



Bangladesh

Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) 2020

Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

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PRIME MINISTER

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF
BANGLADESH

Opening statement

I am pleased to present Bangladesh's Second Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) on progress with the Sustainable Development Goals. The Report is an attempt to share with the world our good practices in governance, innovative solutions, creative actions, critical challenges we are facing, and the requirement of strong partnership for a sustainable future.

We have adopted the 'whole of society' approach which provided the opportunity to all stakeholders including the government and other non-state actors such as the private sector, Local Government Institutions (LGIs), Non-Government Organizations (NGOs), Community Based Organizations (CBOs), Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), and others to actively participate in realizing the SDGs. Our national development plans and SDGs are thematically and functionally aligned, and implementation of them are mutually reinforcing and complementing.

We have prepared our VNRs at a time when the global community is in the 5th year of the implementation of the SDGs. There is still a decade left to achieve SDGs by 2030, and insights and policy implications from the lessons learned are critical to raising the efficiency as well as the efficacy of the SDGs implementation process in the coming years.

Bangladesh is a country that fought for its independence upon the clarion call of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and achieved freedom with the sacrifice of three million people. The resilience of our people has helped the country to march forward to have progress and prosperity for all. Since assuming office in 2009 with a landslide popular mandate, my government has invested heavily to build a people-centred, inclusive, and modern democracy. We have been making efforts to establish equality and justice in the country. We have integrated all particularly the marginalized people in our development endeavour subscribing to the principle of 'leave no one behind'. As a result, Bangladesh has achieved the highest cumulative GDP growth globally in the last decade along with maintaining strong macroeconomic stability, which contributed to increasing per capita income, reducing poverty, and achieving other socioeconomic objectives. We fulfilled all three criteria for graduation to a developing country in March 2018.

Our VNRs represents the views and efforts of all stakeholders of development in Bangladesh with business, non-government organizations, academia, and civil society organizations embracing the goals for the opportunities they present.

We formulated the National Preparedness and Response Plan to control to contain the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020. While we have reinvigorated our health system first as a response to the immediate health crisis, we have been making efforts to address the multiple impacts of the pandemic on our society and economy. We have issued clear directives for the citizens for their health and safety. We have adopted a comprehensive emergency response plan incorporating health and socio-economic recovery measures. We have announced stimulus packages of US\$ 12.11 billion (3.7 per cent of GDP) to be implemented in three phases - immediate, short and medium, until FY 2023-24.

In a virtual conference organised by the World Economic Forum on 23rd April 2020, I have placed a five-point proposal to fight the coronavirus pandemic: (i) new thinking on human well-being, tackling inequality, supporting the poor, and getting back our economies to pre-COVID levels, (ii) robust global leadership from G7, G20 and OECD; UN-led multilateral system should step forward, (iii) devising strategies and practical support measures as the world is currently witnessing transformation in global businesses, work and manufacturing, (iv) meaningful global strategy should be adopted to share the burden and responsibilities for the migrant workers, (v) developing innovative solutions in various sectors to better prepare for the future.

The socio-economic effects of COVID-19 will undoubtedly impede the journey to 2030 Agenda. We need more collective action to keep the momentum of the Decade of Action to achieve the SDGs. I call upon the global community to deliver on the commitments made and become more proactive on shared responsibilities. I believe the framework of SDGs itself, built on inclusiveness, solidarity and partnership will help us to rebuild our world to the desired level.

Sharing our expertise, approaches, and lessons learned are important steps to take forward to the implementation of 2030 Agenda. I commend the contribution of all stakeholders in Bangladesh for their commitment to, and participation in, achieving the SDGs.

Joi Bangla, Joi Bangabandhu
May Bangladesh Live Forever



(Sheikh Hasina)

Abbreviations and Acronyms

A2i	Access to Information/ Aspire to Innovate
ADP	Annual Development Programme
ADR	Alternative Dispute Resolution
ADW	Alternate Wetting and Drying
AIDS	Acquired immune deficiency syndrome
AML	Anti Money Laundering
ANC	Antenatal Care
AOI	Agricultural Orientation Index
APA	Annual Performance Agreement
APSC	Annual Primary School Census
ATM	automated teller machine
BAEC	Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission
BANBEIS	Bangladesh Bureau of Educational Information and Statistics
BARI	Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute
BBIN	Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal Initiative
BBS	Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics
BCCRF	Bangladesh Climate Change Resilience Fund
BCCSAP	Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan
BCCTF	Bangladesh Climate Change Trust Fund
BCSIR	Bangladesh Centre for Scientific and Industrial Research
BDF	Bangladesh Development Forum
BDHS	Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey
BDP	Bangladesh Delta Plan
BDRS	Bangladesh Disaster Related Statistics
BEmONC	Basic Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care
BES	Bangladesh Education Statistics
BEST	Bangladesh Environmental and Sustainable Transformation
BFD	Bangladesh Forest Department
BFRI	Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute/Bangladesh Forest Research Institute
BIDA	Bangladesh Investment Development Authority
BINA	Bangladesh Institute of Nuclear Agriculture
BJRI	Bangladesh Jute Research Institute
BMDA	Barind Multi-purpose Development Authority
BMRE	Balancing, Modernization, Rehabilitation and Expansion
BP	Bangladesh Police
BRAC	Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee
BRRRI	Bangladesh Rice Research Institute
BRTA	Bangladesh Road Transport Authority
BSCIC	Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industry Corporation
BSRI	Bangladesh Sugarcane Research Institute
BSRM	Bangladesh Still Rolling Mill
BSTI	Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution
BTEB	Bangladesh Technical Education Board
BTRC	Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission
BUTEX	Bangladesh University of Textile
BWMSP	Bangladesh Water Multi-Stakeholder Partnership
CAAB	Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
ccGAP	Climate Change and Gender Action Plan
CDB	Cotton Development Board
CDP	Committee for Development Policy
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CEmONC	Comprehensive Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care
CFF	Climate Fiscal Framework
CFT	Combating the Financing of Terrorism
CNC	Computerized Numerical Control
COVID-19	Coronavirus disease
CPD	Centre for Policy Dialogue
CPHS	Citizen Perception Household Survey

CPTU	Central Procurement Technical Unit
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CRVS	Civil Records and Vital Statistics
CSBAs	Community-based Skilled Birth Attendant
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
CVC	Community Vision Centre
DAE	Department of Agricultural Extension
DC	Deputy Commissioner
DFAT	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
DIFE	Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishments
DNA	Deoxyribonucleic Acid
DNC	Department of Narcotics Control
DNV-GL	Det Norske Veritas- Germanischer Lloyd
DoE	Department of Environment
DPE	Directorate of Primary Education
DPHE	Department of Public Health Engineering
DPP	Development Project Pro-forma
DPs	Development Partners
ECD	Early childhood development
ECOSOC	United Nations Economic and Social Council
EIA	Environment Impact Assessment
EMP	Environment Management Plan
EPI	Expanded Programme on Immunization
ERD	Economic Relations Division
ESP	Essential Service Package
ETP	Effluent Treatment Plant
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FBCCI	Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce & Industries
FD	Finance Division
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
FIES	Food Insecurity Experience Scale
FYP	Five Year Plan
GAIN	Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition
GAP	Good Agricultural Practice
GATS	Global Adult Tobacco Survey
GAVI	Global Alliance for Vaccination and Immunisations
GCA	Global Commission on Adaptation
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GED	General Economics Division
GES	Gender Equity Strategy
GHG	Greenhouse gas
GHO	Global Health Observatory
GIAH	Globally Important Agricultural Heritage
GIS	Geographical Information System
GIU	Governance Innovation Unit
GIZ	German Corporation for International Cooperation
GPEDC	Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation
GPS	Global Positioning System
GRB	Gender Responsive Budgeting
GRS	Grievance Redress System
HEQEP	Higher Education Quality Enhancement Project
HICs	High-Income Countries
HIES	Household Income and Expenditure Survey
HIV	Human immunodeficiency viruses
HLPF	High-Level Political Forum
HLPW	High-Level Panel on Water
HPNSP	Health, Population, Nutrition Sector Programme

ICM	Integrated Crop Management
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IDCOL	Infrastructure Development Company Limited
IDM	Integrated Disease Management
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IFMC	Integrated Farm Management Component
IFPRI	International Food Policy Research Institute
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMCI	Integrated Management of Childhood Illness
INM	Integrated Nutrient Management
IoT	Internet of things
IOTC	Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
IPS	Inter Press Service
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
IWRM	Integrated Water Resources Management
IYCF	Infant and Young Child Feeding
JRC	Joint Rivers Commission
Ktoe	Kilotonne of Oil Equivalent
LASI	Learning Assessment of Secondary Institutions
LDCs	least developed countries
LES	Light Engineering Sector
LFS	Labour Force Survey
LGD	Local Government Division
LGIs	Local Government Institutions
LNG	Liquefied natural gas
LNOB	Leaving no one behind
MCWCs	Maternal and Child Welfare Centres
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MFN	Most Favoured Nation
MHT	Medium and High-Tech industry
MHVC	Maternal Health Voucher Scheme
MICS	Multiple Indicators Cluster Survey
MMR	Maternal mortality ratio
MNCH	Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
MoCA	Ministry of Cultural Affairs
MoCAT	Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism
MoDMR	Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief
MoEF&CC	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
MoFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MoHFW	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
MoPA	Ministry of Public Administration
MPA	Marine Protected Area
MPI	Multidimensional Poverty Index
MPs	Members of Parliament
MRT	Mass Rapid Transit
MSME	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise
NAP	National Adaptation Plan
NARS	National Agricultural Research System
NBR	National Board of Revenue
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NCTB	National Curriculum and Textbook Board
NDA	National Designated Authority
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
NDCC	National Data Coordination Committee
NDCs	Non-communicable diseases
NEC	National Eye Care
NEET	Not in education, employment or training
NER	Net enrolment rate

NGOs	Non-government organizations
NHD	National Household Database
NHRC	National Human Rights Commission
NIS	National Integrity Strategy
NMEP	National Malaria Elimination Programme
NMR	Neonatal mortality rate
NPDC	National Policy on Development Cooperation
NRSAP	National Road Safety Action Plan
NSDA	National Skills Development Authority
NSDP	National Skills Development Policy
NSDS	National Strategy for Development of Statistics
NSDS	National Sustainable Development Strategy
NSO	National Statistical Organization
NSSS	National Social Security Strategy
NTDs	Neglected Tropical diseases
NTP	National Tuberculosis Control Programme
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OHS	Occupational Health and Safety
ORGBDR	Office of the Registrar General, Birth and Death Registration
OSS	One Stop Service
PBS	Palli Bidyut Samity
PHC	Primary Health Care
PKSF	Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation
PM	Particulate Matter
PMO	Prime Minister's Office
PNC	Postnatal Care
PoU	Prevalence of undernourishment
PPP	Public Private Partnership
PPP	Purchasing Power Parity
PWD	Persons with Disabilities
PWD	Public Works Department
RAJUK	Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha
RFID	Radio-frequency identification
RHD	Roads and Highways Department
RMG	Readymade Garments
RTHD	Road Transport and Highways Division
RTI	Right to Information
SAR	Semi-annual Monitoring Report
SBCC	Social behaviour change communication
SCP	Sustainable Consumption and Production
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SEDP	Secondary Education Sector Development Programme
SEZs	Special Economic Zones
SID	Statistics and Informatics Division
SIDA	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
SIR	SDGs Implementation Review
SMEs	Small and Medium Enterprises
SMP	Sewage Master Plan
SREDA	Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority
SSK	Shasthyo Shuroksha Karmasuchi
SSNPs	Social Safety Net Programmes
SSPS	Social Security Policy Support
STW	Shallow Tube Well
SVRS	Sample Vital Registration System
SWAPNO	Strengthening Women's Ability for Productive New Opportunities
ToT	Training of Trainers
TPP	Technical Assistance Project Pro-forma
TVET	Technical, Vocational Education & Training
UGC	University Grants Commission

UH&FWCs	Union Health and Family Welfare Centres
UHC	Universal Health Coverage
UHCs	Upazila Health Complexes
ULGIs	Urban Local Government Institutions
UMICs	Upper Middle-Income Countries
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS
UNCLOS	United Nations Convention for the Law of the Sea
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNJMP	WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme
UNO	Upazila Nirbahi Officer
UNRC	United Nations Resident Coordinator
VAW	Violence against women
VGd	Vulnerable Group Development
VIC	Vehicle Inspection Centre
VNRs	Voluntary National Reviews
VTMS	Vessel Tracking and Monitoring System
WARPO	Water Resources Planning Organization
WASH	Water, sanitation, and hygiene
WATSAN	Water and Sanitation
WHO	World Health Organization

Highlights

The Voluntary National Reviews process in Bangladesh is led by the apex committee titled “Sustainable Development Goals Implementation and Review Committee” headed by the Principal Coordinator (SDGs Affairs), Prime Minister’s Office and represented by twenty Secretaries of relevant Ministries/Division, and also participated by the representatives of NGOs, CSOs, DPs, and private sector. From the Prime Minister’s Office, seventeen dedicated Ministries/Divisions have been given the responsibility to consult with relevant lead, co-lead, associate ministries/divisions along with concerned NGOs, CSOs, DPs, and private sector and to prepare progress report of that particular goal. The “SDGs Working Team” represented by the government officials and non-government think tanks and academia reviewed the drafts. Two divisional level consultation workshops have been held to get the feedback on the VNRs process and some consultations with thematic stakeholders have also been done. The General Economics Division of the Bangladesh Planning Commission, which provides the secretarial support to the aforesaid apex committee, published the final document after with the vetting of the apex committee.

The VNRs process has identified that there are some indicators of SDGs, which have already been achieved, crossed or on-track against the targets set for 2020 in Bangladesh. Poverty has declined from 40 per cent in 2005 to 20.5 per cent in 2019, a period when life expectancy at birth increased from 65 years to 72.3 years. Bangladesh also achieved gender parity in primary and secondary education by 2018 while its literacy rate jumped from 53.7 per cent in 2006 to 73.9 per cent in 2018. The under-five-mortality rate was 62 per 1000 live birth in 2006, which dropped to 29 by 2018. During the same period, neonatal mortality has reduced from 31 to 16. The phenomenal success of under-five mortality and neonatal mortality is revealed as their present status has already reached the target set for 2020. With regard to under-five underweight rate, Bangladesh could achieve the MDG target of hunger from 66 per cent in 1990 to 32.6 per cent in 2014, one year earlier than the stipulated time; it was 22 per cent in 2017. The stunting rate of under-five children was 45.9 per cent in 2005, which has come down to 28 per cent in 2019. Similarly, the proportion of wasted children was 14.5 per cent in 2004, which has declined to 9.8 per cent in 2019. In 2017, 70.3 per cent of women of reproductive age have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods, against the target of 75 per cent set for 2020. The prevalence of current tobacco use among persons aged 15 years and older is 35.3 per cent in 2017, which equals the target set for 2020. Bangladesh has been successful in accelerating economic growth to a higher trajectory in the last decade. Bangladesh maintained strong macro-economic stability, which contributed to a higher per capita income. The annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person is 5.85 per cent in 2019, which has already crossed the target of 5 per cent set for 2020. Value addition in manufacturing as a proportion of GDP is 24.08 per cent in 2019, which has already crossed the target of 21.5 per cent set for 2020. Transformational changes are evident in the economic structure as the share of agriculture to GDP is 13.3 per cent in 2019, which was 19 per cent in 2006. During the same period, industries share to GDP has increased from 25.4 per cent to 31.2 per cent. The government is committed to providing electricity to every household by 2021 and access to

electricity is 96 per cent in January 2020. Considering the women and children as the most vulnerable section of the society, numerous initiatives have been taken to ensure their safety and security. Since backlog in judicial courts is a challenge to access to justice, resolving cases through Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) has been encouraged.

However, the VNRs process has identified some challenges as well. The sustained GDP growth of an average of 6.8 per cent in the last decade has not been associated with declining income inequality. Gini coefficient has increased from 0.338 in 1991-92 to 0.458 in 2010 and 0.482 in 2016. The absolute number of poor people in the country is quite difficult to manage. Though Bangladesh has achieved remarkable success in food production, and the country is now self-sufficient in staple food production, ensuring food security for all in a densely populated country was, is and will always remain a challenge. Albeit, the health sector has shown great success, ensuring Universal Health Coverage with a relatively low-cost intervention will be a daunting task without the coverage of appropriate health insurance. The net enrolment rate in primary and secondary education has increased with a declining dropout rate, but ensuring quality education at multilevel educational streams is challenging. Because of the rapid increase in the urban population which is expected to overtake the share of rural population around the year 2040, the inadequate infrastructure to meet the demand of urban amenities, facilities, primary healthcare, wastewater treatment, collection and disposal of urban solid waste, transportation services, housing is a serious constraint to sustainable urban development. Bangladesh, being a climatically vulnerable country will require undertaking measures to reduce exposure to, adaptation, and mitigation of climate change, which will be challenging. Finally, increasing domestic resource mobilization, particularly increasing the tax-GDP ratio at the desired level will be challenging.

The Government of Bangladesh has responded to the principle of leaving no-one behind by adopting and implementing the National Social Security Strategy, which promote human development, political stability and inclusive growth. The government's commitment to social protection is evident in enhanced budgetary allocation and wider coverage. Vulnerable people, particularly women, children and persons with disabilities have been given priority under this strategy, which is designed to be implemented gradually addressing the lifecycle risks.

The good practices that Bangladesh wants to highlight with regard to poverty reduction are the Strengthening Women's Ability for Productive New Opportunities (SWAPNO) project. SWAPNO is a social transfer project for ultra-poor women to be engaged in public works essential for the economic and social life for rural communities. It promotes employment, and most importantly future employability, of extreme poor rural women, which is the most efficient way to secure poverty reduction and inclusive growth. Apart from poverty, it has impacts on quite a few goals of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Bangladesh can showcase community clinic based people-centred primary healthcare model, which is the brainchild of our Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, as a notable progress in health sector made during the last decade. The establishment of community clinics (CCs) nationwide is a flagship programme of the government for providing low-cost primary

healthcare services to the grassroots community population. At present, more than 13,743 CCs are functioning all over the country; each of them is serving about 6,000 population. It is an excellent example of community engagement through the Community Group and Community Support Groups.

In terms of peer learning, we are interested to hear good cases from other countries to resolve the challenges encountered by us on (a) how the rapidly growing urban demands can be mitigated in a sustainable way, (b) how agricultural productivity can be doubled while keeping the environment sustainable, and (c) how the quality of education can be enhanced with affordable means. To learn advanced technical know-how to mitigate adverse impacts of climate change an enhanced collaboration with international partners on skill development (technical and vocational training) of our human resources is needed.

The financial assistance in the form of ODA, FDI, PPP are needed to implement the National Social Security Strategy, Health Financing Strategy, Power System Master Plan, Integrated Water Resources Management, infrastructure development projects, projects related to climate change adaptation & mitigation, and to materialize the Special Economic Zones. Capacity building is required for the civil servants, professionals, technicians, strengthening of institutions and National Statistical Organization. Technology transfer is required in Research & Development related to enhancing efficiency, augmenting productivity, reducing wastage, coping challenges with regard to the 4th IR, and ensuring sustainability.

We need (a) partnership between government and private sector for business development ensuring sustainability, (b) government-NGOs partnership for providing services at the remote areas where government mechanism cannot provide service within affordable means, (c) public private partnership for big infrastructure projects, (d) for quality education partnership with foreign universities and international institutions in research and development, experience sharing, and internships, (e) government-CSO partnership for facilitating the process of social change, and (f) global partnership for innovative financing, sharing knowledge, expertise, technology, mitigating adverse impacts of climate change and financial resources.

Our Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is the champion of SDGs. We are following 'Whole of the Society Approach' involving all NGOs, CSOs, Private Sector, Development Partners and relevant stakeholders. This involvement is expanded from the central level to the Districts and Sub-districts levels. We believe, localization of SDGs, if implemented properly, will help fulfil the aspiration of achieving SDGs by incorporating three dimensions of sustainability and ensuring that 'no one is left behind'.

1. Introduction

In the last decade, Bangladesh has greatly been benefitted from the visionary and dynamic leadership of the Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and the way she adopted people-centred approach for the country's development agenda. As a result, Bangladesh has achieved the highest cumulative GDP growth globally in the last ten years and made remarkable progress in various social and economic spheres and is now being recognized as the 'development surprise' or 'role model of development'. The continuity in office through people's mandate since 2009 has helped to undertake many initiatives, which resulted in building a happy, prosperous democratic country based on equality and justice.

In this context, we can highlight, with related facts and figures, some of the social and economic achievements of Bangladesh. The country's per-capita income has increased from US\$543 in FY2005-06 to US\$1,909 in FY 2018-19. Its total GDP has increased from around US\$ 72 billion to US\$ 302 billion during the same period while exports grew from US\$10.5 billion to US\$ 40.53 billion. Again, during this FY 2006-19 period, the government budget expanded from US\$ 9.1 billion to US\$ 53.9 billion, out of which the government aggressively dedicated US\$20.3 billion towards the Annual Development Programme (ADP) in FY2018-19, which was mere US\$ 2.9 billion in FY 2005-06. This period also witnessed an expansion of rice production by 37 per cent, from 26.5 million tonnes to 37.4 million tonnes, leading to general self-sufficiency in food. Transformational changes are evident in the economic structure as the share of agriculture to GDP is 13.3 per cent in 2019, which was 19 per cent in 2006. During the same period, industries share to GDP has increased from 25.4 per cent to 31.2 per cent.

Parallel to this economic achievement, Bangladesh made massive social progress. Poverty declined from 40 per cent in 2005 to 20.5 per cent in 2019, a period when life expectancy at birth increased from 65 years to 72.3 years. Bangladesh also achieved gender parity in primary and secondary education by 2018 while its literacy rate jumped from 53.7 per cent in 2006 to 73.9 per cent in 2018. The under-five-mortality rate was 62 per 1000 live birth in 2006, which dropped to 29 by 2018. The stunting rate of under-five children was 45.9 per cent in 2005, which has come down to 28 per cent in 2019. Similarly, the proportion of wasted children was 14.5 per cent in 2004, which has declined to 9.8 per cent in 2019. In 2017, family planning needs of 70.3 per cent of women of reproductive age are catered with modern methods, which was 64.8 in 2004. Open defecation is almost nil and in 2019, nationally 84.6 per cent people had access to safely managed sanitation services. The government is committed to providing electricity to every household by 2021 and access to electricity is 96 per cent in January 2020, which was only 47 per cent in 2008.

According to most development experts, what Bangladesh has achieved is remarkable despite the usual problems associated with a still relatively low-middle income country. In the midst of all the facts and figures presented above, and recognizing many factors contributing to the success of Bangladesh, one needs to see one glaring piece of fact: during FY 06-19, the per-capita-GDP multiplied by 3.5 times while ADP multiplied by 7.0 times. This is a testimony to the visionary and dynamic leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, which has

played a critically important role in Bangladesh's success in MDGs. The Prime Minister did not just dedicate resources for development by merely keeping up with a growing economy; she accelerated ADP at a rate twice the expansion rate of the economy—and, as described below, channelled the resources to promote inclusivity in the broadest sense of the term. This has made Bangladesh a leader among least developed countries (LDCs) as demonstrated by various prestigious awards and honours that the Prime Minister and the country have received in the last decade from different UN and international bodies.

The strong macro-economic stability, which contributed to higher per capita income, reducing poverty and achieving other socio-economic objectives, helped Bangladesh to become a lower-middle-income country in 2015 and fulfil all three United Nations criteria for graduation to a developing country in 2018.

After the adoption of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015, our Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina constituted an inter-ministerial committee for coordinating SDGs implementation and review. The Principal Coordinator (SDGs Affairs), a high-level position created at the Prime Minister's Office, heads the Committee.

Bangladesh has participated in the first VNRs in 2017 where it was clearly mentioned that the SDGs were well aligned with the 7th Five Year Plan (2016-2020). Bangladesh has adopted the Whole-of-the-Society approach for SDGs implementation involving government machinery, NGOs, INGOs, CSOs, development partners, private sector, business people, academia, professionals, local authority, Member of Parliament and engaging other relevant stakeholders. Following the Allocation of Business of the Government of Bangladesh, Ministries/Divisions have been assigned with the responsibility of implementing the targets of SDGs tagging them as lead, co-lead, or associate. The lead Ministries/Divisions in consultation with co-lead and associate Ministries/Divisions have prepared SDGs Action Plan highlighting new projects to be implemented to achieve SDGs targets. The government has conducted the SDGs Data Gap analysis, which now reveals that 155 indicators data are available nowadays. The Monitoring and Evaluation Framework has been finalized by the government to set targets of indicators of SDGs i.e. from where we are now (benchmark) and where we want to go by 2030. An innovative SDGs tracker (sdg.gov.bd), a web-based data repository system, has been launched to assist the monitoring of the implementation of SDGs in our country.

The Government of Bangladesh has commissioned the 'SDGs needs assessment and financing strategy' which revealed that around US\$ 928 billion at 2015-16 constant prices would be additionally required for Bangladesh from FY 2016-17 to FY 2029-30 to implement SDGs implementation over the current investment related to SDGs. The annual average cost of SDGs would be US\$ 66.32 billion (at constant prices) for the same period. The 1st National Conference on SDGs Implementation Review (SIR) was held on 4th to 6th July 2018. Around 2000 participants from the government, NGOs, CSOs, private sector and Development Partners (DPs) participated in the conference. The government has integrated the SDG targets into the Annual Performance Appraisal (APA) system so that the long-term objectives can be translated into the annual work plan of the Ministries/Divisions. To harmonize data generation from

different data producing agencies, the National Data Coordination Committee (NDCC) has been constituted with Secretary, Statistics and Informatics Division, as the Chair. A time-bound Action Plan for the implementation of SDGs based on the framework of collaboration between the Government of Bangladesh and the UN agencies working in Bangladesh has been prepared.

On 3rd December 2018, the Cabinet meeting approved 40 (39+1) priority indicators for localization of SDGs; 39 indicators from 17 Goals were selected which were considered to be (a) crucial for the local level of our country and (b) producing reinforcing effects on other targets. An additional priority indicator was left to achieve ‘leaving no one behind’ according to the circumstances of a specific District or Sub-district, meeting the ground reality of that particular geographical area. Upazila (Sub-district) Action Plan and District Action Plan for SDGs are currently being prepared.

‘Leaving no one behind’, the aspiration of SDGs requires the transformation of deeply rooted systems — economic, social and political, governance structures and business models at all levels. For this, the voices of different stakeholders have to be heard, and their active participation as agents of change needs to be promoted. To achieve that, we have, among other things, integrated social policy frameworks that aim to progressively achieve universal coverage, while addressing the specific needs of vulnerable people through targeted policies and programmes; macroeconomic and fiscal instruments that promote inclusive growth, decent work for all, and the reduction in inequalities.

The government has been allocating 27 per cent of national budget equivalent to 5 per cent of GDP on average over the last eight years to the gender-responsive budget. Religious harmony is practised throughout the country, for which Hon’ble Prime Minister has a specific slogan “Religions differ, not the festivals”. Special allocations are given to different marginalized groups like transgender, tea gardeners, *Bede* (gypsies) and disadvantaged communities, beggars, street children, people of special areas, cleaners, people of char areas, special needs children, etc. Catering to the special needs of hilly regions, there is a dedicated Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Affairs, which is taking different projects and programmes for ameliorating social and economic development of those regions. Separately, the Prime Minister’s Office has special projects/programmes for the betterment of other ethnic people of plain land.

This document prepared based on the VNRs process aims at informing the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) of the United Nations about the initiatives taken and progress achieved by Bangladesh in implementing SDGs during the last four years. The specific objectives are: (a) Sharing experiences on adoption and integration of sustainable development goals in national planning, strategies, action plan or work plans, (b) Illustrating the initiatives taken in implementation monitoring, evaluation, and reporting of SDGs, (c) Highlighting opportunities as well as challenges that could impede implementation of the SDGs and hence seeking support/cooperation from the international community, and (d) Sharing policy strategies and mechanisms to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

2. Methodology and process for preparation of the review

Bangladesh is participating in the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development in July 2020 for the second time after 2017. Hence, it was decided that both the contents and process of VNRs 2020 would have more value addition than the earlier one.

In the initial stage of implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), following the Allocation of Business of the Government of Bangladesh, concerned Ministries/Divisions were assigned with the responsibility of implementing the targets of SDGs tagging them as lead, co-lead or associate obligation. With a view to expediting the coordination mechanism, from the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), a letter was issued delegating 17 Ministries/Divisions as the coordinating Ministries for 17 goals of SDGs whose responsibility would be to coordinate goal-wise progress reporting. To spearhead the process of VNRs preparation, a meeting of the 'SDGs Implementation and Review Committee' was held on 16th January 2020 headed by the Principal Coordinator (SDGs Affairs), PMO. The meeting was attended by all relevant Secretaries of concerned Ministries/Divisions, representatives of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Development Partners (DPs), Private Sector and Non-government Organizations (NGOs). It was decided, among others, that all goal-wise coordinating Ministries/Divisions would submit goal-wise progress report. It was also instructed that before submitting their goal-wise report, all goal-wise coordinating ministries/divisions would complete goal-wise consultations with relevant leads, co-leads, associates, NGOs, CSOs, private sector, academia, development partners, and relevant stakeholders and submit goal-wise report in prescribed format to the PMO and General Economics Division (GED) of the Bangladesh Planning Commission. A letter was issued from the Statistics and Informatics Division (SID) to all focal points of SDGs of different Ministries/Divisions/data producing agencies to provide the latest available data in the SDGs tracker (sdg.gov.bd) so that VNRs report can be prepared based on the updated information.

During February and March 2020, the coordinating Ministries/Divisions have conducted consultations meetings/workshops taking representatives from different stakeholders relevant to their goals and submitted their goal-wise progress report. In the goal-wise consultations done by the coordinating Ministries/Divisions, 1317 stakeholders (28 per cent female; 20 per cent non-government) were present. Along with the progress against targets, they have submitted good practices/ good cases, innovative cases, business cases, collaborative cases (partnership with GO-NGO, PPP) and leave no one behind (LNOB) with regard to that particular goal.

Apart from the consultation done by the coordinating ministries, during February, March, stakeholder consultations with different groups took place. Letters were issued from the PMO to different anchors of various groups relevant to SDGs to convene consultations meetings to show their role in the VNRs process in Bangladesh. Dates were fixed for consultation with: (a) Chairmen of Parliamentary Standing Committees of the National Parliament (b) Officials of the Supreme Audit Institute (Comptroller & Auditor General office) (c) NGO Affairs Bureau sponsored consultation with the NGOs (d) Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce & Industries (FBCCI) sponsored consultation with the private sector (e) University Grants Commission (UGC) sponsored consultation with the teachers of the universities (f) Consultation with the youths sponsored by the Ministry of Youth and Sports (g) Print and

electronic media arranged by the Ministry of Information (h) Persons with Disabilities (PWD) arranged by the Ministry of Social Welfare (i) Religious leaders (all religions) arranged by the Ministry of Religious Affairs (j) ICT Professionals, consultation arranged by the Information and Communication Technology Division (k) Local Government Institutions (LGIs) sponsored by the Local Government Division (l) Young Civil Servants, arranged by Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre, the apex training institute for civil servants (m) Human Rights Activists arranged by the National Human Rights Commission. However, consultations were done with 296 young civil servants, 69 religious leaders of all religions, 55 ICT professionals, Youth leaders and organizations, leaders of some PWD organizations, leaders of some private organizations in a limited scale, and quite a few scheduled consultation meetings were postponed because of the onset of COVID-19 pandemic. However, some representatives of human rights activists participated in the goal-wise consultation of SDG-16, some representatives of LGI participated in the goal-wise consultation of SDG-6, stakeholders of PWD provided written statements to be included in the VNRs document, and written comments were sought from some experts in some designated fields.

