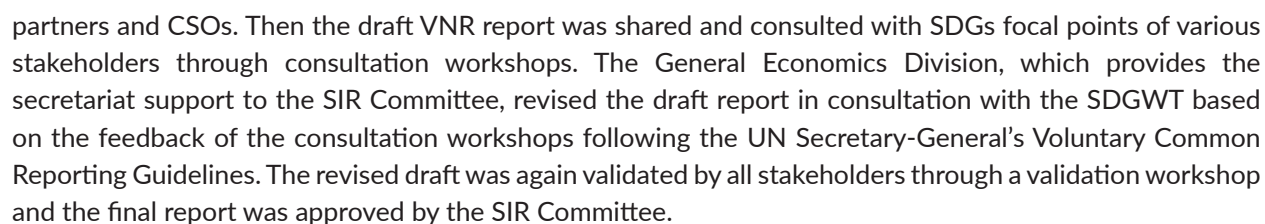
Civil society organizations, particularly the Citizen's Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh, a collaborative network of about 150 NSAs, provided insights based on community experiences to support the chapter on LNOBs in this VNR. Emphasizing the core principle of "Leave No One Behind" (LNOB), the organizations involved, including those advocating for children, persons with disabilities, women, youth, ethnic minorities, and climate vulnerabilities, reviewed the progress of the SDGs by concentrating on accessibility and rights and ensured that the principle of LNOB was meaningfully and sufficiently reflected in the VNR report. The leading private sector representative covering more than 500 affiliated associations, the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce & Industries (FBCCI) contributed to highlighting the private sector contributions to the SDGs, which informed and enhanced the content of this VNR. National workshops and thematic dialogues were conducted across all coordinating ministries, uniting government officials, civil society organizations, private sector actors, UN and other development partners, which ensured that the report accurately represented the collective efforts and commitments of all stakeholders in pursuit of the 2030 Agenda.

Grassroots and Subnational Participation

To strengthen and reinforce local engagement, Divisional Commissioners conducted consultations with officials from districts, sub-districts (upazilas), local governments, and other stakeholders. Approximately 800 participants in each division attended these workshops, which assessed progress concerning localized SDG indicators (39+1 indicators). Deputy Commissioners across 64 districts and Upazila Nirbahi Officers in 495 upazilas organized meetings of local SDG committees, engaging over 20,000 stakeholders. These grassroots and subnational contributions informed the national VNR document, enriching it with a bottom-up perspective.

Drafting and Finalization of the VNR Report

The initial draft of the VNR was prepared by the SDGs Working Team (SDGWT) based on goal-wise inputs received from coordinating Ministries/Divisions, local government, NGOs, private sectors, development



The drafting process purposefully embodied the principles of Leaving No One Behind, whole-of-society participation, and data-driven evidence-based reporting. Thus, it ensures that the VNR 2025 report serves not only as a report card but also as a guide for accelerating success towards the 2030 Agenda.

CHAPTER 3

POLICY AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT



3. POLICY AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

3.1. Institutional Mechanism for SDGs Implementation

Bangladesh has developed an institutional framework to coordinate and implement the SDGs in a way that is inclusive, transparent, and effective. This structure brings together actors from government, civil society, the private sector, and development partners to ensure that progress on the SDGs is well-managed and widely owned. At the center of this framework is the SDGs Implementation and Review Committee, chaired by the Principal Coordinator (SDGs Affairs) at the Chief Adviser's Office. This high-level body includes secretaries from 45 ministries and divisions, making it the key national platform for SDG oversight and coordination. To ensure broad representation, the committee also comprises key non-governmental actors, such as the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce & Industries (FBCCI) for the private sector, the NGO Affairs Bureau, the Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) for grassroots development, and the UN System. At the central of this framework is the SDGs Implementation and Review Committee, chaired by the Principal Coordinator (SDGs Affairs) at the Chief Adviser's Office. This high-level body includes secretaries from 45 ministries and divisions, making it the key national platform for SDG oversight and coordination.

Supporting this committee is the SDGs Working Team (SDGWT), led by the Governance Innovation Unit (GIU). This team brings together technical experts from government agencies, NGOs, academia, and the private sector. It plays a key role in providing evidence-based recommendations and synthesizing inputs for national SDG reporting and policy decisions. To support data-informed implementation, the National Data Coordination Committee (NDCC) plays a vital role. Chaired by the Secretary of the Statistics and Informatics Division (SID), this committee brings together all government data-producing agencies, as well as representatives from business associations, think tanks, and academia. The NDCC ensures that data is reliable, timely, and aligned with budgeting and planning needs.

Finally, each of the 17 SDGs is overseen by a 17 Coordinating Ministry/Division, which conducts biannual consultations and submits detailed reports. These goal-specific updates were the key to national reviews and are integrated into Bangladesh's Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs), ensuring that SDG progress is documented both locally and globally.

3.2. Policy Frameworks for Transformative Development

Bangladesh has progressively aligned its national development policies with the SDGs to guide the envisioned long-term, inclusive, and resilient transformation. This commitment is rooted in the constitutional promise of intergenerational justice as well as in responsibilities for global development. Article 18A of the Bangladesh Constitution explicitly states the need to preserve the environment and biodiversity, hence emphasizing the country's responsibility for sustainable development for present and future generations.

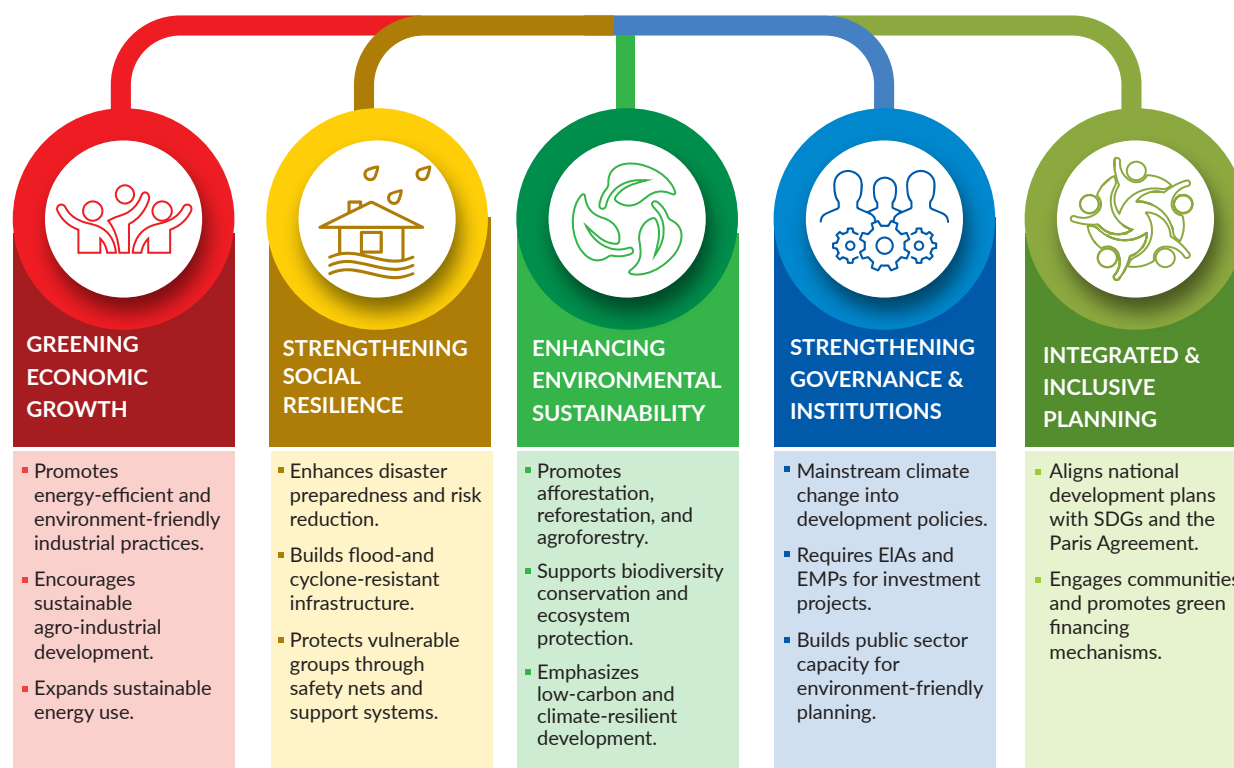
This alignment has been strengthened by the country's medium-term planning instruments, most notably, the Five-Year Plans (FYPs). Besides, Bangladesh has developed the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) 2023-2050, which is marked as an important milestone for incorporating climate resilience into national planning. Developed by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, the NAP details 23 adaptation policies and 113 initiatives across eight sectors. It not only complements SDG 13 (Climate Action) but also interacts with SDGs on urban sustainability, natural ecosystems, water, and food security. Additionally, the NAP projects a \$230 billion funding requirement over the next 27 years. This SDG-policy alignment is further strengthened by the Smooth Transition Strategy (STS) for Bangladesh's graduation from Least Developed Country (LDC) status in 2026.

The government is therefore encouraging green industrialization through cleaner production technologies, resource-efficient procedures, and incentives for energy and water conservation. LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) is a globally recognized green building certification program that Bangladesh has adopted, especially in the garment industry. Bangladesh is home to eight of the top ten LEED-certified factories in the world, ranking the country No. 1 globally in green factories and setting world benchmarks for environmental compliance and production.

Bangladesh has begun investments in renewable energy in an effort to curtail carbon emissions. By 2030, the government aims to achieve 10% of total energy requirements from renewable sources. The National Energy Efficiency and Conservation Master Plan supports parallel initiatives to increase energy efficiency by requiring industry-level audits and encouraging low-consumption solutions. National Financial Inclusion Strategy (NFIS) 2021–2026 marks Bangladesh’s first comprehensive roadmap for inclusive finance, led by Bangladesh Bank and the Ministry of Finance. Initiated in 2014 as part of Bangladesh Bank’s commitment under the Maya Declaration and as an AFI member, the NFIS now sets out 12 goals and 69 targets, with a strong emphasis on green finance, to drive inclusive and sustainable development in the financial sector.

INTEGRATING ECONOMIC SOCIAL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL DIMENSIONS

Main aspects to ensure effectiveness



3.3. Leveraging Private Sector Roles in Social and Sustainable Investment

In the evolving development landscape of Bangladesh, the roles and partnerships of the public and private sectors are becoming increasingly interconnected. Addressing the country's most pressing challenges, from inclusive growth, climate resilience to digital access and youth employment, now necessitates more than the efforts of government alone.

Revolution in Digital Financial Inclusion in Bangladesh

The rapid expansion of the mobile telephony network in the late 1990s and a subsequent innovative program of the Grameen Phone developed the award-winning Village Phone (Polli Phone) initiative by its sister concern, the Grameen Telecom, which allowed poor women in rural areas, mostly Grameen Bank borrowers, to own a mobile phone and use it for income-generating activities. Grameen Phone today has over 45% of the market share of mobile phone customers in Bangladesh. Over time, the high penetration of the mobile phone network in Bangladesh has contributed to improving livelihoods and women's empowerment in rural areas, and paved the way for the expansion of the MFS market as well as digital financial inclusion (Hossain and Samad, 2021).

Salary disbursements through MFS to Garment workers during the COVID-19

At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic in April 2020, the government initiated a program to disburse salaries of women workers in the RMG sector through their MFS accounts. As a result, about 2 million MFS accounts (approximately 60% of the female workers) were opened. Approximately 50% of the accounts were opened through bKash, 28% through Rocket, and 22% through Nagad. This policy directive has increased women's access to digital finance who were previously out of the digital financial network. To continue bringing the benefits of MFS, the directive to pay wages/salaries through their MFS accounts should be made mandatory for this sector.

Source: Samad et al. (2023)

Since 2011, Mobile financial services (MFS) have significantly transformed the financial landscape in Bangladesh by expanding financial access to low-income individuals, including women, micro-entrepreneurs, and small business owners. The broader access has far-reaching impacts, including economic growth and poverty reduction. Having started primarily as a money transfer platform in 2011, MFS providers in Bangladesh have expanded their services to include a wide range of offerings, including merchant payments, utility bill payments, mobile phone recharges, and stipend and safety-net payments. As of January 2024, there were 219.2 million registered clients and 83.7 million active accounts. Transactions between individuals (peer-to-peer or P2P transactions) rose in volume to Tk.3,469 billion at the end of 2023 from Tk.1,612 billion in 2020. Following the success of MFS adoption, the government and private entities are now focusing on digitalizing the microcredit sector to improve its efficiency and transaction modalities, thereby strengthening the role of microcredit in poverty reduction.

Green Investments, ESG Compliance, and Sustainability Reporting in the Private Sector

As environmental sustainability gains traction globally, Bangladesh's private sector is beginning to integrate green investment, Environmental-Social-Governance (ESG) compliance, and sustainability reporting into its core operations. Financial institutions and major conglomerates are investing in renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, and resource-efficient production. In parallel, circular economy principles are gaining attention in sectors like waste management and packaging. However, widespread ESG compliance and third-party sustainability reporting remain limited. Greater regulatory clarity, incentives, and capacity-building are needed to mainstream green investments across all enterprise sizes.

marginalised groups (e.g., women, children, persons with disability, climate-vulnerable people, etc.). Though UNESCAP's SDG Gateway reports that Bangladesh ranks first in South Asia and eighth in the Asia-Pacific region for the availability of SDG data, the Data Quality Assessment score of about 50 out of 100 indicates room for improvement.

Recently, the Interim Government has formed an eight-member task force to strengthen BBS by reviewing the quality, transparency, and accessibility of the data it produces. To ensure data quality, the National Quality Assurance Framework guides the production of official statistics by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) and other agencies. Operating under the SID, BBS is responsible for supervising the national statistical system.



A dedicated SDG Cell has been set up within the Statistics and Informatics Division (SID) to streamline and strengthen all SDG-related data efforts. Backed by a targeted project, this initiative works to identify data gaps, reduce duplication, and improve the integration of data from censuses, surveys, and administrative sources. As part of this effort, seven thematic studies have been carried out to assess data availability and recommend practical solutions for improvement.

