SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

BANGLADESH PROGRESS REPORT 2025

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

June 2025

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Published by
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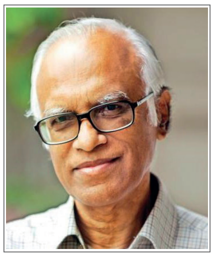
This document is prepared with the technical and financial support from the "Preparation and Monitoring of Medium-Term Development Plans (8th Five Year Plan) to Implement SDGs and Vision 2041 (1st Revised)" Project.

Copies Printed: 1000

Printed by
Chhoa
19/A, Lake Circus, Kalabagan, Dhaka-1205



Adviser
Ministry of Planning
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

MESSAGE

It is my pleasure that the Sustainable Development Goals: Bangladesh Progress Report 2025 has made its successful appearance as the 4th of its kind that gives us an exhaustive analysis on how Bangladesh fared in its journey of SDG achievement, focusing on every goal, target and indicator-based progress and gaps.

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 enrollment, 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.

Wahiduddin Mahmud

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

MESSAGE

I am glad to know that the General Economics Division (GED), Bangladesh Planning Commission will publish the Sustainable Development Goals: Bangladesh Progress Report 2025. This is supposed to be a thorough national evaluation of our progress toward achieving the SDGs. This fourth progress report demonstrates the nation's ongoing resilience in the face of unprecedented challenges.

Since adopting the 2030 Agenda, Bangladesh has taken concrete steps to align national development strategies with the SDGs. Fom integrating those goals into the development plans to identifying National Priority Targets (NPTs) for a focused action agenda, this report highlights the significant progress we've achieved in areas such as poverty alleviation, mass education, electrification, industrialization, environment, and access to basic services. It further emphasizes the ongoing challenges—rising inequality, urban vulnerabilities, gender disparities, and climate impacts—that require immediate, well-coordinated actions.

The preparation of this report has been an inclusive and participatory exercise involving various ministries along with the data support from the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS). We hope that in the coming years we initiate a more integrated 'whole of society approach' and incorporate even more in-depth analysis and insights from the civil society, academia, private sector actors, youth and other stakeholders who are usually left out of any traditional government reporting. The final goal of these reports is to benefit the public from practical, up to date data and progress evaluations. It is our duty to ensure that no marginalized community and actors who are usually away from the mainstream are left behind when preparing such a national document. We should aspire to make all government documents as inclusive as possible in fulfilling our 2030 Agenda and beyond.

The initiative and the whole exercise of publishing an SDG progress report is commendable. I hope with each passing publication the data and reporting quality improves and enables a real time holistic tracking of our SDG progress.

We should also make strides in communicating the content and lessons learned from this report across a diverse group of stakeholders. The common public should benefit from the technical knowledge gathered in this document. I urge the GED to ensure a series of community-based knowledge dissemination sessions on the findings of this report. It is only then we can inspire a thoughtful deliberation, ensure root level evidence-based policymaking, and secure a tangible course of action to achieve the 2030 Agenda, as this progress report promised to do so during its inception.

Lamiya Morshed

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

PREFACE

It's my immense pleasure that the General Economics Division (GED) of the Bangladesh Planning Commission strives to publish the SDG progress report 2025. The report has been prepared in an inclusive and participatory manner through an extensive scrutiny of the inputs provided by ministries, divisions, and agencies. This report presents the current status of each of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), focusing on success, challenges, policy guidelines, and potential pathways forward to achieve the SDGs by 2030.

With only five years remaining until the SDG deadline in 2030, the year 2025 is a critical checkpoint to take stock of progress, gaps, challenges, and priorities. This report—the SDG Progress Report 2025—aims to provide a comprehensive assessment of the nation's progress, reflect on achievements, confront existing constraints, and propose a strategic way forward toward realizing the 2030 goals.

In Bangladesh, the implementation of the SDGs is coordinated at the highest level of the Government, which demonstrates the country's steadfast commitment to achieving the agenda. The interim government has given the highest priority to advancing the progress of the SDGs by adopting the "whole of society" approach and placing greater emphasis on the principle of "Leave no one behind." The GED has adopted a comprehensive approach to assessing the progress of the SDGs and their targets. It gathers inputs from various ministries, divisions, and agencies, which are then validated and refined through a series of meetings, dialogues, and workshops involving representatives from governments, academic institutions, businesses, NGOs, INGOs, CBOs, and CSOs.

The assessment shows that Bangladesh has performed well in some of the goals, such as SDG-1 (No Poverty), SDG-2 (Zero Hunger), SDG-3 (Good Health and Well-being), SDG-4 (Quality Education), SDG-6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), SDG-7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), and SDG-9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure). However, Bangladesh has made limited progress toward goals such as SDG-5 (Gender Equality), SDG-10 (Reduced Inequalities), SDG-11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), SDG-14 (Life Below Water), SDG-15 (Life on Land), and SDG-17 (Partnerships). The outbreak of COVID-19, as well as internal and external conflicts, has significantly hindered the progress of the SDGs. More importantly, the stagnant performance on these goals is primarily due to the declining state of SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions). Therefore, efforts are needed to ensure access to justice for all and to build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels, to accelerate progress toward SDG targets by 2030.

It is worth noting that we are lagging behind in establishing a baseline for some indicators and subsequent targets to be achieved by 2025 and 2030, due to gaps in data and deficiencies in definitions. GED has convened a series of meetings with SDG focal points of various ministries and government agencies to expedite the process of setting targets and finding the baseline status of indicators. So far, baselines have been finalized for 218 indicators, and targets have been finalized for 140 indicators out of a total of 250. The Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) is also to be commended for its praiseworthy initiative in establishing a digital platform, namely the SDG tracker, which updates data on various SDG indicators and makes it readily accessible to stakeholders.

Bangladesh places importance on SDG localization, putting a greater spotlight on Bangladesh's "39+1" National Priority Targets (NPTs) to achieve a more inclusive development. In this report, progress on NPTs has been highlighted, showing varying degrees of progress at local levels. At the local level, data gaps and inadequate budgetary allocation are the primary challenges to SDGs localization. Bangladesh needs a comprehensive and integrated strategy to address various vulnerabilities arising from climatic risks, environmental degradation, and chronic poverty. Although two or three Upazilas have already been identified to pilot SDG localization, we believe that a more specific intervention mechanism needs to be devised from a pilot of SDG interventions at a more disaggregated, smaller scale involving local government, NGOs, CSOs, and the private sector. Therefore, GED takes the initiative to declare three villages as "SDG Villages" based on their vulnerabilities, aiming to develop institutional and operational mechanisms that will help achieve the SDGs at the local level. The two-year initiative, if successful, could be replicated nationwide.

As Bangladesh stands at this pivotal moment, the choice is clear: to accelerate and scale up efforts so as to meet the SDGs in full, or risk falling short, particularly for the most vulnerable. The next five years demand urgency, collaboration, innovation, and accountability at all levels. With coherent policies, sustained financing, inclusive governance, high-quality data, and partnerships—both local and international—Bangladesh can turn many of the present constraints into opportunities, and ensure that by 2030, progress is real, equitable, and lasting.

This report aims to serve as both a mirror and a map: reflecting what has been achieved, what remains to be done, and how best to travel the remaining distance. It is hoped that the insights herein will guide strategic decisions, mobilize stakeholder action, and renew collective commitment to Bangladesh's SDG journey.

I would like to express my gratitude to all ministries, divisions, agencies, and BBS for their inputs, which served as the backbone of this report. I am extremely thankful to my colleagues in GED for their persevering effort in making this venture a success. I extend special thanks to UNDP for providing technical and financial support that made the publication possible.

Finally, my team and I are immensely grateful to our honourable Advisor, Dr. Wahiduddin Mahmud, for his inspiration and all-out support in the preparation of the Bangladesh SDG Progress Report 2025. We also extend our sincere gratitude to the Principal Coordinator's Office on SDG Affairs for their valuable and thoughtful advice and unwavering support.

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Monzur Hossain

ACRONYMS

8FYP	Eighth Five-Year Plan
AAGR	average annual growth rate
ABS	Access and Benefit Sharing
ACC	Anti-Corruption Commission
ADB	Asian Development Bank
ADR	Alternate Dispute Resolution
AfT	Aid for Trade
AI	Artificial Intelligence
AOI	Agriculture orientation index
APC	Accelerating Protection for Children
APSC	Annual Primary School Census
AQI	Air Quality Index
ATMs	automated teller machines
BANBEIS	Bangladesh Bureau of Educational Institution and Statistics
BAU	Business-as-usual
BBS	Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics
BCCSAP	Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan
BCCTF	Bangladesh Climate Change Trust Fund
BDHS	Bangladesh Demography and Health Survey
BES	Bangladesh Education Statistics
BFIU	Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit
BGMEA	Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association
BIDA	Bangladesh Investment Development Authority
BIWTC	Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation
BLA	Bangladesh Labour Act
BMET	Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training
BREDAL	Bangladesh Renewable Energy Development Authority
BRRI	Bangladesh Rice Research Institute
BRT	Bus Rapid Transit
BSCCL	Bangladesh Submarine Cable Company Limited
BSVS	Bangladesh Sample Vital Statistics
BTRC	Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CCR	Cycle Completion Rate
CDA	Chattogram Development Authority

CDC	Communicable Disease Control
CDM	Clean Development Mechanism
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CFF	Climate Fiscal Framework
CIEOSH	Centre of Innovation, Efficiency and Occupational Safety and Health
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species
CPD	Centre for Policy Dialogue
CPHS	Citizen Perception Household Survey
CPJ	Committee to Protect Journalists
CPP	Cyclone Preparedness Programme
CREATE	Circular Economy in Bangladesh's Apparel Textile Industry Ecosystem
DAEs	Direct Access Entities
DGHS	Directorate General of Health Services
DHS	Demographic Household Survey
DMTCL	Dhaka Mass Transit Company Limited
DoE	Department of Environment
DPE	Department of Primary Education
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
DSHE	Directorate of Higher Secondary Education
ECAs	Ecologically Critical Areas
ECD	Early Childhood Development
ECDI	Early Childhood Development Index
ECDS	Early Childhood Development
EECMP	Energy Efficiency and Conservation Master Plan
EGPP	Employment Generation Program for the Poorest
EGSC	Ending Gender Stereotypes in Classrooms
EP	Essential Priorities
EPI	Expanded Program on Immunization
ERD	Economic Relations Division
ESD	Education for Sustainable Development
ESG	Environmental, Social, and governance
ETPs	Effluent Treatment Plants
EVI	Environmental Vulnerability Index
FAO	food security and nutrition in the world 2023
FAOSTAT	Food and Agriculture Organization Statistics
FCTC	Framework Convention on Tobacco Control

FDI	foreign direct investment
FES	Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung
FFP	Food Friendly Programme
FFW	Food for Work
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
FID	Financial Inclusion Department
FIES	Food Insecurity Experience Scale
FLFP	Female Labour Force Participation
FYP	Five-Year Plans
GATS	Global Adult Tobacco Survey
GBM	Ganges, Brahmaputra, and Meghna
GCED	Global Citizenship Education
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GED	General Economics Division
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GIU	Governance Innovation Unit
GNI	Gross National Income
GoB	Government of Bangladesh
GPI	Gender Parity Index
HAI	Human Assets Index
HFC	Hydrofluorocarbons
HIES	Household Income and Expenditure Survey
HMSS	Household and Maternal Health Survey
HPNSP	Health Population and Nutrition Sector Program
HRBA	human rights-based approach
HSD	Health Services Division
IAEs	Implementing Agencies and Entities
ICCHL	Institute of Child and Community Health and Learning
ICLS	International Conference of Labour Statisticians
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
ICVGD	Investment Component for Vulnerable Group Development Programme
IDA	International Development Association
IDCOL	Infrastructure Development Company Limited
IFC	International Finance Corporation
IHR	International Health Regulations

ILO	International Labour Organization
ILOSTAT	International Labour Organization Statistics
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IoT	Internet of Things
IPAC	Integrated Protected Area Co-management
IRENA	International Renewable Energy Agency
ITC	International Trade Centre
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
IUU	illegal, unreported, and unregulated
IVR	Interactive Voice Response
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
JMP	Joint Monitoring Programme
KBAs	Key Biodiversity Areas
LAS	Literary Assessment Survey
LCP	Learning and Continuity Plan
LDC	Least Developed Country
LFS	Labour Force Survey
LGD	Local Government Division
LGED	Local Government Engineering Department
LJD	Law and Justice Division
LLDCs	Landlocked Developing Countries
LoGIC	Local Government Initiative on Climate Change
MCBP	Mother and Child Benefit Programme
MCPP	Mujib Climate Prosperity Plan
MCS	Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MEFWD	Medical Education and Family Welfare Division
MF	Material Footprint
MFIs	Microfinance Institutions
MFN	Most Favored Nation
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
MMP	Missing Migrants Project
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
MoDMR	Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief

MoE	Ministry of Environment
MoEFCC	Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change
MoF	Ministry of Food
MoHA	Ministry of Home Affairs
MOHFW	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
MoPA	Ministry of Public Administration
MoS	Ministry of Shipping
MoWR	Ministry of Water Resources
MPAs	Marine Protected Areas
MPI	Multidimensional Poverty Index
MRT	Mass Rapid Transit
MSE	micro and small enterprise
MSMEs	micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises
MW	Mega Watts
NAEP	National Agricultural Extension Policy
NAES	National Agricultural Extension System
NAP	National Adaptation Plan
NAW	National Accounts Wing
NBR	National Board of Revenue
NCDs	Non-communicable Diseases
NCG	National Committee on LDC Graduation
NCLS	National Child Labour Survey
NCS	National Conservation Strategy
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
NDF	National Development Framework
NEET	Not in Education, Employment, or Training
NEP	National Education Policy
NFIS	National Financial Inclusion Strategy
NFNSP	National Food and Nutrition Security Policy
NGOs	Non-governmental Organizations
NHRC	National Human Rights Commission
NIPORT	National Institute of Population Research and Training
NMEP	National Malaria Elimination Programme
NPAN	National Plan of Action for Nutrition
NPDC	National Policy on Development Cooperation
NPDM	National Plan for Disaster Management

NPL	Non-Performing Loans
NPT	National Priority Targets
NRCC	National River Conservation Commission
NSA	National Student Assessment
NSDA	National Skill Development Authority
NSDP	National Skills Development Policy
NSSS	National Social Security Strategy
NTDs	neglected tropical disease
NWP	National Water Policy
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
OMS	Open Market Sale
OP	Other Priorities
PEDP	Primary Education Development Program
PESP	Primary Education Stipend Program
PFM	Public Financial Management
PHR	Poverty Headcount Ratio
PISA	Program for International Students Assessment
PMO	Prime Minister's Office
PoA	Plan of Action
PoU	Prevalence of Undernourishment
PPP	Public-private Partnerships
QLFS	Quarterly Labour Force Survey
RAJUK	Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha
RCIP	Rural Connectivity Improvement Project
REDD+	Reducing Emission from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
RFMO	Regional Fisheries Management Organization
RGA	Rapid Gender Assessment
RLGIs	Rural Local Government Institutions
RMG	Ready-made Garment
RPSP	Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme
RTI	Right to Information
SCP	Sustainable Consumption and Production
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SDGR	Sustainable Development Goals Report

SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SEDA	Sustainable Energy Development Agency
SEDP	Secondary Education Development Program
SESIP	Secondary Education Sector Investment Program
SEZs	Special Economic Zones
SFDRR	Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction
SHS	Solar Home System
SID	Statistics and Information Division
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SLCPs	Short Lived Climate Pollutants
SLR	Sea Level Rise
SMEs	Small and Medium Enterprises
SMS	Short Message Service
SREDA	Sustainable And Renewable Energy Development Authority
SRO	Statutory Regulatory Authority
SRVS	Sample Registration Vital Statistics
SSC	South-South Cooperation
SSNPs	social safety net programs
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics
TB	Tuberculosis
TEUs	Twenty-foot Equivalent units
TFT	Two-finger Test
TIB	Transparency International Bangladesh
TMED	Technical and Madrasah Education Division
TR	Test Relief
TRIPS	Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights
TSA	Tourism Satellite Survey
TVET	technical and vocational education and training
UCD	Urban Community Development
UDD	Urban Development Directorate
UDHR	Universal Declaration of Human Rights
UIS	UNESCO Institute for Statistics
ULGIs	Urban Local Government Institutions
UMIC	Upper Middle-Income Country
UN	United Nations
UNCAC	United Nations Convention Against Corruption

UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDRR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
UNEP	United Nations Environment Program
UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
UNESCO	United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNESDOC	UNESCO Digital Library
UNFCC	United Nations Framework on Climate Change
UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
UNGEI	United Nations Girls' Education Initiative
UNHCR	United Nations High Commission for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
UNSTAT	United Nations Statistics
USD	United States Dollar
VAT	Value-added Tax
VAW	Violence Against Women
VGD	Vulnerable Group Development
VGF	Vulnerable Group Feeding
VIPs	Very Important Persons
VWB	Vulnerable Women Benefit
WARPO	Water Resources Planning Organization
WASA	Water Supply and Sewage Authority
WASH	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene for All
WB	World Bank
WDI	World Development Indicators
WEF	World Economic Forum
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization
WiFi	Wireless Network
WOHFW	World Organization for Health and Family Welfare
WTO	World Trade Organization

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Bangladesh SDG Progress Report 2025 provides a comprehensive assessment of the country's progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It provides a thorough overview of the current state of each of the 17 SDGs, highlighting both areas of success and domains requiring accelerated efforts as well as an evaluation of the obstacles, policy suggestions, and strategic directions for making further progress towards achieving the goals within the stipulated time frame.

Some progress has been made in goals such as SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), and SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy). However, significant challenges remain in achieving SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), and SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions), where issues such as insufficient health service coverage, high informality and lack of decent employment, socio-economic disparities, rapid urbanization, lack of good governance, and climate vulnerabilities remain persistent.

Progress on the 17 SDGs

SDG 1: No Poverty

National poverty rate of Bangladesh decreased from 24.3% in 2016 to 18.7% in 2022. Similarly, the rate of extreme poverty decreased from 12.9% to 5.6% during the same period. According to the international poverty line of $2.15 per day, the poverty rate in the country dropped around 8.5 percentage points between 2016 and 2022, from 13.5 to 5.01 per cent. Despite improvements, the poverty rate in rural areas is still higher at 21.5%, while in urban areas it is 14.1%.

Regional gaps still exist despite progress in poverty alleviation, especially in places that are vulnerable to disasters like the northern and coastal districts. Rapid migration and limited access to basic services, such as housing, water, and sanitation, in informal settlements are contributing factors to the rise in urban poverty. Shocks brought on by climatic events, such as cyclones and floods, continue to risk advancement and drive vulnerable groups back into poverty. Targeted regional development strategies, with an emphasis on lagging regions, are required to maintain progress.

SDG 2: Zero Hunger

Food security in Bangladesh has slightly improved, as seen by a decrease in the prevalence of undernourishment from 16.4% in 2015 to 14.7% in 2018. Similarly, the percentage of moderate or severe food insecurity declined overall from 32.2% in 2015 to 30.5% in 2022. While these trends are declining, significant challenges remain in achieving the 2030 targets. Rising food prices, as well as climate shocks such as flooding and cyclones, have an impact on the availability of food for vulnerable people. Severe salinity problems in coastal zones limit arable land and affect agricultural output. Extreme weather events and resource depletion have also had a negative impact on livestock and fisheries, which are important sources of protein.

There is a need for prioritising agricultural modernization by allocating a higher proportion of public expenditure to agriculture, especially focusing on technology adoption, precision agriculture, and research. Furthermore, long-term agricultural investment plans should include sustainable practices and climate-resilient technologies to secure future food production. To effectively prevent malnutrition, programs focusing on maternal and child health should be prioritised.

SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being

There is evidence of progress in some health outcomes, particularly in maternal and child health. Maternal mortality has dropped from 181 per 100,000 new births in 2015 to 136 per 100,000 by 2023. In addition, skilled health staff attended 69.7% of total national births in 2023, compared to 42.1% in 2014. The coverage of the national immunization program has also seen success. Nevertheless, challenges still persist. Between 2015 and 2023, the number of tuberculosis cases remained stagnant at approximately 221 per 100,000 people. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), there has been a shift in the sickness burden, with cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes or chronic respiratory disease now accounting for 24% of all fatalities. Furthermore, according to HIES 2022, 68.5% of all medical expenses are still paid for out of pocket, putting financial strain on low-income and marginalized households. In addition, access to critical medical treatment is limited in rural areas due to a lack of specialized healthcare facilities.

More spending on public health is required to address these issues, as it stands at 0.74% of GDP, which is lower than the regional average (3.3%). To ensure long-term health benefits, it is critical to expand universal health coverage, strengthen primary healthcare services, and improve noncommunicable disease preventative care. Moreover, investments in rural health infrastructure and workforce development are critical for reducing the regional inequalities in universal health care.

SDG 4: Quality Education

With a net enrollment rate of 98% in 2023, Bangladesh is close to achieving universal primary enrollment. The enrollment rate of girls is higher than that of boys evident from the gender parity index, which was 1.21 for secondary education, 1.03 for higher secondary education in 2023. Besides, between 2016 and 2023, the lower secondary completion rate rose by 9.57 percentage points to 70.86%, while the primary education completion rate increased by 6.05 percentage points to 86.85%. Additionally, according to the BBS 2022 ICT Use and Access Survey, 86.2% of youths and adults nationwide have basic knowledge in ICT tasks, such as moving or duplicating data using copy -paste tools. However, very few of them have the moderate to advanced knowledge such as using basic arithmetic formulae in a spreadsheet (36.3%), connecting and installing new devices (10.8%), creating electronic presentations (2.7%), programming or coding in digital environments (1.4%).

On the other hand, national assessments show that 70% of primary school students struggle with maths at grade level and 49% of them struggle with reading Bangla. Furthermore, the lack of trained teachers and educational resources in rural schools is contributing to the widening learning gap between urban and rural communities. At the lower and upper secondary levels, the numberof teachers who meet the basic standards is unsatisfactory; according to the BES 2023, only about 63% of teachers met the requirements.

Efforts in curriculum reform, teacher's training, and digital learning infrastructure are necessary to improve the quality of education. By providing students with skills that are relevant to the market, expanding technical education and vocational training would increase employability of youth population.

SDG 5: Gender Equality

According to Labour Force Survey (LFS) 2023, the female labour force participation rate was 41.4%. Gender-responsive budgeting has been initiated, with 34.37% of the national budget allocated for women's development in FY 2023-24. Nonetheless, there are gender disparities in the workforce, with women mostly involved in low-wage and informal sectors. In 2023, the percentage of women in managerial roles was only at 0.27%. Women continue to devote 24.6% of their time to unpaid care and household duties, which restricts their access to economic prospects, according to the Time Use Survey, 2022. This problem is exacerbated by the dearth of easily accessible and reasonably priced childcare facilities; there are just 63 state-funded day-care centres in the country. Additionally, in 2022, 58.8% women (18+ age) have mobile phones for own uses, while the corresponding figure for men was 86.7%, indicating a digital divide along the gender dimension.

Expanding women's access to digital and financial resources, encouraging gender-responsive employment rules, fortifying legal frameworks against gender-based violence, and implementing workplace anti-harassment policies are all essential to addressing these issues. Furthermore, expanding allocation in women's education and training—especially in technical and digital domains—will improve their economic prospects.

SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation

With 71.2% of the population having access to safely managed drinking water services in 2023, up from 68.5% in 2021, Bangladesh has expanded the access to clean water and sanitation. In 2023, 45% of people had access to sanitary facilities, and 65.2 % people had access to handwashing facility with soap and water. Water-use efficiency, however, dropped from 9.82% in 2020 to 5.84% in 2021, underscoring resource management issues. Even though 90% of surface water in transboundary basin areas comes from shared rivers, only 38% of these areas had functioning water cooperation agreements in 2021.

Sustainable drinking water supplies are still a challenge, especially in rural areas where 83.7% of the population depends on deep tube wells, which leaves them vulnerable to salinity, droughts, and changes in rainfall patterns. Proportion of domestic and industrial wastewater flows safely treated was only around 40% in 2021, and many peoples are still impacted by arsenic poisoning. The limited transboundary water cooperation, with only the Ganges Water Sharing Treaty of 1996 in place, affects over 60% of shared water resources, contributing to seasonal water crises and regional disparities in water availability.

It is recommended to improve sanitation services, invest in water treatment infrastructure, and encourage rainwater collection in areas afflicted by salinity in order to alleviate these problems. Moreover, initiatives include strengthening environmental laws and enhancing water use efficiency using cutting-edge technologies are also essential. Negotiating new transboundary water-sharing agreements and enhancing community involvement in water management can support sustainable water and sanitation practices.

SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy

With 99.5% of households having access to electricity in 2023, up from 77.9% in 2015, Bangladesh has nearly reached universal electrification. In 2023, 29.7% of the population was predominantly dependent on clean fuels and technology, which is close to the 30% target set for 2025. However, the proportion of renewable energy of 4.11% in total final energy consumption is very low and well below the 15% target set for 2030. Green energy efforts have seen, such as renewable energy capacity per capita increased from 2.66 watts in 2015 to 7.01 watts in 2023. With more than 4.13 million systems installed, the Solar Home System (SHS) program has played a major role in electrifying rural areas. Additionally, international financial flows supporting clean energy development increased by 65.11%, from USD 301.1 million in 2015-16 to USD 496.8 million in 2018-19.

Even with these developments, there are still obstacles to overcome in order to guarantee fair access to energy and raise the proportion of renewables in the energy mix. There are still differences in energy supply between urban and rural areas, with rural areas having less reliable supplies and frequent power outages. The continued heavy reliance on fossil fuels hinders the switch to alternative energy sources and increases greenhouse gas emissions. Inefficient technologies are still a problem in the industrial sector, which affects energy efficiency and the achievement of key SDG 7 indicators.

Strengthening regulatory measures is necessary to expedite project implementation, and improving policy frameworks will aid both large- and small-scale renewable energy projects. For sustainable energy technology to be adopted more widely, more finance must be injected through tax breaks, subsidies, and low-interest loans. The urban-rural energy gap can be closed by taking effective initiatives like SHS and encouraging rural electrification through mini-grid projects. Furthermore, expanding the development of wind, solar, and biomass projects can help diversify energy sources and help achieve SDG 7 targets.

SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

With a GDP growth of 4.22% in 2023–2024, Bangladesh falls short of generating adequate decent jobs. In 2023, the unemployment rate was 3.35%, indicating very modest progress towards the goal of bringing unemployment down below 3%. Despite a decline from 28.9% in 2015 to 20.3% in 2024, the percentage of youth (aged 15 to 24) not in education, employment, or training (NEET) is still far higher than the 10% target. In 2023, informal employment was accounted 84.1% of the workforce, with higher rates among women (95.7%) than males (77.9%). Child labour also remains a challenge, with 4.4% of children aged 5-17 engaged in work, including 2.7% in hazardous activities. The gender wage gap persists, with women earning significantly less than men across sectors.

High rates of informal employment, gender inequality, and the sluggish transition from informal to formal employment are some of the main obstacles. Skills mismatch and the limited opportunities of vocational training account for staggering level of youth unemployment. Economic inclusion and job quality are still impacted by systemic labour market issues, despite the existence of initiatives like the Employment Generation Program for the Poorest (EGPP). Decent work conditions are further impacted by the continued existence of hazardous work situations, especially in sectors like construction and textiles.

To improve outcomes under SDG 8, it is recommended to expand quality education and vocational training, particularly for youth and marginalized groups. Strengthening labour rights, boosting financial inclusion through the National Financial Inclusion Strategy (2021-26), and increasing assistance for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are key priority areas. To guarantee sustainable and inclusive economic growth, targeted efforts are also required to prevent child labour and close the gender wage gap through increased enforcement of labour laws and awareness campaigns.

SDG 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure

Bangladesh is emphasising on stimulating innovation, encourage inclusive industrialisation, and constructing resilient infrastructure. In 2023, the percentage of rural residents who lived within 2 km of an all-season road was 91.1%, exceeding the 2025 goal of 90%. In 2024, manufacturing accounted for 23.8% of GDP, indicating progress towards the goal of 35% by 2030.

Nonetheless, manufacturing employment is still low, accounting for 11.6% of all employment in 2023, indicating that the industry is having trouble creating jobs. R&D spending is still only 0.3% of GDP, well below 1% goal for 2025, which restricts technological advancement and industrial sector diversification. Limited access to finance, lack of standard definition, and vulnerability to external shocks are obstacles for SMEs.

It is recommended to increase R&D expenditures, improve SME assistance through focused financial and legislative measures, and encourage industry diversity. It is crucial to increase rural connectivity using cutting-edge technologies and significant infrastructural investments. Industrial growth and competitiveness can be supported by integrating sophisticated manufacturing technology and promoting digital transformation. Inclusive and sustainable industrial growth can also be promoted by enhancing public-private partnerships and creating a supportive business climate.

SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities

With the Gini index rising from 0.48 in 2016 to about 0.50 in 2024, implying growing income differences, Bangladesh confronts difficulties in reducing inequality. Household spending for the poorest 40% of the population grew at a rate of 15.1% in 2022 compared to 7.7% in 2018. However, the wealthiest 10% of households own 41% of the national income, while the poorest 40% own only 12.9%. Regional and gender differences in access to work, healthcare, and education are still present. In 2025, 19.31% of the population reported having experienced harassment or discrimination, which demands substantial improvement.

Achieving equitable resource distribution and inclusive growth still presents challenges. The financial sector is unsteady, and public trust is impacted by corruption and poor management. For instance, non-performing loans (NPL) accounted for 12.56% of all gross loans in 2024, illustrating the ongoing difficulties faced by financial institutions. Poverty rates and access to basic services like healthcare and education continue to differ between urban and rural areas, highlighting these inequities. The impact of fiscal policies on redistribution is limited by the dependence on indirect taxation, which accounts for two-thirds of overall tax income.

It is recommended that the tax collecting system must be strengthened, social security programs be expanded, and access to high-quality healthcare and education be improved in order to achieve SDG 10. Other crucial actions include strengthening institutional capacity and advancing financial inclusion under the National Financial Inclusion Strategy (NFIS).

SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

Bangladesh has experienced unplanned urbanization, with over 31.5% of the population now living in cities, and more than half of them residing in urban slums. Although there has been very little progress, the percentage of urban residents living in slums has dropped from 54% in 2014 to 51.5% in 2022, falling well short of the 20% target by 2030. Besides, with only 2.43% of municipal solid waste being appropriately treated in controlled facilities as of 2021,a slight improvement from 2.25% in 2018,waste management remains a major urban problem. Air quality in urban areas continues to be a challenge, with PM2.5 levels reaching 79.9 $\mu g/m^3$ in 2023, significantly higher than the WHO guideline of 5 $\mu g/m^3$.

Increased air pollution and the ineffectiveness of municipal waste management emphasise the need for improved environmental management techniques. Urban living circumstances are made worse by traffic congestion, deteriorating road safety, and a lack of adequate urban infrastructure. Building inclusive, resilient, and sustainable cities requires enhancing urban governance, decentralising services, and putting in place efficient waste management systems. To promote sustainable urbanisation, it will be crucial to increase catastrophe resilience initiatives and improve urban planning with an emphasis on climatic adaptability. Additionally, efficient policy creation and progress tracking are hampered by the lack of comprehensive data for important SDG 11 indicators.

SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production

In 2021, the national recycling rate increased to 15.6% from 15% in 2020, and by 2022, 49 companies had released sustainability reports, which increased accountability and transparency. In 2022, the country's per capita material footprint was 4.6 tonnes, whereas its per capita domestic material consumption was 3.62 tonnes. With 14.1 million tonnes wasted annually as of 2024, food waste is still a major concern. Hazardous waste management also shows room for improvement, with a compliance rate of 58.7% against international agreements.

Challenges persist in achieving fully responsible consumption and production patterns. The shift to renewable energy is hindered by the heavy reliance on fossil fuel subsidies, which increased from zero in 2015 to 7.1% of GDP in 2022. Infrastructure for managing hazardous waste is still insufficient, and companies have not yet embraced sustainability reporting. Inadequate data collection and monitoring mechanisms can make it more difficult to evaluate how well sustainability goals are being met.

Important actions are required including investing in hazardous waste management, growing recycling facilities, and encouraging green industrial practices through training and incentives. To encourage behavioural changes and aid in the execution of policies, it is also essential to set up reliable monitoring systems and raise public knowledge of sustainable consumption.

SDG 13: Climate Action

The number of people impacted by climate-related disasters per 100,000 population decreased from 12,881 in 2015 to 3,578 in 2021. In its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), Bangladesh has set high target, intending to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 15.12% with international assistance and 6.73% unconditionally by 2030. Comprehensive plans to improve climate resilience are outlined in the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) 2022–2050 and the Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (BCCSAP) 2022. However, with only USD 1,189.5 million raised versus a projected USD 12 billion needed by 2025, financial limitations continue to be a significant obstacle. Just 3.7% (USD 448.8 million) of the total amount needed has been received from the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

Climate policy implementation is also impacted by institutional and capability limitations. Furthermore, according to the Bangladesh Disaster-Related Statistics (BDRS) Report 2021, economic losses from extreme weather events amounted to 1.32% of GDP in 2021, up from 1.30% in 2015, indicating that Bangladesh is still extremely exposed to climate risks. Expanding community-based disaster risk reduction (DRR) programs, enhancing access to climate finance, improving institutional capacity, and advocating for climate justice on international stages are all crucial to tackling these issues. Prioritising adaptation efforts and implementing a strong climate financing framework would help Bangladesh create a sustainable and climate-resilient future.

SDG 14: Life Below Water

In accordance with international frameworks like the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), 8.8% of Bangladesh's exclusive economic zone has been declared as Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). Despite being essential to lives and food security, the fisheries sector has recently contributed less than 1% of GDP, with sustainable fisheries' share falling sharply from 3.29% in 2015 to 0.24% in 2021. Programs aimed at species like Hilsa demonstrate a targeted approach to conservation, while initiatives like the National Conservation Strategy (NCS) seek to protect marine biodiversity and advance sustainable practices. The Sundarbans mangrove forest is threatened by rising sea levels and saline intrusion, and marine ecosystems are still susceptible to overfishing, pollution, and climate change.

Budgetary restrictions, governance problems that impede efficient resource management, and a lack of infrastructure for marine conservation are among the obstacles. Because restrictions are not consistently monitored or enforced, illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing continues. Economic pressures and environmental degradation are putting coastal communities dependent on fishing at greater risk. Financial constraints also limit the impact of conservation programs, with a lack of comprehensive data on marine resources complicating planning and implementation.

Expanding MPAs, enforcing anti-illegal fishing regulations, and improving waste management to reduce marine pollution are all key steps in tackling these issues. Investing in blue economy initiatives, such as eco-tourism and sustainable aquaculture, can support economic growth while preserving biodiversity. Enhanced international cooperation and community-based conservation efforts are also critical to achieving SDG 14 targets and ensuring the long-term health of marine ecosystems.

SDG 15: Life on Land

As per currently available data in 2018, the forest coverage of Bangladesh increased slightly to 14.5% from 14.1% in 2015, representing 25,752 square kilometres of the country's total land area. However, the country aims to increase the amount of forest cover to 20% by 2030, but there are still obstacles in the way. To preserve a variety of habitats, such as wetlands, rivers, lakes, and coastal areas, Bangladesh has established 13 Ecologically Critical Areas (ECAs) totalling 71,544 hectares. In order to preserve biodiversity, the country also maintains protected areas; terrestrial protected areas make up 3.2% of the territory, while marine protected areas make up 2.36%. Initiatives for coastal afforestation and community-based forest management have made an impact; 23,818 hectares have been planted to improve wildlife habitats and fight land degradation.

Deforestation and biodiversity loss remain major problems in spite of these efforts. With an indication value of 252 in 2021 indicating significant illicit activity, the illegal wildlife trade is still a concern. According to the IUCN Plant Red List of Bangladesh-2024, 39.5% of the evaluated plant species are classified as threatened, while only 0.5% are highly endangered. The report on the Land Degradation in Bangladesh 2020 states that land degradation impacts about 270 square kilometres per year. Furthermore, insufficient research and uneven data collection make it difficult to conduct efficient monitoring and develop policies to address environmental challenges.

Bangladesh should encourage sustainable forest management practices and strengthen enforcement against illicit logging and land conversion in order to meet SDG 15 ambitions. Important steps include expanding government funding for conservation initiatives, boosting community participation in resource management, and strengthening global cooperation for biodiversity preservation. Long-term ecological sustainability will be supported by the use of creative methods for preservation and improved incorporation of environmental regulations into national development plans.

SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions

Important initiatives, such as the Independent Information Commission and the enactment of the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2009 are in place. However, challenges remained in implementation stage. Human trafficking has decreased from 1.78 per 100,000 in 2015 to 0.72 per 100,000 in 2022. However, figures for female trafficking remain relatively stagnant. Intentional homicide rates dropped from 1.94 per 100,000 in 2015 to 1.33 in 2020, while this rate somewhat increased to 1.41 in 2022. Notably, according to the World Bank Enterprise Survey 2022, 25% of businesses in Bangladesh had at least one interaction with a public official in which they were asked for or paid a bribe, down from 41% in 2013.

Upholding the rule of law and guaranteeing access to justice continue to present difficulties. In 2022, 77% of all prisoners were unsentenced detainees, adding to the overpopulation in prisons and further stressing the legal system. With a significant prevalence of bribes in dealings with public officials, corruption remains a barrier. Given that many women are victims of physical, sexual, or psychological abuse, gender-based violence is still a serious problem. Additionally, the development of a just and open legal system is hampered by the absence of an efficient and independent justice system.

Major actions are required including enhancing public officials' accountability, strengthening anti-corruption efforts, and growing legal rights awareness initiatives. To improve justice delivery and discourage criminal activity, it is also essential to strengthen anti-trafficking laws, promote cross-border cooperation, and ensure just prosecution of people traffickers.

SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals

Bangladesh prioritises in establishing international collaborations to promote sustainable development, especially as it gets ready to graduate from the Least Developed Country (LDC) category. The need for increased domestic resource mobilisation was highlighted by the country's revenue-to-GDP ratio of 9.47% in FY 2023-24, which was much lower than the 18% target for 2030. In 2023, Bangladesh's share of global merchandise exports rose little to 0.28% in 2022 from 0.19% in 2015. The percentage of global services exports were remained at 0.12% from 2020 to 2022. The nation has collaborated with major international development partners, and has used public-private partnerships (PPPs) to build infrastructure, especially in the transportation and energy sectors. However, challenges persist in areas such as debt servicing, where prudent management strategies are needed, including debt restructuring and extending maturities to ease fiscal pressure.

The partnerships can be further scaled up in the area of healthcare, education, and climate change. Another issue facing the country is the low level of foreign direct investment (FDI), which accounts for only 7.7% of the domestic budget compared to a target of 14%. High transfer costs, reliance on informal routes, and a lack of skill diversification among migrant workers have also prevented remittance inflows from meeting expectations. Data gaps also hinder progress, particularly in monitoring and implementing the "39+1" National Priority Targets (NPTs) for SDG localization.

To draw FDI, it is recommended to expand the domestic tax base, strengthen public-private partnerships, and foster an atmosphere that is favourable to business. To help Bangladesh achieve its SDG goals, international cooperation should be strengthened, especially in sectors like trade, technology, and climate resilience. In order to address financial shortages and guarantee sustainable growth, it is also essential to implement cutting-edge financing strategies like impact investment and blended finance.

Progress of National Priority Targets

Bangladesh's "39+1" National Priority Targets (NPTs) show varying degrees of progress in localising the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Progress has been made in lowering poverty; in 2022, 5.6% of the population lived below the extreme poverty level. 99.5% of the population had access to electricity by 2024. However, in education, 86.85% of children completed primary education in 2023, requiring intervention to meet universal targets. Healthcare issues still exist, though, as the maternal mortality ratio in 2023 remained at 136 per 100,000 live births, well below the target of 70. Access to clean water and sanitation services also lags, with 71.22% of the population used safely managed drinking water and 69.7% of the population used safely managed sanitation services in 2023, showing stagnant progress. Internet usage reached 50.1% of the population in 2023, marking moderate progress toward the goal of 100%.

At the local level, the progress is hindered by data gaps, governance problems, and budgetary limitations. A major issue is financial inadequacy, as local government entities frequently have tight budgets that affect investments in social services, education, and infrastructure. In FY 2023–24, the government revenue-to-GDP ratio was 9.47%, well below the 20% target, highlighting the need for better resource mobilisation and creative financing strategies. Centralised decision-making and inadequate coordination between the national and local levels results in delays and inefficiencies. Furthermore, data collection and tracking systems need to be improved because inadequate data makes planning and resource allocation inefficient.

Improving governance frameworks, fortifying data systems, and establishing public-private partnerships to increase resource mobilisation are crucial to tackling these issues. Building sustainable and inclusive development paths also requires enhancing community engagement and integrating climate resilience into local development plans. The development of digital data collection technologies can support evidence-based policymaking. Enhancing local officials' capacity-building programs and promoting a participatory approach to SDG implementation will facilitate a more efficient and focused localisation process.

Challenges

Bangladesh faces several challenges in achieving the SDGs, many of which are interconnected and span across multiple goals. One of the main challenges is persistent inequality, which manifests in income, gender, and regional disparities. Although SDG 1 (No Poverty) in reducing poverty is on-track, marginalised groups like women, indigenous populations, and people with disabilities frequently continue to be excluded from economic, healthcare, and educational opportunities. Regional disparities, particularly between urban and rural areas, exacerbate these inequalities, with rural districts lagging behind in access to fundamental services; the issue of inequality also affects gender equality under SDG 5 (Gender Equality), where women face limited access to leadership roles, wage disparities, and gender-based violence, especially in rural areas.

Moreover, resource mobilization remains a critical constraint that impacts several SDGs, including SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), SDG 4 (Quality Education), and SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure). Public investments in healthcare, education, and infrastructure development are constrained by the low domestic revenue generation, which is only 9.47% of GDP. Additional obstacles to success include difficulties aligning donor priorities with country requirements and delays in obtaining foreign assistance and climate finances under SDG 13 (Climate Action). The limited fiscal space also affects SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), where investments in water treatment and waste management infrastructure are much needed. Additionally, it's critical to address the problems of unsafe drinking water management and poor sanitation, especially in rural and urban slums.

Since a large portion of the workforce works in the informal economy, where wages are low and employment rights are limited, economic issues under SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) are intimately related to labour market dynamics. Economic inclusion is still significantly hampered by youth unemployment and a large percentage of young people are not in education, employment, or training (NEET).

Unplanned urbanization adds another layer of complexity, significantly impacting SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) and SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production). Cities are experiencing rapid population growth that has outpaced the development of infrastructure, resulting in stressed public services. Overcrowding and inadequate waste management hinder informal settlements, especially in megacities like

Dhaka, which exacerbate environmental degradation. Since the use of fossil fuels contributes to pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, an excessive reliance on non-renewable energy sources under SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy) further exacerbates urban issues. Adopting eco-friendly methods and achieving global sustainability requirements are also challenges for the industrial sector, particularly the ready-made garment (RMG) sector.

Climate change also poses an existential threat, influencing multiple SDGs, including SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 14 (Life Below Water), and SDG 15 (Life on Land). Extreme weather events like floods and cyclones are becoming more frequent, endangering coastal lives, agricultural production, and food security. Large areas of agricultural land have become unused due to salinity intrusion, which has an impact on SDG 2 and creates vulnerabilities in food supply chains. The negative impacts on land and marine ecosystems also make it more difficult to conserve biodiversity, which puts sustainable practices under SDGs 14 and 15 in jeopardy.

Governance and institutional capacity present cross-cutting challenges that affect the achievement of SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions) and have implications for all other goals. The legal system remains overburdened, limiting access to justice, while Corruption and bureaucratic inefficiencies erode public trust and impede efficient service delivery. Data gaps further impede evidence-based decision and SDG progress tracking, especially in real-time and disaggregated data. Limited efficacy in utilising private-sector and international partnerships to mobilise resources and improve technology transfer is another issue under SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

The year 2025 marks a critical juncture in Bangladesh's journey toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. As the country navigates towards the final five years of the 2030 Agenda, this SDG Progress Report 2025 provides a comprehensive assessment of national achievements, ongoing challenges, and the strategic path forward. It reflects Bangladesh's unwavering commitment to sustainable development, inclusive growth, and the principles of "leaving no one behind."

Despite facing significant global and domestic challenges—including the lingering impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, and economic volatility—Bangladesh has demonstrated resilience and innovation in advancing its development priorities. The report highlights notable progress in areas such as poverty reduction, hunger, education, clean energy, and water and sanitation while also identifying gaps that require urgent attention, particularly in health systems strengthening, climate resilience, and decent work opportunities.

A high-level committee, the SDGs Implementation and Review (SIR) Committee, chaired by the Principal Coordinator (SDG Affairs) at the Chief Adviser's Office, oversees the progress of SDGs. The SIR committee comprises 45 ministries/divisions and integrating representatives from the private sector, civil society, and development partners. General Economics Division (GED) serves as the secretariat, and the Governance Innovation Unit (GIU) leads the SDGs Working Team, which ensures technical guidance and policy coherence. The National Data Coordination Committee (NDCC), chaired by the Secretary of Statistics and Informatics Division (SID), steers data harmonization, monitoring, and indicator validation. Additionally, 39+1 National Priority Targets (NPTs) have been established to align the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with subnational contexts, and efforts are underway to localize implementation through divisional, district, and upazila committees. These efforts reflect a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach to the 2030 Agenda.

At local level, SDGs Implementation and Coordination Affairs Committee has been established at divisional, district and upazila level. In these committees, apart from local administration and local government elected representatives, representatives from civil societies, NGOs, private sector and backward communities including minority groups, women organization and persons with disability are included. This is to ensure that SDGs implementation more participatory, inclusive, and transparent.

The Government of Bangladesh, in collaboration with development partners, civil society, and the private sector, continues to align national policies and planning frameworks with the SDGs. This report serves as both a stocktaking exercise and a forward-looking roadmap, emphasizing the importance of evidence-based policy, robust data systems, and inclusive governance.

As Bangladesh moves ahead with determination, the SDG Progress Report 2025 aims to foster greater accountability, encourage sustained investment in key sectors, and inspire collective action to ensure a just, equitable, and sustainable future for all citizens.

With five years remaining to achieve the SDG by 2030, the progress report 2025 aligns with other institutional transformations, such as the upcoming graduation from LDC status, evolving global norms around financing and partnerships, increasing urgency in climate action, and shifts in governance. These factors call for an adaptive, and well-informed planning process to be undertaken in the years to come.

1.2 Objectives of the Bangladesh SDGs Progress Report 2025

This report aims to serve not only as the current progress but also a way forward to achieve the SDGs by 2030. The specific aims of the Bangladesh SDG Progress Report 2025 are to

- provide a comprehensive assessment of the progress made toward each of the 17 SDGs;
- analyse indicator-wise achievements, gaps, and emerging trends;
- investigate the unique challenges that Bangladesh faces exacerbated by the geopolitical shifts and domestic events;
- evaluate the current state of SDG localization, with a focus on the 39+1 National Priority Targets, and assess their role in accelerating progress;
- synthesize lessons learned from the SDG implementation process to offer actionable recommendations for policymakers, stakeholders, and development partners.

1.3 Methodology

The SDG Progress Report is prepared, using a robust methodology to ensure both accuracy and policy relevance. The majority of the analysis is based on official sources of data including the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), the national SDG Tracker (www.sdg.gov.bd), and administrative records from relevant ministries and divisions. The methodology relied, additionally, on qualitative data from Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) and a number of interactions and consultations with government officials, knowledgeable peers (i.e., policy experts), representatives from think tanks and civil society to complement the quantitative data. The interviews provide contextual information on implementation challenges, progress to date and institutional reform.

1.4 Structure of the Report

The report is structured in 19 chapters providing a clear and comprehensive narrative on Bangladesh's SDG progress. The chapters focus on each SDGs, offering detailed analyses of progress, challenges, and opportunities for each goal, supported by data, projections, and stakeholder insights. Chapter 19 highlights Bangladesh's 39+1 National Priority Targets and explores the localization of SDGs, aligning global goals with the country's specific context.

CHAPTER 2

SDG 1

NO POVERTY

2.1. Background

In 2015, the United Nations stated that around 736 million people lived on less than $1.90 per day, providing a harsh reminder of the worldwide poverty scenario. Millions remain without adequate access to food, clean water, and sanitation, emphasising the need for change in the international development process. Sustainable Development Goal 1, which aims to eradicate extreme poverty by 2030, is one of the core objectives of the 2030 Agenda's overall vision. Goal 1 seeks to end poverty in all its forms everywhere, recognizing that poverty affects not only income but also access to education, food, healthcare, shelter, political participation, freedom of choice, safety, and dignity—all of which are essential for sustainable development.

2.2. Global and Regional Context

The COVID-19 pandemic pushed nearly 90 million people into extreme poverty, reversing years of progress. Despite the expansion of social protection measures, about 4 billion people—55% of the global population—remain unprotected. From February 2022 to February 2023, 105 countries introduced nearly 350 social protection measures, but 80% of these were temporary. If poverty-reduction efforts do not improve, an estimated 575 million people may remain in extreme poverty by 2030, with Sub-Saharan Africa notably affected. At the current rate, barely one-third of countries are on track to cut poverty in half by 2030 (United Nations, 2023).

Extreme poverty has decreased globally, with South Asia making the most rapid progress. In 2002, 40.4% of the South Asian population lived on less than $2.15 a day, compared to 26.9% globally. By 2022, South Asia's rate had fallen to 9.7%, nearly matching the global average of 9.0% (Figures 2.1 and 2.2).

Figure 2.1: World population living on less than $2.15

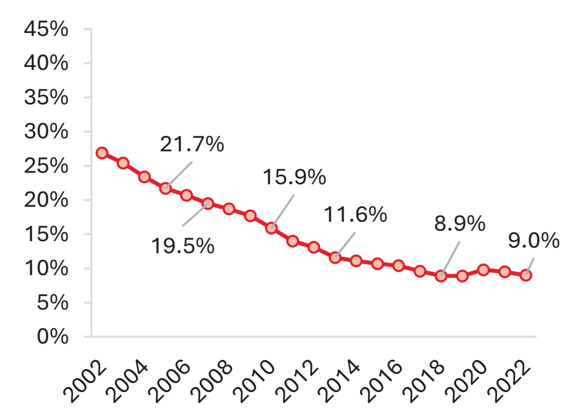
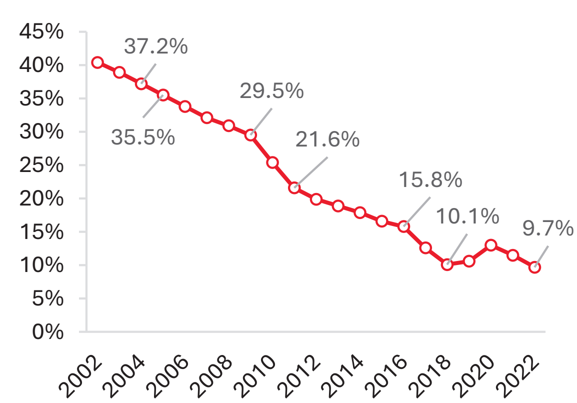


Figure 2.2: Population living on less than $2.15 in South Asia

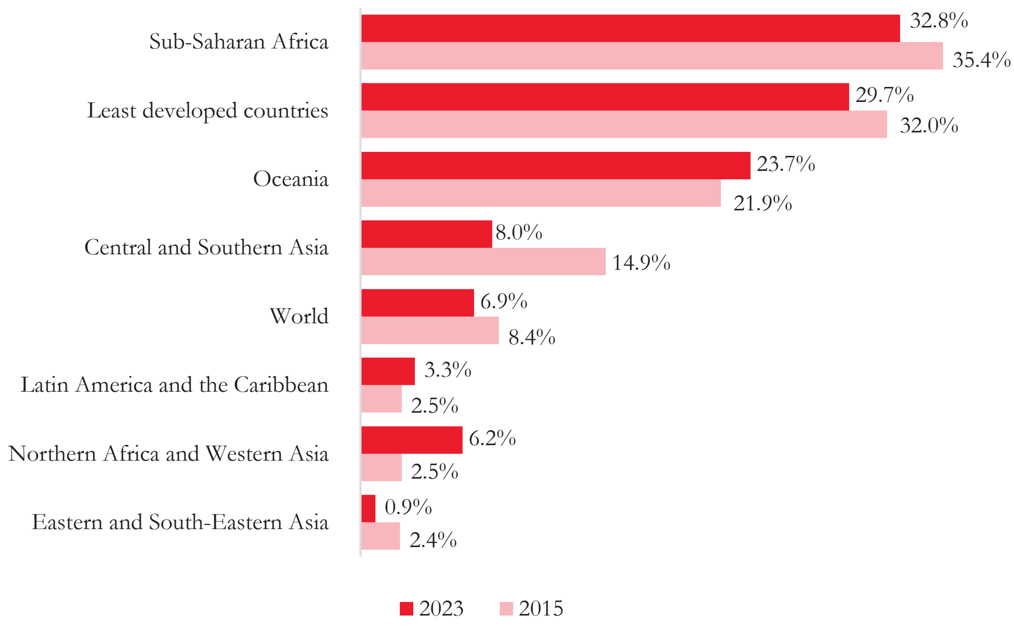


Source: World Bank

According to the Global SDG Report 2024, the working poverty, or the number of employed people living below the poverty line, is still unevenly spread among populations. For example, the youth are twice as likely as adults to be in working poverty, while women often have higher rates than men, with the greatest gender disparities occurring in the least developed countries (LDCs). Despite a minor improvement in the worldwide working poverty rate (from 8.4% to 6.9%), 241 million workers remained in extreme poverty in 2023.