To have grassroots-level involvement in the VNRs process, Divisional Commissioners were requested to convene consultations locally, represented by local government officials and other stakeholders to send the implementation status of +1 of the (39+1) indicators of the localization of SDGs in Bangladesh. Because of the paucity of time, only two Divisions (Rangpur, Chattogram) could arrange workshops that participated by around 250 local stakeholders representing officials of Division, Districts, Sub-districts and relevant stakeholders. The consultations were arranged by the Divisional Commissioners' offices with the auspices of the Governance Innovation Unit (GIU) under the Prime Minister's Office. However, written reports were available from all Divisional Commissioners on the implementation of localization of SDGs.

There is a 'SDGs Working Team' headed by Director General of Governance Innovation Unit (GIU) of the PMO and represented by government officials and non-government think tanks and academia. The Members of the working team prepared the initial draft National VNRs of Bangladesh following the UN prescribed format based on the reports submitted by the 17 coordinating ministries in a consultative process. The level of engagement of different stakeholders in the VNRs preparation process of Bangladesh is not just informing or consult; it can rightly be said as involvement. The survey reports, administrative data, information from SDGs Tracker and some sources of international organizations were used to prepare the document.

The draft VNRs document was again shared with different coordinating Miniseries/Divisions and some edition was done based on their feedback. To be candid, the COVID-19 pandemic has impeded the planned roadmap of consultation, which was offset by sharing online discussions and suggestions from different stakeholders.

After vetting from the apex committee of the SDGs Implementation and Review Committee, the VNRs document was finalized. Hence, VNRs document was prepared in an inclusive and participatory way where both qualitative and quantitative analysis was done to analyse the implementation status of different targets where around 155 indicators' data is available in the existing data generation system of Bangladesh.

3. Policy and enabling environment

a) Creating ownership of the Sustainable Development Goals

Political Commitment: In the last decade, Bangladesh has greatly been benefitted from the visionary and dynamic leadership of the Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and the way she involved people in the country's development agenda. As a result, Bangladesh has achieved the highest cumulative GDP growth globally in the last ten years and made remarkable progress in various social and economic spheres and is now being recognized as the 'development surprise' or 'role model of development'. The continuity of power through people's mandate from 2008 and onward has resulted in building a happy, prosperous democratic country based on equality and justice.

Sheikh Hasina, the Hon'ble Prime Minister of Bangladesh has a unique opportunity to be present in both the Millennium Summit held in 2000 and SDGs Summit held in 2015 where the Millennium Declaration and Agenda 2030 were adopted respectively at the United Nations. The success of the implementation of many of the MDGs targets and her dynamic leadership that was instrumental for the very feat was globally acclaimed. Bangladesh's success in reducing the under-five child mortality rate was praised globally and our Hon'ble Prime Minister was awarded '*UN MDG Awards 2010*'. Since then she was awarded South-South Award '*Digital Health For Digital Development*' in 2011 for an innovative idea to use the ICT for the progress of the health of women and children, '*South-South Award*' in 2013 for alleviating poverty, '*UNESCO Peace Tree Award*' in 2014 for women's empowerment and girls' education, '*Women in Parliaments Global Forum Award*' in 2015 for closing gender gap in the political sphere, '*Champions of the Earth*' award in 2015 by UNEP in recognition of initiatives to address climate change, '*ICT Sustainable Development Award*' in 2015 from International Telecommunication Union for ICT use in improving people's lives, '*Planet 50-50 Champion*' award by the UN-Women in 2016. The recognition continued and Hon'ble Prime Minister got '*Agent of Change Award*' by the Global Partnership Forum in 2016 for her outstanding contributions to women empowerment, '*Global Leadership Award*' in 2018 by Global Summit of Women for her outstanding leadership in advancing women education and women entrepreneurs, '*International Achievement Award*' in 2018 by the Inter Press Service (IPS) of the UN for her exemplary humanitarian response by giving shelter to over a million of Rohingyas, and '*Special Distinction for Leadership Award*' by the Global Hope Coalition for farsighted leadership during the Rohingya crisis.

In 2019, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has been conferred with the '*Lifetime Contribution for Women Empowerment Award*' by the Institute of South Asian Women for gender equality, women and girls' empowerment, Global Alliance for Vaccination and Immunisations (GAVI) conferred the '*Vaccine Hero*' award in recognition of Bangladesh's outstanding success in vaccination to immunise children, and UNICEF conferred the '*Champion of Skill Development for Youth*' award for Bangladesh's great success in youth skill development, and Asiatic Society Kolkata conferred the '*Tagore Peace Award 2018*' in recognition of her contribution to maintaining regional peace and prosperity. All of the international accolades with regard to poverty reduction, health, education, women empowerment, humanitarian response & peace, environment, skills & youth development, multidimensional use of ICT, etc. have in turn made her champion of social, economic and

environmental dimensions of sustainability and ultimately the strong owner of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Nimble economic management and strong political leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina helped Bangladesh achieve a decade of 7 per cent average GDP growth, crossing the Lower Middle-Income threshold in 2015, and meeting all criteria for graduation out of LDCs status. Lifted by these successes, the government is now set to launch a programme to realize the dream of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to have a country that is free of poverty, where economic and social justice prevails, and where there is shared prosperity. Accordingly, the government has adopted Vision 2041 that is a continuation of Vision 2021 and seeks to take the nation to the development path. The Vision 2041 seeks to eliminate extreme poverty and reach Upper Middle-Income Country (UMIC) status by 2031, and High-Income Country (HIC) status by 2041 with poverty approaching extinction.

The Whole of the Society Approach in engaging all Stakeholders: The government has adopted a “whole of society” approach for implementation and attainment of the SDGs. As part of this, we held several consultations on stakeholders’ engagement on the SDGs implementation involving representatives from the NGOs, CSOs, Businesses, Development Partners, ethnic minorities, professional groups, labour associations, women network and media.

The Prime Minister's Office and Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce & Industries (FBCCI) jointly held a view exchange meeting on 1st July 2018 where the SDGs targets were divided into several thematic issues and accordingly some recommendations were made on the role of the private sector in achieving the targets. Initiatives have been taken to implement the recommendations made with the help of the government. Following the first exchange meeting, another large-scale exchange meeting was organized on 2nd November 2019 arranged by the GED. Apart from this, specific questionnaires have been prepared from the Prime Minister's Office for realizing how the major private sector can be involved in the implementation of SDGs, which have been transmitted through the private sector chamber/association under the supervision of the FBCCI.

The government has also been in constant dialogues with media through seminars and workshops to share ideas regarding the potential role of media in SDGs implementation in Bangladesh. The media professionals have shown keen interest in contributing to SDGs awareness creation and branding through regular campaigns in electronic and print media.

In the Bangladesh context, the Members of Parliament (MPs) can play an instrumental role in transmitting the core messages of SDGs to the local level and integrate those in local development initiatives. Keeping this in mind, the government held several consultations with MPs to seek their guidance in localizing the SDGs goals and targets. In the District and Upazila level SDGs Implementation and monitoring committees, the MPs are given the responsibility as advisers of the committees.

Bangladesh ranks 50th out of 152 countries in the Global Gender Gap Index in 2020, where Bangladesh is the only one of the seven South Asian countries to feature in the top 100. The government considers it most important to bring women to the forefront of the decision-making process. Keeping this in view, the government has engaged different women groups, including

Bangladesh civil service women network, to create adequate opportunities for them to contribute to the SDGs implementation.

The one-third population of our country is youth, who is the prime mover of SDGs of our country. The government has approved National Youth Policy 2017. According to the Policy, the priority areas for youth development in our country are: (a) Empowerment (b) (c) Governance (d) Sustainable development (e) Equitable development (f) Building a healthy society (g) Globalisation (h) Survey and research. It is found that youth can be involved in almost all goals of Agenda 2030 and under the auspices of Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Youth and Sports and Ministry of Cultural Affairs, four workshops were held in Dhaka, in 2019 involving youths and youth organizations working in the country. The government is trying to involve the youth in SDGs in the form of 'by the youth' and 'for the youth' and the activities will be expanded in the local levels of the country.

Alongside, the government has already engaged with goal-wise professionals of diverse backgrounds including law enforcement agencies, local-level public officials, health professionals, engineers, planners, schoolteachers, legal practitioners, peasants, religious leaders, RMG workers and members of different labour groups.

b) Incorporation of the Sustainable Development Goals in national frameworks

SDGs reflections in Five Year Plans (FYPs): Under the visionary leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the SDGs are well aligned with the 7th Five Year Plan (2016-2020), the flagship strategic document of the Government of Bangladesh. The timing was befitting for Bangladesh when the 2030 Agenda was in the process of finalization at the UN, we were simultaneously working on the 7th FYP. In fact, the 2030 Agenda worked as a key guiding document in the selection of development priorities in our national context. Bangladesh, therefore, could start the SDGs implementation very early. During the last four years' experience of the implementation of the 7th FYP and based on the midterm review of it, the government is in the process of preparing the 8th FYP (2021-2025), which will be in operation from 1st July 2020. By this time, the government has already approved the 2nd Perspective Plan (Making Vision 2041 a reality), which envisions Bangladesh to be an upper-middle-income country by 2031 and a high-income county by 2041. Bangladesh has already become a lower-middle-income country in 2015 by the definition of the World Bank, and in the first triannual review of the Committee for Development Policy (CDP) of the ECOSOC in 2018, it has fulfilled all three criteria for graduating to developing county from the bracket of LDCs. It is expected that in the second triannual review, Bangladesh will sustain its position and the graduation from LDCs will be declared in March 2021, when Bangladesh will celebrate its Golden Jubilee of independence. Hence, the 8th FYP will concurrently be the second successive document of SDGs implementation and the first instrument to fulfil Vision 2041.

Mapping of Ministries/Divisions for SDGs implementation: Following the Allocation of Business of the Government of Bangladesh, Ministries/Divisions have been assigned with the responsibility of implementing the targets of SDGs tagging them as lead, co-lead or associate obligation.

National Action Plan to Achieve SDGs: The lead Ministries/Divisions in consultation with co-lead and associate Ministries/Divisions have prepared SDGs Action Plan highlighting new projects, programmes, and policies to be implemented in coming years to achieve SDGs targets by 2030.

Data gap analysis for SDGs monitoring: For the performance assessment by SDGs indicators, the Government of Bangladesh conducted the SDGs Data Gap analysis reviewing the existing survey, census, national accounts and data generating system of statistical organizations.

SDGs Monitoring and Evaluation Framework: The monitoring and Evaluation Framework has been finalized by the Government of Bangladesh to set targets of indicators of SDGs i.e. from where we are now (benchmark) and where we want to go by 2030. The M&E framework has highlighted three milestone targets for 2020, 2025 and 2030 the end periods of 7th, 8th and 9th Five Year Plans respectively. However, the availability of metadata against SDGs indicators has improved since the first SDGs M&E Framework was published in 2018. Moreover, the status of data availability has also witnessed changes while examining the metadata of each indicator thoroughly. As a result, the government is in the process of revisiting the framework now.

SDGs Financing Strategy: The government has conducted a study to determine the financing needs for SDGs implementation, which estimates that an additional amount, over the current provision of investment related to SDGs by public sectors and external sources, would be US\$ 928.5 billion at 2015-16 constant prices. This amount would be required for SDGs implementation over the period of FY 2017 to FY 2030. The annual average cost of SDGs would be US\$ 66.32 billion (at constant prices) for the same period.

SDGs Trackers for Result Based Monitoring: An innovative SDGs tracker (sdg.gov.bd), a web-based data repository system, has been launched to assist the monitoring of the implementation of SDGs in our country. SDG tracker will facilitate the tracking of progress against each goal and targets of SDGs over the period of time.

Localization of SDGs: The Government of Bangladesh is in the process of localizing SDGs, particularly in the District and Upazila level. On 3rd December 2018, the cabinet approved 40 (39+1) priority indicators for localization of SDGs; 39 indicators from 17 Goals were selected which were considered to be (a) crucial for the local level of our country and (b) producing reinforcing effects on other Targets. An additional priority indicator was left to achieve ‘leaving no one behind’ according to the circumstances of a specific District or Sub-district, meeting the ground reality of that particular geographical area. ‘Natore Model’ is developed for District level and a framework is finalized for localizing SDGs at the Sub-district level. Awareness programmes through workshops at the Divisions and District levels have been done. It is hoped that local level people would fix the targets and prepare corresponding action plans to implement the SDGs. Localizing the SDGs means making SDG aspirations become real to communities, households, and individuals, particularly to those who are at risk of falling behind. Local communities and stakeholders, whose knowledge about the needs and capacities of their communities down even to the individual level, are critical partners in implementing and realizing the global accord. Divisional level Training of Trainers (ToT) has been conducted in June 2019, and the Upazila Action Plan and the District Action Plan for SDGs are currently being planned and finalized soon.

Assimilation of SDGs target in Annual Performance Agreement (APA): Bangladesh has introduced the Annual Performance Agreement (APA), a result-based performance management system across the whole spectrum of the public sector with a view to improving efficiency as well as ensuring transparency and accountability. Under the APA system, each ministry enters into a memorandum of understanding with the Cabinet Division at the beginning of each financial year. The APA outlines the goals and targets of each ministry with corresponding performance indicators. The government has already integrated the SDG targets into the APA system so that the long-term objectives can be translated into the annual work plan of the Ministries.

Prospects and Opportunities of International Cooperation in Attaining SDGs in Bangladesh: The Government of Bangladesh has conducted an analytical study in the field of international cooperation for attaining SDGs in Bangladesh. It identifies the targets of the SDGs with the provision of international cooperation, identifies potential areas where development partners and other philanthropic organizations can contribute, and assesses the need where Bangladesh might need international assistance.

c) Integration of the three dimensions

The social and economic development of Bangladesh is stunningly explained by the World Development Report of the World Bank in 2013, “Development pessimism about Bangladesh was understandable, but has been now proven wrong. Some countries have done well in human development indicators, and others have done well in economic growth, but Bangladesh belongs to a rather small group of countries that have done well on both fronts, the initial pessimism notwithstanding. This is the crux of the ‘development surprise’ that transformed Bangladesh.”

However, the challenge to environmental sustainability in Bangladesh originates from two sources – internal and external. Long-term acceleration in growth rate has rested on improved growth of agriculture, stable growth of services and faster growth of industry especially the manufacturing one. Growth of these sectors coupled with increasing population pressure has been associated with degraded agro-ecosystem, degradation of rivers and wetlands, coastal environment and urban environment, and depletion of groundwater, and deforestation and desertification affecting the livelihood of people and quality of their life.

The other challenge to sustainability stems from climate-induced changes caused by greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, which is growing at an unprecedented rate and magnitude. The manifestation of climate change is very much evident in Bangladesh. The coastal region in the South and the South-Western part of Bangladesh is already faced with frequent high tide induced inundation and salinity intrusion, reduced livelihood opportunities and so on. More frequent and severe floods, tropical cyclones, storm surges, and droughts pose multiple threats to growth and achievement. There is also a regional challenge to sustainability – decline in water flow in trans-boundary Rivers has resulted in river siltation, desertification in the North West and salinity intrusion in the South West of the country with consequent adverse effects on environment and livelihoods.

Article 18A of the Constitution of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh proclaims that —The state shall endeavour to protect and improve the environment and to preserve and safeguard

the natural resources, biodiversity, wetlands, forests, and wildlife for the present and future citizens. Sustainable development is thus a constitutional obligation in Bangladesh. Based on the globally accepted principles of sustainable development defined through Agenda 21 of the Rio Declaration, Johannesburg Declaration and Implementation Plan, and Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, the Government of Bangladesh has approved the National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS: 2020-2021). The NSDS has addressed mainstreaming sustainable development challenges across sectors and integrates economic, social and environmental objectives across sectors.

In view of the long-term challenges presented by climate change and natural hazards, the government has formulated a long term Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100 (BDP 2100). “BDP 2100” is a water-centric, comprehensive, integrated, holistic and long-term plan for Bangladesh. It is a techno-economic plan that includes a framework for its implementation with an investment plan phased out in short, medium and long term interventions. BDP 2100 is envisioned to ensure long-term water and food security, economic growth and environmental sustainability while effectively coping with natural disasters, Climate Change, and other delta issues through robust, adaptive and integrated strategies, and equitable water governance.

The BDP 2100 seeks to integrate the medium to long-term aspirations of Bangladesh to achieve upper middle-income (UMIC) status and eliminate extreme poverty by 2031 and is a prosperous country beyond 2041 with the longer-term challenge of sustainable management of water, ecology, environment and land resources in the context of their interaction with natural disasters and climate change.

The government is firmly committed to achieving SDGs with the implementation of FYPs and perspective plan at the national level. With regard to climate change and future requirements, these sector-based, national and global goals and plans have been coordinated with the long-term strategy. Efforts have been made to coordinate the policies of different Ministries/Divisions. To improve the quality of living, the formulation of a comprehensive plan by establishing long-term goals is necessary. Instead of adapting traditional techniques, it has taken flexible techniques and steps by developing knowledge-based organizations. Instead of emphasizing the short-term 'trial and error' programme, it has been analysed in the scheme of delta management of the present day in light of a long-term perspective.

Following Bangladesh Environment Protection Act-1995 (Amended 2010), the Ministry of Environment and Forest on 22nd February 2015 made a gazette notification declaring Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) and Environment Management Plan (EMP) as compulsory for every investment project at the approval stage along with getting the environmental clearance from the Department of Environment. At the appraisal stage, in the meeting of the Project Evaluation Committee held at the Planning Commission, a representative from the Ministry of Environment remain present to check it. From the meeting of the SDGs Implementation and Review Committee under the Chair of Principal Coordinator (SDGs Affairs), of the Prime Minister’s Office, instruction has been given to Planning Division to set of questionnaire to check sustainability level of any new project/programme at the period of project appraisal at the concerned sector divisions of Bangladesh Planning Commission and to set a minimum threshold value to get an approval of the projects/programmes from the competent authority. Moreover, directives have been given to scrutinize the existing DPP/TPP

formats to incorporate sustainability issues (energy efficiency, water efficiency, maintaining building code, etc.), in the revised DPP/TPP formats.

d) Leaving no one behind

The foundation of SDGs is inclusivity—embodied by the phrase “Leaving no one behind” and “Reach the furthest behind first”. This means the SDGs require all goals to be reached, for everyone – especially those at the margins of society. ‘Leaving no one behind’ is a key part of the SDG settlement and encapsulates the themes of inclusion, universality, and equity. In Bangladesh, people who could potentially be left behind include the landless, the homeless, the hard-to-reach, socially vulnerable individuals or micro-business owners. Moreover, neonate, adolescent girls and boys, HIV/AIDS affected people, people suffering from infectious disease, people suffering from a mental disorder, drug-addicted youths, and injured people through a road traffic accident, persons with disabilities, dropout children from schools, youth not in education, employment or training might be left behind. Female students who are prone to violence, domestic aides, transgender people, ethnic communities and marginalized people might also be left behind. The Government of Bangladesh has taken a number of effective steps for establishing ‘leave no one behind’; some of them are mentioned below:

Persons with Disability (PWD): Bangladesh has established many programmes and has made significant progress in addressing the rights of persons with disabilities. The government has enacted two laws: Rights and Protection of Persons with Disabilities Act 2013 and Neuro-development Trust Act 2013. With regard to SDG-1, the initiatives taken by the government include: (a) small loan facilities for persons with disabilities; (b) allowances for insolvent persons with disabilities; (c) children with disabilities avail pension facilities after the death of parents holding government job; (d) PWD can avail benefit of Government Family Saving Certificate; (e) stipend for students with disabilities. The Disability Welfare Foundation Act has been passed to bring persons with disabilities to the mainstream. Presently, one million disabled people and 90,000 disabled students are getting scholarships. For autistic children, an Autism Trust has been formed. Fairs are organized by government initiatives whereby products of the disabled are displayed and marketed. Meanwhile, 103 help centres for disabled people have been started where about 0.38 million beneficiaries have been served. Approximately, 20,000 disabled people have been given Taka 100 million loans and grants through the National Disability Development Agency. In all eight Administrative Divisions, 10 fully free special schools for children with autism have been introduced. In the 2017 and 2018 academic years, 18,108 Braille method textbooks were distributed to 2,194 visually impaired students. 'Job Fairs' have been arranged to provide employment for disabled people.

Regarding SDGs-2, persons with disabilities are able to purchase 30 kilograms of rice at US\$ 3.5 through a government scheme. In line with SDGs-3, people with disabilities are brought to the coverage of healthcare facilities. In terms of SDGs 5, residential facilities for female job seekers and working women; schools and separate hostels for intellectual, hearing impaired, visually impaired and autistic children; and residential facilities for victim women with disabilities have been established. With regard to SDG 11, the disability issue has been included in the draft Bangladesh National Building Code 2015 and Dhaka Building Construction Act 2008. Disability has also been addressed in National Industrial Policy 2016, draft Bangladesh

Industrial Design Act 2016, and draft National Web Accessibility standard 2016 that are relevant to SDGs 9.

Digital Inclusion for the Persons with Disabilities in Bangladesh: Digital Bangladesh Strategic paper references the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) article on accessibility. The National ICT policy of Bangladesh identifies ICT accessibility for PWDs. The Right to Information Act also covers the information rights of PWDs. The Government has taken initiatives to make 25,000 government websites accessible by making them compliant with Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1. There is an open-source Bangla “Text To Speech (TTS)” which was developed locally. Textbooks from class 1 to 12 have been converted into DAISY (Digital Accessible Information System) standard. The innovation fund of a2i is developing a device by which sign language users will be able to communicate with non-sign language users. The Bangla Braille software has been developed and the University of Chittagong has been declared as the first inclusive university with the first Accessible E-Learning Centre in Bangladesh. The Government has initiated E-Learning Platforms to encourage the participation of PWDs. They can receive pieces of training to be prepared for different job opportunities. A wide range of information dissemination models for PWDs are generated through community radios and the television channels broadcast news programmes with sign language now. The Government has also taken the initiative to ratify the Marrakesh Treaty that facilitates access to print works in formats adapted for persons who are blind, visually impaired, or otherwise prints disabled.

Digital Financial Services: Bangladesh has made very impressive progress in expanding financial services across the country even in the remote, rural, and hard to reach areas. Bangladesh Bank, the Central Bank of Bangladesh, has been empowered to take revolutionary steps in enhancing financial inclusion by making banking accessible to the general people through mobile financial services and special accounts. More than 60 million people now use mobile financial services. For example, the people who don’t have access to the services of a bank like farmers, the hard-core poor, freedom fighters, people affected by natural disasters and beneficiaries under social safety net programmes – can now open a bank account by depositing just taka 10 (8 cent). In the meantime, about one million such bank accounts have been opened across the country. Around 50 per cent of the population in Bangladesh have access to formal financial services, which was 31 per cent in 2014. Nowadays, the entire stipend for school children to their mothers and all other social safety net cash benefits are being paid in their accounts through mobile money transfer.

Ensuring Information and Services at Citizens’ Doorsteps: To decentralize the delivery of public services and take them to the doorsteps of millions of underserved citizens, the government has established the a2i Programme. This a2i Programme has established one-stop information and service delivery outlets known as Digital Centres in all 4,571 Union Councils, the lowest level of local governments. Digital Centres ensure that the underserved, such as rural women, people with disabilities and the elderly – regardless of their literacy and ICT literacy - can access vital information and services. More than 100 types of government services and more than 150 private services are being provided through the Digital Centres. In addition, 8,500 post offices have been converted to a post-e-centre; allowances of social safety net were distributed to 600,000 poor people through Postal Cash Cards to provide banking facilities.

National Social Security Strategy: Social Protection is a key element of national strategies to promote human development, political stability and inclusive growth. It ensures that people enjoy income security, have effective access to health and other social services, and are empowered to take advantage of economic opportunities. The government has approved the National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) in 2015 with a view to addressing poverty, inequality, risk and vulnerability in the country. Distressed people, particularly women, children and disabled persons have been given priority under Social Safety Net Programmes (SSNP), which is designed to be implemented gradually addressing the lifecycle risks; all programmes will be consolidated to get better synergies and healthier results. In addition to the earlier mentioned programmes under social protection, education stipends, adult allowances, maternal allowances, allowances for the widow, deserted and destitute women, My-house-My-farm project, Ashrayan (shelter) project, food-for-work programme, life enhancement programmes of Vedas and the disadvantaged population, lifelong development programmes of the transgender people, Vulnerable Group Development (VGD), and Char livelihood programme are being implemented. In 2016, 28.7 per cent of the family enjoyed the benefit of the government's social safety net programmes, which the government plans to include 40 per cent poor families by 2030. The government spends 15 per cent of its budget on social security activities and plans to maintain that level up to 2030. Apart from allowances, people are being engaged in vocational education and income generating activities, through which vulnerable segments of the population will be protected from various risks and dangers. The government is also in the process of finalizing the National Household Database (NHD) to streamline the selection process of beneficiaries of different social protection programmes.

e) Institutional mechanisms

At the structural level, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina formed an inter-ministerial “*SDGs Implementation and Review Committee*” comprised of Secretaries from 20 Ministries. A high-level position, Principal Coordinator (SDG Affairs) has been created at the Prime Minister’s Office to head the committee. The General Economics Division (GED) of the Bangladesh Planning Commission serves as a secretariat of it. The committee now includes a member of Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce & Industries (FBCCI) who represent the private sector, a member from NGO Affairs Bureau, which provides one-stop service to the NGOs operating with foreign assistance, a member from Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF), which leads a platform titled “People’s Voice: Strengthening SDGs Implementation in Bangladesh”, a member from Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), which is the secretariat of the Citizens’ Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh, and United Nations Resident Coordinator (UNRC), who represents the UN system working in Bangladesh.

“*SDGs Working Team*” has been formed with the Director-General, Governance Innovation Unit of the Prime Minister’s Office as the Chair. This team has 14 members including government officials, academia, CSOs and private sector representatives. The team is providing recommendations to the 'SDGs Implementation and Review' Committee' on SDGs implementation. Notable recommendations include: preparing a ministry-wise action plan for the implementation of SDGs under non-development budget, formulation of detailed concept paper/work plan in the light of the 'localization model' made by the General Economics Division of the Bangladesh Planning Commission for the SDGs localization, preparation of

SDGs priority indicators of Bangladesh for localization of SDGs, and providing support on the Voluntary National Reviews related activities.

Besides the national committee, the Cabinet Division has formed three committees for better implementation and coordination of SDGs localization works at the Divisional, District and Sub-district levels, which are chaired by Divisional Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner (DC) and Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) respectively. At the District and Sub-district level committees, Hon'ble Member of the Parliaments (MPs) of particular constituencies are given the responsibility of Adviser of the committees; representatives of Local Government Institutions (LGI) are members. In all three committees, apart from the government officials working in those areas, representatives of NGOs, CSOs, business and professional bodies, and marginalized groups are members. After conducting the monthly meeting, the Upazila Committee has to apprise the development to the concerned Deputy Commissioner and the Divisional Commissioner; District Committee has to inform the concerned Divisional Commissioner and the Cabinet Division; Divisional Committee has to inform the Cabinet Division and the Principal Coordinator (SDGs Affairs), PMO.

The government has formed the “*National Data Coordination Committee (NDCC)*” to identify data gaps, ensure the availability of quality data and coordinate among ministries and divisions to make data available for SDGs and monitor other international commitments. The Committee is comprised of 50 members including all data producing agencies of the government and representatives from business associations, think tanks and academia; it is chaired by the Secretary, Statistics and Informatics Division. With a view to ensuring data availability in a structured way, seven technical sub-committees of the NDCC has been formed viz: (1) Education (2) Health, Population and Nutrition (3) Economy (4) ICT (5) Environment and Climate (6) Agriculture, and (7) Socio-economic. The NDCC is also responsible for ensuring data availability for 39 priority indicators, which are selected suggested by the SDGs Working Committee of the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and later on approved by the Cabinet Meeting held on 4th December 2018. Some of these 39 indicators are selected from the global SDGs and some are selected after modification on Bangladesh's perspective.

National Conference on SDGs Implementation Review (SIR) is a mechanism developed first by the government in 2018. The 1st National Conference was held on 4th to 6th July 2018 in Dhaka. Around 2000 participants from the government, NGOs, CSOs, private sector and Development Partners (DPs) participated in the conference. Each lead ministry presented their implementation plan; NGOs presented their action plan; Development Partners expressed their priority areas for assistance in the conference. The synthesis report of the SIR published in 2018, highlighted the achievements so far, identified the challenges and provided guidelines for the way forward. Based on the experience of the 1st SIR, it is decided that the national conference will be held regularly within a 2-3 year interval. The implementation experiences and challenges of the localization of SDGs will be shared at the conference. Because of the global pandemic of COVID-19, the SIR planned to be held in April 2020 was postponed.

With a view to engaging relevant stakeholders in the preparation process of goal wise progress review of SDGs, from the Prime Minister's Office 17 Ministries/Divisions have been given the responsibility as the coordinating Ministries for 17 goals of SDGs. All goal-wise coordinating ministries/divisions will have to complete their consultations with relevant lead, co-lead,

associates, NGOs, CSOs, private sector, academia, development partners, and relevant stakeholders twice in a year and submit goal-wise reports in prescribed format to the Principal Coordinator (SDGs Affairs), PMO.

f) Structural issues

Bangladesh is the number one densely populated country in the world except for some city-states; 165.55 million people live in 147,570 km² meaning 1122 people per square km. Although the population growth rate is declining, the total number of population is still increasing. In this situation, despite progress in reducing poverty headcount rates, the absolute number of poor people itself is a structural challenge. The poverty reduction strategy of the government is indeed quite satisfactory, however, the factors correlated with poverty will hamper reducing multidimensional poverty at the desired level. The adoption of the National Social Security Strategy is a timely initiative of the poverty & inequality reduction but the selection error, both inclusion, and exclusion is an example of structural barriers that hamper the true success.

Ensuring food security in the context of availability, accessibility, utilization, and stability for a large population together with positive population growth will require a faster growth of agricultural production. There is phenomenal progress in the growth of the agricultural sector, particularly in rice production in Bangladesh in the last four decades. Therefore, the growth rate of the crop sector has been declining; meaning increasing agricultural production will inevitably put significant pressure on the environment.