The Statistics Act of 2013 and the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) govern the work, which together create the legal and strategic foundation for improving data collection, analysis, and distribution. The government has established the SDGs Tracker, which is an online platform that aligns with the M&E Framework. This online platform enhances transparency and facilitates public access to data. The Tracker allows users to monitor real-time progress, generate reports, and download data at the indicator level. However, various challenges persist that are hindering the standardization, quality, and accessibility of data. A multistakeholder workshop on SDG data gaps identified major challenges and proposed a coordinated set of strategic actions to address these barriers. The following chart outlines priority issues and practical recommendations to strengthen the country's capacity for evidence-based monitoring and accountability.

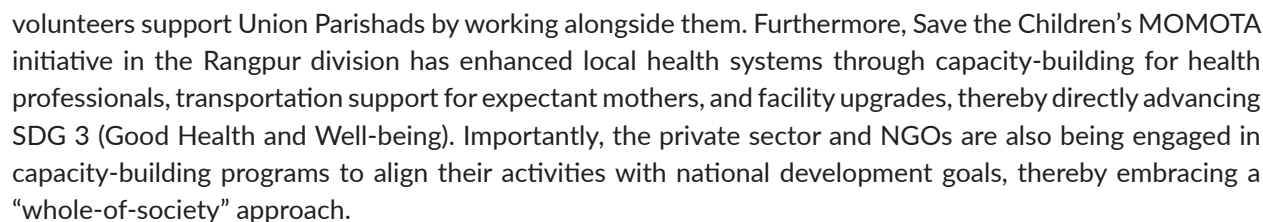
The “39+1” Nationally Prioritized Indicators (NPIs) are prioritized from all 17 goals where 39 represents national priority indicators and +1 represent one additional priority indicator at the local level. Following this model, the Governance Innovation Unit organized consultation workshop at Divisional Level, District Level and Upazilla Level for the identification of +1 additional local indicator up to upazilla level, and has identified 64 district level indicators and 492 upazilla level indicators.

In Bangladesh, the localization of the SDGs has been substantially supported by civil society organizations (CSOs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and community-based organizations (CBOs). Their contributions span awareness-raising, community mobilization, capacity-building, and direct implementation of development programs, ensuring that SDG initiatives are inclusive, participatory, and tailored to local needs. By working closely with local governments, these organizations have also bridged the gap between policy formulation and grassroots implementation, therefore making a notable influence on the 2030 Agenda.

CSOs and NGOs have played a critical role in raising awareness about the SDGs among local communities, particularly in rural areas and among marginalized groups. They have informed people about the goals and their importance to the local economy through seminars, campaigns, and community meetings. For example, BRAC's AGNEE project (Awareness, Actions and Advocacy for Gender-Equal and Safe Spaces for Women and Girls), funded by the European Union, addresses gender-based violence and sexual harassment across public and digital spaces.

Community organizations have heavily mobilized local involvement in SDG-related projects. By involving women, youth, and marginalized groups in decision-making processes, they help ensure that development plans are both inclusive and equitable. For instance, THP's SDG Union Strategy operates in 185 unions and utilizes Participatory Action Research (PAR) to empower the poorest individuals as "barefoot researchers," enabling the establishment of Self-Help Groups (SHGs). These projects encourage community ownership of development goals. Reaching over 700,000 ultra-poor individuals in northern Bangladesh, CARE's SHOUHARDO-III project provides integrated solutions in nutrition, resilience-building, and agriculture.

Local governments and community leaders have received necessary guidance and capacity-building support from NGOs and CSOs. Organizations like BRAC and Grameen Bank offer training on data collection, gender-sensitive planning, and local SDG monitoring. Volunteer networks—comprising youth and women leaders, PAR facilitators, and peace ambassadors—enhance local governance and community engagement. These



For a long time, NGOs and CSOs have fought for social inclusion and gender equality. For example, BRAC's Aarong empowers rural women through handcrafted work, while the social organization TransEnd connects hijra individuals with private sector jobs. Moreover, BRAC's AGNEE project initiatives establish secure, gender-equal public and digital spaces. Local women leaders facilitate discussions on issues such as child marriage and girls' education, while youth leaders engage their peers in governance, ensuring inclusive representation in development dialogues.

In the implementation of the SDGs, NGOs and CBOs have played a crucial role in promoting good governance and accountability. Through participatory forums, such as Ward Shavas and Open Budget Meetings, often organized with the facilitation of THP and other partners, people are empowered to influence local development goals. Village Development Committees (VDCs) amplify the voices of marginalised individuals and coordinate grassroots initiatives, thereby promoting transparency in community institutions rather than relying solely on top-down control.

Environmental sustainability is a major area of NGO engagement. Organizations such as Prokriti O Jibon Foundation (POJF) and BRAC's Climate Change Program focus on disaster preparedness, sustainable agriculture, and renewable energy solutions. Moreover, Oxfam's climate resilience and waste management initiatives, carried out in collaboration with regional governments, address urban issues associated with SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) while also strengthening regional climate adaptation frameworks.

CSOs and NGOs often facilitate multi-stakeholder partnerships that involve local governments, the private sector, and international donors. For instance, the government's ICT division partners with NGOs and companies to offer digital literacy and entrepreneurial training, supporting the goals of SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure). Dhaka Ahsania Mission's (DAM) inclusive education initiative for street and working children offers non-formal schooling and vocational training using a multi-grade approach.

CHAPTER 4

REVIEW OF PROGRESS OF THE SDGs





4.1. SDG 1: NO POVERTY

Poverty alleviation has been a key priority of the government of Bangladesh. To end poverty, the country has focused on promoting international migration as a major driver of its economic growth and expanding its social protection programmes. Moreover, multipronged programs to ensure food price stability, increase women's participation in the labor force, improve access to institutional finance and microfinance for the poor, mitigate the effects of climate change, enhance access to and the quality of education and healthcare have been ongoing. Recognizing the importance of resource mobilization for poverty eradication, Bangladesh has also ramped up its pro-poor public social spending from 13.6% of its national budget in 2016 to 17.06% in FY 2024-25. As the 2030 Agenda highlights the importance of reducing poverty from its multidimensional aspects, the government of Bangladesh estimates multidimensional poverty using the 2019 data. Since the multidimensional poverty index provides an in-depth examination of poverty across key dimensions, including education, health, and standard of living, this will help us track and monitor targets of SDG Goal 1.

Poverty has fallen, although rural-urban disparity persists.

Despite the setbacks caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, Bangladesh has made significant strides in eradicating extreme poverty, with the population living below the World Bank's International Poverty Line of \$2.15 per day decreasing from 13.47% in 2016 to 5% in 2022. Similarly, according to the Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES), the poverty rate in Bangladesh fell from 24.3% to 18.7% of the population between 2016 and 2022, underpinned by the country's consistent economic growth and increased social protection. Although the rural poverty rate of 20.5% was higher than the urban poverty rate (5.8%) in 2022, efforts to reduce rural poverty need to be strengthened.

Social security and access to basic services have improved but gender disparity in land ownership and security persists.

The coverage for national social protection increased significantly after the COVID-19 pandemic, from 28.7% in 2016 to half the country's population in 2022, exceeding the 2030 SDG target of 40%. A closer look at government spending on essential services reveals a steady increase in budgetary allocation for social spending, from 13.3% in FY 2018 to 16.58% in FY 2024. Given the multidimensional nature of poverty, its reduction is contingent upon the household's accessibility to essential services. The proportion of households with access to basic services has increased fivefold from 2.56% in 2021 to 12.54% in 2023.

Good Practice

Livelihood's improvement of urban poor communities (LIUPC): Across 19 cities in Bangladesh, the government, in collaboration with the UNDP and UK's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), has been undertaking flagship programme to transforming the lives of 4 million people by tackling urban poverty through community-led sustainable initiatives.

- 270,000 people benefited from improved dietary diversity, protein intake, and increased access to health and nutrition commodities (e.g., micronutrient supplements).
- 41,054 women from poor households received business grants, knowledge, and skills for productive employment and income generation

Challenges and Way Forward

- Only 8.3% of city corporations and 0.9% of municipalities have implemented local Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) plans, which is far below the 2025 target of 30%. Local governments need capacity-building and financial support to ensure that they have the tools and strategies necessary to implement DRR initiatives effectively. Besides, community-based social adaptation strategies should be promoted to enhance resilience and preparedness.
- The share of official development assistance (ODA) of Bangladesh gross national income targeting poverty in Bangladesh has declined over the past decade, from 19.1% in 2015 to 11.4% in 2021. This has limited the fiscal space for pro-poor programs. Bangladesh can enhance domestic resource mobilization through alternative social protection financing like public private partnerships (PPP) and social impact bonds which will enhance the domestic fiscal space. Besides, the government should lead global advocacy for sustained and climate-responsive ODA commitments. Integrating adaptive social protection into national budgets are also critical to ensure sustainable poverty reduction and disaster resilience.



Bangladesh has always prioritized policies to ensure food security, developing its agricultural sector especially with its National Food and Nutrition Security Policy (NFNSP) targeting SDG-aligned food and nutrition security attainment by 2030.

The prevalence of undernourishment returned to pre-pandemic levels at 11.9% in 2022 according to the FAO, meeting the target for 2025. Additionally, the prevalence of moderate to severe food insecurity has declined slightly, from 31.9% in 2019 to 30.5% in 2022. However, since 2019, the incidence of moderate to severe food insecurity for women has consistently exceeded that for men. Similarly, severe food insecurity has become pronounced in 2019, increasing from 10.5% to 11.4% with a disparity in incidence between women and men.

In that regard, according to the WHO, both wasting and obesity among children have increased between 2019 and 2022 to 11% and 1.9% respectively. However, it is worth noting that childhood obesity in Bangladesh is significantly lower than the global average of 8.2% or the Southeast Asian average of 4.9%. Moreover, the country has made progress against the prevalence of stunting, with rates declining to 26.4% in 2022

While progress has been made in preserving genetic diversity, consistent and well-directed agricultural investment can drive future transformation.

Using proxy indicators, the FAO has scored the current status and trend toward sustainable and productive agriculture at 2.57 and 4.14 out of 5, respectively, in 2023. Based on the scoring, Bangladesh is moderately distant from achieving sustainable and productive agriculture, but it is on the right track, making gradual improvements toward this goal. As of 2025, 44% of Bangladesh's agricultural area is comprised of productive and sustainable agriculture.

The Agricultural Orientation Index (AOI) has increased rapidly from 0.48 in 2020 to 0.78 in 2024, reflecting the country's focus on developing its agricultural productive capacity. It is worth highlighting the role of crop diversification, better technology, and the adoption of high-yield variety seeds in the production process.

Persistent food price volatility amid global economic challenges despite lower export subsidies emphasizes the need to address post-harvest losses for improved food security.

Agricultural export subsidies that could distort global agricultural markets have been drastically reduced by 48% from 2020 to \$58.6 million in 2023 far below the 2030 target of \$70 million. The trends in food price anomalies reveals moderately high price volatility in 2023.

Challenges and Way Forward

- While overall food security has improved, women continue to be more vulnerable to food insecurity.
- The growing trend in childhood stunting and obesity and the high rates of anemia among women are a major cause of concern. Focusing on maternal health programs that focus on pre- and post-natal nutrition practices, targeted public health awareness campaigns and better access to healthcare services can help Bangladesh make better progress in its goal to achieve food security and end malnutrition.
- Bangladesh's agriculture sector faces, soil fertility decline, and salinity intrusion, along with persistent yield gaps and slow adoption of modern technologies. To ensure sustainable food security, it must promote smart and precision agriculture, efficient resource use, reduce post-harvest loss, and better agricultural practices.
- Bangladesh's agriculture and food security are increasingly threatened by climate-induced water stress, such as groundwater depletion, droughts, salinity intrusion, and contamination, combined with water-intensive farming practices.
- While national efforts largely focus on reducing hunger through calorie-based benchmarks, the critical issue of hidden hunger (i.e. micronutrient deficiencies) remains under-addressed. In the long run, this can exacerbate social disparities and negatively impact human development



To achieve Universal Health Coverage (UHC), the Bangladesh government's health strategy, which is based on the Sector-Wide Approach (SWAp) and the 4th Health, Population, and Nutrition Sector Programme (HPNSP), has enhanced primary healthcare. Nonetheless, issues like the increase of non-communicable diseases, the rising cost of care, an ageing population, and health disparities in urban areas remain prevalent.

Bangladesh has made noteworthy progress in reducing maternal and child mortality over the past decade. In 2014, only 42% of births were attended by skilled professionals. By 2023, this figure had increased to 69.7% (SVRS, 2023). The Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) declined from 181 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2015 to 165 in 2019 to 136 in 2023, moving towards 2030 target of 70. However, progress remains uneven across regions. While the rural maternal mortality ratio has been declining, dropping to 157 per 100,000 live births in 2023, the urban rate has alarmingly increased to 159 (SVRS, 2023). This divergence highlights growing regional disparities, with new challenges such as overcrowded public facilities, inadequate referral systems, and rising costs leading to increased patient distances and waiting times.

Child mortality trends also show mixed outcomes. According to Sample Vital Registration System (SVRS) of BBS, the under-five mortality rate (U5MR) improved from 36 per 1,000 live births in 2015 to 28 in 2021 but rose again to 33 in 2023. However, the neonatal mortality rate (NnMR) stagnated, with a national rate of 20 per 1,000 live births in both 2015 and 2023, despite a dip to 16 in 2022. Rural-urban disparities are also

evident here, with rural NnMR being higher than urban rates in most cases, and limited progress toward the 2030 NnMR target of 12 and the U5MR target of 25.

Immunization and reduction of communicable diseases are offset by the growing burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs), emphasizing the urgent need for prevention and early detection.

In 2023, 81.6% of the targeted population was covered by all vaccines included in the national programme. Bangladesh has already met the 2025 target of HIV/AIDS with occurrences below 0.01 per 1000 people of all ages and 0.015 for people aged between 15 and 49, though the risk of resurgence remains due to cross-border movements. Data from the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare shows that the incidence of tuberculosis slightly declined from 225 to 221 per 100,000 people between 2015 and 2023. However, malaria cases have increased somewhat from 0.01 per 1,000 in 2020 to 0.05 in 2023. Between 2015 and 2021, the incidence of Hepatitis B decreased from 1.38 to 0.51 per 100,000, meeting the WHO's control criteria of less than 1% prevalence.