Despite the worldwide positive trend, significant regional inequalities remain. Oceania (excluding Australia and New Zealand) experienced a significant increase in the number of employed people living on less than $2.15 per day, growing from 21.9% in 2015 to 23.7% in 2023. Sub-Saharan Africa, where over half of the global working poor reside, continues to face severe challenges, with 145 million workers living in extreme poverty. The region continues to experience a high prevalence of working poverty, though it saw a modest decrease from 35.4% to 32.8% (Figure 2.3).

Figure 2.3: Proportion of the employed population living below $2.15/day in 2015 and 2023 (%)



Source: The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2024, UN.

2.3. Assessment of Bangladesh's Progress on SDG 1

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

The percentage of the population living on less than $2.15 per day has significantly decreased. Between 2016 and 2022, the poverty rate in the country dropped from 13.5% to 5% in 2022 (Table 2.1), a total decrease of 8.5%.

Table 2.1: Proportion of population below the international poverty line ($2.15 a day)

2016 (Base)	2022	2025 (T)	2030 (T)
13.5	5	4.8	0

Source: World Bank.

Indicator 1.2.1. Proportion of population living below the national poverty line, by sex and age

The proportion of people living below the upper poverty line fell from 24.3% to 18.7% (Table 2.2). The decline in poverty was more pronounced in rural areas, where the rate dropped from 26.4% to 20.5% compared to urban areas, where it dropped from 18.9% to 14.7% over the period.

Table 2.2: Proportion of population living below the upper poverty line by national, rural and urban regions (%)

Time Period	2016 (Base Year)	2022	2025 (Target)	2030 (Target)
Urban	18.9	14.7	9.46	5.46
Rural	26.4	20.5	13.22	7.63
Total	24.3	18.7	12.17	7.02

Source: HIES, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS).

The proportion of the population living below the lower poverty line, indicating extreme poverty, has significantly declined over the years, as highlighted in Figure 1.5. At the national level, it has declined from 12.9% in 2016 to 5.6% in 2022. The drop in the rates was more evident in rural areas, with an 8.4% decline, compared to the 3.8% decline in urban areas.

Table 2.3: Proportion of population living below the lower poverty line by national, rural and urban regions (%)

Time Period	2016 (Base Year)	2022	2025 (Target)	2030 (Target)
Urban	7.6	3.8	3.11	1.5
Rural	14.9	6.5	6.1	2.9
Total	12.9	5.6	5.28	2.55

Source: HIES, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS).

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

Table 2.4 show that in 2019, 24% of the population was deprived of several areas of well-being, including health, education, and living standards. The "incidence" of multidimensional poverty—that is, the proportion of individuals who are impoverished in at least a particular percentage of weighted indicators across many dimensions—is captured by the headcount ratio. The overall degree of poverty across multiple dimensions is reflected in the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), which was 0.106.

Table 2.4: Proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions

Dimensions	2019
Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)	0.106
Headcount Ratio	24.05
Intensity	44.16

Source: MICS, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS).

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

Approximately half of the national population are social protection beneficiaries, exceeding the national SDG targets for 2025 and 2030. The coverage rate is significantly higher in rural areas (59.1%) compared to urban areas, indicating a disparity (Table 2.5).

Table 2.5: Proportion of social protection program beneficiaries by national, rural and urban

Year	2016 (Base)	2022	2025 (T)	2030 (T)
National	28.7%	50%	35%	40%
Rural	35.7%	59.1%	-	-
Urban	10.9%	30.7%	-	-

Source: HIES, BBS.

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

In Bangladesh, the proportion of households with access to these services has seen gradual improvement. For example, in 2021, just 2.6% of the population had access to basic services, rising to 3.7% the following year. The proportion of households with access further increased to 12.5% in 2023, reflecting a decent shift in service availability (Table 2.6).

Despite progress, the overall percentage of households with access to all basic services remains low.

Table 2.6: Proportion of households living with access to basic services

Year	Status
2021	2.56%
2022	3.65%
2023	12.54%

Source: SVRS, BBS

1.4.2.a Proportion of total adult population with secure tenure rights to land with legally recognized documentation, by sex and type of tenure

There is a glaring gender gap in land tenure security in 2020 with 8% of women having legally recognised documentation were female, compared to 44.6% of men.

Table 2.7: Proportion of total adult population with secure tenure rights to land with legally recognized documentation, by sex and type of tenure

Years	2020
Male	44.6
Female	8
Total	26.23

Source: ASC, BBS

1.4.2.b Proportion of total adult population with secure tenure rights to land who perceive their rights to land as secure, by sex and type of tenure

Similarly, gender disparity can be seen in the perception of the security of land rights, with 41.9% of men and 7.26% of women perceiving their land rights to be secure, as of 2020.

Table 2.8: Proportion of total adult population with secure tenure rights to land who perceive their rights to land as secure, by sex and type of tenure

Years	2020
Male	41.9
Female	7.26
Total	24.51

Source: ASC, BBS

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

The number of people affected by disasters has been declining since 2017, from 5223.84to 200.84in 2023 (Table 2.9), The influence of numerous small and large-scale calamities is to blame for this growth.

Table 2.9: Number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population

2017 (Base)	2020	2023	2025 (T)	2030 (T)
5223.84	2441.52	200.84	2,000	1,500

Source: BDRHS, BBS

1.5.2. Direct economic loss attributed to disasters in relation to global gross domestic product (GDP)

In 2015, the direct economic loss caused by disasters amounted to 1.3% of global GDP, which increased to 1.32% in 2021. With the growing recognition of the economic impact of these events, efforts are focused on reducing this percentage, setting targets of 1.1% in 2025 and 1% by 2030 (Table 2.10). While these targets are optimistic, the lack of reliable data in the years following 2021 creates challenges in tracking progress accurately. This data gap raises concerns about the potential for expectation bias, making it difficult to fully assess whether the desired reduction will be achieved as planned.

Table 2.10: Direct economic loss attributed to disasters in relation to global gross domestic product (GDP)

2015 (Base)	2021	2025 (T)	2030 (T)
1.3	1.32	1.1	1

Source: BDRHS, BBS

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

As of 2020, 11.9% local governments had established and put into practice local Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) plans, falling significantly short of 2025 and 2030 national SDG targets (Table 2.11). Going forward, the Local Government Division (LGD) needs to supervise the creation of local DRR strategies across all local government institutions, working in line with the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR) and the Urban Development Directorate (UDD) to make sure they are in line with national disaster risk reduction goals.

Table 2.11: Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies

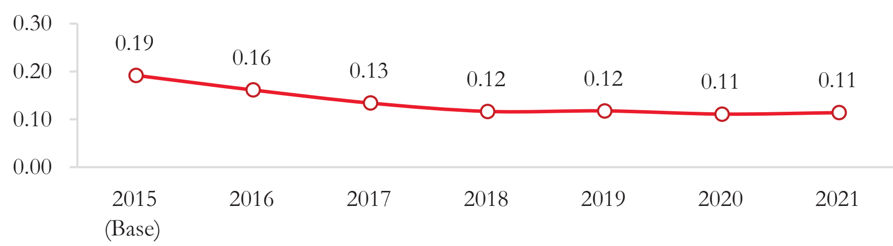
Local governments	2019 (Base)	2020	2025 (T)	2030 (T)
Total	-	11.93		
City Corporations	8.3%		30%	100%
Paurashava	0.9%		30%	100%

Source: Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR).

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

Over the years, Official Development Assistance (ODA) grants dedicated to poverty reduction have shown a steady decline. From 2015 to 2021, the assistance amount dropped from 0.19% to 0.11% of Bangladesh's gross national income (see Figure 2.4). The highest reduction took place between 2015 and 2017, followed by a slower, more gradual decrease. This trend reflects a diminishing share of aid being allocated specifically to poverty reduction efforts, indicating a shift in the focus of development partners.

Figure 2.4: Total official development assistance grants that focus on poverty reduction as a share of the recipient country's gross national income (%)



Source: Economic Relations Division

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

Between 2015 and 2020, government spending on essential services—education, health, and social protection—has shown varying trends, with each sector receiving different levels of investment (see Table 2.12). Education spending peaked at 15.1% in 2021 but fluctuated throughout the years. Health spending remained fairly consistent, around 5%, with a modest rise to 5.2% in 2021. On the other hand, social protection spending demonstrated a slight increase, reaching 16.8% in 2021. The inconsistency in data over the years prevents any reliable projections, making it difficult to draw definitive conclusions about future trends.

Table 2.12: Proportion of total government spending on essential services (education, health and social protection)

	2015 (Base)	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Education	13.71	11.95	14.39	11.8	15.7	15.1
Health	5.1	4.8	5.14	5.1	4.17	5.2
Social Spending	14.99	13.6	13.28	14.5	16.32	16.8

Source: Finance Division

1.b.1 Pro-poor public social spending

The data from 2016 to 2022 shows a positive trend, with spending increasing from 13.6% in 2016 to 17.9% in 2022, indicating a commitment to pro-poor investments (see Table 2.13). However, the drop in spending in 2017 (12.8%) highlights the need for consistent policy focus. Continued efforts are necessary to increase this expenditure, for the poor and contributes to the broader goal of poverty reduction.

Table 2.13: Pro-poor public social spending (%)

2016 (Base)	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
13.6	12.8	14.5	16.3	17.7	17.75	17.87

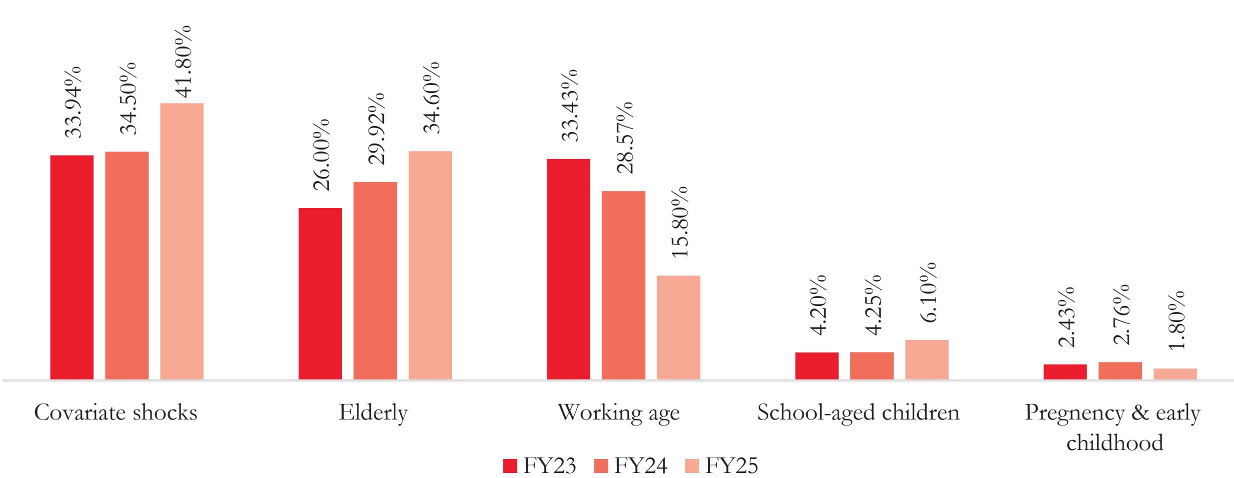
Source: Finance Division

2.4. Key Policies and Strategies to Achieve SDG 1

According to the Household Income and Expenditure Survey 2022, the extreme poverty rate in Bangladesh is 5.6%, whereas the moderate poverty rate is 18.7%. To alleviate poverty and vulnerability, the government of Bangladesh has been providing social protection support in different forms. Moreover, the social protection system was restructured in 2015 when the government implemented the National Social Security Strategy (NSSS), adopting a lifecycle-based approach. With the budget for social protection increasing over the years, for the recent proposed budget (FY25), the allocation stands at BDT 1,36,026 crores or 17.06% of the national budget. Out of 140 social protection programmes, 55 are classified as social assistance programmes.

There have been some priority shifts, as evidenced by the budgetary allocation for social protection between FY23 and FY25. A stronger emphasis on tackling large-scale risks is evident with the increase in the allocation for managing covariate shocks (i.e., seasonal poverty or natural disasters), which went from 33.94% in FY23 to 41.80% in FY25. The working-age population's budget share, however, has significantly decreased from 33.43% in FY23 to just 15.80% by FY25, indicating a move away from direct assistance for this demographic. Furthermore, compared to other lifecycles, the allocation for pregnancy, early childhood, and school-aged children is noticeably smaller.

Figure 2.5: Allocation of social protection budget by life cycles between 2023 to 2025



Source: Finance Division, 2024.

2.5. Major Challenges and Way Forward

Bangladesh's poverty reduction efforts face a range of challenges, complicated further by global and regional dynamics. Among these, the COVID-19 pandemic has had a profound, lasting impact on economic structures, influencing poverty rates and exacerbating inequalities in unexpected ways. Although immediate effects were addressed in the 2022 SDG report, the ongoing structural shifts call for attention as they continue to shape Bangladesh's social and economic landscape, requiring sustained attention

Multidimensional Poverty Remains High: The limited emphasis on a multidimensional approach leads to poverty reduction efforts focusing on income poverty, resulting in persistent deprivations in access to basic services (1.4.1). Although income-based poverty has decreased over time, as noted in indicator 1.2.2, 24% of the population continues to experience multidimensional poverty, facing significant challenges in health, education, and living standards. Moving beyond income and considering factors such as health, education, housing, and access to clean water and sanitation will offer a more accurate understanding of poverty and facilitate more targeted interventions aimed at reducing multidimensional poverty.

Persistent Rural-Urban Disparities in Poverty Reduction and Social Protection Coverage: Despite the progress in national poverty rate reduction, the percentage remains significantly higher in rural areas compared to urban regions on both upper and lower poverty lines. On the contrary, social protection coverage seems to be more focused on rural areas than urban regions. Despite this emphasis, the high poverty rate in rural areas indicates that economic growth and poverty alleviation programs may not be sufficient or reach rural communities effectively. A balanced approach is needed to ensure social protection measures reach both urban and rural populations effectively and address specific challenges such as informal employment and old-age insecurity.

Gender Disparities in Land Ownership and Tenure Security: A significant challenge in property rights is the gender inequality in land ownership and security. As discussed in indicator 1.4.2, in 2020, only 8% of women had legally recognised land ownership, against 44.6% of men. Similarly, just 7.26% of women perceived their land tenure as secure, compared to 41.9% of men. This disparity limits women's economic empowerment and restricts their ability to leverage land as a financial asset, reinforcing broader social and economic inequalities. Policies promoting women's access to land and its security, like awareness programs and opportunities to leverage land as an economic asset, will be crucial in addressing this disparity.

Challenges in Meeting Disaster Risk Reduction Target: Although the number of people affected by disasters has decreased from 2014 to 2019, the number of deaths per 100,000 people due to disasters has risen (from 0.20 per 100,000 in 2014 to 0.32 in 2019). Additionally, with most city corporations and paurashavas failing to adopt and implement Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) measures, to attain the 2030 national SDG targets of 100%, focus on capacity-building is essential so that local governments have the tools and strategies necessary to implement DRR initiatives effectively.

Declining International Development Assistance (ODA): The share of Official Development Assistance (ODA) (% of GNI) dedicated to poverty reduction illustrated a declining trend over the years, as mentioned in indicator 1.a.1 This reduction (dropped from 0.19% in 2015 to 0.11% in 2021) threatens the effectiveness of ongoing initiatives and limits the resources available to address persistent and emerging poverty challenges. Strengthening domestic resource mobilisation and international advocacy is crucial in this regard.

2.6. Summary

SDG 1 highlights poverty as a multidimensional phenomenon encompassing financial deprivation and limited access to education, food, healthcare, shelter, and political inclusion. While the national poverty rate in Bangladesh decreased from 40% to 18.7% between 2000 and 2022, further efforts to eradicate poverty are hampered by disparities in social protection coverage, gender gaps, and shortcomings in land tenure security, and limited adoption of disaster risk reduction strategies by local government. Declining international aid and a lack of support for disadvantaged populations, especially women and people in their working years, are also major obstacles. Both targeted investment in poverty alleviation and the establishment of universal social safety systems are needed to overcome these obstacles.

Expanding urban social protection and boosting investments in essential services like sanitation, health, and education must be Bangladesh's top priorities to progress toward eradicating poverty. The progress can be further accelerated by enhancing rural economic prospects through entrepreneurial and job creation efforts by expanding microfinance services, mobilizing NGOs, and engaging with the private sector.

CHAPTER 3

SDG 2

ZERO HUNGER

3.1. Background

The United Nations (UN) recognizes that extreme hunger and malnutrition are major obstacles to sustainable development, extending poverty and limiting human potential. Moreover, hunger hinders progress across several SDGs, including those focused on health, education, and gender equality, as malnutrition reduces productivity, raises susceptibility to illness, and restricts opportunities for economic improvement. When the 2030 agenda was launched in 2015, nearly one out of every nine people worldwide faced undernourishment, highlighting the importance of pursuing the SDG 2 targets of ending global hunger, achieving food security and improved nutrition, and promoting sustainable agriculture

3.2. Global and Regional Context

According to the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2023 report, global hunger, measured by the prevalence of undernourishment (PoU), remained steady between 2021 and 2022, affecting 9.2% of the population, up from 7.9% in 2019. Rising food and energy prices, and agricultural input costs exacerbated by the Russia-Ukraine conflict and slowed pandemic recovery efforts, are impacting vulnerable groups' incomes and stalling hunger reduction efforts. While hunger declined in Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean, Africa faced a setback, with hunger rates rising from 19.4% in 2021 to 19.7% in 2022, impacting nearly 11 million people (Figure 3.1). In Asia, hunger decreased by 12 million, largely due to improvements in South Asia, where all countries except Pakistan and Iran saw reductions in hunger from 2020 to 2022 (Figure 3.2). By 2030, substantial progress is expected in Asia, but limited improvements are projected in Latin America and the Caribbean, with hunger anticipated to rise further in Africa.

Figure 3.1: Prevalence of undernourishment in different regions (%)

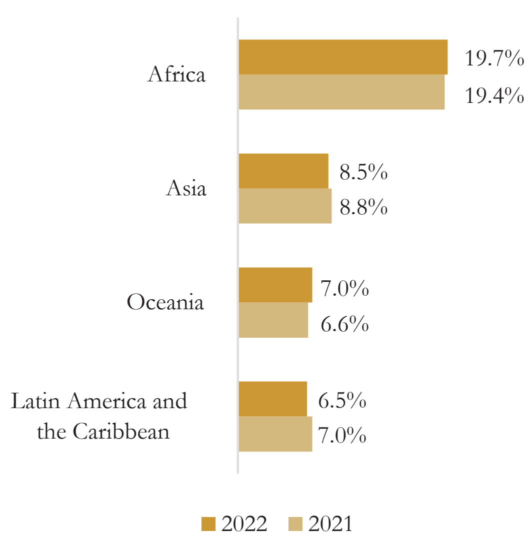
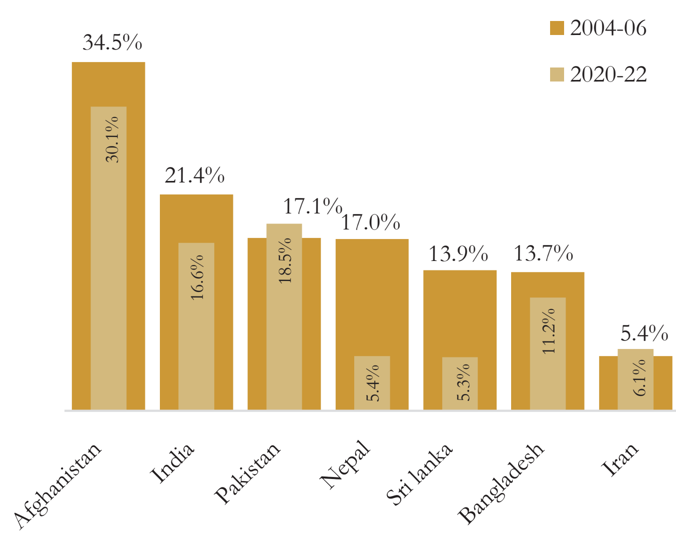


Figure 3.2: Prevalence of undernourishment in Southern Asian Countries (%)

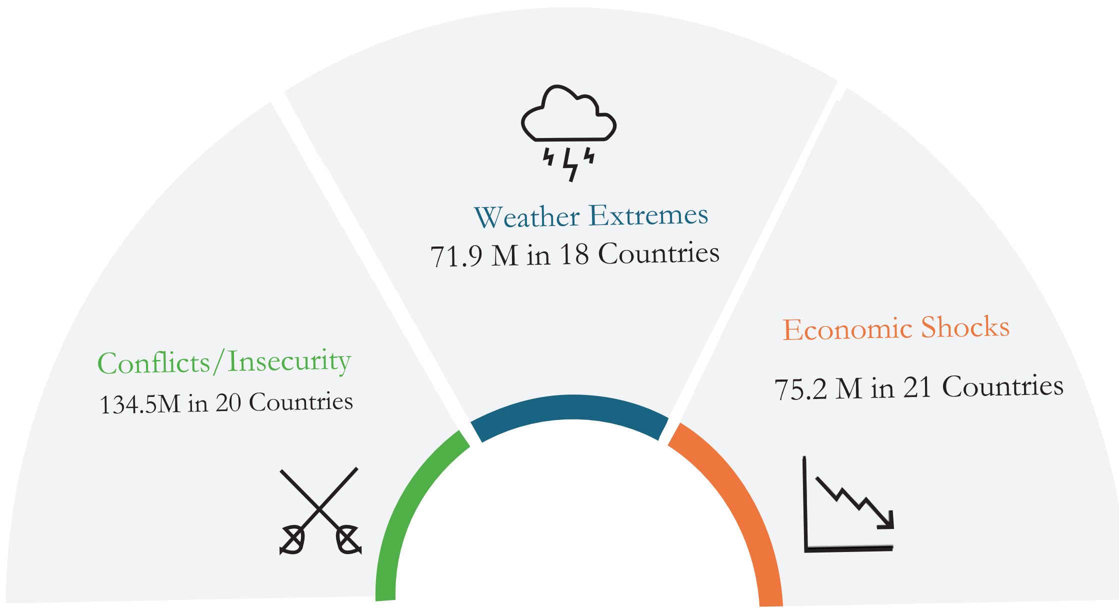


Source: FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP, 2023.

By 2030, the target of eradicating hunger worldwide is not on track to be met. According to the 2024 Global Report on Food Crises, over 59.8 million people, or nearly one-third of the population, experienced severe food insecurity in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka in 2023. Bangladesh is one of the worst-hit countries, with 11.9 million people living in severe food insecurity. Broadly, approximately 281.6

million people were impacted overall when 59 nations and territories were included. Conflict, harsh weather, and economic shocks were identified as the root causes of this global food insecurity situation (Figure 3.3).

Figure 3.3: Number of affected people by primary drivers of acute food insecurity in 2023



Source: Global Report on Food Crisis 2024.

Note: Economic shocks include the indirect impact of COVID-19 in 2020 and 2021 and the effects of the war in Ukraine in 2022.

3.3. Assessment of National Progress on SDG 2

Indicator 2.1.1. Prevalence of undernourishment

The table indicates a steady decline in the prevalence of undernourishment in Bangladesh, decreasing from 16.4% in 2016 to 14.7% in 2018. This trend suggests a gradual improvement in food security. The target for 2025 is set at 12%, with a more ambitious goal of 10% by 2030. While this progress is positive, continued efforts are essential to address the remaining gaps.

Table 3.1: Prevalence of undernourishment in Bangladesh (%)

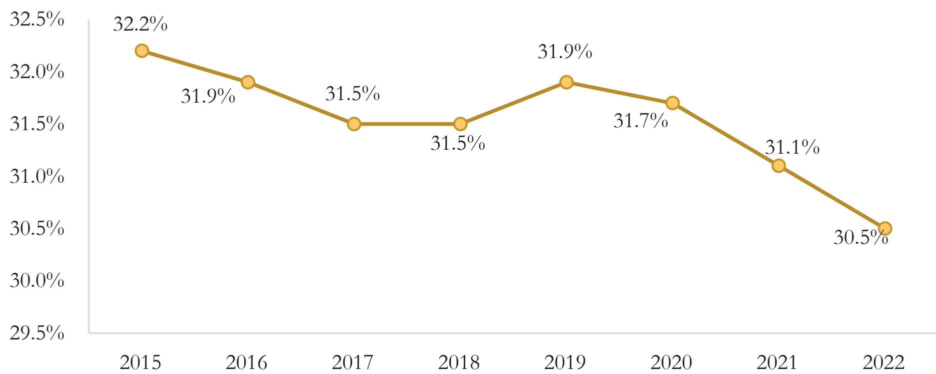
2016 (Base)	2017	2018	2025 (T)	2030 (T)
16.4	15.2	14.7	12	10

Source: FAO

Indicator 2.1.2. Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population, based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES)

The percentage of moderate or severe food insecurity declined overall from 32.2% in 2015 to 30.5% in 2022, reflecting gradual progress. However, the trend was interrupted by a slight increase in 2019 (31.9%). Subsequent declines in the rates resumed post-2019, and in 2022, the prevalence dropped to the lowest point of 30.5% (Figure 3.4).

Figure 3.4: The prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in Bangladesh (%)



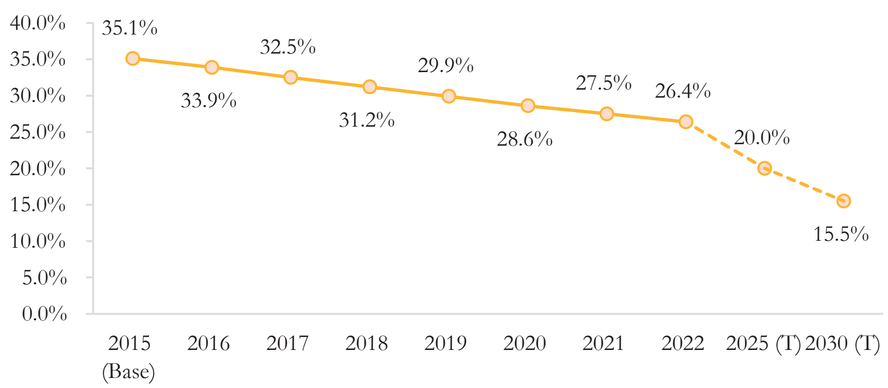
Source: FAOSTAT.

Moreover, as per the Food Security Assessment and FIES Survey 2023, around 21.92% of people in Bangladesh faced moderate food insecurity, with 0.82% of the population experiencing severe food insecurity.

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

The fight against childhood stunting in Bangladesh reveals a positive trend in the field of public health. Bangladesh saw a consistent decline in stunting rates, marking a nearly 9 percentage point drop, from 35.1 per cent in 2015 to 26.4 per cent in 2022 (see Figure 3.5).

Figure 3.5: Prevalence of stunting in children under 5 (%)



Source: BDHS, NIPORT, MICS, BBS

Indicator 2.2.2. Prevalence of malnutrition (weight for height >+2 or <-2 standard deviations from the median of the WHO Child Growth Standards) among children under 5 years of age, by type (wasting and overweight)

In Bangladesh, proportion of children moderately or severely overweight has been declining. Starting at just 9.6% in 2013, the prevalence of overweight children under five has fallen to 1.5% by 2022 (see Table 3.2). Despite the substantial decline, the need for targeted interventions to curb childhood obesity and promote healthier early-life nutrition and lifestyle habits remains, as the national SDG targets for 2025 and 2030 for obesity rates are 1%.

Table 3.2: Proportion of children moderately or severely overweight

2013 (Base)	2019	2022	2025 (T)	2030 (T)
9.6	9.8	1.5	1	1

Source: BDHS, NIPORT, MICS, BBS

Table 3.3 presents the prevalence of wasting, a form of acute malnutrition, among children under five in Bangladesh. The rate increased from 1.6% in 2013 to 2.4% in 2019, indicating a negative trend, signalling the need for intensified nutrition and child health interventions to prevent further deterioration.

Table 3.3: Prevalence of wasting among children under 5 (%)

2013 (Base)	2019	2025 (T)	2030 (T)
1.6	2.4	7	5

Source: MICS, BBS

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

Anaemia prevalence among women aged 15 to 49 in Bangladesh has been slowly increasing from 35.90% in 2015 to 36.7% in 2019. The rising trend reflects a longstanding challenge in addressing anaemia effectively and emphasises the need for stronger maternal and reproductive health interventions.

Table 3.4: Prevalence of anaemia among women aged 15 to 49 years (%)

Year	Bangladesh
2015	35.90%
2019	36.70%
2025(T)	30%
2030(T)	20%

Source: WHO

Indicator 2.3.1. Volume of production per labour unit by classes of farming/pastoral/forestry enterprise size

In 2020, the value of the annual agricultural output generated per labour day by the small-scale food producers of Bangladesh was equivalent to 13.41 USD (2017 PPP). No further data is available to comment on trends or targets.

Indicator 2.3.2. Average income of small-scale food producers, by sex and indigenous status

In 2020, the average annual income of Bangladeshi small-scale food producers was equal to 545.96 USD (2017 PPP).

Indicator 2.4.1. Proportion of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture

In 2025, 44.37% of Bangladesh's agricultural area can be classified as productive and sustainable agriculture. Table 3.5 highlights progress and gaps in sustainable agriculture, the proportion of agricultural land achieving food security is remarkably high at 98.83%, water availability management is strong (81.66%), and secure land tenure rights are robust at 89.35%.

However, pesticide/fertilizer management (around 51-57%) is comparatively lower. While the proportion of agricultural land with desirable net farm income (78.78%), good soil health (72.75%) and agro-biodiversity (71.05%) show promise, efforts should prioritize boosting productivity and fertilizer and pesticide management.

Table 3.5: Proportion of agricultural land area under productive and sustainable agriculture (%)

Subcategory	%
Achieved an acceptable or desirable level of use of agro-biodiversity supportive practices	71.05
Achieved an acceptable or desirable level of wage rate in agriculture	60.12
Achieved an acceptable or desirable level of management of fertilizers	56.95
Achieved an acceptable or desirable level of food security	98.83
Achieved an acceptable or desirable level of farm output value per hectare	44.37
Achieved an acceptable or desirable level of variation in water availability	81.66
Achieved an acceptable or desirable level of secure tenure rights to agricultural land	89.35
Achieved an acceptable or desirable level of net farm income	78.79
Achieved an acceptable or desirable level of management of pesticides	51.37
Achieved an acceptable or desirable level of risk mitigation mechanisms	69.16
Achieved an acceptable or desirable level of soil degradation	72.75

Source: Productive and Sustainable Agriculture Survey, BBS.

Indicator 2.5.1: Number of plant and/or animal genetic resources for food and agriculture secured in either medium or long-term conservation facilities

According to the Bangladesh Rice Research Institute, the number of plant and animal genetic resources has been steadily rising from 2018 to 2023 from 8578 to 8868, exceeding the 2025 target of 8850 and being on track to achieve the 2030 target of 9100 (see Table 2.6). Similarly, the Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute (BFRI) reported that the number had increased by 44% from 280 to 417, exceeding both the 2025 and 2030 targets. Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) further noted an increase in the number of plant and animal genetic resources stored by 15.4% between 2016 and 2023, from 33064 to 38185.

Focusing specifically on the number of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture secured for conservation, the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI), Bangladesh Institute of Nuclear Agriculture (BINA) and Bangladesh Jute Research Institute (BJRI), reported a rising trend. On the other hand, focusing specifically on the number of animal genetic resources stored for conservation, the Bangladesh Livestock Research Institute (BLRI) noted a rising trend from 70 in 2015 to 81 in 2021. However, the BFRI reported that the number of animal genetic resources secured fluctuated, rising from 18 to 260 between 2018 and 2019, falling back to 23 in 2020 and finally increasing steadily from 31 to 40 between 2021 and 2023.

Table 3.6: Number of plant and animal genetic resources for food and agriculture secured in either medium or long-term conservation facilities

Institutions	Type	2015 (Base)	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025 (T)	2030 (T)
BRRI	Plants and animals	8051	-	-	8578	8578	8615	8659	8734	8868	-	8850	9100
BARI	Plant	-	-	10507	10799	10799	-	11699	-	-	-	13500	15000
BINA	Plant	1424	1980	2024	2065	2094	-	-	-	-	-	2500	3300
BJRI	Plant	6012	-	-	-	6027	-	-	-	-	-	6500	6700
BFRI	Animal	213	-	-	18	260	23	31	37	40	-	-	-
BLRI	Animal	70	-	-	-	77	-	81	-	-	-	-	-
BFRI	Plants and animals	280	300	330	338	352	362	371	382	403	417	98	108
BARC	Plants and animals	-	33064	33208	33210	34594	34594	34594	36119	38185	-	-	-

Source: Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI), Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI), Bangladesh Institute of Nuclear Agriculture (BINA), Bangladesh Jute Research Institute (BJRI), Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute (BFRI), Bangladesh Livestock Research Institute (BLRI), Bangladesh Forest Research Institute (BFRI), Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC)

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

The Agriculture Orientation Index (AOI) measures the focus of government spending on agriculture by comparing the sector's share of public expenditure with its contribution to GDP. It includes agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting, offering insight into the adequacy of public investment in boosting productivity, income, and efficiency through physical or human capital [[1]]. Although AOI fluctuated between 0.48 and 0.57 between 2016 and 2021, since 2022, it has been increasing from 0.61 to 0.78 in 2024.

Table 3.7: Agriculture orientation index for government expenditures

2016 (Base)	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025 (T)	2030 (T)
0.56	0.57	0.48	0.53	0.48	0.48	0.61	0.79	0.78	0.85	1

Source: BBS

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

Table 3.8 illustrates the trend in agriculture export subsidies received by Bangladesh from 2015 to 2023, along with projections for 2025 and 2030. The value fluctuated over the years, beginning at USD 215 million in 2015, dropping in 2017, and then rising significantly to USD 458.4 million in 2023. The targets are set at USD 400 million for 2025 and USD 500 million for 2030, reflecting a strategic focus on enhancing agricultural exports through increased official financial support.

Table 3.8: Agriculture export subsidies (millions of current US dollars)

2015	2017	2018	2020	2021	2022	2023	2025 (T)	2030 (T)
215	171.4	228.12	211.8	356	338.68	458.4	400	500

Source: Economic Relations Division

1 FAO

Indicator 2.b.1: Agricultural Export Subsidies

To prevent trade restrictions and distortions in the world agricultural markets, Bangladesh has been gradually reducing the amount of export subsidies it provides to the agricultural sector since 2022, falling from 101.8 million US dollars to 48.6 million US dollars, well below both the 2025 and 2030 national SDG targets of 73 and 70 million US dollars, respectively.

Table 3.9: Agriculture export subsidies (millions of current US dollars)

2016 (Base)	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025 (T)	2030 (T)
54.7	62.2	76.9	73.7	113.9	99.7	101.8	58.6	48.6	73	70

Source: Bangladesh Bank

Indicator 2.c.1. Indicator of food price anomalies

Table 3.10 presents data on the indicator of food price anomalies for key staples in Bangladesh for the years 2016 and 2017. The score for rice (Najir/Minicat) increased from 0.6 in 2016 to 1.6 in 2017, indicating a deviation from normal price trends, likely due to supply disruptions or market shocks. Wheat prices remained relatively stable, with only minor fluctuations. The Consumer Food Price Index (CFPI) also rose from 0.2 to 1.2, suggesting broader food inflation pressures during that period. These trends underscore the volatility of food prices, particularly for rice, which is a staple in the Bangladeshi diet.

Table 3.10: Indicator of food price anomalies

Year		2016 (Base)	2017
Commodity	Rice (Boiled, Najir/Minicat, equivalent)	0.6	1.6
	Wheat	0.7	0.6
Consumer Food Price Index		0.2	1.2

Source: FAO

3.4. Key Policies and Strategies to Achieve SDG 2

To accomplish Sustainable Development Goal 2, Bangladesh has put in place several focused policies and initiatives. The government's food assistance programs, which offer food help to low-income groups and government employees, are an essential component of this endeavour. The Ministry of Food (MoF) oversees the Open Market Sale (OMS) program, which aims to protect disadvantaged communities from abrupt price increases by stabilizing seasonal food grain prices. The largest of its kind, the Food-Friendly Program (FFP), is another pillar that ensures food access during times of scarcity by providing 30 kg of rice per month to eligible families during lean seasons (March–April and September–November). Other programs, such as the Other Priorities (OP) and Essential Priorities (EP), are designed to reduce price volatility during crucial times.

The National Nutrition Policy 2015 targets the root causes of malnutrition, particularly in vulnerable groups like mothers, adolescents, and children, with a focus on the first 1,000 days of life. The policy is operationalized through the Second National Plan of Action for Nutrition (NPAN2), covering 2016-2025, which outlines sector-specific strategies to improve national nutritional standards. However, challenges like limited funding, resource competition, and limited awareness of malnutrition's impact threaten the policy's progress.

In 2020, the Government of Bangladesh approved the National Food and Nutrition Security Policy (NFNSP) to help it achieve SDG-aligned food and nutrition security by 2030. Food availability, affordable access to nutrient-dense food, dietary diversity, the extension of social protection, and improved cross-sectoral governance and collaborations are all addressed in the accompanying Plan of Action (PoA) for 2021–2030, which is in line with the Eighth and Ninth Five-Year Plans.

3.5. Major Challenges and Way Forward

Global progress towards achieving SDG 2 has been severely set back by global events such as the COVID-19 pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine conflict. Many countries are now off track to meet the 2030 targets, with food insecurity levels reverting to those of 2015. The interconnectedness of global health threats, geopolitical tensions, and climate change has compounded resource degradation, economic hardship, and social instability. These challenges require systemic solutions to advance toward SDG 2 by 2030.

Challenges in Sustaining Progress for Undernourishment: Notwithstanding the progress in reducing undernourishment over the years, recent statistics as explored in Indicator 2.1.1 show fluctuation (an increase from 11.9% in 2019 to 12.1% in 2020 before returning to 11.9% in 2022), possibly an effect of the disruption brought by the COVID-19 pandemic. The fluctuation indicates persistent challenges, especially for low-income groups, in ensuring consistent access to sufficient nutritious food, raising concerns about sustaining progress to keep the undernourishment at 12% according to the 2025 target.

Slow Paced Reduction in Food Insecurity and Economic Barriers to Progress: While food insecurity has declined over the year, the slow-paced reduction leads to a significant portion (30.5% in 2022, see Indicator 2.1.2) struggling with access to sufficient food, making recent progress inadequate to attain the 24.2% target of 2025.

Insufficient Progress in Reducing Childhood Stunting: The gradual decline in childhood stunting reflects deep-rooted issues such as persistent poverty and limited access to diverse and nutrient-rich foods. During the period 2015-2022, the progress against stunting might seem positive (declining from 35.1% in 2015 to 26.4% in 2022, see Indicator 2.2.1), yet the current pace of reduction seems insufficient to achieve the 20% and 15.5% targets of 2025 and 2030 respectively. A multi-faceted approach such as investing in maternal health programs to provide better nutrition, iron, and folic acid supplementation, and promoting awareness about healthy eating during pregnancy can be expanded.

High Anaemia Rates among Women: Anaemia continues to be a chronic public health issue in Bangladesh among reproductive-aged women, with minimal advancement towards its reduction. According to WHO data, from 2015 to 2019, the prevalence was more or less stable, ranging from 35.9% to 36.7%. At this progress rate, it is challenging to meet the national SDG target of 30% by 2025. Furthermore, the lack of recent statistics beyond 2019 limits the ability to monitor trends effectively and introduce targeted interventions. Stronger efforts to improve iron and micronutrient intake, coupled with increasing awareness about dietary sources of iron, can significantly reduce anaemia prevalence.

3.6. Summary

Despite global progress toward "zero hunger", challenges persist due to inequality in food distribution, climate change, economic shocks, and geopolitical conflicts like the Russia-Ukraine war. These crises have disrupted global food systems, reversing progress in several regions, especially Africa and parts of Asia. In Bangladesh, undernourishment declined from 15.6% in 2013 to 11.9% in 2022, although acute food insecurity still affects 11.9 million people. Childhood stunting also decreased from 42.2% in 2010 to 26.4% in 2022, but challenges such as rising anaemia in women, increasing childhood obesity, and persistent malnutrition highlight the need for focused interventions.

To improve food security and nutrition, Bangladesh has put in place a number of laws and initiatives, including the National Food Policy and the National Nutrition Policy. However, there are still significant gaps, especially in the areas of sustainable agriculture, urban social protection, and meeting the nutritional needs of vulnerable populations like women and children. Given that resource deterioration and climate change pose a danger to agricultural productivity, the nation also has difficulties striking a balance between environmental sustainability and food production. The main points of the recommendations are to increase women's empowerment, support organic farming, broaden social security programs, and guarantee fair access to resources. To achieve the "Zero Hunger" target and guarantee sustained progress by 2030, strengthened governance, diverse funding, and integrated policies in line with the SDG framework are crucial.

CHAPTER 4

SDG 3

GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

4.1. Background

Ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for people of all ages is the third Sustainable Development Goal (SDG). The goal covers important facets of health, from lowering maternal and child mortality to preventing infectious and non-communicable diseases, comprising 13 different targets and 28 related indicators. Non-pathological health indicators like exposure to air pollution, traffic accident fatalities, and access to reproductive health care and universal health coverage are also highlighted. Taken as a whole, these targets reflect the strategy for reaching desired health outcomes globally.

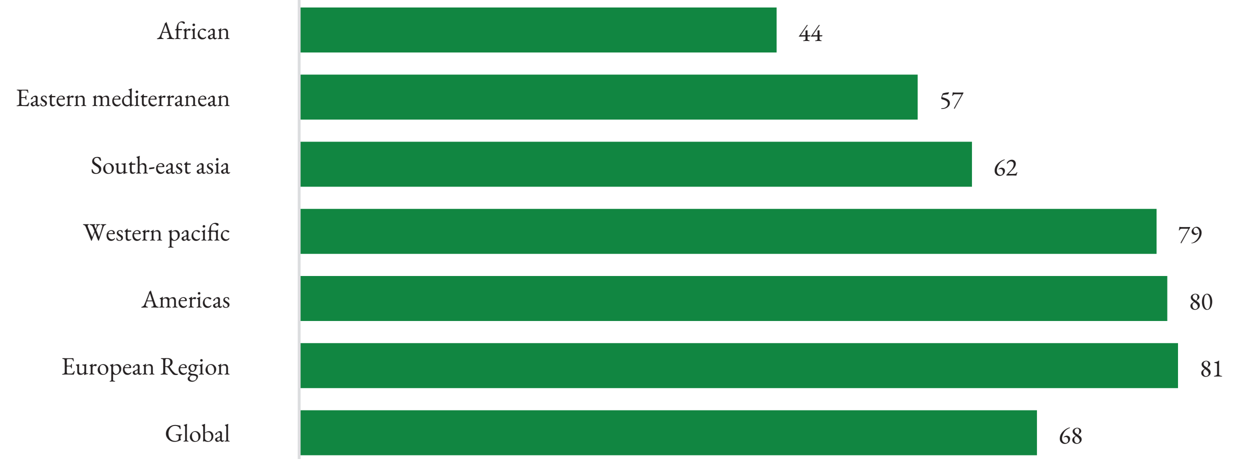
4.2. Global and Regional Context

From a global and regional perspective, the significance of Sustainable Development Goal 3 (SDG 3) has increased, especially in the postCOVID-19 pandemic scenario. In addition to claiming numerous lives, COVID-19 revealed serious weaknesses in healthcare systems around the globe, undoing progress made in public health.

Before the pandemic, regional differences in SDG 3 progress were notable. Southeast Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa were lagging behind other regions in reaching their goals. Some metrics, such as under-five mortality rate, showed improvement, with 146 out of 200 countries having met or being on track to meet their targets. For other targets, the world continues to fall short; for example, while the global maternal mortality ratio (MMR) has fallen from 227 to 223 deaths per 100,000 live births between 2015 and 2020, it is still three times higher than the 2030 target of 70 deaths per 100,000 live births (United Nations, 2023).

Moreover, declining infant immunisation rates, rising tuberculosis and malaria fatalities, and lacklustre growth in the Universal Health Coverage Index exemplify the extent of global setbacks (Figure 4.1).

Figure 4.1: Population-Weighted Universal Health Care Service Coverage in 2021 (regional comparison)



Source: Tracking Universal Health Coverage 2023 Global Monitoring Report.

In 2021, almost four million people lacked proper access to healthcare due to a rise in the proportion of households experiencing catastrophic health expenses. These metrics highlight how urgently strong and equitable health systems are needed to address the current disparities and meet SDG3.

4.3. Assessment of National Progress on SDG 3

Indicator 3.1.1: Maternal Mortality Ratio

Bangladesh has made steady progress in reducing its maternal mortality ratio over the years. In 2015, marking the launch of the SDGs, the national rate stood at 181 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births. Since then, steady progress has been made, with the ratio reaching a value of 136 in 2023 (Table 4.1). A notable disparity persists between rural and urban areas, with the rural maternal mortality rate of 157 being notably higher than the urban rate. Except for the rate for urban areas, both current rural and national values for this indicator are only about halfway to 2030 targets.

Table 4.1: Maternal Mortality Ratio in Bangladesh at National, Rural, and Urban Levels of Bangladesh over the Years

	2015 (Base)	2016	2017	2018	2019	2021	2022	2023	2025 (T)	2030 (T)
Rural	-	-	-	-	123	140	159	-	-	-
Urban	-	-	-	-	191	176	142	-	-	-
Total	**181**	**178**	**172**	**169**	**165**	**168**	**156**	**136**	**100**	**70**

Source: SVRS, BBS

Indicator 3.1.2. Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel

In 2023, 69.68% of total national births were attended by skilled health personnel, compared to 72.4% in 2019 (Table 4.2). The decreasing trend is an impediment to achieving the target set for 2030.

Table 4.2: Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel

Years	2019 (Base)	2020	2021	2022	2023	2025 (T)	2030 (T)
Urban	83.6	85.8	-	-	-	-	-
Rural	65.1	68.8	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**72.4**	**75.3**	**57.9**	**61.5**	**69.68**	**72**	**80**

Source: SVRS, BBS

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

Although Bangladesh made modest progress in reducing under-five mortality, with the national rates falling from 36 deaths per 1000 live births in 2015 to 28 between 2019 to 2021. Since 2022, the under-five mortality rates have risen to 33 deaths per 1000 live births. Both urban and rural areas show similar trends, closely following the national rate, with rural under-five mortality rates always outpacing urban rates.

Table 4.3: Under-five mortality rate (per 1,000 live births) at national, rural, and urban levels

2015 (Base)	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2025 (T)	2030 (T)
36	35	31	29	28	28	28	31	33	27	25

Source: SVRS, BBS

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

Bangladesh had made steady progress in reducing neonatal mortality between 2015 and 2023, though this trend reversed in 2023 with rates returning to 2015 levels. Specifically, the national rate, which was 20 deaths per 1,000 live births when the SDGS were introduced, declined to as low as 16 deaths per 1,000 live births by 2022 (Table 4.4). However, neonatal mortality rates rose again to 20 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2023, falling short of national SDG targets for 2025 and 2030 (14 and 12 deaths per 1,000 live births, respectively).

Table 4.4: Neonatal mortality rate in Bangladesh (per 1,000 live births)

2015 (Base)	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2025 (T)	2030 (T)
20	19	17	16	15	15	16	17	20	14	12

Source: SVRS, BBS

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

HIV has never become a major epidemic in Bangladesh, due to early preventive measures, including mass awareness campaigns starting in the 1980s. Since 2015, the number of new HIV infections per 1,000 uninfected people has remained below 0.01, continuing into 2023 (Table 4.5). In this context, Bangladesh has already met the 2030 national SDG target for this indicator, which aims to limit new HIV infections to 0.001 per 1,000 population.

Table 4.5: Number of new HIV infections per 1,000 uninfected population.

	2016 (Base)	2020	2021	2022	2023	2025 (T)	2030 (T)
National	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	0.01	<0.01

Source: NASP, Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), Health Services Division (HSD); UNAIDS, Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR), HSD.

Indicator 3.3.2. Tuberculosis incidence per 100,000 population

In 2015, the tuberculosis incidence per 100,000 population of Bangladesh stood at 225. While some fluctuations have occurred, overall progress since 2018 has been minimal, with values remaining close to or above the 2015 baseline, with the incidence reaching a value of 221 per 100,000 population in 2023, which is more than four times higher than the 2030 national SDG target of 45 per 100,000 people.

Table 4.6: Tuberculosis incidence per 100,000 population

2015 (Base)	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2025 (T)	2030 (T)
225	221	221	221	221	221	221	221	221	112	45

Source: NTP, Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS)

Indicator 3.3.3. Malaria incidence per 1,000 population

Malaria incidence in Bangladesh steadily declined till 2021, from 2.99 per 1,000 population in 2015 to 0.048 in 2023 (Table 4.7). 2025 target of reducing malaria incidence to 0.09 per 1,000 population has already been achieved and the 2030 target of reaching zero, the country must curb the spread of drug-resistant malaria parasites and ensure affordable treatment in the affected districts.

Table 4.7: Malaria incidence per 1,000 population over the years

2015 (Base)	2017	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2025 (T)	2030 (T)
2.99	1.64	0.92	0.016	0.021	.053	.048	0.09	0.0

Source: National Malaria Elimination Programme (NMEP), DGHS

Indicator 3.3.4. Hepatitis B incidence per 100,000 population

Hepatitis B incidence in Bangladesh has been on a declining trend from 1.38 per 100,000 to 0.51 per 100,000 between 2015 to 2021. The current Hepatitis B incidence in Bangladesh is lower than the 2025 target of 0.7 and is on track to achieve the 2030 SDG target of 0 incidence per 100,000.

Table 4.8: Hepatitis B incidence per 100,000 population

2015 (Base)	2018	2019	2021	2025 (T)	2030(T)
1.38	1.38	1.38	0.51	0.7	0

Source: HMSS, BBS, and CDC, Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS)

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

In 2016, approximately 49 million people in Bangladesh required interventions for neglected tropical diseases (NTDs). However, progress against the diseases has slowed since then, with the number rising to 56.3 million in 2019 (see Table 4.9). The SDG target for the year 2030 for this indicator is to lower the number of people requiring interventions against neglected tropical diseases to 35 million.