With low-cost intervention (0.8 per cent of GDP and 5 per cent of the budget), Bangladesh's health outcomes are relatively better than its compatible countries. However, for sustainable development, it will remain a big challenge as disease pattern is now changing from communicable to non-communicable diseases, which usually incur a huge cost for the patients. Per capita health expenditure has increased from US\$ 16 in 2007 to US\$ 37 in 2015, where out of pocket expenditure is 67 per cent. Without a formal health insurance system, reducing the high out of pocket expenditure with a view to achieving universal health coverage is a gigantic task.

Despite considerable progress related to education, ensuring meaningful and quality life-long learning for adolescents and the adult population has always been a challenge in the country. Extreme poverty, marginal population groups, special need children, child labour, hard to reach areas, natural disasters such as cyclones and floods, intergenerational transmission of illiteracy are several major factors which affect the attainment of targets. Recruitment of meritorious students in the teaching profession, as well as sufficient training for teachers, can ensure quality teachers for quality education. Ideally, all teachers should receive adequate, appropriate and relevant pedagogical training to teach at the chosen level of education and be academically well-qualified in the subject (s) they are expected to teach.

In the traditional patriarchal society where deep-rooted cultural practices are prevalent that favours boys over girls, the relentless endeavour on the part of the Government of Bangladesh by way of adoption of policies, legislation, strategies, national action plans and programmes for the realization of empowerment of women are acclaimed in the global arena. Bangladesh is the only one of the South Asian countries to feature in the top 100 of the Global Gender Gap

Index. Indeed, Bangladesh is the only country in the world where the female head of government exceeds the number of years with a male head. In order to ensure greater participation of women in important decision-making positions, initiatives are now underway to increase the representation of women in the legislative, judiciary and executive branches of the State. A set of guidelines has also been issued to ensure development projects are prepared and reviewed in a gender-sensitive way. Even though gender parity has been achieved in both primary and secondary education and it is increasing at the tertiary level, the structural bottleneck is that female labour force participation is comparatively low in Bangladesh, which is hovering around 36 per cent in the last decade. The creation of opportunities for the women labour force remains the major bottleneck for wage employment in the non-agricultural sector for women with an exception in the garment sector.

Government investment in water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) have been increasing over the last couple of years. However, WASH investment in hydro-geologically and socio-economically difficult areas like char, haor (wetland), coastal belt and hilly areas or hard to reach areas is much lower compared to other areas. There is a gap in ensuring appropriate toilet technologies for differently-abled people at an affordable cost. The threat poses by climate change particularly in disaster-prone areas also needs serious attention for sanitation. Considering the impact of climate change and people living in hard to reach areas, appropriate technology with affordable prices is one of the key constraints in serving the poorest and marginalized people.

The proportion of the population with access to electricity has increased to 96 per cent in January 2020, from 31.2 per cent in 2000. The Power System Master Plan 2016 has been prepared for managing the electricity sector up to 2041. However, to implement the Master Plan, the estimated investment requirement is about US\$ 78 billion for the generation sector, about US\$ 18 billion for the transmission sector and about US\$ 19 billion for the distribution sector. Adequate financing is one of the major challenges to implement the Master Plan. With regard to increasing renewable energy, land scarcity is the main barrier to installing solar parks. Challenges lie in obtaining suitable land, difficulties in constructing transmission lines over privately owned land, high cost of land acquisition and development, etc. Furthermore, solar radiation in Bangladesh is quite low. For the development of waste to energy, the main obstacle is lack of technology, and high production cost/tariff. Wind speed in Bangladesh is low to moderate, for which the prospect of the wind farm is not promising.

Each year about two million additional entrants are joining the labour force and creating decent jobs for them will remain an overwhelming challenge. In the country, although the national level unemployment rate was only 4.25 per cent, the same for the youths at the age of 15 to 29 was 10.6 per cent in 2016-17. Labour Force Survey 2016-17 reveals that youths with no education has the unemployment rate of 4 per cent but it is 13.4 per cent for the youths with tertiary education. Inadequate skill levels constrain growth. Productivity could be increased through skills development, training and vocational education, knowledge and innovation. Except the agricultural sector, investment in Research and Development is scanty. The manufacturing sector led to exports' growth contributed a lot in the economic and social sectors. However, the export basket is dominated by single readymade garments, which is a structural shortcoming of the economy. Safe and clean working environments need to be promoted. The National Skills Development Policy-2011 and the National Youth Policy-2017

have to be implemented throughout the country in a planned way. We have to improve institutions, service delivery, capacity, and professionalism. Operating One Stop Service (OSS) should be strengthened to remove barriers to investment and manage land constraints. We have to intensify monitoring and accountability to tame misuse of public resources.

Bangladesh has been experiencing a rapid increase in the urban population, in 1990, 20 per cent of the population lived in urban areas; this has increased to 35 per cent in 2016. Migration, the population growth of cities, and the reclassification of rural land into urban settlements induced this rapid urbanization. It is expected to overtake the share of the rural population approximately in 2040. The rapid migration to urban areas and the inadequate infrastructure to meet the demand for urban amenities and facilities is a serious constraint of the country.

Bangladesh experiences frequent natural disasters, these can lead to deaths, damage to the infrastructure and economic assets, and have a negative impact on the livelihood of people, particularly ones living in poverty. Bangladesh is considered one of the most climate-vulnerable countries. Climate change will intensify the natural hazards the country already faces. Hence, climate resilience should be inbuilt in the coastal regions. Technology especially for switching over to the low carbon and low natural resource intensive pathways to development. Bangladesh needs to invest in her absorptive capacity to deploy and harness environmentally sensitive technologies and products, address infrastructure inadequacy, particularly quality infrastructure. Bangladesh Building Codes need to be followed meticulously.

SDGs are all-encompassing requiring huge resources for implementation. Traditional sources of funding are insufficient to implement the SDGs. The government needs to find innovative ways of financing from both the public and the private sectors, development partners and ensure effective and efficient ways for utilization. Domestic resource mobilization has to be enhanced to keep pace with the demand. A proper financing plan would be beneficial to map resources from domestic and foreign sources, including the private and business sectors. Efforts are needed for increasing FDI and inward remittance from Diasporas and to explore innovative financing.

There are enormous challenges in the collection, analysis, disaggregation, and dissemination of data. The government needs to build collaboration at bilateral, regional and global levels for capacity building and sharing of good practices.

Localization of SDGs in line with domestic development plans using local governments and NGOs has come up as a challenge. The government has been encouraging inclusive and enhanced stakeholders' participation for local level ownership of the SDGs. Massive localisation of SDGs require local government level planning and implementation. High altitude view on SDGs may not work much as the Agenda is very much action oriented which needs participation by all segments and class of the population.

4. Progress on Goals and targets

4.1 Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Introduction

Sustainable Development Goal 1 calls for the eradication of extreme poverty everywhere and halving poverty in all its dimensions over the next 15 years. It envisions poverty reduction of all people irrespective of gender and age and social protection benefits for people including the poor and the vulnerable. It seeks to ensure equal rights and access to economic and natural resources as well as to technology and financial resources. It focuses on building the resilience of the poor and reducing their vulnerability to all types of shocks including climate-related ones. It also emphasizes mobilization of resources from a variety of sources including enhanced development cooperation and creating sound policy frameworks based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies for accelerated poverty reduction.

Context

Bangladesh has achieved stunning success in curbing down poverty since its independence in 1971. The catastrophe of the 70's cyclone together with the wreckage of the independence war made Bangladesh vulnerable as the poverty headcount mounted to 82.9 per cent in 1973-74. Since then, Bangladesh has made poverty alleviation as the major driver of economic salvation in its national plan. All the Five Year Plans (FYPs) from 1973-2020 had the primary focus on poverty reduction. Over the last three decades, the country experienced a sharp decline in poverty. During the 1990s, the rate of poverty had declined relatively slowly – from 56.7 per cent in 1991-92 to 48.9 per cent in 2000. However, the post-2000 era witnessed an accelerated decline in the rate of poverty. To be specific, the pace of poverty reduction in the 2000s was more than double the rate of the 1990s. The strategies followed by the government for reducing poverty are many, however, important ones are: promoting growth by sustaining increases in labour productivity, increasing farm income, enhancing the access of the poor to production inputs and to institutional finance, expanding employment opportunities in lagging regions by improving connectivity with growth poles through better infrastructure, investing in human capital, stimulating women's participation in the labour force, promoting overseas employment including women migration, improving access to and quality of education, health and nutrition services, strengthening the coordination, targeting and coverage of social protection programmes, enhancing the access to microfinance, ensuring stable food prices, and mitigating the adverse consequences of climate change.

By 2016, extreme poverty stood at 12.9 per cent while the overall poverty headcount reached 24.3 per cent. The slowdown in the pace of poverty reduction after 2010 could be a consequence of the fact that when poverty comes down to relatively low levels, it becomes increasingly more difficult to reduce it further. However, the government is firmly committed to emancipate its people from the curse of poverty. The Perspective Plan 2021-2041 and the 8th Five Year Plan (2021-2025) consider poverty reduction as a major target for transforming Bangladesh into a high-income country by 2041. According to the poverty estimates, the

overall poverty and extreme poverty will descend to 2.59 per cent and 0.68 per cent respectively by 2041.

Progress against targets

1.1 By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day

The proportion of the population living on less than \$1.90 a day measured at 2011 international prices, adjusted for purchasing power parity (PPP) was estimated by the World Bank as the international poverty line. This poverty line is deemed as the new measure of extreme poverty. Table 1.1 shows a declining trend in the incidence of poverty over the years. Between 2010 and 2016, the incidence of poverty declined at an average annual 0.62 percentage points. This poverty line was estimated by the World Bank to make inter-country comparisons of poverty across countries. However, for measuring poverty within a country national poverty line is more appropriate.

Table 1.1 Proportion of population below the international poverty line

Poverty measure	1992	2000	2005	2010	2016
PPP \$1.90 a day	44.2	33.7	24.5	18.5	14.8

Source: PovcalNet, World Bank, 2020.

1.2 By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions

Bangladesh has been successful in achieving a significant reduction in poverty since 1991-92. National poverty measured as the proportion of the population living below the national upper poverty line has consistently declined to reach 31.5 per cent in 2010 and 24.3 per cent in 2016. According to recent estimates, it has declined to 20.5 per cent in 2019.

Table 1.2 Trends in Poverty Using Upper Poverty Line (2122 kcal/day), 1992-2019

	1991-92	2000	2005	2010	2016	2018 (Estimated)	2019 (Estimated)
National	56.7	48.9	40.0	31.5	24.3	21.8	20.5
Urban	42.8	35.2	28.4	21.3	18.9	-	
Rural	58.8	52.3	43.8	35.2	26.4	-	

Source: BBS, Household Income and Expenditure Survey, various years.

Despite the fall in poverty rates, Bangladesh is still lagging behind in reducing poverty compared to its most of the South Asian neighbours. However, Bangladesh has recently experienced a growth rate in excess of 8 per cent and if we can sustain this higher growth rate in the coming years, the poverty rate will continue to fall at a faster rate and is expected to fall below 3 per cent by 2031. An extreme poverty estimate based on the national poverty line (lower poverty line) has also been declined persistently during this period. According to recent estimates, extreme poverty has declined to 10.5 per cent in 2019.

Table 1.3 Trends in Poverty Using Lower Poverty Line, 1992-2019 (Per cent)

	1991-92	2000	2005	2010	2016	2018 (Estimated)	2019 (Estimated)
National	41.1	34.3	25.1	17.6	12.9	11.3	10.5
Urban	24.0	20.0	14.6	7.7	7.6	-	
Rural	43.8	37.9	28.6	21.1	14.9	-	

Source: BBS, Household Income and Expenditure Survey, various years.

It is evident that the incidence of poverty of female-headed households has been declined overtime at national as well as regional levels. Two interesting features of female poverty are clear in Table 1.4. The incidence of poverty is lower in female-headed households compared to male-headed households. The disparity between urban and rural poverty in female-headed households has been declining over time and by 2016, regional parity has been nearly achieved. Remittance flows to female-headed households especially in rural areas, government programmes benefitting women and an increase in wages in rural areas account for such a pattern of poverty of female-headed households.

Table 1.4 Trends in poverty by gender of household heads, 2000 – 2016 (Per cent)

	2000	2005	2010	2016
Male				
National	49.0	40.8	32.1	24.8
Urban	35.1	28.7	21.7	18.8
Rural	52.5	44.9	35.9	27.1
Female				
National	47.2	29.5	26.6	19.9
Urban	37.1	24.4	17.5	19.7
Rural	50.6	31.0	29.3	20.0

Source: BBS, Household Income and Expenditure Survey, various years.

As committed in the first Voluntary National Reviews in 2019, Bangladesh has constructed Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) to measure the deprivation of the population in three dimensions, viz. health, education, and living standard. Information from Table 1.5 reveals that the incidence of multidimensional poverty in Bangladesh is 37.5 per cent. On the other hand, the average intensity of poverty, which reflects the share of deprivations each poor person experiences on average, is 46.9 per cent. That is, each poor person is, on average, deprived in 47 per cent of the weighted indicators. The MPI, which is the product of H and A, ascends to 0.176. This means that multidimensional poor people in Bangladesh experience 17.6 per cent of the total deprivations that would be experienced if all people were deprived of all indicators.

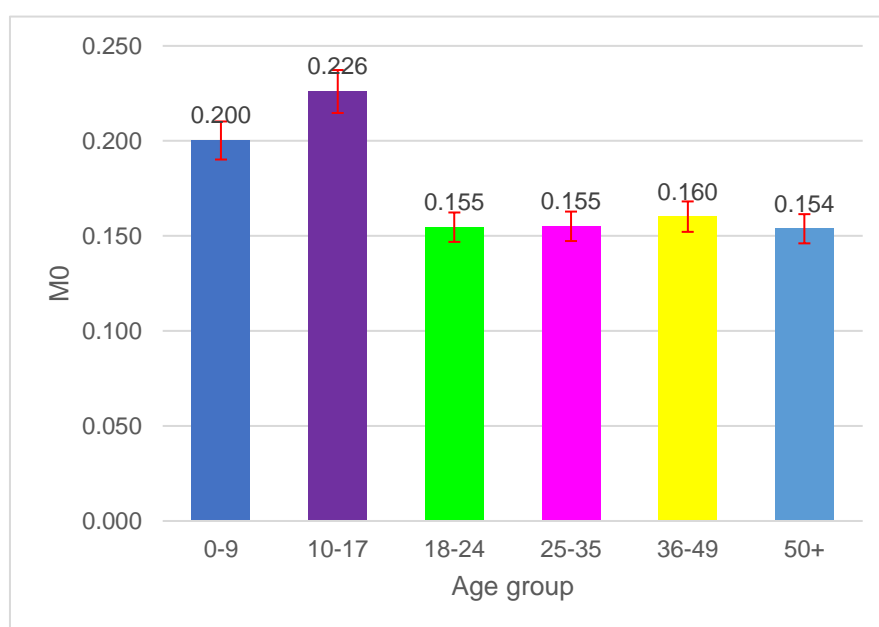
Table 1.5: Incidence, Intensity, and Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), Bangladesh 2019

Poverty cut-off (k)	Index	Value	Confidence interval (95%)	
k-value = 33%	MPI	0.176	0.172	0.180
	Headcount ratio (H, %)	37.5	36.8	38.2
	Intensity (A, %)	46.9	46.6	47.1

Source: Provisional estimates by GED from MICS 2019 data

The analysis is also carried out for different sex and age groups. It is found that only 9.3 per cent of the population lives in female-headed households, and 19.0 per cent of these females are MPI poor, whereas 90.7 per cent of people live in the male-headed households, and 17.4 per cent out of this share are MPI poor. Looking across the distribution it is clear that female-headed households are more likely to suffer from multidimensional poverty than male-headed households. If we look into the age-specific data, we find that there is an increasing and then flattening trend in the MPI as age increases. However, children are more affected by multidimensional poverty.

Figure 1.1: Multidimensional Poverty (M0) by Age Group, Bangladesh 2019



Source: Provisional estimates by GED from MICS 2019 data.

1.3 Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable

Bangladesh has developed a wide network of Social Protection Programmes to address the problems of poverty, vulnerability, and marginalization. The programmes include civil service pensions, allowances for population groups with special needs, food security and disaster assistance programmes, workfare programmes and programmes focused on human development and empowerment. The National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) has been developed in 2015, and an action plan of the NSSS for implementing Ministries was launched in 2018 to create a social protection system that is inclusive, better mitigates lifecycle risks and prioritizes the poorest and most vulnerable.

BBS started to provide data on coverage of Social Safety Net Programmes (SSNPs) beginning with the Household Income and Expenditure Survey 2005. The number of programmes included increased in subsequent surveys. The coverage of SSNPs has increased both in terms of percentage of households as well as in terms of the percentage of beneficiaries over time.

Between 2010 and 2019, the proportion of programme beneficiaries has increased annually by about half a percentage point.

Table 1.6 Trends in Coverage of Social Safety Net Programmes, 2005-2019 (Per cent)

Survey year	National		Urban		Rural	
	Household	Programme beneficiary	Household	Programme beneficiary	Household	Programme beneficiary
2019	-	58.1	-	53.1	-	59.5
2016	27.8	28.7	10.6	10.9	34.5	35.7
2010	24.6	24.6	9.4	9.4	30.1	30.1
2005	13.06	NA	5.45	NA	15.64	NA

Sources: BBS, HIES, various years, MICS 2019

1.4 By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance

Bangladesh has attained great success in increasing the attainment of basic services for its people. Based on the MICS 2012-13 and SVRS 2015 data, the proportion of people having access to electricity was 61.5 per cent, which rose to 92.2 per cent in 2019. In hygiene, Bangladesh has made some progress than the baseline. While the share of the population with access to basic drinking water stands at 98 per cent, the access to safely managed drinking water is only 47.9 per cent. Despite ‘access to safely managed drinking water’ data plunges from the baseline, the differences are attributed to the disparate methodologies followed in the MICS of 2013 and 2019. The following table shows the progress as of 2019 from baseline data.

Table 1.7 Population living in households with access to basic services (per cent)

Survey year	Access to electricity	Access to safely managed drinking water	Access to hygiene		Access to clean energy
			(a) safely managed sanitation services which is not shared	(b) hand-washing facility with soap and water	
2019	92.2	47.9	64.4	74.8	19
2013	61.5	56	n.a.	59.1	n.a.

Sources: BBS, MICS 2012-13 & 2019

1.5 By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters

Bangladesh is one of the countries that are most vulnerable to climate change impacts. The frequency and magnitude of natural disasters will increase with global warming and climate change impact. However, the Government of Bangladesh has over the years adopted measures to establish an elaborate disaster management system involving the central and local governments, non-government organizations and community-level organizations to mitigate impacts of disaster and disaster-related risks. This has resulted in a significant reduction in natural disaster-related deaths. Based on the Bangladesh Disaster Related Statistics (BBS

2015), 2487 per 100,000 persons were affected by climate-related disasters in 2014 and the death rate is 0.1545 per 100,000 persons.

Direct economic loss is estimated as the monetary value of total or partial destruction of physical assets existing in the affected area. These include homes, schools, hospitals, commercial and governmental buildings, transport, energy, telecommunications infrastructures, and other infrastructures; business assets and industrial plants; products such as standing crops, agricultural infrastructure, and livestock. They may also include environmental and cultural heritage (OECD, 2016). The estimates of BBS (2015) show the direct economic loss inflicted by disasters as a proportion of GDP stood at 1.3 per cent in 2014.

The Sendai Framework is the first major agreement of the post-2015 development agenda, which aims to achieve substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries. The Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief has prepared National Plan for Disaster Management (2016-2020) based on Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030) and other international protocol ratified by the Government of Bangladesh.

1.a Ensure significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources, including through enhanced development cooperation, in order to provide adequate and predictable means for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, to implement programmes and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions

In order to meet the commitments of the government to deliver health, education and reducing poverty & vulnerability, it has devoted a significant amount of resources to these sectors. There has been an increasing trend in the absolute level of government spending in these sectors. But the share of these sectors in total government expenditure shows annual fluctuations. In FY2015 government spending on these essential services as a proportion of total government expenditure stood at 4.81 per cent for health, 12.82 per cent for education and 12.72 per cent for social protection. All these shares are increased in FY 2018-19 which shows progress over time.

Table 1.8 Proportion of government expenditure on services as proportion of total government expenditure (Per cent)

Services	2014-15	2018-19
Education	12.82	15.2
Health	4.81	4.9
Social protection	12.72	14.2

Source: Finance Division

Challenges

- Poverty reduction is a multi-dimensional issue and a whole-of-government approach is required to address it. The mapping of Ministries for various SDGs targets reveals that 44 Ministries/Divisions are involved in addressing this goal. Effective coordination of these different ministries/divisions poses a challenge for success. There is also a complaint against the Social Safety Net Programme (SSNP) citing that SSNP makes a

difference in the headcount index of poverty by a miniscule amount. One explanation is that about two third of the beneficiaries of Social Safety Net Programme belongs to the non-poor, who enjoys 75 per cent of the benefit. Hence, targeting errors of beneficiaries is a concern in this case.

- Financing for SDGs has always been a challenge for every nation. It has been estimated by the government that around 0.02 per cent of the accumulated GDP from 2017 to 2030 (roughly US\$ 39.4 Billion) is require as additional financing for eliminating extreme poverty. Resource mobilization particularly from external sources remains a big challenge. The disbursement-commitment ratio needs to be increased through negotiations.
- Two specific economic transitions could make Bangladesh vulnerable. One of these is the problem associated with LDCs graduation; another one is the upcoming structural transformation and the 4th industrial revolution. Both of these events may result in job loss, which is a prime concern for poverty alleviation.
- Bangladesh faces frequent floods, droughts, cyclones, hailstorms and other natural disasters that make implementation of SDG 1 greatly challenging particularly in the coastal areas.
- The recent influx of Rohingya population has added a new dimension to the poverty reduction problem, which have to manage with subtlety to avoid any deviation from the 2030 agenda.

Way forward

- There is no single recipe for attaining SDGs. Concerted efforts from different sectors need to be pushed in a way so that we can conquer our challenges of poverty alleviation. We need to increase the sectoral growth rate of GDP in agriculture and the average growth elasticity of agriculture is to be improved if the growth elasticity of poverty is to be reduced. In this case, continuous innovation of technology is required to increase agricultural productivity.
- The urbanization is to be decentralized properly, and education and training are required to enhance the employability of the poor. In order to increase the market access of the poor faction, financial inclusion is to be spread out. In this way, marginalized people will be mainstreamed into society. To achieve a poverty-free state, the government needs to meet the challenge of generating employment for an increasing labour force by fostering the creation of productive and inclusive jobs in the economy.
- Diversification has to be achieved in several directions. In manufacturing, while the emphasis on sustained success in readymade garments will continue, other potential labour-intensive sectors such as leather, footwear, plastics, toys, electronics, jute goods, and light engineering will need to flourish.
- Emphasis needs to be put on labour service export and greater market access and safe international migration. Expansion of microcredit and microcredit plus programme is also important for job creation and poverty reduction. Proper attention needs to be given on the social safety net programme to avoid targeting errors.
- More emphasis is to be placed on ensuring access to quality education as poor quality education leading to low skills fails to get poor children out of poverty. Other types of

disparity in education such as disparity by disability and ethnic groups need to be addressed. The complex issue of providing quality education at the primary and secondary levels has to be addressed.

- The government needs to put more emphasis on improving the investment climate to increase private investment by removing its impediments such as land procurement, energy shortage, trade logistics, contract enforcement, and tax issues. Though these are long-term issues, continued efforts are needed to address them.
- General Economics Division of the Bangladesh Planning Commission has conducted a study on the impact of graduation from LDC, which has suggested appropriate strategies of coping up with the probable impacts.

Good practice

Strengthening Women's Ability for Productive New Opportunities (SWAPNO) is a perfect example of the government's initiative in fighting against poverty. SWAPNO is a social transfer project under Local Government Division for ultra-poor women to be engaged in public works essential for the economic and social life for rural communities. It promotes employment, and most importantly future employability, of extreme poor rural women, which is the most efficient way to secure poverty reduction and inclusive growth.

SWAPNO offers a replicable model that will inform social protection strategy through a parallel policy programme designed to strengthen governance and the systems of social protection programmes in Bangladesh. The approach of SWAPNO is as follows:

- The entry point is cash-for-work and building human capital of women engaged in public works.
- Saving a portion of wages assists households to move out of poverty, providing seed capital for self-employment, basic household needs (linked to resilience) and further training and educational development. Women will be counselled and supported to invest these savings in productive assets.
- A state-of-the-art 'graduation' strategy aims at smoothening the transition from safety net employment to market-driven employment by vocational skills training, job placement and diversified climate change resilient livelihoods options, ensuring market linkages and access to essential public services and by social and economic inclusion for these women.
- In addition to assisting women to start and operate self-employment, micro-enterprises, SWAPNO focuses on facilitating linkages with Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and Public-Private Partnerships. Local SMEs in the rural non-farm and off-farm sector are encouraged to absorb women trained by the project.

The benefits of SWAPNO programme has been analysed under a study titled 'The Long-term Effects of Livelihood Promotion Types of Social Security Programmes' under the Social Security Policy Support (SSPS) programme of the Cabinet Division and GED. In NSSS Action Plan, LGD decided to replicate SWAPNO pilot model in more than 200 Upazilas. Initial pilot completed in two most vulnerable districts: Kurigram (most flood affected poor district) and Satkhira (most climate and disaster -risk-prone poor district). The second phase continues the previous districts and upscaling in new three districts. Upscaling is being carried out in five districts: Kurigram, Lalmonirhat, Gaibandha, Jamalpur, and Satkhira. SWAPNO is one of the unique projects of Local Government Division under TA support

of Swedish SIDA and UNDP. The project engaged distressed and divorced poor women in public works programme with daily wage payment for 18-month scheme linked to livelihood promotion, entrepreneurship development and formal sector employment. For formal sector employment, SWAPNO beneficiaries are engaged with private sector under partnership arrangement. Private sector agencies are: EcoFeb and Fakir Apparel Group; Bank Asia, and Bangladesh Steel Rolling Mill (BSRM), and international corporate agency Marico. SWAPNO beneficiaries are also engaged in agent banking related activities. Besides, SDG-1, SWAPNO Project addresses seven more SDGs like SDG-2 (Zero hunger), SDG-3 (Good health and well-being), SDG-5 (Gender equality), SDG-8 (Decent work and economic growth), SDG-10 (Reduced inequalities), SDG-13 (Climate action), and SDG-17 (Partnerships for the Goals). SWAPNO also addresses gender-responsive adaptive social protection issues. In an evaluation of the project, it is found that the inclusion error in beneficiary selection has been surprisingly reduced to only 4 per cent compared to the national inclusion error of more than 40 per cent. Moreover, SWAPNO beneficiaries earned on average three and half per cent more than the control group (highest six and half per cent, and lowest three per cent).

4.2 Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

Introduction

Sustainable Development Goal 2 seeks to end hunger and malnutrition and ensure access to safe and nutritious food. This has to be achieved by doubling agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers (bottom 40 per cent farmers). Sustainable food production systems and resilient agricultural practices are a key factor in achieving this goal. Sustainable agricultural practices that protect biodiversity and genetic resources are essential for future food security. This will require increased investment in rural infrastructure, agricultural research and development, and extension services. While increased agricultural production will enhance food availability, improved food security will also require efficient food markets by reducing trade restrictions and the elimination of export subsidies and export measures with equivalent effects. Proper functioning of food commodity markets will also require access to market information to avoid excessive price fluctuation.

Context

Bangladesh has achieved remarkable success in food production and now self-sufficient in major food production though it had food deficit in the past. During our liberation war (FY71), total rice production was 10.87 million tonnes, which has increased to 37.36 million tonnes in FY19 albeit by this time the population has increased more than double. The increased production was made possible with the intervention of modern rice varieties along with an appropriate production package. Although the contribution of the agriculture sector to GDP is gradually declining, the total volume of agricultural GDP is increasing and in order to achieve higher national GDP, the agriculture sector must grow annually by the same rate. Bangladesh is now self-sufficient in producing major cereals. The vegetables produced now a day is very much close to the demand. Various fruits of larger quantity and of good quality are being produced and being exported.

Ministry of Agriculture is highly dedicated to achieve the SDGs through its mandate of work. Achieving food security, increasing self-employment and the gradually increasing role of agriculture in the export business is speeding up Bangladesh's economic development. Considering the favourable agro-climate condition, the modern varieties and technologies developed by researchers are being extended to the farmers' level. The country's agricultural research organizations are continuously developing varieties of different crops that are high yielding, insect and disease resistant, and tolerant to salinity, drought, heat, cold, and submergence. There has also been a success in new cropping patterns and water use efficient technologies. Apart from these, efforts are continuously being made to ensure agricultural inputs, equipment, farm machinery, and fertilizers are available at a subsidized price and balanced fertilizer use is being maintained. The recent crop sector development shows the transformation from subsistence agriculture into semi-commercial agriculture. Due to the realistic steps of the government and activities of all organizations under the Ministry of Agriculture, the country is heading towards achieving self-reliance and sustainability in food production within 2030.

Bangladesh has made tremendous progress in the eradication of hunger. With regard to under-five underweight rate, Bangladesh could achieve the MDG target of hunger from 66 per cent in 1990 to 32.6 per cent in 2014, one year earlier than the stipulated time; it is 22 per cent in 2017. However, according to the Global Hunger Index, Bangladesh's rank was 68th, which has increased to 88th in 2019. There are still a lot of challenges to ensure safe and nutritious food for all in a populous country like Bangladesh.

Progress against targets

2.1 By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round

Improved nutrition and safe food production are in the top priority agenda in the production system of the Government of Bangladesh. For improving the nutritional status of the people, the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) has given the emphasis on crop diversification. During last few years Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI) has developed 35 rice varieties, 170 different crops varieties by Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI), 9 jute varieties by Bangladesh Jute Research Institute (BJRI), 8 sugarcane varieties by Bangladesh Sugarcane Research Institute (BSRI), 7 cotton varieties by Cotton Development Board (CDB) and 55 varieties of different crops by Bangladesh Institute of Nuclear Agriculture (BINA) have been released. The government emphasizes the engagement of women in agriculture through homestead gardening, one house one farm programme, providing training, agricultural inputs, easy access to the financial institute, empowering through group approach. To address under-nutrition and vitamin deficiency, the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) has extended the crop varieties enriched with zinc and iron content varieties as part of recent innovations of the MoA. In 2019, More than five lac farmers are trained on homestead gardening, vegetable production to build their awareness of nutrition status. The MoA is introducing Integrated Pest Management (IPM), Integrated Farm Management Component (IFMC), Integrated Disease Management (IDM), Pheromone trap, bio rational pesticide,

organic agriculture, Good Agricultural Practice (GAP) in the farmers' field to ensure safe nutritious crop production.