In recent years, official development assistance for medical research and basic health sectors has seen an upward trend. Total net assistance rose from USD 177.4 million in the FY2014–15 to USD 402.02 million by FY 2017–18, and further surged to USD 617.20 million in FY 2022–23. The mortality rate from NCDs, including cardiovascular disease, diabetes, cancer, and chronic respiratory conditions, rose from 21.6% in 2016 to 24% in 2023 (SVRS, 2023). NCDs now account for nearly 67% of annual deaths, disproportionately affecting the expanding middle class and elderly populations. Among adults, 17% of men and 23% of women are hypertensive, and 12.5% of the adult population lives with diabetes. Mental health is another growing concern. The suicide rate increased from 7.68 per 100,000 people in 2015 to 8.80 in 2023.

Nevertheless, according to the Global Adult Tobacco Survey, tobacco use among individuals aged 15 and older dropped from 43.3% in 2009 to 34.7% in 2023, with current rates at 46.0% for men and 25.2% for women. Additionally, in 2022, males received significantly more substance abuse treatment (34,202) than females (586). Per capita alcohol consumption in Bangladesh remained around 0.08 liters since 2015, dropped to 0.04 liters in 2020, then spiked to 0.12 liters in 2021, before falling again to 0.06 liters in 2022.

Persistent health system gaps drive high costs and limited coverage

Essential service coverage remains stagnant at 52%, the same as in 2016, with a minor improvement to 54% in 2019 before falling back again to 52% in 2021. According to HIES 2022, OOP health spending in Bangladesh made up 73% of total health expenditure, well above the global average (17%) and that of lower-middle-income countries (49.4%).

The health worker density was 7.4 per 10,000 population in 2016 and improved to 12.78 in 2023, far below the 2030 target of 44.5. Bangladesh's distribution ratio of physicians: nurses: health technologists was 1:0.73:0.71 in 2022 compared to the target ratio of 1:3:5. Health emergency preparedness, as measured by the International Health Regulations (IHR) index, scored 69% in 2024, up from 58% in 2019.

Rising adolescent births, increased mortality from air pollution, inadequate WASH services, and poor road traffic fatalities point to growing and complex public health threats.

Adolescent fertility is on the rise, with the birth rate among individuals aged 15 to 49 increasing from 70 per 1,000 in 2022 to 84.3 in 2023. The demand for family planning in Bangladesh has remained relatively constant, at 72.6% in 2014 and 72.9% in 2023. This is considerably lower than the desired objective of meeting the contraceptive needs of 100% of women aged 15–49 by 2030.

In terms of digital accessibility, while 92.5% of primary schools had access to computers for teaching, 79% had internet access, falling short of the 2025 target (100%). Moreover, while the proportion of schools with disability-friendly infrastructure and materials commendably rose from 34% to 47.1%, the number is far below the 2025 target of 80%.

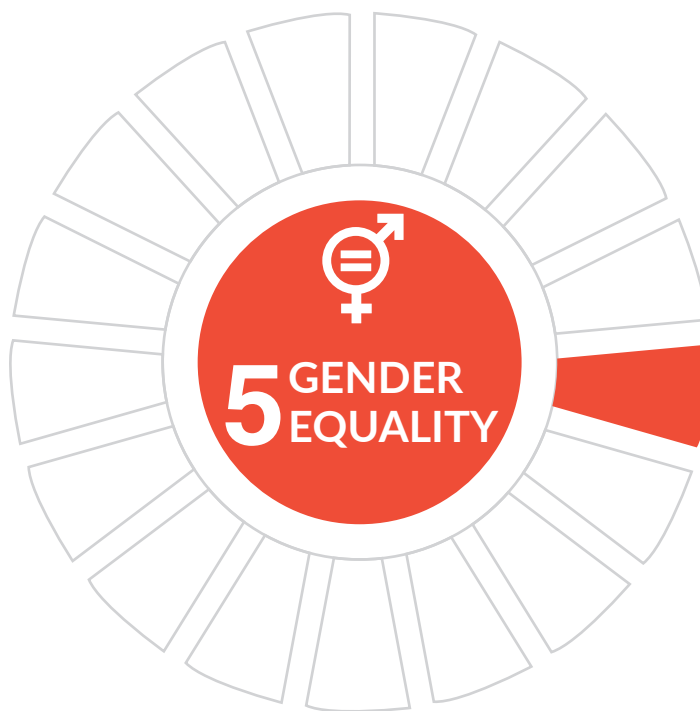
In secondary schools, electricity access neared universality (98.7% in 2023) as did access to drinking water (97%) and single-sex basic sanitation facilities (95%). The proportion of secondary schools offering basic handwashing facilities also increased to 90% in 2023, exceeding the 2025 target. While the proportion of secondary schools having access to the internet for teaching rose to 56% in 2023 (exceeding the 2025 target), the proportion of schools having computers fell from 77% in 2022 to 59% in 2023, falling short of the 100% target for 2025. Similar to primary schools, only 18% of secondary schools offered disability-friendly facilities in 2023, falling significantly short of the 2025 target of 80%.

Good Practice

- Television-Based Learning (Sangsad TV) has enabled continued education for students without internet access by broadcasting curriculum-based lessons nationwide, particularly benefiting rural learners.
- Blended Learning Policy (2021): Introduced a flexible learning framework that combines online, offline, and face-to-face modalities to reduce digital inequality and enhance the resilience of the education system.
- EdTech Platforms - “Ghore Boshe Shikhi” & “Amar Ghore Amar School”: Provided accessible digital learning content through mobile apps, enabling students to engage with interactive lessons and pursue self-paced learning at home.
- Teach for Bangladesh Fellowship Model: Placed 671 trained young professionals in underserved public schools, reaching over 117,000 students and addressing critical teacher shortages.

Challenges and Way Forward

- Low participation in pre-primary education, poor learning outcomes in both the primary and secondary levels, and high dropout rates emphasize the need for educational reform.
- The inadequate inclusion of marginalised groups, such as, children with disabilities and Indigenous students in backward areas continues to struggle in getting equitable access. Inclusive infrastructure (e.g., ramps), multilingual materials, and community-based schooling can play a vital role in bridging these gaps.
- Insufficient digital infrastructure and ICT skills, particularly in rural areas and among youths, hinder the use of the full potential of economic opportunity. Improving internet access, providing more training on ICT in remote areas, and training teachers in digital tools will modernize learning environments.
- Persistent rural-urban disparities in literacy and the gender gap in tertiary and technical education necessitate targeted intervention. Scholarships for women in tertiary education, early education programs focused on rural areas, and initiatives to improve digital accessibility can promote more equitable participation.
- Underfunding and climate vulnerability jeopardize the resilience and continuity of education all across Bangladesh. To address this, it is essential to increase public education investment, attract international support, and implement climate-resilient strategies, such as blended education, which combines in-person and remote learning, to ensure uninterrupted access to quality learning during disruptions.



While important progress has been made towards gender equality in Bangladesh, significant challenges persist in the institutional, legal and operational framework. Underreporting and limited support services, early marriage, conventional gender roles, and unequal economic participation still undermine the vision of true empowerment for women and girls.

Bangladesh has made improvements in gender equality through progressive legal frameworks and political commitments. This is reflected in its 2022 score of 75 and in the establishment of a legal and regulatory framework for sexual and reproductive health, which scored 89.1 out of 100. These scores indicate considerable progress in promoting, enforcing, and monitoring gender equality and non-discrimination. However, according to BDHS, only 45.5% of women were able to make decisions regarding their sexual and reproductive health in 2022, an improvement from 36.4% in 2014, but still indicating the need for greater empowerment and implementation on the ground. Women's representation in governance has seen moderate advances, with women holding 20.86% of national parliamentary seats in 2021 and 23.46% in local government in 2023.

44 | BANGLADESH VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW 2025

Violence against women has declined, but underreporting and service gaps hinder achieving a violence-free society.

Violence against women in Bangladesh shows a declining trend, yet underreporting and service gaps, considering the socio-cultural fabric of Bangladesh, remain herculean barriers to achieving a violence-free society. The proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual, or psychological violence has declined from 38% in 2015 to a combined total of 22.8% in 2024. According to the Violence Against Women (VAW) Survey of 2024, the prevalence of any form of violence remains as high as 70% against ever-married women aged 15 and above. Rural and urban breakdowns in 2024 stand relatively close, at 24.2% and 24.8% respectively, indicating that violence is pervasive throughout the country. Progress is also evident when it comes to reducing sexual violence by non-intimate partners. In 2015, the national rate stood at 2.45%. By 2024, the total had diminished sharply to 0.46%, with rural and urban rates closely aligned at 0.45% and 0.48%, respectively.

Early marriage remains high, reversing earlier gains and compromising girls' futures.

The proportion of women aged 20–24 who were married before age 15 rose to 6.5% in 2022 followed by 8.2% in 2023, up from 6.2% in 2019, indicating a decline in efforts to eradicate the most severe type of child marriage. However, marriage before age 18 remained almost stagnant throughout 2019 to 2023, with rates ranging from 41.1% to 41.6% in 2023, except for decreased rates at 31.3% in 2020 and 32.4% in 2021 during the COVID-19 pandemic years.

Women's participation in the economy is growing, but unpaid care work and barriers to leadership limit true empowerment.

Women's participation in Bangladesh's economy continues to expand, bolstered by the increasing access to mobile technology, with the proportion of women having access to a mobile phone rising from 51.4% in 2022 to 55.3% in 2023, which indicates their ability to have market access and employment opportunities. Yet, the journey towards true empowerment remains uneven and constrained as the female labor force is only increasing in the agricultural sector, but not in the industrial or manufacturing sectors, where the female labor force participation still remains to be 41.5% as per LFS 2023. In 2022, women spent 24.5% of their time on unpaid domestic and care activities, compared to only 3.3% for men. At the same time, progress in women's access to managerial positions remains modest. In 2022, women accounted for only 8.1% of managerial roles, which marks a decline from the previous years, as the proportion happened to be 10.7% in 2017 and 11.4% in 2016.

Good Practice

Women's Financial Inclusion through Data Innovation: Bangladesh Bank, in partnership with ConsumerCentriX and supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, launched the Women's Financial Inclusion Data (WFID) Dashboard on 6 March 2024. The dashboard aggregates a wide range of indicators to help stakeholders understand gender disparities and drive strategic planning.

- Improved monitoring of financial access trends through real-time, gender-specific indicators.
- Guided inclusive financial product design by revealing behavioral patterns and usage gaps.
- Supported stakeholder coordination by offering a common evidence base for targeted interventions.



Access to water and sanitation has improved; however, equitable coverage and hygiene practices still remain inconsistent.

Wastewater treatment infrastructure and water-use efficiency necessitate immediate attention.

 GENERAL ECONOMICS DIVISION | 47

Challenges and Way Forward

- Unsafe and unhealthy working conditions remain widespread in sectors like construction, textiles, and engineering, posing serious risks to workers' lives. Establishing labor rights; investing in workplace inspections, strict enforcement of safety regulations, and occupational health programmes is essential to align with international standards and reduce accidents.
- Consistently high rates of informal employment and labor underutilization require a greater social protection coverage. Strengthening formal job creation by means of SME support, relaxing business rules, and encouraging inclusive apprenticeships can move workers into safer and efficient employment.
- Bangladesh struggles to fully capitalize on its demographic dividend due to widespread skill mismatches, particularly among youth and women; expanding industry-aligned vocational training and digital skill-building programs, especially for rural and marginalized groups, is essential for narrowing the digital divide, improving employability, and reducing NEET rates across regions.
- Ensuring Fair Pricing in Ready-Made Garment (RMG) Exports remains a challenge. The RMG sector, a cornerstone of Bangladesh's economy, is challenged by the lack of just pricing practices in international markets. This inequity disproportionately affects the livelihoods of millions of workers, especially women who constitute a significant share of the workforce. Addressing fair trade and pricing practices is essential to ensure sustainability of the sector and promote inclusive economic growth. Notably, there remains an absence of a global initiative to ensure fair pricing for commodities exported by developing countries.



Infrastructure access in rural areas has been improved, but sustainable transport and logistics systems need renewed attention.

The manufacturing sector is contributing steadily to GDP, yet it fails to move toward medium- and high-tech value chains and create more decent jobs.

Digital and mobile network coverage has expanded, while investment in R&D and innovation must accelerate to support future competitiveness.

Digital connectivity has been expanding rapidly across Bangladesh, with 89.6% of rural and 90.9% of urban households using mobile phones by 2022 (BBS, 2022), and 4G coverage reaching 98.3% of the population by the same year, reflecting significant progress. Research and development (R&D) expenditure has declined from 0.35% of GDP in FY19 to just 0.3% in FY20.

ODA for infrastructure has grown, but support for small industries and green transitions will be key to inclusive and sustainable industrial growth.

Official support for infrastructure in Bangladesh has increased, with ODA rising from USD 1.2 billion in 2015 to over USD 6.3 billion in 2023. Bangladesh has made steady progress on greener production by lowering CO₂ emissions per unit of value added from 0.30 kg in 2016 to 0.25 kg in 2021. However, reaching the 2030 target of 0.21 kg will require broader, cleaner transitions.

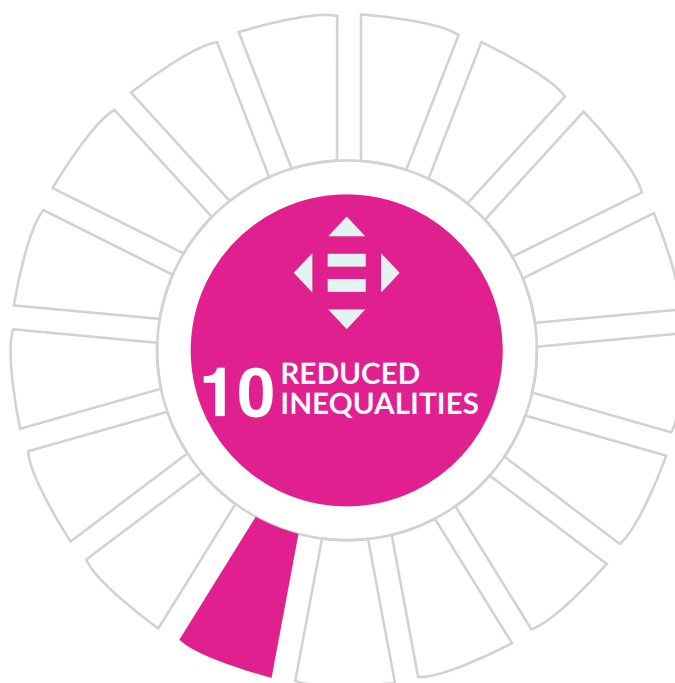
Good Practice

SEPA – Technical Training for Women and Youth: The Self-Employment and Poverty Alleviation Through Hands-on Technical Training for Women (SEPA) project, implemented by BITAC, aims to provide industry-relevant technical training to disadvantaged youth, focusing on women. The project develops Bangladesh's manufacturing and SME workforces and promotes inclusive industrial growth by providing participants with real-world skills and connecting them to job opportunities.