Table 4.9: Number of people (in millions) requiring interventions against neglected tropical diseases for different years

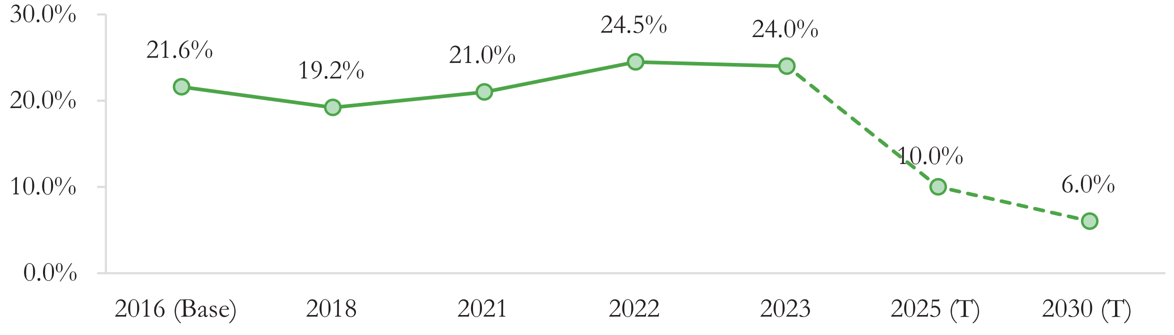
2016 (Base)	2019	2025 (T)	2030 (T)
4,98,73,889	5,63,39,392	4,00,00,000	35,000,000

Source: World Health Organization.

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

The mortality rate from non-communicable diseases (NCDs) among individuals aged 30 to 70 has, on average, increased since 2016. The primary causes of the country's NCD burden are cardiovascular diseases, cancer, diabetes, and chronic respiratory disorders. In 2016, the mortality rate attributed to such lifestyle diseases was 21.6%, which has risen to 24% in 2023 (see Figure 4.2). Furthermore, there was a sharp spike in the rate between 2020 and 2021, which could be linked to the lifestyle changes induced by the COVID-19 pandemic, including reduced physical activity.

Figure 4.2: Mortality rate attributed to selected non-communicable diseases for different years

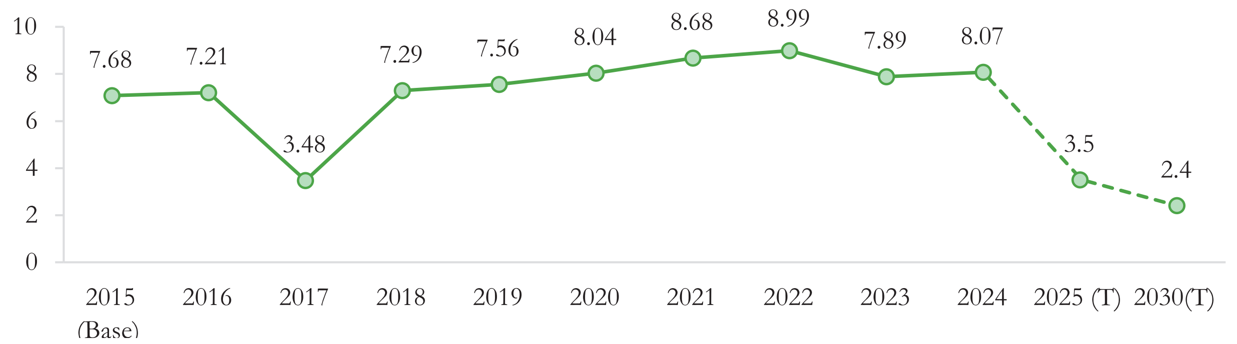


Source: WHO (for baseline data); SVRS, BBS.

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

The suicide mortality rate in Bangladesh was 7.68 per 100,000 population in 2015. Since then, the value fluctuated till 2019, after which it rose between 2020 and 2021, followed by a slight decline in 2022. The latest value for this indicator for the year 2024 is 8.07, which is far greater than its 2030 target value of 2.4.

Figure 4.3: Suicide mortality rate (per 100,000 population)



Source: Bangladesh Police, Public Security Division (PSD).

Indicator 3.5.1. Coverage of treatment interventions (pharmacological, psychological and rehabilitation, and aftercare services) for substance use disorder

In 2015, 16,416 individuals were covered by treatment interventions for substance use disorders, including pharmacological treatment, psychological support, rehabilitation, and aftercare services. This number increased to 30,133 in 2020 from 16,416 in 2015, reflecting expanded service coverage. However, coverage has falling short of both the 2025 and 2030 SDG targets.

Table 4.10: Coverage of treatment interventions (pharmacological, psychological, rehabilitation, and aftercare services) for substance use disorder

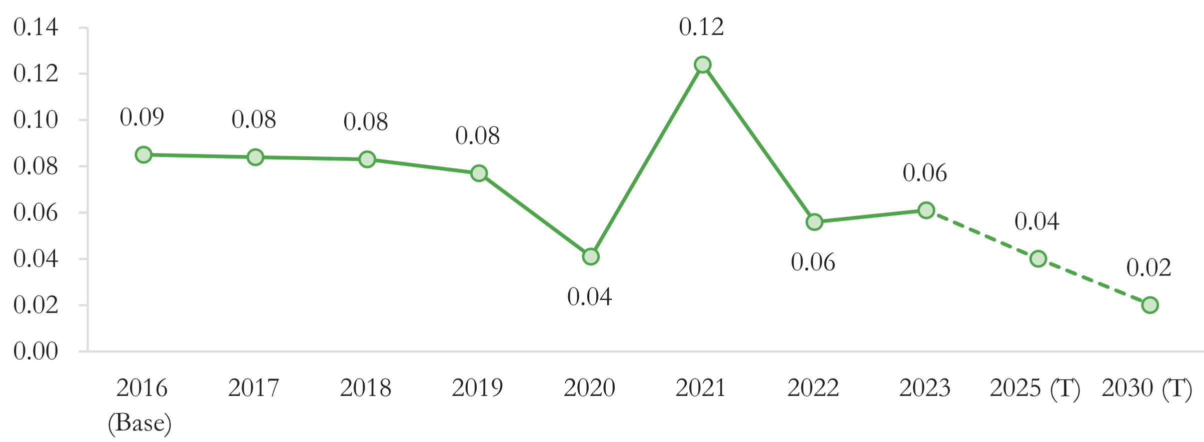
2015 (Base)	2018	2020	2025 (T)	2030(T)
16,416	38,035	30,133	45,000	55,000

Source: Department of Narcotics Control, Security Services Department.

Indicator 3.5.2. Alcohol per capita consumption (aged 15 years and older) within a calendar year in litres of pure alcohol

Since 2015, per capita pure alcohol consumption has remained relatively stable at 0.08 litres, reaching its lowest point in 2020 at 0.041 litres (see Figure 4.4). However, 2021 saw a sudden spike to 0.124 litres, likely influenced by pandemic-related lockdowns, before falling back to 0.056 litres in 2022. The national target is to reduce per capita alcohol consumption to 0.04 litres by 2025, and 0.02 litres by 2030.

Figure 4.4: Alcohol per capita consumption (aged 15 years and older) within a calendar year in litres of pure alcohol



Source: Department of Narcotics Control (DNC), Security Services Division (SSD), WHO

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

Road traffic fatalities in Bangladesh have significantly increased over the years, rising from 4.96 deaths per 100,000 people in 2015 to 10.01 in 2023, with a peak of 10.7 in 2022 (Table 4.11). This upward trend raises serious concerns about road safety and traffic management. In response, the government has established ambitious targets to reduce the death rate to 1.5 by 2025 and 1.2 by 2030, demonstrating a strong commitment to improving road safety and decreasing preventable fatalities.

Table 4.11: Death rate due to road traffic injuries

2015	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2025	2030
4.96	7	7	8.15	10.7	10.01	1.5	1.2

Source: Bangladesh Police (for 2015); SVRS, BBS

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

The proportion of women of reproductive age using modern contraceptives rose from 59.2% in 2017 to around 74% in 2022, stabilising at around 72.9% in 2023 (see Table 4.12). The target is to have 80% and 100% of women of reproductive age to have their family planning needs satisfied by modern methods by 2025 and 2030, respectively.

Table 4.12: Proportion of women of reproductive age (aged 15-49 years) who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods (%)

2014 (Base)	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2025 (T)	2030(T)
72.6%	59.2	61.6	63.7	62.3	64.6	73.9	72.9	80	100

Source: BDHS, NIPORT for 2014-2017; SVRS, BBS for 2019-2023.

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

The adolescent birth rate for girls aged 10–14 remained stable at 0.6 per 1,000 women in 2021 and 2022, before increasing slightly to 0.8 in 2023 (See Table 4.13). On the other hand, the adolescent birth rate, defined as the number of live births per 1,000 women aged 15-19 years, was 75 per 1,000 women in the base year 2015, and eventually increased to 84.28 in 2023 (see Table 4.14). While the rate declined gradually, from 2015 to 2021, reaching a low of 71.5, it then rose sharply in 2022 (70) and again in 2023 (84.28). These trends mark a concerning shift, with the national rate rising by 14 per 1,000 women from the previous year, far exceeding 2025 and 2030 targets. Specifically, urban areas experienced a sharp rise, while rural areas, which have traditionally recorded higher adolescent birth rates, witnessed a smaller increase.

Table 4.13: Adolescent birth rate per 1,000 women aged 10-14 years

2021	2022	2023
0.6	0.6	0.8

Source: SVRS, BBS

Table 4.14: Adolescent birth rate per 1,000 women aged 15-19 years

	2015 (Base)	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2025 (T)	2030 (T)
Rural		85	84	89	88	88	-	-	-	-	-
Urban		69	65	57	56	55	-	-	-	-	-
Total	75	78	75	74	74	74	71.5	70	84.3	60	50

Source: SVRS, BBS

Indicator 3.8.1. Coverage of essential health services

In 2016, Bangladesh scored 52 on the index used to measure the performance of indicator 3.8.1. The figure then slightly improved to 54 in 2019. However, the score dropped back to 52 in 2021, likely due to the strain on the health system during the COVID-19 pandemic. To achieve the target scores of 80 by 2025 and 100 by 2030, significant improvements in healthcare funding and infrastructure are direly needed.

Table 4.15: Coverage of essential health services

2016 (Base)	2017	2019	2021	2025 (T)	2030(T)
52	50	54	52	80	100

Source: World Health Organization.

Indicator 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

In 2016, 24.67% of households in Bangladesh spent more than 10% of their household expenditure on health expenses, while 9.53% of households spent over 25% of their expenditure on healthcare. In 2022, the proportion of households with health spending over 10% of total expenditure came down to 20.6%, while the proportion of households spending over 25% fell to 3.46% (see Table 4.16). The targets for 2025 for both cases have been mostly achieved. The national SDG target is to reduce these proportions to 15% and 5%, respectively, by 2030.

Table 4.16: Proportion of population with large household expenditure on health as a share of total household expenditure or income

Proportion of the population with health expenditure as a percentage of total household expenditure	2016 (Base)	2022	2025 (T)	2030 (T)
More than 10%	24.67	20.55	20	15
More than 25%	9.53	3.46	7	5

Source: Household Income Expenditure Survey 2022, BBS.

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

In 2012, the mortality rate attributed to household and ambient air pollution stood at 62.8 per 100,000 people. The indicator's performance worsened significantly to 241 per 100,000 people by 2023, almost four times higher than the 2030 target of 55 people per 100,000.

Table 4.17: Mortality rate attributed to household and ambient air pollution (per 100,000 population)

2012 (Base)	2021	2022	2023	2025 (T)	2030 (T)
68.2	217	231	241	60	55

Source: World Health Organization (WHO) for the base year; SVRS, BBS

Indicator 3.9.2. Mortality rate per 100,000 attributed to unsafe water, unsafe sanitation, and lack of hygiene (exposure to unsafe Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene for All (WASH) services)

The mortality rate due to inadequate WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) services in Bangladesh was 119 per 100,000 in 2016. By 2023, this figure had risen to 161, indicating a significant public health concern. To meet the 2030 target of reducing the mortality rate to just 4.5 people per 100,000, substantial improvements in WASH infrastructure are needed.

Table 4.18: Mortality rate attributed to unsafe water, unsafe sanitation, and lack of hygiene (exposure to unsafe Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene for All (WASH) services)

2016 (Base)	2021	2022	2023	2025 (T)	2030(T)
11.9	171	167	161	5	4.5

Source: World Health Organization (WHO) for 2016; SVRS, BBS.

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

The mortality rate from unintentional poisoning was 0.30 per 100,000 population in both 2016 and 2019. The SDG target is to reduce the rate to 0.25 by 2025 and to a further 0.15 per 100,000 by 2030. However, alongside efforts to lower mortality rates, better data collection and monitoring are essential.

Table 4.19: Mortality rate attributed to unintentional poisoning (per 100,000 population)

2016 (Base)	2019	2025 (T)	2030(T)
0.30	0.30	0.25	0.15

Source: World Health Organization.

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

Bangladesh signed the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) in 2003. Since then, two global Adult Tobacco Surveys have been conducted in 2009 and 2017, respectively. These surveys show a significant decline in tobacco use among adults, from 43.3% in 2009 to around 35% in 2017. The target is to reduce tobacco use to 25% by 2030.

Table 4.20: Age-standardised prevalence of tobacco uses among persons aged 15 years and older

	2009 (Base)	2017	2025 (T)	2030(T)
National	43.3%	35.3%	30	25%
Male	-	46.0%	-	-
Female	-	25.2%	-	-

Source: Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS) Bangladesh, BBS

3.b.1: Proportion of the target population covered by all vaccines included in their national programme

Bangladesh has successfully met the target for this indicator. The national immunisation programme coverage has consistently exceeded 80%. Bangladesh had an immunisation coverage value of 81.9% in 2015, which improved to 99.3% in 2023. The target for 2025 is to achieve 98% coverage, and Bangladesh had already reached 99% of coverage in 2021, surpassing the SDG target far ahead of schedule.

Table 4.21: Proportion of the target population covered by all vaccines included in the national programme (%)

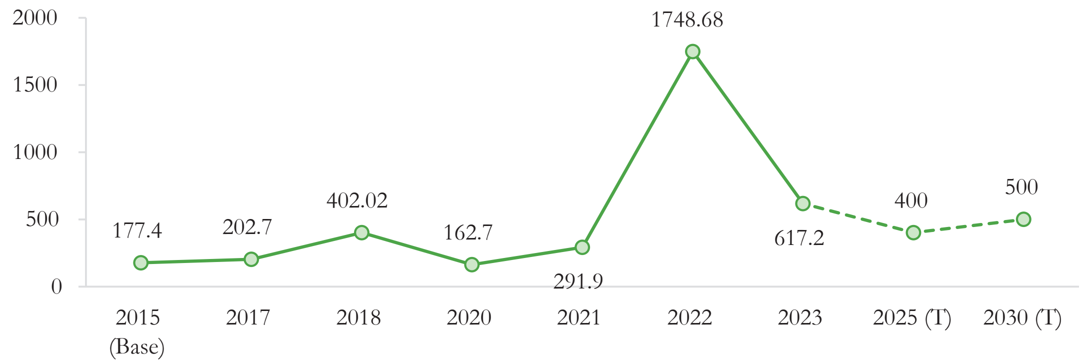
	2016 (Base)	2017	2023	2025 (T)	2030 (T)
Total	86.8	86	81.6	98	100

Source: EPI Coverage Evaluation Survey, DGHS

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

Bangladesh has seen a steady increase in net official development assistance (ODA) for medical research and basic health sectors, rising from USD 177.4 million in 2015 to USD 617.2 million in 2023. However, there have been fluctuations, with Bangladesh witnessing a significant spike in inflow to USD 1,748.7 million in 2022. This surge is linked to the investments in the COVID-19 vaccination program and related pandemic initiatives. As a result, even in 2023, with a net ODA inflow of USD 617 million, Bangladesh has surpassed its 2025 and 2030 SDG targets of USD 400 million and USD 500 million, respectively.

Figure 4.5: Total net official development assistance to the medical research and basic health sector (in USD million)



Source: Economic Relations Division

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

Bangladesh had approximately 12.78 healthcare workers per 10,000 population as of 2023, a figure that had improved from 7.4 per 10,000 since 2016. Despite gradual progress, Bangladesh faces a substantial gap in meeting the SDG targets of 31.5 by 2025 and 44.5 health workers per 10,000 by 2030.

Table 4.22: Health worker density (per 10,000 population)

2016 (Base)	2019	2021	2022	2023	2025 (T)	2030 (T)
7.4	8.3	9.9	11.7	12.78	31.5	44.5

Source: MIS, DGHS

The second component of this indicator assesses the distribution of health workers, including physicians, nurses, and health technologists. Data for this component is limited, with only two data points available from 2016 and 2019. Over this period, there was minimal improvement in the distribution of nurses and health technologists, as while the distribution for physicians remained steady at 1 (meeting the 2030 target), the density for nurses and health technologists slightly increased by 0.1 to take a value of 0.6 and 0.3 per 10,000 people, respectively. In this context, Bangladesh is far from meeting its targets for 2030 to reach a value of 3 nurses and 5 health technicians per 10,000 population.

Table 4.23: Distribution of health workers (physician: nurse: health technologist)

Year	Physician	Nurse	Health Technologist
2016	1	0.5	0.2
2019	1	0.6	0.3
2030(T)	1	3.0	5.0

Source: MIS, DGHS, HSD.

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

Bangladesh's International Health Regulations (IHR) capacity and health emergency preparedness has deteriorated overtime. It dropped from 76 in 2016 to 69 in 2024, which is far below the target set for 2025 (See Table 4.21).

Table 4.24: International Health Regulations (IHR) capacity and health emergency preparedness

2016 (Base)	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025 (T)	2030 (T)
76	78	58	67	70	68	68	71	69	95	100

Source: CDC, Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), Health Services Division (HSD).

Indicator 3.d.2 Percentage of bloodstream infections due to selected antimicrobial-resistant organisms

While no national SDG targets have been set, according to WHO, in 2018, 68% of all bloodstream infections were attributed to antimicrobial-resistant organisms, highlighting the risk posed by antimicrobial resistance on the national healthcare system and the need for more recent statistics.

4.4. Key Policies and Strategies to Achieve SDG 3

In Bangladesh, the necessary strategies to achieve SDG goals are incorporated into the national development plan so that the SDG targets are achieved. Some of the plans and policies relevant for SDG 3 include the National Health Policy 2011, the Bangladesh Population Policy 2012, the 4th Health, Population, and Nutrition Sector Programme (HPNSP, 2017-2024), the Strategy for Finance in the Health Sector: 2012-2032. The ultimate objective of these polices is to achieve universal health care coverage to improve the standard of living for people from all walks of life.

Taking a closer look, the objectives of the 4th Health, Population, and Nutrition Sector Programme (HPNSP, 2016-2022) were to improve healthcare service quality in both the private and public sectors and expand service delivery capacity while strengthening the healthcare service system in terms of governance and human resources. Some USD 588.45 million of the USD 14.7 billion programme was supposed to be financed by the World Bank and other development partners following a result-based financing modality with disbursement-linked indicators. In other words, under this modality, funding is to be disbursed based on the achievement of those linked targets.

4.5. Major Challenges and Way Forward

Achieving Sustainable Development Goal 3, which aims to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages, remains a significant challenge for Bangladesh. Despite progress in some areas, several barriers continue to hinder the country's efforts toward improving its healthcare service delivery system and achieving universal health coverage. These challenges are multifaceted, ranging from insufficient healthcare service coverage to inefficiencies in governance, low health financing, and socio-cultural factors that affect health service-seeking behaviours. Below are some of the major challenges that Bangladesh faces in its journey to achieve SDG 3.

Insufficient Health Service Coverage: One of the major challenges facing Bangladesh's healthcare system is the limited coverage of essential health services, especially for infectious diseases and non-communicable diseases (as can be seen from the deteriorating performance in the indicators associated with tuberculosis (3.3.2), malaria (3.3.3) and cardiovascular diseases (3.4.1)). While maternal and child health services are generally available in many areas, access to care for conditions such as tuberculosis, sexually transmitted infections, diabetes, and hypertension remains poor. As indicator 3.b.c indicated that in 2018, only 62% of the hospitals in Bangladesh consistently had essential medications. The discrepancy in service availability results in disparities in health outcomes, particularly in rural and remote areas, as healthcare resources are primarily concentrated in urban area like Dhaka and other divisional cities. Furthermore, the absence of an efficient referral system exacerbates the issue, making it difficult for patients in rural areas to access specialised care.

Shortfall in skilled medical professionals and medical supplies: Bangladesh's healthcare system is characterised by a mix of public, private, NGO, and development partner-run services. However, these services are unevenly distributed across the country. Urban areas generally have better-equipped public hospitals and a greater availability of private healthcare facilities, while rural areas rely mostlyon NGOs and community-based services. A significant issue in the health system is the low level of public investment, which has led to shortages of essential equipment and medical supplies. As per World Bank's Bangladesh - Improving Hospital Services Quality and Financial Protection for the Poor Project Information Document, only 66% of district hospitals had the set of equipment needed for basic care, and the number of hospital beds per 1,000 people stands at just 0.8 as of 2021, far below the WHO's recommended minimum of 3.

Low level of Health Financing: Although the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare's budget has increased significantly from 2013 to 2023, Bangladesh still invests only 2.34% of its GDP in health, which is well below the WHO's recommended level of 4-5%, while the regional average is 5.1%. This low level of health financing contributes to inadequate healthcare infrastructure and services. For example, in 2022, 20% of the population paid more than 25% of their income as large medical expenses. Such high out-of-pocket expenses for patients further discourage many from seeking professional treatment, particularly in emergencies. As a result, many individuals forgo necessary healthcare, leading to poorer health outcomes, particularly for vulnerable populations who cannot afford the cost of treatment. Similarly, while indicator 3.b.2 exhibits that Bangladesh has achieved more than the targeted amount of foreign development assistance budget in the recent past, this influx of foreign aid into the health sector was COVID-19 response assistance and has already started to fall as the situation was brought under control. Furthermore, Bangladesh can no longer depend heavily on foreign assistance as it will no longer be eligible for such assistance once it graduates from the Least Developed Country group in 2026. Thus, to maintain the achievements in the health sector and improve it further, the government should increase its health expenditure allocation to the WHO-recommended levels and secure alternative sources of funding. Specifically, adequate subsidies should also be introduced to reduce citizens' out-of-pocket healthcare expenses.

Lifestyle Changes Affecting Patterns of Health Complications: As a country improves economically, the associated improvement in the health sector due to the introduction of modern healthcare systems and medicine changes the type of disease and health complications that affect the population the most. The general financial improvement of the people of Bangladesh means fewer people are dying from contagious or tropical diseases, and more people are developing lifestyle diseases and non-communicable diseases such as diabetes and heart diseases. This pattern has been observed in the worsening performance of indicator 3.4.1 (Mortality rate due to non-communicable diseases). Similarly, mental/psychological health is also becoming an alarming health hazard, as exhibited by the increasing suicide mortality rate of Bangladesh in indicator 3.4.2.

Health-Seeking Behaviour and Gender Disparities: Another challenge lies in health-seeking behaviour, which is influenced by socio-cultural and financial factors. While both men and women seek healthcare at similar rates overall, the types of services they access differ. Women predominantly seek care for maternal and child health, while men are more likely to seek treatment for non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and injuries.

Financial constraints often lead to a gender bias in healthcare allocation, with families tending to prioritise the health of male breadwinners over that of women and children. This underestimation of women's health needs further exacerbates health disparities.

4.6. Summary

For Bangladesh, a robust healthcare system is vital to ensure the health and well-being of its people. However, the country's healthcare system has long been plagued by inefficiency, poor governance, and a severe lack of financial and human resources. This has hindered its ability to provide adequate care for its citizens, particularly in rural and remote areas. The COVID-19 pandemic further exposed the vulnerabilities within the system, overwhelming the health system that's grappling with limited resources.

In light of these challenges, the immediate focus must be on rebuilding and strengthening the healthcare system as the first step towards achieving SDG 3. While some health indicators in Bangladesh have shown improvement (lower maternal mortality ratio, hepatitis B incidence, alcohol and tobacco consumption, better access to family planning, higher health worker density), many others remain stagnant or have worsened, indicating the need for targeted and sustainable interventions. The country's healthcare system faces multiple roadblocks that hinder progress, including insufficient healthcare coverage, limited access to essential services, and inadequate healthcare infrastructure, especially outside of urban centres. Addressing these issues requires a comprehensive approach that involves data-driven decision-making and effective policy planning, with a focus on both short-term recovery and long-term improvement.

CHAPTER 5

SDG 4

QUALITY EDUCATION

5.1. Background

Quality education is a key driver of progress and its attainment is one of the most influential Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). SDG 4 is centred around supplying inclusive, fair, and high-quality education for all while encouraging lifelong learning as a fundamental human right. It aims to achieve 10 global targets, tracked by 12 global indicators and supplemented by 31 thematic indicators.

5.2. Global and Regional Context

According to UN estimates, 84 million children and youth will still not be enrolled in school by 2030, and nearly 300 million students will not have the basic literacy and numeracy skills needed to succeed in life[2]. The reopening of safe schools, assisting teachers as frontline workers, investing in skills, and tackling the digital divide were the five critical priorities listed in the 2020 Global Education Meeting Declaration. During widespread school closures, the pandemic revealed serious flaws in the world's educational systems, which prompted the adoption of digital learning solutions.

Between 2015 and 2023, some progress was made. The global primary school completion rate increased from 85% to 88%, lower secondary completion rose from 74% to 78%, and upper secondary completion improved from 53% to 59% (Figure 4.1). Bangladesh, while still below the global average for upper secondary completion in 2023, demonstrated some progress with an average annual increase of 3.03 percentage points, reaching 47.4%. However, global progress in upper secondary completion has slowed, with the annual growth rate decreasing from 1.3 percentage points between 2010 and 2015 to just 0.9 percentage points between 2015 and 2023. Oceania even experienced a decline, while Eastern and South-Eastern Asia made significant strides, increasing completion rates by 11 percentage points.

Participation in organized learning for children below primary school age showed limited global improvement from 2015 to 2022, with increases ranging from 0.2 to 3.4 percentage points across most regions. In contrast, Bangladesh achieved a 17.73 percentage-point growth.

5.3. Assessment of National Progress on SDG 4

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

In 2015, only 41% of 2/3rd graders had minimum proficiency in reading, compared to 47% of children in 2017 and 61.93% in 2023 reflecting a steady improvement over time. On the other hand, 28% of the same age group had a minimum proficiency in mathematics in 2015, which improved to 34% in 2017 and eventually to 61.01% in 2023.

After completing primary school, the basic reading and mathematics proficiency levels improved. In 2015, only 45% of the primary school graduates had basic reading proficiency, compared to 94.46% of the graduates in 2023, reflecting a notable improvement. Likewise, basic mathematical proficiency has also improved significantly over time. In 2015, only 25% of this age group possessed basic mathematical skills, compared to almost 96% of primary school graduates in 2023.

2. Retrieved from The Sustainable Goals Report 2023

Moreover, according to the Literacy Assessment Survey (LAS), the reading proficiency among lower secondary school graduates was almost 99% in 2023, surpassing the target of reaching 85% by 2025. However, mathematical skills among this group have improved slightly over time, with only 19% of graduates possessing this skill in 2015 compared to 23.6% in 2023.

Table 5.1: Proportion of children and young people: (a) in grades 2/3; (b) at the end of primary; and (c) at the end of lower secondary achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in (i) reading and (ii) mathematics, by sex

Year	2015 (Base)	2017	2023	2025 (T)	2030 (T)
4.1.1.a.I : Proportion of children and young people in grades 2/3 achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in reading, by sex					
Total	41	47	61.93		
Boys			59.51		
Girls			64.59		
4.1.1.a.II : Proportion of children and young people in grades 2/3 achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in mathematics, by sex					
Total	28	34	61.01		
Boys			60.79		
Girls			61.22		
4.1.1.b.I : Proportion of children and young people at the end of primary achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in reading, by sex					
Total	45	47	94.46		
Boys			94.04		
Girls			94.82		
4.1.1.b.II : Proportion of children and young people at the end of primary achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in mathematics, by sex					
Total	25	33	95.87		
Boys			95.5		
Girls			96.19		
4.1.1.c.I : Proportion of children and young people at the end of lower secondary achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in reading, by sex					
Total	54		98.52	75	85
Boys			98.49		
Girls			98.66		
4.1.1.c.II : Proportion of children and young people at the end of lower secondary achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in mathematics, by sex					
Total	19		23.63	55	75
Boys			23.38		
Girls			23.83		

Source: LAS, BBS; MICS, BBS, SID, MoP; NSA, DPE; LASI, DSHE; NASS, DSHE

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

The primary education completion rate declined sharply from 82.6% in 2019 to 69.1% in 2021, before gradually recovering to 77.4% by 2023. Lower secondary completion has improved steadily, rising from 64.7% in 2019 to 68.8% in 2023. Similarly, upper secondary education has also improved from 29.4% in 2019 to 47.4% in 2023, surpassing the target for 2025 (see Table 5.2).

Table 5.2: Completion rate of education

Year	2019 (Base)	2021	2022	2023	2025 (T)	2030 (T)
Primary Education	82.6	69.1	77.5	77.4	87	95
Lower Secondary	64.7	55.8	68.1	68.8	72	80
Upper Secondary	29.4	—	47.3	47.4	35	50

Source: SVRS, BBS

Indicator 4.2.1: Proportion of children aged 24-59 months who are developmentally on track in health, learning and psycho-social well-being, by sex

According to MICS (2019), 74.5% of children aged 24–59 months in Bangladesh were developmentally on track, with rural children (73.7%) slightly behind their urban counterparts (77.9%). The national target aims to increase this to 80% by 2025 and achieve full developmental well-being (100%) by 2030.

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

The participation rate in organised learning for children one year before the official primary entry age dropped sharply from 77.5% in 2019 to just 35.3% in 2021, likely due to COVID-19 disruptions. Rates recovered gradually by 2023, reaching 67.48%, with both boys and girls showing similar trends but slight year-to-year gender fluctuations (see Table 5.3). Bangladesh now targets a full recovery and universal participation by 2030, with an intermediate target of 90% by 2025.

Table 5.3: Participation rate in organized learning (one year before the official primary entry age), by sex

	2019	2021	2022	2023	2025 (T)	2030 (T)
Male	76.8	35.4	47.3	33.31	-	-
Female	80	35.3	68.56	37.13	-	-
Total	77.5	35.3	66.44	35.16	90	100

Source: SVRS, BBS; MICS, BBS

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

The participation rate of both youth and adults in formal and non-formal education and training has remained relatively stable between the two years of 2022 and 2023. The highest level of participation is 38.15% in 2023 among youth aged 15-24. The age group with the lowest level of participation was 1.78% aged 55-64 in 2023, slightly higher than the previous year.

Table 5.4: Participation rate of youth and adults in formal and non-formal education and training in the previous 12 months, by sex

Age group	Total/Gender	2022	2023
15-64 Years	Total	12.94	12.93
	Male	14.75	14.48
	Female	11.22	11.49
Age 15-24 years	Total	37.64	38.15
	Male	41.32	41.03
	Female	34.13	35.36
25-54 Years	Total	3.11	2.97
	Male	4.19	3.71
	Female	2.13	2.31
55-64 Years	Total	1.29	1.78
	Male	1.74	2.19
	Female	0.83	1.37
Total	-	-	

Source: SVRS, BBS.

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

There is a stark digital divide between rural and urban areas. As highlighted in Table 5.5, urban respondents outperformed rural respondents in terms of having almost all ICT skills.

Table 5.5: Proportion of youth and adults with information and communications technology (ICT) skills, by type of skill in 2023

Skills	Total	Rural	Urban
Changing privacy settings on your device, account or app to limit the sharing	1.3	0.7	3.1
Connecting and installing new devices (e.g. a modem, camera, printer)	0.8	0.6	1.6
Creating electronic presentations with presentation software (including text)	0.3	0.2	0.6
Finding, downloading, installing and configuring software and apps	3	1.9	6.2
Programming or coding in digital environments (e.g. computer software, app development)	0.2	0.1	0.3
Sending messages (e.g. e-mail, messaging service, SMS) with attached files (e.g. documents, images, videos)	5.2	3	11.7
Setting up effective security measures (e.g. strong passwords, log-in attempts)	1.4	0.9	3.2
Transferring files or applications between devices (including via cloud storage)	1.3	0.8	2.8
Using basic arithmetic formulae in a spreadsheet	2	1.3	3.9
Using copy and paste tools to duplicate or move data, information and content (e.g. within a document, between devices, in the cloud)	4.5	2.7	9.7
Verifying the reliability of information found online	1.6	0.8	3.8
Changing privacy settings on your device, account or app to limit the sharing	1.1	0.6	2.9
Connecting and installing new devices (e.g. a modem, camera, printer)	0.7	0.5	1.4
Creating electronic presentations with presentation software (including text)	0.2	0.2	0.5
Finding, downloading, installing and configuring software and apps	2.7	1.5	6

Skills	Total	Rural	Urban
Programming or coding in digital environments (e.g. computer software, app development)	0.1	0.1	0.3
Sending messages (e.g. e-mail, messaging service, SMS) with attached files (e.g. documents, images, videos)	4.7	2.5	11.2
Setting up effective security measures (e.g. strong passwords, log-in attempts)	1.3	0.7	3
Transferring files or applications between devices (including via cloud storage)	1.1	0.6	2.7
Using basic arithmetic formulae in a spreadsheet	1.7	1.1	3.7
Using copy and paste tools to duplicate or move data, information and content (e.g. within a document, between devices, in the cloud)	4.1	2.2	9.5
Verifying the reliability of information found online	1.4	0.7	3.5
Changing privacy settings on your device, account or app to limit the sharing	3	1.4	7.8
Connecting and installing new devices (e.g. a modem, camera, printer)	1	0.7	1.6
Creating electronic presentations with presentation software (including text)	0.5	0.4	0.7
Finding, downloading, installing and configuring software and apps	6.5	3.4	15.4
Programming or coding in digital environments (e.g. computer software, app development)	0.3	0.2	0.6
Sending messages (e.g. e-mail, messaging service, SMS) with attached files (e.g. documents, images, videos)	10.3	5.3	24.4
Setting up effective security measures (e.g. strong passwords, log-in attempts)	3.4	1.7	8.1
Transferring files or applications between devices (including via cloud storage)	2.9	1.5	7.1
Using basic arithmetic formulae in a spreadsheet	3.5	2.1	7.2
Using copy and paste tools to duplicate or move data, information and content (e.g. within a document, between devices, in the cloud)	8.3	4.6	18.7
Verifying the reliability of information found online	3.4	1.5	8.6

Source: Access and Use of ICT by Household and Individual, BBS; LAS, BBS

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

Table 5.6 illustrates trends in parity indices across various education levels and categories in Bangladesh from 2015 to 2023, with targets set for 2025 and 2030. In primary education, gender parity has been consistently achieved, with indices slightly above 1, indicating equal or slightly higher enrollment of girls compared to boys. Secondary education shows a sustained trend of female dominance, with parity indices remaining above 1.15 through 2023; efforts are underway to balance this to 1.0 by 2030. In contrast, higher secondary and tertiary education have shown gradual improvements in female participation, rising from 0.65 in 2015 to 0.82 in 2022, although full parity has yet to be reached. Technical education remains a concern, with the parity index increasing only modestly from 0.38 to 0.42 over the period, reflecting continued underrepresentation of girls. A notable improvement is observed in disability parity, which surged from 0.61 in 2015 to 1.39 in 2022, suggesting better access for learners with disabilities. However, female representation among teachers remains low, with parity indices at secondary and tertiary levels below 0.4, underscoring the need for focused efforts to improve gender balance in the teaching workforce.

Table 5.6: Parity indices

Level	2015 (Base)	2022	2023	2025 (T)	2030 (T)
Primary	1.02	1.05	0.95		
Secondary	1.15	1.21	1.21	1.05	1
Higher Secondary	0.65	0.82	0.92	0.75	0.8
Tertiary	0.65	0.82	1.04	0.75	0.8
Technical	0.38	0.37	0.42	0.57	0.7
Disability	0.61	1.39		0.8	1
Teacher, Secondary	0.26	0.3		0.42	0.5
Teachers, Tertiary	0.21	0.39		0.4	0.5

Source: APSC, Directorate of Primary Education (DPE); EHS, BBS; MICS, BBS; LAS, BBS; BES, BANBEIS

Indicator 4.6.1. Percentage of the population aged 15 and over, achieving at least a fixed level of proficiency in functional (a) literacy and (b) numeracy skills, by sex

The youth literacy rate in Bangladesh has shown steady improvement over the past decade, rising from 87.4% in 2015 to 96% in 2023. Gender gaps have narrowed significantly, with female literacy consistently outpacing male literacy since 2015. Rural youth have also caught up, reducing the urban-rural gap, reaching 95.9% compared to 96.3% in urban areas in 2023. The national target is to ensure 100% youth literacy by 2030, with an intermediate target of 75% for 2025, which has already been surpassed (see Table 5.7).

Table 5.7: Youth literacy rate

Years	Male	Female	Rural	Urban	Total
2015 (Base)	85.8	89	85.6	90.2	87.4
2020	93.7	96.5	94.9	95.3	95.1
2023	95	97	95.9	96.3	96
2025 (T)	-	-	-	-	75
2030 (T)	-	-	-	-	100

Source: SVRS, BBS

The adult literacy rate has improved from 64.6% in 2015 to 75.6% in 2023. There is a high disparity in the rates between urban and rural areas, with rural areas lagging behind (The rural literacy rate was 72.9% in 2023 compared to 83.9% in urban areas). As Table 5.8 highlights, the disparity between males and females, although it exists, has narrowed over time. Over time, there has been around an 11% increase in both male and female literacy rates.

Table 5.8: Adult literacy rate

Years	Male	Female	Rural	Urban	Total
2015 (Base)	67.6	61.6	57.6	74.7	64.6
2020	78.2	73	69.8	82.8	75.6
2023	78.6	72.8	72.9	83.9	75.6

Source: SVRS, BBS

Indicator 4.7.1 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

The degree to which national education systems incorporate Global Citizenship Education (GCED) and Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) is measured by Indicator 4.7.1. Based on government reports and discussions with pertinent parties, it focuses on curriculum, teacher preparation, student assessments, and education policies. Instead of evaluating actual classroom implementation, this indicator evaluates government intentions. On a scale of 0 to 1, Bangladesh's score for incorporating GCED and ESD into teacher education as of 2020 was 0.82, which is marginally lower than the global average of 0.85 (UN, 2020).

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

Primary schools in Bangladesh have made substantial progress in providing basic services. Electricity access now covers over 90% of schools, with full coverage targeted by 2025. Internet access has dropped from 80% in 2015 to 76.89% and remained relatively stagnant till 2023. Computer availability in primary schools has improved, with 80% of schools having computers in 2015, compared to 92.5% in 2023. However, the coverage of adapted infrastructure for students with disabilities, although it has improved, remains significantly lower than the targets set for 2025 and 2030 of 80% and 100% respectively. Schools with safe drinking water facilities have improved over time; however, as of 2023, around 7% of primary schools still lacked this facility. There has been a notable improvement in the availability of single-sex basic sanitation facilities, surpassing the targets set for 2025 (see Table 5.9).

Table 5.9: Proportion of primary schools offering basic services, by types of services (%)

Indicators	2015 (Base)	2020	2023	2025 (T)	2030 (T)
Access to electricity	58	87.6	95.3	100	100
Access to the Internet for pedagogical purposes	80	76.89	79.23	100	100
Access to computers for pedagogical purposes	80	89.9	92.5	100	100
Access to adapted infrastructure and materials for students with disabilities	34	37.52	47.1	80	100
Access to basic drinking water.	82	86.41		95	100
Access to single-sex basic sanitation facilities	48	77.9	-	85	100
Access to basic hand washing facilities (as per the WASH indicator definitions)	-	-	-	100	100

Source: APSC, DPE

Access to electricity was almost universal (98.65%) in secondary schools in 2023, up from 89.93% in 2015. However, in 2023, around 44% of secondary schools still lacked internet access. Students' access to computers alarmingly declined from 77% in 2020 to 59% in 2023. Moreover, the improvement in access to adapted infrastructure for students with disabilities is limited, and as of 2023, over 80% of secondary schools suffered from a lack of this access.

Access to safe drinking water has improved steadily over time, with 97.13% of secondary schools having this facility as of 2023. Similarly, 95.2% of schools had single-sex basic sanitation facilities in 2023, with a slow improvement since 2017, when 95.5% of schools had these facilities. Notably, access to basic handwash facilities has improved over time, as only around 20% had access in 2017, which now covered over 90% of schools in 2023.

Table 5.10: Proportion of secondary schools offering basic services, by types of services (%), 2015-2023

Indicators	2017 (Base)	2020	2023	2025 (T)	2030 (T)
Access to electricity	89.93	9596	98.65	100	100
Access to the Internet for pedagogical purposes	-	47.5	56.09	50	100
Access to computers for pedagogical purposes	-	76.85	59.39	100	100
Access to adapted infrastructure and materials (ramp) for students with disabilities	-	18.76	18.11	80	100
Access to basic drinking water	96.61	97.48	97.13	100	100
Access to single-sex basic sanitation facilities	95.55	96.59	95.2	100	100
Access to basic hand washing facilities	19.68	54.9	90.38	70	100

Source: BES, BANBEIS

Indicator 4.b.1: Volume of official development assistance flows for scholarships

The volume of development assistance flows for scholarships has declined since 2017, dropping from USD 8.79 million to USD 3.38 million in 2023 (Table 5.11). This downward trend falls significantly short of the SDG target of USD 25 million by 2030.

Table 5.11:Volume of official development assistance flows for scholarships

2016 (Base)	2017	2023	2025 (T)	2030 (T)
8.76	7.6	3.38	20	25

Source: Economic Relations Division

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

The proportion of teachers with the minimum required qualifications in Bangladesh has shown gradual progress, especially at the secondary level. In primary education, the rate remained almost unchanged, from 80.06% in 2015 to 80.1% in 2018, indicating stagnation. In lower secondary education, qualification rates improved modestly from 62.01% in 2019 to 62.83% in 2023, with female teachers consistently more qualified than their male counterparts. Upper secondary education saw more gender disparity—female qualification rates rose from 72.6% in 2019 to 73.6% in 2023, while male rates remained significantly lower, hovering around 56-58%. This suggests that while overall teacher qualification levels are improving, progress is slow and uneven (see Table 5.12).

Table 5.12: Proportion of teachers with the minimum required qualifications, by education level (%), by sex, 2015-2023

Indicators		2015 (Base)	2020	2023	2025 (T)	2030 (T)
Primary Education	Total	80.06	-	-	-	-
Lower Secondary Education	Total	-	62.17	62.83	-	-
	Male	-	61.6	62.4	-	-
	Female	-	63.8	64.3	-	-
Upper Secondary Education	Total	-	61.33	62.01	-	-
	Male	-	57.5	58.2	-	-
	Female	-	72.7	73.6	-	-

Source: APSC, DPE and BES, BANBEIS

5.4. Key Policies and Strategies to Achieve SDG 4

In order to promote gender equality and assist students with disabilities, efforts to increase educational access have focused on underprivileged populations, including girls, low-income families, and rural communities. 3.4 million pupils nationwide are enrolled in pre-primary education, and 3,214 government schools have launched experimental initiatives to increase early childhood education (APSC, 2023). With dropout rates sharply decreasing—from 20.4% in 2015 to 13.15% in 2023—primary education has reached a net enrollment rate of 98%. Dropout rates in secondary schools have also decreased, indicating increased access and retention.

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2010's mandate to extend free primary education to Grade 8 is worth highlighting. The extension of elementary education from Grades 5 to 8 through trial projects in hundreds of government schools has advanced universal access. Over 21 million children have benefited directly from comprehensive programs under the Fourth Primary Education Development Program (PEDP-4), and millions of families nationwide have benefited indirectly (APSC, 2023). Additionally, secondary education's gross enrollment ratio increased to 74.81%, with net enrollment at 73.20%, attaining gender parity in the process.

Pre-primary education initiatives also have been pivotal. The introduction of a two-year pre-primary curriculum in 2023, piloted in 3,000 schools, aligns with SDG 4.2, focusing on early childhood development (APSC, 2023). Literacy and numeracy initiatives have further bolstered foundational skills, with youth literacy rates (ages 15–24) standing at 96% in 2023. Since 2023, a new curriculum that prioritises fundamental skills has been in place, improving the standard of education at the primary and secondary levels.

Along with changes to teacher training curricula, the Secondary Education Development Program's (SEDP) capacity-building and teacher training initiatives have guaranteed the hiring of competent educators (GED, 2023). Moreover, global citizenship education is being incorporated into curriculum updates at the same time as facilities are becoming more sensitive to gender and disability issues. Notably, financial support from global education funds has made it possible to implement creative initiatives like ability-based accelerated learning for children who are not enrolled in school.

Financial aid for students has also been given top priority by the government. Due to the reduction of financial obstacles brought about by stipend programs and free textbook distribution, textbook access is now almost ubiquitous (APSC, 2023). Additionally, ICT education has been included in all subject areas, including madrasa education, to get students ready for the Fourth Industrial Revolution. Schools now have the technology they need to promote digital literacy thanks to ICT Learning Centres and multimedia classrooms.

Bangladesh continues to show its dedication to attaining SDG 4, promoting fairness, diversity, and high-quality education while equipping its people for a world that is changing quickly, through these concerted policies and initiatives.

5.5. Major Challenges and Way Forward

Bangladesh continues to face significant learning disparities based on region, school type, and geography, posing a critical barrier to achieving the SDGs by 2030.

Inadequate math proficiency at the secondary level: A large number of students at the end of secondary school level still struggle to meet grade-level competencies in core subjects like Mathematics. As of 2023, 23.6% of students in low secondary school achieved minimum proficiency in mathematics. These rates fall far behind the 2030 targets, signalling a slow rate of improvement. Simple teaching techniques, such as emphasizing object classification and numerical relationships, can help children better grasp fundamental concepts like "more than" and "less than".

Low adult literacy and participation in formal /non-formal education among youth and adults: According to the Literacy Assessment Survey (LAS) , around 4% of youth and 24.4% of adults are illiterate. Additionally, only 42% of Grade 6 students and 65% of Grade 10 students have numeracy skills expected for Grade 3 as per Bangladesh Education Fact Sheets. These deficits are compounded by a widening gap in literacy and numeracy skills across all educational levels, with lower secondary school students performing significantly worse in mathematics and Bangla assessments compared to their peers in earlier grades.

Low participation in early childhood development and learning programs: As of 2023, only 67.48% of children aged 4-5 participated in organized pre-primary education, well below the 90% target for 2025 and 100% for 2030 according to the SVRS. Strengthening early childhood programs is crucial. Introducing play-based pedagogy and cognitive development initiatives can ensure that all children under five are developmentally on track by 2030 (indicator 4.2.1). Parenting education is also vital to improve children's literacy, numeracy, and social skills. In rural Bangladesh, strengthening public health interventions is essential to enhance Early Childhood Development (ECD) programs, particularly those focusing on child health for building a solid learning foundation for children aged 36-59 months.

Insufficient ICT skills: Less than 25% of youth and adults in Bangladesh possessed ICT skills in 2023 according to the Access and Use of ICT by Household and Individual survey by BBS including tasks like copying and pasting data or sending messages implying a major challenge in improving the indicator for 4.4.1. The situation is worse in rural areas with less than 6% of youth and adults possessing ICT skills. Expanding ICT access, particularly in rural areas, is crucial to preparing Bangladesh for the challenges of the 4th Industrial Revolution. Digital inclusion can empower the poor, enhancing employability through market-linked skills training positively impacting indicator 4.4.1.

Inadequate facilities for students with disabilities: While 47% of primary schools had adapted infrastructure for students with disabilities in 2023, only 18% of secondary schools provided such facilities (APSC 2023), which hiders a specific target of indicator 4.a.1. This points to an urgent need for improved infrastructure to ensure inclusive education for students with special needs. As part of the National Priority Targets (NPT), equipping schools—especially at the secondary level—with ramp facilities should be a top priority. This will ensure safer, more inclusive learning environments for all students and improve the status of indicator 4.a.1.

Low volume of development assistance for scholarships: Despite the target of USD 25 million in official development assistance for scholarships by 2030, the figure has declined from USD 8.76 million to USD 3.38 million between 2016 to 2023. This declining trend poses a significant challenge in meeting the SDG 4.b.1 target for expanding educational opportunities. To increase development assistance for scholarships, Bangladesh must explore diverse financing sources, such as international development finance institutions, private markets, and official support (United Nations, 2024)[3] . Strategic alignment of financing efforts will help address the country's scholarship funding shortfall and help Bangladesh reach the target of indicator 4.b.1.

Gaps in education for sustainable development (ESD): Despite various initiatives, significant gaps remain in integrating climate change education into ESD affecting indicator 4.7.1. There is limited funding for climate change education, a lack of focus on certain vulnerable groups like youth, women, and persons with disabilities, and insufficient emphasis on the values domain of ESD. Although ESD is present in formal education through environmental subjects, there is an urgent need to embed sustainability principles more comprehensively across curricula to achieve the indicator 4.7.1 target. Investments in teacher training on climate change and sustainability should be prioritized, particularly focusing on vulnerable groups such as youth, women, refugees, and persons with disabilities.

Teacher training deficiencies: A World Bank assessment in 2020 revealed that teacher training in Bangladesh remains inadequate, especially for pre-primary education. This deficiency impacts almost all the indicators, especially 4.c.1, 4.1.1, 4.2.1, 4.2.2, etc. Despite some improvements, the training modules have not evolved significantly in the past decade, limiting the effectiveness of classroom teaching and assessments. To meet SDG targets in all education levels under indicators 4.1.1, 4.2.1, 4.2.2, and 4.c.1, Bangladesh should increase teacher recruitment, especially to achieve universal secondary education enrollment. Maintaining a reasonable pupil-teacher ratio, ideally not exceeding 25:1 (APSC, 2023; UNESCO, 2016) is also critical for ensuring quality education. Increasing the recruitment rate of qualified teachers can help meet the demands for quality education as 35.7% of lower secondary school teachers and 37.99% o of upper secondary school teachers failed to meet minimum qualifications in 2023 (APSC, 2023).

Insufficient education financing: Although the education budget increased by 7.42% in FY 2024-2025, Bangladesh's education expenditure as a percentage of GDP remains low at 1.7%, one of the lowest among LDCs. This shortfall in funding limits the government's ability to address skill gaps and improve educational

3. UN. (2024). Bridging the financing gap to achieve SDGs requires mobilization of various financing sources.

infrastructure impacting indicators, such as 4.4.1, 4.7.1, 4.a.1, 4.b.1 and 4.c.1 as the country moves towards graduation from LDC status. Despite efforts, low and lower-middle-income countries face a funding gap of USD 97 billion annually according to the Sustainable Development Goals Report 2023 (UN, 2023). Mobilizing sufficient resources is critical to meet the challenges for all indicators.

5.6. Summary

Near-universal primary school enrollment and gender parity at the primary and secondary levels have been attained. Government programs like the Secondary Education Sector Investment Program (SESIP) and the Primary Education Stipend Program (PESP) have also improved learning results and decreased dropout rates. But problems still exist, especially when it comes to improving the quality of education. Student learning is nevertheless hampered by problems including outdated curricula, crowded classrooms, and inadequate teacher preparation. To guarantee inclusivity, technical and vocational education and training (TVET) must be strengthened. Additionally, children with special needs must be adequately accommodated.

CHAPTER 6

SDG 5

GENDER EQUALITY

6.1. Background

Gender equality is at the core of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and achieving holistic economic, social, and environmental development. Although integrated into other goals, especially poverty alleviation (SDG 1), quality education (SDG 4), decent work (SDG 8), and health (SDG 3), the United Nations (UN) set SDG 5 as a distinct goal to address rather specific deep-rooted cultural and systematic binding constraints that perpetuate gender-based inequalities, requiring targeted interventions.