According to FAO, the prevalence of undernourishment (PoU) which is an estimate of the proportion of the population whose habitual food consumption is insufficient to provide the dietary energy levels that are required to maintain a normally active and healthy life was 15.2 per cent in 2016 in Bangladesh. Based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) of FAO, the prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity was 32.2 per cent in 2016.

2.2 By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons

Height-for-age measures the linear growth of a child. A child who is more than two standard deviations below the median (-2 SD) of the WHO reference population in terms of height-for-age is considered short for his or her age or stunted. Stunting reflects a failure to receive adequate nutrition over a long period and is worsened by recurrent and chronic illness. Bangladesh has made some progress in reducing the proportion of stunted children, which declined from 36.1 per cent in 2014 to 30.8 per cent in 2017 (BDHS 2014 and 2017). However, according to MICS done by BBS, the stunting rate was 42 per cent in 2012-13, which has come down to 28 per cent in 2019, urban 26.4 per cent & rural 28.4 per cent (MICS, BBS, 2012-13 & 2019).

Weight-for-height measures body mass in relation to body length and describe the current nutritional status of a child. A child who is more than two standard deviations below (-2 SD) the reference median for weight-for-height is considered to be too thin for his or her height or wasted. This condition reflects acute or recent nutritional deficits. According to BDHS, the proportion of wasted children was 14.3 per cent in 2014, which has declined to 8.4 per cent in 2017. However, the MICS 2019 report reveals it 9.8 per cent.

Child obesity is emerging as a serious health problem all over the world. Interestingly, it has begun to emerge as a problem in Bangladesh simultaneously with the undernourishment problem. In 2012-13 the proportion of overweight children stood at 1.6 per cent, which has increased to 2.4 per cent in 2019 (MICS 2012-13 & 2019).

The government has already recognized that overweight is an issue of importance, particularly in urban life, and efforts are on to raise awareness against obesity and to promote healthy lifestyle change. However, MOHFW's nutritional interventions are being pursued through the operational plan of National Nutrition Services with an estimated cost of US\$ 93.48 million to be spent by 2022. Nutrition specific activities include a promotion, protection, and support to Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) practices, promotion of maternal and adolescent nutrition, control of micronutrient deficiencies, vitamin A, D and calcium supplementation, iron-folic acid and zinc supplementation, multiple micronutrient powder supplementation for targeted children, management of moderate and severe acute malnutrition, preventive and curative nutrition services for the elderly population, prevention of overweight and obesity,

social behaviour change communication (SBCC), good hygiene practices, food fortification, nutrition services in hard to reach areas and urban slums, etc.

2.3 By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment

Bangladesh has achieved self-sufficiency in major cereals like rice and potato. It has tremendous success in growing vegetables and year-round fruits. However, climate change poses a huge threat to the success.

To enhance the farm productivity and income of small-scale food producers, the Ministry of Agriculture has now given the emphasis on efficient use of agricultural input, mechanization, producing more high-value crops, building market linkages and facilitating agro-processing. To enhance crop productivity, the Ministry of Agriculture has already set a yield target for 2030 and is taking initiatives to increase the crop yield.

Table 2.1 Crop yield target and status

Sl. No.	Crops	Yield (Tonnes/Hectare)		
		Base Year (2015)	Status (2018-2019)	Target 2030
1	2	3	4	5
01.	Rice	3.05	3.12	6.10
02.	Wheat	3.03	3.28	6.06
03.	Maize	6.97	8.71	13.96
04.	Potato	20.76	20.97	41.00
05.	Pulse	1.14	1.27	2.28
06.	Oil Seed	1.18	1.34	2.36

Source: MoA, BBS (2018-2019)

Boro rice cultivation is irrigated mostly through groundwater. Water efficiency is around 30-40 per cent, which causes depletion of water table resulting in the intrusion of salinity, arsenic contamination, etc. Considering these issues, the Ministry of Agriculture has executed an irrigation water use policy, which enhances the conservation and use of rain and surface water. To harmonize surface and groundwater construction of rubber dam, use of buried pipes, solar power operated Shallow Tube Well (STW) and dug well, Alternate Wetting and Drying (AWD) method, drip irrigation system, fita-pipes, and sprinkler irrigation systems are in practice through some projects. Motivation programmes of the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) are continuing among the farmers to replace more water-consuming rice (Boro) by less water consuming rice (Aman & Aus) varieties to enhance water efficiency and balance surface water.

2.4 By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality

Bangladesh is one of the top 10-food grain-producing countries in the world. In recent years, conventional agriculture has been criticized for the overuse of chemical fertilizers. The

depletion of soil organic matter is the prime cause of low productivity. It is considered as one of the most serious threats to the sustainability of agriculture. Plants in the organic systems are cultivated without agrochemicals but in Bangladesh, most soils have less than 17g/kg organic matter. Farmers are facing difficulties with soil fertility related to organic matter depletion. Total land area under organic cultivation in Bangladesh has been estimated at 0.177 million hectares representing only 2 per cent of the country's total cultivable land.

Soil is a critical element of successful agriculture and is the source of the nutrients to grow crops. To sustain productivity maintenance of soil fertility is one of the greatest challenges, which are intensifying day by day due to high cropping intensity and crop diversification. The average organic matter content of Bangladesh soil is one per cent or below. Initiatives have been taken by the government to cultivate green manuring crops in the current fallow lands in between two crops, encourage in marketing compost, vermi-compost, tricho-compost cultivation of Dhaincha (green manuring crop) with a view to preserving soil fertility. DAE is also emphasizing on crop rotation and crop diversification. Using soil test based recommended dose of fertilizer at the farmers' field level is also a very important initiative to conserve soil health.

The Ministry of Agriculture has taken initiatives to combat climate change risks in agriculture, which are- development of submergence, heat, cold, salinity tolerant and short duration rice varieties. Moreover, heat tolerant wheat varieties, short duration oil seeds and pulses, accommodating to cropping pattern for increasing cropping intensity covering current fallow lands, floating beds for vegetables and rice seedling production are among those. The initiatives of the government has been contributing in the productivity enhancement as well as poverty reduction through employment generation.

2.5 By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at the national, regional and international levels, and ensure access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as internationally agreed

Maintaining plant and animal genetic diversity will allow future generations to select stocks or develop new breeds to cope with emerging issues, such as climate change, diseases and changing socio-economic factors. In this context, it is important to know the percentage of local breeds at risk, not-at-risk or at the unknown level of risk of extinction at a point in time as well as its trend. In Bangladesh 47 crops are threatened, 35 are landraces crops and 17 are risk fish for extinction; 5 animal species are at risk.

2.a Increase investment, including through enhanced international cooperation, in rural infrastructure, agricultural research and extension services, technology development and plant and livestock gene banks in order to enhance agricultural productive capacity in developing countries, in particular least developed countries

Public investment in agriculture, which complements private investment, is of significant importance in enhancing productive capacity. The Government of Bangladesh seeks to promote the use of agricultural technology with supportive policies, reforms, and incentives for raising productivity. Agricultural Orientation Index (AOI) for government expenditure shows the type of government commitment to agriculture relative to other sectors.

AOI is the ratio of the share of government expenditures on agriculture to the contribution of agriculture to the economy where agriculture comprises crops, forestry, fishing, and hunting sector. It is calculated as: $AOI = ((\text{Central government expenditures on agriculture} / \text{Total government expenditure}) / (\text{Agricultural value-added} / \text{GDP}))$. An AOI exceeding one indicates that the government gives more importance to agriculture relative to its contribution to the economy. A value of less than one indicates other sectors receive more importance by the government. According to FAO, the Agriculture Oriental Index of Bangladesh was 0.53 in 2015, meaning agriculture receives half as much priority in government investment compared to its contribution to the economy's GDP.

Table 2.2 Net ODA to Agriculture, 2015-19 (Million US\$)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
215.0	227.3	210.2	189.6	228.1

Source: Flow of External Resources into Bangladesh, ERD

Developed countries have to provide adequate support to developing countries to close the gap between required investment and available domestic resources for public investment in agriculture. The total official flows to the agricultural sector in Bangladesh have a rising trend with annual fluctuations that peaked at US\$ 228.1 million in 2018-19.

2.b Correct and prevent trade restrictions and distortions in world agricultural markets, including through the parallel elimination of all forms of agricultural export subsidies and all export measures with equivalent effect, in accordance with the mandate of the Doha Development Round

In 2014-15, the Government of Bangladesh has provided agricultural export subsidies amounting to US\$ 54.71 million, which has increased to US\$ 76.9 million in 2017-18 and then declined to US\$ 73.7 million in 2018-19.

Challenges

- Raising crop production and productivity to feed the growing population in the context of shrinking agricultural land and climate change impacts
- Yield gap minimization
- Commercialization of agriculture
- Increasing resource use efficiency and judicious use of agricultural inputs
- Increased private investments in agriculture and agro-processing value chains
- Expanding irrigation and farm mechanization with appropriate technology including better use of renewable energy
- Intrusions of saline water into the groundwater table
- Data gap regarding SDGs targets & indicators
- Scarcity of quality feeds and fodders for livestock
- Scarcity of quality fish feeds, fingerlings and post larvae
- Emerging and re-emerging diseases with trans-boundary diseases
- Adverse impacts of climate change
- Inadequate organized post-harvest technologies and facilities

Sudden shock on production of rice due to natural disaster or other factors can make the market volatile, which ultimately brings the price shocks. In that case, the consumers particularly lower income/vulnerable groups suffer. Conversely, due to huge production the price level of paddy and rice can be lower which may discourage the farmers to produce paddy in course of time.

Way forward

- Sustaining targeted rice production through i) genetic improvement, ii) stress breeding, iii) hybridization and biotechnological interventions, iv) germplasm enhancement;
- Enhancing mechanization and labour efficiency to manifold the volume of output per unit of labour by i) developing business model, ii) cost-effective management and maintenance plan, iii) minimizing yield loss and post-harvest loss, and iv) capacity building;
- Strengthening research–extension–farm linkages;
- Curtailing adoption lag through location specific collaborative rapid dissemination by awareness building, seed support and market development;
- Improved rice crop–soil–water management for combating varied stresses;
- Ensuring fair price of rice and paddy through providing policy directions for proper govt. procurement and price declaration, value chain development and market control;
- Ensuring nutrition security through nutraceutical rice research activities, bio- fortification and value added rice based bakery production;
- Exploration of unutilized land resources and profitable rice based cropping patterns;
- Risk minimization through strategic development for averting production, market, price and institutional uncertainties/risks in coping with climate change;
- Development and promotion of environmentally sound farming practices;
- Promote community seed production, storage and distribution & build up seed SME;
- Ensuring quality seed and feed for fisheries sector;
- Building effective partnership with private sector & development partners;
- Conservation & up-gradation of genetic resources;
- To formulate a medium to long term strategy to reduce the food loss/waste in different sectors
- A nationwide awareness programme on dietary diversification should be implemented;
- Need to build the paddy silos across the country for procurement of paddy from the farmers (including marginal farmers) with a view to providing incentives to the local farmers.

Good practices

I) Weather-based rice crop management system

As a staple food, rice plays a crucial role in ensuring food security in Bangladesh. It also has a significant (25 per cent of total production) non-human consumption (e.g. livestock). The weather-based rice crop management system focuses on food security and responsiveness to climate change in Bangladesh. Weather-based rice crop management system has potential for reducing poverty by increasing the rice yield, avoiding insect and disease outbreaks, efficient agricultural water management, labour and energy, reduce losses, risks, reduce pollution with judicious use of agricultural chemicals through proper management in time and also provide guidelines for selection of rice varieties best suited according to the anticipated climatic conditions and reducing the overall production cost as well.

II) Pre-paid metering system for irrigation

The pre-paid metering system for collecting irrigation charges has been introduced first in Barind Multi-purpose Development Authority (BMDA) under the Ministry of Agriculture of Bangladesh.

BMDA is the pioneer organization that uses the pre-paid metering system to collect irrigation charges from the irrigation water users. It is a computerized automatic irrigation charge collection system. The system is highly technical and now this system is practicing in all irrigation equipment of Rajshahi and Rangpur division of BMDA. The next step of the prepaid meter is the prepaid tele-metering system by which all the data of the irrigation pump will be available at the server of BMDA. Therefore, there will be no need to go to the point of the irrigation pump to collect data.

Innovative cases: Attract and kill method for the control of cucurbit fruit fly (*Bactrocera cucurbitae*) and fruit flies (*Bactrocera dorsalis*) of mango, guava, and orange is found to be an excellent innovative case. In this method, fruit flies can be successfully controlled by attracting both male and female flies without spraying any toxic chemical pesticide. In traditional and widely used pheromone traps, only male fruit flies can be attracted and killed, while in this method both male and female fruit flies can be attracted and controlled. This innovation is an excellent output of the project, Development and expansion of bio-rational based integrated pest management technologies of vegetables, fruits, and beetle leaf.

Business cases: Industrialization in agriculture sector refers innovative idea “Farmers hub”. “Farmers hub” is a total business-related terminology in which the owner of a particular farmer’s hub provides quality seed, fertilizer, other equipment, lending machinery, improved drainage facility by means of business purpose.

In farmer’s hub, farmers get all sorts of information related to cultivation procedure, processing, grading, packing, preservation techniques. Farmers in a group gather together with a large number of crops and goods and they bargain with the buyers to get maximum price, which is impossible by individual farmers alone. Farmers group are formed in total business aspects. If in need farmer are trained with necessary training. “Farmers hub” established in a particular place. Establishment costs mainly goes to the owner itself. One of main features of this innovative idea is to use appropriate amount of irrigation water use through drip irrigation and others. In Bangladesh “farmers hub” introduced by Syngenta foundation. Syngenta foundation established 120 Farmers hub in Rajshahi and Rangpur region, which successfully introduced agriculture business in Bangladesh.

Leave No One Behind (LNOB): To achieve the target of SDG 2.1 particularly to address the issue of food access with a view to improving the food security and nutrition, Ministry of Food has launched Khaddya Bandhob Karmosuchi (Food Friendly Programme) for the extreme poor families across the country. Under this Programme five million ultra-poor families (about 25 million people) have been targeted as the recipients of ration for the five lean months (March, April, September, October and November) of the year. A nominal price of Tk-10/ per kilo of rice is charged where a poor family is entitled to 30 Kilos of rice per month. In fiscal year 2017-18 a total quantity of 2.98 lakh tonne (budgetary provision of Tk. 2,380.35 million) food grain was distributed and in current fiscal year 2018-19, a quantity of 7.44 lakh tonnes (budgetary provision Tk. 5,950.7 million) has been allocated and total quantity of 4.46 lakh tonnes rice was distributed up to December 2018.

4.3 Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Introduction

Sustainable Development Goal 3 aspires to ensure health and well-being for all at all ages by improving maternal and child health, ending the epidemics of major communicable diseases,

reducing non-communicable and mental diseases and ensuring access to reproductive health-care services. It also intends to reduce behavioural and environmental health risk factors. These objectives will be achieved through realizing other objectives such as providing universal health coverage, ensuring access to safe, affordable and effective medicines and vaccines for all, supporting research and development of vaccines and medicines for communicable and non-communicable, substantially increasing health financing and developing health workforces in developing countries. In addition, the capacity of developing countries for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global risks will need to be enhanced.

Context

Global study reveals that Bangladesh's public health investment is comparatively lower (with respect to GDP) than its comparable countries, but the country's health outcomes are better. Credits are given to low-cost intervention, particularly the innovation of Oral Rehydration Saline (ORS) invented in Bangladesh that has drastically reduced diarrhoea-related mortality. This reduction in mortality was attained by the aggressive distribution of rehydration materials along with the expanded programme on immunization through the partnership between government and NGOs. The next-door services provided by the Community Clinics, one for every 6000 rural people, with free medicines, one of the ten priority initiatives of Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, has spearheaded this achievement. The use of ICT in health services also gave a positive impact in the last decade. The Hon'ble Prime Minister of Bangladesh was awarded UN MDG Award in 2010 for a radical reduction of the under-five mortality rate. In 2011, Bangladesh received the South-South Award 'Digital Health for Digital Development' for success on the attainment of MDG- 4 & 5.

In 1990, Bangladesh's life expectancy at birth was 56.1 years; in 2018 it is 72.3 years (SVRS, 2018). An article in 'The Economist,' titled "Bangladesh shows how to keep children alive," pointed out "in 1990 the under-five death rate in Bangladesh was 54 per cent higher than the world average. Now (2016) it's 16 per cent lower."

There is a high level of commitment from the Government of Bangladesh to bringing healthcare as close to the communities as possible. National commitment and policy support are reflected in the 7th Five Year Plan, National Health Policy-2011, Bangladesh Population Policy 2012, National Nutrition Policy 2015, National Drug Policy 2016 and Health, Population and Nutrition Sector Programme. However, there are unfinished agenda of MDGs, particularly in the health sector. Incremental public financing in the health sector in a sustainable way is a daunting challenge.

Progress against targets

3.1 By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births

The Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) decreased from 181 per 100,000 live births in 2015 to 169 in 2018 (SVRS, 2018). The reduction in maternal mortality is attributed to multiple factors, including increased access and utilization of health facilities, improvements in female education and per capita income. Fertility reductions have also contributed substantially to the lowering of MMR by lowering the number of high risk, high parity births.

The number of births attended by skilled health personnel was 42.1 per cent in 2014 (BDHS, 2014), which increased to 53 per cent in 2017 (BDHS, 2017). According to the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS, 2019), the proportion is 59 per cent. With a view to speeding up the reduction of MMR, MoHFW has been pursuing to increase availability and utilization of quality maternal health services at different levels, including implementation of different strategies in alignment with the standard Essential Services Packages of the health sector programme. These essential services include: (i) ANC, PNC, and counselling, (ii) 24/7 delivery services at the UH&FWCs, UHCs and MCWCs, (iii) comprehensive referral system from community to different facilities, (iv) 24/7 BEmONC and CEmONC services, (v) deliveries by the CSBAs, (vi) capacity building of service providers, and (vii) advocacy with NGOs, local government institutions to mobilize resources and collaborative MNCH activities at remote areas.

Table 3.1 Maternal Health

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Maternal mortality ratio per 100000 live births (SVRS, BBS)	197	193	181	178	172	169	-
Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel (%)	43.5 (MICS)	42.1 (BDHS)	-	-	53 (BDHS)	-	59 (MICS)

3.2 By 2030, end preventable deaths of new-borns and children under 5 years of age, with all countries aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births and under-5 mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1,000 live births

The under-five mortality rate has persistently declined from 36 per 1,000 live births in 2015 to 29 in 2018 (SVRS, 2018), which already achieved the SDG target of 2025 set by the government. On the other hand, the neonatal mortality rate (NMR) decreased to 16 per 1,000 live births in 2018 from 20 in 2015 (SVRS, 2018); which also achieved the SDG target of 2025, set by the government. Several programmes/activities like essential service package, expanded programme on immunization, establishment of Special Care Newborn Unit at public hospitals, incremental provision of antenatal care services for pregnant women, control of diarrhoeal diseases, kangaroo mother care practice, practicing IMCI protocol, etc. are playing key role in decreasing under five mortality rate and neonatal mortality rate.

Table 3.2 Child Health

	2015	2016	2017	2018
Under five mortality rate per 1000 live births	36	35	31	29
Neonatal mortality rate per 1000 live births	20	19	17	16

Source: SVRS, BBS, various years

3.3 By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases

The prevalence of HIV/AIDS (all ages) has been very low in Bangladesh [<0.01 (all ages) and 0.015 (adults 15-49 years) per 1,000 uninfected population, UNAIDS, 2018]. However, it

remains vulnerable to an HIV epidemic because of its high prevalence in neighbouring countries and the high mobility of Bangladeshis within and beyond the country. For this reason, the government has continuously been monitoring the incidence and detection rates and addressing AIDS patients with adequate importance. Currently, free medicines and other services to HIV patients are being provided from seven government hospitals and HIV detection activities have been continuing through 23 hospitals.

The incidence rate of tuberculosis (TB) has been reduced to 221 in 2018 from 225 per 100,000 in 2015 (National Tuberculosis Programme, 2018). Malaria incidence per 1000 population was 2.29 in 2015 (National Malaria Elimination Programme-NMEP, 2015), which has also been declining. The incidence rate is now 0.92 (NMEP, 2018). The government interventions in collaboration with the Development Partners and NGOs for malaria eradication resulted in a decline in incidence nationally.

Hepatitis B incidence (per 100,000 population) among under-five children was 1.38 in 2015 (GHO, WHO). World Health Organization announced in July 2019 that Bangladesh is among the first four countries (Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, and Thailand) in the WHO South-East Asia region to achieve Hepatitis B control, with the disease dropping to less than one per cent among five-year-old children. Government interventions including the establishment of a multi-sectoral approach for activities related to prevention and control, the introduction of the vaccine to high-risk groups and the establishment of a surveillance system for Hepatitis virus-infected cases are continuing.

There is a huge burden of the Neglected Tropical diseases (NTDs) in Bangladesh, particularly for Kala-azar, Lymphatic Filariasis, and Dengue, etc. The number of people requiring interventions against NTD has been increased from about 50 million (WHO, 2016) to about 56.33 million (WHO, 2019). By 2030 it needs to be reduced to 35.0 million and efforts are on through various interventions such as integrated vector management, promotion of clinical management, and active engagement of the communities, etc. for reducing NTDs.

3.4 By 2030, reduce by one-third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being

Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) have now formed a major share of the overall disease burden and mortality. The mortality rate attributed to cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes or chronic respiratory disease was 21.6 in 2016 (WHO, 2019) and the situation is unchanged since then. Awareness programmes on helpful behavioural patterns, changing dietary habits, lifestyle change, etc. activities are being implemented for preventing NCDs. Facility readiness including training of doctors are going on for better treatment of NCD patients. As a matter of policy direction, more emphasis has been given to prevention and lifestyle change in the national health programme of MoHFW.

Suicide is the most common cause of unnatural death in Bangladesh with a higher proportion of women having the tendency to commit suicide. While mental disorders in the form of depression and anxiety are common causes of suicide in many societies, there are some proximate causes of suicide for women in Bangladesh such as physical and domestic violence. According to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA), the suicide mortality rate has been declining from 7.68 per 100,000 population in 2015 to 5.19 in 2019.

3.5 Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol

According to the Department of Narcotics Control (DNC) of the Security Services Division coverage of treatment interventions (pharmacological, psychosocial and rehabilitation and aftercare services) for substance use disorders was 16, 416 in 2015, which has increased to 38,035 in 2018. Per capita alcohol consumption remains same as 0.083 litres in 2016 and 2018.

3.6 By 2020, halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents

Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) being the leading organization has been taking various measures for road safety according to National Road Safety Action Plan (NRSAP). The 8th NRSAP (2017-2020) has been prepared in line with achieving the target of SDGs. Other than BRTA, different government organizations are involved to implement the 8th NRSAP including Bangladesh Police, R&H Department, LGED, Dhaka Transport Coordination Authority, Dhaka City Corporation (North and South), Accident Research Institute, National Curriculum and Textbook Board, Non-Formal Education Department, District Administrations, etc. and NGOs like BRAC. The plan is organized in accordance with nine key safety themes matching the five road safety pillars of UN Decade of Road Safety (2011-2020): (i) planning, management, and coordination of road safety, (ii) road traffic accident data system, (iii) road safety engineering, (iv) road and traffic legislation, (v) traffic enforcement, (vi) driver training and testing, (vii) vehicle safety, (viii) road safety education and publicity, and (ix) medical services for road traffic accident victims. National Road Safety Council has given 111 recommendations to improve the road safety condition in Bangladesh. Furthermore, the new Road Transport Act 2018 has been approved in October 2018, which has introduced tougher punishments for traffic rule violations compared to the existing one, aiming to ensure safe movement on the roads of Bangladesh.

As part of making enforcement activities effective, BRTA introduced a digital motor vehicle management system including a Retro-reflective number plate, Radio Frequency Identification tag, Digital Registration Certificate, Digital Smart Card Driving License. Twelve RFID stations have been established to track the movement of the motor vehicle in Dhaka City. Automatic Vehicle Inspection Centre (VIC) at Mirpur has been introduced. All the above-mentioned activities and actions have reduced the death rate due to road traffic injuries to 1.65 per 100,000 population in 2018 from 2.48 in 2015.

Table 3.3 Death rate due to road traffic injuries (per 100,000 population)

Year	Total	Male	Female
2015	2.48	4.03	0.93
2016	2.65	4.30	1.00
2017	1.37	2.23	0.51
2018	1.65	2.66	0.63

Source: Bangladesh Police, Public Security Division, Ministry of Home Affairs

3.7 By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes

The proportion of women of reproductive age who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods is targeted to reach 75 per cent by 2020 against the baseline of 72.6 per cent in 2014 (BDHS, 2014). According to BDHS 2017, the proportion is now 70.3 per cent. However, according to MICS 2019, the proportion is 77.4 per cent. The Government has been pursuing to progress through certain activities for the overall improvement of the reproductive health status of women, awareness about access to contraceptive methods, antenatal care, promotion of safe delivery practices, post-natal care, etc.

The SVRS, 2018 shows that the adolescent birth rate (aged 15-19 years) per 1,000 women in that age group is 74 against the baseline figure of 75 (SVRS, 2015). However, the MICS of BBS found the figure as static at 83 from 2012-13 to 2019. The MoHFW has been strengthening family planning services through expanding mother, child, reproductive and adolescent healthcare services in the city corporations. Various programmes focusing on safe sexual behaviour, health risks, proper nutrition and hygiene of the adolescents and puberty are under implementation through the adolescent friendly service centres.

3.8 Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has been implementing different activities including the Essential Service Packages through the 4th Health, Population and Nutrition Sector Programme (HPNSP), which represents government's commitment to ensure the right to health and access to the most essential health services for the entire population. The Service Coverage Index of WB-WHO (2019) assessed that Bangladesh achieved a score of 54 per cent on a UHC index of essential Health Services.

The grassroots level Community Clinics (CCs) based PHC service provision by the Government has created increased access of the poor, particularly women and children, and the CCs have taken off as the first-contact facility serving as a platform of community participation for achieving UHC and for ensuring equity and social justice. Besides, the social health protection scheme in the name of "Shasthyo Shuroksha Karmasuchi (SSK) is providing free hospital services to the poor- below poverty level cardholders. The Maternal Health Voucher Scheme (MHVS), in operation in 55 Upazilas, is another health protection scheme for ensuring the safe delivery of poor pregnant mothers. Various indicators as evident from the BDHS 2017-18 indicate a sharp reduction in health inequity in Bangladesh e.g., the proportion of births in health facilities by wealth quintile from 1:5 in 2014 to 1:3 in 2018.

In case of catastrophic expenditure on health, 24.7 per cent of people spent more than 10 per cent of their household's total expenditure on healthcare (Health SDG Profile, Bangladesh, WHO, 2019, estimated from HIES, 2016). For the sustenance of health financing, the government has been providing incremental budget to MoHFW every year at an average rate of about 15 per cent. Besides, many good examples exist in Bangladesh, e.g., the Community Clinic Model. Considering that only about 23 per cent of people in Bangladesh seek care from the public healthcare providers, public private partnership (PPP) models are now being pursued by the government, which would help improve coverage and access as well as improve quality of services.

3.9 By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination

The mortality resulting from exposure to ambient (outdoor) and indoor (household) air pollution from polluting fuels use for cooking is rising in Bangladesh. Mortality rates are calculated by dividing the number of deaths by the total population multiplied by 100,000 which stood at 68.2 in 2012 (WHO, 2012), which has increased to 149 in 2016 (WHO 2016).

Inadequate water, sanitation, and hygiene cause death, which can be prevented by improving those services and practices. Bangladesh has made considerable progress in coverage of water and sanitation services. However, hygiene services warrant much more attention. The mortality rate attributed to exposure to unsafe WASH services per 100,000 population is estimated at 11.9 in 2016 (WHO, 2016).

Deaths from unintentional poisoning give an indication of the lack of proper management of hazardous chemicals and pollution in the country. In an ideal health system, these deaths can be prevented with adequate management. The mortality rate attributed to unintentional poisoning per 100,000 populations was estimated at 0.30 in 2015 and the situation is unchanged since then (WHO, 2019). MoHFW has been implementing various activities including creation of community awareness about health hazards of air, water, soil related pollution, enforcement of law for prevention of pollution, supporting role in the implementation of relevant policies by other Ministries, coordination with non-health interventions of other Ministries, educating family members and school students on risk of poisonous substances, and decreasing access to poisonous substances through restriction on selling and storage of deadly chemicals with a view to reducing the mortality rate.

3.a Strengthen the implementation of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in all countries, as appropriate

The Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS), 2017 found that prevalence of tobacco uses among persons aged 15 years and older had decreased from 43.3 per cent in 2009 to 35.3 per cent in 2017, among whom 46.0 per cent are men and 25.2 per cent are women. The MoHFW has been implementing anti-tobacco programme based on WHO-FCTC (Framework Convention on Tobacco Control) and Tobacco Control Law of Bangladesh. Besides, awareness-raising activities among common people on potential harm of tobacco, anti-tobacco campaign among high school children, mass media campaign against smoking in public etc. are going on.

3.b Support the research and development of vaccines and medicines for the communicable and non-communicable diseases that primarily affect developing countries, provide access to affordable essential medicines and vaccines, in accordance with the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health, which affirms the right of developing countries to use to the full the provisions in the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights regarding flexibilities to protect public health, and, in particular, provide access to medicines for all

The proportion of the target population (\leq 12-month-old children) covered by all vaccines increased from 78 per cent in 2014 to 86 per cent in 2017 (BDHS, 2017). Bangladesh has been implementing an effective national immunization programme entitled “Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI)” since 1979. Strengthening the EPI activities with special focus on hard to reach and low performing areas, conducting sero-survey for all antigen specially Oral Polio

Vaccine, maintaining Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus Elimination validation status, ensuring Effective Vaccine Management (EVM), and monitoring and supportive supervision at all levels are being pursued routinely for achieving immunization target.

Total net official development assistance to medical research and basic health sectors was US\$ 177.4 million in FY 2014-15 which has increased to US\$ 248.7 million in FY 2017-18, and further increased to US\$ 402.02 million in FY 2018-19.

Table 3.4 Net ODA to medical research and basic healthcare, 2015-19 (Million US\$)

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
177.4	206.2	252.5	248.7	402.02

Source: Flow of External Resources into Bangladesh, ERD

3.c Substantially increase health financing and the recruitment, development, training and retention of the health workforce in developing countries, especially in least developed countries and small island developing States

There has been considerable recruitment of doctors, nurses, midwives, field-level health and family planning workers with the gradual decline in vacancies. Health worker density was 7.4 per 10,000 populations and the distribution of physician: nurse: health technologist was 1:0.5:0.2 in Bangladesh (HRH Datasheet, 2014, MoHFW). The density has now increased to 8.3 per 10,000 populations and the distribution is 1:0.6:0.3 (HRH Data Sheet, 2019, MoHFW), which needs to be raised to 44.5 and 1:3:5 respectively by 2030.