- Trained 15,000 individuals, including 7,560 women, by September 2024.
- Enabled over 4,600 graduates to secure jobs in industrial sectors.
- Supported 2,600+ trainees in launching their businesses, fostering women-led entrepreneurship.

Challenges and Way Forward

- Rural transport networks, though improved, face persistent threats from natural disasters as well as weak infrastructure maintenance. Investing in climate-resilient transport and strengthening routine monitoring can help keep these networks functional and reliable.
- In manufacturing, steady GDP contributions hide deeper structural issues. Limited diversification and high business costs are hindering growth and impeding the transition to high-value industries. These barriers prevent the sector from evolving into more dynamic, high-value production, which can be streamlined by promoting medium and high-tech sectors and easing business barriers.
- Employment generation also lags in the manufacturing sector. Factories have yet to create enough jobs for youth and marginalized groups, which calls for vocational training that is aligned with industry needs. This can reduce skill mismatch and improve employment opportunities for these populations.
- Finally, low investment in research and development is limiting the potential for innovation. To remain competitive globally, Bangladesh must enhance its R&D capabilities and foster public-private partnerships that drive industrial progress.



Income growth among the poorest has accelerated, but wealth inequality remains entrenched.

Progress in poverty reduction masks persistent disparities in health, education, and social protection across income groups and locations.

Although urban poverty is growing, social protection measures are still targeted towards rural areas (60%).

The Financial Inclusion Report of Bangladesh Bank highlights that despite commendable advancements in expanding financial access, systemic obstacles such as limited financial literacy, strict compliance, and unclear regulations for emerging financial technologies continue to hinder broader financial inclusion. In 2023, there was an increase in non-performing loans, reaching 9.57% of total gross loans, a net provisions-to-capital ratio of 47.44%, along with a return on assets of only 1.68%.

Remittance inflows support household incomes; however, migrant workers face challenges in securing overseas jobs and protection.

With a high recruitment cost of 14.6% of their annual income, the migration process can include a precarious journey. In 2024, there were 88 reported deaths and disappearances. Furthermore, between 2020 and 2023, remittance costs for Bangladeshi workers remained above 5%.

Challenges and Way Forward

- Disproportionately impacted by indirect taxes, which account for over two-thirds of national tax revenue, despite the fact that more than two-thirds of registered taxpayers do not actually pay taxes. This regressive tax system fails to redistribute wealth and undermines efforts to reduce inequality. Strengthening the tax structure through progressive taxation and enhancing tax compliance can significantly bolster the government's capacity to address income disparities and foster inclusive growth.
- Although there have been increases in real terms, budgetary allocation for key sectors continues to fall short of global standards, remaining under 2% of GDP for education, less than 1% for health, and approximately 2.5% for social protection.
- Enhancing social mobility and reducing long-term inequality depend on increasing financial investments in these sectors, especially for disadvantaged populations.



4.11. SDG 11: SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

Urban housing conditions are improving slowly; the pace must accelerate to meet 2030 targets.

The proportion of the urban population living in slums, informal settlements, and inadequate housing was 55.1% in 2014, with 6.3% specifically residing in slums (UN-Habitat, 2014). According to data from the World Bank, this proportion decreased to 51.9% in 2020, indicating an improvement in urban housing conditions.

Heritage conservation spending is on track; however, funding stability is crucial for sustained progress.

Bangladesh has demonstrated a steady commitment to protecting its cultural and natural heritage sites across the country, with per capita spending gradually increasing over the years. Spending reached 2.15 per capita in 2021.

Disaster preparedness is improving, but economic losses continue to be a pressing concern.

Early warning and preparedness for disasters have improved, with fewer people now being harmed or displaced, the number dropping from over 12,881 per 100,000 in 2015 to just 3,766 in 2021. Although lives are better protected, disasters continue to impact the economy. In 2021, damages and service disruptions cost 1.32% of GDP, a slight increase from 2015.

Urban environmental management systems need urgent and sustained improvement.

Bangladesh's cities are growing, but clean air and adequate waste management aren't keeping pace with this growth. Only about 2.25% of waste was collected and managed in controlled facilities out of total municipal waste generated in 2019, with a bit of improvement to 2.23% in 2020 (BBS, 2020).

Good Practice

Biogas Plant from Poultry Waste: In Gazipur, the Sustainable Enterprise Project (SEP) helping to establish biogas plants utilizing poultry waste, translating an environmental challenge into a solution catering to clean energy (Hossain, 2024).

- Traditional fuels are replaced by sustainable energy like biogas when it comes to cooking.
- Byproducts are generating extra income and reducing chemical fertilizer use, which is improving the soil health.
- This initiative is advancing clean energy use in peri-urban/suburban communities, along with sustainable waste management and reducing pollution.

Affordable and Environment-Friendly Housing: As a promising model for affordable housing for the urban poor in Bangladesh, the Local Government Division (LGD) and UNDP, through the Livelihoods Improvement of Urban Poor Communities (LIUPC) Project, have successfully implemented pro-poor, low cost and environment-friendly housing initiatives in the municipalities of Chandpur, Kushtia, Noakhali, Gopalganj, and Rangpur. These efforts have provided safe and dignified housing for approximately 3,000 low-income urban residents, demonstrating scalable solutions to address urban poverty and housing insecurity.

Challenges and Way Forward

- Bangladesh aims to promote smart, inclusive, and eco-friendly urban development practices along with policies that encourage environmentally friendly building designs and protect natural areas while ensuring affordable housing can contribute to more livable urban environments
- Investment in sustainable transport systems is critical which includes the expansion of metro rail and bus systems, cycling infrastructure, and modernized waste, water treatment and sewage system facilities to create cleaner and more efficient urban environments.
- Climate-induced migration is a challenge in Bangladesh, as rising sea levels, floods, and other natural disasters are forcing vulnerable populations to relocate, highlighting the need for adaptive social protection and inclusive urban planning. Strengthening early warning systems, enhancing disaster response, and constructing resilient infrastructure, such as flood-resistant buildings, are crucial to mitigate the threat.



Rising resource consumption in Bangladesh calls for decoupling strategies to ensure that economic growth does not come at the expense of environmental degradation.

Environmental and public health risks are increasing due to inadequate hazardous waste treatment and the rise in food waste, underscoring significant gaps in urban and industrial waste management.

Bangladesh's improvements in recycling and eco-efficiency remain modest, necessitating increased investment, greater public awareness, and enhanced market incentives for greener practices.

The national recycling rate in Bangladesh shows promise as the country recycled 15.6% of its waste in 2020, increasing from 14.9% in 2018, with the volume of waste recycled increasing from 5.38 to 5.48 million tons.

Good Practice

Digital Tools for Nutrition and Food Waste Reduction: UNIDO, under its Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECP) program, is advancing circular economy principles in Bangladesh by targeting the plastic value chain. Its efforts focus on infrastructure development, capacity building, and community engagement to foster more sustainable and inclusive waste management. By collaborating with grassroots organizations, the initiative also promotes environmental awareness and inclusive participation in circular practices.

The Ministry of Food and BSFA, in collaboration with international agencies, launched digital platforms like Khaddokothon and Nagale to promote safe food handling and real-time monitoring. These tools empower citizens and improve institutional transparency.

- Khaddokothon app provides online courses on nutrition, food safety, and emergency storage.
- Nagale App enables real-time field data tracking to improve food safety enforcement.
- Enhances public awareness and accountability in reducing food loss and waste.

Challenges and Way Forward

- A phased reform of subsidies, complemented by targeted support for vulnerable groups and scaled-up renewable energy incentives, can help realign public financing with climate goals.
- Hazardous waste mismanagement poses serious environmental and health risks. With treatment rates stagnating below 0.3% and per capita waste generation at 27 kg, Bangladesh will need to expand hazardous waste treatment, strengthen regulatory oversight, and integrate informal e-waste sectors into formal systems to mitigate these risks.
- The national recycling rate rose only from 14.9% to 15.6% over three years. Investing in municipal recycling systems, formalizing waste collection, and promoting the 3R Strategy (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) will boost recycling rates and resource efficiency.



Bangladesh, being one of the most climate-vulnerable countries in the world, faces heightened risk from risks of sea-level rise, disasters caused by extreme weather, and saltwater intrusion. Although the country has a small share in global emissions, Bangladesh faces significant climate-related challenges.

Bangladesh has portrayed strengthening resilience against climate-related hazards and natural disasters by a sharp decline in the number of people affected by disasters per 100,000 from 12,881 in 2015 to 3,766 in 2021 (BDHS, 2021). The goal for 2030 is to further reduce this number to 1,500. The key factors that are contributing to this promising outcome are successful early warning systems, robust evacuation protocols, and community-level disaster preparedness initiatives, particularly in coastal regions.

Bangladesh is strengthening climate policy frameworks and setting ambitious adaptation and mitigation goals, but implementation financing needs remain critical.

The National Plan for Disaster Management (NPDM) 2021–2025 aligns comprehensively with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015–2030), integrating climate resilience, gender-responsive

approaches, and private sector participation. Bangladesh revised its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) at the national climate policy level in 2021, with the current development of the third NDC, broadening sectoral coverage beyond energy to include agriculture, industry, waste management, and land-use change.

However, financing remains a severe bottleneck as Bangladesh has mobilized only USD 1,189.5 million against the USD 12,000 million needed by 2025. With a sluggish approach, only 13.3% of disbursements have been approved by the Green Climate Fund (GCF) by 2024, which has delayed some substantial project implementation. Moreover, the GCF's 3.7% contribution barely covers Bangladesh's estimated needs.

Bangladesh is incorporating climate awareness into its education systems, promoting sustainable lifestyles among future generations.

The National Education Policy (2010) and the National Curriculum Framework (2021) have integrated components of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and Global Citizenship Education (GCED) across policies, curricula, teacher education, and student assessments. Quantitatively, the mainstreaming index (to measure the extent) shows 0.875 for national education policies, 0.85 for teacher education, 0.76 for curriculum integration, and 0.67 for students' assessment.

Good Practice

The Making Markets Work for the Chars (M4C) model in Bangladesh aims to improve livelihoods of char dwellers, particularly in the northern and northwestern regions, by enhancing market access, promoting financial inclusion, and fostering public-private partnerships to boost income and reduce household vulnerability in these erosion-prone riverine areas.

- To encourage environmentally friendly transportation, the country is also building its first electric vehicle production facility in Chattogram.
- Bangladesh adopted climate-resilient crop varieties in agriculture, including stress-resistant wheat and maize as well as salt-, drought-, and flood-tolerant rice. Innovative initiatives like floating vegetable cultivation in flood-prone areas exemplify localized adaptation.

Challenges and Way Forward

- Although Bangladesh has mobilized USD 1,189.5 million against a USD 12,000 million requirement by 2025, a substantial financing gap remains. Though mobilizing private sector investments, carbon taxes, and better-designed plans for funds like the Green Climate Fund (GCF) are vital, instruments like the Climate Fiscal Framework (CFF) and Bangladesh Climate Change Trust Fund (BCCTF) provide significant foundations.
- Although disaster resilience has improved nationally, local-level adoption of risk reduction strategies remains low, with only 8.33% of city corporations and 0.99% of municipalities implementing plans by 2019. Strengthening local disaster management committees, offering targeted capacity-building programs, and equipping vulnerable areas with early warning systems will empower communities to respond effectively to growing climate risks.
- The European Green Deal and other regional trade regulations are expected to impede trade and investment for developing countries like Bangladesh, especially in light of the country's imminent graduation from LDC status. Regional initiatives led by economic powerhouses that impose trade restrictions and environmental conditionalities indiscriminately run counter to the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities (CBDR-RC), as enshrined in



the Paris Agreement. The UN should step forward to build consensus among its members so that the core environmental principles are respected.

- Balancing Green Transition with Industrial Growth will remain a challenge. As one of the world's lowest carbon emitters, Bangladesh faces the dual challenge of pursuing a green transition while sustaining industrial development. Without adequate financial and technological support, adopting environmentally sustainable practices could undermine economic progress and hinder the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- In Accessing Concessional Climate Finance for Adaptation, Bangladesh continues to face significant barriers in accessing concessional climate finance, particularly for adaptation measures. Complex procedures, high transaction costs, and stringent eligibility criteria hamper the timely and effective utilization of available funds necessary for building climate resilience.
- Bangladesh also has to face Fiscal Trade-offs due to Climate-related Disasters. With the increasing frequency and intensity of climate-induced disasters, governments are compelled to divert limited resources toward disaster response and management. This fiscal burden constrains investments in productive sectors such as health and education, ultimately impeding progress toward sustainable development. This reality reinforces the moral and developmental imperative for concessional financing, not only for disaster management but also for underfunded, high-impact sectors vital to the future well-being of societies.



Marine pollution remains a significant challenge for Bangladesh, particularly as variable nutrient levels point to ongoing ecological pressure. The level of chlorophyll-a, an essential measure of nutrient pollution, shows high variability in Bangladeshi aquatic ecosystems. The National Environment Policy 2018 prioritizes the protection of marine ecosystems, and the Integrated Approach towards Sustainable Plastics Use and Marine Litter Prevention (2022–2025) addresses plastic waste at both national and community levels.