According to WHO estimates from 2021, one in three women experiences abuse from their spouses or non-partners, and the majority choose not to disclose it primarily out of fear of societal disapproval. Compared to their male colleagues, women nevertheless face obstacles that prevent them from realising their full economic and social potential. Around the world, women are still disproportionately responsible for unpaid care and household labour. Historically women have held a disproportionate number of low-skilled, low-paying, and informal employment. Despite occupying almost 40% of the labour force, women are highly underrepresented in managerial and leadership positions. Against this backdrop, the UN has forecasted that by 2050, only 28 out of every 100 managerial positions will be held by women.

6.2. Global and Regional Context

According to the UN SDG Report 2024, the global statistics related to gender equality remain grim and non-aligned with the targeted timeline of 2030. Even today, 1 in every 5 girls on average is married off before reaching the age of 18, compared with 1 in every 4 girls married off by the same age 25 years ago, showing a slight improvement over two and a half decades.

In 2022, women's employment share worldwide was 40%, but they only accounted for about 25.7% of managerial or leadership roles, showing no discernible growth since 2016. It would take an additional 176 years to achieve parity in managerial posts due to the ingrained legal and societal impediments and the current trend.

During the five years between 2019 and 2023, only 56 good legislative reforms supporting gender equality were enacted across 120 nations; the majority of them have dealt with economic equality, while the rest have addressed gender-based violence. In general, women with disabilities are disproportionately vulnerable to physical violence at the hands of their partners compared to other women. In 69 countries, 56% of women aged 15–49 years can make their own sexual and reproductive health choices, with regional advances noted, however, declines observed in Western and Central Africa.

Bangladesh has fared better than its South Asian neighbours, including Nepal, Sri Lanka, The Maldives, Bhutan, India, and Pakistan, in achieving gender parity, with a higher overall ranking of 99 and a score of 0.689.[4] However, as the performance depicted in Table 6. 1 suggests, special efforts need to be concentrated on certain key areas.

Table 6.1: Global Gender Gap Index

	Bangladesh	Nepal	Sri Lanka	Maldives	Bhutan	India	Pakistan
Ranking	99	117	122	132	124	129	146
Score	0.689	0.664	0.653	0.633	0.651	0.641	0.57

Source: World Economic Forum, Gender Gap Report 2024

4. The scores range from 0 to 1, where 1 indicates complete parity (full gender equality) and 0 indicates no parity. For example, a score of 0.68 means that 68% of the gender gap has been closed, while 32% remains to be addressed.

Although Bangladesh with a score of 0.94 is ahead of Nepal and Pakistan in educational gender parity, it still trails significantly behind regional leaders like Maldives and Sri Lanka as shown in table 6.2. Continued and focused efforts are needed to further bridge the gender gap in educational attainment to move up the rankings and achieve greater parity.

Table 6.2: Educational Attainment Gender Gap Index

	Bangladesh	Nepal	Sri Lanka	Maldives	Bhutan	India	Pakistan
Rank	125	130	49	1	113	112	139
Score	0.94	0.923	0.997	1	0.963	0.964	0.836

Source: World Economic Forum, Gender Gap Report 2024

Bangladesh's position in economic participation is alarming, as shown in table 6.3 is the lowest in South Asia. This immense gender gap that reflects deeply rooted systemic inequalities, including not just a lack of access but also significant barriers, such as discrimination, inadequate policy implementation, and insufficient support for women in the workforce.

Table 6.3: Economic Participation and Opportunities

	Bangladesh	Nepal	Sri Lanka	Maldives	Bhutan	India	Pakistan
Rank	146	137	127	132	103	142	143
Score	0.311	0.475	0.544	0.514	0.643	0.398	0.36

Source: World Economic Forum, Gender Gap Report 2024

Bangladesh's leadership in political empowerment within South Asia is strong, ranking 7, likely due to women's longstanding presence in top political roles and reserved seats in Parliament. In contrast, countries like Nepal and India have shown a slower progress, while Sri Lanka, Maldives, Bhutan, and Pakistan have even fewer women in leadership positions, highlighting a wider regional gap in political representation.

Table 6.4: Political Empowerment

	Bangladesh	Nepal	Sri Lanka	Maldives	Bhutan	India	Pakistan
Rank	7	51	123	138	139	65	121
Score	0.543	0.288	0.09	0.055	0.045	0.215	0.122

Source: World Economic Forum, Gender Gap Report 2024

Bangladesh's low rank in health and survival suggests entrenched gender inequalities, with women facing significant barriers to healthcare and well-being. This gap, especially compared to Sri Lanka and Nepal, highlights deficiencies in addressing women's health needs and systemic neglect in ensuring gender parity in health outcomes. It necessitates addressing issues like gender-based discrimination in healthcare access and potential cultural biases affecting women's health outcomes.

Table 6.5: Health and Survival

Bangladesh		Nepal	Sri Lanka	Maldives	Bhutan	India	Pakistan
Rank	129	82	1	121	122	142	132
Score	0.962	0.969	0.98	0.962	0.962	0.951	0.961

Source: World Economic Forum, Gender Gap Report 2024.

6.3. Assessment of National Progress on SDG 5

5.1.1. Whether or not legal frameworks are in place to promote, enforce, and monitor equality and non-discrimination based on sex

Bangladesh Labour Act 2006 (amended in 2013 and 2018) ensures equality for women in the workplace. It requires fully paid maternity leave for 16 weeks (Section 46) while forbidding an employer from dismissing a woman during such a time (Section 50). The Act further prohibits women's employment in unhealthy environments (Section 39) or during night shifts, except with their consent (Section 45). Additionally, the Act requires crèche facilities in any establishment that employs 40 or more women (Section 94) and offers equal pay to maintain gender equality (Section 345), allowing working mothers to combine their obligations to their families and their careers. Additionally, the Act provides for rest periods (Section 100), protects women from harassment in the workplace (Section 332), and allows pregnant and nursing women to work flexible hours due to the unique challenges they confront. The law's dedication in protecting women from exploitation and injury is further demonstrated by the prohibition against forced labour under Section 326 and the compensation payable for workplace injuries.

The Suppression of Violence Against Women and Children Act (2000) prohibits criminal offenses like rape, sexual harassment, acid attacks, human trafficking, and dowry-related violence with strict penalties for violators.

Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act (2010), an outcome of the CEDAW obligation, takes a comprehensive approach to defining domestic abuse as including physical, psychological, sexual, and economic abuse. It introduced protection orders for victims and mandated legal aid and shelters. It provides for preventive measures, such as raising awareness and training law enforcement. However, it does not mandate punishment for violent perpetrators.

Child Marriage Restraint Act 2017 sets 18 years as the minimum lawful age for marriage for women and 21 years for men, including penalties for those involved in child marriages.

Recently, the two-finger test (TFT), which was widely exercised in rape investigations and used in legal proceedings was abolished in 2018. The test was not only a violation of basic human rights, dignity, and privacy of the rape survivors but also deemed unscientific by medical experts. The legal reform has been a major milestone in the context of Bangladesh in recent times, upholding its commitment to human rights protection.

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

Intimate partner violence has declined from 38% in 2015 to 24.4% in 2024. However, the decline rate is insufficient to meet the target of 20% in 2025 and subsequently 0% by 2030. It also revealed that physical violence has halved over the period, while there is little progress made in reducing sexual and psychological violence.

Table 6.6: Prevalence of intimate partner violence experienced at least once among ever-married women aged 15 and above in the last 12 months (%)

Type of violence	2015(Base)	2024	2025 (T)	2030 (T)
Any form of violence	38.0	24.4	20	0

Source: Violence Against Women (VAW) Survey 2024, BBS

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

In 2015, 2.45% women and girls aged 15 years and older reported facing sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the then previous 12 months. Less than 0.5% women reported the same issue. The drop in the statistics indicate some improvement in terms of eradicating non-partner violence.

Table 6.7: Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner, in the last 12 months, by place of occurrence

	2015 (Base)	2024	2025 (T)	2030 (T)
Total	2.45	0.46	-	0
Rural	-	0.48	-	-
Urban	-	0.45	-	-

Source: Violence Against Women (VAW) Survey 2024, BBS

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

Figure 6.1 shows a notable decline in child marriage from 23.8% in 2013 to 3.6% in 2021. However, child marriage almost doubled during the pandemic. Following this upward trend, it peaked at 8.2% in 2023, making the target of eliminating child marriage by 2025 a challenging task.

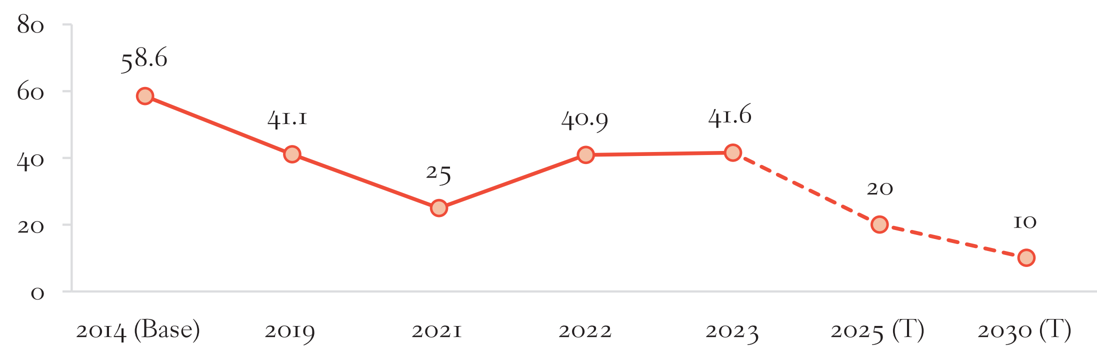
Table 6.8: Proportion of women aged 20-24 years who were married or in a union before age 15 (%)

2019 (Base)	2021	2022	2023	2025 (T)	2030 (T)
6.2	3.6	6.5	8.2	0	0

Source: SVRS, BBS

Figure 6.2 shows a marked decline in under-18 child marriage since the base year since 2021. However, it has increased significantly following the COVID-19 Pandemic, from 25% in 2021 to 41.6% in 2023. Given the current trend, reaching the target of 20% by 2025 seems too ambitious.

Figure 6.1: Proportion of women aged 20-24 years who were married or in a union before age 18 (%)

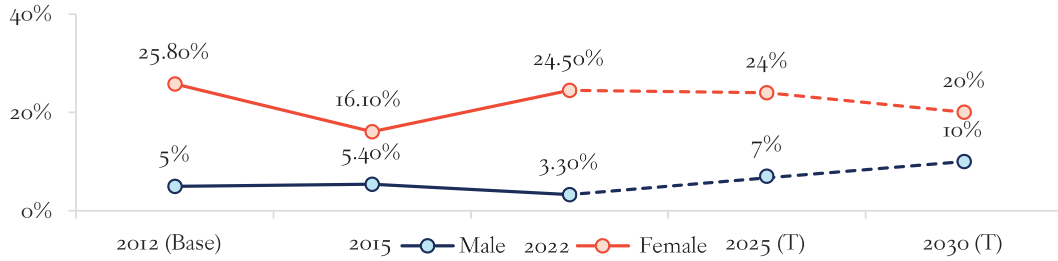


Source: BDHS (for 2014); SVRS, BBS

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

The gender gap in unpaid domestic and care work, as highlighted in Figure 6.4, narrowed substantially from 20.8 percentage points in 2012 to 10.7 percentage points in 2015. However, by 2022, the gap widened again to 21.2 points, driven by a resurgence in women's unpaid work (24.5%) and a drop in men's participation (3.3%).

Figure 6.2: Proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work, by sex



Source: Time Use Survey, BBS

Indicator 5.5.1. The proportion of seats held by women in (a) national parliaments and (b) local government

Table 6.8 shows that the proportion of women's seats in the national parliament shows stagnation, with minimal improvement since the base year.

Table 6.9: Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments (%)

2014(Base)	2018	2023	2025 (T)	2030 (T)
20%	20.29%	20.86%	35%	40%

Source: Bangladesh Parliament Secretariat (BPS)

Table 6.9 shows that the proportion of seats held by women at the local government level has slightly improved over the years, from 23% in 2016 to 23.46% in 2023.

Table 6.10: Proportion of seats held by women in local government

2016 (Base)	2018	2020	2021	2022	2023	2025 (T)	2030 (T)
23%	25.21%	23.30%	23.40%	23.44	23.46	27%	33%

Source: Local Government Division (LGD).

Indicator 5.5.2. Proportion of women in managerial positions

Table 6.11 highlights a significant underrepresentation of women in managerial positions. The number of women in managerial positions declined from 11.40% in 2016 to 7.3% in 2022.

Table 6.11: Proportion of employed women in managerial positions, aged 15 years or older

2016	2017	2022	2023	2025 (T)	2030 (T)
11.4	10.7	8.1	7.3	23	30

Source: QLFS, BBS

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

According to BDHS, in 2014, only 36.4% of women aged 15–49 were able to make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use, and reproductive health care. This increased to 44.3% in 2018, and further to 45.5% in 2022.

Indicator 5.6.2 Number of countries with 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

According to Medical Education and Family Welfare Division, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, in 2025, Bangladesh scored 89.1% on the indicator measuring the presence of laws and regulations that guarantee full and equal access to sexual and reproductive health care, information, and education for both women and men aged 15 and older.

5.a.1: (a) Proportion of total agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land, by sex; (b) Share of women among owners or rights-bearers of agricultural land, by type of tenure

In 2020, only 7.64% of the total agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land were women, compared to 47.85% of men. Overall, 29.03% of the agricultural population had some form of secure land ownership or rights.

When analysed by type of tenure, the share of women among landowners or rights-bearers further underscores these inequalities. In 2020, women represented only 13.18% of owner holdings, 10.89% of owner-cum-tenant holdings, and 9.73% of tenant holdings. Overall, women comprised 12.32% of individuals with ownership or secure rights across all tenure types.

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

There is a significant mobile gender gap in Bangladesh, where only 51.4% of females use mobile phones compared to 72.3% of males.

Table 6.12: Percentage of mobile phone owner by gender and region

Years	2022	2023	2024	2025 (T)	2030 (T)
Male	72.3	72.2	-	-	-
Female	51.4	55.3	-	-	-
Rural	58.7	60.9	-	-	-
Urban	71.3	72.3	-	-	-
Total	61.8	63.8	64.8	90	100

Source: Access and Use of ICT Survey, BBS

6.4. Key Policies and Strategies to Achieve SDG 5

The Constitution of Bangladesh (1972) serves as the foundation for establishing not just gender equality but also gender equity in all spheres of human life. Article 27 mandates equality before the law, Article 28 (1) restricts all types of discrimination based on sex, caste, race, etc., Article 28 (2) mandates equality of opportunities in every public sphere and most importantly Article 28 (4) lays out the foundation for affirmative discrimination to address historic inequalities by making special provisions for women and children.

In 1995, Bangladesh ratified the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, which was more than just another document and more of a firm commitment to advancing women's rights, focused on economic, social, legal, and political empowerment and equal participation in all spheres of life, including education, healthcare, and safety.

Bangladesh ratified the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) 1984, which serves as a guiding framework for all gender-based state initiatives and has played an instrumental role in national policy formulation. The CEDAW is a global contract that binds the adopting countries to reform their laws and policies to protect women's rights. However, Bangladesh has not yet removed its reservations on Article 2, which calls for social and cultural changes in the patriarchal system that perpetuates inequalities, and Article 16.1 C, which mandates equal rights in marriage and divorce. The provisions of the CEDAW are widely reflected in the national policy documents, including the government's 5-year plans.

The National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) (2015) has committed to ensuring special provisions to support and empower marginalized women by integrating them into the mainstream economy and society. At present, there are 9 different programs under the Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs including-- the Mother and Child Benefit Programs (MCBP), Vulnerable Women Benefit (VWB) Programs, Joyeeta Foundation initiatives, Tottho Apa for empowering women through ICT, capacity building of the Joyeeta Foundation, promotion of women entrepreneurs for grassroots economic empowerment, the Investment Component for Vulnerable Group Development Programs (ICVGD), and enhancing adaptive capacities of coastal communities, especially women, to cope with climate change-induced salinity, along with the Accelerating Protection for Children (APC) programs.

6.5. Major Challenges and Way Forward

Poor enforcement of gender rights-related laws: Poor enforcement of the law weakens the legal framework against violence and further subjugates women, hindering the achievement of a gender equal country. Although Bangladesh has established several Acts intended to prevent violence against women, loopholes within these laws, along with irregular enforcement and a lack of funding for legal and social support, deny justice to many women. Access to justice is undeniably challenging for women and girls, especially from marginalised and lower-income backgrounds.

Limited Social Protection and Legal Support: There is limited social protection and available legal support to report gender-based abuse. Social protection mechanisms in Bangladesh are inadequate to help women report abuses. At the same time, there is huge reluctance among them to seek help due to fear of divorce, which is highly stigmatised, and consequently makes them further vulnerable to continued abuse and poverty.

Disproportionate care responsibilities hindering economic participation: The lack of accessible, affordable, and quality childcare facilities restricts women's labour force participation post-motherhood, which is the turning point in most women's careers. At present, there are only 63 state-funded day-care facilities, which widely fall short of catering to the needs of all young working women, who are perceived to be the primary caregivers in Bangladesh. Additionally, there is minimal enforcement of provisions for day-care facilities in the Bangladesh Labour Act (BLA) 2006. In order to promote female labour force participation and to reduce time spent on unpaid work (SDG 5.4.1), there is a dire need to expand adequate, accessible and affordable childcare services for working mothers. The establishment of an additional 60 day-care centres under the Department of Women Affairs should be expedited.

Increasing trends in child marriage: As discussed before, significant progress made in reducing child marriages has been overturned due to the impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic. During the uncertain period of slowed economic activities, poverty increased along with school dropout rates, particularly in rural areas.

6.6. Summary

The chapter looks at various parameters in terms of progress and setbacks toward gender equality. While the constitutional protections and frameworks are in place, entrenched gender inequalities persist. Women face significant gaps in economic participation, with only around 8% holding managerial positions and most women carrying a disproportionate burden of unpaid care work. Violence is pervasive, with nearly 50% of women experiencing intimate partner violence, supported neither legally nor socially in most cases.

Bangladesh has done relatively well in the sphere of political empowerment; thus, it is ranked 7th in the world, which shows the consequences of the reservation of seats for women in Parliament. The pandemic worsened challenges, raising child marriage and erasing gains in education. Recommendations include proper enforcement of laws to prevent violence against women, an effective national database on cases of gender violence, and accessible childcare facilities to enhance female labour-force participation, among others. Together with these reforms, strengthening the rule of law will push Bangladesh advance towards the SDG 5 goals by 2030.

CHAPTER 7

SDG 6

CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

7.1. Background

The SDG 6 relates to access to clean water and sanitation, which is a fundamental human need and right. Globally, it is of significant importance, especially in low-income countries that have higher prevalence of water-borne diseases and where majority of the infections are associated with poor sanitation. Its significance stretches beyond protecting public health, as it is needed to support sustained economic growth. Lack of access leads to unfavourable educational outcomes, loss of productivity due to multiple health issues and slowed economic activities. Despite the significant demand for safe water and sanitation facilities, the access remains inadequate and unequally distributed across different socio-economic groups, leading to social injustice. To address this, the objective of universal access to clean water and sanitation has been integrated into the 2030 Agenda, as outlined by the UNGA Resolution. In context of Bangladesh, rapid urbanisation and industrialisation has resulted in massive water contamination without adequate corrective measures and the same time increased demand for water. Hence, efficient water management to cater to the growing needs of the people is imperative.

7.2. Global and Regional Context

According to the UN SDG Progress Report (2024), global access to safely managed drinking water improved from 69% in 2015 to 73% in 2022. Despite this progress, around 2.2 billion people worldwide still lacked access to safe drinking water in 2022At the same time, sanitation access also improved, rising from 49% to 57%. However, 3.5 billion people still lacked sanitation facilities. Similarly, basic hygiene coverage expanded over the period, increasing from 67% in 2015 to 75% in 2022. Despite this improvement, one fourth of the global population still did not have access to adequate facilities, indicating a significant gap in reaching the goal of universal access.

Based on the progress so far, it has been estimated that around 2 billion people worldwide is likely to lack safely managed drinking water, 3 billion are likely to be deprived of safely managed sanitation and 1.4 billion go without basic hygiene facilities. In 2022, half of the world's population faced severe water scarcity for at least a part of the year, while one-fourth faced extremely high-water stress, with Central and Southern Asia facing the highest stress and Northern Africa at critical levels.

In terms of water management and monitoring, there are persistent inequalities between high-income and low-income countries. In 2022, 76% of total wastewater received some level of treatment in 73 reporting countries and 60% of the wastewater flows received at least secondary-level treatment in 42 countries. Compared to low-income countries, high-income countries—including those in Europe—had safer and better wastewater treatment systems. Approximately 58% of home wastewater in 140 countries was safely treated. Only 56% of the 91,000 water bodies, evaluated in 2023, had satisfactory water quality, and most of the reported bodies came from wealthy nations. Interestingly, only 101 nations monitored rivers, leaving lakes and groundwater largely unexamined. While there were some advances in the quality of the water in Europe and portions of North America, South Asia and other places saw far less development, with excessive pollution and untreated effluent causing degradation. The agricultural sector saw the largest increase in water use efficiency over time, improving by 36% between 2015 and 2021. Compared to Central and Southern Asia, highly industrialised countries like Europe, Oceania, and Northern America saw the largest improvements. From 2015 to 2021, water stress levels rose by 3% globally, with Northern Africa and Western Asia, experiencing a 12% rise. In most cases, agriculture accounted for the majority of this stress, followed by industry and services.

7.3. Assessment of National Progress on SDG 6

6.1.1. Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services

As per SVRS data, highlighted in Table 7.1, access to safely managed drinking water services rose from 47.90% in 2019 to 71.22% in 2023. However, it still falls significantly short of meeting its target of reaching universal coverage by 2025.

Table 7.1: Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services

2019 (Base)	2021	2022	2023	2025 (T)	2030 (T)
47.90%	73.22%	70.67%	71.22%	100%	100%

Source: SVRS, BBS

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

As per SVRS data, highlighted in Figure 7.1, access to safely managed sanitation facilities expanded notably from 42.8% in 2019 to 68% in 2021. However, it regressed significantly to 45% in 2023. Given the current situation, reaching the target of 60% by 2025 seems challenging. Parallelly, access to hand-washing facilities with soap and water, as highlighted in Figure 7.2, has notably declined over time, from 74.80% in 2019 to only 65.20% in 2023.

Figure 7.1: Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services

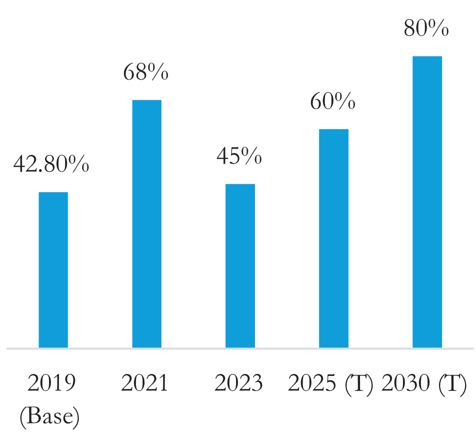
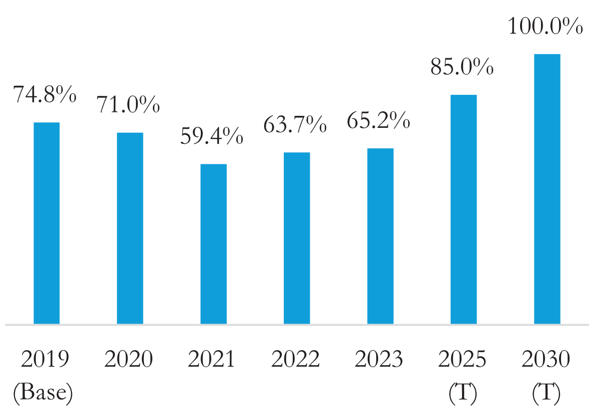


Figure 7.2: Proportion of population using a hand-washing facility with soap and water



Source: SVRS, BBS

6.3.1. Proportion of domestic and industrial wastewater flows safely treated

As per Local Government Division (LGD), as highlighted in Table 7.2, the proportion of safely treated domestic wastewater improved from 32.8% in 2020 to 40.73% in 2021. The lack of data for this indicator remains a significant constraint for effective policy making.

Table 7.2: Proportion of domestic wastewater flows safely treated

2020	2021
32.8	40.73

Source: Local Government Division (LGD).

6.3.2. Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality

As per the reporting from Department of Environment (DoE), 57.9% of water bodies in the country have good ambient water quality in 2020.

6.4.1. Change in water-use efficiency over time

Bangladesh's water efficiency increased by 9.82% in 2020; however, it decreased to only 5.84% in 2021 (DPHE, LGD). The trend provides insights to give emphasis on responsible use of water so as not to waste it, and making sure there is enough for all, particularly in water-scarce regions or where it is becoming increasingly difficult to manage.

Table 7.3: Change in water-use efficiency over time

2020	2021	2025 (T)	2030 (T)
9.82	5.84	-	-

Source: Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE), Local Government Division (LGD).

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

Stress levels below 25% suggest efficient water use, while higher stress levels indicate overuse and potential risk of depletion. According to Barind Multipurpose Development Authority (BMDA), Bangladesh's overall freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources was 100% in 2020.

6.5.1. Degree of integrated water resources management

The overall degree of water resource management implementation has improved from 52 in 2018 to 64 in 2023, surpassing the target of 60 by 2025. This takes into account various indicators, such as including financing, management instruments, institutions and participation, and the enabling environment.

Table 7.4: Degree of integrated water resources management implementation (0-100) in Bangladesh

2018	2020	2023	2025 (T)	2030 (T)
52	58	64	60	70

Source: Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB).

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

The proportion of trans boundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation remained stagnant at 38% from 2018 to 2022.

Table 7.5: Proportion of trans boundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation

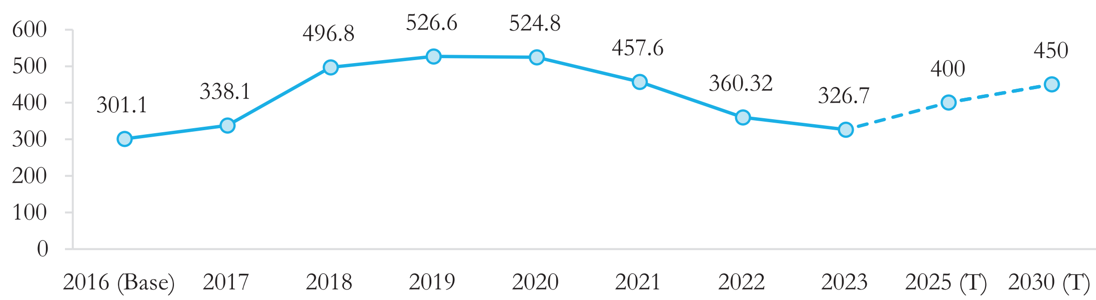
2018 (Base)	2022	2025 (T)	2030 (T)
38%	38%	40%	50%

Source: Joint River Commission, Bangladesh (JRC)

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

Over the years, the sanitation-related Official Development Assistance (ODA) showed an upward trend, increasing from USD 301 million in 2015 to almost USD 526.6 million in 2019. However, since 2019 there has been a persistent declining trend in the ODA, indicating diminishing priority for sanitation and water infrastructure development.

Figure 7.3: Amount of water- and sanitation-related official development assistance that is part of a government-coordinated spending plan (million USD)



Source: Economic Relations Division

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

The proportion of local administrative units with established and operational policies and procedures for the participation of local communities in water and sanitation management remained the same at 95.99% from 2019 to 2021 as per data of the Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE).

7.4. Key Policies and Strategies to Achieve SDG 6

The National Water Policy (NWP) 1999 was developed to address the challenges faced by the densely populated deltaic country prone to climate disasters. It laid a strong foundation for equitable allocation of scarce water resources, pollution control, and conservation. The main focus areas of this policy are equitable distribution of water, management of groundwater, control of pollution, and infrastructure for flood management. This foundational document set the groundwork for later regulations, such as the Bangladesh Water Act 2013 and Water regulations-2018, which enforces many of its principles through the regulation of water rights and usage, as well as pollution. It has also influenced the National Strategy for Sanitation, 2005, which emphasizes clean water for public health. Besides, the Ganges Water Sharing Treaty of 1996 is consistent with the policy principles on transboundary management and calls for cooperation in resource sharing with India. Thus, all these put together have formed a coherent framework for meeting the goal of sustainable water and sanitation management under the SDG 6 target.

To ensure effective materialization, NWP 1990 assigned key responsibilities to different institutions. The Water Resources Planning Organization (WARPO) is the central organization for integrated water resources planning and coordination at a sectoral level, with the mandate to guide equitable and sustainable water use. The Local Government Department (LGD) and local government authority shall undertake water and sanitation projects, particularly at the rural levels. The Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR) has the overall governance and enforcement of policies. The policy allows for inter-ministerial coordination, which shall involve the Environment, Health, Agriculture, and Local Government ministries to attain integrated water resource management across urban, industrial, and agricultural sectors.

The Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100, approved by the National Economic Council (NEC) in 2018, is a long-term water resource management strategy and action plan to translate the SDG6 vision into reality. The intergenerational commitment emphasises water security for future generations. It also advises on project selection criteria focused on adherence to adaptive delta management principles, referring to 80 projects with an approximate investment budget of US$ 37 billion. It assigned the key implementation M&E responsibility to GED, analysing all M&E from all involved agencies.

7.5. Major Challenges

Lack of Sustained Drinking Water Sources: Despite improving access to safely managed drinking water services as indicated by SDG 6.1, a large rural population still lacks sustainable sources. The vast majority heavily relies on deep tube-wells for water extraction, which is vulnerable to changes in rainfall patterns, droughts, and salinity. Additionally, arsenic contamination remains a significant public health and development concern, given arsenic poisoning has intergenerational impacts on communities.

Lack of Proper Sanitation Facilities: Over half of Bangladesh's population do not have access to safe sanitation facilities, which is major concern (SVRS). The implications are more pronounced for marginalised groups, such as women and children. WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) Report, 2022 estimated that over a thousand children under the age of five die of diarrhoea every year due to unclean water and poor sanitation and the actual number could be much higher. Women suffer from various hygiene-related diseased due to lack of inclusive toilet facilities.

Insufficient Safe Water Waste Treatment Facilities: Safe water waste treatment facilities, including the sewerage and drainage system, remain insufficient and underfunded to accommodate the urban sprawl and growing domestic and industrial wastage. A glaring example of this shortfall is that only around 19% of the wastewater flow receives some treatment, leaving the rest untreated and exposing communities to significant contamination risks as indicated by SDG 6.3 (Municipal Waste Management Survey Report 2023).

Weak Enforcement and Industrial Non-Compliance in Wastewater Management: The industries dump untreated water waste directly into the water bodies, polluting them on a large scale. While regulation exists, compliance is low, which can be attributed to the institutional capacity constraints of implementing agencies and coordination issues among them. Industrial waste and untreated urban wastewater continue to pollute rivers at alarming rates, posing a severe threat to water quality and biodiversity. This makes achieving SDG 6.3.1 increasingly difficult. Without a decisive and unified response, the ecological and economic consequences of river pollution will be devastating. To combat river pollution, stricter enforcement of environmental laws is necessary. Industries must face heavier fines for non-compliance, and all factories should operate with functional Effluent Treatment Plants (ETPs). Advanced monitoring technologies and regular independent audits should be implemented to ensure compliance. Measurable improvements in water quality and ecosystem health must be tracked as indicators of progress toward achieving SDG 6.3.1.

Inefficiency in Water Use and Management: The change in water use efficiency indicator, SDG 6.4.1, takes into account the usage in various sectors, including agriculture, industry, and services. It indicates progress in using water responsibly so as not to waste it and ensure there is enough for all, particularly in water-scarce regions or where it is becoming increasingly difficult to manage. Bangladesh has been performing poorly on this front, indicating the lack of water-efficient technologies adoption, particularly in the water intensive agricultural sector.

Poor Shared Water Management: As indicated by SDG 6.5.2., Bangladesh fares poorly in terms of shared water management resources. This issue with the neighbouring country, India, remains a significant concern. While Bangladesh shares 54 rivers with its neighbour, only the Ganges Water Sharing Treaty of 1996 governs their use, covering just 38% of these rivers. Over 60% of transboundary waters lack a cooperative framework, leaving Bangladesh vulnerable to seasonal water crises. The unresolved Teesta water-sharing deal exemplifies these challenges, with opposition from West Bengal halting progress.

Integrated Water Resource Management Issues: Although integrated-water resources management has improved over time, as indicated by SDG 6.5.1, the metric still falls short. To overcome this, improved coordination efforts among key ministries, such as Water Resources, Environment, and Health, along with agencies like WARPO and NRCC, are essential. Establishing an integrated framework can address policy gaps and conflicts while ensuring clear mandates, adequate funding, and effective enforcement mechanisms. This approach will foster streamlined governance and better regulation across the water sector.

Decreasing ODA for Water and Sanitation: The declining trend in Official Development Assistance (ODA) for water and sanitation in Bangladesh, as indicated by SDG 6.a.1, has become a concern, especially with LDC graduation approaching. Investments have been constrained by reduced concessional financing and limited domestic resources, while increasing urbanisation and climate vulnerabilities have placed greater pressure on existing infrastructure. Progress has been further hindered by weak institutional coordination and limited private sector participation, raising concerns about the long-term sustainability of water and sanitation services.

7.6. Summary

This chapter delves into Bangladesh's progress and challenges in achieving SDG 6, which emphasizes universal access to clean water and sanitation. Despite significant advancements in access to drinking water and sanitation, rapid urbanization has outpaced infrastructure development, leaving slums and rural areas struggling with inadequate facilities. Untreated wastewater and industrial discharges severely degrade river ecosystems and pose serious health risks to communities.

Regulatory enforcement is further weakened by governance inefficiencies, which are typified by disjointed policies and inadequate inter-ministerial cooperation. Furthermore, only the Ganges Water Sharing Treaty exists, limiting transboundary water cooperation and leaving the majority of shared rivers unregulated and open to conflict.

Establishing an integrated water governance framework, developing and modernising sanitation infrastructure, negotiating new transboundary water-sharing agreements, and rigorously implementing pollution reduction measures are the main goals of the recommendations made. In order to maintain sustainable water management, enhance public health, and protect Bangladesh's river ecosystems, these problems must be resolved.

CHAPTER 8

SDG 7

AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

8.1. Background

Access to affordable, reliable, and sustainable energy is more than just a development target, it is a foundation of human well-being and a driver of inclusive growth. SDG 7, which calls for universal access to modern, cheap and dependable energy, directly supports progress in health, education, livelihoods, and climate resilience. It acknowledges that without energy, people are unable to fully participate in modern society or escape poverty.

In Bangladesh, this goal carries critical importance. As a densely populated, fast-developing country, energy demand has soared over the past decades. Yet millions still live without consistent electricity, particularly in rural, hill and coastal regions. Expanding access to clean energy is essential, not only to supply homes and businesses with power, but also to enable equitable development and climate adaptation.

The government has taken deliberate steps to address this challenge. Solar home systems, off-grid renewable solutions, and utility-scale solar projects have become central to national energy policy. By emphasizing domestic renewable sources, Bangladesh aims to reduce dependence on imported fossil fuels while increasing energy security. These efforts are aligned with the country's broader goals of achieving self-sufficiency and climate resilience.

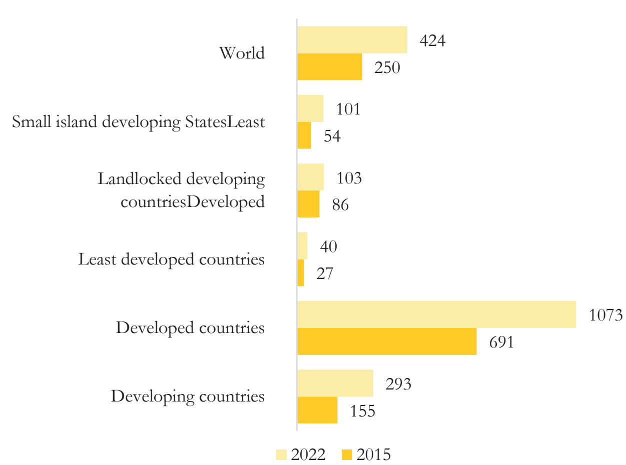
8.2. Global and Regional Context

Worldwide, advancements in attaining Sustainable Development Goal 7 are varied. The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2024 indicates that certain regions have achieved considerable progress, but others are falling behind. Central and Southern Asia, along with Eastern and South-Eastern Asia, have had significant advancements in access to power and clean cooking options. These regions have reduced carbon emissions and increased energy security by using renewable energy sources like wind and solar.

On the other hand, Sub-Saharan Africa continues to face significant challenges. Despite some improvements, the area still has the least access to clean cooking facilities and electricity.

Particularly in the areas of energy efficiency and investments in renewable energy, Latin America and the Caribbean have made great strides. However, disparities still exist within the region, with some nations making greater progress than others. Oceania has made progress in using renewable energy, although challenges still exist in remote and rural areas. Notwithstanding encouraging developments, the international community must continue to work together to eradicate current inequalities and ensure that no one is left behind in the shift to sustainable energy.

Figure 8.1: Installed capacity for renewable electricity generation, 2015 and 2022 (watts per capita)



Source: The Global Sustainable Development Goals Report, 2024.

Globally, the per capita capacity for generating electricity from renewable energy sources almost doubled from 250 watts in 2015 to 424 watts in 2022 (Figure 8.1). The last five years witnessed a compound annual growth rate of 8.1%, marking an all-time high. In developing countries, the expansion was significant, with renewable watts per capita increasing from 155 to 293. Developed nations experienced a slower rise, from 691 to 1,073 watts per capita, maintaining 3.7 times more installed capacity compared to developing nations. However, notable disparities persist, particularly for Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs), and small island developing states, which reached 40, 103, and 101 watts per capita respectively in 2022.

8.3. Assessment of National Progress on SDG 7

7.1.1. Proportion of population with access to electricity

With nearly all of the population now having access to electricity, Bangladesh has made significant strides towards achieving SDG 7.1.1 (Table 8.1). This noteworthy achievement demonstrates the country's commitment to ensuring that everyone has access to electricity. However, large energy disparities persist. Electricity supply in rural areas is often less reliable and of lower quality than those in urban areas.

Table 8.1: Proportion of population with access to electricity (%)

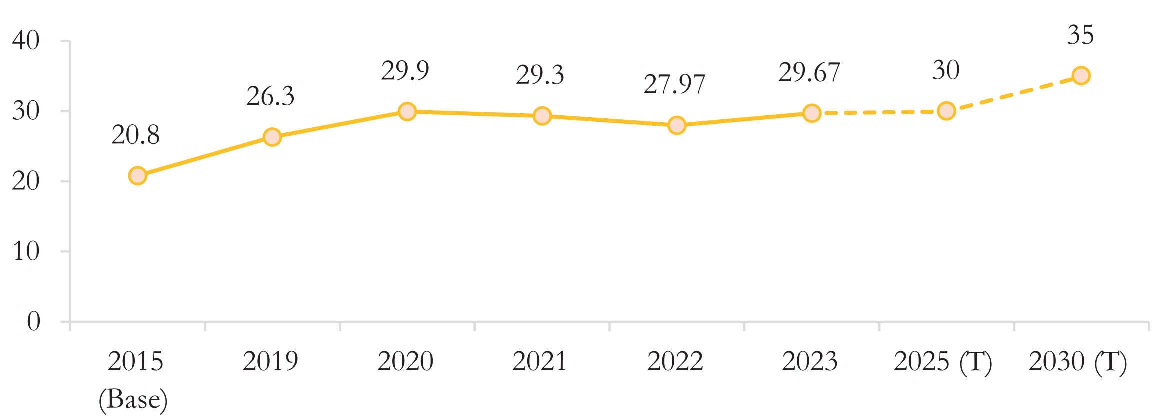
2015 (Base)	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2025 (T)	2030(T)
78.0	81.2	85.3	90.1	93.5	96.2	99.4	99.4	99.5	100	100

Source: SVRS, BBS

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

The proportion of the population that primarily relies on clean fuels and technologies has shown steady improvement, indicating progress in clean energy access. From a baseline of 20.8% in 2015, this figure increased to 29.7% by 2023 (see Figure 8.2). With this trend, Bangladesh is close to meeting the 2025 target of 30%, although further progress is needed to reach the 2030 goal of 35%.

Figure 8.2: Proportion of population with primary reliance on clean fuels and technology (share in %)

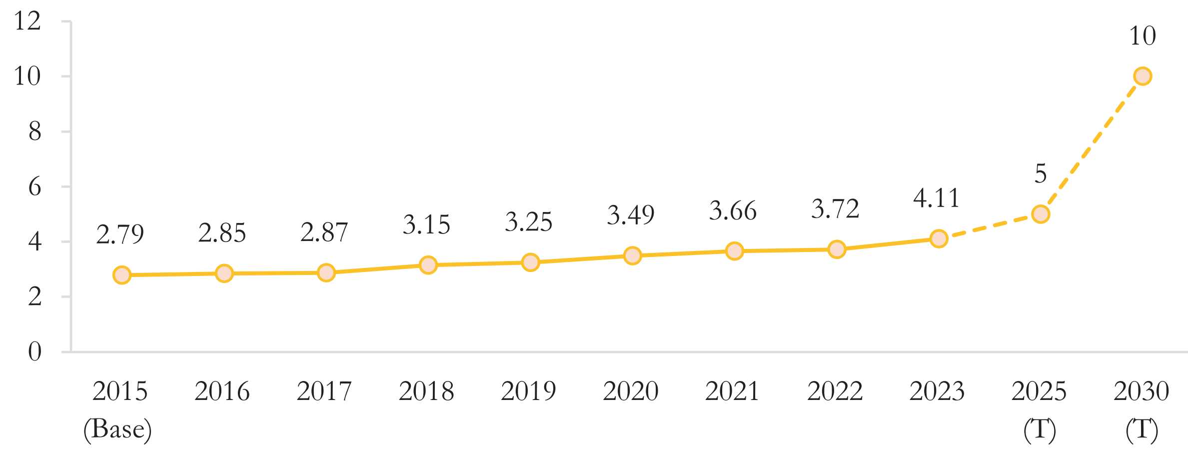


Source: SVRS, BBS

7.2.1. Renewable energy share in the total final energy consumption

The renewable energy share in the total final energy consumption has increased incrementally from 2.79% in the base year (2015) to 4.11% in 2023 (see Figure 8.3). While this upward trend reflects progress, the country remains significantly behind its 2030 target of 10%.

Figure 8.3: Renewable Energy Share in Total Final Energy Consumption (%)



Source: SREDA

7.3.1: Energy intensity measured in terms of primary energy and gross domestic product (GDP)

The country's energy intensity (measured as energy use per unit of GDP) decreased from 2.81 ktoe/BDT billion (kilo ton oil equivalent per BDT billion) in 2015 to 1.44 ktoe/BDT billion in 2023. Lower energy intensity means less energy is used to produce a product or service. Thus, this reduction reflects a positive trend towards more efficient energy use, driven by various policies and initiatives aimed at promoting energy efficiency across multiple sectors.

Table 8.2: Energy intensity measured in terms of primary energy and GDP (ktoe/BDT billion)

2015 (Base)	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2025 (T)	2030 (T)
2.81	2.22	2	1.78	1.85	1.75	1.61	1.44	1.28	1.1	0.78

Source: Hydrocarbon Unit (HU), Energy and Mineral Resources Division (EMRD).

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

International financial flows to Bangladesh in support of clean energy research and development and renewable energy production, including hybrid systems have increased from USD 301.1 million in 2015-16 to USD 496.8 million in 2018-19, an increase of 65.11% (Table 8.3). The targets for 2025 and 2030 are USD 600 million and USD 800 million respectively.

Table 8.3: International financial flows to developing countries in support of clean energy research and development and renewable energy production, including in hybrid systems (USD million)

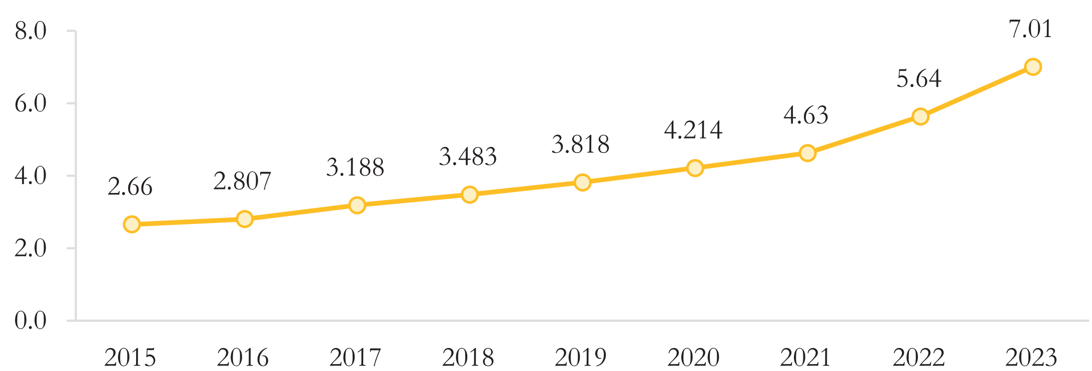
2015-16 (Base)	2018-19	2025 (T)	2030 (T)
301.1	496.8	600	800

Source: Economic Relations Division

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

Bangladesh has carried out a number of programmes and projects with the goal of enhancing energy efficiency and accessibility. The Rooftop Solar Programs, which attempts to put solar panels on residential and commercial buildings, is one of the initiatives. By 2023, the initiative was supposed to deploy over 600 MW of solar capacity, giving metropolitan regions a backup electricity supply and lessening the burden on the national grid. The installed renewable energy-generating capacity in Bangladesh increased from 2.66 watts per capita in 2015 to 7.01 watts per capita in 2023 (Figure 8.4).

Figure 8.4: Renewable electricity-generating capacity per capita (in watts per capita)



Source: SREDA

8.4. Key Policies and Strategies to Achieve SDG 7

Bangladesh has adopted Renewable Energy Policy 2008 and established SREDA to promote favourable investment climate for clean energy by offering incentives for private investment, which include tax exemptions, renewable energy tariffs, and VAT exemptions on renewable energy equipment. Renewable Energy Policy 2025 has been adopted to adapt and develop renewable technologies. It contributes to national energy security by improving investment opportunities in rural, peri-urban, and urban areas through integration with larger national energy initiatives. In order to provide flexibility in meeting different energy needs, the policy also covers a wide range of renewable energy sources, including biomass, biogas, wind, and solar.

The increased emphasis on renewable energy around the world may make it easier for Bangladesh to attract funding and technical support from donor agencies, international organisations, and climate funds. Through programs like the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), the global carbon market presents an opportunity to draw in foreign investment, which would help solar and biomass projects.

8.5. Major Challenges and Way Forward

Energy Disparities: Despite near-universal electricity access, significant disparities persist between urban and rural regions when it comes to the quality, consistency, and reliability of energy supply. Urban areas benefit from superior infrastructure and steady power, whereas rural communities face frequent power outages, low voltage, and unreliable electricity which hinders daily life and economic productivity.

Low Renewable Energy Share in Total Final Energy Consumption (TFEC): The country is significantly lagging behind in its target of achieving a 15% renewable energy share by 2030 under indicator 7.2.1. The current average growth rate is not sufficient in meeting this goal, which poses a major challenge to energy sustainability. Accelerating the development of renewable energy projects is crucial.

Lack of Efficiency and Technological Advancements: Outdated technologies and inefficient practices, particularly in the industrial and rural energy sectors, continues to have a detrimental impact on overall energy efficiency which affects indicator 7.b.1. While initiatives for increasing energy efficiency are outlined in the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Master Plan (EECMP), and Integrated Energy and Power Master Plan (IEPMP) 2023, there is still much room for improvement, particularly in rural areas where conventional and inefficient energy sources like kerosene and biomass are common.

8.6. Summary

Challenges persist in ensuring equitable energy distribution and advancing the transition to renewable sources. Despite improvements in energy efficiency and the growth of energy services, greater efforts are necessary in order to fully meet sustainable energy targets.

To accelerate progress, the country must prioritize rural electrification, diversify its energy mix, and scale up investments in renewable technologies. Strengthening international cooperation, promoting technological innovation, and raising public awareness will be crucial to building a resilient and inclusive energy future. Through sustained commitment and coordinated action, Bangladesh can place itself as a regional leader in sustainable energy development.

CHAPTER 9

SDG 8

DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

9.1. Background

SDG 8 targets to ensure sustained, inclusive economic growth and promote decent work for all. It emphasizes the need for full and productive employment, fair wages and safe working conditions. For Bangladesh, where there has been decent economic growth recently, the goal presents both opportunities and challenges.

Key indicators, such as unemployment rates, labour productivity, youth Not in Education, Employment, or Training (NEET) rates, and financial inclusion, would help to assess the progress for these particular indicators. While Bangladesh has made notable progress in this regard, issues like widespread informal employment, wage inequality, unsafe work environments, and gender disparities continue to hinder inclusive growth.

Achieving SDG 8 is essential for building a society which is just and resilient. By supporting decent work and promoting entrepreneurship, especially through small and medium enterprises, the goal not only upholds economic performance but also protects workers' rights, encourages innovation, and fosters greater social equity.

9.2. Global and Regional Context

Global economic progress has faced significant challenges in recent years, marked by the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, rising trade tensions, escalating debt in developing nations, and ongoing geopolitical instability. These factors have collectively disrupted sustainable growth, posing obstacles to achieving targets such as Sustainable Development Goal 8 (SDG 8). While global real GDP per capita saw some recovery in 2021, growth slowed in 2022 and is projected to stabilize at modest levels through 2025.

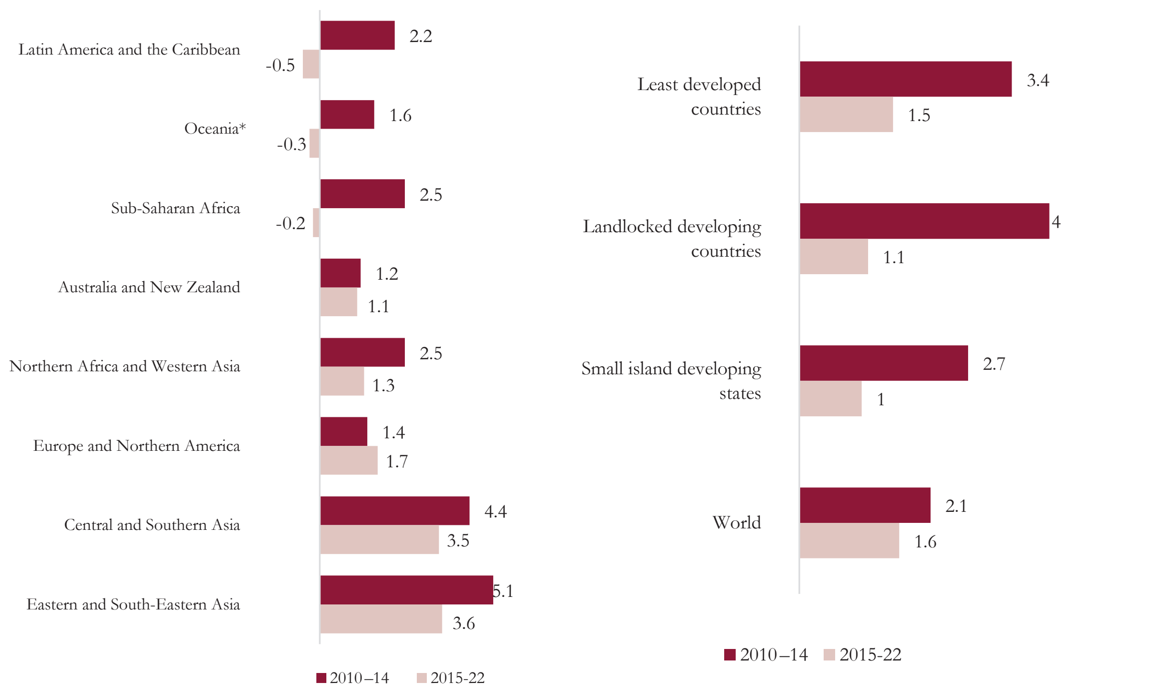
From 2010 to 2014, global real GDP per capita growth averaged 2.1%, but this declined to 1.6% between 2015 and 2022. Regional disparities are stark: Eastern and South-Eastern Asia recorded strong growth, while regions like Latin America, the Caribbean, and least developed countries (LDCs) experienced sharp declines.