Apart from increasing the number of health and family planning professionals/workers, MoHFW has been concentrating on improving quality of public and private pre-service health workforce education system, capacity development to ensure better management at all levels of service delivery, review and updating of the Health Workforce Strategy addressing private and informal sector, operationalization of the Human Resources Information System (HRIS) for the evidence-based decision, and strengthening quality assurance of medical education at both private and public sector institutions through licensing and accreditation.

3.d Strengthen the capacity of all countries, in particular developing countries, for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks

Bangladesh has made considerable progress in national health regulations capacity building based on the gaps identified through Joint External Evaluation. The country reached nearer to global average score (60 per cent) on National Health Regulations capacity as assessed by the ‘State Party Self-Assessment Annual Reporting Tool’ and the values of the indicator stood at 58 per cent in 2018 (WHO, 2019). However, Bangladesh wants to have all the core requirements to be in place by 2030.

Challenges

- Demographic transition includes population shift to the urban area where primary healthcare services are not as well organized as in the rural areas of Bangladesh. Expansion of city areas up to Upazila level, rural-urban migration, and a rising urban population poses a new challenge for effective urban PHC service delivery. Absence or paucity of PHC service facilities in urban areas means that the disadvantaged are the

worst sufferers, which is evident from the health status of urban people living in the slums.

- Society is now facing a double disease burden because of the epidemiological transition. Non-communicable diseases as the major cause of death jointly with urbanization and increasing population with old age. The epidemiological transition has a huge direct impact on the financial vulnerability of the patients, especially the poor and has long-term implications on the health budget.
- The expanding and dominating role of the private sector (generally covering 86 per cent of health service provision) along with mushroom growth of clinics and diagnostic centres has made the health sector unregulated with limited supervision from the government. Quality of service provided by the private sector raises questions though they charge high prices for services.
- Out of pocket expenditure as a percentage of total health expenditure is 67 per cent. Reducing this high out of pocket expenditure with a view to achieving universal health coverage is a huge challenge.
- Improving service quality, standardization and accreditation for the quality of care with the full potential of skill-mix human resources through the implementation of health workforce strategy is a daunting task.
- Since disease pattern is changing, prevention and control of NCDs such as road accidents, drowning, ageing, and geriatric diseases need more attention.
- Health-poverty nexus has dual implications: poverty impedes for getting appropriate health services, on the other hand, huge health expenditure, particularly on NCDs, eventually pushes families to go beneath the poverty line.
- There are many cross-cutting issues with regard to delivering health services. Linkage with local government institutions (management of medical waste), with the Department of Environment (controlling air pollution), with Road Transport Division (reducing road traffic accident), etc. are very badly needed. Hence, lack of coordination and collaboration with other Ministries/Divisions/Agencies, NGOs, CSOs, the Private Sector, and Communities can be treated as a huge challenge.

Way forward

- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has been implementing various health-related programmes/projects/activities to overcome the challenges. In this respect, the 4th HPNSP serves as the first, and the foundation stone, of three subsequent programmes for realizing the targets of SDGs including the overarching goal of achieving UHC by 2030. Implementation of various health-related programmes towards achieving the SDGs is an ongoing process. As part of this process, MoHFW has identified certain actions in key areas to speed up efforts towards the implementation of SDGs. The identified areas are: (a) increasing yearly budget allocation for health programmes, (b) increasing capacity of professionals and improving service quality, (c) gaining efficiency in resource use and reducing wastage, (d) increasing coverage under financial risk protection, (e) increasing number of health and family planning professionals, (f) strengthening health system institutions, and (g) strengthening

mechanism to routinely collect SDGs data along with data management capacity building.

- The government has already recruited doctors, nurses, Community Health Care Providers, and midwives to improve Maternal and Neonatal Health. Quite a few numbers of personnel including Family Welfare Assistant and Family Welfare Visitors will be recruited to support family welfare services. To improve family planning services in hard to reach areas and low performing areas, adequate staff will be provided.
- National Strategy for Adolescent Health (2017-30) has been approved and the National Plan of Action is being prepared. Measures are being taken to create demand for family planning services among adolescent girls and newlywed couples, to bring RMG workers under these services and to increase access to family planning services in general.

Best practices/ best cases

Community Clinic based PHC Services: The establishment of community clinics (CCs) nationwide is a flagship programme of the government and is recognized globally as a model for providing low-cost primary healthcare services to the grassroots community population. At present more than 13,743 CCs are functioning all over the country, each for about 6,000 population. It is an excellent example of community engagement through the Community Group and Community Support Groups.



Posting of Community Health Care Providers (CHCPs) – the key human resources of a community clinic-with proper skill development training, and distribution of adequate medicines and contraceptives have made each CC a single service delivery point to deliver preventive, screening, promotional referral care services to the community.

It is estimated that an average of 45 patients/day, receive service from each CC and almost 95 per cent of them are women and children. For ensuring community engagement, each CC has one Community Group and three Community Support Groups with having 13 - 17 members including one elected local government representative. The CC based service provision has led to increasing access of the poor to public health services and community participation. The government has also passed the 'Community Clinic Health Assistance Trust Act, 2018' for ensuring the participation of rural people in healthcare services and for collecting donations for the Trust.

ICT – HIS and e-Health Programme: The success of Bangladesh in the use of information and communication technology for health is also recognized widely and has drawn global attention. Laptops and Android Tablets have been provided at community clinics and other field level workers. Programmes are active in enrolling information related to each pregnant mother and under-five children. A uniform 'Health Identifier Code' is being provided to every citizen which will be used in making the permanent health record software design linking with the national ID card database.

A full-fledged call centre named "Sasthyo Batayan" meaning "Health Window" has been functioning. "Skype Based Tele-consultation" has been introduced alongside the telemedicine service. Besides, paperless management information system in the health sector has also been taken. On 1st March

2020, Tangail district has been declared as paperless e-MIS in health in terms of information management regarding family planning, maternal and child health, adolescent and reproductive health services.

Intelligent Dengue Tracking and Management System (IDTAMS): Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) together with a2i Programme and with technical support from IDARE Bangladesh, has taken the initiative to devise a complex and complete digital framework to enable the healthcare delivery system to respond in real time and consistently support the stakeholders in data-driven decision making. The digital framework (<https://dengue.gov.bd/>) is the first comprehensive disease management system in Bangladesh. It will monitor, track, visualize and predict the incidence of dengue, which in turn will aid in the early public health mitigations to minimize morbidity and mortality related to the disease.

The IDTAMS operation starts from the data collection through a2i's advanced data ingestion system (ADIS) integrating the surveillance systems of DGHS, Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR), MIS, City Corporation, Bangladesh Meteorological Department, hospitals for historical case numbers and additional entomological survey data from communicable disease control. Such big and raw data then utilized to create disease outbreak prediction ahead of time using intelligent predictive analytics computation systems (iPACS) and create actionable intelligence that optimizes resources of hospitals for patient management and of City Corporation for mosquito termination programme. Such actionable intelligence is sent in a form of early warning, alerts for decision support, and visualizes through a visual analytics engine, which is also an enabler for data-driven decision making by the high-level policy makers.

Community Vision Centre (CVC): In Bangladesh, 1.5 per cent of adults are blind and 21.6 per cent have low vision. National Eye Care (NEC) is an operational plan under the Health Services Division of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to ensure that comprehensive eye care is available in every corner of the country. Primarily, NEC is working to prevent and eliminate avoidable blindness from the community. It was a great challenge for the NEC to provide comprehensive eye care to the marginalized and rural people with the existing set-up. As a result, all the indices of blindness eradication are very low in our country. To overcome this scenario, NEC has introduced the 'Community Vision Centre-CVC' set-up, a proven community eye care service delivery system to reach the marginalized people. The government has a plan to establish 200 CVC throughout the country by the year 2022. The Hon'ble Prime Minister, Sheikh Hasina inaugurated 20 CVCs on 29th August 2018. Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib Eye Hospital & Training Centre, a highly specialized tertiary level eye hospital serves as Base Centre for these 20 CVCs. Later, 30 more CVCs have been established on 1st March 2019 with base centres at Rangpur Medical College Hospital and Rajshahi Medical College Hospital. Presently, 50 CVCs are spread over in 18 districts under 50 UHCs.

Leave No One Behind (LNOB): Significant progress has been made in ensuring the rights of persons with a disability so that no one is left behind. Several initiatives have been undertaken on a priority basis such as health services to persons with disabilities in the community clinics; child development centres in government medical hospitals; etc. The Gender Equity Strategy (GES), 2014 along with a Comprehensive Gender Equity Action Plan for 10 years (2014-2024) and the Women Friendly Hospital Initiative programme are being implemented by MoHFW for addressing women's rights and discriminations suffered by women/girls. Under the on-going Women Friendly Hospital Initiative Programme, 28 women-friendly hospitals render specialized psychosocial counselling to women survivors of violence and link them with legal aid agencies. The implementation of community clinics-based services, provision of separate toilets, the establishment of breastfeeding corners, nutrition

corners, and other facilities in public hospitals have contributed to increasing access of poor women to health services. Social health protection schemes mentioned above are also aimed at leaving no one behind.

However, there are still other equity issues involving geographical, ethnic, gender, and different forms of marginalization. Gradual expansion of service coverage in the hard-to-reach areas, effective implementation of tribal health plan and health workforce management, etc. activities programme under the 4th HPNSP for addressing inequity issues are continuing.

4.4 Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

Introduction

Sustainable Development Goal 4 emphasizes attaining proficiency in primary and lower secondary education, ensuring access of both boys and girls to quality early childhood development and pre-primary education, ensuring access to quality technical, vocational and tertiary education and eliminating disparities in education and ensuring equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable population especially persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations. Employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship will require a substantial increase in skilled adult and youth population. Achieving literacy and numeracy by all youths and a substantial proportion of adults is also emphasized in the Agenda 2030. Providing skills and education to promote sustainable development and facilities that are child, disability, and gender-sensitive is also stressed. The goal cannot be achieved without increasing the supply of quality teachers including through international cooperation for teachers' training and increase in the number of scholarships available to developing countries for higher education in developed countries.

Context

“Investment in Education is the Greatest Investment” was recognized by the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman from the very beginning of the journey of Bangladesh. Since independence, Bangladesh has emphasized education for enhancing human capability and foster socio-economic development so that no one remains left behind. The Government of Bangladesh is committed to ensuring quality education through educational research and information-based decision-making.

The major educational streams in Bangladesh are (i) General Education (ii) Madrasa Education and (iii) Technical and Vocational Education stream. The first two are divided into primary, secondary, and tertiary levels. Secondary education in Bangladesh is divided into two major sub-levels: secondary education (grades 6–10) and higher secondary education (grades 11–12).

The secondary education bodies have been managing a huge number of secondary schools, school and colleges, colleges, technical and vocational institutions, madrasahs and universities. The total number of post-primary level institutions is 42,521 where 597,913 teachers are providing education to 19,711,063 students. However, out of the huge number of secondary schools, there are only 675 public management institutes. More than 96 per cent institutes are

privately managed. The government provides subsidies to 16,197 of the total privately managed schools.

The Government of Bangladesh prepared its propositions for enhancing the status of Higher Education with respect to the 20-year Strategic Plan for Higher Education (2006-2026) titled Higher Education Quality Enhancement Project (HEQEP), an initiative that expresses a strong commitment from the government to strengthen investments in higher education, identifies issues and challenges comprehensively and recommends solutions to the problems to be tackled over a period of 20 years. The targets to be achieved are aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the National Education Policy 2010 and the government's vision of establishing Digital Bangladesh by 2021. According to the 13th Semi-annual Monitoring Report (SAR) for January – June 2016, the project development objective of the HEQEP was to improve the quality and relevance of the teaching and research environment in higher education institutions through encouraging both innovation and accountability within universities and by enhancing the technical and institutional capacity of the higher education sector.

Progress against targets

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

Effective learning outcomes of students of different levels are focused here. It aims at measuring the percentage of children and young people who have achieved the minimum learning outcomes in reading and mathematics during or at the end of the relevant stages of education. At the secondary level, Learning Assessment of Secondary Institutions (LASI) was the main component of learning assessment, which published the last report in 2015. In this report, 54 per cent of students at the end of the lower secondary level show their minimum proficiency in Bangla reading where boys and girls perform 55 per cent & 54 per cent respectively. On the other hand, only 19 per cent students showed minimum proficiency in English reading. In Mathematics 57 per cent of students perform minimum proficiency whereas boys and girls both perform 62 per cent. National Assessment of Secondary Students (NASS) has been adopted under Secondary Education Development Programme (SEDP) to monitor the effective learning outcome at secondary level. According to MICS, 2019 of BBS, in the country primary school completion rate is the highest (82.6 per cent), which is followed by the lower secondary (64.7 per cent), and upper secondary (29.4 per cent) levels.

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

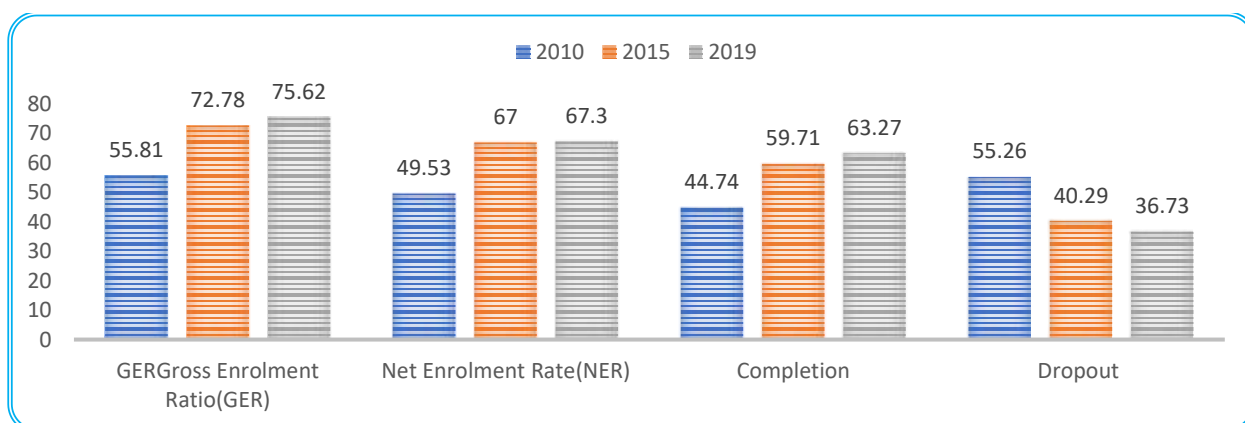
Early childhood development (ECD) education has been considered important in Bangladesh from the early years of its independence when the first education commission formed in 1974 recognized the importance of early childhood education and recommended its introduction in the country. Subsequent education commission reports including the latest “National Education Policy 2010” have also emphasized the inclusion of pre-primary education in the school system. Informal baby classes have existed for pre-school age children of less than 6 years

along with government primary school from long ago. The major objective of baby classes in primary school is to adapt children to the school environment to avoid dropout later on. As there is a growing demand for formal early education, many private organizations, NGOs along with the government are initiating more and more programmes to enhance the delivery of ECD education. ECD has shown a lot of promise in terms of equalizing learning outcomes, such as enrolment, retention, and cognitive development among children from diverse backgrounds. The learning gains have been shown to be high for children from the poorest backgrounds.

4.3 By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university

Bangladesh has made considerable progress in improving access to education for both boys and girls at all levels of education. At the secondary level, the gross enrolment ratio rose to 75.62 per cent in 2019 from 72.78 per cent in 2015. In 2019, the net enrolment rate (NER) at the secondary level was 67.30 per cent (for boys and girls together), while the gender parity index was 1.16. In 2019, the completion rate was 63.27 per cent, compared to 59.71 in 2015. The dropout rate reduced to 36.73 per cent in 2019 from 40.29 per cent in 2015.

Figure 4.1 Progress of Bangladesh in secondary education (per cent)



4.4 By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship

One of the pre-requisites for enhanced economic growth is to increase the productivity of labour and capital. Productivity can be increased through skills development, training and vocational education and exploitation of appropriate technology, particularly information and communication technology (ICT). One-third of Bangladesh’s population is young, and the government is pledge-bound to reach the Agenda 2030 to turn the country’s youth group into a well-organized, orderly and productive force. The young generation is being educated, skilled, work-oriented and self-reliant through different projects for training, loan facilities, grants, and employment. For the overall development of the young people, the time-befitting National Youth Policy-2017 has been formulated. New youth training centres have been established in eleven districts. The training programmes have been intensified at Upazila levels, with a view to creating employment and self-employment opportunities. In the last ten years, 2.4 million young men and women have been imparted training. To inspire the activities of

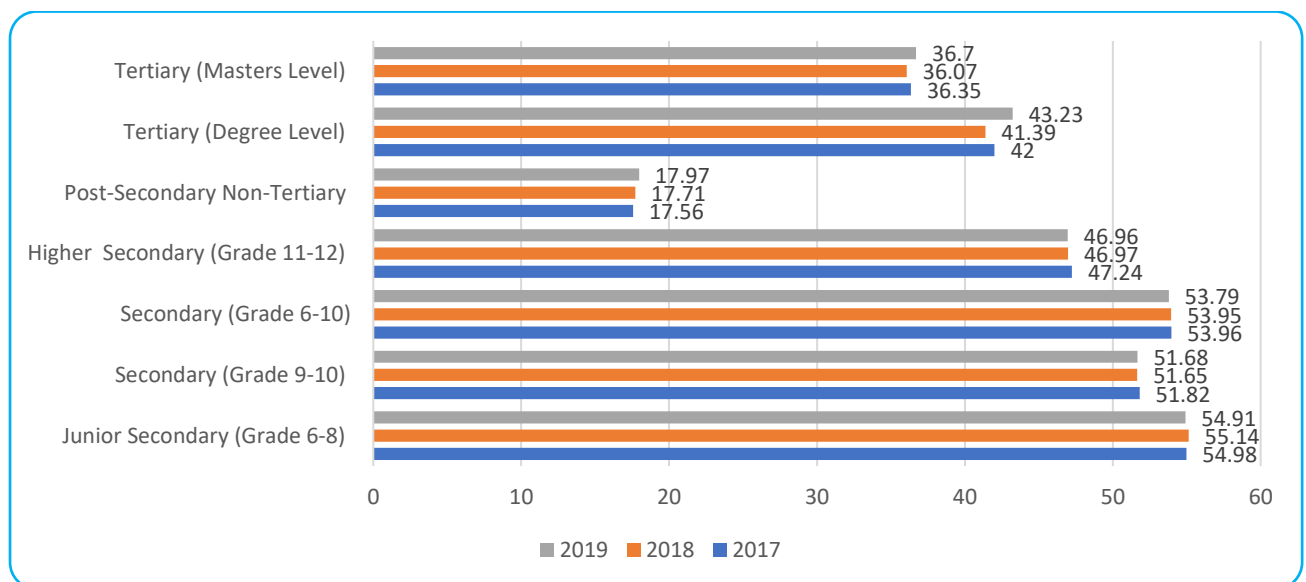
youth organizations, financial grants are also being given. From the 2009-10 fiscal year, the activities for the implementation of the National Service Programme have been going on, where young are given training and temporary employment for two years in different government and private organizations.

Skills, knowledge, and innovation are important preconditions for economic and social development. The Government of Bangladesh has formulated the National Skills Development Policy (NSDP) in 2011. The NSDP binds formal and non- formal education policies, youth and training policies under one integrated framework. It maps out the objectives and strategies for skills development in the future years and outlines the priority areas and main initiatives that the government will be executed alongside the industries, workers and civil society. National Skills Development Authority (NSDA) under the Prime Minister’s Office has been created to expedite the process of coordination among different stakeholders related to skills develops and needs. FBCCI has also taken initiative to work with Ministry of Education for further development of education ecosystem of the country. It has also emphasized on industry academia partnership for proper skill set.

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

It is highly important in Bangladesh to bring up young girls as educated women. Universal primary education was the great achievement of Millennium Development Goals (MDG). It is also committed to secondary education in the era of SDG. The growth in girl’s enrolment is commendable. Girls now constitute about 54 per cent of secondary enrolment. Stipend programme as well as various initiatives of our government accelerating the progress of girl’s participation in education.

Figure 4.2: Percentage of girl students by level



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

In the Technical, Vocational Education & Training (TVET) sector, the Ministry of Education has implemented a six-year-long “Skills and Training Enhancement Project (STEP)” from July 2010 to June 2016. As a part of this project, Tk. 70 million has been allotted as an implementation grant to 33 selected public and private polytechnic institutions to improve the quality and relevance of training. Until now, among other achievements, 93 diploma level polytechnic institutes (43 Public, 50 Private) were selected on a competitive basis as ‘eligible’ for stipend and 68,843 students were provided a stipend of Tk. 800 per month. 31,710 trainees received short course training and a stipend of Tk. 700 per month, along with 8,000 trainees currently receiving training. The Bangladesh Skills for Employment and Productivity (B-SEP) Project that started from January 2014 to continue until December 2018, aimed to improve the environment for industry skills development to enable increased employability of young and adult job seekers.

4.7 By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture’s contribution to sustainable development

At the point of progress monitoring for global citizenship education and education for sustainable development, Bangladesh is not showing progress due to lack of data availability as well as proper intervention in this regard. National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) is revising curriculum incorporating global citizenship education and education for sustainable development. Training modules for teachers training are going to be developed addressing these issues. Also need support and cooperation from the international partners for curriculum development.

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

The physical infrastructure of schools is a crucial component of academic success. Sustainable Development Goal 4 has mentioned so many facilities for effective learning environments for all. The Government of Bangladesh is committed to ensuring these facilities for the joyful learning environment in schools. Bangladesh Education Statistics (BES) 2019, published by Bangladesh Bureau of Educational Information and Statistics (BANBEIS) presented some quality indicators at the secondary level. It was found that 93.25 per cent schools have electricity facilities, 37.64 per cent schools use the internet for pedagogical purposes though 80.83 per cent of schools have the internet connectivity, 76.72 per cent schools use the computer for pedagogical purposes, 18.48 per cent schools have Ramp for the students of special needs, 97.42 per cent schools have basic drinking water facility, 95.93 per cent schools have single-sex basic sanitation facilities, and 28.66 per cent schools have basic handwashing facilities.

Special education and integrated education models exist in Bangladesh. Inclusive education has been accepted by enacting laws and declarations by the government like other developed countries, but we are struggling to manage the resources to implement inclusive education.

4.b By 2020, substantially expand globally the number of scholarships available to developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and African countries, for enrolment in higher education, including vocational training and information and communications technology, technical, engineering and scientific programmes, in developed countries and other developing countries

In 2014-15, the official development assistance flows for scholarship in Bangladesh was US\$ 8.76 million, which has reduced to US\$ 7.6 million in 2015-16. We need support and cooperation from the international partners for scholarships, curriculum development and recognition of Bangladesh's certificates.

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

Teachers play a key role to ensure quality education. Recruitment of meritorious students in the teaching profession, as well as sufficient training for teacher, can ensure quality teachers for quality education. Ideally, all teachers should receive adequate, appropriate and relevant pedagogical training to teach at the chosen level of education and be academically well-qualified in the subject (s) they are expected to teach. This indicator measures the share of the teaching workforce, which is pedagogically well trained. Bangladesh Education Statistics (BES) 2019 shows that 62.01 per cent teachers at the lower secondary levels are pedagogically trained; percentage of male and female trained teachers are 60.65 and 63.78 respectively. At the upper secondary level, 59.01 per cent teachers are pedagogically trained; where male and female trained teachers are 56.90 per cent and 72.56 per cent respectively. A holistic pedagogical training programme has been designed by the Ministry of Education in collaboration with National University, Bangladesh Open University, National Academy of Educational Management, Bangladesh Madrasah Teachers Training Institute, Higher Secondary Teacher Training Institute, and other teachers training institutions. We need support from international partners for training of the trainers/teachers.

Challenges

- Despite progress in enrolment of both boys and girls at the primary level, there are about 4 million children out of school throughout the country with specific groups of children facing greater constraints to access such as working children, disabled children, indigenous children and children living in remote areas or slums or living in poverty.
- The enrolment rate in secondary schools indicates that a large proportion of primary students cannot make a transition to secondary schools. There is also gender, the rural-urban and economic status disparity in enrolment of secondary school children aged 11-15 years. The enrolment of children from poor households is 76.8 per cent compared to 86.9 per cent from non-poor households (HIES, 2016). A striking difference exists

between enrolment of poor children in rural (79.0 per cent) and urban (68.1 per cent) areas indicating urban poor households are worse off in sending their children to schools. Further, a large proportion of students cannot graduate from secondary schools. Tertiary education is characterized by low enrolment rate and gender disparity as well as disparity across the economic status.

- Quality is a major concern at all levels of education beginning at the primary level, which spills over to successive levels of education. A significant proportion of primary children cannot achieve minimum proficiency in reading and mathematics resulting in high dropout rates. The proportion of grade 9 students who mastered grade 8-level competencies in Bangla, English, and Mathematics are respectively 44, 44, and 35 per cent. It is evident that the proportion of students mastering relevant competencies is larger than grade 5 (compared to 25 per cent in Bangla and 33 per cent in Mathematics). This can be partly attributed to poorly performing students dropping out before reaching grade 9. Certain constraints on the provision of quality education at the secondary level have been identified: (i) acute shortage of trained teachers, especially in science, math, English and computer science; (ii) issues of articulation, consistency and content burden in curricula across primary and secondary education; (iii) an adequate teacher management system for recruitment, registration, and performance evaluation; (iv) lack of teaching standards; and (v) shortages of teaching-learning materials and equipment.
- Secondary education is provided mostly (96 per cent) by private schools with support from government subsidies. The schools lack teachers with professional training, adequate knowledge in their subjects and pedagogical skills. Application of knowledge and skills acquired in training to classroom teaching learning does not always happen.
- In an increasingly globalized economy, Bangladesh needs human resources with higher competencies, skills, and knowledge. This means people have to upgrade their skills and knowledge at every stage of their lifespan to be able to contribute to the development and welfare of the country. In this context lifelong learning, training and education become an integral part of the education system, where Bangladesh lacks a lot.

Way Forward

- One-year pre-primary education has to be expanded to gradually cover all children to bolster early learning and healthy brain development. Simultaneously, the problem of malnutrition has to be adequately addressed early on to foster the physical and mental development of children, which will facilitate learning at the primary and higher levels.
- The primary and secondary education systems will focus on (a) access to ensure that all school-age children of different socio-economic groups, regions, ethnicity and health status attend schools; (b) retention; and (c) improved teaching-learning of foundational skills through appropriate curriculum and pedagogy skills, management of teachers focusing on fair selection and recruitment, pre-service training, professional development, and assessment.
- School and teacher performance at school level can be improved through (a) articulating and consistently measuring standards of performance for students and

teachers and schools; (b) enhancing teacher performance through quality pre-service and relevant in-service training and continuous lifetime education.; and (c) enhancing accountability and incentives for good performance of teachers and schools.

- Quality and relevance of tertiary education can be improved through (a) infrastructural development at the universities (b) establishing more public universities focusing on science and technology (c) updated curricula to provide knowledge, skills and relevant competencies (d) restructuring University Grants Commission to ensure accountability and transparency in the higher education sector led by eminent educationists (e) inclusion of experts, employers, and expert alumni in curriculum design (f) establishing effective institutions-industry linkages through partnership in research and development, experience sharing, and internships (g) implementing the Quality Assurance Mechanism (h) develop promotion system based on comprehensive performance assessment, and (i) operationalization of competency-based skills qualifications and recognition system in the TVET sector.
- High-quality research and innovation has to be encouraged in both public and private universities through (a) development of research infrastructure and enabling research environment (b) access to competitive research funding (c) inter-university, university-industry and university-national research organizations research collaboration (d) partnerships with foreign universities and international institutions, and (e) partnerships with Non-resident Bangladeshis.
- The nature and role of lifelong education will be identified as an integral part of the education system. Management will be improved through the implementation of the Education Act which is under process and strengthening management capacities at the ministry and institution levels.
- In order to ensure quality education for all, the holistic and balanced development programme has been adopted named Secondary Education Sector Development Programme (SEDP): qualitative goal and qualitative improvement. The main objectives were to increase enrolment, completion rates and transition to higher levels by providing stipends, improving infrastructure and incentives, teachers' training programme with international accredited bodies and closer monitoring of poor performing academic units and addressing their shortcomings.
- Operational action for meeting SDG-4 targets and indicative strategies under Capacity Development for Education (CapED) has been undertaken with the support of UNESCO. “SDG-4 Strategic Framework for Bangladesh” and “National Strategy for the Development of Education Statistics and Action Plan” for Bangladesh are being developed and monitored under CapED Programme.

Innovative Case

Teachers’ Portal: A powerful tool for reforming teacher development

Kazi Monira is an assistant teacher at Muktagacha High school in Mymensingh. Like most teachers, her life also revolved around her students and the school. As technology and the use of computers progressed in education, she found herself struggling to keep up due to her inability to operate

computers. Hence, she wanted to take classes to learn and adapt to computer technology to help her in her profession.

Right at that time, she came to know about a new platform called 'Teachers Portal' which was initiated to bring together the country's teachers and allow access to quality content, peer-mentoring, self-paced learning through practice, peer-collaboration, and motivation through healthy competition. A complete newbie to computers in 2014, Monira quickly learned the technology and today, she is one of the most liked teachers on the platform. Today, she regularly provides valuable insights to other teachers seeking to improve their skills. "Teachers' Portal has changed my life and has also increased my self-confidence and that made a huge impact on my life." says a grateful Monira.

Leave No One Behind (LNOB)

- Free Textbooks distribution for every year: 353.94 million books are distributed in 2020
- Free Braille Books distribution for every year: 9504 Braille Books are distributed in 2020
- Free distribution of books on Ethnic Language for every year: 230,103 are distributed in 2020
- Establishing Ramp in Schools
- Second Chance Education for one million out of school children
- Midday Meal Support expanded at 6000 institutions
- Disbursement of stipend in the FY2018-2019 to 221,359 students amounting to Tk. 2194 million.

4.5 Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Introduction

Women's human capabilities deal with women's and girl's access to healthcare, life expectancy, nutrition, reproductive health, education, information, training, and other services that enable women to achieve better health and educational outcomes. This also includes women's freedom from violence and coercion. Discrimination against women in law and in practice tends to confine them to unskilled, underpaid or unpaid work. Women's economic benefits relate to women's access to or control over productive assets, resources, services, skills, property, employment, income, information, technology, financial services, and other economic opportunities including community resources such as land, water, and forest. Achieving women's empowerment and realizing the human rights, dignity and capabilities of diverse groups of women is a central requirement of a just and sustainable world. The Sustainable Development Goal 5 is a stand-alone goal on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. In addition, there are gender equality targets in other goals and a more consistent call for sex disaggregation of data across many indicators.

Context

Bangladesh has been a signatory to several important international conventions and agreements on women's and girls' rights and development. It ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in 1984, endorsed the Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA) in 1995, and committed itself to the MDGs in 2000 and SDGs in 2015.