MPAs are essential tools for conserving marine biodiversity and enhancing resilience against overfishing and climate change. Bangladesh made significant strides initially, increasing MPA coverage from 2.05% in 2015 to 4.73% in 2020. As of 2022, the country has designated 7367 square kilometers, or 8.8% of its marine area, as MPAs, approaching the 10% global target set for 2030. Key conservation initiatives, such as the Naf Marine Protected Area, covering 734.17 square kilometers, exemplify effective site-specific management.

Bangladesh has evidenced moderate but significant progress in addressing Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing. Some of the significant milestones are the establishment of the Fisheries Monitoring Centre



(FMC) and the Joint Monitoring Cell (JMC), enhancing inter-agency coordination. The country's adherence to international standards is evident in its ratification of the FAO Agreement on Port State Measures in 2019 and the launch of the National Plan of Action (NPOA) to combat IUU fishing in 2021. Bangladesh's score on the IUU Fishing Risk Index in 2022 was 3 out of 5, reflecting moderate progress but highlighting the persistent need for improvement.

The economic contribution of sustainable fisheries has declined, emphasizing the need for investment in resilient and sustainable marine livelihoods.

From 2015 to 2020, the share of fisheries in GDP decreased gradually, from 0.33% to 0.25%, and ultimately fell to 0.20% in 2024. Bangladesh has maintained 88.88% of its marine fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels, according to the Marine Fish Stock Assessment Summary Report (2023).

Bangladesh has strengthened its commitment to international ocean governance, aligning legal and institutional frameworks with global standards.

The country ratified the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) on July 27, 2001, and has since actively engaged with global marine institutions, including the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the International Seabed Authority (ISA), and the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA). Domestically, significant legal reforms have been made to solidify Bangladesh's maritime sovereignty and promote sustainable ocean use. Bangladesh has also strengthened engagement with small-scale fisheries communities by the Marine Fisheries Harvesting Policy 2022, which addresses the inclusion of artisanal fishers' rights of access to the Exclusive Economic Zone.

Good Practice

The Sustainable Coastal and Marine Fisheries Project (SCMFP) established 4,500 Fisher Groups and 450 Samitis in 13 districts, promoting sustainable fishing, climate resilience, and inclusion through smart ID cards.

- Marine Fisheries Act 2020 and Harvesting Policy 2022 formalized small-scale fishers' rights, while Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) tracking and Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) improved compliance and reduced user conflicts.
- Sajeman Matsha Khamar's integrated farming cut chemical runoff using organic fertilizers and boosted income through crop-fish synergy.
- Shokher Khamar Agro introduced pearl farming alongside fish cultivation, creating new income streams with minimal ecological impact.

Challenges and Way Forward

- Financial constraints limit the scaling up of conservation initiatives and sustainable fisheries management. Underfunded MPAs and fisheries programs hamper long-term sustainability. Mobilizing local and international funding, including from the private sector, and supporting instruments such as blue bonds can help accelerate development.
- Socio-economic dependencies on fishing create tensions between conservation measures and coastal livelihoods. Fishing bans and MPAs can harm livelihoods without alternatives. The strain might be lessened by means of co-managed conservation, increasing AIGs such as aquaculture and eco-tourism, and broadening fisher support initiatives.
- Climate change presents increasing threats to marine ecosystems and coastal livelihoods. Rising sea levels, ocean acidification, and heightened cyclone activity jeopardize biodiversity and displace communities. The risks can be reduced by encouraging mangrove restoration, supporting adaptive fisheries, and integrating climate resilience into maritime planning.

Control Unit and Wildlife Circle are active, enforcement resources remain inadequate, especially in remote areas and porous border zones. Biodiversity-relevant revenue rose significantly from USD 14.7 million in FY 2015–16 to USD 81.8 million in FY 2020–21—a 457% increase.

Good Practice

Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool: Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) patrolling combines GPS-enabled tracking and automated data collection through Cyber Tracker, and it is been effectively deployed in Sundarbans.

- It has strengthened real-time forest monitoring
- Competently working on crime detection, and ecosystem management

ODK-based Site-specific Planning: A promising initiative is the Open Data Kit (ODK)-based Site-Specific Planning (SSP) platform for afforestation and reforestation. Forest Beat-level plans are prepared in collaboration with Co-Management Committees, ensuring that local voices and environmental needs are integrated into restoration efforts.

Challenges and Way Forrd

Bangladesh must strengthen the enforcement of environmental laws through regular monitoring, judicial oversight, and local-level accountability. Expanding the coverage of lesser known ecologically important areas beyond the Sundarbans and Cox's Bazar should also be prioritized..

- Excessive pesticide use, overfishing, and unregulated timber harvesting destroy habitats and endanger species survival. Public education campaigns, school curricula, and community-based training, particularly in rural and forest-dependent areas, can help to raise awareness. Local conservation heroes and village-level governance should be recognized.
- Conservation projects' scalability is being hampered by limited sustainable financing. Long-term sustainability can be increased by streamlining access to international climate finance, simplifying documentation, and reinvesting into local conservation initiatives, especially those with co-management and alternative livelihoods.



Bangladesh has recently become a party to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, becoming the 76th party to the treaty. This signifies a commitment to prevent enforced disappearances and hold perpetrators accountable. This is a significant advancement under SDG 16 and demonstrates the country's commitment to strengthening governance, rule of law, and human rights.

Bangladesh has made progress in reducing violent deaths over the past decade. According to data from the Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA), the national homicide rate decreased from 1.94 per 100,000 in 2015 to 1.41 in 2022. Gender-disaggregated analysis shows the rate decreased from 3.1 to 2.08 for males and remained the same for females at 0.76. Conflict-related deaths have also demonstrated a sharp decline from 0.85 in 2015 to 0.17 in 2018, indicating relative stability, although more recent data is unavailable.

According to the 2018 Citizen Perception Household Survey (CPHS), 83% of women and 87% of men, or 85.85% of the population, felt safe walking alone in their neighborhoods, which dropped to 84.81% in 2025. Supporting that, the 2019 MICS found that only 74.8% of women aged 15–49 felt safe in their local areas, indicating a gender gap in perceived public safety. With the recent political transition in mid-2024 and the unrest preceding the formation of the interim government, safety concerns, particularly around protests and state responses, have increased. In 2025, CPHS reported that 89.53% and 80.67% of the male and

female populations, respectively, felt safe walking alone around the area they lived in after dark. A further disaggregation shows 83.75% of the urban and 85.3% of the rural population felt the same way.

Human trafficking and sexual violence against youth remain persistent challenges, especially for women and girls.

Bangladesh has made progress in reducing human trafficking, but the issue remains concerning. According to data from the Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA), the number of trafficking victims dropped from 1.78 per 100,000 in 2015 to 0.64 in 2023. Male trafficking saw a decrease in 2022 to 0.45 per 100,000 from 1.14 in 2015, while female rates decreased from 0.64 in 2015 to 0.19 in 2023. These trends indicate both a narrowing gender gap and a possible resurgence of trafficking networks, particularly affecting male migrant workers.

Sexual violence against youth remains underreported but significant. The Violence against Women (VAW) survey 2024 indicated that 8.6% of women had experienced sexual violence.

Legal access and reporting remain weak, with most violence victims and detainees lacking access to timely justice.

Access to justice remains a major bottleneck in Bangladesh. VAW survey in 2024 showed that, 5.4% of women reported their most recent experience of violence to formal authorities in 2024, which increased from 2.45% in 2015. The 2018 CPHS revealed that 97% of respondents experienced a dispute in the previous two years. Of these, 78% accessed formal resolution mechanisms, while 22% resorted to informal ones. However, the 2025 CPHS revealed an improved scenario with 83.6% of the respondents experiencing a dispute in the previous two years, among which 85.7% were with disability, 89.83% belonged to ethnic minority groups, and 80.57% were female.

Anti-corruption efforts are showing early signs of progress, especially in the business sector, but challenges persist in maintaining public service integrity.

The World Bank Enterprise Survey found that bribery among businesses fell from 41% in 2013 to 23% in 2022. In contrast, public-sector bribery, as reported in CPHS, stood at 31.3% in 2018, with higher incidences among women (35%) than men (29%), signaling systemic gender disparities in access to services, which increased to 31.7% in 2025, among which 35.7% had tertiary education while 28.6% were illiterate.

Public service delivery is improving.

Progress in fiscal execution has been steady. Primary government expenditures increased from 80.3% of the approved budget in FY 2019–20 to 85% in FY 2024–25, indicating improved budget implementation, although actual spending still falls short of targets. Variations are more evident in sectors such as health and local development, where resource utilization is often delayed due to procurement and bureaucratic inefficiencies. Public satisfaction with services remains low. As per CPHS 2025, 66.91% of respondents were satisfied with their most recent public service interaction, with 66.71% and 67.40% in the rural and urban, respectively. Bangladesh aims to achieve 60% satisfaction by 2025 and 90% by 2030, which will necessitate systemic reform and the expansion of digital governance.

Representation, identity, and transparency reforms are underway, but need stronger enforcement and institutional independence.

Efforts to strengthen participatory governance showed mixed results. In 2024, women held 19.2% of parliamentary seats—an improvement but still below parity, despite women comprising nearly half the population. In contrast, women’s share in public service stood at 62%, reflecting better gender parity in administration. The CPHS 2025 further reveals that 24.62% of the respondents believe decision-making is inclusive and responsive. Legal identity remains a challenge. Birth registration coverage rose to 56.2% in 2019 (MICS, 2019), but dropped sharply to 39.7% in 2023 (SVRS, 2023), due to COVID-related disruptions and administrative gaps. The drop was more pronounced in urban slums and among transient populations, such as the homeless and informal settlers, illustrating barriers tied to income and residence.

Good Practice

- Integration of ADR mechanisms into the Civil Procedure Code has helped reduce case backlogs in civil courts by enabling faster, community-based conflict resolution, especially for women and low-income populations.
- Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit (BFIU) currently actively monitors suspicious financial transactions using digital tools.
- The formation of 11 reform commissions by the interim government in 2024 covering judiciary, anti-corruption, electoral reform, and women's affairs demonstrates a strategic, people-centered roadmap to rebuild public trust in institutions and advancing peace and justice.

Challenges and Way Forward

- The persistent overrepresentation of unsentenced detainees reflects systemic inefficiencies in Bangladesh's criminal justice system. In 2022, 77% of the prison population remained in pre-trial detention. To address this, Bangladesh will operationalize fast-track and mobile courts for minor offenses, digitize case management systems, and expand access to legal aid, particularly for marginalized groups. Reforms to the bail system and enhanced judicial training are also necessary to reduce delays and ensure timely justice delivery.
- Gender-based and child violence remains a deeply entrenched social issue that undermines inclusive development and public safety. Despite a decline, 57.7% of ever-married women reported intimate partner violence in 2015, and 88.5% of children faced violence in 2019. It is imperative to strengthen enforcement of domestic violence laws, establish survivor-friendly reporting platforms, expand crisis centers, and integrate gender-sensitivity training in law enforcement.



Domestic Resource Mobilization Needs Urgent Revitalization to Meet Fiscal Sustainability Goals.

External financial flows continue to play a crucial role, but low and declining FDI as a percentage of GDP undermines long-term economic sustainability.

Bangladesh continues to benefit significantly from remittance inflows, which reached USD 26.9 billion in FY2023–24, which was 5.31% of GDP (Bangladesh Bank, 2024). This steady stream is utilized to fund household spending and alleviate poverty, especially in rural areas. However, FDI remains relatively low, accounting for just 0.4% of GDP in FY2022–23, compared to 1.1% in FY2017–18. In FY2023-24, FDI stood at USD 1468 million. This decline is concerning, as FDI is crucial for technology transfer, employment creation, and export diversification. ODA to Bangladesh has increased, reaching USD 10,012 million in FY2022–23, driven largely by concessional loans and support for post-COVID-19 recovery and climate resilience.

Declining debt service to export ratio and limited global market share call for strategic trade and debt management.

In Bangladesh, the debt service to export ratio decreased from 8.6% in FY2014-15 to 8.1% in FY2023-24, due to growing external borrowing and fluctuating export earnings. The recent move toward a more flexible exchange rate management has led to excessive exchange rate volatility. In particular, depreciation of the Bangladeshi Taka has further made the external debt repayment costlier. Therefore, an effective debt management policy is dependent on a prudent exchange rate and monetary policy.

Bangladesh has made progress in digital access; however, its technological capacity remains below regional standards.

In 2022, Bangladesh had 6.8 fixed broadband subscriptions per 100 individuals, up from 5.6 in 2020; the rate remains lower than the South Asian average of 10.2 and the world average of 15.4.

Good Practice

- The Economic Relations Division (ERD) has designed the Aid Information Management System (AIMS) platform to enhance transparency, coordination, and accountability in managing ODA through real-time data on aid flows so that the aid is directly aligned with diverse sectoral needs.
- Bangladesh's technical assistance to Sierra Leone and the Gambia in disaster management and microfinance, enabled through the South-South Cooperation Cell in ERD.
- ICT Division, collaborating with UNDP, the World Bank, and several private entities, has brought more than 2,000 digital services to citizens across 8,800 Union Digital Centers (UDCs).

Challenges and Way Forward

- Bangladesh's tax-to-GDP ratio stood at only 7.5% in FY2024–25, significantly below the global average and the target of 15%. To strengthen domestic resource mobilization, Bangladesh must modernize its tax administration through digitization, broaden the tax base by integrating informal economic actors, and incentivize voluntary compliance. The recent government move to establish a Revenue Policy Division and a Revenue Management Division, by abolishing the erstwhile National Board of Revenue, is expected to improve revenue mobilization.
- Dependence on external financial flows is high, but Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) remains low and volatile. While Bangladesh has effectively mobilized remittances and ODA, FDI as a percentage of GDP declined to 0.4% in 2022, down from 1.1% in 2018. Encouraging green and impact investments aligned with SDGs and reinforcing bilateral investment treaties can catalyze diversified capital inflows.
- Rising debt servicing obligations threaten macroeconomic stability. Bangladesh's external debt servicing reached 4.96% of GNI in 2017, increasing pressure on its fiscal space. Strategic debt management must become a national priority.
- Technological readiness is progressing but remains below regional benchmarks. Despite 99.6% mobile network coverage and expansion of internet access, the proportion of individuals using the internet remains low, especially in rural and marginalized communities. To close the digital divide, investment in ICT infrastructure, digital literacy programs, and innovation ecosystems must be scaled up. Expanding PPPs and leveraging South-South cooperation for technology transfer can accelerate capacity building and equitable access.