NEETs (youth not in school, employment, or training) continue to be a major worldwide concern. Despite a significant decline of 7.5 percentage points from 2005, regions like Northern Africa and Western Asia had the highest NEET rates, at 28.5%, followed by Central and Southern Asia at 27.4%. In Central and Southern Asia, nearly half of young women are categorised as NEET, compared to just 12.3% of young men. This indicates that young women continue to suffer disproportionate problems. In 2023, 269 million young people worldwide were NEET, highlighting the need for focused interventions, especially for young women.

Figure 9.1: Average annual growth of real GDP per capita (%)

(a) Average annual growth of real GDP per capita by continent and region (%)

(b) Average annual growth of real GDP per capita by country alliances and the world (%)



Source: The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2024.

Note: * denotes Australia and New Zealand are not included in Oceania.

The global unemployment rate reached 5.0% in 2023, with a slight decline to 4.9% anticipated in 2024. However, this overall improvement masks regional and gender disparities. Northern Africa and Western Asia recorded the highest unemployment rates at 9.5%, while Eastern and South-Eastern Asia also experienced increases. Gender gaps remain stark in many regions; for example, women in Northern Africa and Western Asia face significantly higher unemployment rates than men, whereas Europe and Northern America showed near parity, with female and male unemployment at 4.9% and 4.8%, respectively. Despite the declining global unemployment rate, issues like working poverty and informal employment persist, challenging the achievement of decent work for all.

9.3. Assessment of National Progress on SDG 8

Indicator 8.1.1. Annual growth rate of real gross domestic product (GDP) per capita

Annual growth rate of GDP per capita has fluctuated over the years since 2016. During the COVID-19 Pandemic, the rate was lowest at 1.38% in 2020 and then rebounding to 5.84% in 2021. However, growth trended in negative direction in the following years, with -7.07%in 2024. The government has set a target of 7% for 2025 and 7.5% for 2030.

Table 9.1: Growth rate of real GDP per capita (%)

2016 (Base)	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025 (T)	2030 (T)
5.12	1.38	5.84	3.90	-7.97	-7.07	7	7.5

Source: BBS

Indicator 8.2.1. Annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person

The growth rate of real GDP per employed person, which is labour productivity fluctuated over time, as highlighted in Figure 9.2. After relatively strong growth in 2018 and 2019, the sharp contraction in 2020 (1.24%) clearly illustrates the adverse impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on economic output per worker. Recovery efforts saw the growth rate improve in 2021 The decline again through 2022 to 3.89% and 2023 to 2.61% suggests that productivity growth has not fully stabilised, possibly due to lingering structural and labour market constraints. The targets set for 2025 (5.5%) and 2030 (6.5%) are ambitious and signal a policy priority to enhance workforce efficiency, but achieving them will require sustained investment in skills, technology, and sectoral transformation.

Table 9.2: Growth rate of real GDP per employed person of Bangladesh (%)

2017 (Base)	2018		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025 (T)	2030 (T)
4.31	5.03		5.58	1.24	4.66	3.89	2.61	3.47	5.5	6.5

Source: BBS

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

Bangladesh has high levels of informal employment with persistently higher female representation in this sector. In 2023, 95.7% of females compared to 77.94% of males were informally employed. Agriculture shows the highest informality rates, remaining around 96–97%, with almost no change. Industry maintains high but slightly declining informal shares from 90.5% in 2022 to 88.72% in 2023. Services show a downward trend in informal employment from 71.8% in 2017 to 67.12% in 2023, though still significantly high.

Table 9.3: Share of informal employment by sex and sector (%)

Years	2015 (Base)	2017	2022	2023	2025 (T)	2030 (T)
Male	82.3	82.1	78.4	77.94	-	-
Female	95.4	91.8	96.6	95.7	-	-
Agriculture	97.9	95.4	96.8	96.92	-	-
Industry	90	89.9	90.5	88.72	-	-
Service	70.6	71.8	67.8	67.12	-	-
Total	86.2	85.1	84.9	84.08	75	65

Source: QLFS, BBS

The sectoral analysis underscores persistent informality in agriculture, where 96.9% of jobs were informal in 2023, marginally lower than 97.9% in 2015. The industry sector showed slight fluctuations, with informal employment rising from 90% in 2015 to 88.7% in 2023. Meanwhile, the services sector experienced an encouraging decline from 71.8% in 2016–17 to 67.1% in 2023, signalling progress toward formalization.

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

Table 9.4 offers a thorough analysis of income differences across gender and occupations in Bangladesh. The average monthly earnings of all workers slightly improved in 2022 compared to the baseline year of 2016. The average monthly earnings were reported at BDT 14,180 in 2022 which was BDT 13,258 in 2016.

Table 9.4: Average monthly earnings (in taka) by occupation and sex

Occupation	2016 (Base)			2022			2025 (T)	2030 (T)
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Total	Total
Managers	36133	32588	35734	32004	36139	36453	-	-
Professionals	27009	24981	26278	18226	21187	22396	-	-
Technicians and Associate Professionals	21267	20395	21100	18303	19518	19677	-	-
Clerical Support Workers	16300	14821	16056	16884	19945	20452	-	-
Service and Sales Workers	11969	11175	11841	9319	12745	13024	-	-
Craft and Related Trades Workers	10730	9877	10484	10451	12266	12730	-	-
Plant and Machine Operators, and Assembler	12165	11256	12018	9407	12953	13222	-	-
Elementary Occupations	8773	7297	8392	7050	9618	10306	-	-
Other occupations	26198	22444	26060	23576	27601	27543	-	-
Total	**13583**	**12254**	**13258**	**11093**	**13669**	**14180**	**18700**	**21925**

Source: QLFS, BBS

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

Total unemployment rate declined to 3.35% in 2023 from 4.2% in the base period of 2015-16. While male unemployment rate slightly increased from 3.1% (2015-16) to 3.41% (2023), female unemployment rate showed improvement declining from 6.7% (2015-16) to 3.23% (2023) (Table 8.3). For the youth aged 15–24, 10.2% remained unemployed. Female unemployment in this age group remained consistently higher (12.3%) than male unemployment (9.2%). In the 25–34 age group, unemployment displayed gender disparity as well. For the 35–64 age group, unemployment rates remained lower overall, though female rates consistently exceeded male rates in most categories.

According to the LFS 2023, out of 2.46 million unemployed individuals, 9.07 thousand are persons with disabilities. Of these, 8.18 thousand are males and 0.90 thousand are females. The target for 2030 is 2.5%.

Table 9.5: Unemployment rate by sex and age group (%)

Age group	QLFS 2015–16 (Base)			LFS 2016–17			LFS 2022			LFS 2023		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
15–24	10.2	9.2	12.3	12.3	10.1	16.8	10.97	14.3	7.54	8.24	11.53	4.72
25–34	5.1	3.2	8.7	5.7	3.8	9.0	2.88	3.26	2.47	4.57	4.68	4.42
35–44	2.0	0.9	4.2	1.2	0.8	2.1	0.96	0.76	1.55	1.09	0.94	1.48
45–54	1.3	0.9	2.4	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.73	0.60	1.16	0.63	0.64	0.59
55+	1.0	0.8	1.7	0.6	0.6	0.3	0.59	0.58	0.63	0.53	0.57	0.35
Total unemployment	4.2	3.1	6.7	4.2	3.1	6.7	3.53	3.5	3.59	3.35	3.41	3.23

Source: QLFS 2015-16, LFS 2016-17, LFS 2022, and LFS 2023, BBS

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

The NEET rate in Bangladesh shows stable trend since 2021 at around 40 percent. The targent may need to be revised because of wider gap between the outcome and the target.

Table 9.6: NEET as% of youth 15–24 working age population

2021	2022	2023	2025 (T)	2030 (T)
39.6	40.67	39.88	12	3

Source: QLFS, BBS

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

Child labour remains a significant challenge in Bangladesh, impacting the lives of millions of children. The overall proportion remained nearly the same from 2013 (4.3%) to 2022 (4.4%). In 2013, the prevalence was relatively low across all age groups, with 0.05% of 5-year-olds, 1.09% of children aged 6–11, 0.10% of those aged 12–13, and 3.05% of adolescents aged 14–17 engaged in child labour. However, by 2022, these figures had increased. The proportion of children involved in labour rose to 2.8% among those aged 5–11, 3.9% for the 12–13 age group, and a staggering 7.9% among adolescents aged 14–17.

Table 9.7: Proportion of children aged 5-17 years engaged in child labour, by age (%)

2013 (Base)					2022			
Age group					Age group			
Total	5 years	6–11	12–13	14–17	Total	5–11	12–13	14–17
4.3	0.05	1.09	0.10	3.05	4.4	2.8	3.9	7.9

Source: Child Labour Survey 2013 and National Child Labour Survey 2022, BBS.

Indicator 8.8.1.a: Frequency rates of fatal occupational injuries, by sex and migrant status

Fatal occupational injuries in Bangladesh have declined notably, from 382 cases in 2015 to 1.93 in 2023. Male workers remain disproportionately affected, with significantly higher fatality rates than females (Table 9.8).

Table 9.8: Frequency rates of fatal occupational injuries, by sex

Years	2016	2017	2022	2023	2025 (T)	2030 (T)
Male	117	90	5.69	3.15	-	-
Female	9	15	0.13	0.29	-	-
Total	126	105	3.41	1.93	200	100

Source: Department of Inspection for Factory and Establishment (DIFE).

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

Non-fatal occupational injuries declined from 246 cases in 2015 to 1.37 cases in 2023, surpassing the progress targeted for both 2025 and 2030 (Table 9.9).

Table 9.9: Frequency rates of non - fatal occupational injuries, by sex

Years	2015 (Base)	2016	2017	2022	2023	2025 (T)	2030 (T)
Male	177	113	307	1.315	1.2928	-	-
Female	19	68	191	1.225	1.47	-	-
Total	246	181	498	1.278	1.3688	150	100

Source: Department of Inspection for Factory and Establishment (DIFE).

Indicator 8.9.1. Tourism direct gross domestic product (GDP) as a proportion of total GDP and in growth rate

For Bangladesh, the share of tourism in GDP grew from 1.56% in 2012 to 3.08% in 2018, according to the Tourism Satellite Survey conducted by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) (Table 9.10). This upward trend demonstrates the sector's potential as an economic driver.

Table 9.10: Tourism direct GDP as a proportion of total GDP (%)

Years	2012 (Base)	2018	2025 (T)	2030 (T)
Total	1.56	3.08	4.5	5

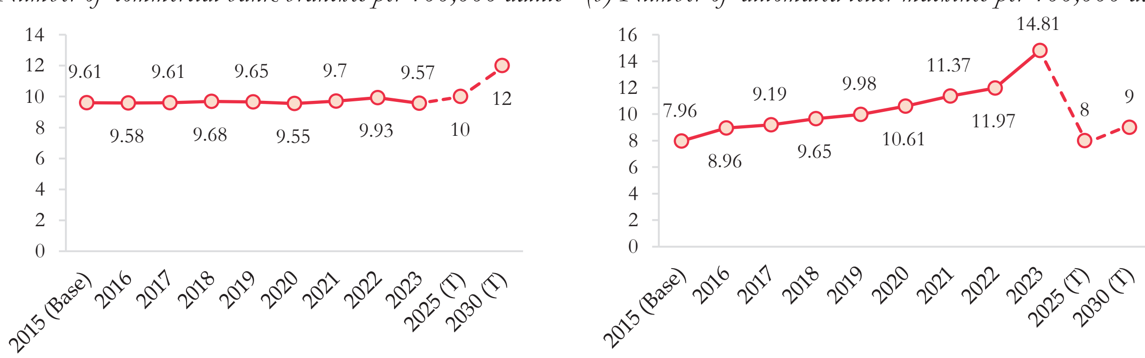
Source: BBS

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

Bangladesh has made significant strides in ATM coverage, with the 2023 figure (14.81 per 100,000 adults) already exceeding both the 2025 and 2030 targets. Progress in bank branch access has also been steady, reaching 9.57 branches per 100,000 adults in 2023, just shy of the 2025 target of 10.

Figure 9.2: Number of commercial bank branches and automated teller machines (ATMs) per 100,000 adults

(a) Number of commercial bank branches per 100,000 adults *(b) Number of automated teller machines per 100,000 adults*



Source: Bangladesh Bank

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

The proportion of adults (15 years and older) with an account at a bank or other financial institution, or with a mobile money service provider, increased from 48.02% in 2021 to 51.71% in 2023 (SVRS). According to Global Findex (2014), 31% of adults had a bank account, 29.1% had an account with a financial institution, and 2.7% used mobile money services.

Table 9.11: Proportion of adults (15 years and older) with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider

	2014 (Base)	2021	2022	2023
Total	-	48.02	48.5	51.71
Bank	31	-	-	-
FI	29.1	-	-	-
Mobile	2.7	-	-	-

Source: Global Findex, WB; SVRS, BBS

9.4. Key Policies and Strategies to Achieve SDG 8

Bangladesh has implemented a number of strategic initiatives to address the issues of job creation, poverty alleviation, and economic development as it strives to meet its commitment to SDG 8, which places an emphasis on promoting inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all.

The National Industrial Policy 2022 stands as a crucial framework in Bangladesh's pursuit of SDG 8. This policy aims to boost the country's industrial output and diversification, targeting a 40% contribution of the industrial sector to the national income by 2027. The policy's prime goal is to foster an atmosphere that encourages business expansion and the creation of new job opportunities.

In parallel to industrial growth, the Employment Generation Program for the Poorest (EGPP) plays a significant role in addressing poverty and unemployment among Bangladesh's most vulnerable groups. By offering temporary work, the initiative lowers unemployment rates and advances SDG 8.6.1, which measures the percentage of young people (ages 15 to 24) who are not enrolled in school, working, or receiving training.

The National Skills Development Policy (NSDP) 2022, along with the National Action Plan for Skills Development 2022–2027, complements these efforts by focusing on enhancing the country's human capital. The National Financial Inclusion Strategy (NFIS) (2021–26) is another important program that attempts to guarantee that financial services are available to all people and enterprises in Bangladesh. The NFIS makes it possible for people to start or grow enterprises, lessen economic shocks, and better manage their lives by expanding access to financial products.

Although there are still obstacles to overcome, especially in maintaining long-term economic growth and guaranteeing fair access to opportunities, the aforementioned actions provide a basis for raising living standards, encouraging decent work, and supporting inclusive development in Bangladesh.

9.5. Major Challenges and Way Forward

Substandard and Hazardous Workplaces: In sectors including construction, light engineering, tanneries, and textiles, unsafe and unhealthy working conditions continue to be a major impediment. Basic safety precautions including sufficient ventilation, fire exits, and protective gear are often not found in the workplaces.

To address hazardous workplaces, Bangladesh must enforce stricter labour inspections, utilize basic safety measures like fire exits and protective gear, and hold employers accountable. Training workers, upgrading infrastructure, and including informal workers are also instrumental measures. Stronger collaboration with global brands and better reporting of workplace injuries can help achieve progress for SDG indicators 8.8.1 and 8.8.2.

Prevalent Unemployment Issues: Although the unemployment rate in Bangladesh declined from 4.2% in 2016–17 to 3.35% in 2023, as reported by the Labour Force Survey 2023, challenges still remain. Women face disproportionately higher unemployment rates, which worsen due to cultural norms, inadequate childcare facilities as well as limited access to vocational training. These barriers prevent many women from entering or remaining in the workforce impeding progress toward inclusive economic growth. However, the existing unemployment problem hinders achieving indicator 8.5.2. Besides, skill mismatch and the lack of industrial diversification increase the unemployment rate impacting indicator 8.2.1 and 8.1.1.

High Level of Labour Underutilization: Labour underutilization is another critical issue. According to the Labour Force Survey 2023, 6.26 million population was underutilized in 2023 of them 2.46 million (39.33 per cent) population was unemployed. This mismatch between workers' skills and job requirements not only stifles economic potential but also leads to consequences which have repercussions in the long term, such as skill deterioration as well as mental health challenges.

Unutilized Demographic Dividend: Bangladesh has been benefiting from a demographic dividend for over a decade. The Labour Force Survey 2023 revealed that 20.5% of the total labour force is under the age of 25. Despite this potential, many young individuals lack the necessary skills to meet labour market demands, resulting in a mismatch that restricts their employment opportunities.

Presence of Informal Employment: According to the Labour Force Survey 2023, 84.08% of the employed population is engaged in informal employment. This prevalence of informal employment complicates efforts to improve labour standards and regulate decent working conditions. A significant portion of the workforce operates in informal settings, particularly in sectors such as agriculture (96.92percent), industry (88.72), and services (67.12). The informal nature of these jobs hinders workers' ability to secure loans or access essential services, thereby perpetuating cycles of poverty and inequality.

Presence of Child Labour: Child labour remains a concern, with many of them are involved in hazardous activities, including working with chemicals, carrying heavy loads, or working in unsafe environments. Despite strict legal prohibitions, weak enforcement allows child labour to persist, which jeopardizes the health and future prospects of the affected children. The presence of child labour creates challenges in achieving indicator 8.7.1.

Gender Disparity: Gender inequality continues to hinder progress toward decent work. Women face systemic barriers, including limited access to education, skills training, and job opportunities. The gender wage gap remains to be widespread with women earning less than men for the same work across many sectors. Expanding scholarships and mentoring programs, especially in STEM fields, can help empower more women to enter and thrive in careers which are high-paying. Promoting women's leadership and addressing workplace discrimination will create an inclusive economy and drive progress on SDG indicators 8.5.1 and 8.5.2.

9.6. Summary

SDG 8 emphasizes on inclusive economic growth, full employment, and decent work for all. In Bangladesh, while economic expansion has been steady, challenges like informal employment, wage gaps, and poor working conditions remain to be widespread.

Government initiatives such as the National Industrial Policy 2022, Employment Generation Program for the Poorest, and the National Financial Inclusion Strategy (2021–2026) enunciate strong policy commitment. However, issues like youth unemployment, child labour, and gender inequality still require urgent attention.

Targeted investments in education, skills development, and vocational training are instrumental in reducing unemployment (Indicator 8.5.2), increase average earnings (8.5.1), lower youth NEET rates (8.6.1), and so on These steps will foster a more inclusive and equitable labour market, ensuring the fact that economic growth translates into better lives for all.

CHAPTER 10

SDG 9

INDUSTRY, INNOVATION, AND INFRASTRUCTURE

10.1. Background

Sustainable Development Goal 9 prioritizes three interconnected pillars: resilient infrastructure, inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and innovation. Comprising of eight targets and twelve indicators, this goal highlights the pivotal role these elements play in driving long-term economic growth, reducing inequality, and addressing environmental challenges. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development both place strong emphasis on inclusive industrialization. It is viewed not only as a foundation for sustainable development but also as a pathway to economic growth and community empowerment

Strong and resilient infrastructure forms the foundation for sustainable, thriving communities by ensuring access to essential services and enabling economic development. The effectiveness of such infrastructure is greatly enhanced by modern technological advancements and innovative approaches. These developments help lower energy consumption, increase resource efficiency, and offer practical solutions to pressing environmental and financial challenges. Industrialization, in turn, helps in the creation of employment, generation of income, and expansion of opportunities for decent work, while also promoting social inclusion through gender equality, youth employment, and women's empowerment. It also expedites value addition, promotes knowledge sharing, and encourages investments in education and skills development. As urban areas face increasing pressure, the demand for reliable communication technologies, renewable energy, and public transportation has become more and more instrumental. In this context, emphasizing innovation, building robust infrastructure, and advancing inclusive industrialization remain crucial in order to ensure sustainable and inclusive growth that leaves no one behind.

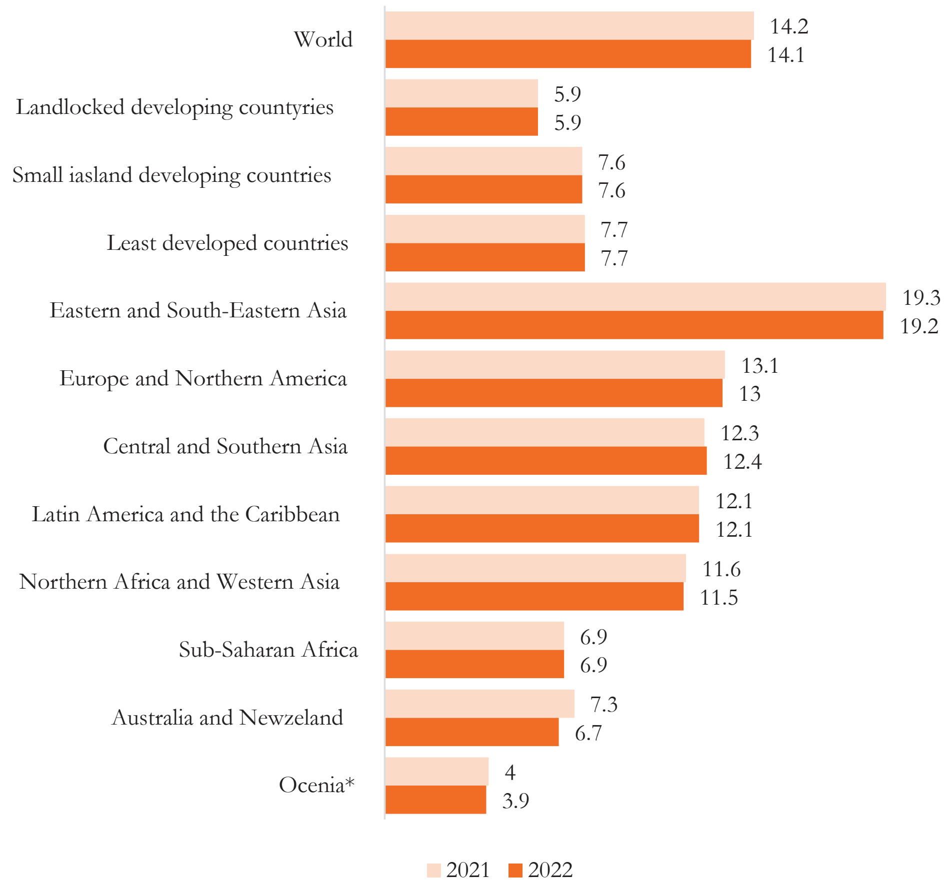
10.2. Global and Regional Context

The worldwide manufacturing value-added per capita increased from $1,653 to $1,922 (in constant 2015 prices) between 2015 and 2023, a 16% increase (United Nations, 2024b). Nevertheless, the sector's share of the world economy increased only slightly from 16.3 to 16.7% during this time, and it is expected to stagnate in 2024 as a result of issues including inflation, high energy prices, logistical difficulties, and geopolitical concerns. Particular difficulties are faced by Least Developed Countries (LDCs), whose manufacturing value-added share of GDP increased from 12% in 2015 to 14.5% in 2023, but at a rate that is still below the 2030 aim of doubling this share. Manufacturing employment has likewise made little headway globally, remaining almost unchanged as a percentage of total employment from 2015 to 2022. While regions like Australia and New Zealand experienced growth in manufacturing employment, Eastern and South-Eastern Asia saw a decline of 0.8 percentage points over the same period.

Investment in R&D has shown significant global growth, reaching $2.37 trillion in 2021 (constant 2015 US$), up from $1.3 trillion in 2010. The share of global GDP allocated to R&D rose from 2% in 2010 to 2.7% in 2021. However, this progress is uneven; developing regions such as sub-Saharan Africa and Northern Africa invested only 0.44% and 0.58% of their GDP in R&D, respectively, compared to 1.48% in middle-income countries. The average investment for landlocked countries and LDCs was only 0.20% of GDP. The number of researchers per million people worldwide rose from 1,266 in 2010 to 1,525 in 2018, with South Korea setting the record with 9,082 researchers per million in 2021, notwithstanding these differences.

In terms of internet coverage, 3G or higher broadband networks are the main or only way to connect to the internet, and approximately 95% of people in developing nations have access to it. Globally, mobile broadband (3G) coverage has barely improved by 4 percentage points since 2018, and 18% of people in LDC countries still do not have access to the internet.

Figure 10.1: Manufacturing Employment as a Proportion of Total Employment, 2021 and 2022



Source: The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2024.

Note: * Excluding Australia and New Zealand.

10.3. Assessment of National Progress on SDG 9

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

Ensuring access to reliable, sustainable, and resilient infrastructure is vital for fostering inclusive growth and connectivity. All-season roads, capable of remaining operational throughout the year, play a key role, despite occasional disruptions caused by severe weather. Rural connectivity in Bangladesh has seen significant advancements in recent years. According to data from the Bangladesh Sample Vital Statistics (SVRS) in 2023, 91.09% of the rural population lives within 2 kilometres of an all-season road, surpassing the 95% target set for 2030.

Table 10.1: Proportion of the Rural Population Who Live Within 2 Km of An All-Season Road (%)

2016 (Base)	2022	2023	2025 (T)	2030 (T)
83.45	88.5	91.09	90	95

Source: SVRS, BBS.

Indicator 9.1.2. Passenger and freight volumes, by mode of transport

In Bangladesh, passenger volume has decreased from 136.25 million in 2016 to 66.3 million in 2022. However, it remains significantly distant from 2025's target of reaching 12.5 million. On the other hand, freight volume showed a upward trend, increasing significantly from 0.28 million in 2015 to 42.28 million in 2022, while 2025's target of declining to 0.6 million is distant.

Table 10.2: Passenger volume, by mode of transport (in number - metric tons of CO_2-equivalent) (in millions)

2015 (Base)	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2025 (T)	2030 (T)
136.25	139	138.8	127.6	122.4	76.1	78	66.3	12.5	15

Source: Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC)

Table 10.3: Freight volume, by mode of transport (in number - metric tons of CO_2-equivalent) (in millions)

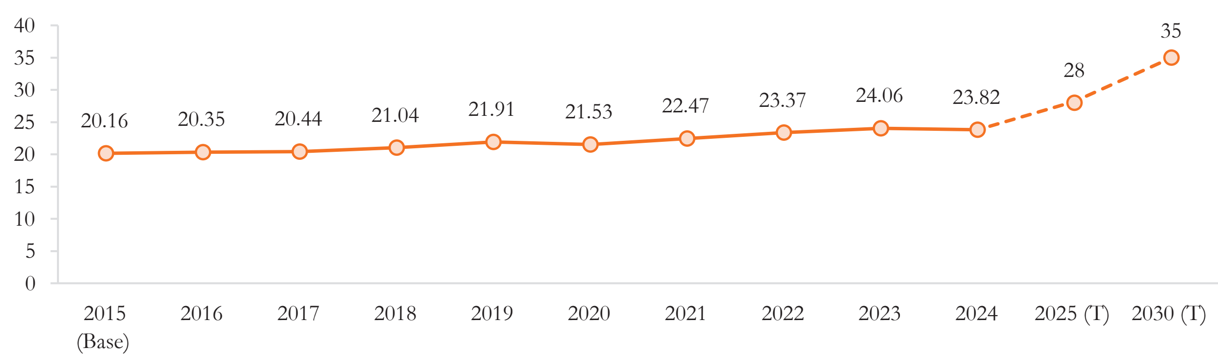
2015 (Base)	2019	2020	2021	2022	2025 (T)	2030 (T)
0.28	28.76	31.99	56.46	42.28	0.6	0.8

Source: Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC)

Indicator 9.2.1 Manufacturing value added as a percentage of GDP

Figure 10.2 shows that the manufacturing value added as a percentage of GDP rose from 20.16% in 2015 to 23.82% in 2023, showing slow but steady progress. There is an ambitious target of reaching 35% by 2030. Achieving this goal will require significantly faster growth than observed so far.

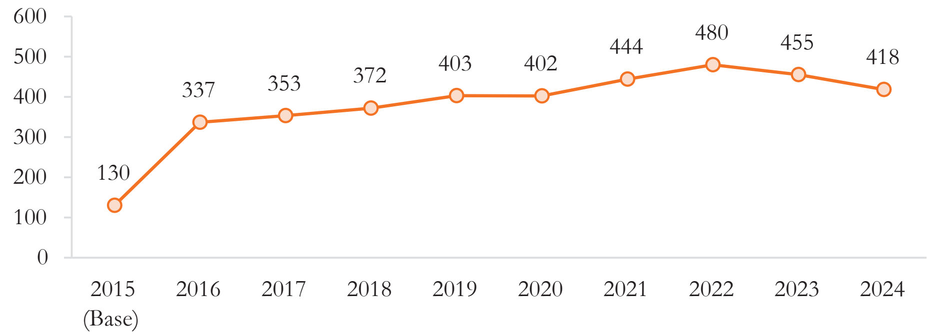
Figure 10.2: Manufacturing Share of GDP at Constant Prices (%)



Source: BBS

Figure 10.3 shows that Bangladesh had an incremental growth in manufacturing value added per capita, with an increase from $130 per capita in 2015 to $418 per capita in 2024.

Figure 10.3: Manufacturing Value Added per Capita (US$)



Source: BBS

Indicator 9.2.2. Manufacturing employment as a proportion of total employment

The manufacturing employment as a proportion of total employment declined from 14.4% in 2016 to 11.56% in 2023. This concerning trend is an impediment to reaching the target of reaching 25% by 2030.

Table 10.4: Manufacturing Employment as a Proportion of Total Employment (%)

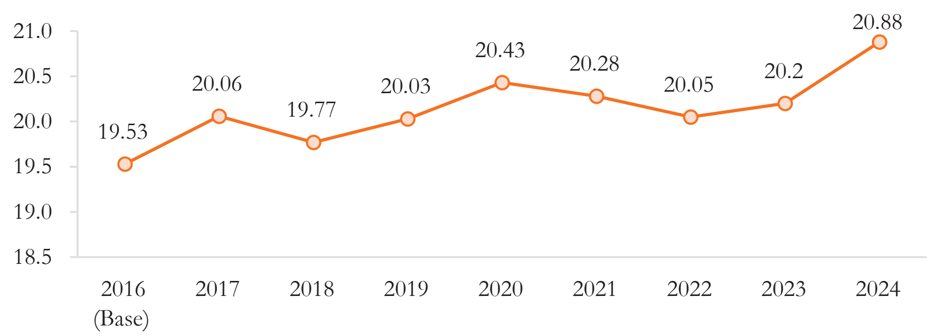
2016 (Base)	2017	2022	2023	2025 (T)	2030 (T)
14.4	14.4	11.26	11.56	22	25

Source: QLFS, BBS

Indicator 9.3.1. Proportion of small-scale industries in total industry value added

The share of small-scale industries in total industry value added has fluctuated moderately since 2016 reaching an all-time high of 20.88% in 2024.

Figure 10.4: Proportion of Small-Scale Industries in Total Industry Value Added (%)



Source: SMI, BBS

Indicator 9.3.2. Proportion of small-scale industries with a loan or line of credit

Government support is essential for enabling small industries to endure both during and after crises. In 2019, 57.79% of small-scale industries had access to a loan or line of credit Indicator 9.5.1 Research and development expenditure as a proportion of GDP

The research and development expenditure as a proportion of GDP is alarmingly low in Bangladesh. It has remained virtually the same over the 5-years period highlighted in Table 10.5. The current 0.3% of GDP is significantly lower than the targeted rate of 1% by 2030.

Table 10.5: Proportion of R&D expenditure to GDP (%)

2015 (T)	2018	2019	2020	2025 (T)	2030 (T)
0.3	0.44	0.31	0.3	1	1

Source: BBS

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

There were 855 full-time researchers per million people in 2015, and the number steadily climbed to 1036 per million people in 2021, exceeding the target set for 2025 (see Table 10.6).

Table 10.6: Full-time Researchers in per Million People

2015 (Base)	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2025 (T)	2030 (T)
855	920	970	981	1083	1089	1036	998	1080

Source: Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST)

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

The volume of Official Development Assistance (ODA) to infrastructure has been increasing steadily since 2015. According to Table 10.7, international support stood at USD 6,331 million in 2023, significantly higher than USD 1,247 million recorded in 2015. Over the past eight years, ODA has shown strong growth. Notably, the 2030 target is set at USD 3,500 million, which was already been surpassed by FY20.

Table 10.7: Total International Support to Infrastructure (Million US$)

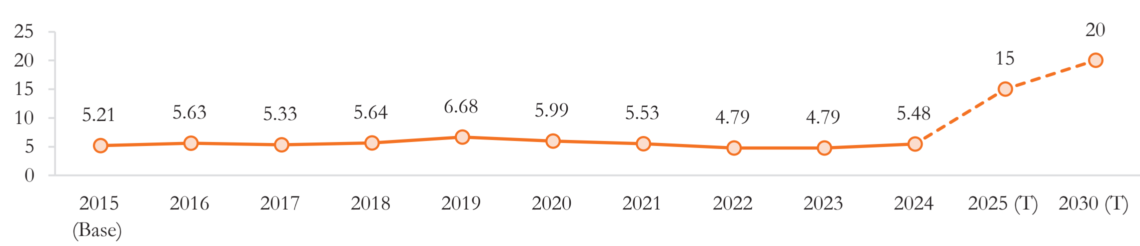
2016 (Base)	2018	2020	2021	2022	2023	2025 (T)	2030 (T)
1247	4041.9	4659.5	4851.1	5932.41	6331	2600	3500

Source: Economic Relations Division

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

Figure 10.5 shows that the proportion of medium and high-tech industry value added in total value added fluctuated slightly over the period with a peak of 6.68% in 2019. Given the current progress rate, reaching the target of 20% by 2030 seems ambitious.

Figure 10.5: Proportion of medium and high-tech industry value added in total value added (%)



Source: BBS.

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

Table 10.8 shows that all networks, including 2-G, 3-G and 4-G have almost reached the target of full coverage as of 2022.

Table 10.8: Coverage of Proportion of Population by a Mobile Network by Technology (%)

Year	2015 (Base)	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2025	2030
2-G	99	99.46	99.47	99.6	99.6	99.6	99	99.63	100	100
3-G	71	90.2	92.55	95.23	95.4	95.54	95.5	95.54	100	100
4-G	-	-	-	-	-	-	98.1	98.3	-	-

Source: Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC), Posts and Telecommunications Division (PTD).

10.4. Key Policies and Strategies to Achieve SDG 9

The National Industrial Policy 2022 serves as a cornerstone for economic growth by emphasizing the importance of the industrial sector. This policy prioritizes labour-intensive industrialization using domestic raw materials and resources, with the dual objectives of increasing productivity and enhancing the quality of manufactured goods. It also incorporates strategies to harness the opportunities presented by the Fourth Industrial Revolution while addressing structural barriers to private investment and improving the profitability of public institutions.

To support small and medium enterprises (SMEs), Bangladesh Bank has introduced various refinancing schemes. In collaboration with international partners such as JICA and European agencies, the central bank administers 14 funds and projects to empower entrepreneurs, enhance women's economic participation, and uplift communities. These initiatives are instrumental in promoting inclusive growth and reducing inequalities.

Ports and digital connectivity also play critical roles in facilitating economic growth. Chattogram seaport, which handles 92% of the country's international trade, managed over 30 million TEUs of containers and cargo worth 118.29 million tons in FY23. To meet growing internet demand, the Bangladesh Submarine Cable Company Limited (BSCCL) is upgrading its capacity from 2,506 Gbps to 3,800 Gbps, with the SMW4 submarine cable projected to reach 4,650 Gbps upon completion.

10.5. Major Challenges and Way Forward

Challenges in Rural Connectivity and Declining Transport Volumes: As of 2023, 91.09% of the rural population resides within 2 km of an all-season road. However, maintaining this progress is challenged by frequent natural disasters, deteriorating infrastructure, and insufficient monitoring. At the same time, both passenger and freight transport volumes have declined in recent years (2020–2022), reflecting not only pandemic-related disruptions but also chronic underinvestment and inefficiencies within the transportation sector. Strategic investments in all-season roads, integrated with monitoring and early warning systems, can reduce the adverse effects of natural disasters. Additionally, innovations such as smart ticketing, flexible scheduling, and integrated transport solutions are key to enhancing the reliability and convenience of passenger travel. For freight transport, regulatory reforms, promotion of private investment in advanced logistics hubs, and robust public-private partnerships will help reduce costs and improve operational efficiency

Challenges in Manufacturing Growth Despite Resilience: Despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, The manufacturing sector of Bangladesh has remained relatively resilient, primarily because of the ongoing operations in the RMG sector. However, the overall output of this sector is largely stagnant, contributing merely 25% to GDP, and manufacturing value added per capita has seen slow growth. To drive industrial expansion and enhance its GDP share, fostering technological innovation and encouraging private-sector engagement in infrastructure initiatives is critical. Collaborations with international development agencies can provide the necessary financial and technological assistance to boost competitiveness.

Challenges in Creating Jobs in the Manufacturing Sector: Manufacturing employment has seen a decline, representing just 11.56% of total employment in 2023, well below the 25% goal. Insufficient skilled labour, lack of vocational training, and inadequate investment in education obstruct this growth rate and pose major challenges for increasing employment in the manufacturing sector. Bangladesh must prioritize a nationwide implementation of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) programs that are demand-driven and future-focused.

Barriers for Small and Medium Enterprises (SME): Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) account for a significant share of industrial value but face hurdles such as lack of formal collateral, lack of a formal definition for SMEs, fragmented policy support, and vulnerability to economic shocks. Although 57.79% of SMEs had access to credit in 2019, this has not transformed into a proportional increase in their industry contribution.

Declining R&D Investment: The investment in Research and Development (R&D) remains low, with both its share of GDP and the number of full-time researchers per million people (indicators 9.5.1 and 9.5.2) showing a declining trend. With targets of 1% of GDP allocated to R&D and 1,080 full-time researchers per million people by 2030, the country is falling significantly short. Insufficient investment discourages participation in scientific research and constrains the technological capabilities of industries. As Bangladesh approaches graduation from LDC status, the impending loss of Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) flexibilities will further challenge its capacity to compete technologically.

10.6. Summary

Bangladesh made moderate improvements in advancing Sustainable Development Goal 9, with visible improvements in mobile network and internet coverage, better rural connectivity, and a growing manufacturing base. However, achieving truly inclusive and sustainable industrial growth remains vital for creating jobs, improving technology, and raising living standards across the country. Despite progress, challenges such as unequal access to information, high business costs, limited land, and institutional inefficiencies persist. Prioritizing key sectors, adopting modern technologies, bridging digital gaps, reducing business costs, strengthening the private sector, and investing in transformative infrastructure are essential for sustainable industrialization and long-term economic growth.

CHAPTER 11

SDG 10

REDUCED INEQUALITIES

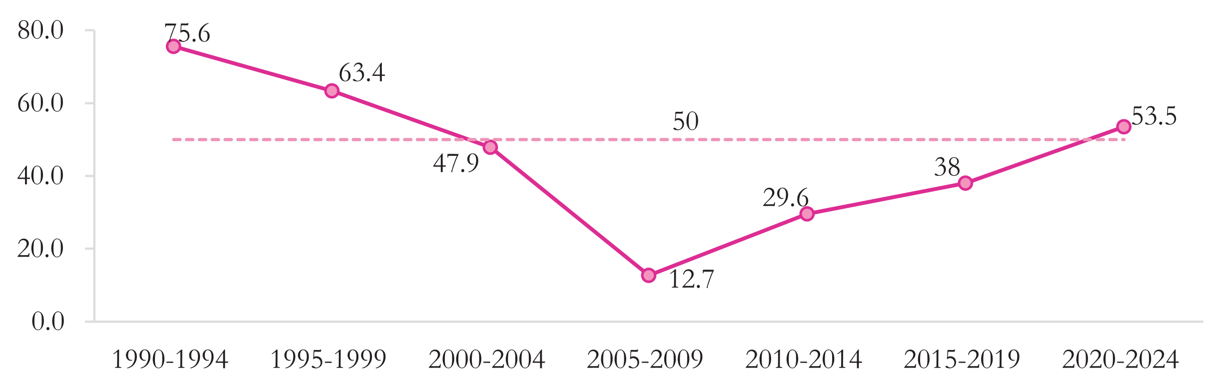
11.1. Background

Economic growth alone cannot ensure an inclusive and welfare-focused society. Marginalized groups in Bangladesh continue to face barriers to prosperity, producing widespread consequences such as slowed poverty alleviation, declining social cohesion, and diminished individual dignity and rights. SDG 10 recognizes these challenges and puts forward an outline to reduce inequality in all its forms so that every individual; regardless of age, gender, disability, ethnicity, religion, or economic status, can participate in and be benefitted from national progress (World Bank & UN DESA, 2019). This goal is not just about narrowing down the gaps but also about lifting people up, ensuring the fact that development reaches those who need it most.

11.2. Global and Regional Context

Disparities in wealth and income continue to widen globally, but at varying rates. The World Inequality Report 2022 emphasises that there are still significant income and wealth gaps in the world today: the richest 10% of people earn 52% of the world's income and own 76% of its wealth, while the poorest 50% earn only 8.5% and own only 2%. The UN Sustainable Development Goals Report 2024 further notes that in 50% of the 75 most vulnerable countries, which qualify for concessional lending through the IDA of the World Bank, the disparity in income compared to the richest economies is steadily increasing.[5] Furthermore, the UN Sustainable Development Goals Report 2024 indicates that in half of the 75 most vulnerable countries, those eligible for concessional lending from the World Bank's International Development Association (IDA)—the income gap with the wealthiest economies continues to widen (Figure 11.1).[6]

Figure 11.1: Share of IDA countries with GDP per capita growth lower than in advanced economies, 1990–2024 (percentage)

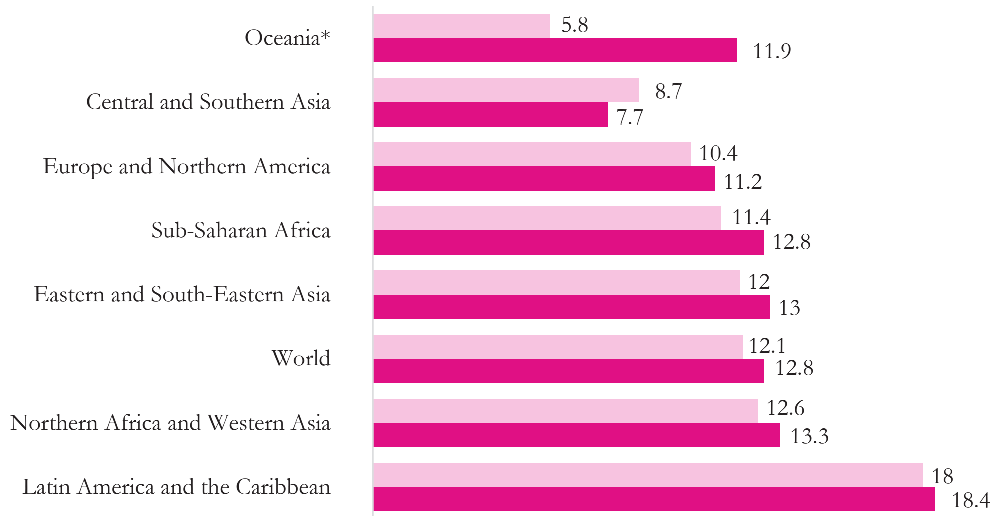


Source: The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2024.

Despite the economic disruptions by the COVID-19 pandemic, the global share of people living on less than half the median income has declined owing to social assistance programmes, particularly in wealthier countries, falling from 12.8% to 12.1% (data from 82 countries, representing 70% of the world's population) (Figure 11.2).

5. The total income measured at Purchasing Power Parity (PPP). Note that top wealth holders are not necessarily top-income holders. Incomes are measured after the operation of pension and unemployment systems and before taxes and transfers.
6. One in four people in IDA countries live on less than $2.15 a day, an extreme poverty rate that is more than eight times the mean for the rest of the world. 90% of people facing hunger and malnutrition live in IDA countries, half of which are in debt distress or at high risk of it.

Figure 11.2: Proportion of population living on less than half the median income, (2015–2019 vs post-2019)



Source: The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2024; United Nation (2024).

On the other side, workers' wages have not kept pace with productivity, and labour's share of GDP has resumed its long-term decline. The labour income shares of global GDP declined from 54.1% in 2004 to 52.7% in 2021, amounting to a loss of $568 (in purchasing power parity) per worker. This downward trend suggests that the gains from increasing labour productivity have not been fully reflected in corresponding improvements in labour earnings (United Nations, 2024).

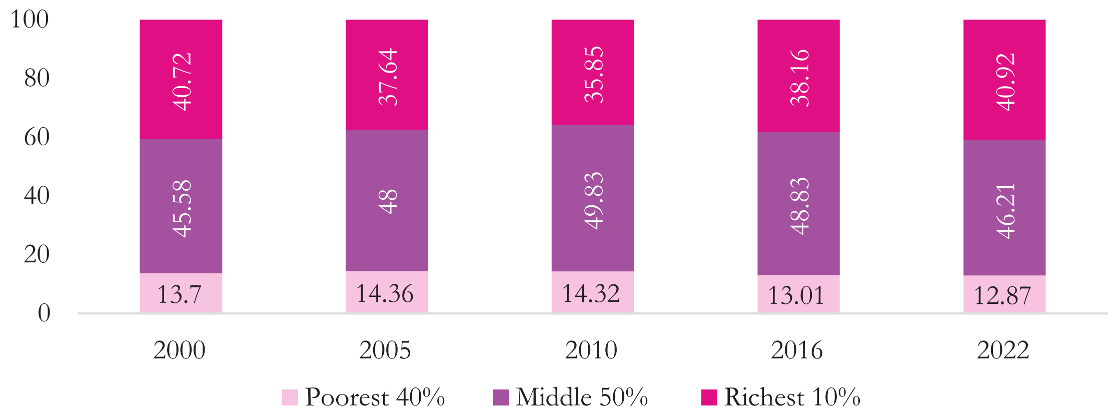
While the global average cost of remittances has declined, digital remittance services offer potential to further accelerate cost reductions. The global average cost of sending $200 dropped from 7.4% in 2016 to 6.18% in 2023, though it remains above the 3% target set by the SDGs. In 2023, the average cost of digital remittances was 4.84%, markedly lower than the 6.77% for non-digital, cash-based remittances. Regionally, the highest costs for sending $200 were in Oceania (excluding Australia and New Zealand) and sub-Saharan Africa, at 8.33% and 7.36%, respectively, despite substantial progress in both regions from 2011 to 2023. To achieve further reductions and meet the SDG target, stakeholders could leverage digitalization to reduce minimize costs, increase improve efficiency, and improve enhance accessibility to towards remittance services.

11.3. Assessment of National Progress on SDG 10

Bangladesh has experienced economic growth in recent years; much of the population has been left behind, with the benefits disproportionately favouring higher-income groups. Since the 2000s, the income gap between the rich and poor in Bangladesh has been widening, with no signs of improvement (Figure 10.3). According to the Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) 2022, a significant portion of the national income (about 41 percent) is concentrated in the hands of the top 10% of households, while the share of the poorest 40% has further declined to 12.9%, and the middle 50% has remained relatively stagnant to 45-46% (BBS, 2023). The Commitment to Reducing Inequality Index 2024 reflects a similar trend, with Bangladesh dropping 17 positions since 2022, now ranking 124th out of 164 countries, compared to its previous position of 107th among 161 countries (OXFAM & Development Finance International, 2024).[7]

7. The report shows the Commitment to Reducing Inequality Index (CRI) to assess three areas critical to reducing inequality – social services, taxation and work commitment of 164 countries and regions.

Figure 11.3: Share of deciles in total household income at the national level, 2000-2022



Source: HIES database, BBS.

Table 11.1: Selected Social Indicators for Poorest and Richest Quintiles in Bangladesh (as Year of 2022)

Indicator	Quintile	
	Poorest	Richest
Percentage of children under age 5 malnutrition rate (percent of children under age 5 are stunted)	34.3	15.2
Under-5 mortality per 1,000 live births	44	22
Total fertility rate	2.8	2
Teenage mothers (percent of women 15-19 years)[8]	28.9	14.3
Per cent of women receiving Antenatal care (ANC) from a medically trained provider	75.7	96.5
Percentage of women delivered in a health facility	42.4	87.4
Educational attainment of the male household population (More than secondary)	2.7	33
Educational attainment of the female household population (More than secondary)	2	23.9
Percent of women have no education (percent)	36.2	13.5
Percent of men have no education (percent)	36	10.4

Source: Demographic and Health Survey 2022, BBS.

Although the country is wealthier than ever, over 41 million people still live in poverty (UNDP, 2024). Not only that Bangladesh's ranking on the Social Progress Index dropped from 119th out of 169 countries in 2022 to 121st out of 170 countries in 2023, placing it in the Tier 4-lower sixth and seventh deciles. It is also evident that urban inequality has been rising and remains higher than in rural areas, however, most of the social protection beneficiaries are from rural regions—60% residing in rural areas and only 31% in urban areas (BBS, 2023).[9] On the other hand, in the Human Development Index (2023–24), Bangladesh continues to fall under the same "medium human development" category, slipping to 130th in 2021 from 128th in 2020 out of 193 countries (UNDP, 2024). Besides, according to the Global Findex 2021, financial inclusion gaps between the poorest 40% and the richest 60%, rural and urban populations, and men and women have shown improvement over time (World Bank, 2021).

8 Percentage who has begun childbearing

9. In the survey, it was considered the households have received benefits from SSNP Programmes during the last 12 months.

Indicator 10.1.1. Growth rates of household expenditure or income per capita among the bottom 40% of the population and the total population

Growth rate of household expenditure or income per capita among the bottom 40% of the population stood at 15.1% in 2022. The targeted rate is 9.5% by 2025 and 10% by 2030. Growth rate of household expenditure or income per capita among the total population was recorded 15.5% in 2022. The target is 9.3% by 2025 and 9.7% by 2030.

Table 11.2: Growth rates of household expenditure or income per capita among the bottom 40% of the population and the total population

Year	Growth rates of HH expenditure or income per capita among the bottom 40 percent of the population	Growth rates of HH expenditure or income per capita among the total population
2016 (Base)	7.7%	9.1%
2018	7.7%	9.1%
2022	15.1%	15.5%
2025 (T)	9.5%	9.3%
2030 (T)	10.0%	9.7%

Source: HIES, BBS

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

According to HIES (2016), about 15.98% of people in Bangladesh live below 50% of median income, by sex, age, and persons with disabilities. The proportion remained unchanged in 2018.

Indicator 10.3.1. 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

As of 2025, 19.31% of the population in Bangladesh reported experiencing discrimination or harassment in the previous 12 months based on prohibited grounds under international human rights law (CPHS, BBS). Additionally, disparities exist between genders, with 19.62% of women and 18.97% of men reporting such experiences. The national target aims to reduce this share to 20% by 2030.

Indicator 10.5.1. Financial soundness indicators

Table 10.3 shows that Bangladesh's financial system has shown mixed trends, with fluctuations in the key financial soundness indicators. While improvements in regulatory tier 1 capital ratios have been noticed, particularly in terms of capital to risk-weighted assets, the non-performing loan ratios remain a key concern.