The Government of Bangladesh has adopted several legal and policy measures to uphold the rights of women in the country. Laws formulated include the Domestic Violence (Prevention

and Protection) Act 2010, and the Domestic Violence Prevention and Protection Rules 2013, Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act 2012, Hindu Marriage Registration Act 2012, National Acid Crime Prevention Act (amended) 2010, and the Pornography Control Act 2012, National Children Policy 2011, Child Marriage Restraint Act, 2017, DNA Act, 2014 and Dowry Prohibition Act 2018. Other laws are addressing national and sectoral issues also paid sufficient attention to women's rights wherever relevant. Notable action of the government was the adoption of the National Women Development Policy 2011 and the Action Plan to implement the policy.

According to the Global Gender Gap Index 2020, Bangladesh ranks 50th out of 152 countries. Bangladesh (overall score of 72.6 per cent) is the only one of the seven South Asian countries to feature in the top 100 of the Global Gender Gap Index. The performance in the political empowerment is helped by the fact that Bangladesh (1st), India (4th), and Sri Lanka (9th) are among the 10 countries with the most years with a female head of state in the past 50 years. Indeed, Bangladesh is the only country in the world where that number exceeds the number of years with a male head of state (25.6 compared with 24.4).

The socio-political environment, legal and policy support, and congenial social norms are key factors for creating an enabling environment for women's advancement. Oversight, enforcement of laws, regular collection of sex-disaggregated data, gender and social analysis skills including the capacity to develop, implement, and monitor gender strategies, understanding of gender issues in the sector are the key areas.

Progress against targets

5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere

Article 27 of the Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh provides a general guarantee of equality by declaring that all citizens are equal before the law and entitled to equal protection of the law. Article 28 and 29 of the Constitution enshrines the principle of non-discrimination. Article 28 says that the state shall not discriminate against any citizen on the grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth and that women shall have equal rights with men in all spheres of the State and of public life. Having ratified a wide variety of international instruments, Bangladesh is also committed to ensure non-discrimination and promote gender equality in all its laws, policies and practices.

Apart from its Constitutional and international treaty's mandate, Bangladesh has also enacted several special statutes mainly as a measure to prevent violence against women. The Women and Children Suppression of Repression Act, 2000 is a unique special statute, establishing specialized tribunals with the speedier trial procedures and heavier punishments. Bangladesh also has two special laws dedicated to combating violence caused by acid throwing- the Acid Prevention Act, 2001 and the Acid Control Act, 2002. In 2017, the Dowry Prohibition Act was enacted repealing the earlier Act of 1980 providing for harsher punishments. Bangladesh also has the Children Act, 2013 repealing the earlier Children Act 1974, making provision for protecting children coming in conflict or in contact with the law. Further, to protect rights of people with disabilities, the Rights and Protection of the Persons with Disabilities Act, 2013 was enacted which provides for prohibition of any kind of discrimination on grounds of

disability by any authority or institution. Other than the legislations, the National Women's Development Policy 2011 and its National Action Plan provides a base for government action to promote gender equality, and the 7th Five Year Plan integrates gender equality issues across a number of sectors with some new sartorial policies addressing gender issues.

5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation

In male-dominated societies violence against women by a current or former intimate partner may be perceived as a common component of marital or other formal union relationships and thus represents one manifestation of gender inequality. Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics has conducted two surveys –one in 2011 and the other in 2015, to identify the incidence of violence against women. In 2011, the percentage of women subjected to any form of violence by her current intimate partner in the last 12 months from the survey period stood at 77.34 and that perpetrated by a past intimate partner was 34.67. In 2015, 54.7 per cent of ever-partnered women and girls were subjected to any form of violence by their husbands. There is no corresponding data for violence inflicted on by past intimate partners in 2015. The lower value of the indicator in 2015 implies a reduction in the number of occurrences between the two survey periods indicating an improvement in women's situation.

Sexual violence is defined as any sort of harmful or unwanted sexual behaviour that is imposed on someone. In Bangladesh, it has been interpreted as forced engagement in sexual acts imposed by the perpetrator. In 2015, 2.5 per cent of women and girls aged 15 years and older were subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months (BBS 2016).

5.3 Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation

The proportion of women aged 20-24 years who were married or in a union before age 15 and before age 18 stood at 23.8 per cent (MICS, 2012-13) and 58.6 per cent (BDHS, 2014) respectively. There has been some improvement in the ratio as in 2019 it stood at 15.5 per cent for before age 15 years and 51.4 per cent for before age 18 years (MICS, 2019).

5.4 Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate

Time Use Survey (TUS) conducted by BBS in 2012 shows that while men spend on average 5 per cent of their time, women spend 25.8 per cent of their time on such work. Recent Labour Force Survey (LFS) 2016-17 indicates women spent 23.6 per cent of their time and male spent 6.9 per cent of their time on unpaid domestic and care work. The 2020 milestone (25 per cent for women and 6 per cent for men) has already been achieved ahead of time.

5.5 Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision making in political, economic and public life

Bangladesh is the example of a country with a dominant leadership of women in the national parliament and government. Currently, the Speaker of the National Parliament, the Prime

Minister, and the Leader of the Opposition and the Deputy Leader of the House are all women.

Table 5.1 Proportion of Female Members in the Parliament, 1991-2019

	1991	1996	2001	2008	2014	2015	2016	2017	2019
No of female members	42	43	41	64	70	71	71	72	73
No of total seats	330	330	330	345	350	350	350	350	350
Percentage	12.73	13.03	12.42	18.55	20.00	20.29	20.29	20.57	20.88

Source: Bangladesh Parliament Secretariat (BPS)

The situation of women empowerment and gender equality appears promising from this perspective. However, the broader participation of women in the National Parliament was quite limited in the early nineties. Though still low, it is heartening to note that women’s participation in the Parliament stood at 20.88 per cent in 2019 compared to 12.73 per cent in 1991. In the last Parliament, the share of reserved seats for women was raised to 50 from 45. However, the current Parliament has 23 directly elected women Parliamentarians. In order to ensure greater participation of women in important decision-making positions, initiatives are now underway to increase the representation of women in the legislative, judiciary and executive branches of the State.

5.a Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws

Article 28 (2) of the Constitution of People’s Republic of Bangladesh guarantees that “Women shall have equal rights with men in all spheres of the State of public life”. Besides, to ensure economic empowerment of women National Women Development Policy 2011 has clearly indicated to give women the rights to wealth and resources earned through income, succession, loan/credit, land and market management. Based on the policy direction and constitutional commitment, the government has taken a number of programmes to encourage women involvement in economic activities thereby empowering them in controlling over the resources.

“My House My Farm Project” has been expanded to 40,000 villages in the country where out of 1,038,000 beneficiaries, 692,000 are women. The Shelter Home Project in two phases rehabilitated 180,130 families in the coastal areas. Nine thousand acres of government land has been allocated to 6,185 landless families through the development of strip of sandy land development and the habitation project. Families with no land are rehabilitated permanently with government land on the embankment of rivers. 142,073 families have been rehabilitated with 69,591 acres of land. In these programmes, lease deeds are registered under the names of both husband and wife. In Dhaka city, 2016 flats have been built for low-income families and slum-dwellers. 190 cluster-villages have been built to rehabilitate 8,222 families who are victims of disaster and natural calamities. Permanent land with the built-in houses including lease deed agreement was given to 1,845 women under Cluster Village Project.

5.c Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels

The government has taken steps to incorporate gender dimensions in the formal budgeting process. In 2005, the Government of Bangladesh introduced Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) in an effort to mainstream gender issues in all policies and decision-making. A set of guidelines has also been issued to ensure development projects are prepared and reviewed in a gender-sensitive way. The number of ministries undergoing GRB has increased to 43 in FY 2019 from only four in FY 2010. The share of expenditure on women's development as a proportion of the total budget has increased to 29.65 per cent in FY 2019, from 24.65 per cent in FY 2010.

Bangladesh participated in the 2018 Monitoring Round of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation (GPEDC), which allowed reporting on, among others, indicator 5.c.1. The study reveals that as of 2018, Bangladesh fully meets the three requirements for having systems to track and make public allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment: (i) gender-responsive policies and corresponding resource allocations to support their implementation (met); (ii) government mechanisms to track allocations to gender equality and women's empowerment through public financial management (met); (iii) transparency concerning information on allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment (met).

Challenges

- Violence against women (VAW) in different ways—physical, sexual and mental/psychological, has been high both at home and outside in Bangladesh while women empowerment is also progressing. As violence originates from multiple sources and has multiple causes, its elimination requires multiple actions. These include the motivation of family, enhancing community support, enforcement of legal provisions, improving women's capabilities, access to low-cost prosecution services and economic self-reliance of women. The government has adopted many initiatives but more works need to be taken given the scale and complexity of the problem.
- Because of specific efforts of the government to prevent child marriage and the general improvement in the socio-economic conditions of the people, the proportion of marriage of girls aged below 18 years has been declining. Bangladesh will continue to adopt legislation, policies and programmes to address the issues that underlie behind child marriage such as lack of or poor education, poverty, natural disasters and climate change, gender discrimination, harassment and intimidation, and social pressures.
- Public opinion against VAW in workplaces and public spheres needs to be created to discourage and eventually eliminate such outrageous activities. Creation of community awareness and motivation against VAW, enactment of laws to address sexual harassment, full prosecution of VAW committed in public spheres and publicizing the punishment are some of the areas of action to improve the workplace and public place environment.

- The gender digital divide is still an important challenge, with women facing challenges in accessing information and communication technologies (ICT), which affects their educational and employment opportunities.

Way Forward

- The capacity of the government in the implementation of laws and policies aimed at promoting gender equality and women's empowerment needs to be strengthened. At the same time, active advocacy and monitoring by civil society need to be promoted.
- Many of the harmful practices in Bangladesh are largely due to cultural practices that favour boys over girls. They are deep-rooted in the traditional patriarchal society of Bangladesh. The government will facilitate the process of social change, through a partnership with relevant stakeholders.
- For women's economic participation, small-scale entrepreneurship with incentives and access to market and finance for women, workforce safety measures, childcare support to remove barriers, vocational and technical education to increase women's chance for decent economic participation while reducing their vulnerability to violence and trafficking, etc., will continue to be implemented.
- In order to provide immediate relief, rehabilitation, and protection of the survivors of discrimination, violence, and trafficking, or those vulnerable to such a comprehensive package including the medical, psycho-social and legal services as well as shelter and livelihood support has been introduced.
- Given the fact that women in Bangladesh consist of a large part of the informal workforce, social protection and safety net programmes will have to be made more gender-sensitive by accounting for gender differences in labour market participation, access to information and unpaid care responsibilities.
- The capacity of officials of the Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs along with the gender focal points of different Ministries/Divisions will need to be improved to enable them to engender programmes and project formulation.
- Eradication of poverty with special emphasis on the eradication of feminization of poverty by strengthening the Social Safety Net programme is an important agenda of the government. Programmes such as Allowance to Widows & Destitute Women, Maternity Allowance to poor mothers and Vulnerable Group Development Programme have been providing food security to a large number of poor women. The selection of beneficiaries will need to be unbiased so that value for money can be ensured.

Good Cases

She Power: Sustainable Development for Women through ICT Project

She power project has created awareness and opportunity for women employment in IT sector. Through this project, Higher Secondary Certificate passed 10,500 women selected from 21 greater districts of our country have been trained. Capacity building and increase women's involvement in ICT ecosystem was done by providing training of the women with three different components namely: 1)

Freelancer to Entrepreneur, 2) IT Service Provider and 3) Women Call Centre agent. Each of the components training was conducted through three levels as follows:

Level-1 (Technical Training): Selected women got training for twelve weeks (432 hours) to start work in a suitable IT sector with the support of local entrepreneur/freelancer/professionals. After getting training they sat for an exam. After passing exam women started work with local entrepreneur as internee. Project provided internship allowance of Tk. 3,000/- per month for two months.

Level-2 (Entrepreneurship Training): Those who successfully completed level-1 training and worked with local entrepreneurs for at least two months got chance for another four weeks (144 hours) entrepreneurship training. After training, they sat for level exam. After passing level exam women continued internship with local entrepreneur as internee for another two months. Project provided internship allowance Tk. 4,000/- per month for two months.

Level-3 (Rap-up Training): Women who survived and worked as internee for 2 months got further two weeks of rap-up training. This training is meant to open up more venues in the real market. After successfully completing the rap-up training, they got certificate and become able to start business as a co-entrepreneur with partner and gradually they became independent entrepreneurs/professionals.

After completing Rap-up Training, Tk. 20,000/ has been given to each trainee by the project as a machinery grants. All grants has been given to the trainees through their own bank accounts directly. Other two components- IT Service provider and Women Call Centre Agent training and Internee have been completed as like as Freelancer to Entrepreneur component. After completion of eight and half months training and internship, more than 50 per cent trainees became self-employed. Most of them became entrepreneur, earned money in both local and foreign currencies.

4.6 Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

Introduction

Sustainable Development Goal 6 aims to tackle challenges related to drinking water, sanitation and hygiene for population, as well as to water-related ecosystems. Without quality, sustainable water resources and sanitation, progress in many other areas across the SDGs, including health, education and poverty reduction, will also be held back. To ensure sustainable management of water and sanitation for all, it is essential to look at the water cycle in its entirety, including all uses and users. Hence, we need to move away from sectoral development and resources, and together with target SDG 11.5 on water-related disasters, it covers all the main aspects related to freshwater in the context of sustainable development. Bringing these aspects together under one goal is a first step towards addressing sector fragmentation and enabling coherent and sustainable management of water resources, in favour of a more integrated approach that can balance different needs in a just manner. Thus going beyond just drinking water and basic sanitation, SDG 6 includes water, wastewater, and ecosystem to ensure sustainable water future.

Context

Bangladesh has done remarkably well in ensuring access for its population to drinking water and sanitation over the years. Before the discovery of Arsenic, the country enjoyed almost

universal access to drinking water. Open defecation has become almost nil. Because of such improvements, the casualty from enteric diseases has fallen rapidly.

Bangladesh has already identified hydro-geologically and socio-economically difficult areas (Hard to Reach Areas) and people while preparing the “National Strategy for Water and Sanitation in the Hard-to-Reach Areas of Bangladesh, 2012”. Government investment in water, sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) has also been increasing over the last couple of years. However, WASH investment in geographically difficult areas like char, haor (wetland), coastal belt and hilly areas is much lower compared to other areas. There is a gap in ensuring appropriate toilet technologies for differently-abled people at an affordable cost. The threat poses by climate change particularly in disaster-prone areas also needs serious attention for sanitation.

At the World Economic Forum in Davos, January 2016, the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and the President of the World Bank Group Jim Yong Kim, announced their intention to form a High-Level Panel on Water (HLPW), to mobilize urgent action towards the Sustainable Development Goal for Water and Sanitation (SDG-6) and related targets.

The HLPW was launched on 21 April 2016 at the UN Headquarters for a period of two years and comprises 11 Heads of State/Government, as well as a Special Advisor. Sheikh Hasina, the Hon’ble Prime Minister of Bangladesh, was nominated as one of the important members of the High-Level Panel on Water (HLPW) from Asia. The outstanding successes of Bangladesh in achieving the MDGs during the period of 2000-2015 under the dynamic leadership of Hon’ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina catalysed hold on her strong position in the 11-member HLPW. The major task of the HLPW is to achieve SDG-6 particularly and other SDGs that rely on the development and management of water resources.

Progress against targets

6.1 By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all

According to the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme (UNJMP) for Water Supply and Sanitation, access to water in Bangladesh was 87 per cent in 2015. However, UNJMP data was based on an improved source of water, which was a proxy of safe water. According to the metadata of SDG 6.1.1, the proportion of the population using safely managed drinking water services is measured by the proportion of the population using an improved basic drinking water source which is located on-premises, available when needed and free of faecal (and priority chemical) contamination. ‘Improved’ drinking water sources include: piped water into dwelling, yard or plot; public taps or standpipes; boreholes or tube wells; protected dug wells; protected springs; packaged water; delivered water and rainwater. A water source is considered to be ‘located on-premises’ if the point of the collection is within the dwelling, yard, or plot, and ‘Available when needed’ means households are able to access sufficient quantities of water when needed. The value addition of the indicator is to address the human right to water including accessibility, availability, and quality.

Following the metadata of SDG 6.1.1, the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) conducted in 2019 by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) found that nationally 47.9 per cent people

have access to safely managed drinking water services, which is 44.7 per cent in urban and 48.8 per cent in rural.

6.2 By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations

According to the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme (UNJMP) for Water Supply and Sanitation, access to sanitation in Bangladesh was 61 per cent in 2015. However, following the metadata of SDG 6.2.1, the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) conducted in 2019 by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) found that nationally 84.6 per cent people have access to safely managed sanitation services (urban: 90.6 per cent & rural: 82.9 per cent). The same survey report reveals that nationally 74.8 per cent of the population used hand-washing facilities with soap and water, which is 87 per cent in urban and 71.4 per cent in rural.

The sudden influx of almost a million Rohingya refugees in Teknaf area has put enormous pressure on drinking water and sanitation facilities. Arranging safe drinking water and proper sanitation in a geographically challenging area has been proven to be extremely difficult despite the best efforts of national and international agencies. Tube wells are becoming dry and latrines are overflowing creating an unhygienic situation for the refugees.

6.3 By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally

Bangladesh has laws in place for safe disposal of wastewater since the formulation of Environmental Rules in 1997. Nevertheless, many industries are under process to have wastewater treatment facilities to comply with the set standards under these rules. Among the urban areas, only Dhaka city has a wastewater treatment facility, which serves only 20 per cent of the city.

The relocation of tanneries from Hazaribag of Dhaka to Savar, outskirts of the capital has been completed. Hazaribag has been in operation for the last 60 years. This shifting was necessitated due to the heavy pollution of the Buriganga River from tannery wastes from Hazaribag. This is the first example of shifting an entire industrial unit in order to save a river from industrial pollution. A central ETP has been established at Savar, which will treat the effluents before discharging into the Dhaleswari River.

6.4 By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity

Bangladesh is endowed with rich water resources. Internal renewable water resources are estimated at 105 km³/year (based on the National Water Plan Phase II), including 84 km³ of surface water produced internally as the stream flows from rainfall and approximately 21 km³ of groundwater resources from within the country. Annual cross-border river flows that also enter groundwater are estimated at 1105.64 km³ and represent over 90 per cent of total renewable water resources which are estimated to be 1210.64 km³. Total water withdrawal in

2008 was estimated at about 35.87 km³, of which approximately 31.50 km³ (88 per cent) is used by agriculture, 3.60 km³ (10 per cent) by municipalities and 0.77 km³ (2 per cent) by industries. About 28.48 km³ or 79 per cent of total water withdrawal comes from groundwater and 7.39 km³ or 21 per cent, from surface water. According to FAO, in 2017, the level of water stress i.e. freshwater withdrawal as a percentage of available freshwater resources was six in Bangladesh.

6.5 By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate

Bangladesh has 57 trans-boundary rivers. It shares 54 rivers with India and 3 rivers with Myanmar. Among these rivers, it has a treaty for the Ganges River, which was signed in 1996, and effective until 2027. According to this treaty, the quantum of waters agreed to be released by India to Bangladesh will be at Farakka on the basis of an agreed-upon formula for ten-day periods from the 1st January to the 31st May every year. A joint committee was formed to monitor flow below the Farakka point. The Joint Committee is responsible for implementing the arrangements contained in this Treaty and examining any difficulty arising out of the implementation of the above arrangements and of the operation of Farakka Barrage. Any difference or dispute arising in this regard, if not resolved by the Joint Committee, shall be referred to the Indo-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission (JRC).

The two governments recognized the need to cooperate with each other in finding a solution to the long-term problem of augmenting the flows of the Ganges during the dry season. Guided by the principles of equity, fairness and no harm to either party, both the governments agreed to conclude water-sharing Treaties/Agreements with regard to other common rivers. Issues for Formulation of Framework Agreements for sharing of waters of other transboundary rivers are raised at different level meetings with India under Joint Rivers Commission, Bangladesh. As decided by the Joint Working Group of BBIN a Joint Expert Group on sharing best practices of basin-wide water resources management has been formed under the Ministry of Water Resources. Bangladesh side requested the Indian side to provide more flood-related data from further upstream stations in the last Technical Level Meeting of Indo-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission held in May 2017.

Bangladesh Water Act 2013 has been enacted. Bangladesh Water Rules-2018 has been formulated. Paradigm shift has been focused from standalone project to Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM). Hence, basin wise Integrated Water Resources Management is emphasized. By this time, District Integrated Water Resources Management Guidelines, Upazila Integrated Water Resources Management Guidelines, and Union Integrated Water Resources Management Guidelines have been finalized by the Ministry of Water Resources.

According to the Ministry of Water Resources, following the UNEP, “Step-by-step Monitoring Methodology for Indicator 6.5.1” guidelines, the Degree of integrated water resources management implementation is 54 up to December 2018.

6.6 By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes

Based on the requirement of indicator 6.6.1, Water Resources Planning Organization (WARPO) is under the process of preparation of Industrial Water Use Policy 2019 with the technical support from the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP).

For sustainable management of water resources, two key initiatives can be observed related to the improvement of water quality and protection of the water ecosystem. Hazaribag tannery industries have been relocated to Savar in order to improve the severely degraded water quality of the Buriganga River.

To preserve the Halda River ecosystem, drastic efforts have been taken in 2018 bearing immediate results in terms of large fish egg collection. The Halda River in Chattogram is an important riverine ecosystem of the country. It is the only tidal freshwater river in the world where major Indian carps spawn naturally. The fish egg collection has been dropping rapidly in recent years due to deterioration of the ecosystem because of various human activities such as water abstraction for irrigation, illegal fishing, sand mining of riverbeds, industrial pollution, etc. Recently Prime Minister's Office has formed a committee to restore the river and directed all concerned agencies and local government to take necessary steps. Various decisions have been taken and implemented such as stopping sand lifting from the river, plying of mechanized boats, lowering the rubber dams, ban on fishing in a river stretch to save the brood fish and raising the local's awareness. Because of such steps, in 2018 has been a record year for fish egg collection in the Halda River.

6.a By 2030, expand international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water- and sanitation-related activities and programmes, including water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies

According to Economic Relations Division under the Ministry of Finance, the amount of water- and sanitation-related official development assistance was US\$ 301 million in 2014-15, which has increased to US\$ 338 million in 2016-17 and further enhanced to US\$ 526.6 million in FY 2018-19.

6.b Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management

The National Strategy for Water Supply and Sanitation-2014 of the Local Government Division proposed for integrating the overlapping functioning of various committees with the WATSAN committees at different tiers of the Local Government Institutions. The WATSAN committees are represented by the participation of the poor from the local community.

Challenges

- SDG 6 aims to tackle challenges related to drinking water, sanitation and hygiene for populations, as well as to water-related ecosystems. Without quality, sustainable water resources and sanitation, progress in many other areas across the SDGs, including health, education and poverty reduction will also be held back.

- Ensuring proper allocation and efficient use of funds according to the plan of action is challenging.
- The Urban-rural disparity in access to water and sanitation is an area of significant concern.
- Monitoring and supervising the progress of SDG through setting appropriate indicators, coordinating among stakeholders and establishing feedback mechanisms to review decisions and control measures.
- Considering the impact of climate change and people living in hard to reach areas, appropriate technology with affordable prices is one of the key constraints in serving the poorest and marginalized people.

Way forward

- While important policies and plans are aligned with the IWRM concept and principles, adequate attention needs to be given to ascertain as to what extent they have been translated fully into action, particularly at the programme and project levels. Indigenous knowledge, practices and community voice needs to be recognized and integrated into the development of water-related policies and mechanisms. Better and stronger collaboration among ministries, agencies, institutions is needed for the full attainment of IWRM.
- The implementation of Operationalizing Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) in Compliance with the Bangladesh Water Rules, 2018 and Assessment of water resources availability and lowest safe yield of the aquifer in 54 districts of Bangladesh for effective implementation of Bangladesh Water Act, 2013 will play a significant role in achieving SDG 6.
- There is growing consensus among the experts that strong institutional arrangements with well-defined implementing procedures - supported by agreements and clear regulations- is the key to developing integrated trans-boundary water management. It is also crucial to adopt guidelines and formulate joint plans to approach the new emerging issues such as climate change, water-energy, water-ecosystems, and water-food-energy nexus. The prosperity of this region depends largely on efficient and sustainable water resources management, including the application of the ecosystem approach of trans-boundary Rivers.
- Achieving SDGs will critically depend on the availability of resources including external resources. The private sector can come forward to create a business model with regard to achieving SDG 6.
- Developing mechanisms on WASH governance and capacity development at national and sub-national levels with priority at the initial five years of the SDG era is more important.
- Reaching the poor and hard to reach areas and climate-vulnerable areas through targeting inclusive and innovative interventions will add value.

Good Practices

Alternate Wetting and Drying (AWD) Method of Irrigation

Boro rice in Bangladesh is fully irrigated and the Aman rice is partly irrigated. An estimated 3,000 to 5,000 litres of water is required to produce one kilogram of rice. Alternate Wetting and Drying (AWD)

could save about 15-30 per cent irrigation without reduction in yield. This is now practicing in different areas in the country.

Two lighthouse initiatives as part of HLPW

Excavation and Re-excavation of Ponds for ensuring Safe Drinking Water and help keeping local weather cool

Under this scheme, one pond per mauza would be protected from contamination; it would provide a source of drinking water with minimal treatment and water for other domestic uses without treatment. The protected ponds should not receive any surface discharge and should only be replenished by rain and groundwater infiltration.

Development of WASH blocks at School

The Government of Bangladesh has set a standard WASH for Schools in Bangladesh especially in the Government Primary Schools. Primary Education Development Programme is one of the milestone programmes taken by the Directorate of Primary Education (DPE) where innovative solution called Wash Block has been initiated with the provision of separated toilet facilities with running water supply for boys and girls. DPE is implementing this project and the Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE), the lead agency in water supply and sanitation, is working as the co-implementer.

Bangladesh Valuing Water Initiative

Bangladesh is taking steps to be the first country that considers the Valuing Water in policy and investment decisions in order to achieve the SDG goals and sustainable socio-economic development.

The Bangladesh Water Multi-Stakeholder Partnership (BWMSP) has been formalized with the approval of the Hon'ble Prime Minister and includes high-level representatives from the government, private sector, NGOs, civil society and academia. Acknowledging the importance of valuing water for Bangladesh, the BWMSP has chosen Valuing Water as one of its priority areas and formed a High-Level Committee on Valuing Water chaired by the Principal Coordinator (SDGs Affairs), Prime Minister's Office.

As one of its first actions, the High Level Valuing Water Committee - with support from the Technical Valuing Water Committee and the Ministry of Water Resources - has solicited a PFS for a study on "Developing Operational Shadow Prices for Water to Support Informed Policy and Investment Decision Making Processes". The multi-stakeholder process in developing the study proposal ensured that the project is tailored to Bangladesh's needs and current situation and created support for the implementation and future adoption of the project results across the public and private sectors. It is implemented by WARPO and expected to be completed by July 2020.

The study will develop operational shadow prices for water so that the value of water can be considered in all policy, project and investment decisions in the public and private sectors. This applies to all investment and policy decisions in which water resources are impacted directly, such as for dams, or indirectly, such as for projects requiring water as an input, etc. The overall objective is to improve the allocation of resources and thus enabling sustainable socio-economic development and the achievement of the SDGs.

The study consists of three parts:

- In Part 1, the study will develop a set of harmonized shadow prices for water for Bangladesh and refine them as part of case studies (action research). These values can be operationalized

in investment and policy decisions by the public and private sectors, as well as by civil society. The shadow prices for water will be developed as part of a multi-stakeholder process to ensure their acceptance by stakeholders.

- In Part 2, the shadow prices shall be mainstreamed in policy and decision-making processes. Capacity development and training will be provided to the public sector to operationalize shadow prices within the project preparation process.
- In Part 3, options for making shadow prices operational for private-sector decision-making processes will be identified. Demonstration case studies with selected private sector companies can guide as lighthouse examples on how to operationalize shadow prices for water.

Following project completion, the Bangladesh Valuing Water Initiative may act as a knowledge hub for anyone interested in applying the value of water, and further increase awareness and offer support in application of the value of water.

4.7 Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

Introduction

The call for affordable and clean energy is captured in a standalone goal 7 within the Agenda 2030. The focus is on ensuring universal access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all. Substantial expansion of renewable energy and an increase in energy efficiency is required for it. International cooperation needs to be enhanced to facilitate access to clean energy research and technology. Expansion of infrastructure and upgrade of technology for supplying modern and sustainable energy services will be achieved with the support of foreign resources.

Context

The vision of the Power Division of the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources is to provide affordable and reliable electricity to all by 2020 with a view to raising the country's economy to the level of an upper-middle-income country by 2031 and to achieve the targets of SDGs. To achieve this vision, Power Division has set a target to increase power generation capacity to 24,000 MW by 2021 and 40,000 MW by 2030. In line with these targets, Power Division planned to increase grid capacity to 68,259 MVA with 14,938 ckt km of the transmission line by 2021, grid capacity to 165,706 MVA with 25,865 ckt km of transmission lines by 2030. Accordingly, for distribution network 139.63 thousand km of the new line construction and 1063.6 thousand km of existing line maintenance/renovation during 2017-2021, 165.63 thousand km of the new line construction, and 2471.9 thousand km of existing line maintenance/renovation during 2022-2030 has been planned. The government set a target to increase the share of renewable energy to 10 per cent by 2020.

Progress against targets

7.1 By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services

Electricity facilitates education, healthcare, household production and keeps agriculture, industry, and businesses running. The proportion of the population with access to electricity increased to 55.26 per cent in 2010 from 31.2 per cent in 2000. It continued to increase

reaching 75.92 per cent in 2016 and increased further to 90 per cent in 2018. Administrative data from Power Cell of Power Division reveals that 96 per cent population has access to electricity up to January 2020. The government undertook immediate, short-term and long-term plan to enhance electricity supply. Diversification of primary energy sources was planned to produce electricity from fossil fuels including coal, nuclear power, and renewable sources. Simultaneously, demand-side management is being done through different measures including pre-paid metering, tariff adjustment, and reduction of system loss.

Power System Master Plan 2016 has been prepared for managing the electricity sector up to 2041. The government has also prepared an Action Plan up to 2030 to achieve SDG 7. The Action Plan consists of 257 projects where 118 projects are ongoing and the rest 139 projects are in the pipeline. Among the 118 on-going projects, 36 projects have already been completed. The rest of the projects will be completed in a different timeline. Among the 139 pipeline projects, two projects have been completed, 24 projects are approved and implementation is going on. The rest of the projects will be implemented gradually. In this connection, a number of new policies/guidelines have been formulated and some acts have been amended.

7.2 By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix

In Bangladesh, differences exist between rural and urban households in the use of fuels used for cooking. Households in peri-urban and rural areas depend primarily on biomass fuels, which include fuelwood, twigs and leaves, animal dung cake/stick, and agricultural residues such as straw, rice husks, bagasse, and jute sticks. In urban areas, middle- and upper-income households use electricity or relatively clean cooking fuels such as piped natural gas and LNG.