CHAPTER 5

LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND:
STATUS AND ASPIRATIONS





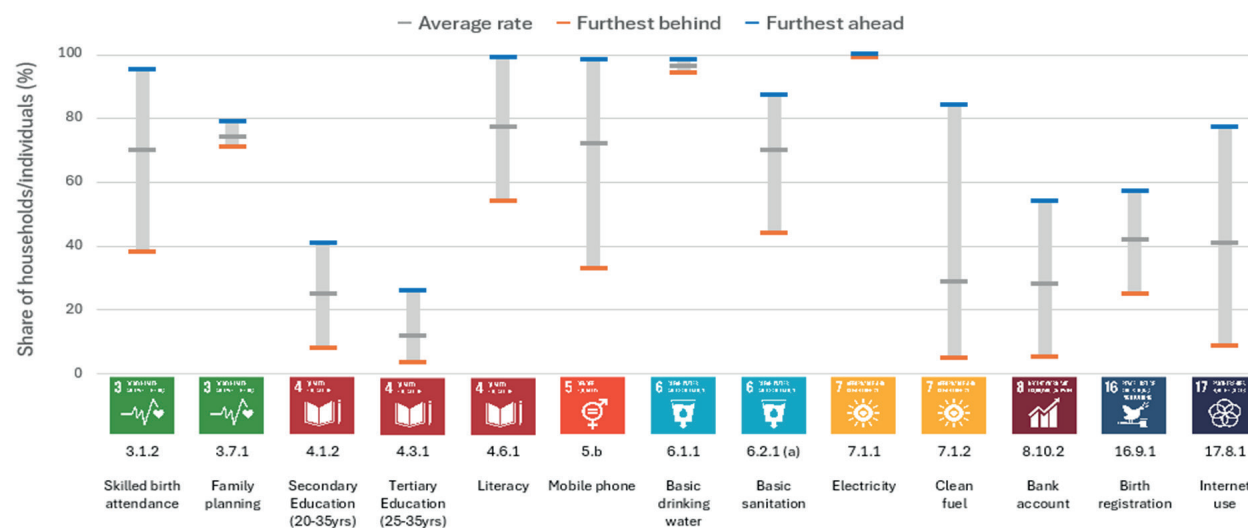
5. LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND: STATUS AND ASPIRATIONS

Understanding the Landscape of LNOB in Bangladesh

Leave no one behind (LNOB) is the central, transformative promise of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Bhattacharya et al. (2017) developed a conceptual framework and proposed 12 criteria for assessing vulnerability – income, occupation, gender, geographic location (for instance, char and haor regions), shock-induced factors, life cycle stages, civil identity, disability, educational attainment and skills, health status, occupation, religious beliefs, ethnicity, and sexual orientation. For Bangladesh, using Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) data, the study found that having multiple attributes of vulnerability contributes to higher marginalization and deprivation for the LNOB populations. This section focuses on 27 SDG indicators across SDGs 1–8, 13, 16, and 17, drawing on data from national surveys conducted by the government—such as the HIES, Labor Force Survey (LFS), Time Use Survey (TUS), and Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS)—between 2011 and 2022.

Figure A presents inequality of opportunity based on 13 proxy SDG indicators related to SDGs 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 16, and 17. The results utilize a supervised machine learning algorithm developed by ESCAP to classify individuals by shared circumstances that influence their access to opportunities. Each column shows the national average (dark gray), the furthest ahead group (blue), and the furthest behind group (orange). Ideally, all three groups would have 100% access to all opportunities.

Figure A. Gaps in access to opportunities in Bangladesh (2022)

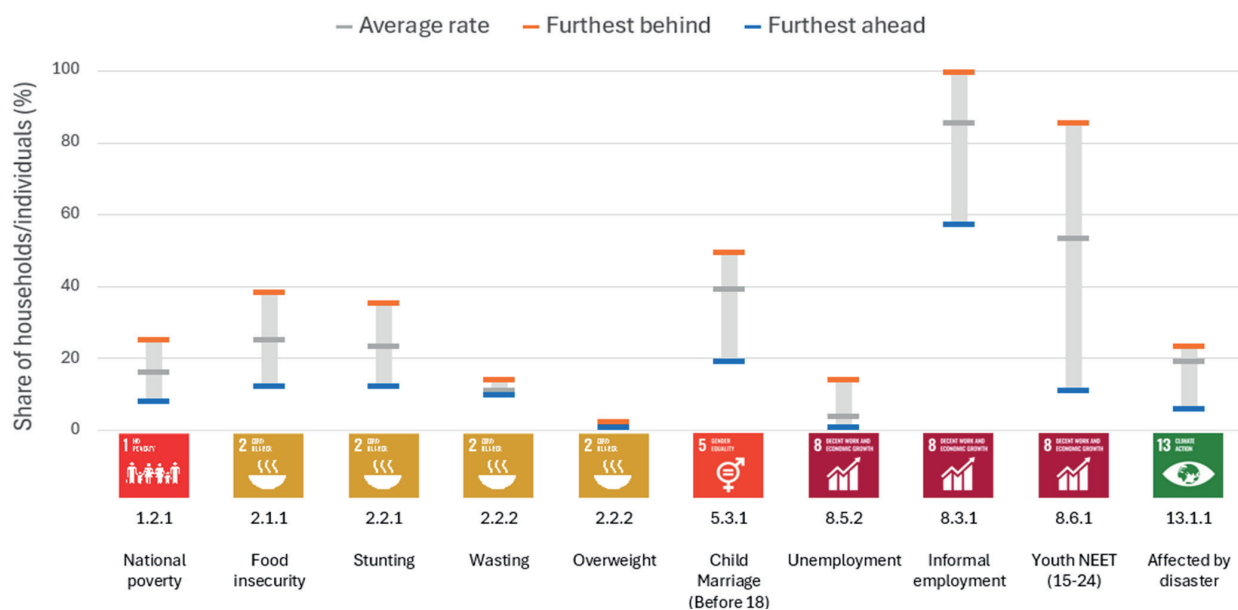


Note: ESCAP elaborations based on Bangladesh HIES and LFS (2022) collected by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS). All results are weighted using final household weights.

The results show near-universal access to electricity and basic drinking water as of 2022. However, wide disparities are found in access to clean fuels for cooking and digital and financial inclusion, where the furthest behind are over 48 percentage points behind the furthest ahead. Gaps in access to basic services, education, and financial tools indicate significant inequality, though education indicators such as tertiary attendance show smaller gaps.

The gaps in barriers to development across 10 indicators, including nutrition, gender equality, decent employment, and disaster exposure, are illustrated in Figure B. For these, leaving no one behind would imply that all three groups are at 0% prevalence. While the prevalence of overweight among children under 5 is low across all groups, stunting affects 38% of the furthest behind children, compared to 25% nationally. Wasting shows narrower gaps. Severe food insecurity affects 40% of the furthest behind households, compared to one quarter nationally. The widest disparities are found in youth not in education, employment, or training (NEET), where 85% of the furthest behind youth are NEET, versus only 11% among the furthest ahead.

Figure B. Gaps prevalence of barriers in Bangladesh (2022)



Note: ESCAP elaborations based on Bangladesh HIES and LFS (2022) collected by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS).

So far, the emphasis has been on disparities between the furthest behind and furthest ahead groups. Since the LNOB algorithm identifies these groups, their shared characteristics can be analyzed. Table A summarizes these intersections by SDG indicator. Across the 27 indicators, the most common disadvantage is lower educational attainment, followed by lower economic welfare and rural residence. For example, poorer and rural households with less education are more likely to experience food insecurity and limited access to basic services.

Gender and age also play a critical role. Women are disproportionately represented in 8 indicators, particularly in informal employment and educational attainment. Young women (15–24) are particularly disadvantaged in terms of employment and access to family planning. On the other hand, especially among young people, men are most disadvantaged in just one measure: unemployment. Older individuals are left behind in mobile and internet access, while youth are often the most digitally connected.

The analysis also reveals non-intuitive patterns. Urban, relatively wealthier households with low education are furthest behind in access to drinking water and sanitation. Overweight is more prevalent among children in richer households, particularly those with only one child. Unmet need for family planning is higher among women in wealthier households aged 15–24 or 35–49.

Alongside the aforementioned analysis, the next section explores key challenges and progress among LNOB groups, highlighting their experiences and inclusion in Bangladesh's SDG journey based on supplementary evidence and community-level insights generated by the Citizen's Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh.

Empowering Dalits and Ethnic Minorities

Dalits and ethnic communities in Bangladesh are the most economically and politically marginalized. In the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT), poverty is especially severe. Educational exclusion and gaps in health services are pronounced in the region, where many schools lack basic infrastructure, such as electricity, toilets, and safe water, and where malnutrition rates remain high. Employment opportunities are also limited, with widespread reliance on informal and subsistence livelihoods, particularly among youth and women. Moreover, their political representation remains critically low—less than 1% in Parliament and local government bodies. These challenges underscore the need for targeted and culturally appropriate interventions to ensure that Indigenous communities in the CHT are not left behind in national development efforts.

Dalits and ethnic minorities continue to face caste-based discrimination, land dispossession, and exclusion from national data systems. Enacting an Anti-Discrimination Act and fully implementing the CHT Accord are crucial steps to addressing these problems. Inclusive development measures should have affirmative action plans, e.g., to incorporate a sufficient number of reserved quotas for them in education, employment, and local governance alongside availability of education programs in their vernacular. Economic justice initiatives must prioritize vocational training for Dalit youth and fast-track land dispute resolution. Data systems should disaggregate indicators by caste and ethnicity, with budgets allocated to targeted programs.

Climate-Vulnerable Communities in the Frontlines of Crisis

According to the Climate Risk Index 2025, Bangladesh ranks 31st among countries most impacted by extreme weather events. The effects are extremely unequal, especially for women, children, persons with disabilities, people with impairments, and climate migrants. During disasters, gender-based violence rises, with 71% of women in vulnerable regions reporting an increase in abuse following floods. Climate displacement reaches 100,000 individuals per year, disrupting education for 19 million children, while rising temperatures feed epidemics of waterborne and other diseases, as well as mental health concerns. In climate-vulnerable slums, immunization rates (67.5%) fall short of national levels (82.2%). These difficulties are exacerbated by systematic failures. Of 900 climate programs, only 2% give women's needs top priority; Social Safety Net Programs (SSNPs) often overlook climate aspects. Green jobs constitute less than 1% of employment, with youth in climate hotspots facing 33% higher unemployment. There remain systemic challenges, such as corporate greenwashing and unenforced environmental regulations, and 90% of climate decisions still do not involve women. Moreover, half of the SDG indicators lack reliable climate-disaggregated data, leaving 30.3 million students' education disruptions unaddressed and 43.95% of vulnerable groups suffering climate-induced sleep disorders.

Realizing Disability Rights and Accessibility

Though constitutional safeguards exist, people with disabilities suffer systematic obstacles to obtaining healthcare, education, jobs, and civic involvement, hence directly opposing the SDG goal of LNOB. While progress has been made through legal reforms like the amended Copyright Act and reinstatement of a 7% public job quota, with 1% designated for the third gender and persons with disabilities, substantial gaps remain in realizing full inclusion.

Persons with disabilities continue to face challenges in accessing public services due to inadequate inclusive design and infrastructure, and the lack of digital services intensifies the situation. To address these issues, mandatory universal design in public infrastructure and specialized training for healthcare providers are essential to improve accessibility. Legal reforms should focus on ratifying the CRPD Optional Protocol and allocating dedicated local budgets for disability programs.

CHAPTER 6

NEW CONTEXT, NEW INITIATIVES





6. NEW CONTEXT, NEW INITIATIVES

The period from July to August 2024 marked a transformative phase in Bangladesh's development trajectory. Sparked by a youth-led uprising that demanded non-discriminatory and just society, inclusive governance, accountability, and equitable growth, the political landscape underwent significant changes. The Interim Government that assumed responsibility during this transition has initiated broad-based reforms aimed at reinforcing democratic institutions, stabilizing economic growth, fostering social inclusion, and advancing progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This new political and economic context offers an unprecedented opportunity to accelerate Bangladesh's commitment to the 2030 Agenda.

The July 2024 uprising was underpinned by a collective aspiration to address longstanding governance deficits and rising inequalities. The momentum generated by civic mobilization created the impetus for reforms across sectors, recognizing that achieving the SDGs would require systemic changes rather than incremental improvements.

Re-strategizing the Economy for Equitable and Sustainable Development.

The Interim Government, soon after assuming its office on August 8, 2024 at the outset of the July 2024 uprising found the economy in a dwindling state in terms of depleting foreign reserves, inflationary pressure fueled by hefty borrowing of the government from the central bank, rampant siphoning off of capital from the banking sector, rapidly rising inequality, crippling governance and thus declining public trust, and widening inequalities. The government formed a committee to draft a Whitepaper on the state of the economy. Simultaneously, the government formed a task force to outline a comprehensive strategy to address pressing challenges and facilitate economic growth, social development, and environmental sustainability. The Task Force Report on Re-strategizing the Economy and Mobilizing Resources for Equitable and Sustainable Development (2025) outlines key reforms that closely align Bangladesh's growth trajectory with the SDGs. .



Strengthening institutions and leaving no one behind: reform initiatives for achieving agenda 2030.

For sectoral and institution-specific reforms, the Interim Government established eleven commissions to propose reforms across critical domains, ranging from electoral governance to public administration, judicial independence, anti-corruption measures, and economic modernization. Each commission was tasked with developing actionable recommendations. Many of the recommendations and suggestions made by these commissions are reflective of Bangladesh's renewed SDG commitments of leaving no one behind.