Table 11.3: Financial soundness indicators in Bangladesh

Year	Regulatory Tier 1 capital to assets	Regulatory Tier 1 capital to risk-weighted assets	Non-performing loans net of provisions to capital	Non-performing loans to total gross loans	Return on assets	Liquid assets to short-term liabilities	Net open position in foreign exchange to capital
2015 (Base)	5.40	8.00	44.19	8.40	1.86	51.13	4.72
2016	5.63	8.14	44.08	8.86	1.28	45.95	4.93
2017	5.18	7.45	49.66	8.9	1.37	34	3.71
2018	4.74	6.77	53.36	9.89	0.86	44.48	7.43
2019	5.17	7.69	44.62	8.90	1.09	38.56	6.13
2020	4.77	7.42	34.49	7.74	0.77	52.44	9.91
2021	4.76	7.44	39.42	7.97	0.74	48.52	6.36
2022	6.70	10.26	38.76	8.72	1.32	39.39	6.57
2023	6.55	10.29	47.44	9.57	1.68	38.97	6.4

Source: Bangladesh Bank

Indicator 10.6.1. Proportion of members and voting rights of developing countries in international organizations

Although 74% of the United Nations General Assembly members are from developing countries, their voice in shaping international economic decisions and governance structures is limited (United Nations, 2024a). At the World Bank, developing countries hold only 39% of voting rights, despite representing 75% of the institution's membership. The situation is more pronounced similar at the International Finance Corporation (IFC), where developing countries account for just 32% of voting rights. Although the International Monetary Fund (IMF) underwent two General Reviews, in 2019 and 2023, the voting share of developing countries remains stagnant at 37%. Other major international financial institutions have not undertaken significant voting rights reforms since 2015, further entrenching the status quo. Table 10.4 shows the proportion of voting rights of Bangladesh in international organizations.

Table 11.4: Proportion of voting rights of Bangladesh in international organizations

Year	Asian Development Bank	IBRD	International Finance Corporation	International Monetary Fund	United Nations Economic and Social Council	United Nations General Assembly	World Trade Organization
	Votes	Votes	Votes	Votes	Votes	Votes	Votes
2020	1.109	0.29	0.38	0.24	1.8519	0.5181	0.6098

Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA).

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

In 2022, migrant workers from Bangladesh spent an average of 14.6% of their annual income on recruitment costs, marking an improvement from 17.6% in 2020. Gender disparities were significant, with male migrants bearing a higher cost burden (15.1%) compared to females (7.8%), and the share for females increased from 5.6% in 2020. Education level also influenced recruitment costs. The highest burdens were observed among those with religious or no formal education (19.5% and 14.8%, respectively), while those with tertiary education faced lower costs (12.8%). Costs also varied by destination such as, migrants to Saudi Arabia incurred the highest relative costs (19.7%), followed by Qatar (18.1%), and those migrating to Singapore experienced the lowest costs (15.1%).

Table 11.5: Recruitment cost borne by employee as a percentage of yearly income earned in country of destination

	2020	2022
National	17.6	14.6
By gender		
Male	19.1	15.1
Female	5.6	7.8

Source: BBS

Indicator 10.7.2. Number of countries that have implemented well-managed migration policies

Bangladesh has developed and adopted the 'Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Policy 2016' and further amended its migration policy framework, passing the Overseas Employment and Migrants (Amendment) Bill-2023 in September 2023.

10.7.3. Number of people who died or disappeared in the process of migration towards an international destination

The number of people who died or disappeared while migrating towards an international place was recorded at 185 (IOM, 2022). The number dropped to 38 in 2023 and then rose again to 88 in 2024. The target is to bring the number down to 60 by 2025 and 40 by 2030.

Table 11.6: Number of people who died or disappeared in the process of migration towards an international destination

Year	Total
2019 (Base)	98
2020	165
2021	29
2022	185
2023	38
2024	88
2025 (T)	60
2030 (T)	40

Source: IOM, MMP.

10.7.4 Proportion of the population who are refugees, by country of origin

The proportion of the population who are refugees, by country of origin, was recorded at 663 in the base year of 2019 (RRRC, MoDMR).

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

Between 2015 and 2022, the proportion of tariff lines with zero tariffs applied to imports from least developed and developing countries remained largely unchanged, fluctuating slightly between 4.6% and 4.9%. This suggests limited progress in expanding preferential market access for products from these countries during this period.

Table 11.7: Proportion of tariff lines applied to imports from least developed countries and developing countries with zero-tariff

Year	Total
2015 (Base)	4.8
2016	4.9
2017	4.6
2018	4.6
2019	4.6
2020	4.7
2021	4.6
2022	4.6

Source: WTO Cell, Ministry of Commerce (MoC).

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

While Bangladesh is no longer an aid-dependent country, Official Development Assistance (ODA) remains instrumental in driving poverty alleviation, social sector initiatives, and infrastructure development. It has also been reflected in the recent trend that the growth rate of ODA has slowed. Moreover, the country has set the ODA target at $11 billion, reducing the ODA dependence further (Figure 11.4).

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is a crucial driver of economic development, the net FDI flow in Bangladesh has not improved over the last decade (Figure 11.5). While Bangladesh aims to increase FDI inflows to $12 billion by 2024-25 and $15 billion by 2029-30, it only received $1.5 billion by the end of 2023-24.

Figure 11.4: Total Official Development Assistance (ODA) for development over Time (Value in billion USD)

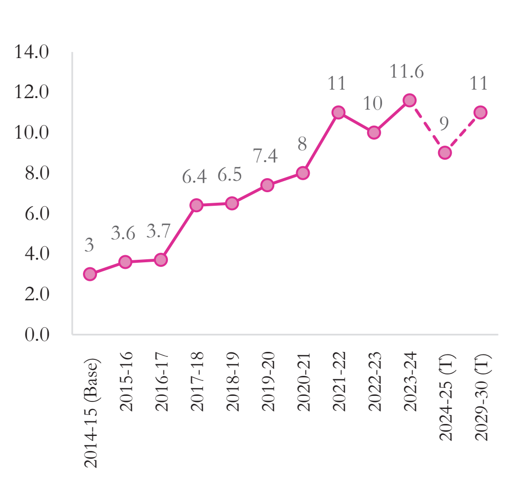
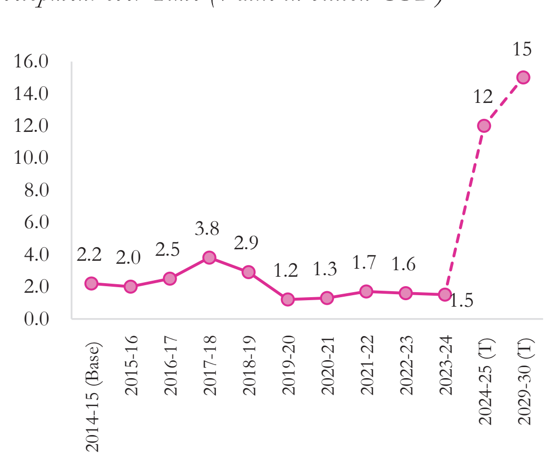


Figure 11.5: Total Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) for development over Time (Value in billion USD)

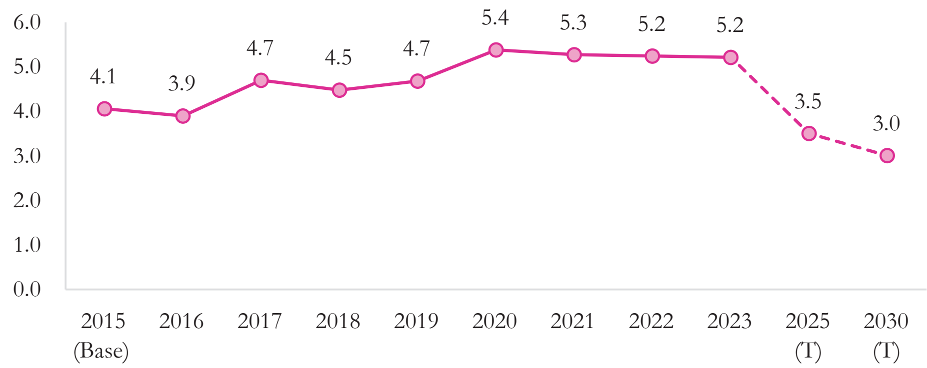


Source: Economic Relations Division (ERD); Bangladesh Bank, Financial Institutions Division (FID).

Indicator 10.c.1 Remittance costs as a proportion of the amount remitted

The target of this indicator includes two components, reducing to less than 3% the transaction costs of migrant remittances and eliminating remittance corridors with costs higher than 5%. Bangladesh aims to align with the SDGs 2030 Framework by reducing remittance costs to 3.5% and 3% of the total amount remitted by 2025 and 2030 respectively. In 2015, the country reported a remittance cost of about 4.06%, which increased to 5.21% in 2023.

Figure 11.6: Remittance costs as a proportion of the amount remitted, (%)



Source: Bangladesh Bank

11.4. Key Policies and Strategies to Achieve SDG 10

Bangladesh has benefited greatly from the creation of the National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) in 2015, which has helped to lower poverty and preserve a moderate degree of inequality. In order to promote economic growth, employment, and human development, this plan seeks to combat growing inequality and create an inclusive social security system for all marginalised individuals. Urban income inequality has intensified due to rising migration from rural to urban areas, driven by seasonal income fluctuations and ongoing economic restructuring. As a result, a number of programs have been started to reduce urban multidimensional poverty and inequality. These programs include Open Market Sales (OMS), the Ghore Phera (Back to Home) initiative, Urban Community Development (UCD) programs, rehabilitation initiatives, and the establishment of alternative employment opportunities for those who are begging.

Furthermore, mechanisms for social security program monitoring and evaluation (M&E) have been created and put into place. These systems have three main goals: evaluating the methods used to deliver services, recording outcomes, and educating policymakers on the efficacy of different strategies. Additionally, the nation is working on a revised National Social Security Strategy (NSSS), which is expected to be unveiled in 2026. Through the addition of additional targets and indicators, this revised strategy seeks to address NSSS 2015 targets that were not previously addressed, strengthening its inclusivity and robustness.

Following the 5C (Commitment, Cooperation, Co-ordination, Co-existence, Comprehensive) principles of national strategy development, the first National Financial Inclusion Strategy (NFIS) was developed to improve the health of the financial sector and make it more inclusive. The NFIS aims to achieve 100% financial inclusion for all adults by 2025, facilitating a transition to a cash-lite society through a nationally authenticated evaluation framework.

11.5. Major Challenges and Way Forward

Limited Fiscal Space and Weak Tax System: In many economies, taxation policies serve as a key tool for reducing income inequality. Bangladesh currently has one of the lowest tax-to-GDP ratios globally, and its evolving tax system presents an opportunity to strengthen fiscal capacity and support inclusive growth. While the country has historically relied on indirect taxes, which have contributed roughly two-thirds of total revenue over the past two decades, there is significant potential to expand direct and progressive taxation. Such measures can further enhance efforts to address indicators 10.1.1 and 10.2.1, promoting greater equity and inclusive growth.

Insufficient Redistributive Fiscal Policy: Instead of increasing public expenditure in key sectors such as health, education, and social protection to address income inequality, spending has remained largely stagnant over time, as reflected in indicator 10.4.2 (Redistributive impact of fiscal policy). While real-term expenditure in these sectors has risen, it has not increased as a share of GDP. For example, education receives less than 2% of GDP, health expenditure remains below 1%, and social protection accounts for approximately 2.5%.

SDG Localization Challenges: The country has made significant strides in the localization of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), setting 39 national priority targets, 64 district priority targets, and 492 upazila priority targets. However, tangible progress at the local level remains elusive, as most advancements have primarily been observed at the sub-national level. Monitoring and data collection at the local level are essential for proper policy-making. Achieving this requires the active participation of a wide range of institutions, including NGOs, microfinance institutions, and civil society research organizations. These entities should work closely with government bodies at the district, city, and upazila/union levels to ensure accurate, comprehensive, and reliable data.

11.6. Summary

Addressing inequality remains a central priority for Bangladesh, especially under SDG 10. Economic growth has contributed to overall development. However, its benefits have not been shared equitably. There is a significant gap in wealth between the bottom 40% and the top 10% of households.

According to SDG 10, the goal is to increase the incomes of the poorest 40% by 9.5% by 2025. Achieving this target requires better monitoring. Current data on populations living below 50% of the median income are outdated. The declining labour share of GDP shows that growth benefits are not evenly distributed among workers. The modest tax-to-GDP ratio of Bangladesh constrains the capacity of the government to invest in measures aimed at fostering equity and addressing inequality.

Rural inequality has improved, mainly due to social safety net programs. In contrast, urban inequality continues to rise. Expanding and sustaining these gains depends on strong implementation of the National Social Security Strategy. This strategy should be supported by progressive taxation, targeted public spending in priority sectors, and effective monitoring and evaluation systems. Such measures will help reduce poverty and promote equitable growth. They will ensure that economic progress benefits all segments of society.

CHAPTER 12

SDG 11

SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

12.1. Background

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11 seeks to make towns and communities inclusive, safe, flexible, and sustainable. It places special emphasis on access to affordable housing, sustainable transport, and green public spaces for all. SDG-11 ensures that everyone has access to safe and reasonably priced housing, improving catastrophe resilience, improving sustainable transportation, lessening environmental effects, and protecting cultural and natural heritage.

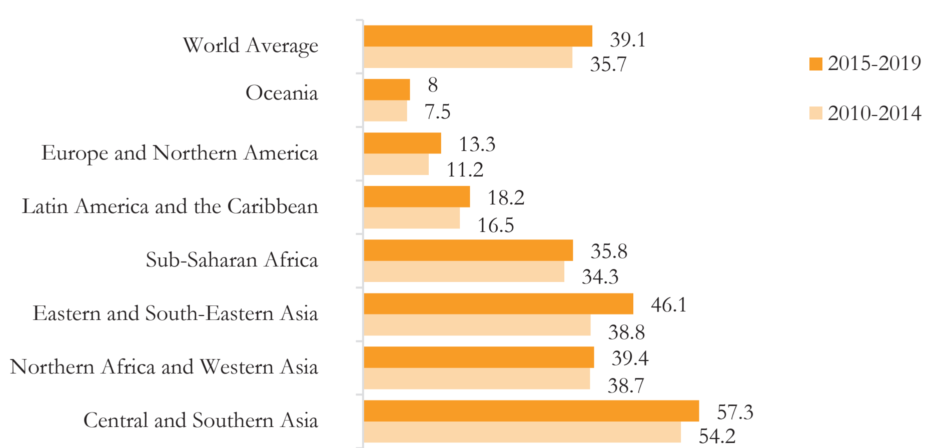
As cities grow and expand, so does the pressure on natural resources. The demand for infrastructure, jobs, land, housing, and basic services increases, especially for those already facing hardships. This is particularly instrumental for the 1.5 billion people living in countries where social injustice and environmental harm are part of daily life, and for the nearly 1 billion people living in urban slums.

Because of their dense populations, busy infrastructure, and economic activity, cities are especially susceptible to climate change and natural disasters. Building urban resilience is, therefore, pivotal to reduce losses: economic, social, and human. At the same time, ensuring sustainable urbanisation is key to protecting the environment and managing disaster risks.

12.2. Global and Regional Context

Creating sustainable cities means making them inclusive, safe, resilient, and environmentally friendly, focusing on affordable housing, efficient transportation, and reduced ecological impact. According to the UN SDG Report 2024, progress toward achieving SDG 11 varies across regions. While urbanization is accelerating globally, challenges remain, particularly in low- and middle-income countries. Air quality shows positive trends, with global exposure to fine particulate matter (PM2.5) dropping by 9% from 2010-2014 to 2015-2019 (Figure 12.1). Eastern and South-Eastern Asia saw significant improvements, with PM2.5 levels falling from 46.1 $\mu g/m^3$ to 38.8 $\mu g/m^3$. Europe and Northern America also made progress, with levels declining from 13.3 $\mu g/m^3$ to 11.2 $\mu g/m^3$. However, not all regions experienced improvements; sub-Saharan Africa and Northern Africa and Western Asia saw increases in air pollution, with levels rising from 34.3 $\mu g/m^3$ to 35.8 $\mu g/m^3$ and from 38.7 $\mu g/m^3$ to 39.4 $\mu g/m^3$, respectively.

Figure 12.1: Five-Year Average Population-Weighted $PM_{2.5}$ Concentrations in Urban Areas by Region, 2010–2014 and 2015–2019 ($\mu g/m^3$)



Source: The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2024

Even with advances in air quality, there are still major obstacles in other areas of urban development. Slums accounted for 24.8% of the world's urban population in 2022, up from 24.2% in 2020 (Table 12.1). This means that 1.12 billion people were living in slums overall in 2022. In Eastern and South-Eastern Asia, it increased from 21.7% in 2020 to 24.8% in 2022.

Globally, only 60.6% of urban residents have convenient access to public transport. This figure drops dramatically in the least developed countries (LDCs), where only 37.3% of urban dwellers have such access, compared to 83.7% in Europe and North America. Likewise, only 44.2% of urban dwellers globally have a public place within short walking distance, indicating inadequate access to open public spaces.

Table 12.1: Proportion of Global Urban Population Living in Slums by Region, 2020 and 2022 (%)

Region	2020 (%)	2022 (%)
Sub-Saharan Africa	50.2	53.6
Central and Southern Asia	48.2	42.9
Eastern and South-Eastern Asia	21.7	24.8
Northern Africa and Western Asia	18.7	17.8
Latin America and the Caribbean	17.7	16.9
Oceania	15.3	12.2
Europe and Northern America	0.69	0.66
Australia and New Zealand	0.03	0.03
World Average	24.2	24.8

Source: The Sustainable Development Goals Report, UN, 2024.

Note: Oceania does not include Australia and New Zealand.

With 334 million people living in slums, Central and Southern Asia has the highest levels of urban air pollution in the world, with PM2.5 levels reaching 54.2 μg/m³ between 2015 and 2019. Globally, there has been mixed progress in reaching SDG 11, with many areas still facing urban issues such as poor housing, limited access to services, waste management, waterlogging and environmental deterioration.

12.3. Assessment of National Progress on SDG 11

Indicator 11.1.1. Proportion of urban population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing

In Bangladesh, 55.1% of the urban population lived in slums, informal settlements, or inadequate housing in 2014 (UN-Habitat). According to the Census of Slum Areas and Floating Population, the proportion of people living specifically in slums was estimated at 6.3% in 2014. It's worth noting that this proportion declined to 2.96% in 2022. The government has set targets to reduce this proportion to 30% by 2025 and 20% by 2030.

Table 12.2: Proportion of urban population living in slums informal settlements, or inadequate housing

	2014 (Base)	2022	2025 (T)	2030 (T)
Proportion of urban population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing	55.1	-	30	20
Proportion of urban population living in slums	6.3	2.96*		

Source: UN-Habitat; Census of Slum Areas and Floating Population; *PHC; BBS

Indicator 11.2.1. Proportion of population that has convenient access to public transport, by sex, age and persons with disabilities

According to SVRS (2023), 85.05% of the population has convenient access to public transport.

Indicator 11.4.1. Total expenditure (public and private) per capita spent on the preservation, protection and conservation of all cultural and natural heritage, by type of heritage (cultural, natural, mixed and World Heritage Centre designation), level of government (national, regional and local/municipal), type of expenditure (operating expenditure/investment) and type of private funding (donations in kind, private non-profit sector and sponsorship)

Bangladesh's expenditure on the preservation, protection, and conservation of cultural and natural heritage has shown a fluctuating trend from 2016 to 2021. Total per capita spending (including both public and private sources) ranged from a high of PPP$ 13.64 in 2016 to a low of PPP$ 1.3 in 2020 (Table 12.3). The amount spent in 2021 was PPP$ 2.1. Bangladesh is close to meeting its spending goals of PPP$ 2.3 by 2025 and PPP$ 3.54 by 2030, notwithstanding these variations.

Table 12.3: Per capita spending (both public and private sources) on the preservation, protection and conservation of cultural and natural heritage (in PPP$)

2016 (Base)	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2025(T)	2030(T)
13.64	1.3	1	2	1.3	2.16	2.3	3.54

Source: MoEFCC

Indicator 11.5.1 Number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population

Bangladesh is exposed to various types of disasters, including floods, cyclones, riverbank erosion, tidal surges, tornadoes, droughts, landslides, earthquakes, fires, building collapses etc. A decrease in the frequency of disaster-related deaths and injuries indicates improved mitigation techniques and increased preparedness. The number of persons affected by disasters per 100,000 population has shown a favourable trend, declining from 12,881 in 2014 to 3,766 in 2021, according to Bangladesh Disaster-related Statistics (BDRS). On the other hand, DDM, MoDMR reported that the number of people affected by the disaster declined to 200.8489 per 100000 in 2023. The government taargets to reduce this number to 2,000 in 2025 and 1,500 in 2030 respectively.

Indicator 11.5.2 Direct economic loss attributed to disasters in relation to global gross domestic product (GDP)

Direct economic loss refers to damage or destruction to physical assets, including housing, schools, hospitals, energy, transportation, communication, factories, and infrastructures; business assets; and production (standing crops, agricultural infrastructure, livestock). According to BDRS, the direct economic loss attributed to disasters rose to 1.32% of GDP in 2021, up from 1.30% in the base year of 2015. The target is 1.1% for the year 2025 and 1% for the year 2030.

Table 12.4: Direct economic loss attributed to disasters in relation to global gross domestic product (GDP) (%)

2015 (Base)	2021	2025(T)	2030(T)
1.3	1.32	1.1	1

Source: Bangladesh Disaster-related Statistics (BDRS), BBS.

Indicator 11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed in controlled facilities out of total municipal waste generated, by cities

Only 2.25% of the municipal solid waste generated was collected and managed in controlled facilities in 2018-19. This percentage slightly declined to 2.23% in 2019-20.

Table 12.5: Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed in controlled facilities out of total municipal waste generated by cities (%)

2018-19 (Base)	2019-20
2.25	2.23

Source: EPRWMS, BBS

Indicator 11.6.2: Annual mean levels of fine particulate matter (e.g. PM2.5 and PM10) in cities (population weighted)

According to WHO, in 2016, the annual mean level of fine particulate matter was 88.6 $\mu g/m^3$, which is significantly higher than the World Health Organization's guideline of 5 $\mu g/m^3$ for PM2.5.

Indicator 11.b.2 Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies

According to MoDMR, 8.33% of the City Corporations and 0.91% of the Paurashavas have adopted and implemented local disaster risk reduction strategies in 2020. In total, 11.93% of local governments have adopted and implemented such strategies Targets have been set to increase the proportion to 30% by 2025 and 100% by 2030.

12.4. Key Policies and Strategies to Achieve SDG 11

To solve urban issues, the government has implemented a number of laws and made plans. RAJUK, CDA, and UDD carry out development plans that cover more than 11% of the land. Upgrading drainage and sewerage systems has also been given top priority, demonstrating the government's dedication to developing liveable and useful urban areas.

Bangladesh has also placed a strong emphasis on disaster preparedness and environmental resilience in recognition of its susceptibility to climate change. While focused programs enhance services in susceptible areas, the Urban Resilience Project fortifies building safety in cities such as Dhaka and Sylhet (GED, 2023). The goal of disaster management initiatives like the National Plan for Disaster Management 2021–2025 and the Cyclone Preparedness Programs is to reduce hazards and adjust to the demands of rapidly increasing urbanisation. These actions are intended to protect urban dwellers from climatic and environmental hazards. Waste management has also become a priority, with regulations introduced to promote recycling, private-sector involvement, and sustainable waste disposal practices.

12.5. Major Challenges and Way Forward

Lack of Proper Housing Facilities: To meet SDG Indicator 11.1.1, Bangladesh has come up with ambitious goals to reduce the share of its urban population living in slums or informal settlements. However, current trends make this target difficult to reach. Rapid rural-to-urban migration continues to increase the demand for housing, but the supply side remains largely unnoticed. Greater investments in affordable housing are essential, along with strong partnerships between government, private developers, and NGOs.

Air Quality at Alarming Level: Bangladesh faces serious challenges with air pollution and environmental management, particularly in the city of Dhaka. According to the World Air Quality Report 2023, Dhaka's air pollution reached critical levels in early 2023, ranking it as the world's most polluted city at the time. Fine particulate matter (PM2.5) levels regularly exceed the WHO safety limits, with major sources being vehicular and industrial emissions, construction activities, and brick kilns.

Substandard Urban Transportation and Traffic Management: Despite focusing on mass rapid transit or MRT solutions to reduce traffic congestion in Dhaka, other areas which include integrated public transport, road safety, and infrastructure for non-motorized transport, have been neglected. Poor road conditions, traffic jam, uncoordinated planning, and limited parking continue to be an impediment towards mobility. Urban transport also significantly contributes to air pollution, especially during the dry season. Bangladesh needs a comprehensive upgrade of its urban transport system. Expanding and accelerating MRT (Mass Rapid Transit) and BRT (Bus Rapid Transit) networks, while also improving road infrastructure and promoting walking and cycling, can not only ease congestion and reduce pollution. Smart traffic management and safer pedestrian systems are needed to improve mobility and support Indicator 11.6.2.

Poor Municipal Waste Management: As Bangladesh's cities grow, so does the volume of waste—yet waste management systems remain outdated. Only 2.43%of municipal waste is handled in controlled facilities, while most of it remains uncollected and untreated. The current approach largely focuses on collection and disposal, with reduction, recycling, or public health impacts not getting enough attention.

12.6. Summary

Bangladesh's progress toward building cities that are inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable has been slow and uneven. While there have been some small improvements, such as a slight reduction in slum populations and fewer people affected by disasters.

Air pollution remains dangerously high, waste management systems are insufficient, and the pressure from rapid urban growth continues to strain housing, transport as well as public services. Though several policies and programs have been introduced to streamline these issues, the results so far have not been optimal.

Cities are struggling with overcrowded slums, poor living conditions, traffic congestion, and environmental decline. On top of that, the lack of reliable data makes it more difficult when it comes to understanding what's working and what's not. To make real progress, urgent attention is needed to focus on affordable housing, better transport, stronger environmental protection, and improved disaster readiness. Authentic and adequate data collection are vital to guide effective action. Investing in cleaner cities, smarter transport, and stronger local governance can help create urban spaces where people not only live but truly grow.

CHAPTER 13

SDG 12

RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

13.1. Background

The Earth offers humanity an incredible wealth of natural resources, which are essential not only for sustaining life but also for facilitating economic growth. But these resources are not unlimited and are scarce as well; hence, the responsibility lies with people when it comes to using them efficiently. In recent decades, however, these resources have been utilised at a pace that far exceeds the planet's ability to replenish them, which causes severe environmental degradation. This unsustainable use has led to serious environmental repercussions, including deforestation, pollution, and climate change.

SDG 12 aims to guarantee the sustainable use of resources. Unsustainable consumption patterns have already led to alarming levels of food waste, rising e-waste, and increased pressure on natural resources. For Bangladesh, challenges such as low recycling rates, inadequate hazardous waste management, and heavy reliance on fossil fuels highlight the urgency of action

Bangladesh must scale up renewable energy, cut back on fossil fuel subsidies, improve business and citizen engagement in sustainable practices, and invest in more robust waste management systems if it hopes to see significant outcomes. In the end, SDG 12 is essential for building a resilient, inclusive, and sustainable economy in addition to protecting the environment.

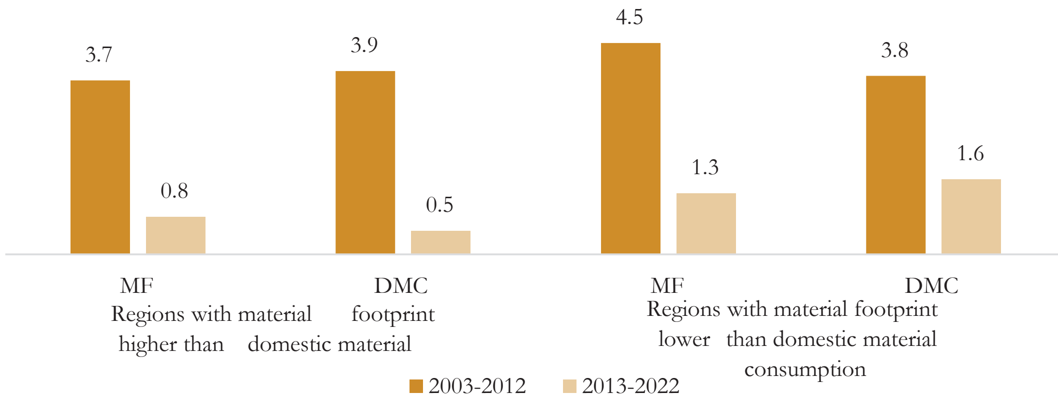
There are eleven targets and fourteen indicators in SDG 12, and they are all meant to help people use resources more wisely and sustainably. By aligning our consumption and production patterns with environmental limits, we not only protect the planet but also ensure a healthier, more equitable future for generations to come.

13.2. Global and Regional Context

In 2021, 13.2% of food produced globally was wasted after harvest and during transport, storage, wholesale and processing. A startling 1.05 billion metric tonnes, or 19%, of all food at the retail or consumption stage was wasted in 2022. For every 783 million people who were hungry in that year, around 1 billion meals of edible food were wasted every day, or 1.3 meals per person. The Global Sustainable Development Report 2024 revealed an intriguing conclusion: in areas like Eastern and South-eastern Asia, where the material footprint (the total amount of raw materials used) exceeds domestic material consumption (the amount of material consumed within the region), the latter is rapidly slowing down. However, in nations where domestic material consumption exceeds material footprint, the compound annual growth rate is declining more quickly than the rate of decline for domestic material consumption (see Figure 13.1).

Additionally, the quantity of e-waste produced rose from 6.3 to 7.8 kilogrammes per person between 2015 and 2022, with 62 million metric tonnes produced in 2022. Only 1.7 kilogrammes per person were collected and managed in an environmentally responsible manner. The majority of e-waste was either exported to low-income countries with inadequate or non-existent management infrastructure or recycled improperly, despite the fact that over 40% of it was collected in high-income countries. Even if domestic material footprints and consumption are still increasing, growth rates have decreased (UN, 2024).

Figure 13.1: Compound annual regional growth rate of material footprint and domestic material consumption, 2003-2012 and 2013-2022 (%)



Source: The Sustainable Development Goals Report, UN, 2024.

13.3. Assessment of National Progress on SDG 12

Indicator 12.1.1. Number of countries developing, adopting or implementing policy instruments aimed at supporting the shift to sustainable consumption and production

Bangladesh has previously included Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) in its national policies and strategies, including the National Sustainable Development Strategy and the Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan. A 10-year SCP framework has already been accepted by Bangladesh. In addition, Bangladesh has participated in a number of regional and global initiatives, including the South Asia Sustainable Consumption and Production Programs, to promote the exchange of best practices and cooperative SCP projects.

Indicator 12.2.1. Material footprint, material footprint per capita, and material footprint per GDP

Material footprint use increased to 1012.38 million tons in 2023 from 959.43 million tons in 2022. Material footprint per unit of GDP also increased from 2.08 kg to 2.24 kg. Moreover, a slight increase in material footprint per capita was noticed, rising from 5.65 tons to 5.92 tons.

Table 13.1: Material footprint, material footprint per capita, and material footprint per GDP

Indicators	2022 (Base)	2023
Material footprint (million tons)	959.43	1012.38
Material footprint per capita (tons)	5.65	5.92
Material footprint per unit of GDP (kg)	2.08	2.24

Source: BBS

Indicator 12.2.2. Domestic material consumption, domestic material consumption per capita, and domestic material consumption per GDP

Material consumption increased from 854 million tons in 2022 to 905.99 million tons in 2023. Material consumption per capita (by type of raw material) registered a slight increase from 5.03 tons to 5.3 tons and material consumption (per unit of GDP) rose from 1.86 kg to 2.01 kg (Table 13.2).

Table 13.2: Domestic material consumption, domestic material consumption per capita, and domestic material consumption per GDP

Indicators	2022 (Base)	2023
Domestic material consumption (million tons)	854	905.99
Domestic material consumption per capita, by type of raw material (tons)	5.03	5.3
Domestic material consumption per unit of GDP (kg)	1.86	2.01

Source: BBS

Indicator 12.4.1. Number of parties to international multilateral environmental agreements on hazardous waste, and other chemicals that meet their commitments and obligations in transmitting information as required by each relevant agreement

The country's compliance rate for hazardous waste and chemicals against international environmental agreements stood at 58.66% (DoE, 2020). A compliance rate below 60% manifests deficiencies in data transmission and adherence to reporting requirements.

Indicator 12.4.2. (a) Hazardous waste generated per capita; and (b) Proportion of hazardous waste treated, by type of treatment

Bangladesh faced ongoing challenges in hazardous waste management, with treatment levels remaining low despite changes in waste generation. The per capita generation of hazardous waste saw a slight fluctuation, increasing from 27.78 kilograms (kg) in 2019 to 27.25 kilograms (kg) in 2021 (Table 13.3).

Table 13.3: Hazardous waste generated per capita (kilogram)

2019 (Base)	2020	2021
27.78	25.89	27.25

Source: BBS

The percentage of treated hazardous waste showed only a slight increase, from 0.23% in 2019 to 0.26% in 2021 (Table 13.4).

Table 13.4: Proportion of hazardous waste treated (%)

2019 (Base)	2020	2021
0.23	0.25	0.26

Source: BBS

Indicator 12.5.1. National recycling rate, tons of material recycled

The national recycling rate in the country has gone up only modestly from 14.91% in the base year of 2019 to 15.59% in 2021 (Table 13.5). The limited progress towards recycling indicates significant barriers to higher rates of material recovery and sustainability in the waste sector.

Table 13.5: National Waste Recycling Rate (%)

2019 (Base)	2020	2021
14.91	15.03	15.59

Source: BBS

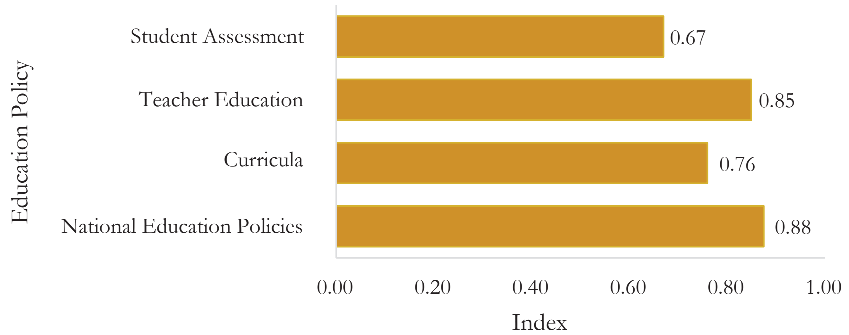
Indicator 12.6.1. Number of companies publishing sustainability reports

The government of Bangladesh has directed large companies to submit their sustainability reports in a timely manner. By 2022, a total of 49 companies listed in the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) in Bangladesh have successfully submitted their sustainability reports. This demonstrates their commitment to integrating sustainable practices and ensuring transparency in their operations according to the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), 2024.

Indicator 12.8.1. 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

The Ministry of Education, Bangladesh has introduced a new Education Policy in 2010. Components of ESD and GCED have been embedded in this policy. Among the 30 objectives stated in the policy, objectives 7, 11, 18, 28, and 29 are directly connected with ESD, GCED, and SDGs.[10] The concepts of ESD and GCED are included in the different areas of the National Curriculum Framework 2021(UNESDOC, 2024). The mainstreaming of the components is quite evident from the index of the different components.

Figure 13.2: Index of mainstreaming global citizenship education and education for sustainable development in national education policies, curricula, teacher education, and student assessment

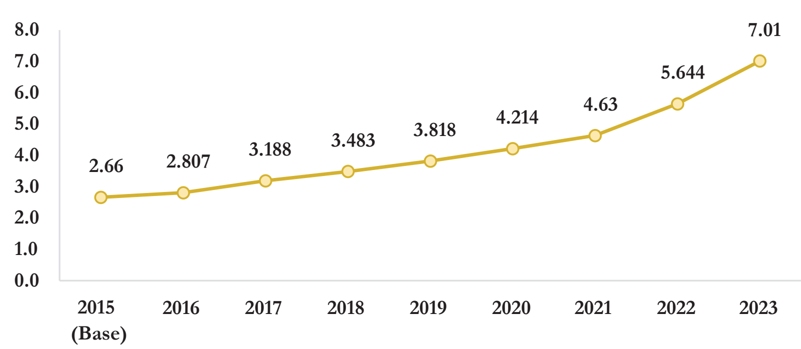


Source: Secondary and Higher Education Division (SHED), 2022.

Indicator 12.a.1. Installed renewable energy-generating capacity in developing countries (in watts per capita)

Bangladesh's installed renewable energy-generating capacity has shown steady growth, increasing from 2.66 watts per capita in 2015 to 7.01 watts per capita in 2023 (Figure 13.3).

Figure 13.3: Total installed renewable energy-generating capacity in Bangladesh (in watts per capita)



Source: SREDA

10. Ministry of Education

Indicator 12.c.1. Amount of fossil-fuel subsidies per unit of GDP (production and consumption)

Fossil-fuel subsidies in Bangladesh, measured per unit of GDP, remained constant at 0.00% in both 2016 and 2017. The amount increased to 0.11% in 2018 and peaked at 0.6% in 2019 (Table 13.6). Subsequently, subsidies decreased to 0.22% in 2021. The targets are set to reduce fossil-fuel subsidies to 0.02% by 2025 and 0.01% by 2030.

Table 13.6: Amount of fossil-fuel subsidies (production and consumption) per unit of GDP

2016 (Base)	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2025(T)	2030(T)
0.00	0.00	0.11	0.6	0.2	0.22	0.02	0.01

Source: Finance Division

13.4. Key Policies and Strategies to Achieve SDG 12

The government has implemented policy programs aiming at waste reduction, effective resource management, and support of sustainable practices across sectors considering various environmental issues i.e., rising urbanization, industrial growth, and resource consumption. The Green Banking Policy, the National 3R Strategy for Waste Management 2010, the National Strategy for Sustainable Development 2013, and other initiatives demonstrate Bangladesh's dedication to signal the right balance between environmental stewardship and economic prosperity. Bangladesh Public Procurement Authority (BPPA) under IMED introduced the Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP) Policy, 2023, Public Procurement Rules, 2025 along with other acts/ rules/guidelines to promote sustainability and transparency in public procurement.

The Bangladesh Standards and Guidelines for Sludge Management (2015) by the Department of Environment outlines procedures for safely managing sludge from water and wastewater treatment plants. It offers disposal techniques and classification guidelines with the goal of assisting operators in treating sludge responsibly. By encouraging environmentally friendly waste management techniques, this guideline supports SDG 12. The Department of Environment (DOE) also adopted the National 3R- reduce, reuse, and recycle for Waste Management back in 2010.

By integrating sustainability into all aspects of business operations, the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) is spearheading a change in the ready-made clothing sector. With 206 accredited facilities, it has the major concentration of LEED-certified green factories in the world, demonstrating its strong environmental credentials.

13.5. Major Challenges and Way Forward

Food Waste and Loss in Supply Chains: Despite persistent undernourishment in huge portion of the population, significant quantities of food continue to be lost or wasted at various stages of the supply chain, ranging from post-harvest handling to retail and household levels. This challenge is closely tied to poor harvesting techniques, inefficient modes of transportation, and inadequate storage and distribution infrastructure.

Low Recycling and Waste Management Capacity: Most municipalities in Bangladesh lack the necessary infrastructure for recycling, leading to an overdependence on landfills, which indicates significant barriers towards SDG 12.5.1. Public awareness remains low with waste segregation practices being rarely implemented, resulting in limited resource recovery and environmental degradation.

Insufficient Hazardous Waste Management: Very little improvement is witnessed when it comes to hazardous waste treatment compared to its generation (indicator 12.4.2). Bangladesh lacks sufficient facilities and regulatory mechanisms for the treatment and safe disposal of hazardous waste The generation of electronic waste has also risen steadily, but Bangladesh lacks an effective system for managing e-waste. Bangladesh must strengthen its hazardous waste management systems through dedicated treatment facilities, robust regulatory frameworks, and enforcement mechanisms.

Dependency on Traditional Energy Sources: The country's heavy reliance on coal and natural gas creates an obstacle when it comes to progress towards sustainable consumption and production patterns. This dependence contributes to higher greenhouse gas emissions and creates an impediment towards the shift to renewable energy, impacting Indicator 12.a.1. A feasible path forward includes increasing investment in renewable energy technologies, particularly in solar and wind.

Limited Corporate Engagement in Sustainability Reporting: A large portion of companies in Bangladesh have still not taken up the practice of sustainability reporting, indicating limited corporate accountability and transparency in environmental practices indicator 12.6.1. More often the industries are slow when it comes to adopting sustainable practices, such as resource efficiency, waste reduction, and pollution control. Providing financial incentives, technical support, and training opportunities for industries can reinforce the adoption of sustainable practices.

Weak Monitoring and Data Collection Systems: A significant barrier to progress on SDG 12 is the lack of reliable data when it comes to tracking sustainable consumption and production patterns. Inadequate monitoring limits the ability to design evidence-based policies and evaluate existing initiatives (Indicator 12.1.1). The government should develop systems to monitor sustainable consumption and production indicators which can later improve data availability and accuracy. Comprehensive data collection can help track progress, identify gaps, and provide a foundation for evidence-based policy adjustments needed for monitoring and implementing all the indicator related activities.

13.6. Summary

By 2022, a total of 49 businesses had begun publishing sustainability reports, articulating a growing awareness of corporate environmental responsibility. Additionally, the country's national waste recycling rate improved to 15.59% in the fiscal year 2020–21, marking a step forward in addressing consumption-related waste. In the energy sector, national renewable energy capacity has also undergone expansion, particularly in solar power, with per capita solar energy generation increasing from 2.66 watts in 2015 to 4.21 watts in 2020.

Significant obstacles still persist, though, such as the high rate of food waste, the poor infrastructure for recycling, and the dependence on fossil fuel subsidies, which impede the shift to renewable energy. Furthermore, many businesses do not report on sustainability, and hazardous waste management is inadequate. Reducing fossil fuel subsidies, funding recycling facilities, enhancing hazardous waste management, minimising food loss, and encouraging the use of renewable energy sources are some suggestions for resolving these problems. To assess progress and inform policy, it is also crucial to build strong monitoring systems and raise public awareness.

CHAPTER 14

SDG 13

CLIMATE ACTION

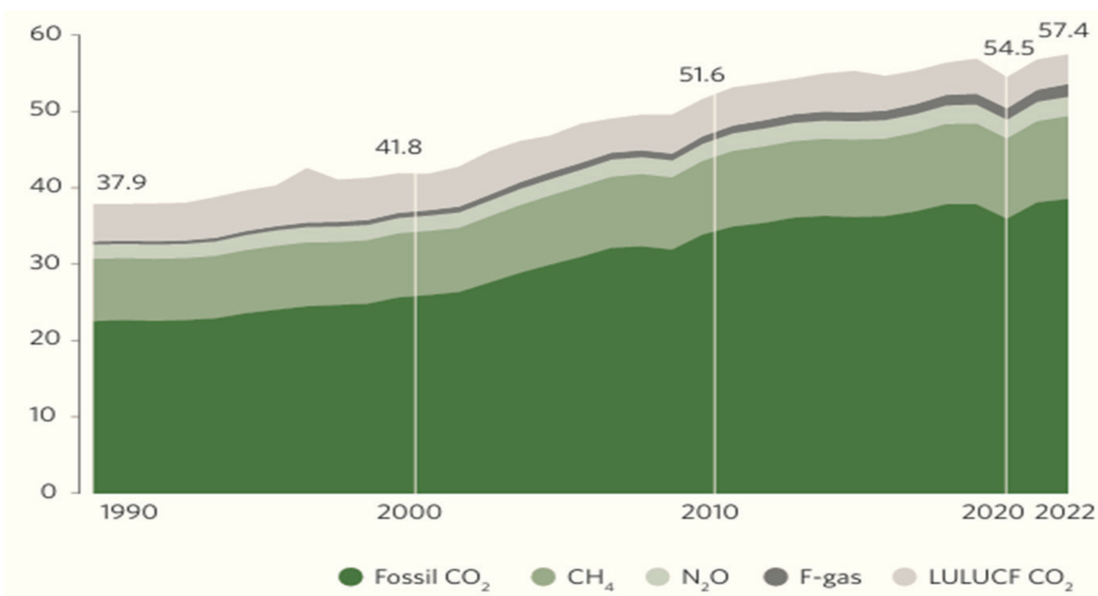
14.1. Background

To achieve SDG 13 and mitigate such evolving and complex climatic challenges, Bangladesh has undertaken some vital initiatives, such as the Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (BCCSAP), the Climate Change Trust Fund (CCTF), and the mainstreaming of climate resilience into the Five-Year Plans necessitating the urgent policy and institutional reforms. However, in achieving the goals under SDG 13, the path is fraught with challenges such as limited international climate funds, a lack of coordination amongst local government and community levels, and gap in capacity for the implementation of climate-risk mitigating programmes. As the adverse effects of climate change intensify, Bangladesh must adopt a multi-pronged approach to mitigate the challenges, build long-term resilience, and secure a sustainable future.

14.2. Global and Regional Context

The world is failing to meet climate goals, as evidenced by the highest-ever greenhouse gas emissions. The United Nations Environment Program's Emissions Gap Report 2023 states that global greenhouse gas emissions hit a new height of 57.4 gigatons of CO_2 equivalent in 2022. CO_2 from industrial operations and the burning of fossil fuels makes up around two-thirds of emissions. Emissions from every major sector, except for transport, have been recovered from the epidemic and are currently higher than they were in 2019. Due to the growth of coal- and gas-fired power generation, the energy sector continues to be the major contributor, accounting for 86% of CO_2 emissions worldwide (United Nations, 2024).

Figure 14.1: Total net anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions, 1990-2022 (gigatons of CO_2 equivalent)



Source: United Nations Environment Program's Emissions Gap Report, UNEP, 2023.

Note: Total net anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions include CO_2 emissions from fossil fuels and industry (fossil CO_2), CO_2 emissions and removals from land use, land use changes and forestry (LULUCF CO_2), methane (CH_4) emissions, nitrous oxide (N_2O) emissions and fluorinated gas (F-gas) emissions reported under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Climate finance is crucial in backing global mitigation and adaptation efforts. Developed countries committed to mobilizing USD 100 billion annually in climate finance for developing countries by 2020 and through 2025.

Based on Organization of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) figures, by 2022, developed countries were approximately halfway towards meeting this goal. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) estimates that nearly USD 6 trillion is needed for developing countries' climate action plans by 2030. Fossil fuel subsidies hit a historic high in 2022, exceeding a whopping USD 1.5 trillion. No improvements in terms of temperature as 2023 were recorded as the warmest year. However, preparedness for disasters lowers the mortality rates caused by disasters (UNEP, 2023).

Another report, The-Sustainable-Development-Goals-Report-2023, suggests the impact of the climate crisis, the war in Ukraine, a weak global economy, and the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have revealed weaknesses and hindered progress towards the goals. It was also evident from the report that while lack of progress is universal, it is the world's poorest and most vulnerable who are experiencing the worst effects of these unprecedented global challenges. It also points out areas that need urgent action to meet up the SDGs and deliver meaningful progress for people and the planet by 2030.

14.3. Assessment of National Progress on SDG 13

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

The number of directly affected persons attributed to climate-related disasters declined significantly between 2014 to 2021, from 12,881 in 2014 to 3,766 in 2021 for every 100,000 population (Table 14.1). The target is to reduce it to 2,000 and 1,500 per 100,000 population by 2025 and 2030, respectively.

Table 14.1: Number of directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population

2014 (Base)	2021	2025 (T)	2030 (T)
12,881	3,766	2,000	1,500

Source: BDRHS, BBS

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

According to the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR), about 95% countries has adopted and is implementing their national disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030. The government of Bangladesh has shown commitment to disaster risk reduction by aligning national strategies with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR). The Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Strategies of Bangladesh (2016–2020) were significant move. Moreover, the National Plan for Disaster Management (NPDM 2016-2020) included steps to improve resilience which emphasized on capacity building. The plan incorporates gender-responsive and disability-inclusive approaches and emphasizes public-private partnerships to ensure business continuity during disasters (MoDMR, 2020).

Indicator 13.1.3. Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies

The government has adopted the National Disaster Management Plan along with provisions to engage civil society organizations and local government authorities to work together during any natural disasters. According to MoDMR, 8.33% of the City Corporations and 0.91% of the Paurashavas have adopted and implemented local disaster risk reduction strategies in 2020. In total, 11.93% of local governments have adopted and implemented such strategies. It is important to note that there are a total of 12 city corporations in Bangladesh, and only Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) has adopted and implemented local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies. Targets have been set to increase the proportion to 30% by 2025 and 100% by 2030.

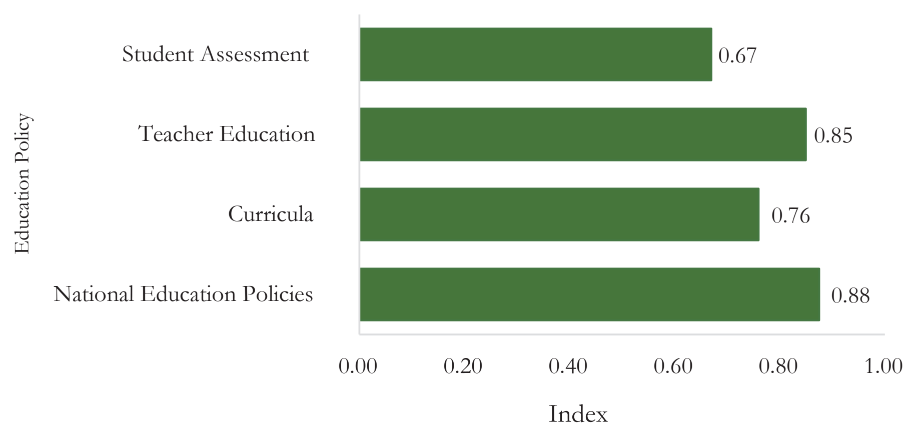
Indicator 13.2.1. Number of countries with nationally determined contributions, long-term strategies, national adaptation plans, strategies as reported in adaptation communications and national communications

According to the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, the number of countries with nationally determined contributions, long-term strategies, national adaptation plans, strategies as reported in adaptation communications and national communications was 4 in 2021. In order to improve climate resilience and conform to UNFCCC adaptation procedures, Bangladesh has also created a National Adaptation Plan (NAP) that focuses on eight important sectors and is projected to cost USD 230 billion between 2023 and 2050.

Indicator 13.3.1. Extent to which (i) global citizenship education and (ii) education for sustainable development are mainstreamed in (a) national education policies; (b) curricula; (c) teacher education; and (d) student assessment

The Ministry of Education, Bangladesh has introduced an Education Policy in 2010. Components of ESD and GCED have been embedded in this policy. Among the 30 objectives stated in the policy, objectives 7, 11, 18, 28, and 29 are directly connected with ESD, GCED, and SDGs. The concepts of ESD and GCED are included in the different areas of the National Curriculum Framework 2021 (UNESDOC, 2024). The mainstreaming of the components is quite evident from the index of the different components. This index suggests that the categories, such as student assessment, teacher education, curricula, and national education policies, were able to mainstream GCED and ESD. A value of 1 or closer to 1 would suggest high levels of mainstreaming, whereas 0 or closer to 0 would mean lower levels of mainstreaming. The values of the index on each of the education policies suggest a fairly high level of mainstreaming, with student assessment, teacher education, curricula, and national education policies being 0.67, 0.85, 0.76, and 0.88, respectively, in 2022 (Figure 14.2).

Figure 14.2: Index of mainstreaming global citizenship education and education for sustainable development in national education policies, curricula, teacher education, and student assessment



Source: Secondary and Higher Education Division (SHED), 2022.

Indicator 13.b.1. Number of least developed countries and small island developing States with nationally determined contributions, long-term strategies, national adaptation plans, strategies as reported in adaptation communications and national communications

According to MoEFCC (2021), the number of least developed countries and small island developing States with nationally determined contributions long-term strategies, national adaptation plans, strategies as reported in adaptation communications and national communications was 4. Bangladesh, as a least developed country, has implemented several key policies and strategies to address climate change and enhance resilience in line with the UNFCCC. The Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (BCCSAP), first introduced in 2009 and updated in 2022, provides a comprehensive framework for climate action. The country's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC), updated in 2021, set ambitious targets for reducing emissions and promoting sustainable development.

The Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100 outlines a 100-year strategy focused on long-term water, food security, and reducing vulnerability to natural disasters. The National Adaptation Plan (NAP) for 2022-2050 focuses on key sectors like water resources, agriculture, and disaster management, ensuring the country's ability to adapt to climate change. Additionally, Bangladesh has implemented the Plan of Action to Implement the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and the National Plan for Disaster Management 2021-2025 to improve disaster preparedness. The National Solar Energy Roadmap (2021-2041) and the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Master Plan (up to 2030) further highlight the country's focus on transitioning to renewable energy and improving energy efficiency. These strategies demonstrate Bangladesh's commitment to climate change mitigation and adaptation, reported under the UNFCCC.

14.4. Key Policies and Strategies to Achieve SDG 13

The government formulated and implemented various policies, plans, and programs to address climate change and disaster management. Below are some of the policies and strategies that were taken to make the country more climate resilient:

- Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (BCCSAP), 2009 (updated in 2022)
- Bangladesh Climate Change Trust Act, 2010
- Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC), 2015 (Enhanced & Updated in 2021)
- Bangladesh Delta Plan, 2100
- National Adaptation Plan (NAP), 2022
- Bangladesh Climate Fiscal Framework, 2020
- Disaster Management Act, 2012
- National Disaster Management Policy, 2015
- Standing Orders on Disaster 2019
- Plan of Action to Implement Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030
- National Strategy on Internal Displacement Management 2021
- National Plan for Disaster Management 2021-2025
- National Solar Energy Roadmap, 2021-2041 (Draft)
- Bangladesh Energy Efficiency and Conservation Master Plan up to 2030
- Renewable Energy Policy of Bangladesh, 2008

- Bangladesh National Action Plan for Reducing SLCPs, 2012, Updated in 2018
- National Action Plan for Clean Cooking, 2020-2030

Apart from these, there were a couple of other regulations that were taken for environmental protection. They are:

- Air Pollution (Control) Rules, 2022
- Solid Waste Management Rules, 2021
- Hazardous Waste (E-waste) Management Rules, 2021
- Bangladesh Biodiversity Conservation Act, 2015
- Ecologically Critical Area Management Rules, 2016
- Bangladesh Environment Conservation Act, 1995, (Updated in 2010)

Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (BCCSAP), which only had six thematic areas to focus on, has now been revised to consist of eleven thematic areas to capture the changing circumstances. Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) expanded its emission reduction strategy from only the energy sector to the whole economy of the country. Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100, a comprehensive strategic plan, was also developed to achieve a safe, climate-resilient, and prosperous delta with a mission to ensure long-term water and food security, economic growth, and environmental sustainability. It also includes the goal to reduce climate vulnerability to natural disasters. The National Adaptation Plan (NAP) is expected to be the main strategic document under the UNFCCC process in the future to implement adaptation actions in developing countries. This is also believed to enhance our adaptationcapacity. However, it is still in the baby stage of implementation, and coordinated efforts are necessary to fulfil the adaptation aspirations. The Government of Bangladesh established the Bangladesh Climate Change Trust Fund (BCCTF) in FY 2009-10, which is an approach to focus on adaptation, mitigation, and climate change research. Aside from such financing strategies, the government also adopted the Climate Fiscal Framework (CFF) to make climate-inclusive Public Financial Management (PFM) system.

Several measures have been taken to achieve its aspirations. A large number of volunteers currently work under the Cyclone Preparedness Programs (CPP). Cyclone shelters were constructed across the coast, along with food shelters and disaster relief warehouses. To provide early warning for anticipatory action in reducing loss and damage, it established community radio networks as well as Interactive Voice Response.

14.5. Major Challenges and Way Forward

Climate Vulnerabilities: The threat of climate change to Bangladesh is undeniable and multifaceted. Here's a breakdown of some of the key elements that endanger progress and the overall climate scenario in Bangladesh.

- Sea-Level Rise and Coastal Erosion are one of the greatest threats as low-lying coastal areas are particularly vulnerable to the rise in sea levels that have exacerbated erosion, flooding, and salinity intrusion in Bangladesh.
- Growing number of extreme weather events such as cyclones, floods, storm surges affect large-scale destruction of infrastructure, houses, and crops, resulting in enormous economic loss.
- The emissions from wealthier, high-emission countries far exceed those from Bangladesh, yet it is the people of Bangladesh who disproportionately suffer the impacts.

Financial Barriers: The lack of adequate financing of climate adaptation and mitigation measures is a serious challenge. Despite this, Bangladesh is successfully executing essential locally led climate adaptation programs. According to the "Key Highlights: Country Climate and Development Report for Bangladesh, World Bank, 2023", the scale of the investment needed in terms of increasing resilience is approximately 3% of GDP. Considering this, it is estimated that additional financing needed for climate action in the medium term in Bangladesh will stand at about USD 12.5 billion. The financing gap can partially be covered through additional funds from budget prioritization, carbon taxation, external financing, and private investment. However, mobilization of funds remains a challenge due to the limited access to international climate finance.

Institutional and Capacity Constraints: While there have been commendable efforts at the level of formulating climate policies and action plans, there are gaps related to institutional capacity. Therefore, capacity-building efforts at both institutional and community levels need further enhancement to cope with the increasing frequency and severity of climate impacts. Hence, establishing a dedicated climate coordination authority to oversee the streamlined efforts is very important.

Energy Transition: Bangladesh is vastly reliant on fossil fuel. Shifting to a more sustainable energy system is essential, given the several challenges that need to be overcome, related to high initial costs of renewable energy technologies, infrastructure, and regulatory barriers, rapid progress is unlikely to appear.

14.6. Summary

Despite being one of the least contributors to global greenhouse gas emissions, Bangladesh faces extreme climate vulnerability, ranking seventh on the Global Climate Risk Index. The country's exposure to sea-level rise, coastal erosion, and an increasing number of extreme weather events underlines the urgency of climate action. The country has made progress in addressing these challenges by adopting a wide range of timely policies and plans, such as the Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100 and the National Adaptation Plan (NAP), which reflects a long-term commitment through climate-risk management, adaptive capacity building, and sustainable infrastructure development. Nevertheless, limited access to the international climate fund has proved to be an obstacle to implementing the plans on a large scale. Therefore, Bangladesh needs to prioritize the mobilization of climate finance, scale up investments in renewable energy infrastructure, and enhance institutional capacity across sectors and governance levels.

CHAPTER 15

SDG 14

LIFE BELOW WATER

15.1. Background

The global sustainable development agenda has put greater emphasis on conserving and protecting coastal and marine ecosystem from pollution. The sustainable use of oceans, seas, and marine resources are necessary as they provide life support to this planet. The ocean is intrinsic to our life which covers 70% of the Earth's surface. Oceans are important for climate regulation, food provision, and conservation of biodiversity. However, overfishing, pollution, acidification, and climate change have severely degraded marine ecosystem. SDG 14 aims to manage and protect the health of the ocean life for long-term sustainability. The objective is to diminish marine pollution, safeguard marine and coastal ecosystems, and advocate sustainable fishing methods, thus improving the social, economic, and environmental aspects of sustainable development.

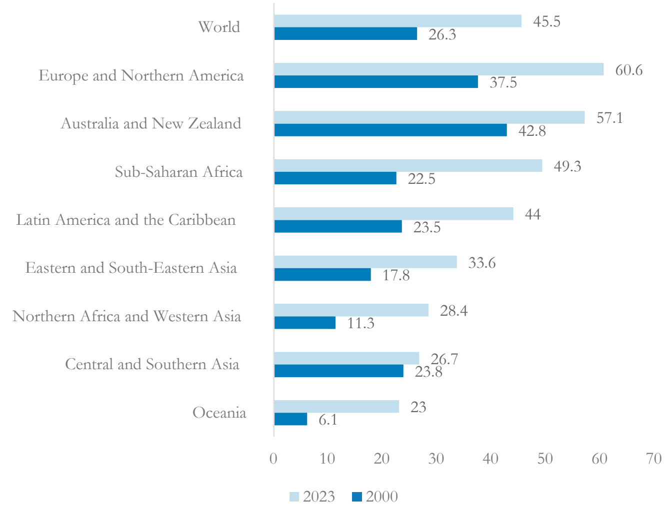
Bangladesh's maritime domain spans approximately 207,000 square kilometres, which is 1.4 times larger than its land area. SDG 14 holds special significance for Bangladesh due to the country's extensive coastline and strong dependence on marine resources. Many Bangladeshis rely on the Bay of Bengal for their livelihoods since it provides both food security and economic opportunity. The government has emphasised on enhancing the Blue Economy initiatives in an attempt to improve the sustainable use of marine resources and conserve biodiversity.

15.2. Global and Regional Context

Over the past 20 years, Marine Protected Areas (MPA) coverage has grown significantly on a global scale (Figure 15.1). Compared to the early 2000s, when roughly 26.3% of marine regions were protected, nearly half of the world's ocean area is now designated as MPAs as of 2023. Despite this progress, regional disparities exist. Due to a lack of funding, political obstacles, and conflicting economic interests, Central and Southern Asia continues to have one of the slowest rates of MPA coverage increase.

Nonetheless, current programs seek to improve marine conservation in this area, emphasising biodiversity hotspots and important ecosystems. Countries like Indonesia, the Philippines, South Africa, Kenya, Chile, Mexico, Australia, and New Zealand have made significant progress, but other regions such as Eastern and South-Eastern Asia, Northern Africa and Western Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Oceania have made varying degrees of progress. Expanding MPAs is a step towards the right direction for protecting marine biodiversity and guaranteeing the sustainable use of ocean resources. However, to overcome regional differences and achieve the targets outlined in SDG 14, more actions and international cooperation are required.

Figure 15.1: Region wise mean proportion of marine protected area, 2015 and 2023 (share in %)



Source: The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2024.

15.3. Assessment of National Progress on SDG 14

14.4.1: Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels

According to the Department of Fisheries (DoF), in 2022, 88.88% of fish stocks were within biologically sustainable levels, indicating that the vast majority of fish populations were being harvested at rates that allow for their long-term regeneration.

14.5.1: Coverage of protected areas in relation to marine areas

As part of its 2019 National Plan of Action to combat illicit, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing, the government of Bangladesh has designated 8.8% of its exclusive economic zone as Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). The coverage of marine protected areas was 2.05% in the base year of 2015. The coverage stood at 7.94% in 2017. The targets for 2025 and 2030 are set at 7% and 10%, respectively.

Table 15.1: Coverage of protected areas in relation to marine areas

2015 (Base)	2017	2025 (T)	2030 (T)
2.05*	7.94	7	10

Source: *Bangladesh Forest Department (BFD); Department of Environment (DoE).

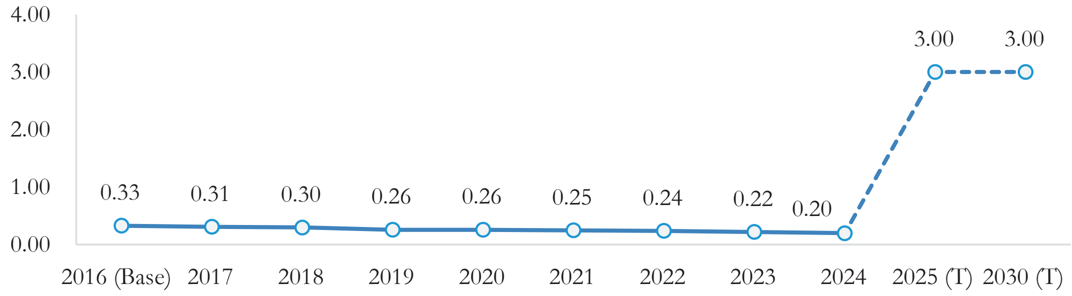
Indicator 14.6.1. Degree of implementation of international instruments aiming to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing

According to the Department of Fisheries (DoF), Bangladesh scored 3 in combating illegal fishing performance in both 2018 and 2022. The score ranges from 1 to 5 where, 1 means poor implementation and 5 means satisfactory implementation.

Indicator 14.7.1. Sustainable fisheries as a proportion of GDP in small island developing States, least developed countries and all countries

The share of sustainable fisheries to GDP was 0.20% in 2024. It has declined gradually compared to the base year of 2016, when the share was reported at 0.33%. This drop could be attributed to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, disruptions in supply chains, and other economic factors that affected the fisheries sector. The targets to be attained by 2025 and 2030 are 3.00%.

Figure 15.2: Sustainable fisheries as a proportion of GDP for Bangladesh



Source: BBS

Indicator 14.b.1 Progress by countries in the degree of application of a legal/regulatory/policy/institutional framework which recognizes and protects access rights for small-scale fisheries

Between 2018 and 2022, Bangladesh improved its score from 3 to 5 in applying legal and policy frameworks that protect access rights for small-scale fisheries, reflecting progress in institutional support and resource equity.

15.4. Key Policies and Strategies to Achieve SDG 14

The National Conservation Strategy (NCS) of Bangladesh is a comprehensive framework aimed at preserving the country's biodiversity and natural resources while advancing sustainable development. It covers important areas like biodiversity, fisheries, land, water, forests, marine and coastal resources, outlining an extensive set of measures and regulations to protect these vital ecosystems. The NCS, which runs from 2021 to 2036, intends to direct national decision-making procedures and guarantee that conservation initiatives are successfully integrated into the nation's overall development plan.

Additionally, there is a concentrated effort to preserve important species, such as Hilsa, indicating a well-focused approach to conservation. The plan is further strengthened by international recognition, as the Sundarban mangrove forest's classification as a UNESCO World Heritage site and a RAMSAR site brings legitimacy and support from throughout the world. The sustainable management of marine resources is supported by initiatives to reduce pollution, such as the designation of Ecologically Critical Areas (ECAs), and seasonal prohibitions, such as the 65-day limit on shrimping and trawl fishing.

The NCS is threatened by a number of serious factors. While continuous pollution from multiple sources continues to deteriorate marine habitats, climate change and growing environmental variability pose serious threats to the efficacy of conservation efforts. Conservation goals are frequently at odds with economic constraints brought on by overfishing, illicit fishing, and uncontrolled coastal development. Furthermore, unlawful activities that jeopardise conservation efforts and raise significant security issues include uncontrolled fishing and the trafficking of illegal migrants. The interaction of these elements emphasises the necessity of a robust and flexible strategy to guarantee the Bangladesh National Conservation Strategy's long-term success.

15.5. Major Challenges and Way Forward

Structural Deficiencies: Bangladesh lacks the essential infrastructure to manage maritime resources effectively and control pollution. Inadequate facilities for waste disposal, monitoring systems for illicit fishing, and technologies for marine conservation limits the nation's ability to safeguard its maritime ecosystems. Therefore, it is important to strengthen the Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance (MCS) systems that use drones and satellite technologies to keep an eye on far-off watercraft, especially those owned by unknown or foreign entities.

Financial Constraints: Efforts to engage in sustainable fisheries management and marine conservation initiatives are severely hampered by a lack of funds. Initiatives to conserve marine species, repair habitats, and encourage ethical fishing methods are underfunded, which limits their effectiveness. Expanding the Blue Economy plan by incentivising industries such as eco-tourism, sustainable marine farming, and renewable ocean energy (for example, offshore wind farms) has the potential to generate economic opportunities that support marine conservation.

Socio-Economic Dependencies: Fishing is an essential livelihood for millions in Bangladesh's coastal communities. Introducing and enforcing restrictions in order to safeguard marine ecosystems typically competes with the financial survival of these communities, resulting in a socio-economic dilemma. Participatory co-management strategies can enhance local communities by promoting engagement and compliance.

Lack of Suitable Fishing Infrastructure: Currently, the majority of fishing in Bangladesh is artisanal. The lack of suitable fishing infrastructure, such as vessels, fish ports, and contemporary fishing equipment, poses substantial hurdles to deep-sea fishing. Because fish stock is a public good, the excessive reliance on artisanal fishing contributes to overfishing.

Vulnerability to Climate Change: Bangladesh, one of the most vulnerable nations to climate change, suffers drastic consequences to its marine ecosystems. Displacement and the destruction of habitat leading to the loss of biodiversity and coastal erosion are caused by rising sea levels, ocean acidification and the increased frequency and intensity of cyclones. To protect the marine ecosystems, it is necessary to expand the Marine Protected Area (MPA) coverage from the present 7% to at least 10%, with an emphasis on areas with critical biodiversity, such as mangrove forests and coral reefs by 2025.

Significant Enforcement Gaps: Although Bangladesh has made strides in adhering to international rules, there are still significant enforcement gaps. The country needs to implement and enforce global ocean-related laws and treaties through enhancing Bangladesh's cooperation with regional and international bodies. This includes ratifying conventions such as the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and actively participating in Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs).

Governance Issues: Weak implementation of existing regulations by an opaque system, corruption, and limited institutional capacity impedes effective governance of marine resources. Governance flaws exacerbate the deterioration of marine habitats by allowing uncontrolled fishing, marine pollution, and a lack of accountability. A unified marine governance along with modernising the coordination mechanisms are imperative for long term and sustainable marine biodiversity and resource management.

Knowledge and Data Gaps: Little updated data and research on aquatic ecosystems restrict evidence-based policy making and targeted interventions. Improving the ability to gather data and conduct research is necessary for making well-informed decisions and carrying out conservation actions effectively.

15.6. Summary

Goal 14 of the Sustainable Development Goals emphasises the crucial need of conserving and using oceans, seas, and marine resources in order to achieve sustainable development. Oceans, which span more than 70% of the Earth's surface, are critical for climate regulation, food security, biodiversity preservation, and the livelihoods of millions worldwide. However, issues such as overfishing, marine pollution, and climate change have substantially affronted marine ecosystems. Bangladesh, with a maritime region greater than its land size and a major reliance on the Bay of Bengal, sees SDG 14 as critical to maintain economic development and ecological balance.

Bangladesh has made headway in marine conservation by designating 8.8% of its exclusive economic zone as Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and ratifying international agreements such as UNCLOS. However, significant gaps remain in managing marine pollution, reducing illicit fishing, and raising sustainable fishery income. The country also has limited infrastructure, budgetary constraints, poor governance, and the devastating effects of climate change. Furthermore, despite its importance for livelihoods, its fisheries sector continues to underperform, generating less than 1% of GDP while dealing with overfishing and resource management concerns.

Moving ahead, Bangladesh must extend MPAs, tighten anti-illegal fishing measures, and regulate plastic trash and agricultural runoff. To use marine resources for economic growth and biodiversity preservation, investments in ecotourism, blue economy projects, and sustainable aquaculture are essential. Connecting local livelihoods with sustainable practices can be facilitated by enhancing marine waste infrastructure, strengthening coastal zone management, and encouraging community-based conservation.

CHAPTER 16

SDG 15

LIFE ON LAND

16.1. Background

Bangladesh is a country with rich biodiversity; however, vulnerabilities related to environmental degradation continue to persist, as the country suffers from loss of arable land, continued deforestation, and reduced quality of life for wildlife are among the most pressing concerns which also jeopardize millions of lives who depends on it for their daily sustenance and employment. Furthermore, the country is losing its flora and fauna, as Bangladesh has experienced a depletion of diverse landscapes in the Sundarbans and Chittagong Hill Tracts over the years due to rapid urbanization, overexploitation of natural resources, climate change, and unplanned infrastructural development.

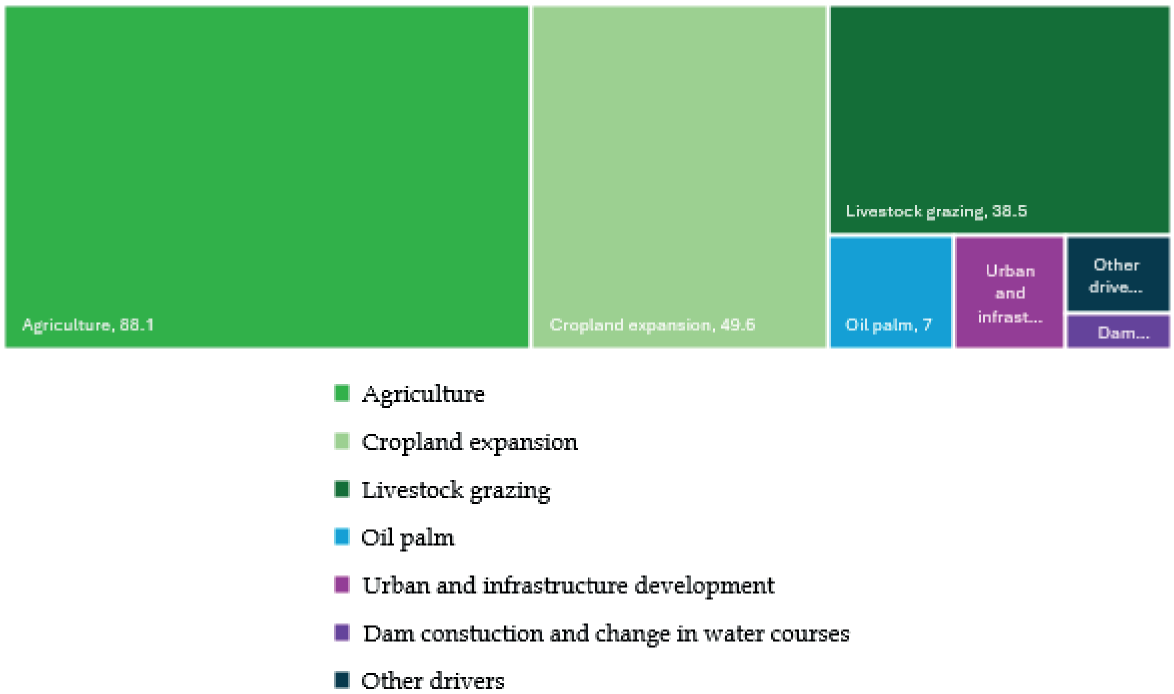
Humans have an intricate relationship of co-dependency with their environment, where one benefits and protects the other in different ways. However, irresponsible reaping of these benefits can put the environment at risk of degradation and permanent loss. The Government of Bangladesh took initiatives to protect its land by implementing afforestation programs, enhancing protected area management, and promoting community-based conservation initiatives; however, due to a lack of finances, enforcement challenges, and other conflicting demand for usage of lands makes it challenging for the country to achieve its goals under SDG 15.

16.2. Global and Regional Context

Protecting terrestrial ecosystems, preserving biodiversity, preventing desertification, and stopping land degradation are the main objectives of Sustainable Development Goal 15. The environment is still becoming worse because of climate change, population pressure, and man-made pollution. These issues are brought to light in the Sustainable Development Goals Report 2024, which states that agricultural growth was the main cause of the world forest cover's reduction from 31.9% to 31.2% between 2000 and 2020 (Figure 16.1). Similarly, between 2015 and 2019, at least 100 million hectares of productive land were lost annually, indicating an acceleration of land degradation. Because it lowers agricultural output, this decline immediately jeopardises the world's food security.

Biodiversity loss is another alarming trend. Over 44,000 species-28% of the 160,000 assessed globally are at risk of extinction. Central and Southern Asia face particularly severe biodiversity declines, highlighting the fragility of ecosystems in the region. Each endangered species disrupts its ecosystem's balance, compounding environmental challenges. Moreover, illegal wildlife trade has surged, affecting approximately 4,000 plant and animal species between 2015 and 2021, further threatening biodiversity (Sustainable Development Goals Report-2024).

Figure 16.1: Main drivers of deforestation, 2000-2018 (in percentage)



Source: Sustainable Development Goals Report 2024.

Environmental degradation's impacts, though gradual, are increasingly apparent amid worsening climate change. These trends underline the urgent need for coordinated and intensified global and national actions. Without immediate interventions, achieving sustainable management of ecosystems and halting biodiversity loss will remain elusive, endangering the planet's ecological and economic stability.

16.3. Assessment of National Progress on SDG 15

Indicator 15.1.1. Forest area as a proportion of total land area

In Bangladesh, forest coverage remains modest. Forest area was 14.1% of the country's total land area in the baseline year of 2015 (Table 16.1). Bangladesh Forest Division has incurred a loss of 26000 hectares of primary forest in the period between 1990 and 2015. The Sundarbans, the world's largest mangrove forest and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, forms a significant part of Bangladesh's forest ecosystem, hosting diverse tree species such as sal, golpata, gamari, garjan, and sundari. Although the Sundarbans remain quite unaffected, heavy losses have been recorded in all the other forest areas. The targeted rate is 18% for 2025 and 20% for 2030.

Table 16.1: Forest area as a proportion of total land area of Bangladesh (%)

2015 (Base)		2025(T)	2030(T)
14.1		18	20

Source: Bangladesh Forest Division (BFD).

Indicator 15.1.2 Proportion of important sites for terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity that are covered by protected areas, by ecosystem type

The entire protected area of Bangladesh, which includes both marine and terrestrial habitats, is roughly 817,917 hectares. Out of this, 348,046 hectares (or 2.36%) contain marine protected areas, while 469,871 hectares (3.18% of total land area) are terrestrial protected areas. The proportion of terrestrial biodiversity that is covered by protected areas increased from 1.7% in 2015 to 3.06% in 2019 (BFD). The targets to be attained by 2025 and 2030 is 3.3% and 5%, respectively.

Table 16.2: Proportion of important sites for terrestrial biodiversity that are covered by protected areas, (%)

2015 (Base)	2019	2025 (T)	2030 (T)
1.7	3.06	3.3	5

Source: Bangladesh Forest Department (BFD).

The proportion of freshwater biodiversity that is covered by protected areas was 1.8% in 2014 (DoE). The targets are to increase it to 9% by 2025 and 14% by 2030. Greater focus is required to manage and protect Bangladesh's vast river networks and coastal ecosystems, including globally significant sites such as Cox's Bazar, the world's longest sea beach. Strengthened conservation efforts in both terrestrial and freshwater domains are essential to preserving biodiversity and meeting sustainability goals.

Table 16.3: Proportion of important sites for freshwater biodiversity that are covered by protected areas, by ecosystem type (%)

2014 (Base)	2025 (T)	2030 (T)
1.8	9	14

Source: Department of Environment (DoE).

Indicator 15.2.1. Progress towards sustainable forest management

The existing indicator includes four sub-indictors—the forest area's annual net change rate was reported at 0.23%; above-ground biomass stock in forest was 67.66 tons per hectare; the proportion of forest area located within legally established protected areas were 14.68%; and the proportion of forest area under a long-term forest management plan was 35.1% (BFD, 2019).

Indicator 15.3.1. Proportion of Land that is degraded over total land area

Land degradation is a concerning issue throughout the world, and Bangladesh is no exception to this. It poses a serious threat to agricultural productivity and the nation's food security. The proportion of degraded land over total land area was 4.26% in Bangladesh (DoE, 2020).

Indicator 15.4.1. Coverage by protected areas of important sites for mountain biodiversity

The 157,492 hectares of mountainous land in Bangladesh are divided into two classes according to slope and elevation. More than 98% of Bangladesh's mountain KBAs were deemed unprotected in 2019. According to BFD (2019), the coverage by protected areas of important sites for mountain biodiversity was 0.35%. Effective monitoring and management of these areas is challenging and costly due to their remote and frequently inaccessible location.

Indicator 15.4.2. Mountain Green Cover Index

Cropland and woods make up the majority of Bangladesh's mountain ranges' green cover. While agriculture is restricted to specific crops and vegetables, the forests are varied and include rubber plantations and bamboo. Water bodies cover the remaining areas. Mountain Green Cover Index for Bangladesh was reported at 96.05% (BFD, 2015).

Indicator 15.5.1. Red List Index

The first Plant Red List of Bangladesh was released in November 2024, after 4 years of assessment. The round of assessment assessed 1,000 plant species from which 395 were found to be threatened, 5 have been listed as critically endangered, 127 as endangered, 263 as vulnerable, 7 as regionally extinct, and 1 species as extinct in the wild (Table 16.4). Another component of the plant red list project was to identify invasive species present in Bangladesh, which has listed 17 invasive plants in 5 protected areas of Bangladesh, of which 7 have been identified as of major environmental threat to local ecosystems.

Table 16.4: Species status of plants as per the IUCN Plant Red List of Bangladesh-2024

Status Category	No. of Species	% of Total Species Assessed
Minimally Threatened	271	27.1%
Threatened	395	39.5%
Critically Endangered	5	0.5%
Endangered	127	12.7%
Vulnerable	263	26.3%
Extinct in the Wild	1	0.1%
Regionally Extinct	7	0.7%
Nearly Threatened	70	7%
Insufficient data for assessment	256	-

Source: Plant Red List of Bangladesh-2024 Volume 1 and 2.
Note: Categories listed as Critically Endangered, Endangered, and Vulnerable are sub categories of the category Threatened and represent different degree of being a threatened species.

Red List Index (RLI) is a key biodiversity indicator that shows trends in overall extinction risk for groups of species. The index value is between 0 and 1, where a value of 1 implies low level of threat or there is no current extinction risk to any of the listed group of species, and a value of 0 indicates greater extinction risk for that species group. Table 15.5 provides the Red List Index for species of seven categories in 2015.

Table 16.5: Red List Index for species in 2015

Group	Index value
Mammals	0.55
Birds	0.91
Reptiles	0.76
Amphibians	0.85
Fresh Water Fish	0.81
Crustaceans	0.9
Butterflies	0.64

Source: IUCN.

Indicator 15.7.1. Number of traded wildlife that was poached or illicitly trafficked

According to BFD, the number of traded wildlife that was poached or illicitly trafficked was 252 in 2021.

Indicator 15.a.1. and 15.b.1. (a) official development assistance on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity; and (b) revenue generated and finance mobilized from biodiversity-relevant economic instruments

Revenue generated and finance mobilized from biodiversity-relevant economic instruments stood at 81.83 million USD in FY 2020-21. It was recorded much lower at 14.7 million USD during FY 2015-16.

Table 16.6: Revenue generated, and finance mobilized form biodiversity-relevant economic instruments (in million USD)

2016 (Base)	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
14.7	31.65	44.52	62.6	74.8	81.83

Source: Finance Division (FD)

Indicator 15.c.1. Number of traded wildlife that was poached or illicitly trafficked

According to BFD (2021), the number of traded wildlife that was poached or illicitly trafficked was 252.

16.4. Key Policies and Strategies to Achieve SDG 15

Bangladesh has laid a strong foundation for environmental protection and biodiversity conservation, reflecting its commitment to achieving Sustainable Development Goal 15. This goal emphasizes the sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, halting biodiversity loss, and combating land degradation. The country's commitment is enshrined in Article 18A of the Constitution, which obligates the state to protect and improve the environment and preserve biodiversity, forests, wetlands, and natural resources for present and future generations. This constitutional provision is supported by national legislation and policy instruments, including the Wildlife (Conservation and Security) Act 2012.

The Wildlife (Conservation and Security) Act 2012 serves as a cornerstone for biodiversity conservation in Bangladesh. It outlines key objectives, such as establishing wildlife sanctuaries, regulating hunting and trade, and creating the Wildlife Advisory Board. The Act also promotes community involvement in conservation, recognizing the vital role of local populations in preserving ecosystems. Additionally, it integrates sustainable land management and ecotourism, seeking to harmonize ecological preservation with economic development. These initiatives aim to ensure the long-term safety and conservation of the country's natural resources.

Bangladesh has established 13 Ecologically Critical Areas (ECAs) totalling 71,544 hectares under the Ecological Conservation Rules in an effort to better safeguard biodiversity. These ECAs encompass a variety of ecosystems, including freshwater wetlands, rivers, lakes, coral reefs, and coastal regions. Additionally, vulture-safe zones have been established in the northeast and southeast regions to protect these endangered birds. In 2015, the Ratargul Swamp Forest was declared as the animal sanctuary to preserve its unique ecosystem.

Coastal afforestation initiatives have enhanced the country's green coverage. The Forest Department has afforested 23,818 hectares and mapped potential chars (sediment islands) and other barren lands for future plantation projects. These efforts not only combat land degradation but also provide critical habitat for wildlife and protect coastal regions from natural disasters. However, inter-agency coordination is critical for full realization.

Bangladesh's global commitments further reinforce its dedication to environmental conservation. The country has ratified several key international conventions, including the Convention on Biological Diversity (1992), CITES (1973), Ramsar Convention (1971), World Heritage Convention (1972), and the Convention on Migratory Species (1979). Bangladesh is required by these accords to respect global norms for the preservation of biodiversity and sustainable resource management.

16.5. Major Challenges and Way Forward

Lack of Goodwill and Limited Effort to Protect the Environment: Lack of goodwill to protect the environment, especially by regulating widespread illegal or environmentally degrading practices, can be identified through the lack of those regulations. It is also imperative to enforce strict laws and policies regarding wetland preservation, illegal deforestation, and unregulated land conversion.

Lack of Awareness among the General Population and Harmful Practices: Lack of awareness about environmentally harmful practices, as well as helpful ones, among the masses is contributing to an adverse impact on the environment and biodiversity of the country. A robust approach is required for the public and private entities to come together. Targeted awareness campaigns and necessary skill development, such as biodiversity conservation, sustainable farming techniques, and reporting of illegal wildlife, are crucial to mitigate the aforementioned challenges.

Lack of Data and Research: The discussion on the SDG-15 targets exhibited the lack of data for many targets for Bangladesh, which is a phenomenon that can be said even about the indicators for which the data was available for some years, as there are issues with consistency in updating data and data collection and reporting issues as well. Collaboration with international agencies such as IUCN to support capacity building of the local officials in proper collection and harnessing the data, and increased financial support from the government in the collection of data, development of mechanisms to periodically update them, and monitoring progress will help mitigate such challenges.

16.6. Summary

To preserve biodiversity, the rate of increase in forest coverage needs to be accelerated. The annual degradation of almost 270 square kilometres of land makes land degradation a significant challenge. Since less than 1% of important biodiversity areas were protected in 2019, hill biodiversity protection also needs immediate attention. Significant challenges to native flora are also highlighted in the recently released Plant Red List, which emphasises the necessity of focused conservation efforts to counteract invasive species and habitat loss. To stop environmental degradation, these problems highlight the need for improved institutional frameworks, updated data gathering, and the incorporation of sustainable land management techniques. Achieving SDG 15 targets will require bolstering biodiversity protection, boosting conservation funding, and implementing best practices from around the world. The country must strengthen environmental laws and ensure their enforcement, particularly against politically backed ecological violations. Furthermore, Bangladesh needs to improve its enforcement systems, strengthen its policy frameworks, and encourage more cooperation between local communities, foreign partners, and government institutions.

CHAPTER 17

SDG 16

PEACE, JUSTICE, AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

17.1. Background

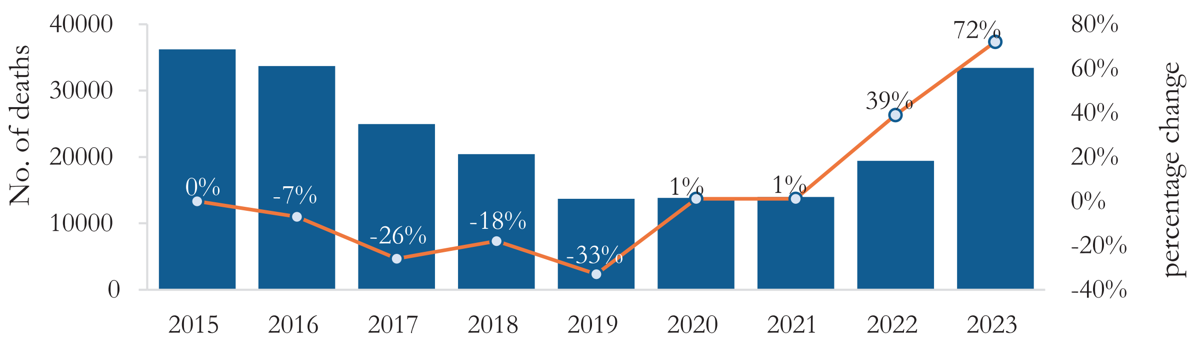
SDG 16 emphasizes the necessity of protecting human rights and establishing an inclusive and equitable framework at all levels to ensure robust governance. It helps establish strong institutions that promote economic prosperity and societal development over time. Even in a resource-rich country, the lack of peace, justice, and strong institutions can negatively affect all countries, not just those directly impacted by conflict and large-scale displacements. This issue is evident globally; such adverse effects extend beyond war zones and resonate throughout the world.

To realize a country's development ambitions and sustain growth, it is crucial to build effective public institutions. A malfunctioning and extractive institutional framework can severely hinder sustained growth, erode citizen's trust in the system, and restrict equitably participating across all spheres of life. On the other hand, good governance and institutions can help growth that includes everyone by making the environment clear and responsible, which encourages equitable opportunity, innovation, support for local firms, and strong civic involvement.

17.2. Global and Regional Context

The globe is increasingly enmeshed in conflict and violence, resulting in widespread injustice, particularly in war zones, which puts civilian populations at risk. Fears of further regional conflicts are intensified by rising tensions.

Figure 17.1: Number of civilian conflict-related deaths and percentage change from previous year, 2015–2023



Source: The Sustainable Development Goals Report, UN, 2024

Conflicts in Israel, Ukraine, and parts of Africa led to a 72% increase in civilian casualties in 2023, approaching the highest levels recorded since 2015. These escalating crises underscore the urgent need to prioritize peace and the rehabilitation of affected civilians.

Global corruption is rising, with nearly one-fifth of the world's population experiencing bribery—32% in low-income countries versus 9% in high-income ones. Prison systems show systemic inefficiencies; while the global prison-to-population ratio decreased from 150 per 100,000 in 2015 to 144 per 100,000 in 2022, Central and Southern Asia still faces significant challenges, with 60% of inmates remaining unsentenced. Improving prison conditions and reducing pretrial incarcerations are crucial for achieving justice.

17.3. Assessment of National Progress on SDG 16

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

The number of victims of intentional homicide decreased from 1.94 in 2015 to 1.33 in 2020, which again rose to 1.16 in 2023 for every 100,000 population, likely exacerbated by the psychological crisis induced by COVID-19, which affected the entire world. However, as people begin to recover from this crisis, the situation is showing signs of improvement, evidenced by a slightly lower ratio than in 2022. The number was recorded as 0.88 for males and 0.28 for females in 2023 (Table 17.1).

Table 17.1: Number of victims of intentional homicide per 100,000 population

	2015 (Base)	2020	2022	2023	2025 (T)	2030 (T)
Total	1.94	1.33	1.41	1.16	1.5	1
Male	3.1	0.997	2.08	0.88	1.2	0.9
Female	0.76	0.335	0.76	0.28	0.3	0.2

Source: Bangladesh Police

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

Violence against women remains a significant issue worldwide, with developing countries such as Bangladesh facing high prevalence rates. The survey on Violence Against Women (VAW) in Bangladesh examined five forms of violence: physical, psychological, sexual, economic, and controlling behaviour. Findings showed that the proportion of women reporting violence from a partner in the previous 12 months was 57.7% in the base year 2015 (Table 17.2). The target is to reduce it to 30% by 2025 and 15% by 2030. Moreover, physical violence was reported at 12.1% (2024), sexual violence at 8.6% (2024), and psychological violence at 17.6% (2024).

Table 17.2: Proportion of female population subjected to physical, psychological or sexual violence from partner in the previous 12 months (%)

	2015 (Base)	2024	2025 (T)	2030 (T)
Total	57.7	-	30	15
Physical	-	12.1	-	-
Psychological	-	17.6	-	-

Source: VAW Survey, BBS

Indicator 16.1.4. Proportion of population that feel safe walking alone around the area they live after dark

According to the CPHS (2018), 85.85% of the population always feel safe walking alone around the area they live after dark, with 83.71% of women and 87.88% of men reporting this sentiment (Table 17.3). The VAW Survey (2024) indicates that 75.2% of women feel safe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark. Bangladesh aims to increase this figure to 90% by 2025 and 95% by 2030. However, the lack of updated data makes it difficult to evaluate progress or predict whether these targets will be achieved. Addressing this gap is crucial for improving safety and achieving these goals.

Table 17.3: Proportion of the population that feel safe walking alone around the area they live after dark

	2018 (Base)	2024	2025 (T)	2030 (T)
National	85.85	75.2	90	95
Male	87.88	-	-	-
Female	83.71	-	-	-

Source: CPHS, VAW Survey, BBS

Indicator 16.2.1. Proportion of children aged 1-17 years who experienced any physical punishment and/or psychological aggression by caregivers in the past month

In 2019, 88.5% of children aged 1 to 17 years reported receiving physical punishment or psychological aggression, with 88.4% of urban children and 88.9% of rural children reporting this experience (Table 17.4). The targets to be attained by 2025 and 2030 are 80% and 70%, respectively.

Table 17.4: Proportion of children aged 1-17 years who experienced any physical punishment and/or psychological aggression by caregivers in the past month (%)

	2019 (Base)	2025 (T)	2030 (T)
Total	88.5	80	70
Rural	88.4	-	-
Urban	88.9	-	-

Source: MICS, BBS

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

Bangladesh has made progress in reducing human trafficking, with the number decreasing from 1.78 in 2015 to 0.64 in 2023 for every 100,000 population (Table 17.5). The number was 0.45 for males and 0.19 for females in 2023. The total number of victims needs to be reduced to 0.3 by 2025 and reach zero by 2030.

Table 17.5: Number of victims of human trafficking and sexual violence per 100,000 population

	2015 (Base)	2020	2023	2025(T)	2030(T)
Total	1.78	0.461	0.64	0.3	0
Male	1.14	0.229	0.45	-	-
Female	0.64	0.232	0.19	-	-

Source: Bangladesh Police

Indicator 16.2.3. Proportion of young women aged 18–29 years who experienced sexual violence by age 18

Sexual violence in childhood leaves lasting scars, profoundly affecting victims' emotional and physical well-being into adulthood. In Bangladesh, data on male victims remains scarce, with the focus primarily on violence against women. The VAW survey (2015) revealed that 3.45% of young women aged 18–29 years had experienced sexual violence by age 18 (Table 17.6). Bangladesh has set a target to reduce the prevalence of sexual violence to 1.5% in 2025 and to eliminate it entirely by 2030.

Table 17.6: Proportion of young women aged 18–29 years who experienced sexual violence by age 18

Year	Value (%)
2015 (Base)	3.45
2025(T)	1.5
2030(T)	0

Source: VAW Survey, BBS

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

In 2015, only 2.45% of women reported their most recent experience of violence to the police or relevant authorities, which reached 5.4% in 2024. This proportion increased to 22.03% in 2017. The MICS survey reported that 10.3% of women who experienced violence reported it to the police in 2019. The targets are set at 20% by 2025 and 30% by 2030.

Table 17.7: Proportion of female victims of violence in the previous 12 months who reported their victimization to competent authorities or other officially recognized conflict resolution mechanisms (%)

2015 (Base)	2017	2019	2024	2025(T)	2030(T)
2.45	22.03	10.3	5.4	20	30

Source: VAW Survey, MICS, BBS

Indicator 16.3.2. Unsentenced detainees as a proportion of the overall prison population

In Bangladesh, a confounding 72% of detainees were held without trial in 2024 (Table 17.8). This statistic highlights systemic issues within the country's legal framework. If these trends continue, Bangladesh will fall far short of its judicial reform targets, which aim to reduce the proportion of unsentenced detainees to 50% by 2025 and 40% by 2030.

Table 17.8: Unsentenced detainees as a proportion of the overall prison population (%)

2016 (Base)	2020	2023	2024	2025 (T)	2030 (T)
76.5	79.0	73	72	50.0	40.0

Source: Department of Prisons

Indicator 16.3.3. Proportion of the population who have experienced a dispute in the past two years and who accessed a formal or informal dispute resolution mechanism, by type of mechanism

In 2018, 78% of individuals who experienced a dispute used formal mechanisms, while 22% relied on informal mechanisms. The overall proportion of people accessing any form of dispute resolution stood at 97% in 2018. By 2025, 85.7% accessed a resolution mechanism among the persons with disabilities, compared to 83.33% of those without disabilities. Ethnic minorities showed the highest access rate at 89.83%, while non-ethnic individuals accessed resolution mechanisms at a slightly lower rate of 83.55%. In terms of gender, 85.48% of males and 80.57% of females who experienced disputes accessed some form of dispute resolution. Overall, by 2025, 83.6% of those involved in disputes engaged in resolution mechanisms, indicating a drop from the 2018 level and suggesting room for improvement in equitable and effective dispute resolution access.

Table 17.9: Proportion of the population who have experienced a dispute in the past two years and who accessed a formal or informal dispute resolution mechanism, by type of mechanism

Years		2018	2025
Disability	With Disability	-	85.7
	Without Disability	-	83.33
Ethnicity	Ethnic	-	89.83
	Non-ethnic	-	83.55
Gender	Male	-	85.48
	Female	-	80.57
Mechanism	Formal	78	-
	Informal	22	-
Total		97	83.6

Source: CPHS, BBS

Indicator 16.5.1. Proportion of persons who had at least one contact with a public official and who paid a bribe to a public official, or were asked for a bribe by those public officials, during the previous 12 months

In 2018, 31.32% of individuals who had at least one contact with a public official either paid a bribe or were asked to pay one within the previous 12 months. This figure increased slightly to 31.67% in 2025, indicating that the level of petty corruption remained persistently high. Gender-disaggregated data from 2018 shows that 35.02% of females experienced bribery in such encounters, compared to 28.91% of males.

Table 17.10: Proportion of persons who had at least one contact with a public official and who paid a bribe to a public official, or were asked for a bribe by those public officials, during the previous 12 months (%)

	2018 (Base)	2025	2025 (T)	2030 (T)
Total	31.32	31.67	15	10
Male	28.91	38.62	-	-
Female	35.02	22.71	-	-

Source: CPHS, BBS

Indicator 16.5.2. Proportion of businesses that had at least one contact with a public official and that paid a bribe to a public official, or were asked for a bribe by those public officials during the previous 12 months

In 2013, 41% of businesses had at least one contact with a public official and paid a bribe to a public official, or were asked for a bribe by those public officials during the previous 12 months (Table 17.11). The figure dropped to 23% in 2022. The target for 2025 is 25% and 2030 is 10%.

Table 17.11: Percentage of businesses that had at least one contact with a public official and that paid a bribe to a public official or were asked for a bribe by those public officials during the previous 12 months (%)

2013 (Base)	2022	2025 (T)	2030 (T)
41	23	25	10

Source: WB (Establishment Survey).

Indicator 16.6.1. Primary government expenditures as a proportion of original approved budget, by sector (or by budget codes or similar)

The primary government expenditure as a proportion of the original approved budget was reported as 80.4% in 2017-18 (Table 17.12).

Table 17.12: Primary government expenditures as a proportion of the original approved budget (%)

Year	Education & Technology	Health	SP	Agriculture	LGD & D	Housing	Total
2015-16 (Base)	92	93	73	84	100	95	-
2017-18	-	-	-	-	-	-	80.4

Source: Finance Division (FD), Ministry of Finance (MoF).

Indicator 16.6.2 Proportion of the population satisfied with their last experience of public services

According to the Citizen Household Perception Survey (CPHS) 2018, only 39.69% of the population was satisfied with their most recent experience with public service. By 2025 and 2030, the nation hopes to raise this satisfaction rate to 60% and 90%, respectively.

Indicator 16.7.1 Proportions of positions in national and local public institutions, including (a) the legislatures; (b) the public service; and (c) the judiciary, compared to national distributions, by sex, age, persons with disabilities and population groups

Women's representation in national and local legislative institutions in Bangladesh is 0.45in the legislatures (BPS, 2019), reaching 0.39 in 2024. Moreover, in 2021, the proportion of women in the public service positions increased to 0.67 (MoPA)) from 0.53 in 2017.

Table 17.13: Proportions of positions in national and local public service institutions compared to national distributions

	2017 (Base)	2019	2021
Public service	0.53	0.62	0.67

Source: Ministry of Public Administration (MoPA).

Indicator 16.7.2 Proportion of population who believe decision making is inclusive and responsive, by sex, age, disability and population group

According to the Citizen Household Perception Survey (CPHS) 2025, overall, only 24.62% of the population believe that decision-making in the country is inclusive and responsive. When disaggregated by gender, 29.21% of males share this perception, compared to just 20.42% of females.

Indicator 16.8.1. Proportion of members and voting rights of developing countries in international organizations

In 2020, developing countries had more voting power in organizations such as the UN Economic and Social Council (1.85%) and the Asian Development Bank (1.11%), suggesting more presence in development-related institutions. However, their voting proportions were smaller in major global financial institutions including the IMF (0.24%), IBRD (0.29%), and IFC (0.38%), suggesting that they didn't have much power over global economic governance. Representation in entities such as the UN General Assembly (0.52%) and WTO (0.61%) was more equitable, reflecting the one-member-one-vote principle or modified quota systems.

Table 17.14: Proportion of voting rights of developing countries in international organizations

Year	Asian Development Bank	IBRD	International Finance Corporation	International Monetary Fund	United Nations Economic and Social Council	United Nations General Assembly	World Trade Organization
2020	1.109	0.29	0.38	0.24	1.8519	0.5181	0.6098

Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA).

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

According to SVRS, , the proportion of children under five whose births have been registered with a civil authority recorded 39.66 in 2023. The target is to increase the rate to 80% by 2025 and 100% by 2030.

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

The total 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 was reported as 3 in 2023. The number of verified cases was 1 in 2019.

Table 17.15: Total 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

2019 (Base)	2020	2021	2022	2023
1	0	1	2	3

Source: National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division (LPAD).

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

In 2009, Bangladesh passed the Right to Information (RTI) Act in an effort to improve accountability and openness in government agencies. Citizens of Bangladesh are granted the right to ask public authorities for information under this law, and officials are typically obligated to provide the requested information. Concerns over possible abuse have been raised by the law's contentious clauses, which permit public servants to conceal private or sensitive information. The government created the Independent Information Commission that same year to help implement the law.

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

Bangladesh formed the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) in 2007. This organization was re-constituted by the National Human Rights Commission Act in 2009. The commission was charged with looking into claims of violations of human rights and making sure that fundamental rights were upheld.

Indicator 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

In 2018, 35.6% of the population reported experiencing discrimination or harassment in the previous 12 months based on grounds prohibited under international human rights law. By 2025, this proportion had significantly declined to 19.31%, surpassing the national target of 25% for that year. The target for 2030 is set at 20%, which the country has already met ahead of schedule.

Table 17.16: 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

2018	2025	2025 (T)	2030 (T)
35.6	19.31	25	20

Source: CPHS, BBS

17.4. Key Policies and Strategies to Achieve SDG 16

To expedite the resolution of disputes outside the conventional court system, Bangladesh implemented Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) procedures, which were integrated into the Civil Procedure Code. To address the growing threat of financial crimes, Bangladesh also launched the National Strategy for the Prevention of Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism (2019–2021).

The National Action Plan to Prevent Violence Against Women and Children (2013–2025) seeks to safeguard women and advance gender equality, demonstrating the nation's dedication to addressing gender-based violence. In terms of governance and anti-corruption, Bangladesh has passed several major laws, including the Public Procurement Act (2006) and the Money Laundering Prevention Act (2012), as well as ratified the United Nations Convention Against Corruption. This legislation is intended to prevent corruption in both the public and private sectors by promoting transparency in financial transactions, public procurement, and government contracts. The establishment of organizations such as the Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit (BFIU) and the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) strengthens the country's institutional framework for monitoring and combating corruption.

17.5. Major Challenges and Way Forward

High Frequency of Partner Violence Against Women: Females (ever-married) experiencing physical, sexual, or emotional/psychological violence from their intimate partners are very high, according to the findings under indicator 16.1.3. To reach the targets, the importance of strengthening and implementing laws against gender violence is unparalleled.

Large Share of Un-sentenced detainees: Findings from indicator 16.3.2. show that 73% of detainees were held without trial in 2023 as per the latest available data from MoHA. This necessitates a call for action to ensure access to justice, human rights, and also contributes to prison overcrowding. Delayed legal proceedings, inefficiencies in case management, and limited access to legal representation hinder achieving the indicator 16.3.2.