However, in recent years energy-efficient electric stoves and Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) are becoming popular in peri-urban and rural areas. The proportion of the population with access to clean fuels and technology was 2.79 per cent in 2015, which has increased to 3.25 per cent in 2019. It implies more efforts would be required to meet the target for 2030.

7.3 By 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency

Energy intensity is a proxy for energy efficiency in an economy—the efficiency with which the economy is able to produce economic output. It is measured as the units of energy (mega joule (MJ)) used to produce one unit of constant PPP dollar GDP. It is, however, an imperfect proxy for energy efficiency as it can be affected by a number of factors such as climate, the structure of the economy and the nature of economic activities in the economy. A lower value indicates that the economy's energy efficiency increases. According to Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority (SREDA), the energy intensity level of primary energy was 3.63 ktoe/billion BDT in 2015, which reached 3.41 ktoe/billion BDT in 2018, but again increased to 3.63 ktoe/billion BDT in 2019 meaning energy intensity has increased up to 2018 but then again in 2019 it declined to the baseline value of the year 2015. With regard to the improvement of energy efficiency by 2030, the following actions will be undertaken: (i) Energy Efficiency and Conservation Programme and (ii) Financial Incentive Mechanism for Improved Cooking Stove.

7.a By 2030, enhance international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technology, including renewable energy, energy efficiency and advanced and cleaner fossil-fuel technology, and promote investment in energy infrastructure and clean energy technology

According to the information of ERD, international financial flows to Bangladesh in support of clean energy research and development and renewable energy production, including in hybrid systems was US\$ 301.1 million in 2014-15, which has increased to US\$ 496.80 million in 2018-19.

Challenges

- *Depleting natural gas:* In FY 2009, the power generation capacity was 83 per cent dependant on domestic natural gas, which has come down to 57.4 per cent in FY 2019. However, our domestic gas supply is depleting. Because of depleting gas reserves and difficulties of domestic coal development, Bangladesh is moving towards imported fuel, which is more expensive and risky because of the volatility of the international fuel market and the cost of carrying. As a result, keeping the generation cost at a minimum/affordable level is one of the major challenges.
- *Coal transportation:* Bangladesh yet to have a deep-sea port to handle the imported coal for coal-fired power plants. However, at the Matarbari Island of Cox's Bazar District, Bangladesh is going to develop a Deep Sea Port. This port will have a dedicated jetty for coal handling for the coal-fired power plant in Matarbari Island. This port facility may be used for other coal-based power plants as well. A huge cost is associated with the construction of the port, associated infrastructures such as road/rail network and port handling (O&M) are big challenges.
- *Budgetary constraints:* To implement Power System Master Plan 2016, the estimated investment requirement is about US\$ 78 billion for the generation sector, about US\$ 18 billion for the transmission sector and about US\$ 19 billion for the distribution sector. Adequate financing is one of the major challenges to implement the Master Plan.
- *Surplus generation:* There is a substantial demand-supply gap in the power sector. Even though the full potential is not utilized, the government has to pay the rental, quick rental, IPP power plants capacity charges.
- *Challenges in renewable energy:* Land scarcity is the main barrier to installing solar parks. Challenges lie in obtaining suitable land, difficulties in constructing transmission lines over privately owned land, high cost of land acquisition and development, etc. Furthermore, solar radiation in Bangladesh is quite low. For the development of Waste to Energy, the main obstacle is lack of technology, and high production cost/tariff. Wind speed in Bangladesh is low to moderate, for which the prospect of the wind farm is not promising.
- *Scarcity of local expert manpower:* Bangladesh does not have enough expert work force for operation and maintenance of the power plants and currently depending on the expert services from the abroad. Hiring foreign experts for troubleshooting and maintenance of power plant equipment incurs significant amount of money and hence cost of power generation goes up.

Way forward

- *Diversification of fuel:* To ensure the energy security of Bangladesh, the government is diversifying the fuel mix for power generation. In 2030, the targeted fuel mix for Power Generation is Gas/LNG 45 per cent, Coal 34 per cent, Liquid fuel 9.57 per cent, Import 7 per cent, Nuclear 4 per cent and Hydro 0.43 per cent. This diversification will minimize the dependency on a single fuel.
- *Ensuring adequate fuel supply:* For proper distribution of imported fuel throughout the country necessary infrastructure such as LNG terminal, a deep seaport along with associated gas pipeline, road and railway networks need to be constructed.
- *Diversifying resource pool:* In order to mobilize additional financing Power Division will continue to explore innovative financing such as Export Credit Agency financing, private sector financing in IPP projects, joint venture project financing, G-to-G financing. Power Division also plans to raise funds from the capital market and use the PPP model in addition to FDI.
- *Electricity trade through synchronous grid:* Discussion of establishing a synchronous grid among Bangladesh and neighbouring countries is going on. Bangladesh can trade (import/export) electricity through this synchronous grid with neighbouring countries, which will be highly benefited in terms of using this low-cost power in the grid-connected countries.
- *Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency:* In order to scale up renewable energy, particularly for installing solar parks, land may be acquired and developed with evacuation facilities then the utilities may go for tariff bidding. Solar power may be imported from the neighbouring countries. Regional power/electricity trade among Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Bhutan, and Myanmar may be explored to tap the hydropower potentials in these countries. Under the 'Wind Resource Mapping Project', nine sites have been identified for wind power where wind turbines may be installed through the private sector. For the development of Waste to Energy projects coordination between power sector agencies and City Corporations needs to be strengthened. Skilled manpower in the field of energy efficiency needs to be developed through proper training. An intensive public awareness programme on energy efficiency may be taken up.
- *Developing local experts:* Developing local expertise for power plants may reduce the dependency on foreign experts. This, in turn, can save operation and maintenance costs significantly.

Innovative cases: 'Alor Feriwala/Hawker of light' is an innovative way of new consumer connection of electricity. Each of the 80 Palli Bidyut Samity-PBS (Rural Electricity Association) runs 10 vans with the required material to connect new consumers of electricity. Every PBS's vans move frequently within their area to connect consumers who have applied for connection for the whole daylong. Power Division has undertaken a training programme on an electrician for the unemployed youths to generate 7000 employments within the next 3 years.

Business cases: About 5.8 million Solar Home System, 21 Solar Mini-grid and 1372 Solar Irrigation Pump have been installed throughout the country using the different financial models. Infrastructure Development Company Limited (IDCOL) in collaboration with the SREDA has

installed a large number of Solar Mini-grid and Solar Irrigation pumps with a model of 50 per cent grant, 30-35 per cent loan and 15-20 per cent equity. For Solar Home System, IDCOL provides some grants based on system capacity and for the rooftop solar programme. In these cases, the equity of the customer is 20 per cent and the loan is 80 per cent.

4.8 Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

Introduction

SDG 8 focuses on improving economic growth that is sustainable while also ensuring that the average real income of both employed and unemployed persons, especially in the least developed countries, is improved significantly. High economic growth will be achieved through increased diversification and continued technological upgrading and innovation that will be biased towards the labour-intensive sectors. More productive employment opportunities and a better work environment will be created for both men and women across all age groups and for the disabled in the formal sector. This will result in a significant reduction in the unemployment rate, the wage gap, and decent work deficits.

Context

Bangladesh has been successful in accelerating economic growth to a higher trajectory in the last decade. After attaining more than 7 per cent growth rate in three consecutive years, we achieved 8.15 per cent real GDP growth in 2018-19, which is the highest in the Asia Pacific region. Bangladesh maintained strong macro-economic stability, which contributed, to increasing per capita income, reducing poverty and achieving other socio-economic objectives. Bangladesh became a lower-middle-income country in 2015 and fulfilled all three criteria for graduation to a developing country in 2018.

The major objectives of the goal require contextual interpretation and judgment for achieving them in terms of the social and ecological sustainability development realities of Bangladesh. The mode of application of this goal can largely vary from country to country. The people of Bangladesh being supportive of future generations need to sustain different sustainability values and spirituality for the sustainability of future generations. They also need to consider the resource constraint of the country. The country's soil fertility, freshwater reserves, and ecological carrying capacity will be vital to cope with the rate of economic growth as stated in goal 8. From the very beginning of the country's independence, it had gone through several socio-economic and political transitions. Inclusive development has been one of the key priority areas of government. Bangladesh has the mandate to graduate from the least developed country (LDC) by 2024. The government has set the national development plans to reach developed country status by 2041. It has recently taken the Delta Plan 2100 linking sustainable development in all national development activities. The development journey of the country as stated in goal-8 requires comprehensive and holistic endeavours from both the public and private sectors.

Progress Against targets

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

With the high growth of GDP in the last decade, per capita GDP has also grown substantially. In 2018-19, growth in real GDP per capita has increased to 6.91 per cent from 5.12 per cent in the baseline year, 2014-15. This achievement is complemented by a successful population management policy as reflected in the falling population growth rate. Accelerated growth in GDP per capita contributed to a continuous expansion of GDP per capita measured in terms of current US dollars. As a result, per capita GDP grew substantially from US\$ 780 in 2009-10 to US\$ 1828 in 2018-19.

Table 8.1 Economic growth, per capita GDP and its growth

	2010	2014-2015	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
GDP Growth (%)	5.57	6.55	7.11	7.28	7.86	8.15
Per capita GDP (US\$)	780	1236	1385	1544	1675	1828
Growth rate of real GDP per capita (%)	4.20	5.12	5.77	6.05	6.61	6.91
Growth rate of real GDP per employed person (%)		5.71	6.27	4.99	5.56	5.85

Source: BBS, SID

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

The annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person is used to assess the likelihood of a country's economic environment to create and sustain decent employment opportunities with fair and equitable remuneration. It measures an increase in the growth rate of output per unit of labour input or in other words labour productivity. Growth in labour productivity is an important driver of GDP growth and therefore contributes to full and productive employment and decent work for all. The growth rate of real GDP per employed person increased to 6.27 per cent in 2015-16 from 5.71 per cent in 2014-15. However, it witnessed some fluctuations in the following years and reached 5.85 per cent in 2018-19. With a view to accelerating the pace of labour productivity growth, it is imperative that special attention is paid on enhancing labour use efficiency, increased use of physical or human capital. To enhance the farm productivity and income of small scale food producer Ministry of agriculture has now given the emphasis on efficient use of agricultural inputs, mechanization, producing more high-value crops, building market linkages and facilitating agro-processing.

8.3 Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and

growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services

Informal employment, comprising an overwhelming majority of the total labour force, is one of the major issues that characterise the economy of Bangladesh. Such a high scale of informal labour force presents a substantial challenge to the sustainable development initiatives of the country as they are engaged in activities that are unregulated, unrecognized, and considered low productivity. These jobs generally lack social or legal protections or employment benefits.

However, the informal sector contributes significantly to the country's economy by creating employment opportunities for a large number of people who either are displaced from or could not be absorbed in the formal sector. According to the recent labour force survey of 2016-17, informal employment comprises 85.1 per cent with 82.1 per cent male and 91.8 per cent female.

The non-agriculture sector, comprising industry and services sectors, account for 59.4 per cent of the total employment, formal and informal combined. The proportion of informal employment in the non-agriculture sector employment has increased slightly from 77.5 per cent in 2015 to 78 per cent in 2016.

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

8.4 Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavour to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, in accordance with the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production, with developed countries taking the lead

In Bangladesh, the material footprint and domestic material consumption are comparatively less than those of the developed countries are. The economy of the country has been growing to maintain a steady growth rate for the last two decades focusing on not only to uplift the standard of living of the people of the country but also to expedite the export of different commodities including garments and others. The main objective is to achieve the target of the socio-economic development of the country. Although the data for a material footprint and Domestic Material Consumption is not available up to now in Bangladesh, the trend to use the material footprint and domestic material consumption is in increasing day by day.

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

The average earning of employed persons is an indicator for assessing their skill level and status of employment. According to the recent BBS survey, the average monthly wage has improved slightly in FY 2016-17 over the baseline amount of Tk. 12,897 although real wage has declined for both male and female workers in the last 4 years. The average monthly wage in FY 2016-17 is Tk. 13,258 which was estimated at Tk. 14,152 in 2013.

Wage disparity by gender has deteriorated further in the recent period due to a faster reduction in the real wage rate for females than for males. Reduction in wage rate for female workers is estimated to be 3.8 per cent in 2016 compared to 1.9 per cent for male workers from the 2013 figure indicating a greater degree of wage disparity between males and females for the same type of work. In 2016, the average wage for male and female workers is estimated at Tk. 13,583 and Tk. 12,254 respectively. The average wage for male and female workers was estimated at Tk. 14,309 and Tk. 13,712 respectively in 2013.

In order to improve the earning levels of the employees, the Government of Bangladesh has undertaken a number of initiatives where the major emphasis has been given on institutional capacity building of technical and vocational education, and ICT education across the country for creating skilled work force for both domestic and international markets.

The Labour Force Survey 2016-17 shows that the total number of the labour force has increased to 63.5 million - an increase of 6.8 million over seven years since 2010. Although the labour force participation has increased over the past years, the female labour force participation is extremely low and well below the world average.

Women in the labour market, over 90 per cent were in the informal sector in 2016-17 - almost 10 percentage points higher than that among men. Bringing women into the labour market is also essential to help reduce inequality and for the LNOB framework. As evident, the informal economy continues to host the larger share of those employed. In 2017, over 85 per cent of those employed were working in the informal sector. This share is even larger for women at almost 92 per cent.

Rate of unemployment is a critical indicator for assessing performance of the economy. The rate of unemployment, defined as the percentage of unemployed persons in the total labour force, does not show any noticeable change during the period from 2013 to 2017 when it varied between 4.2 and 4.3. The overall unemployment situation has marginally improved in the recent years, from 4.6 per cent in 2010 to 4.2 per cent in 2017. The female labour has experienced higher unemployment marked with declining trend since 2013. Female unemployment rate is more than double the male unemployment rate. Unemployment rate for male has increased marginally from 3 per cent in 2013 to 3.1 per cent in 2016. Among all the age groups, 15-24 age group youth has the highest unemployment rate of 12.3 per cent in 2017, which declined from 20.6 per cent in 2015-16.

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

The proportion of youth (aged 15-24 years) not in education, employment or training (NEET) is used for assessing the complexities of youth transition to labour market and vulnerabilities. It actually measures the size of the youth population who are the potential entrants to the labour market. In general, a high NEET rate and the low youth unemployment rate may indicate significant discouragement for young people. According to Labour Force Survey, about 29 per cent of youth was not in education, employment or training (NEET) in 2014-15, which has

increased to about 30 per cent in the following year. While the proportion of youth male NEET is closer to 10 per cent the proportion of youth female is about 50 per cent in 2016/17.

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

The government has undertaken a number of initiatives to address the child labour issue. In 2010, the National Child Labour Elimination Policy was formulated with the objective of making meaningful changes in the lives of the children by withdrawing them from all forms of labour including the hazardous work and worst forms of child labour. Child Labour National Plan of Action was also implemented during 2012-2016 for the elimination of child labour. Interventions through Child Sensitive Social Protection Project (2012-2016), Enabling Environment for Child Rights Project, Primary Education Stipend Project are undertaken towards eliminating child labour from different sectors. Since 1994, ILO has been supporting the government through its International Programme on Elimination of Child Labour, which directly benefited 75,000 working children through various interventions. US department of labour is also supporting the implementation of the project entitled ‘Country Level Engagement and Assistance to Reduce Child Labour’ towards realizing its commitment to eliminate worst forms of child labour.

The Child Labour Survey 2013 is the most recent survey conducted in Bangladesh. Based on the UN convention, the survey classified children engaged in economic activities into three categories, working children, child labour, and hazardous child labour. According to the survey, 8.7 per cent (3.45 million) of the 39.65 million population in the age group of 5-17 years are classified as working children, 4.3 per cent (1.7 million) as child labour, and 3.2 per cent (1.28 million) as hazardous child labour.

As part of the implementation of SDGs, the government has set a target to eliminate child labour in hazardous activities by 2021 and all forms of child labour by 2025 from Bangladesh. To achieve the target, the government has taken a number of following initiatives: Under the National Plan of Action “National Child Labour Welfare Council”, “Divisional Child Labour Welfare Council”, “District Child Labour Monitoring Committee”, and “Upazila Child Labour Monitoring Committee” have been constituted and they are working to eliminate hazardous child labour including all forms of child labour.

Inspectors of the Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishment under the Ministry of Labour and Employment are regularly monitoring activities related to child labour, and legal actions are being taken against those industrialists who employed child labour. In the meantime, 182 cases related to child labour have been filed with concerned courts from which 49 have been disposed of. Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishments (DIFE) is playing an important role in ensuring women-friendly and healthier workplaces. Children's kitchens are being set up in factories aimed for children. Under the supervision of DIFE, a total of 4537-day care centres have been set up in DIFE in January 2019.

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

Frequency rates of fatal and non-fatal occupational injuries are used to assess workplace safety situations, which is an important indicator of ‘decent work’. Recent data on occupational injuries indicate that significant improvement has taken place at the workplaces that are reflected through a substantial reduction in fatal injuries from 382 in 2015 to 228 in 2019 – the target set for 2030.

8.9 By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products

To fulfil the target, a number of policy/ strategies have been taken in the action plan of the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism to be completed by 2030 including the development of Tourism Master Plan, Community Based Tourism Policy, Eco-tourism Policy, up-gradation of National Tourism Policy 2010, review of Master Plan of Airports, etc.

According to Tourism Satellite Accounts, in 2011-12, tourism direct GDP as a proportion of total GDP was 1.565 per cent. Due to lack of awareness among the people and the management authority of the tourist sites as well as backward infrastructure, seem to be the critical difficulties to develop this sector as one of the drivers of the economy. Since tourism is a specialized sector and a combination of transportation (including air, water, and rail), accommodation, foods, and recreation, the holistic plan with prioritization is highly needed. Creation of Exclusive Tourist Zones along with a targeted master plan can ensure the sustainable development of tourism. Currently, 1.3 million direct employments have been generated from this sector while 2.4 million employments are indirect. Moreover, once the Master Plan is implemented, it is expected that more than 6 million employments will be created by 2030.

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

Access to finance typically expands opportunities for all with higher levels of access and use of banking services associated with lower financing obstacles for people and businesses. In Bangladesh, the number of commercial bank branches for every 100,000 adults increased to 8.58 in 2017 from 8.37 in 2015 and 7.47 in 2010. Access to ATMs has also improved significantly in recent years, from 2.06 in 2010 to 6.8 in 2015 and 7.8 in 2016.

Financial inclusion ensures improved access to and better utilization of resources, and better access to services that ensure the poor better quality of life. Increasing financial inclusion will help households and businesses to utilize formal financial services such as loans, deposit and saving accounts, payment services, and insurance to meet their specific needs for consumption and investment. There has been a gradual improvement in financial inclusion indicators in Bangladesh over the years. According to the Global Financial Inclusion database/Global Findex of the World Bank, 50 per cent of adults (15 years and older) have an account in 2017, which was 31 per cent in 2014. Moreover, 41 per cent adults have an account with other financial institutions in 2017, which was 29 per cent in 2014. However, data from Bangladesh

Bank reveals that the proportion of adults (15 years and older) with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider has increased to 69.25 per cent in 2018 from 63.88 per cent in 2016 and 50.80 per cent in 2015.

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

Aid for Trade is an umbrella policy comprising a wide variety of activities. It combines conventional measures of technical assistance to trade, intended to enhance the ability of the recipient country to comply with international trade rules and to develop its trade, with other types of trade-related aid, such as the provision of physical infrastructure and productive capacity for trade, or adjustment assistance to firms and households in the case of trade liberalization. Bangladesh received US\$ 824.1 million as an aid for trade during the period 2012-2014 against the commitment of US\$1340.1 million indicating the difference between commitment and disbursement.

In 2017, Bangladesh received \$1.89 billion aid for trade against the annual commitment of \$2.96 billion. Disbursement of the fund increased gradually in the last 10 years while commitment from donors fluctuated regularly. In 2017, the country's top three priorities for aid for trade were trade facilitation, transport infrastructure, and networking infrastructure.

8.b By 2020, develop and operationalize a global strategy for youth employment and implement the Global Jobs Pact of the International Labour Organization

The Government of Bangladesh gives utmost priority in poverty reduction and social protection expenditures. In 2019-20, the government has allocated 74,367 crore taka in social protection programmes which is 14.21 per cent of the national budget and 2.58 per cent of GDP. Among 126 social protection programmes implemented by various Ministries/ Division, there are many large employment programmes, which generate employment. Some notable programmes are Employment Generation Programme for the Poorest, Food/ Cash for Works Programme, Skills for Employment and Investment Programme, etc.

Challenges

- The economy has to create more jobs and more productive jobs to absorb the flow of new entrants with higher average schooling. The majority of workers are employed in the informal sector. Reducing youth unemployment rates would be challenging.
- While university graduates are more likely to take professional levels of occupations, there seems to exist a mismatch between the labour market demand for academic specialties and academic disciplines that university students study. The difficulty of finding appropriately skilled workers is a substantial constraint to the growth of industries.
- Overseas employment is of considerable importance as a source of employment, especially for low or unskilled workers. However, the high cost of migration, fraudulent practices, the substitution of contracts in destination countries and unacceptable conditions of work and living constrain the outward flow of workers.

- There still exist some barriers to female labour force participation in the country. These include weak infrastructure to facilitate and support women's employment, such as childcare facilities near women's workplaces, violence against women- both in workplaces and in outside, and safe and women-friendly transportation.
- Despite the government's effort to provide FDI friendly environment in the country by undertaking reforms in a wide range of areas, institutional architecture is still relatively weak and under development.

Way forward

- Since manufacturing will be the main driver of growth, it has to grow at the rate of 12-15 per cent per annum during the next 15 years to absorb the growing labour force. At the same time, the economy has to diversify its production structure.
- The tie between the education system and the labour market needs to be strengthened in several ways. First, the skills the education system is providing to the students need to fit what the labour market needs in terms of kinds and quality. The education system needs to provide more non-cognitive skills, which the labour market requires. Second, there has to be effective communication between educational and training institutions and employers. There has to be systematic support to the graduates of educational and training institutions for job placement. Private universities should be able to respond to the increasing and diversified demand for skills in the manufacturing and services sectors through curriculum revision, the introduction of new programmes and faculty development.
- Bangladesh has to address the multifarious barriers faced by women in order to enhance their labour force participation rate. The government has developed a legal framework to address issues such as child marriage and violence against women. However, stricter application of law would further help the case. Infrastructure facilitating women's participation in the labour force needs to be expanded where both the public sector and the private sector can participate.
- As FDI not only augments investment but also brings new technology and management skills which have spill over effects Bangladesh should attract a larger volume of FDI as part of its strategy to mobilize significantly bigger amount of resources for achieving accelerated growth, poverty reduction and employment generation.
- Investing in human development through quality education and vocational training and enabling an equal opportunity will allow the government to take advantage of its young workforce.

Good Case: *Skills for Employment Investment Programme (SEIP)*

Finance Division has been implementing 'Skills for Employment Investment Programme (SEIP)' for the period of April 2014 to June 2023. SEIP assists the government to scale up-skilling of new entrants and up-skilling of existing workers to increase their productivity and income levels. The project is supporting training providers (both public and private) to meet industry skill requirements, finance skills training of 841,680 trainees with at least 60 per cent job placements. 37 public training institutes under three ministries, 13 industrial associations (11 sectors), PKSF, and Bangladesh Bank SME Department are the key implementing partners/institutes/agency. SEIP has supported establishing the

National Human Resource Development Fund (NHRDF) and National Skill Development Authority (NSDA).

Under this project, the cumulative enrolment at the end of March 2020 reached 428,522 (Female 131,376) out of which 379,315 were certified and 274,188 (76 per cent) were placed in a job. Special stipend has been provided to 65,243 poor and disadvantaged trainees. 288 trainees certified under this project gone abroad with employment mostly in the Middle East.

Out of 130 Competency Standards (CS) targeted to be developed, SEIP Project has so far developed 87 of which 47 have already got approval from BTEB. SEIP has so far developed 60 Competency-Based Learning Materials (CBLMs) which have subsequently been validated by the SEIP and BTEB experts. All the CSs, CBLMs, and Assessment Tools are now in use at the training centres. In order to improve trainers' quality, technical, pedagogy, and OHS training have been imparted to more than 3,500 trainers at home and abroad.

4.9 Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

Introduction

Sustainable Development Goal 9 revolves around three interconnected pillars: resilient infrastructure, inclusive and sustainable industrialization and research and innovation, and embrace the common goal of attaining socially inclusive and environmentally sustainable economic development. Infrastructure provides the basic physical facilities and access to services that are critical for economic development. In a world faced with various shocks especially climate change and natural disasters of increasing frequency and greater intensity, infrastructure has to be made resilient to cope with the shocks. Manufacturing has been one of the prime drivers of economic growth and decent job creation and hence has contributed to the reduction of income poverty. There need to be more investments in high-tech products that dominate the manufacturing productions to increase efficiency and productivity on the one hand and address environmental issues on the other. Increased domestic and international financial mobilization, technological and technical support, research and innovation, and increased access to information and communication technology are required to achieve this goal.

Context

The Government of Bangladesh has taken many initiatives for fostering industrialization through Industrial Policy, SME Policy, Leather Policy and other relevant strategies and by implementing many development projects. However, under goal 9, infrastructure development mainly limited to highways and bridges, rail transports, air transport, water transport, rural transport, ICT, etc. The Government of Bangladesh is implementing many mega projects like Padma Bridge, Ruppur nuclear power plant, Matarbari power plant, Rampal coal-based power plant, Paira seaport, and many others. All these are the priority projects, which are really the creation of infrastructure for industrialization. Moreover, the government has created many Economic Zones to attract foreign and domestic investment.

Industrial Policy in Bangladesh envisages that rapid industrialization is a key to the country's economic development. To cater to this, the government has brought about many constructive

and timely reforms in the running of businesses and liberalized trade so that private entrepreneurs can seize opportunities for establishing and running industrial enterprises profitably and freely. To reduce poverty and generate employment opportunities, efforts have been exerted to set up small, medium and large industries across the country.

In order to strengthen the country's industrialization process, the Government of Bangladesh has identified the Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) as a priority sector and as the driving force for industrialization. A national taskforce led by the Principal Secretary to the Hon'ble Prime Minister has been formed so that proper policies and planning are followed in establishing SMEs. The government has formulated a separate SME policy to provide entrepreneurs with the necessary guidance and strategic support in respect of the establishment of SME industries all over the country.

Progress against targets

9.1 Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and transborder infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all

The Government of Bangladesh recognizes the critical role of infrastructure comprising transport, energy, Information Communication Technology (ICT), water supply, sanitation, buildings, embankments and cyclone shelters in promoting economic growth and mitigating climate change effects and natural shocks. A countrywide road network has been established connecting rural and urban areas with Dhaka, the capital city and Chattogram, the port city. Similar expansion and upgrade actions have also been implemented in the railway network, inland waterways, ports and airports.

Three types of paved roads – national highways, regional highways, and feeder roads connect the country through linking its administrative centres, urban areas, commercial and business locations and sea and land ports. Besides, there are some roads constructed and maintained by local governments to ensure connectivity within their respective administrative areas. Roads and Highways Department (RHD) provides data on the former types of roads generated through its Road Condition Survey. Table 9.1 provides road density in the country calculated by dividing the length of the RHD road network by land area of the country and multiplying the quotient by 100. The length of paved road per 100 square kilometre has increased over time from 14.09 kilometres in 2000 to 14.61 kilometres in 2017. During this period, major work has been upgraded to existing roads by constructing additional lanes.

Table 9.1 Road density per 100 square kilometre

2000	2010	2015	2016	2017
14.09	14.41	14.48	14.45	14.61

Source: Calculated from RHD and BBS data

According to the information of the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED), 83.45 per cent of the rural population in Bangladesh lived within 2 km of an all seasoned road in 2016.

9.2 Promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and, by 2030, significantly raise industry's share of employment and gross domestic product, in line with national circumstances, and double its share in least developed countries

Manufacturing being a more dynamic sector in the economy has been achieving a relatively higher growth rate. Accordingly, manufacturing value-added as a proportion of GDP has been rising steadily; it was 20.16 per cent in 2014-15 and reached to 24.08 per cent in 2018-19. It should be noted that manufacturing value added as a proportion of GDP has a downward trend in most countries both developed and developing and it exceeds 20 per cent only in a handful of countries, obviously Bangladesh being one of them. While developed countries have declining share as a natural pattern of structural change, developing countries are said to have falling share because of early deindustrialization. In this context, increasing the share of manufacturing in GDP in Bangladesh is a notable phenomenon.

Table 9.2 Manufacturing value added in GDP, 2014-15 to 2018-19

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Manufacturing value added as percentage of GDP (%)	20.16	21.01	21.74	22.85	24.08
Manufacturing value added per capita (US\$)	130	142	155	167	184

Source: BBS, SID

The manufacturing sector has been steadily expanding in Bangladesh over the last two decades. Dominant segments of the sector such as textiles, RMG, jute goods, leather are labour intensive and consequently, there has been an increase in manufacturing employment. Higher growth of manufacturing output has resulted in a higher proportion of employment in the sector. There has been a decline in the manufacturing employment share in 2015-16. In recent years, there has been a tendency in the RMG sector undergoing an upgrade of technology to substitute capital for labour. The employment share remained stable in 2016-17. Thus, while the share of manufacturing in GDP increases its employment share in total employment might decrease.

Table 9.3 Manufacturing employment as a proportion of total employment (per cent)

1999-2000	2002-03	2005-6	2009	2010	2013	2015-16	2016-17
7.3	9.71	11.03	13.53	12.46	16.4	14.4	14.4

Source: BBS, Labour Force Survey, Various years

9.3 Increase the access of small-scale industrial and other enterprises, in particular in developing countries, to financial services, including affordable credit, and their integration into value chains and markets

In Bangladesh, according to Economic Census 2013, there are about 7.8 million SMEs (including the micro & cottage) that employ about 70-80 per cent of the total industrial employment (24 million). The contribution of SMEs to GDP is 25 per cent, however, its industrial contribution is 33 per cent. As per SME Policy 2019, by 2024, the contribution of the SME sector in the GDP to be increased from 25 per cent to 32 per cent in order to implement

the development projections of the government. SMEs are well recognized for their contribution to employment, income distribution, economic dynamism, innovation and poverty alleviation. SMEs are regarded as the engine of economic growth as they stimulate entrepreneurial spirit, facilitate innovation, diffuse skills and so forth. SMEs eliminate the unemployment problems by using lower capital per employment, minimize the investment risks, ensure equitable distributions of income and products and maximize the use of locally available raw materials. SMEs are crucial for implementing the ‘Leaving No One Behind’ principle that is central to the 2030 Agenda. Realizing the importance, the Government of Bangladesh has formulated new SME Policy-2019 identifying 11 Strategic Goals for the development of the SME Sector.