The Electoral Reform Commission proposed introducing a neutral caretaker administration during election periods, transparent asset declarations for political candidates, and robust campaign financing regulations. The Constitution Reform Commission proposed significant amendments to the nation's constitution to enhance democratic governance and inclusivity. The Judiciary Reform Commission focused on promoting judicial independence through the establishment of an autonomous Supreme Court secretariat, an independent Judicial Appointments Commission (JAC), and the digitization of court management systems. In parallel, the Police Reform Commission emphasized community policing models, use-of-force guidelines aligned with international human rights standards, and the introduction of independent police oversight bodies. These measures are expected to foster and solidify public trust in law enforcement and reduce abuses, advancing SDG 16.1 on reducing violence and ensuring public safety.



FDI in health sector from China and others

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

5 GENDER EQUALITY

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

• Artemis Accords for global tech partnership
• Industrial investment and healthcare collaboration

Amendment to the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act

• National Commission on Enforced Disappearance
• Rohingya repatriation cooperation
• Legal reforms for protection of women and children
• Repeal of controversial Cyber Security Act and introduction of draft Cyber Protection Ordinance
• Signed the UN Convention on Enforced Disappearances
• Established an Independent Judicial Council

• Arrange Investment Summit
• Labour law reform to meet international standards by improving workers' living conditions, and ensure healthcare and insurance benefits

Signing of Artemis Accords with NASA

• Rohingya repatriation confirmed by Myanmar
• Chinese industrial investment outreach

Beyond institutional reforms, the Interim Government has recognized that structural economic reforms are critical to realizing the SDGs. One of its central initiatives is the formalization of the informal economy. Despite Bangladesh's economic gains, the informal sector remains large, accounting for nearly 84% of total employment.

The Interim Government also prioritized climate resilience and environmental protection. Building on the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100, new initiatives launched since late 2024 include expanding solar energy investments, restoring coastal mangrove forests, and mainstreaming climate adaptation into all infrastructure projects. The government launched the National Resilience Programme Phase II to address disaster resilience, focusing on community-based disaster risk reduction, early warning systems, and resilient infrastructure design. To maintain progress in several SDGs against the risks stemming from LDC graduation, several committees were formed by the interim government. A high-powered committee of public officials, economists, and policy experts and a steering committee have been headed by the Chief Advisor. The committees will oversee the implementation of the policies and recommendations outlined in the report on Smooth Transition Strategy (STS).

In the Power Sector, on 28th November 2024, there were Ordinance Amendments to the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission Act that had centralized tariff-setting power with the Chief Advisor's Office (Prime Minister's Office). BERC now independently regulates energy prices through public hearings, restoring transparency and aligning with IMF conditions.

the pilot to a fully-fledged National Employment Injury Scheme. A national framework and draft law will be prepared by the end of 2025 or early 2026.

In April 2025, **The Labor Information Management System (LIMS)** in Bangladesh was introduced which is a digital platform designed to collect, store, and manage data on workers and factories, both in the formal and informal sectors. The LIMS project is implemented under DIFE from May 2022 to April 2025. The system facilitates the identification and registration of workers and establishments by verifying national identity cards or birth certificates. It helps the Government monitor compliance with labor laws, identify social protection beneficiaries and improve oversight of workplace conditions. The system aims to strengthen transparency and data-driven decision-making in the labor sector. The system includes 650,000 workers & 5,000 factories. Feasibility study for LIMS, phase 2 is ongoing. Initiative is in line with Labor Reform Commission recommendation on a National Labor Database.

For Labor Rights, in December 2024, the government reconstituted the TCC to make it more functional and to allow for better representation of workers and employers. The reformed TCC has met three times so far in 2025 and the changes have been welcomed by workers' groups.

Draft Ratification proposals of new ILO Conventions are under technical review since early 2025. The Interim Government pledged to ratify Convention 155 (Occupational Safety and Health), Convention 187 (Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health), and Convention 190 (Violence and Harassment at Work) by September 2025 to align domestic regulations with global norms. Conventions 155 and 187 face no controversy and are proceeding.

In late 2024, the government drafted an updated Bangladesh Labor Act, in close cooperation and consultation with the ILO, as well as key trading partners. The Government is expected to issue an ordinance amending the BLA by July 2025 for immediate enforceability.

For Migration, a Wage Earners Welfare Board Act is in process. The purpose of this revision of the Wage Earners Welfare Board Act 2018 is to improve protection for potential, current, and returnee migrant workers and their families. Amendments of the Overseas Employment and Migrants Rules were done in January 2025. The 2025 amendment seeks to fortify the legal framework governing overseas employment, ensuring that the rights and welfare of Bangladeshi migrant workers are safeguarded through stricter regulations and enhanced support mechanisms. In particular it includes provisions requiring sub-agents to be licensed and held accountable aimed at curbing fraud, protecting migrant workers, and potentially reducing migration costs, which remain the highest in the region.

In May 2025, new provisions introduced into the Anti-Terrorism Act 2009 enabling the prohibition of Individuals or entities involved in terrorist activities and their activities, as well as the publication or printing of any press release, and any form of campaign via mass media, online platforms, social media, or any other medium as well as organizing rallies, meetings, press conferences, or public speeches on behalf of or in support of a banned entity.

The new ordinance significantly amends the Public Service Act 2018, reshaping the disciplinary framework for nearly 1.4 million civil servants, for example, by introducing swift disciplinary actions with tighter timelines and limits on appeals.



CHAPTER 7

TRANSLATING VISION INTO REALITY:
STRATEGIC PATHWAYS TO 2030



Regional cooperation and global solidarity are critical to shared prosperity

With the more integrated global landscape, Bangladesh understands that national development agendas are intricately connected with regional and global developments. One of the most pressing issues for Bangladesh is the management of transboundary water resources. With over 90 per cent of surface water entering the country from upstream, the equitable sharing of river waters—especially the Teesta—remains critical to agricultural sustainability, riverine ecosystems, and community resilience in the northern districts.

To respond to this, the Government urges fresh dialogue on a bilateral as well as multilateral level, with the revival of the Joint Rivers Commission. Bangladesh also recommends basin-level river management with India, Nepal, Bhutan, and China, including disaster risk reduction, sediment management, and navigation development.

Another pillar of regional cooperation is labor mobility. Bangladesh has historically relied on international migration as the primary source of poverty reduction and foreign exchange earnings. Still, migrants are exposed to recruitment fraud, rights protection denial, and skills shortages. Bangladesh remains committed to building a more ethical, inclusive, and skills-based system of migration. The Government is seeking greater bilateral labor agreements, global skills partnerships, and participation in regional dialogue forums in order to strengthen governance in this field.

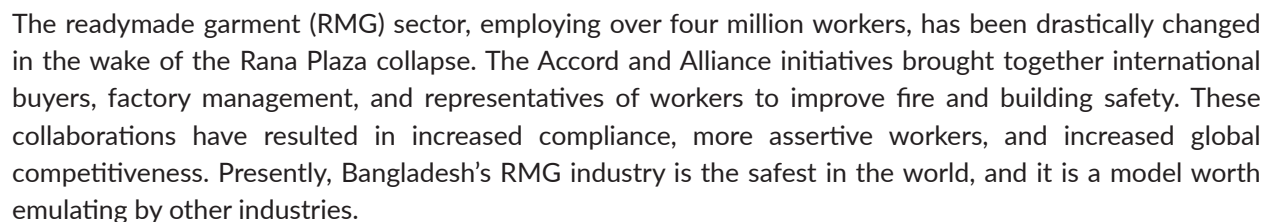
In the context of trade and economic integration, Bangladesh has opportunities and challenges ahead of its graduation from LDC status in 2026. Graduation will preclude access to several preferential trading schemes and windows of concessional finance. To offset the impacts, the Government is making investments in trade competitiveness, intellectual property regime enforcement, and private sector innovation. The emerging forums of BIMSTEC and the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) offer new avenues for expanding trade, energy connectivity, and digital trade.

Foreign direct investment (FDI) is also being sought in strategic sectors such as health, education, renewable energy, and digital services. For instance, recent Chinese FDI in hospital infrastructure and the manufacture of medicines has shown the role FDI can play in supporting Bangladesh in attaining universal health coverage. Besides, new initiatives, like National Single Window (NSW) for port billing, are being introduced to facilitate ease of business, and measures are being taken to strengthen the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA), and foreign direct investment is being incentivized through policy reforms. Further steps need to be undertaken towards liberalizing investment procedures, providing sector-specific incentives, and establishing industrial estates and fully operationalizing the economic zones to attract quality investment.

Promoting and utilizing local innovations are critical to achieving the SDGs in time

Bangladesh's development context is rich with grassroots innovations and public-private collaborations that showcase how localized action can contribute to national objectives. The Grameen Danone partnership is one of the successful cases in point for how social businesses can solve nutrition problems while remaining financially sustainable. By producing fortified yoghurt at affordable prices, the initiative increases child health effects alongside supporting local dairy farmers and women entrepreneurs.

Of financial inclusion, mobile financial services (MFS) have revolutionized access to banking, especially among rural women. bKash and other mobile financial services now reach millions of customers, enabling digital payments, savings, and social transfers. The services are being integrated into government safety net programmes, enhancing the efficiency and transparency of the social protection system.



Bangladesh strongly believes that global development challenges require collective solutions. The country advocates for a reformed global financial architecture that ensures equitable access to resources, reduces debt vulnerabilities, and supports climate resilience. Technology transfer is also a sector where global solidarity needs to be strengthened. Bangladesh demands the activation of the Technology Bank for LDCs and the implementation of intellectual property flexibilities as part of the TRIPS agreement. The COVID-19 pandemic exposed the dangers of abusive intellectual property rights (IPR) regimes when vaccine inequity was unveiled. Bangladesh urges the international community to prioritize access over ownership in the case of key health technologies.

The path forward requires ambition, innovation, and shared responsibility

Bangladesh's Voluntary National Review 2025 is both a reflection on the journey and a forward-looking strategy document. It captures the progress made, acknowledges the barriers that persist, and charts out a vision for achieving the SDGs in the remaining five years. The Government remains committed to leveraging its demographic dividend, expanding partnerships, and investing in inclusive, climate-resilient, and knowledge-based development. In reaffirming its commitment to the 2030 Agenda, Bangladesh calls on its partners—national and international—to walk together in solidarity, to invest in shared prosperity, and to keep alive the promise of leaving no one behind.

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ANNEX

Status overview: baseline, current levels, and targets of SDG indicators in Bangladesh

Indicators	Baseline data (source, year)	Current status (source, year)	Milestone by 2025	Target by 2030
1.1.1 Proportion of the population living below the international poverty line (2.15 \$ per day)	13.5 (WB, 2016)	5 (WB, 2022)	4.8	0
1.2.1 Proportion of population living below the national poverty line	24.3 (UPL) 12.9 (LPL) (HIES, 2016)	18.7 (UPL) 5.6 (LPL) (HIES, 2022)	12.17 (UPL) 5.28 (LPL)	7.02 (UPL) 2.55 (LPL)
1.2.2 Proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions	-	0.106 (MPI), 24.05 (HC), 44.16 (Intensity) (MICS, 2019)	-	-
1.3.1 Proportion of population covered by social protection floors/systems	28.7 (HIES, 2016)	50 (HIES, 2022)	35	40
1.4.1 Proportion of population living in households with access to basic services	2.56 (SVRS, 2021)	12.54 (SVRS, 2023)	-	-
1.4.2 Proportion of total adult population with secure tenure rights to land, (a) with legally recognized documentation and (b) who perceive their rights to land as secure	-	26.23 24.51 (ASC, 2020)	-	-
1.5.1 Number of directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population	12881 (BDRHS, 2015)	3766 (BDRHS, 2021)	2000	1500
1.5.2 Direct economic loss attributed to disasters in relation to global gross domestic product (GDP)	1.3 (BDRHS, 2015)	1.32 (BDRHS, 2021)	1.1	1
1.5.4 Proportion of local government adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies (%)	City corporations: 8.3 Paurashava: 0.9 (MoDMR, 2019)	11.92	30	100
1.a.1 Total official development assistance grants as a share of the recipient country's gross national income	0.19 (ERD, 2015)	0.11 (ERD, 2021)	-	-
1.a.2 Proportion of total government spending on essential services: (a) education, (a) health, and (c) social protection, in million USD	(a) 13.71, (b) 5.1, (c) 14.99 (FD, 2016)	(a) 15.1, (b) 5.2, (c) 16.8 (FD, 2021)	-	-
1.b.1 Pro-poor public social spending (%)	13.6 (FD, 2016)	17.9 (FD, 2022)	-	-
2.1.1 Prevalence of undernourishment (%)	16.4 (FAO, 2016)	14.7 (FAO, 2018)	-	-
2.1.2 Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) (%)	32.2 (FAOSTAT, 2015)	Moderate: 21.92 Severe: 0.82 (FIES, 2022)	-	-
2.2.1 Prevalence of stunting among children under 5 years of age (%)	42.0 (MICS, 2013)	28.0 (MICS, 2019)	20	15.5
2.2.2 Prevalence of malnutrition among children under 5 years of age: (a) overweight, (b) wasting (%)	(a) 9.6 (b) 1.6 (MICS, 2013)	(a) 1.5 (BDHS, 2022) (b) 2.4 (MICS, 2019)	(a) 1 (b) 7	(a) 1 (b) 5
2.2.3 Prevalence of anaemia in women aged 15 to 49 years (%)	40 (NMS, 2012)	36.7 (WHO, 2019)	30	20
2.3.1 Volume of production per labour unit by classes of farming/pastoral/forestry enterprise size	13.4 (ASC, 2020)	13.4 (ASC, 2020)	-	-