Higher Share Citizens Experiencing Disputes: The 2018 Citizen Perception Household Survey (CPHS) revealed that a huge share (97%) of Bangladeshi citizens experienced disputes in the past two years (16.3.3). Such a high share should be reduced via scaled-up ADR mechanisms, a digitized case management system, easy access to the legal system, and mediation centres to achieve the targets.

Low Share of Female Victims Reporting Violence: A low share of female victims is observed to be reporting about their victimization to competent authorities against the targets or 2025 and 2030 (indicator 16.3.2). Due to societal pressure and fear of stigma, females in Bangladesh mostly do not feel comfortable reporting. Ergo, 24/7 helplines, online complaint platforms, and women-only police desks should be designated. Additionally, public awareness campaigns against gender violence and the expansion of legal aid to every corner of the country can be instrumental in mitigating this challenge.

Bribery and Corruption: Findings reveal that 31.32% of people having at least one contact with a public official and bribing the official is much higher than the target of 15% in 2025 and 10% in 2030 (indicator 16.5.1). This reflects corruption, weak institutional accountability, and a lack of enforcement of anti-corruption laws. Many public officials operate with limited oversight, and citizens often encounter bureaucratic red tape, leading to reliance on bribes to expedite services.

Poor Rate of Child Birth Registrations: The proportion of children under five whose births have been registered with a civil authority is at a very poor stage, given the targets of 80% and 100% by 2025 and 2030, respectively (indicator 16.9.1). This reflects a lack of awareness and literacy among parents or guardians. Also, bureaucratic hassles and fees or charges in case of poor parents make them reluctant to register their children's births.

Relatively High Rates of Intentional Homicides: During the period 2021-22, the number of victims of intentional homicide, especially the number of female victims, was on the rise (indicator 16.1.1) compared to the targets for 2025 and 2030. The rising number of intentional homicides, particularly among women, draws attention to the gaps in law enforcement, inadequate protection for vulnerable groups, and social tolerance of gender-based violence. Weak crime prevention mechanisms, delays in the judicial process, and insufficient victim support services contribute to the challenge.

Relatively High Rates of Human Trafficking: According to the latest data (2022) from Bangladesh Police (BP), the human trafficking cases have raised a concern for reaching the target for 2025 and eventually 2030 in terms of indicator 16.2.2. The increasing cases of human trafficking in Bangladesh reflect border security, weak law enforcement, and insufficient victim protection measures. Poverty, unemployment, and lack of awareness make vulnerable populations, especially women and children, easy targets for traffickers.

17.6. Summary

Bangladesh's progress in achieving SDG 16 reflects a complex and evolving landscape. While the country showed early signs of progress in a few areas, challenges such as gender-based and child violence, women and girls facing human trafficking and sexual violence, lack of legal access to ensure timely justice continue to impede sustained progress. Furthermore, external factors such as regional tensions and the Rohingya refugee crisis, along with instantaneous internal factors post-July uprising, further added burden on institutional capacity and public endowments.

Nevertheless, evidence on decreased intentional homicidal rate, intimate partner violence, conflict-related death, and public safety shows signs of hope but demands strengthened governance, transparency, and accountability amongst the institutions.

CHAPTER 18

SDG 17

PARTNERSHIPS TO ACHIEVE THE GOAL

18.1 Background

SDG 17 emphasizes multi-stakeholder partnerships and international cooperation to guarantee equity and inclusivity. It emphasizes the necessity of strengthening multilateralism and working together in sectors such as finance, commerce, data, technology, policy, and capacity building. High-income countries are responsible for making sure that developing countries, least developed countries (LDCs), landlocked developing countries (LLDCs), small island developing states (SIDS), and middle-income countries (MICs) have the support they need and that policies are made that fit their needs. The aims of SDG 17 have become increasingly critical because to global challenges including climate change, COVID-19, and persistent conflicts.

Bangladesh is set to graduate from LDC status in 2026, presenting both challenges and opportunities. As an active participant in South-South cooperation and now engaging in North-South cooperation, Bangladesh has the potential to enhance its trade and knowledge sharing. Foreign direct investments (FDIs), official development assistance (ODA), and remittances are crucial for leveraging these relationships. Therefore, it is essential for countries to create inclusive and sustainable global solutions that benefit everyone, ensuring that no one is left behind.

18.2. Global and Regional Context

Raising funds for global recovery and achieving the SDGs is urgent. While official development assistance (ODA), foreign direct investment (FDI), and remittances have increased recently, particularly after the initial setbacks from COVID-19, significant funding deficits remain in poor nations. The annual SDG investment gap is projected to reach $4 trillion by 2024, up from $2.5 trillion in 2019. Financial flows into developing countries have been further stressed by global issues like the pandemic and geopolitical conflicts. Historical patterns show that industrialized nations have often failed to meet their pledge to allocate 0.7% of their GNI to ODA. The pandemic and the conflict in Ukraine have led to a recent increase in assistance flows to developing nations, but these are viewed as short-term spikes rather than long-term solutions.

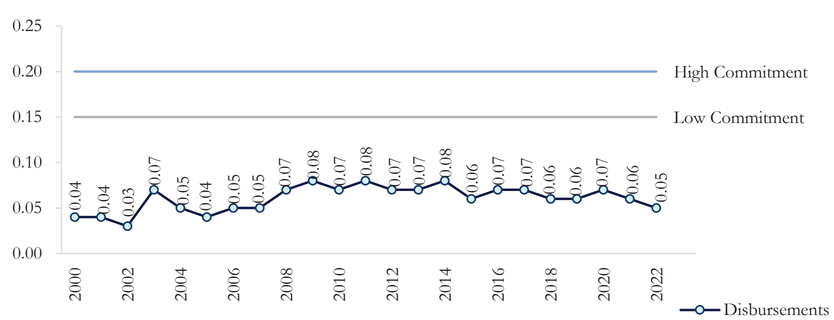
Table 18.1: Percentage of gross national income (GNI) of developed country disbursements and commitment to developing countries

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
0.3	0.32	0.31	0.3	0.3	0.33	0.33	0.36	0.37

Source: UNCTAD, 2024.

In contrast, ODA disbursements to Least Developed Countries (LDCs) declined after peaking in 2020. In 2022, ODA to LDCs totalled $62 billion, a 4% drop from 2021, following a 9.3% decrease in 2021 (Figure 18.1). This trend highlights the challenges LDCs face in securing sustainable financial assistance for development.

Figure 18.1: Percentage of gross national income (GNI) of developed country disbursements and commitment to LDCs

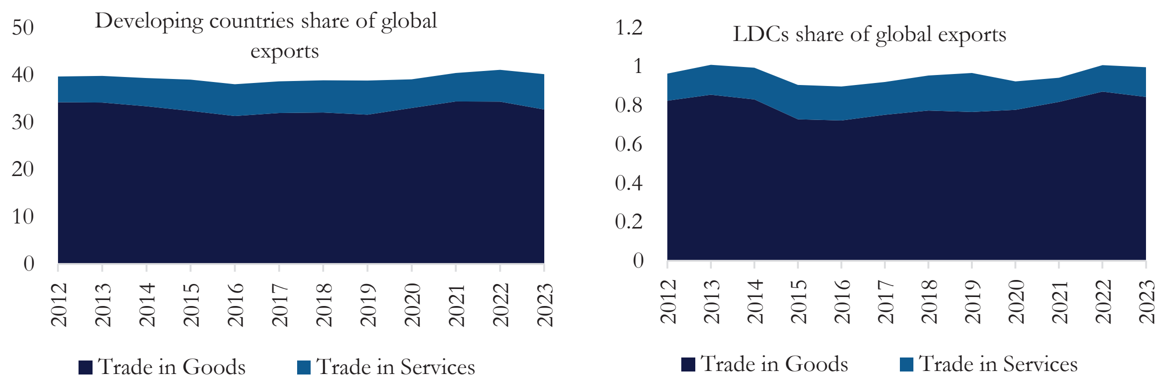


Source: UNCTAD, 2024.

Foreign direct investment (FDI) in developing countries decreased by 7.4% in 2023 to $836 billion compared to the previous year. However, LDCs experienced a positive trend, with FDI inflows rising by 17.4% to $31.3 billion (UNCTAD, 2024). Additionally, remittances to developing countries increased by 1.7% to $857 billion in 2023, indicating ongoing financial support despite global challenges (Ratha et al., 2024). However, while remittance flows rose in East Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, and South Asia, they declined in Europe, Central Asia, the Middle East, North Africa, and Sub-Saharan Africa.

In global trade, developing countries, including LDCs, failed to expand their market share in 2023. The Istanbul and Doha Programs of Action aimed to double LDCs' share of global exports from 1% in 2011 to 2% by 2020. Despite absolute export growth, LDCs' share of global goods and services exports has stagnated at around 1% since 2012 (Figure 18.2).

Figure 18.2: Developing countries and LDCs' export share in global exports



Source: UNCTAD, 2024.

18.3. Assessment of National Progress on SDG 17

Indicator 17.1.1. & 17.1.2. Total government revenue as a proportion of GDP, by source and proportion of domestic budget funded by domestic taxes

In 2016, total government revenue was 8.62% of GDP which decreased to 8.35% of GDP in 2023. The target is to increase the proportion to 17% by 2025 and 18% by 2030. According to the Finance Division (FD), the proportion of the domestic budget funded by domestic taxes increased from 63% in 2016 to 65.44% in 2019. The targets are 67% and 70% by 2025 and 2030, respectively.

Table 18.2: Total government revenue and proportion of domestic budget (%)

Indicators	2016 (Base)	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2025 (T)	2030 (T)
Total government revenue as a proportion of GDP, by source	8.62	8.66	8.76	9.91	8.41	9.42	8.48	8.35	17	18
Proportion of domestic budget funded by domestic taxes	63	70.91	71.27	65.44	-	-	-	-	67	70

Source: National Board of Revenue (NBR), Internal Resources Division (IRD); Finance Division (FD).

Indicator 17.2.1. Net official development assistance, total and to least developed countries, as a proportion of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee donors' gross national income (GNI)

According to ERD, the net official development assistance to Bangladesh increased to 4.96 billion US$ in 2017 from 3.00 billion US$ in 2015.

Indicator 17.3.1. Foreign direct investment (FDI), official development assistance (ODA), and South-South Cooperation (SSC) as a proportion of the total domestic budget

FDI and ODA are critical in financing Bangladesh's budgetary needs. In FY23, net FDI inflows stood at $4.43 billion, representing 7.7% of the total budget, according to provisional data (Table 18.3). The highest FDI inflow was recorded in FY19 at nearly $5 billion, or 10.6% of the annual budget. However, since FY19, net FDI inflows have declined while the national budget has continued to rise, causing a reduction in FDI as a proportion of the budget. FDI still falls short of the total domestic budget, for which the target has been set at 14% for both 2025 and 2030.

Table 18.3: FDI as the proportion of budget

Indicators	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
FDI (billion USD)	2.53	2.502	3.038	3.29	4.946	3.233	3.387	4.636	4.428
FDI as% of Budget	9.6%	8.2%	8.9%	8.4%	10.6%	6.5%	6.2%	7.7%	7.7%
FDI as% of GDP	1.0%	0.8%	0.8%	1.1%	0.8%	0.3%	0.3%	0.4%	0.4%

Source: Bangladesh Bank

The net ODA disbursement in FY23 was recorded at $10.01 billion, which was only around $3.5 billion in FY15 (Table 18.4). The targets for ODA as share of total domestic budget by 2025 and 2030 are 10% and 9% respectively.

Table 18.4: Overseas development assistance (ODA) as a proportion of the annual budget

Indicators	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
ODA (billion USD)	3.043	3.564	3.677	6.369	6.543	7.382	7.958	10.969	10.012
ODA as% of Budget	11.6%	11.7%	10.8%	16.2%	14.0%	14.9%	14.7%	18.3%	17.4%

Source: Economic Relations Division

Indicator 17.3.2. Volume of remittances (in United States dollars) as a percentage of total GDP

Remittance inflows to Bangladesh have generally increased from FY 2015-16 to FY 2023-24, reaching a peak of $24.78 billion in FY 2020-21 (Table 18.5). However, the share of remittances to GDP has declined from 5.63% in FY 2015-16 to 5.31% in FY 2023-24. The targets for 2025 and 2030 are 9% and 10%, respectively.

Table 18.5: Volume of remittances (in United States dollars) as a percentage of total GDP

Indicators	2015-16 (Base)	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2025 (T)	2030 (T)
Remittances (in billion USD)	14.93	12.77	14.98	16.42	18.21	24.78	21.03	21.61	23.91	-	-
Remittances as% of GDP	5.63	4.35	4.66	4.67	4.87	5.95	4.57	4.79	5.31	9	10

Source: Bangladesh Bank

Indicator 17.4.1. Debt service as a proportion of exports of goods, services and primary income

This indicator tracks the ratio of principal and interest payments to total export earnings, reflecting a country's capacity to service its external debt relative to its exports. A higher ratio can signal potential debt sustainability challenges, while a lower ratio indicates a stronger ability to manage debt. In 2019, the debt service as a proportion of exports of goods, services, and primary income was reported at 21.4%. In 2017, this proportion was lower at 19.14%. The targets for 2025 and 2030 are 17% and 15%, respectively.

Table 18.6: Debt service as a proportion of exports of goods, services and primary income (%)

2017 (Base)	2019	2025 (T)	2030 (T)
19.14	21.4	17	15

Source Bangladesh Bank

Indicator 17.6.1. Fixed internet broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants, by speed

Fixed internet broadband subscriptions are a crucial indicator of technological access, communication, and global knowledge-sharing. A higher subscription rate indicates improved access to information and greater potential for digital participation. In Bangladesh, broadband connectivity has been consistently rising, facilitating information exchange and knowledge dissemination. According to data from the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC), the number of subscriptions increased from 2.41 in 2015 to 7.27in 2023 for every 100 population (Table 18.7). The targets are 15% and 20% for 2025 and 2030, respectively.

Table 18.7: Fixed internet broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants, by speed

2015 (Base)	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2025 (T)	2030 (T)
2.41	3.77	4.46	4.85	4.8	5.58	5.82	6.78	7.27	15	20

Source: Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC), Posts and Telecommunications Division (PTD).

Indicator 17.8.1. Proportion of individuals using the Internet

Internet usage in Bangladesh increased from 38.9% in 2022 to 44.5% in 2023. However, gender-based segregation in internet access shows a clear discrepancy with 51.7% (2023) of males and roughly 37.3% (2023) of females having internet access. Moreover, a notable difference exists between urban and rural areas (Table 18.8).

Table 18.8: Proportion of individuals using the internet (%)

Level	2022	2023	2024
National	38.9	44.5	46.5
Male	45.3	51.7	-
Female	32.7	37.3	-
Urban	66.8	68.6	-
Rural	29.7	36.4	-

Source: ICT Use and Access Survey, BBS

Indicator 17.9.1 Dollar value of official development assistance committed to developing countries

The total amount of official development assistance committed to Bangladesh was $132 million in 2024, which is far below the target for 2025 ($1200 million) and 2030 ($1500 million).

Table 18.9: Value of official development assistance committed to Bangladesh (million USD)

2016 (Base)	2017	2018	2019	2022	2023	2024	2025 (T)	2030 (T)
570.8	530.6	382.42	279.7	198.8	143.29	132	1200	1500

Source: Economic Relations Division

Indicator 17.10.1. Worldwide weighted tariff-average

The worldwide weighted tariff-average was 4.85% in the base year of 2015. It declined to 4.64% in 2019. The targeted rate is 5.5% by 2025 and 2030.

Table 18.10: Worldwide weighted tariff-average (%)

2015 (Base)	2016	2017	2018	2019	2025 (T)	2030 (T)
4.85	5.74	6.13	5.08	4.64	5.5	5.5

Source: Bangladesh Trade and Tariff Commission (BTTC).

Indicator 17.11.1. Developing countries and least developed countries' share of global exports

According to BTTC, developing countries and least developed countries' share in the Global Export of Goods and Services was 0.23% and 0.07% in 2017. In 2019, the share slightly increased to 0.25% and 0.1%, respectively.

Indicator 17.12.1. Weighted average tariffs faced by developing countries, least developed countries and small island developing States

The MFN tariff (weighted average) faced by developing countries, least developed countries, and small island developing States was 8.13% in 2019. For the preferential tariff, it was 0.04% (Table 18.11). The target for MFN is 8.25%, while the target for preferential is 3.88% by 2025 and 2030.

Table 18.11: Weighted average tariffs faced by developing countries, least developed countries and small island developing States (%)

Tariffs	2014 (Base)	2018	2019		
MFN	8.25	8.33	8.13		
Preferential	3.88	2.95	0.04		

Source: Bangladesh Trade and Tariff Commission (BTTC).

17.15.1. Extent of use of country-owned results frameworks and planning tools by providers of development cooperation

According to ERD, 2017, a) new development interventions drawn from country led results framework was 82.9%; b) result indicators drawn from country led results framework was 56.6%; c) results framework which will be monitored using government sources and monitoring system was 51.5%.

Indicator 17.17.1 Amount in United States dollars committed to public-private partnerships for infrastructure

In 2016, the NGO Affairs Bureau (NGOAB) recorded USD 807,164,027.86 in commitments for public-private partnerships for infrastructure development in Bangladesh.

Indicator 17.19.1. Dollar value of all resources made available to strengthen statistical capacity in developing countries

Table 17.12 shows the trend in the dollar value of all resources made available to strengthen statistical capacity in Bangladesh from 2018 to 2023.

Table 18.12: Dollar value of all resources made available to strengthen statistical capacity in Bangladesh

	2018 (Base)	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total	38450372	29143290	2873632	4089137.5	2900260.01	2009477.55
NSO	38161171	28803061	2540347	-	-	-
Other agencies	289201	340229	333285	-	-	-

Source: BBS

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

Bangladesh conducted its first Population Census in 1974. In line with the ten-year interval, the 6th Population and Housing Census was scheduled for 2021 but was delayed due to the global COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, the census was conducted nationwide in June, 2022, and published in August 2022.

The birth registration rose from 60.45% in 2022 to 63.36% in 2023 (SVRS). The goal is to reach 80% by 2025 and achieve 100% by 2030.

18.4. Key Policies and Strategies to Achieve SDG 17

Bangladesh is making progress toward reaching SDG 17, which emphasizes global partnerships for sustainable development, as it prepares to graduate from LDC classification. The country is following a development path guided by key frameworks, including the Smooth Transition Strategy (STS), the National Development Framework (NDF), the Five-Year Plans, the National Policy on Development Cooperation (NPDC), and the National Committee on LDC Graduation (NCG).

Besides, Bangladesh also works with the commercial sector, international development agencies, and civil society organizations in multi-stakeholder partnerships. The country promotes mutual growth, strengthens regional networks, and shares its development experiences, all while advocating for South-South collaboration. Through improved income collection and tax reforms, the nation aims to reduce its dependency on foreign assistance. These projects are strengthened by public-private partnerships, which provide funding for expansion.

18.5. Major Challenges and Way Forward

Low Tax-GDP Ratio: Bangladesh's tax-to-GDP ratio is among the lowest in the region and falls below the targets for 2025 (17%) and 2030 (18%), which impedes its ability to mobilize resources. This limits domestic revenue generation and increases reliance on external assistance for development projects. The government needs to enhance domestic resource mobilization by gradually formalizing the informal economy, ensuring that individuals pay their taxes, and increasing the efficiency of tax revenue use.

Insufficient FDI and High ODA Dependency: In Bangladesh, foreign direct investment (FDI) accounts for about 7.7% of the domestic budget, notably below the 14% target for 2025 and 2030 (Indicator 17.3.1). ODA dependency stands at 17.4%, compared to substantially lower targets. This scenario creates economic risks that limit FDI as well as technological transfer, employment generation, and financial stability. Inadequate foreign direct investment constrains capital allocation, whereas over reliance on official development assistance poses a threat to financial stability in the event of aid reduction.

Remittance Falling Short of Target: Remittance as a percentage of GDP has persistently failed to meet expectations (Indicator 17.3.2) due to elevated transfer costs, dependence on informal channels (hundis), and weak skill diversification among migrant workers. Declining remittances increase external vulnerabilities, constrain domestic consumption, and limit foreign reserves, impacting economic stability and growth.

Rising Debt Service Burden: The ratio of debt service to exports of goods and services surpasses the target (Indicator 17.4.1). The escalating debt servicing obligation compromises Bangladesh's budgetary stability. As external debt payments increasingly consume a larger portion of the national budget, essential public expenditures often reduced, putting investments in health, education, and infrastructure at risk.

Poor Fixed Broadband Penetration and Low Internet Use: The number of fixed internet broadband subscriptions in Bangladesh is substantially lower than the target (Indicator 17.6.2). Insufficient penetration hinders digital transformation, limiting productivity, innovation, and economic competitiveness due to inadequate infrastructure, high costs, and regional disparities. Weak access to broadband hinders the growth of the digital economy, reducing efficiency in both industries and public services. Additionally, findings from Indicator 17.8.1 indicate that the current internet usage rate is far below the targets for 2025 and 2030.

Poor Birth and Death Registration Rates: Bangladesh is lagging behind the 2025 and 2030 targets for birth and death registrations (Indicator 17.19.2). Insufficient registration rates impede policy formulation, resource distribution, and social safeguarding. Inaccurate demographic data weakens governance, limiting access to education, healthcare, and financial services. To enhance data coverage and quality, Bangladesh needs to engage in fortifying civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) systems via digitalization and focused public awareness initiatives in underprivileged regions.

Stagnation in Global Export Shares Due to Lack of Diversification: Bangladesh's share in global merchandise exports was stagnant from 2019 to 2021, while the services sector share stagnated from 2020 to 2022 (Indicator 17.11.1). This indicates insufficient export diversity, with a significant concentration in the RMG industry. This concentration makes the economy more vulnerable to shocks from outside and thus more challenging to grow into markets with higher value.

18.6. Summary

Bangladesh has made progress in revitalizing global partnerships for sustainable development, despite the path to fulfilling the objective being filled with challenges like resource mobilization, institutional bottlenecks, robustness of data and statistical systems, and a lack of global policy coherence hindering the country's progress in attaining sustainable development. Low revenue-to-GDP ratio limits the fiscal space for financing development in the country. Similarly, the numbers for FDI, remittance inflows, and debt servicing all fell short of their targets. Fixed broadband connectivity and internet utilization have improved; yet, the rate of advancement is inadequate, accompanied by gender discrepancies. Birth and death registration rates are also lagging, reflecting gaps in the data system. Doubling the share of global exports to 2% by 2030 will be desired by the country, but remains far-fetched as of yet.

To bridge these gaps, several key strategies have been proposed. Broadening the domestic tax base and promoting private sector involvement via improved public-private partnerships are crucial for enhancing resource mobilization. Prudent debt management measures, such as concessional loans, debt restructuring, and improved negotiation skills, are essential for sustaining fiscal stability. Along with the creation of a business-friendly environment, the development of special economic zones will be essential for attracting additional foreign direct investment (FDI). Strengthening remittance flows through a market-based exchange rate and effective skill development programs for the migrant workers is another key priority. In addition, addressing gender and regional inequalities in digital access, alongside improving data systems, is fundamental for ensuring inclusive development.

CHAPTER 19

SDG LOCALIZATION - PROGRESS OF NATIONAL PRIORITY TARGETS

19.1 Background

Localisation involves more than just geographical adaptation. It represents a transformation in governance and planning that aligns national objectives with local conditions. Localisation integrates national objectives into local development strategies, ensuring community engagement in the design, implementation, and assessment of projects that impact their lives directly. The SDGs encompass numerous indicators; however, their relevance and applicability differ within the specific context of Bangladesh. Therefore, the country implemented a prioritisation plan, focusing on the goals and targets that are considered most critical for its development.

The "39+1" framework demonstrates a localized strategy of Bangladesh which includes 39 nationally prioritised indicators aligned with the global SDGs, in addition to one supplementary indicator that addresses specific local needs. This strategic intervention ensures that the country's development framework is aligned with international standards while remaining relevant to local contexts. The "+1" indicator is important as it offers flexibility, enabling local communities to address emerging issues that may not be fully covered by the standard SDG framework.

19.2. SDG Localization Efforts

Bangladesh has made some developments in the localization of the SDGs. Recognizing the critical role of local governments and stakeholders, strategic planning, institutional reforms, and capacity-building programs aimed at fostering equitable and sustainable development establish the foundation for SDG localisation in Bangladesh. Bangladesh implemented a "whole-of-society" approach to operationalise SDG localisation, ensuring the participation of many stakeholders, including local governments, NGOs, private sector entities, and marginalised communities (SIR, 2022). The Governance Innovation Unit (GIU) facilitated the localisation process through capacity-building activities at various administrative levels. Some workshops are also conducted to this end. These workshops aimed to equip participants with the tools and information necessary to translate global SDG targets into actionable local development priorities.

For instance, under the guidance of Divisional Commissioners, "Train the Trainers" seminars were held at the divisional level, engaging participants from government ministries, civil society, and commercial sector companies (GIU, 2023). The sessions highlighted the significance of SDG localisation, concentrating on practical strategies for implementation and monitoring. Upazila-level workshops convened local leaders, such as Upazila Nirbahi Officers, chairpersons of Upazila Parishads, and other stakeholders, to identify and prioritise local development indicators (GIU, 2023). This participatory approach cultivated ownership and accountability among local actors, thereby improving the relevance and impact of initiatives related to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Bangladesh has incorporated SDG localisation into its comprehensive development framework by engaging local government entities, such as Union Parishads and Upazila Parishads, in formulating five-year plans that incorporate SDG priorities. However, the localisation process highlights the need for extensive data to precisely depict the complexities of different places. Local initiatives aimed at improving data collecting and analysis frameworks support evidence-based decision-making by strengthening local systems.

A vital aspect of the localisation of the Sustainable Development Goals in Bangladesh is the focus on promoting collaboration and establishing strategic partnerships. The government has initiated discussions with development partners, international agencies, and the business sector to efficiently utilise resources and skills.

Nonetheless, significant obstacles remain. There is an urgent necessity for improved promotion of public-private partnerships to foster innovation and boost service delivery efficiency. Furthermore, Bangladesh has emphasized the role of South-South cooperation which can play a vital role in learning from other developing countries to enhance the localization process.

19.3. Progress of '39+1' National Priority Targets

The progress of the 39+1 targets of Bangladesh reflects its commitment to the SDGs, despite challenges. Table 18.1 highlights the status of these national priority targets

Table 19.1: Status of National Priority Targets

SDGs	National Priority Targets (NPT)	Status
SDG 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere	NPT 1: Reduce the proportion of the population living below the extreme poverty line below 3% (SDG Indicator 1.2.1)	5.6% of the population lived below the extreme poverty line in 2022 (HIES 2022, BBS)
	NPT 2: Reduce the proportion of the population living below the national poverty line below 10% (SDG Indicator 1.2.1)	18.7% of the population lived below the national poverty line in 2022 (HIES 2022, BBS)
SDG 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture	NPT 3: Reduce the prevalence of stunting among children under 5 years of age to 12% (SDG Indicator 2.2.1)	The prevalence of stunting among children under 5 was 24% in 2022 (BDHS Survey 2022, MoHFW)
	NPT 4: Ensure the proportion of cultivable land at a minimum of 55% of the total land area	Insufficient data.
SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages	NPT 5: Reduce neonatal mortality rate to 12 per 1,000 live births (SDG Indicator 3.2.2)	The neonatal mortality rate was 19.53 per 1,000 live births in 2023 (Bangladesh Sample Vital Statistics (SVRS, 2023)
	NPT 6: Reduce under-5 mortality rate to 25 per 1,000 live births (SDG Indicator 3.2.1)	The under-5 mortality rate fell to 32.70 per 1,000 in 2023 (SVRS, 2023)
	NPT 7: Reduce the maternal mortality ratio to 70 per 100,000 live births (SDG Indicator 3.1.1)	The maternal mortality rate was 136.08 per 100,000 live births in 2023 (SVRS, 2023)
	NPT 8: Reduce the death rate due to road traffic injuries to 1.2 per 100,000 people (SDG Indicator 3.6.1)	Road traffic injuries caused 10.01 deaths per 100,000 population in 2023. (SVRS, 2023)
SDG 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all	NPT 9: Ensure 100% completion rate of primary education	Primary education completion rate was 86.9% in 2023 (SVRS, 2023)
	NPT 10: Ensure 100% completion rate of junior secondary education	Junior secondary (lower secondary) education completion stood at 68.8% in 2023 (SVRS, 2023)

SDGs	National Priority Targets (NPT)	Status
	NPT 11: Ensure the proportion of students in the technical level above 20% of the total students passed every year in secondary education (SSC, Dakhil, and Vocational)	Insufficient data.
	NPT 12: Ensure the proportion of schools by 100% with access to the following: A. Electricity; B. Internet; C. Basic drinking water; D. Single- sex basic sanitation facilities (SDG Indicator 4.a.1)	95.3%-97.2% of schools had basic utilities in 2023, but gaps in internet access (79.2%) (APSC & BES, BANBEIS, 2023)
	NPT 13: Ensure the proportion of schools by 100% with access to adapted infrastructure and materials for the child/ students with disability (SDG Indicator 4.a.1)	18.11% of secondary schools had adapted infrastructure for students with disabilities while 47.1% of primary schools had the same in 2023, needing intervention (APSC & BES, BANBEIS, 2023)
SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	NPT 14: Reduce the proportion of women aged 20-24 years who were married before age 15 to zero (SDG Indicator 5.3.1)	8.2% of women aged 20-24 were married before 15 in 2023 (SVRS, 2023)
	NPT 15: Reduce the proportion of women aged 20-24 years who were married before age 18 to 10% (SDG Indicator 5.3.1)	41.6% of women aged 20-24 were married before 18 in 2023 (SVRS, 2023)
	NPT 16: Increase the female labour force participation rate to 50%	Female labour force participation was 41.7% in 2023 (LFS 2023, BBS)
SDG 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all	NPT 17: Ensure 100% population using safely managed drinking water services (SDG Indicator 6.1.1)	71.22% of the population used safely managed drinking water in 2023 (WHO, UNICEF, BBS (SRVS).
	NPT 18: Ensure 100% population using safely managed sanitation services (SDG Indicator 6.2.1)	Safely managed sanitation services covered 45% of the population in 2023 (SVRS, 2023)
SDG 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all	NPT 19: Ensure access to electricity for 100% population (SDG Indicator 7.1.1)	Electricity reached 99.5% of the population in 2023 (SVRS, 2023)
	NPT 20: Increase renewable energy share in total final energy consumption to 10% (SDG Indicator 7.2.1)	Renewable energy accounted for 4.11% of final energy consumption in 2023 (SREDA)
SDG 8: Promote sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all	NPT 21: Increase annual growth rate of GDP to 10% (SDG Indicator 8.1.1)	Growth rate of real GDP per capita stood at 4.22% in FY 2023-24, while it was 6.06% in FY 2022-23 (National Account Statistics, BBS)
	NPT 22: Reduce unemployment rate below 3% (SDG Indicator 8.5.2)	Unemployment rate was 3.35% in 2023 (LFS, 2023, BBS)
	NPT 23: Reduce the proportion of the youth population (15-29 years) not in education, employment, or training to 10% (SDG Indicator 8.6.1)	18.9% of youth (15-29) were not in education, employment, or training in 2023 (SVRS, 2023)

SDGs	National Priority Targets (NPT)	Status
SDG 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and foster innovation	NPT 24: Ensure 100% pucca roads (suitable for all seasons) (SDG Indicator 9.1.1)	91.09% of roads were pucca in 2023 (SVRS, BBS, 2023)
	NPT 25: Increase Industry (manufacturing) value added as a proportion of GDP to 35% (SDG Indicator 9.2.1)	Manufacturing contributed 23.82% to GDP in 2024 (NAW, BBS)
	NPT 26: Increase manufacturing employment as a proportion of total employment to 25% (SDG Indicator 9.2.2)	Manufacturing employment comprised 11.56% of total jobs in 2023 (LFS 2023, BBS)
	NPT 27: Increase the number of entrepreneurs ten times in the Information and Communication Technology sector	Insufficient data to evaluate.
SDG 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries	NPT 28: Reduce the ratio of income of the top 10% population and the bottom 10% population to 20	Percentage share of income of households at the national level for top 10% was 40.92% in 2022, and 1.31% for bottom 10% in 2022 (HIES, BBS, 2022).
	NPT 29: Reduce the recruitment cost borne by employees as a proportion of yearly income earned in a country of destination to 10% (SDG Indicator 10.7.1)	Proportion of recruitment cost in the monthly employment earnings by country of destination was 11.7% in 2023 (LFS 2023, BBS)
SDG 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable	NPT 30: Ensure women, children, the elderly, and persons with disabilities have convenient access to public transport (minimum 20% seats) (SDG Indicator 11.2.1)	Proportions of population that has convenient access to public transport in 2023 were– national 85.05%, female 85.1%, children (<15 yrs) 84.69%, elderly (65+ yrs) 82.64% (SVRS, 2023)
SDG 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns	NPT 31: Ensure 100% of industries install and operate a waste management system	Only 2.23% of industries operated waste management systems in 2019-20. However, 62.34% industrial waste water enters the environment without any treatment in FY 2020-21, and 3,118.37 million cubic meter industrial wastewater flow safely is generated out of which 37.66% is safely treated in FY 2020-21 (EPER and Waste Management Survey 2022, ECDS, BBS, SID)
SDG 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts	NPT 32: Reduce the number of deaths, missing persons, and directly affected persons attributed to disasters to 1,500 per 100,000 population (SDG Indicator 13.1.1)	Disasters affected 3,766 persons per 100,000 population and caused death to 0.85 per 100,000 population in 2021 (BDRHS, BBS, SID, MoP & Impact of Climate Change on Human Life (ICCHL) Programme, BBS)
SDG 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development	NPT 33: Expand the coverage of protected areas in relation to marine areas by 5% (SDG Indicator 14.5.1)	Marine protected areas covered 5.36% of territorial waters in 2022 (WDI, World Bank, 2024)

SDGs	National Priority Targets (NPT)	Status
SDG 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss	NPT 34: Enhance forest area as a proportion of total land area to 18% (SG Indicator 15.1.1)	Forests accounted for 14.47% of land area in 2018 (Bangladesh Forest Division, Statistical Yearbook Bangladesh-2022)
	NPT 35: Increase the area of tree-covered land by 25% in relation to the total land area	About 23.23% (3.1 million ha) of the land in Bangladesh has some kind of tree and forest management (Tree and Forest Resources of Bangladesh: Report on the Bangladesh Forest Inventory, BFI, 2020)
SDG 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels	NPT 36: Increase the proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority to 100% (SDG Indicator 16.9.1)	56.2% of children under age 5 whose births are reported registered with a civil authority in 2019 (MICS 2019, BBS & UNICEF). However, 39.66% of children aged 0-4) had birth registrations in 2023 (SVRS 2023, BBS)
	NPT 37: Increase the proportion of complaint Settlement against cognizance of cases by National Human Rights Commission to 60%	Insufficient data.
SDG 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development	NPT 38: Increase total government revenue as a proportion of GDP to 20% (SDG Indicator 17.1.1)	Government revenue was 8.35% of GDP in 2023, needing intervention to reach 20% (NBR, 2023)
	NPT 39: Increase the proportion of individuals using the Internet to 100% (SDG Indicator 17.8.1)	Internet usage reached 50.1% of the population (aged 15+) in 2023 (SVRS, 2023)
Leave no one behind agenda	NPT +1: Districts/upazilas to have specific target based on the context and ground reality existing in the locality.	Insufficient data.

19.4. Major Challenges and Way Forward

The progress of '39+1' NPTs in Bangladesh highlights a dual narrative of achievement and ongoing challenges. While there have been advances in poverty alleviation, child health, and technical education, the path toward the SDGs is hindered by financial, governance, behavioral, and environmental obstacles. To translate global objectives into local realities, Bangladesh must address these challenges with focused, data-driven policies.

A major challenge is resource mobilisation. Significant investments are necessary for various critical indicators, including poverty reduction (NPT 1 and NPT 2), maternal mortality (NPT 7), and infrastructure development (NPT 24). The revenue-to-GDP ratio stands at 9.47% for FY 2023-24, significantly below the 20% target outlined in NPT 38, thereby constraining financial capacity. The reliance on external funding and the slow pace of innovative financing mechanisms necessitates a stronger focus on enhancing domestic resource mobilization. Improving tax administration, broadening the tax base, and fostering public-private partnerships could provide alternative financing avenues, ensuring local government institutions have the resources needed to implement SDG-related projects effectively.

Governance challenges, such as centralised decision-making and inadequate coordination, persistently hinder the progress of NPTs. Discrepancies exist between national targets and local realities in the domains of education (NPT 9 and NPT 10), gender equality (NPT 14 and NPT 15), and water and sanitation (NPT 17 and NPT 18). The restricted autonomy of local institutions frequently hinders timely interventions, thereby impacting outcomes like female labour force participation (NPT 16) and inclusive transport access (NPT 30). Decentralising governance structures, enhancing institutional accountability, and promoting stakeholder collaboration may streamline implementation and improve service delivery at the grassroots level.

Community awareness and participation are essential for the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). However, behavioural challenges persist, particularly regarding gender equality and education. For instance, the high rates of child marriage (8.2% before age 15 and 41.6% before age 18) highlight the need for robust awareness campaigns and grassroots initiatives. Furthermore, the low internet usage rate of 50.1% among individuals aged 15 and older in 2023 (NPT 39) restricts access to information and opportunities, highlighting the necessity for digital literacy programs and inclusive discussions that promote ownership of development initiatives.

Effective SDG localization relies on robust data systems, yet data insufficiency hampers progress tracking in several areas. Indicators including the proportion of cultivable land (NPT 4), technical education (NPT 11), and ICT entrepreneurship (NPT 27) are deficient in data, hindering evidence-based policymaking. Investment in digital tools for data collection, enhancement of local officials' analytical capacity, and establishment of transparent monitoring frameworks have the potential to convert data gaps into opportunities for informed decision-making.

Bangladesh's vulnerability to climate change remains a pressing concern. The high impact of disasters (3,766 affected persons per 100,000 in 2021, NPT 32) calls for integrating climate resilience into all stages of project planning and implementation. Developing resilient infrastructure, advancing renewable energy (currently at 4.11%, NPT 20), and emphasising sustainable practices in industry (with only 2.23% of industries implementing waste management systems, NPT 31) are essential measures for progress. Collaboration with international partners can provide the necessary resources and expertise to fortify climate adaptation strategies.

Capacity development for local officials is crucial for navigating the complexities of SDG localization. Regular training, knowledge-sharing initiatives, and partnerships with academic institutions could enhance technical and managerial competencies, ensuring that local governments are well-equipped to meet development targets. Improving completion rates in primary education (86.9%, NPT 9) and junior secondary education (68.8%, NPT 10) can be facilitated through the enhancement of institutional capacity and the promotion of effective governance practices.

APPENDIX:
A PERFORMANCE SNAPSHOT

STATUS OVERVIEW: BASELINE, CURRENT LEVELS, AND TARGETS OF SDG INDICATORS

The following table presents the most updated values for the SDG indicators, along with their baseline and target values for 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	-	a) 26.23 b) 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	-	-

Indicators	Baseline data (source, year)	Current status (source, year)	Milestone by 2025	Target by 2030
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)	-	-
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

Indicators	Baseline data (source, year)	Current status (source, year)	Milestone by 2025	Target by 2030
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
3.9.3 Mortality rate attributed to unintentional poisoning (per 100,000 population)	0.3 (WHO, 2016)	0.3 (WHO, 2019)	0.25	0.15
3.a.1 Age-standardized prevalence of current tobacco use among persons aged 15 years and older	43.3 (GATS, 2009)	35.3 (GATS, 2017)	30	25
3.b.1 Proportion of the target population covered by all vaccines included in their national programme (%)	86.8 (EPI Coverage Evaluation Survey, 2016)	81.6 (EPI Coverage Evaluation Survey, 2023)	98	100
3.b.2 Total net official development assistance to medical research and basic health sectors (in millions)	177.4 (ERD, 2015)	617.2 (ERD, 2023)	400	500
3.c.1 Health worker (a) density per 1000 population and (b) distribution (physician: nurse: health technologist)	(a) 7.4 (MIS, 2016) (b) 1:0.5:0.2 (HRH datasheet, 2016)	(a) 12.78 (MIS, 2023) (b) 1:0.6:0.3 (HRH datasheet, 2019)	(a) 31.5	(a) 44.5
3.d.1 International Health Regulations (IHR) capacity index	76 (CDC, 2016)	69 (CDC, 2024)	95	100
3.d.2 Percentage of bloodstream infections due to selected antimicrobial-resistant organisms	68 (WHO, 2018)	68 (WHO, 2018)	-	-
4.1.2 Completion rate (primary education)	82.6 (MICS, 2016)	77.4 (SVRS, 2023)	87	95
4.2.1 Proportion of children aged 24–59 months who are developmentally on track in learning	84.5 (MICS, 2019)	84.5 (MICS, 2019)	80	100
4.2.2 Participation rate in organized learning	39 (APSC, 2015)	67.48 (SVRS, 2023)	90	100

Indicators	Baseline data (source, year)	Current status (source, year)	Milestone by 2025	Target by 2030
4.6.1 Proportion of population in a given age group (adult) achieving at least a fixed level of proficiency in functional (a) literacy and (b) numeracy skills	(a) 87.4 (b) 64.6 (SVRS, 2015)	(a) 96 (b) 75.6 (SVRS, 2023)	-	-
4.7.1 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 (SHED, 2022)	(a) 0.88, (b) 0.76, (c) 0.85 (SHED, 2022)	-	-
4.b.1 Volume of official development assistance flows for scholarships (million USD)	8.76 (ERD, 2016)	3.38 (ERD, 2023)	20	25
5.2.1 The proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual, or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by the form of violence	Any form of violence: 38 (VAW, 2015)	Any form of violence: 24.4 (VAW, 2024)	20	0
5.2.2 Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months	2.4 (VAW, 2015)	0.46 (VAW, 2024)	3	0
5.3.1 Proportion of women aged 20–24 years who were married or in a union by age: (a) married before age 15, (b) married before age 18	(a) 6.2 (SVRS, 2019) (b) 58.6 (BDHS, 2014)	(a) 8.2 (b) 41.6 (SVRS, 2023)	(a) 0 (b) 20	(a) 0 (b) 10
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% (MoHFW, 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

Indicators	Baseline data (source, year)	Current status (source, year)	Milestone by 2025	Target by 2030
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
7.1.2: Proportion of population with primary reliance on clean fuels and technology	20.8 (SVRS, 2015)	29.67 (SVRS, 2023)	30	35
7.2.1 Renewable energy share in the total final energy consumption (%)	2.79 (SREDA, 2015)	4.11 (SREDA, 2023)	5	10
7.3.1 Energy intensity measured in terms of primary energy and GDP	2.81 (HU, 2015)	1.28 (HU, 2023)	1.1	0.78
7.a.1 International financial flows to developing countries in support of clean energy research and development and renewable energy production, including in hybrid systems	301 (ERD, 2015-16)	497 (ERD, 2018-19)	600	800
7.b.1 Installed renewable energy-generating capacity in developing countries (in watts per capita)	2.66 (SREDA, 2015)	7.01 (SREDA,2023)	-	-
8.1.1 Annual growth rate of real GDP per capita	5.12 (NAW, 2015-16)	4.22 (NAW, 2023-24)	7	7.5
8.2.1 Annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person	4.31 (NAW, 2017)	3.47 (NAW, 2024)	5.5	6.5

Indicators	Baseline data (source, year)	Current status (source, year)	Milestone by 2025	Target by 2030
8.3.1 Proportion of informal employment in total employment	86.2 (QLFS, 2015-16)	84.09 (LFS, 2023)	75	65
8.5.1 Average monthly earnings of employees	13258 (QLFS, 2023)	14180 (monthly income) (QLFS, 2022)	18700	21925
8.5.2. Unemployment rate	4.2 (QLFS, 2015-16)	3.35 (LFS, 2023)	3.5	2.5
8.6.1 Proportion of youth (aged 15–24 years) not in education, employment or training	28.9 (QLFS, 2015-16)	18.9 (LFS, 2023)	12	3
8.7.1 Proportion of children aged 5–17 years engaged in child labour (%)	4.3% (Child Labour Survey 2013)	4.4% (Child Labour Survey 2022)	1	0
8.8.1. Frequency rates of (a) fatal and (b) non - fatal occupational injuries per year	(a) 382 (b) 246 (DIFE, 2015)	(a) 1.9 (b) 1.36 (DIFE, 2023)	-	-
8.9.1 Tourism direct GDP as a proportion of total GDP and in growth rate	1.56 (TSA, 2011-12)	3.02 (TSA, 2018-19)	4.5	5
8.10.1 (a) Number of commercial bank branches per 100,000 adults and (b) number of automated teller machines (ATMs) per 100,000 adults	a) 9.61 b) 7.96 (FID, 2015)	a) 9.57 b) 14.81 (FID, 2023)	a) 10 b) 8	a) 12 b) 9
8.10.2 Proportion of adults (15 years and older) with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider	Bank: 31 FI: 29.1 Mobile: 2.75 (WB, 2014)	51.71 (SVRS, 2023)	-	-
9.1.1 Proportion of the rural population who live within 2 km of an all-season road	83.45 (LGED, 2016)	91.09 (SVRS, 2023)	90	95
9.1.2 Passenger and freight volume (in million USD)	a. 136.25 b. 0.28 (BIWTC, 2015)	a. 66.3 b. 42.28 (BIWTC, 2022)	12.5 0.6	15 0.8
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

Indicators	Baseline data (source, year)	Current status (source, year)	Milestone by 2025	Target by 2030
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)	(a) 11.6 (ERD, 2015) (b) 1.47 (BB, 2024)	(a) 9 (b) 12	(a) 10 (b) 15
10.c.1 Remittance costs as a proportion of the amount remitted	4.06 (BB, 2015)	5.21 (BB, 2023)	3.5	3
11.1.1 Proportion of urban population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing	55.1 (UN-Habitat, 2014)	-	30	20
Indicator 11.2.1. Proportion of population that has convenient access to public transport, by sex, age and persons with disabilities	85.05 (SVRS, 2023)	85.05 (SVRS, 2023)	-	-

Indicators	Baseline data (source, year)	Current status (source, year)	Milestone by 2025	Target by 2030
11.4.1 Total per capita expenditure on the preservation, protection and conservation of all cultural and natural heritage	13.64 (MoEFCC, 2016)	2.1 (MoEFCC, 2021)	2.3	3.54
11.5.1 Number of directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population	12881 (BDRS, 2014)	3766 (BDRS, 2021)	2000	1500
11.5.2 Direct economic loss attributed to disasters in relation to global gross domestic product (GDP)	1.3 (BDRS, 2015)	1.32 (BDRS, 2021)	1.1	1
11.6.1 Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed in controlled facilities out of total municipal waste generated	-	2.23 (EPRWMS, 2019-20)	-	-
11.6.2 Annual mean levels of fine particulate matter (e.g. PM2.5 and PM10) in cities (population weighted)	88.6 (WHO, 2016)	-	-	-
11.b.2 Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies (%)	City corporations: 8.3 Paurashava: 0.9 (MoDMR, 2019)	11.92	30	100
12.2.1 (a) Material footprint, (b) material footprint per capita, and (c) material footprint per unit of GDP (kg)	(a) 959.43 (b) 5.65 (c) 2.08 (ECDS Cell, 2022)	(a) 1012.38 (b) 5.92 (c) 2.24 (ECDS Cell, 2023)	-	-
12.2.2 (a) Domestic material consumption, (b) domestic material consumption per capita, and (c) domestic material consumption per unit of GDP	(a) 854 (b) 5.03 (c) 1.86 (ECDS Cell, 2022)	(a) 905.99 (b) 5.3 (c) 2.01 (ECDS Cell, 2023)	-	-
12.4.1 Bangladesh's compliance rate for hazardous waste and chemicals against international environmental agreements	58.66 (DoE, 2020)	58.66 (DoE, 2020)	-	-
12.4.2 (a) Hazardous waste generated per capita; and (b) Proportion of hazardous waste treated (%)	(a) 27.78 (b) 0.23 (ECDS Cell, 2019)	(a) 27.25 (b) 0.26 (ECDS Cell, 2021)	-	-
12.5.1 National recycling rate, tons of material recycled	14.91 (ECDS Cell, 2019)	15.59 (ECDS Cell, 2021)		
12.6.1 Proportion of companies publishing sustainability reports	49 (DoE, 2022)	49 (DoE, 2022)	-	-
12.8.1. 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)	-	-
12.a.1 Installed renewable energy-generating capacity in developing countries (in watts per capita)	2.66 (SRDA, 2015)	7.01 (SREDA, 2023)	-	-

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

Indicators	Baseline data (source, year)	Current status (source, year)	Milestone by 2025	Target by 2030
16.1.2 Conflict-related deaths per 100,000 population	0.85 (BP, 2015)	0.17 (BP, 2018)	-	-
16.1.3 Proportion of population subjected to (a) physical violence, (b) psychological violence and (c) sexual violence in the previous 12 months	Total: 57.7 (VAW Survey, 2015)	(a) 12.1 (b) 17.6 (c) 8.6 (VAW Survey, 2024)	30	15
16.1.4 Proportion of population that feel safe walking alone around the area they live	85.85 (CPHS, 2018)	75.2 (VAW Survey, 2024)	90	95
16.2.1 Proportion of children aged 1–17 years who experienced any physical punishment and/or psychological aggression by caregivers in the past month	88.5 (MICS, 2019)	-	80	70
16.2.2 Number of victims of human trafficking per 100,000 population, by sex, age and form of exploitation	1.78 (BP, 2015)	0.64 (BP, 2023)	0.3	0
16.2.3 Proportion of young women and men aged 18–29 years who experienced sexual violence by age 18	3.45 (VAW Survey, 2015)	-	1.5	0
16.3.1 Proportion of victims of violence in the previous 12 months who reported their victimization to competent authorities	2.45 (VAW Survey, 2015)	5.4 (VAW Survey, 2024)	20	30
16.3.2 Unsentenced detainees as a proportion of overall prison population	76.5 (Department of Prison, 2016)	73 (Department of Prisons, 2023)	50	40
16.3.3 Proportion of the population who have experienced a dispute in the past two years and who accessed a formal or informal dispute resolution mechanism	97 (CPHS, 2018)	83.6 (CPHS, 2025)	-	-
16.5.1 Proportion of persons who had at least one contact with a public official and who paid a bribe to a public official, or were asked for a bribe by those public officials, during the previous 12 months	31.32 (CPHS, 2018)	31.67 (CPHS, 2025)	15	10
16.5.2 Proportion of businesses that had at least one contact with a public official and that paid a bribe to a public official, or were asked for a bribe by those public officials during the previous 12 months	41 (WB Establishment survey, 2013)	23 (WB Establishment survey, 2022)	25	10

Indicators	Baseline data (source, year)	Current status (source, year)	Milestone by 2025	Target by 2030
16.6.1 Primary government expenditures as a proportion of original approved budget	Education & Technology: 92 Health: 93 SP: 73 Agriculture: 84 LGD & D: 100 Housing: 95 (FD, 2015-16)	Total: 80.4 (FD, 2017-18)	-	-
16.6.2 Proportion of population satisfied with their last experience of public services	39.7 (CPHS, 2018)	-	60	90
16.7.1 Proportions of positions in national and local public institutions, including (a) the legislatures; (b) the public service; and (c) the judiciary, compared to national distributions, by sex, age, persons with disabilities and population groups	(a) 0.19 (BPS, 2019) (b) 0.53 (MoPA, 2017) (c) 0.56 (LJD, 2019)	(b) 0.67 (MoPA, 2021)	-	-
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

Indicators	Baseline data (source, year)	Current status (source, year)	Milestone by 2025	Target by 2030
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: The data are based on the latest updates from the SDG Tracker, dated May 28, 2025, and the revised M&E Framework of the SDGs: Bangladesh Perspective.

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June 2025