Indicators	Baseline data (source, year)	Current status (source, year)	Milestone by 2025	Target by 2030
2.3.2 Average income of small-scale food producers, by sex and indigenous status	\$ 545.96 (2017 PPP) (ASC, 2020)	\$ 545.96 (2017 PPP) (ASC, 2020)	-	-
2.a.1 The agriculture orientation index for government expenditures	0.56 (NAW, 2016)	0.78 (NAW, 2024)	0.85	1
2.a.2 Total official flows (official development assistance plus other official flows) to the agriculture sector	215 (ERD, 2015)	458.4 (ERD, 2023)	400	500
2.b.1 Agricultural export subsidies	54.7 (BB, 2016)	48.6 (BB, 2024)	73	70
3.1.1 Maternal mortality ratio per 100,000 new births	181 (SVRS, 2015)	136 (SVRS, 2023)	100	70
3.1.2 Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel	72.4 (SVRS, 2019)	69.68 (SVRS, 2023)	72	80
3.2.1 Under-5 mortality rate per 1000 population	36 (SVRS, 2015)	33 (SVRS, 2023)	27	25
3.2.2 Neonatal mortality rate per 1000 live births	20 (SVRS, 2015)	20 (SVRS, 2023)	14	12
3.3.1 Number of new HIV infections per 1,000 uninfected population	<0.01 (NASP; UNAIDS, 2016)	<0.01 (NASP; UNAIDS, 2023)	0.01	<0.01
3.3.2 Tuberculosis incidence per 100,000 population	225 (NTP, 2015)	221 (NTP, 2023)	112	45
3.3.3 Malaria incidence per 1,000 population	2.99 (NMEP; WHO, 2015)	0.048 (NMEP, 2023)	0.09	0.0
3.3.4 Hepatitis B incidence per 100,000 population	1.38 (WHO, 2015)	1.38 (CDC, 2019)	0.7	0
3.3.5 Number of people (in millions) requiring interventions against neglected tropical diseases	49,873,889 (WHO, 2016)	56,381,566 (WHO, 2021)	40000000	35,000,000
3.4.1 Mortality rate attributed to cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes or chronic respiratory disease	21.6 (WHO, 2016)	24 (SVRS, 2023)	10	6
3.4.2 Suicide mortality rate	7.68 (BP, 2015)	8.07 (BP, 2024)	3.5	2.4
3.5.1 Coverage of treatment interventions for substance use disorders	16,416 (DNC, 2015)	30133 (DNC, 2020)	45,000	55,000
3.5.2 Alcohol per capita consumption within a calendar year in liters of pure alcohol	0.09 (DNC, 2016)	0.06 (DNC, 2023)	0.04	0.02
3.6.1 Death rate due to road traffic injuries per 100,000 population	4.96 (BP, 2015)	10.01 (SVRS, 2023)	1.5	1.2
3.7.1 Proportion of women of reproductive age (aged 15–49 years) with needs for family planning satisfied with modern methods	72.6 (BDHS, 2014)	72.9 (SVRS, 2023)	80	100
3.7.2 Adolescent birth rate, aged 15–19 years, per 1,000 women in that age group	(a) 75 (SVRS, 2015)	84.3 (SVRS, 2023)	60	50
3.8.1 Coverage of essential health services index	52 (WHO, 2016)	52 (WHO, 2021)	80	100
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	25.6 (HIES, 2016)	3.46 (HIES, 2022)	-	-
3.9.1 Mortality rate attributed to household and ambient air pollution (per 100,000 population)	68.2 (WHO, 2012)	241 (SVRS, 2023)	60	55
3.9.2 Mortality rate attributed to inadequate WASH services per 100,000 population	11.9 (WHO, 2016)	161 (SVRS, 2023)	5	4.5

Indicators	Baseline data (source, year)	Current status (source, year)	Milestone by 2025	Target by 2030
5.4.1 Proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work by women	Female: 25.80 Male: 5 (TUS, 2012)	Female: 24.5 Male: 3.30 (TUS, 2022)	Female: 24 Male: 7	Female: 20 Male: 10
5.5.1 Proportion of seats held by women in (a) national parliaments and (b) local governments	(a) 20 (BPS, 2014) (b) 23 (LGD, 2016)	(a) 20.86 (BPS,2023) (b) 23.46 (LGD, 2023)	(a) 35 (b) 27	(a) 40 (b) 33
5.5.2 Proportion of women in managerial positions	11.40 (QLFS, 2016)	7.3 (QLFS,202)	23	30
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	36.4 (BDHS, 2014)	45.5 (BDHS, 2022)	-	-
5.6.2 Bangladesh's score in laws and regulations that guarantee full and equal access to women and men aged 15 years and older to sexual and reproductive health care, information and education	-	89.1% (MoHFA, 2025)	-	-
5.b.1 Proportion of women who own a mobile telephone	61.8 (Access and Use of ICT Survey, 2024)	64.8 (Access and Use of ICT Survey, 2024)	90	100
6.1.1 Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services	47.9 (MICS, 2019)	71.22 (SVRS, 2023)	100	100
6.2.1 Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services	Sanitation services: 42.8 Hand-washing facility with soap and water: 74.8 (MICS, 2019)	Sanitation services: 45 Hand-washing facility with soap and water: 65.2 (SVRS, 2023)	60 85	80 100
6.3.1 Proportion of domestic and industrial wastewater flows safely treated	32.8 (LGD, 2020)	40.73 (LGD, 2021)	-	-
6.3.2 Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality	57.9 (DoE, 2020)	57.9 (DoE, 2020)	-	-
6.4.1 Change in water-use efficiency over time (%)	9.82 (DPHE, 2020)	5.84 (DPHE, 2021)	-	-
6.4.2. Level of water stress: freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources	100 (BMDA, 2020)	100 (BMDA, 2020)	3	3
6.5.1 Degree (0-100) of integrated water resources management	50 (UNFP, 2017)	64 (BWDB, 2023)	60	70
6.5.2 Proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation	38 (JRC, 2018)	38 (JRC, 2022)	40	50
6.a.1 Amount of water- and sanitation-related official development assistance (in million USD)	301.1 (ERD, 2016)	326.7 (ERD,2023)	400	450
6.b.1 Proportion of local administrative units with established and operational policies and procedures for participation of local communities in water and sanitation management	95.99 (DPHE, 2019)	95.99 (DPHE, 2021)	-	-
7.1.1 Proportion of population with access to electricity	78 (SVRS, 2015)	99.5 (SVRS, 2023)	100	100

Indicators	Baseline data (source, year)	Current status (source, year)	Milestone by 2025	Target by 2030
9.2.1 Manufacturing value added as a proportion of (a) GDP and (b) per capita	(a) 20.16 (b) 130 (NAW, 2015)	(a) 23.82 (b) 418 (NAW, 2024)	(a) 28	(a) 35
9.2.2 Manufacturing employment as a proportion of total employment	14.4 (QLFS, 2016)	11.56 (QLFS, 2023)	22	25
9.3.1 Proportion of small-scale industries in total industry value added	19.53 (SMI, 2016)	20.88 (SMI, 2024)	-	-
9.3.2 Proportion of small-scale industries with a loan or line of credit	-	57.79 (SMI, 2019)	-	-
9.5.1 Research and development expenditure as a proportion of GDP	0.3 (NAW, 2015)	0.3 (NAW, 2020)	1	1
9.5.2 Researchers (in full-time equivalent) per million inhabitants	855 (MoST, 2015)	1036 (MoST, 2021)	998	1080
9.a.1 Total official international support to infrastructure (in billion USD)	1247 (ERD, 2016)	6331 (ERD, 2023)	2600	3500
9.b.1 Proportion of medium and high-tech industry value added in total value added	5.21 (NAW, 2015)	5.48 (NAW, 2024)	15	20
9.c.1 Proportion of population covered by a mobile network, by technology	2G: 99 3G: 71 4G: - (BTRC, 2015)	2G: 99.63 3G: 95.54 4G: 98.3 (BTRC, 2022)	100	100
10.1.1 Growth rates of household expenditure or income per capita among the (a) bottom 40 per cent of the population (b) total population	a) 7.7 b) 9.1 (HIES, 2016)	a) 15.1 b) 15.5 (HIES, 2022)	9.5 9.3	10 9.7
10.2.1 Proportion of people living below 50 per cent of median income	15.98 (HIES, 2016)	-	-	-
10.3.1 Proportion of population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed in the previous 12 months.	35.6 (CPHS, 2018)	19.31 (CPHS, 2025)	25	20
10.5.1 Financial Soundness Indicators	8.4 (NPL) (BB, 2015)	9.57 (NPL) (BB, 2023)	-	-
10.7.1 Recruitment cost borne by employee as a proportion of monthly income earned in country of destination (BDT)	17.6 (CMS, 2020)	14.6 (QLFS, 2022)	-	-
10.7.3. Number of people who died or disappeared in the process of migration towards an international destination	98 (IOM, 2019)	88 (IOM, 2024)	60	40
10.7.4 Proportion of the population who are refugees, by country of origin	663 (RRRC, 2019)	-	-	-
10.a.1 Proportion of tariff lines applied to imports from least developed countries and developing countries with zero-tariff	4.8 (WTO Cell, 2015)	4.6 (WTO Cell, 2022)	-	-
10.b.1 Total (a) official development assistance, and (b) foreign direct investment for development, (in thousand USD)	(a) 3 (ERD, 2015) (b) 1.28 (BB, 2015)	11.6 (ERD, 2015) 1.47 (BB, 2024)	9 12	10 15
10.c.1 Remittance costs as a proportion of the amount remitted	4.06 (BB, 2015)	5.21 (BB, 2023)	3.5	3

Indicators	Baseline data (source, year)	Current status (source, year)	Milestone by 2025	Target by 2030
12.c.1. Amount of fossil-fuel subsidies (production and consumption) per unit of GDP	0.00 (FD, 2016)	0.22 (FD, 2021)	0.02	0.01
13.1.1 Number of directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population	12, 881 (BDRHS, 2014)	3,766 (BDRHS, 2021)	2000	1500
13.1.3 Proportion of cities that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies	City corporations: 8.3 Paurashava: 0.9 (MoDMR, 2019)	11.92	30	100
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	(a) 0.88 (b) 0.76 (c) 0.85 (d) 0.67 (SHED, 2022)	(a) 0.88 (b) 0.76 (c) 0.85 (d) 0.67 (SHED, 2022)	-	-
14.4.1 Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels	88.88 (DoF, 2022)	88.88 (DoF, 2022)	-	-
14.5.1 Coverage of protected areas in relation to marine areas	2.05 (BFD, 2015)	7.94 (DoE, 2017)	7	10
14.6.1. Degree of implementation of international instruments aiming to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing	3 (score range 1-5) (DoF. 2018)	3 (score range 1-5) (DoF. 2022)	-	-
14.7.1 Sustainable fisheries as a proportion of GDP	0.33 (NAW, 2016)	0.2 (NAW, 2024)	3	3
15.1.1 Forest area as a proportion of total land area	14.1 (BFD, 2015)	-	18	20
15.1.2 Proportion of important sites for (a) terrestrial and (b) freshwater biodiversity that are covered by protected areas	(a) 1.7 (BFD, 2015) (b) 1.8 (BFD, 2014)	(a) 3.06 (BFD, 2019)	(a) 3.3 (b) 9.0	(a) 5 (b) 14
15.3.1. Proportion of Land that is degraded over total land area	4.26 (DoE, 2020)	4.26 (DoE, 2020)	-	-
15.4.1 Coverage by protected areas of important sites for mountain biodiversity (%)	0.35 (BFD, 2019)	-		
15.4.2 Mountain Green Cover Index	96.05 (BFD, 2015)	-	-	-
15.7.1. Number of traded wildlife that was poached or illicitly trafficked	252 (BFD, 2021)	252 (BFD, 2021)	-	-
15.a.1 Revenue generated, and finance mobilized from biodiversity-relevant economic instruments (in million USD)	14.7 (FD, 2015-16)	81.83 (FD, 2020-21)	-	-
15.c.1. Number of traded wildlife that was poached or illicitly trafficked	252 (BFD, 2021)	252 (BFD, 2021)	-	-
16.1.1 Number of victims of intentional homicide per 100,000 population	1.94 (BP, 2015)	1.41 (BP, 2022)	1.5	1
16.1.2 Conflict-related deaths per 100,000 population	0.85 (BP, 2015)	0.17 (BP, 2018)	-	-



Indicators	Baseline data (source, year)	Current status (source, year)	Milestone by 2025	Target by 2030
16.7.2 Proportion of population who believe decision making is inclusive and responsive	-	24.62 (CPHS, 2025)	-	-
16.9.1 Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority, by age	37 (MICS, 2013)	39.66 (SVRS, 2023)	80	100
16.10.1: Number of verified cases of killing, kidnapping, enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention and torture of journalists, associated media personnel, trade unionists and human rights advocates in the previous 12 months	1 (NHRC, 2019)	3 (NHRC, 2023)	-	-
16.b.1 Proportion of population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed in the previous 12 months on the basis of a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law	35.6 (CPHS, 2018)	19.31 (CPHS, 2025)	25	20
17.1.1 Total government revenue as a proportion of GDP, by source	8.62 (NBR, 2016)	8.35 (NBR, 2023)	17	18
17.1.2 Proportion of domestic budget funded by domestic taxes	63 (FD, 2016)	65.44 (FD, 2019)	67	70
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)	\$3 billion (ERD, 2015)	\$4.96 billion (ERD, 2017)	-	-
17.3.2 Volume of remittances (in USD) as a proportion of total GDP (%)	5.63 (BB, 2015-16)	5.31 (BB, 2023-24)	9	10
17.4.1 Debt service as a proportion of exports of goods and services	19.14 (BB, 2017)	21.4 (BB, 2019)	17	15
17.6.1 Fixed Internet broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants not in explanation	2.41 (BTRC, 2015)	6.78 (BTRC, 2022)	15	20
17.8.1 Proportion of individuals using the Internet	38.9 (ICT Use and Access Survey, 2022)	46.5 (ICT Use and Access Survey, 2024)	-	-
17.9.1 Dollar value of financial and technical assistance (in million USD)	570.8 (ERD, 2016)	143.29 (ERD, 2023)	1200	1500
17.10.1. Worldwide weighted tariff-average	4.85 (BTTC, 2015)	4.64 (BTTC, 2019)	5.5	5.5
17.19.1. Dollar value of all resources made available to strengthen statistical capacity in developing countries (in million)	38.45 (SDG Cell, 2018)	Total: 2.01 (SDG cell, 2023)	-	-
17.19.2.b Achieve (a) 100 per cent birth registration and (b) 80 per cent death registration	(a) 37% (MICS, 2013) (b) 49% (LGD, 2018)	(a) 63.36 (SVRS, 2023) (b) 50.49 (LGD, 2019)	(a) 80 (b) 70	(a) 100 (b) 80

Note: As per the most recent updates from the SDG Tracker, dated 28 May 2025; and the revised M&E Framework of the SDGs: Bangladesh Perspective.