9.4 By 2030, upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource-use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes, with all countries taking action in accordance with their respective capabilities

The Government of Bangladesh is trying to adopt clean and environmentally sound technologies. Tannery Estate has been relocated to the function of Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP). Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (API), a Chemical Industrial Park is being established at Munshigonj. Replacement of old machinery and addition of machinery for Beet Sugar Production at Thakurgaon Sugar Mills Ltd has been completed. Production of electricity by co-generation and establishment of a sugar refinery at North Bengal Sugar Mills Ltd has been done. Balancing, Modernization, Rehabilitation and Expansion (BMRE) of industries is encouraged. The government is implementing the National Quality Policy and has established the Bangladesh National Quality and Technical Regulation Council. Training programme on energy conservation, machine management, productivity & quality management, green productivity, and material flow cost accounting, etc. are being done on a regular basis.

9.5 Enhance scientific research, upgrade the technological capabilities of industrial sectors in all countries, in particular developing countries, including, by 2030, encouraging innovation and substantially increasing the number of research and development workers per 1 million people and public and private research and development spending

In Bangladesh, research is mainly undertaken by government research organisations and public universities. Since private investors mainly depend on imported technology especially in the export-oriented manufacturing sector, there is little motivation for having a dedicated unit for research and development. The National Agricultural Research System (NARS) has been successful in innovating new varieties of seeds, which are appropriate to the climatic conditions of the country. Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (BAEC) and Bangladesh Centre for Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR) undertake research, which can lead to innovation in the manufacturing sector.

Table 9.4 Researchers (in full-time equivalent) per million inhabitants

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

Source: Ministry of Science and Technology

Overall, Bangladesh has a low budget for research and engages a very small group of scientists in research. The number of researchers per million inhabitants has, however, been increasing over time; the average annual rate of increase grew from 2.5 per cent between 2012 and 2015 to 5.4 per cent between 2015 and 2017 implying higher growth in the SDG period. Research and development expenditure as a proportion of GDP is only 0.3 per cent and milestone is one per cent far behind of the milestone.

9.a Facilitate sustainable and resilient infrastructure development in developing countries through enhanced financial, technological and technical support to African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States

The government lays heavy emphasis on building infrastructure to support its objective of achieving accelerated growth and poverty reduction and becoming upper-middle-income country by 2031. Quality infrastructure is also essential for ensuring the competitiveness of the economy. Bangladesh has been implementing a wide range of projects in power and energy, roads and bridges, railways, port and deep seaport including 10 FastTrack projects or mega projects to remove the infrastructural bottlenecks. In FY 2017, these projects were allocated about 40 per cent of the Annual Development Programme. The volume of funds required to implement the infrastructure projects is so large that foreign resources are needed to complement the domestic resources.

Table 9.5 Total international support to infrastructure (million US\$), 2012 to 2018

2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2018
813	1,167	1,580	1,247	1,737	4,565

Source: ERD

Total international support to infrastructure shows an upward trend with a dip in 2015. The annual flow of resources depends on a number of factors including size of aided projects, the inclusion of new aided projects, and progress in implementation. Bangladesh expects continuous support from development partners to finance its infrastructure development projects.

9.b Support domestic technology development, research and innovation in developing countries, including by ensuring a conducive policy environment for, inter alia, industrial diversification and value addition to commodities

Not much of significant progress has been made in the field of domestic technology development in recent times since the SDGs. Although there is a huge necessity of research and innovation, there are few types of research conducted in the industrial sector such as fortification of edible oil & salt, etc. There has been some progress in the policy formulation to diversify and cluster the industries, especially in the SME sector. Progress has been made in the value addition to commodities such as the automobile industry is trying to set up manufacturing plants gradually replacing the assembling role. The proportion of medium and high-tech industry value added in total value added was 12.65 per cent in FY 2014-15, which has increased to 12.85 per cent in FY 2016-17, but declined to 11.57 per cent in FY 2017-18.

9.c Significantly increase access to information and communications technology and strive to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet in least developed countries by 2020

The mobile phone was first introduced in Bangladesh in October 1990, which provided people with the possibility to subscribe to and use mobile cellular services to communicate. Bangladesh introduced 2G in 1992, the second generation of cellular telephone technology, to offer more services. 3G networks succeed 2G ones, offering faster data transfer rates and are the first to enable video calls. Bangladesh moved closer to achieving the Digital Bangladesh Vision with the launch of 4G, the fourth generation of mobile phone communications technology in February 2018. 2G technology coverage has reached closer to 100 per cent population in 2017. 3G technology coverage in 2017 has already exceeded the target set for 2020. It is clear that the spread of mobile network technology has been taking place at a rate faster than anticipated.

Table 9.6 Proportion of population covered by a mobile network by technology (per cent)

Technology	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
2G	99	99	99	99.4	99.46	99.49	99.49	99.6
3G	na	na	na	71	90.2	92.55	95.23	95.4
4G				NA	NA	NA	NA	82

Source: Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission, June 2019

Challenges

- Sustainability of industrialization itself is a concern for many reasons including resource scarcity, infrastructure constraints, environmental concerns, mechanization, over-production and wastages, occupational safety and health hazard, and so on.
- Well-formulated policies and their implementation will play a substantial role in the industrial development of Bangladesh and to achieve SDG 9. Proper implementation of the policies depends very much on the institutional settings and coordination among various authorities, which is a challenging task.
- Access to financial services, including credit for small-scale, micro and cottage industries and other enterprises in Bangladesh is a tough challenge. There is a huge financing gap for availing credit facilities among large, medium, small and micro enterprises in Bangladesh.
- For the manufacturing sector access to land is a major constraint. Problems associated with land titling and appropriate legal framework prevents enterprises from having access to leased premises.
- The Light Engineering Sector (LES) is facing serious constraints of unusual high rate of tax and VAT in case of production rather import. Therefore, many workshops became traders (importers of foreign products) rather than the production of LES products.
- Some other challenges related to the implementation of SDG 9 include linking Citizens, Government, and Industry for ethical business practices, relatively higher cost of doing business, lack of quality infrastructure, lacks in skilled human resources, attracting

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), access to utility services and transparent and accountable institutions.

- Bangladesh lacks in the proportion of Medium and High-Tech industry (MHT) value-added in total whereas developed countries report the highest proportion of medium and high-technology value-added. Therefore, to implement Goal 9 industries of Bangladesh have to show higher shares of MHT industry value added in the total manufacturing sector.
- All types of industrial wastes management are another challenge to achieve goal 9. Most of the firms or industries dump their wastes in open places, which ultimately go to rivers and canals and pollute the water and environment as well as cause diseases and contamination.
- Road transport improvement faces challenges from complexity of land acquisition along with resettlement and compensation complexity. Road safety maintenance requires proper and adequate roads, accurate road accident data, and awareness of users as well as special attention from traffic police.

Way forward

- Timely completion of the development project is one of the pillars of success. Capacity building for project implementation on time is crucial.
- Land acquisition and utility services connectivity should be quicker to complete the industrial park. Many SMEs are not quite solvent to have their industrial plot. Therefore, BSCIC should take the serious initiative to complete the projected industrial park and allot the plots at the quickest possible time.
- SMEs are the backbone of the industry and production system. The recently approved SME policy has a time-bound action plan. SME Foundation and BSCIC are the main counterparts to implement this policy. Both organizations should harmonize their activities in order to provide maximum support for SMEs development.
- The Government of Bangladesh has a plan to invest at least one per cent of the GDP for research and innovation. Relevant organizations should invest maximum possible investment for research work.
- The world is already experiencing industry 4.0 with a higher level of technology. Automation, robotics, IoT, CNC in the production system is forthcoming. Our industry must have coupe with the latest technology. Ministry of Industries is in the process of enacting new acts, updating existing acts and preparing new policies, guidelines for implementing SDGs.
- Both public and private sectors should collaborate effectively and efficiently through public-private partnerships (PPP) and other innovative models to deliver infrastructure, utility and other services in an environment-friendly manner. The Government of Bangladesh is setting up 100 Special Economic Zones (SEZs) for new industries and investment in both the public and private sectors. 24 high-tech parks are ready for commercial operation. Bangladesh must reduce the cost of doing business; bring more transparencies by adopting digital business processes and proceedings; foster economic diplomacy to strengthen inter-government initiatives for access to technologies and

attract more FDI as well as to avail good practices. Investment in research and development together with technology transfer should get serious attention.

- For skill development and quality education, FBCCI Institute has been established to conduct demand driven skill set for better addressing the interest of innovation and 4th IR necessary for transitioning economy. A Skill Lab will also be set up in cooperation with renowned global knowledge partners. Diploma, Bachelors and Certificate programmes will be conducted in a number of areas including AI, Robotics, cyber security, FinTech, Block Chain, Mechatronics, Bio Tech, Manufacturing Automotive, Light Engineering, Agro processing, ICT, Leather foot wear, Food processing, Furniture, Ceramic, etc. to create demand driven future workforce. Partnership agreements with University of Toronto (U of T) and Seneca College of Canada have been signed to conduct the programmes.

Good Case: ‘Poverty Reduction through Inclusive and Sustainable Markets’ (PRISM) Programme

The European Union funded programme is being implemented by Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries (BSCIC) under the supervision of the Ministry of Industries with the objectives of building capacity of the relevant government services, to foster private sector development in general, with the focus on small & cottage industries and on poorer segments of society.

Since its inception, through the five grant schemes and the technical assistance, the implementation of activities has been targeting poverty alleviation through skill development and job creation, as well as dissemination of Digital Financial Services to the rural poor. The focus of the activities has been on the Light Engineering, Jute, Agro-Food Processing, informal sector, and rural micro-merchants, specifically targeting poor disadvantaged, women, disabled people, and minorities. Overall, the activities of PRISM have contributed positively to SDGs 8 and 9 and indirectly to SDGs 1, 4, 5, and 6 in Bangladesh. Some of the main contribution of PRISM include:

- Technical up-gradation of 5,000 micro and cottage enterprises in the Light Engineering sector, and enhanced employable skills and decent employment opportunities of 10,000 disadvantaged youth, especially young women and people with disabilities (PWD) in the Light Engineering sector.
- Improved the well-being of 40,000 poor and disadvantaged men (45 per cent) and women (55 per cent), in the informal sector, by improving their access to labour market and safeguarding their fundamental rights at work, with 70 per cent gaining employment, including capacity building of 32 Training Centres.
- Built capacity, skills, and knowledge of over 4,000 micro-merchants, business development service providers and business association leaders, and reached more than 10,000 micro-merchants with educational toolkits tailored to their business needs.
- 104 Training Service providers (TESP) in Agro-Food Processing sector supported to provide relevant skills training and job placement services to small & cottage industries and job seekers. 25,000 trainees passed skills testing certified by appropriate authorities in the Agro-Food Processing sector out whom 20,000 are placed in decent work with the support of the TESP.
- 2,857 workers and labourers trained on new jute fibre extraction machines. Provided apprentice development support to 1,650 female and male weavers, as well as apprentice development support to 500 jute product makers in small and large factories and to 1,000 metal workshop artisans.

As a showcase, the activities that have been implemented for the Light Engineering Owners (LEOs) have resulted in 29 per cent increase of sales revenue and 53 per cent increase of savings from baseline. 38 per cent LEOs provided employment to the graduates, 32 per cent LEOs recruited at least one staff, 48 per cent LEOs is practicing at least 7 indicators of decent work, 47 per cent LEOs received new loan from formal sources, 1125 LEOs have agreement with staffs, and 1,121 LEOs opened new current account on enterprise name.

Collaborative case: *Fortification of Edible Oil in Bangladesh*

To improve access to safe and affordable fortified foods across Bangladesh especially women of reproductive age, adolescent girls and children under-five in Bangladesh through the project: “Fortification of Edible Oil in Bangladesh” and thus reduce the prevalence of micronutrient deficiencies among these population groups.

Ministry of Industries along with Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) and UNICEF has started work on oil fortification with vitamin A in Bangladesh since 2010; Phase-I (2010-2013), Phase-II (2013-2017), Phase-III (2018-2020). The mandatory law for the fortification of edible oil with vitamin A was enacted in 2013. The act was published in November 2013 mentioning that all edible oils in Bangladesh must be fortified with vitamin A whether it is produced locally, refined or imported. GAIN along with the Ministry of Industries has actively supported the creation of the rules for the enforcement of the law. The “Oil Fortification Rules 2015” has been published in Bangladesh Gazette on 16th November 2015.

Currently, all 44 refineries and packers operating in Bangladesh have signed MoU with the Ministry of Industries and fortifying edible oil with Vitamin A (soybean, palm, and rice bran oil). In current phase GAIN is closely working with the Ministry of Industries and other stakeholders for Formation of the National Fortification Unit, Drum management, web-based MIS and has signed a contract with Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI) on the formation of monitoring cell to monitor QA/QC of fortified edible oil in Bangladesh.

4.10 Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries

Introduction

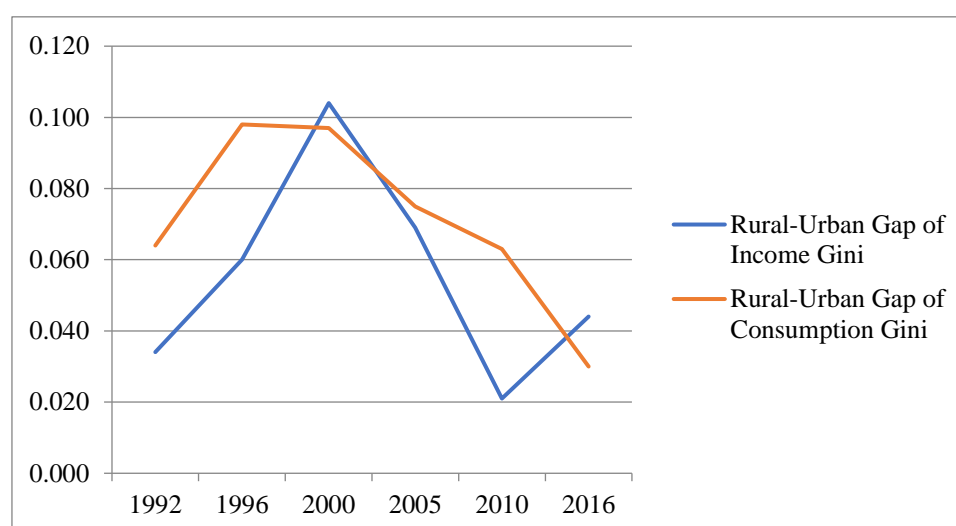
Inequality is a global phenomenon and pervasive. While the economic activities are in the boom in this era of globalization, every nation is consistently fighting against rising inequalities to instil welfare among its citizens. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes the importance of increasing inequalities within and among countries. The disparities of opportunities, wealth and power are skyrocketing day by day and without proper intervention, the dream of an egalitarian world will remain unfulfilled. Sustainable Development Goal 10 calls for nations to increase the income of the bottom 40 per cent of the population by empowering and promoting social, economic and political inclusion of all people irrespective of sex, age, disability, race, class, ethnicity, religion, and opportunity as well as by ensuring equal opportunity and reducing inequalities of the outcome by adopting appropriate legislation, policies and action discarding any discriminatory laws, policies and practices. Achieving greater equality will also depend on the adoption of fiscal, wage and social protection policies.

Context

Bangladesh is committed to efface inequalities and made it a national agenda. The national plans of the government have made ‘inclusiveness’ as one of the major agenda, which calls for

better income distribution. According to the income dimension, Bangladesh has been experiencing a long uprising trend since 1991-92 when the national Gini coefficient stood at 0.388. After nearly three decades, the Gini coefficient hit 0.482 in 2016 that shows increased income inequality. However, the consumption-based Gini coefficient has not increased much. The consumption-based Gini was 0.302 in 1995-96, which stands at 0.324 in 2016. Besides, the rural-urban gaps in inequality, as evidenced by both income and consumption Gini, have been reduced over the years, which signal the breakup of the spatial divide. The following figure shows the chronological assessment of the rural-urban inequality gap (measured in absolute value) from 1992 to 2016.

Figure 10.1 Rural-Urban Gap of Income and Consumption Gini in Bangladesh from 1992-2016



Source: Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES), BBS

It is difficult to zoom in at the deprivation of people with the lens of income or consumption based inequality. There are other areas where inequalities do exist. For example, people may experience intense variability in the attainment of necessary nutrition and healthcare, education and other opportunities, which may be termed as ‘Inequality in Human Capital’. Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey (BDHS) data show that socio-economic attainments also vary on accumulation of wealth. Table 10.1 and table 10.2 show that inequalities exist in health and education services.

Table 10.1 Inequality in Healthcare in Bangladesh from 1996-2017

Items	Wealth Quintile	1996	2004	2014	2017
Inequality in Underweight Children	Q1	65.2	55.6	45.1	28.9
	Q5	37.6	25.9	17.4	12.5
Inequality in Stunting	Q1	61.4	62.2	49.2	40.2
	Q5	34.8	30.5	19.4	17.1
Inequality in Infant Mortality	Q1	96.5	89.8	43.0	
	Q5	56.6	64.8	24.0	

Source: Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey (BDHS), NIPORT

Table 10.2 Inequality in Education in Bangladesh from 1996-2017

Items	Wealth Quintile	1996	2004	2014
Inequality Primary level net attainment (%)	Q1	56.7	73.8	84.1
	Q5	82.4	87.5	85.2
Inequality in Secondary level net attainment (%)	Q1	3.5	11.0	29.6
	Q5	49.1	53.2	49.9
Inequality in post-secondary level gross attendance (%)	Q1	0.0	0.4	7.1
	Q5	29.2	26.8	34.4
Inequalities in Average years schooling (years)	Q1	3.55	4.39	5.54
	Q5	8.37	8.25	8.19

Source: Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey (BDHS), NIPORT

Bangladesh has made a great stride in achieving an annual average GDP growth rate of 6.8 per cent in the last decade with 8.15 per cent in 2019. With the consistent economic expansion, rising inequality indicates that the poor gain less in absolute terms from growth. Therefore, the poor will have a lower share of both total income and its increment through growth; thus, the rate of poverty reduction must be lower. Considering the situation, Vision 2041 has given more focus on inclusiveness to make the development sustainable.

Progress against targets

10.1 By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population at a rate higher than the national average

In Bangladesh, the income of the bottom 40 per cent population grows at 7.7 per cent per annum based on Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) 2016. The same survey reported the annual growth rate of income of the total population of 9.1 per cent. This result can be attributed to the rising income inequality over the years. With the help of social safety net; Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) credit; and public expenditure on socio-economic sectors, the government is determined to reduce the income disparities among the different factions of the population.

10.2 By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status

With a view to ensuring equality of opportunity, Article 19 of the Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh stipulates that the State shall adopt effective measures to remove social and economic inequality between man and man and to ensure the equitable distribution of wealth among citizens, and of opportunities in order to attain a uniform level of economic development throughout the Republic. However, according to HIES 2016, the proportion of people living below 50 per cent of median income is 15.98 per cent. No disaggregated data was available at present due to the nature of the existing Household Income and Expenditure Survey.

10.3 Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard

The proportion of the population who reported having personally felt discriminated against or harassed, based on the definition of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law, in the last one year currently stands at 35.6 per cent (CPHS 2018, BBS). Based on the disaggregated level data by sex, interestingly there is no significant difference between males and females. While 36.29 per cent female reported the case of discrimination, 35.09 per cent of the male population also felt discriminated. It is noteworthy to mention that the government has enacted several acts and rules in order to eliminate discrimination of all forms from the society. Preamble and Article 19, 28 of the Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh where equality of all citizens is ensured and discrimination is prohibited including Dowry Restraint Act 2018, Domestic Violence Rules 2013, Child Marriage Restraint Act 2017, Child Marriage Restraint Rules 2018, Women and Children Violence Protection Law 2000, etc. However, it is necessary to revisit those laws to look for any gaps and to strengthen the institutions for proper implementation of these laws. Moreover, we need to look at the cases of males to figure out the types of discrimination and harassment they face and take proper actions accordingly as most of the existing laws and rules are meant for women and children.

10.4 Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality

Article 15 (d) of the Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh stipulates, "the right to social security, that is to say, to public assistance in cases of undeserved want arising from unemployment, illness or disablement, or suffered by widows or orphans or in old age, or in other such cases." In line with the constitutional mandate, the Government of Bangladesh has approved the National Social Security Strategy in 2015 to address the triple problems of poverty, vulnerability, and marginalization by coordinating and consolidating the existing safety net programmes for better efficiency and results. The core of the strategy is a life cycle approach looking at the particular needs people have over their entire life, benefitting mother and child, youth, vulnerable working age, the elderly and persons with disabilities. Social inclusion of marginalized groups is a central principle, with an expansion of schemes for extremely poor and most vulnerable people.

10.5 Improve the regulation and monitoring of global financial markets and institutions and strengthen the implementation of such regulations

Financial soundness indicators are composed of seven financial regulatory tools that are used to monitor a financial institution as well as the overall financial market. Table 10.3 shows the status of various financial indicators of Bangladesh in 2015 and 2018.

Table 10.3 Financial Soundness Indicators

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	5.40	8.0	44.19	8.40	1.86	51.13	4.72
2018	4.74	6.77	53.36	9.89	0.86	44.48	7.43

Source: Bangladesh Bank.

Decreasing capital adequacy, liquidity and return on assets coupled with an increasing amount of non-performing loans made Bangladesh's performance a little offbeat in 2018 than 2015.

10.6 Ensure enhanced representation and voice for developing countries in decision-making in global international economic and financial institutions in order to deliver more effective, credible, accountable and legitimate institutions

Expanding membership and voting right of developing countries in institutions of global governance would require concerted efforts and meaningful cooperation among the developing countries. Bangladesh has been very vocal in its part in multilateral fora in championing and promoting the causes of the developing nations. Bangladesh will continue to promote the interests of developing countries in the UN and other multilateral institutions.

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

Bangladesh ratified the Convention on the Protection of the rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (CMW). Bangladesh spearheaded the idea of a global compact that would provide a comprehensive framework for safe, orderly and regular migration. Bangladesh was the first to make such proposal to the United Nations. Bangladesh chaired the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) in 2016 and under the leadership of the Hon'ble Prime Minister played a key role in the Global Compact for Migration (GCM) and the New York Declaration (NYD).

Bangladesh enacted the Overseas Employment and Migrants Act 2013 (OEMA) replacing the Emigration Ordinance of 1982 and the Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Policy, 2016 which provide for the protection of the rights and safety of the migrants in countries of destination. Bangladesh is also an active participant in various Regional Consultative Processes (RCPs) including the Colombo Process and Abu Dhabi Dialogue.

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

The proportion of tariff lines applied to imports from least developed countries with zero tariffs stands at 65.1 per cent, whereas the proportion of tariff lines applied to imports from developing countries is recorded as 50.3 per cent (UNSC, 2015).

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

The foreign direct investment shows an increasing trend with annual fluctuation and reached US\$ 3888.99 million in FY 2018-19, which was US\$ 2235.39 million in FY 2014-15. On the other hand, in the same year, official development assistance continued to increase to US\$ 6542 million, which was US\$ 3043 million in FY 2014-15.

10.c By 2030, reduce to less than 3 per cent the transaction costs of migrant remittances and eliminate remittance corridors with costs higher than 5 per cent

The 2030 Development Agenda calls for reducing the remittance cost to less than 3 per cent of the remittance flow. Based on the data of Bangladesh Bank, the remittance cost increased slightly to 4.48 per cent in 2018, which was 4.06 per cent in 2015.

Challenges

- Inequitable distribution of wealth as well as socio-economic privileges may have implications for poverty reduction and relative deprivation poses a challenge confronting Bangladesh.
- Tax reform to bring all types of income under progressive taxation seems to be a challenging task.
- While government expenditure is increased over time, the share of expenditures on education, health, rural development, and social protection could not be raised as per the national target.
- Selection error in social protection services and the proportion of non-poor beneficiaries are two common caveats in Social Safety Net Programme.
- Bangladesh ranked 50th in the world in the ‘Global Gender Gap Index’ in 2020. Despite having scored better than any South Asian neighbours, there is still scope of improvement with regard to women empowerment.

Way forward

- An important way to reduce inequality is to ensure access of all people especially the poor and the disadvantaged to quality education and health services. This helps the poor to break the cycle of poverty by getting better jobs and also helps increase the rate of growth as well as improve income distribution.
- Public spending on rural infrastructure- rural roads, rural electricity, irrigation, flood control, and salinity control has to be increased. There is also a need for cultivation of high yielding, climate change tolerant rice varieties and diversification of agriculture to high-value crops. This will help increase growth rate, average labour productivity, rural wages and facilitate the transfer of labour from the rural to the urban sector.
- Micro-credit helps accumulate assets by the poor and get out of poverty. Similarly, SME loans help accumulate assets of micro and small entrepreneurs and create jobs for less-skilled workers.
- National Social Security Strategy 2015 and an action plan to implement the strategy has been formulated and adopted. Efforts need to expedite to reduce both the inclusion

and exclusion error so the value for money can be enhanced through the social protection programmes.

- Linking labour to productive employment in both domestic and global labour markets will help both poverty reduction and increase the flow of remittances. The private sector should also invest in the skills of employees and provide on the job training to meet the need for higher-skilled workers and increasing wages for workers.
- There is some progressivity in the present income tax system but tax avoidance and evasion reduce the tax base. The tax system should be able to combat tax avoidance and evasion and ensure that everyone pays ones a fair share of tax.
- The rule of law has to be strengthened and the delivery of public services needs to be expanded to the doorsteps. Improved governance and better institutions that work should improve the distribution of income.

Good practices: In order to ensure equity in access to healthcare, the government has launched Community Clinics across Bangladesh. Currently, 13,743 Community clinics are in operation. The Community Clinics aims to assume full responsibility of the health (population and nutrition) of the entire population of the catchment area. Community Clinics are also one of the most useful tools through which healthcare supports are given to marginalized people, e.g. ethnic minority groups and other groups of marginalized people who cannot afford out-of-pocket health expenditure in the absence of universal health coverage. Through Community Clinics, service delivery is maintained in a way so that equity of access is ensured.

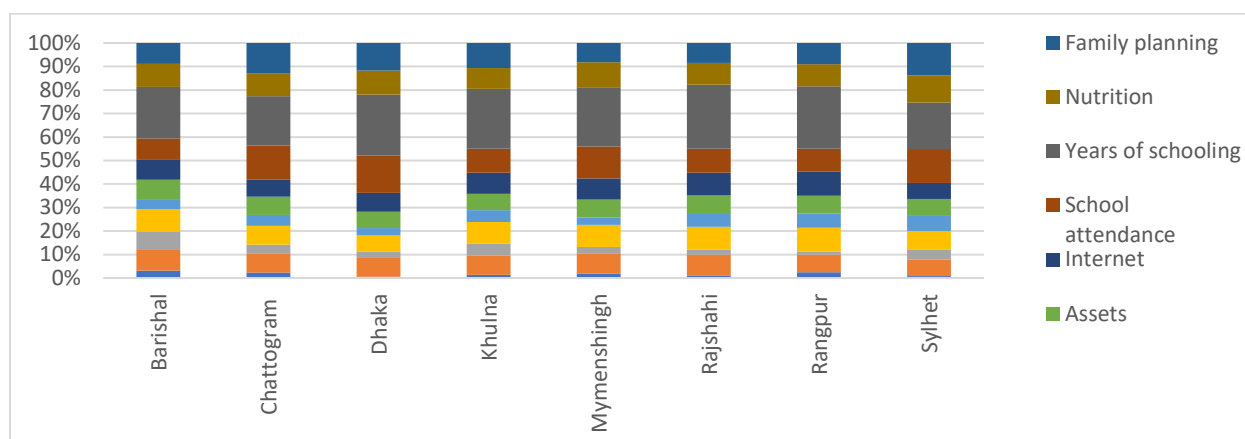
In case of education, different government education stipend programme facilitates education services for female population. Primary School Stipend, School Feeding, and Secondary Education Sector Stipend programmes are some of the good examples that helped Bangladesh to attain female-to-male gender parity index over one in both primary and secondary education.

Another exemplary programme is the Ashrayan-2 Project. The Project was launched in 2010 with an objective to alleviate poverty and raise the standard of living of the landless and homeless people through providing shelters, basic services (e.g. water and sanitation), infrastructure development, microcredit, and skill development activities. Hence, this project is directly contributing to eradicate inequality by enhancing social inclusion of poor people in the society.

Multidimensional Poverty Index: An innovative case to deal spatial inequality in Bangladesh

Inequalities are highly linked to poverty. Even when growth accelerates, poverty reduction can slow down if distribution becomes more unequal. In other words, in a higher unequal society, the poor gain less in absolute terms from growth; the poor will have a lower share of both total income and its increment through growth, thus the rate of poverty reduction (for a wide range of measures) must be lower. Since inequality persists beyond monetary dimension, proper measures need to be taken for wiping out inequalities in socio-economic and other dimensions so that we can have an egalitarian society free from any kind of disparity. In order to eradicate these non-monetary based inequalities, an innovative tool is Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI).

Figure 10.2 Percentage Contributions of Each Indicator to Sub-National Regions' MPI, Bangladesh 2019



Source: MICS 2019, BBS

The General Economics Division of Bangladesh Planning Commission with support from UNICEF-Bangladesh has constructed a national Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) for Bangladesh. In total, 11 socio-economic indicators are used in this national index under three major themes, which are health, nutrition and family planning; education; and living standards. The need for MPI is inevitable as MPI could identify spatial disparities based on socio-economic indicators and makes it possible to devise policies that would restrain inequalities across the country. The figure 10.2 depicts the regional deprivation status contributed by each MPI indicator, which clearly show the extent of spatial differences in each division of Bangladesh in 2019. Based on these, the government will take proper policies that can reduce spatial differences in the attainment of above MPI indicators and eventually reduce socio-economic inequalities.

Collaborative cases: In reducing the inequalities, the development partners (DPs) in Bangladesh have taken many initiatives at different regions of Bangladesh. A new UN Joint programme on enhancing social protection for female tea garden workers and their families in Sylhet Division is launched, the major focused areas of which are LNOB and social protection. DFAT, UNDP and EU are working together in social protection policy support and NSSS reform. Recently the DPs have also taken initiatives in market and financial access for smallholder farmers and skills development. For example, DFAT, ILO, EU and Canada have jointly launched programmes on skills for inclusive economic growth and prosperity. A programme named 'Promoting resilience of vulnerable through access to infrastructure, improved skills and information' has also been initiated by IFAD and ILO.

4.11 Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

Introduction

Sustainable Development Goal 11 seeks to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. Ensuring access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade of slums are critical for this goal. The goal emphasizes access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems with special attention to the needs of vulnerable people, inclusive and sustainable urbanization and participatory and integrated sustainable planning and management and protection and safeguard the world's cultural and

natural heritage. The reduction of the environmental impact of cities and deaths due to disasters is also needed to make cities safer. The quality of life is enhanced by universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities.

Context

There are wide spatial variations in the level of urbanization in the country ranging from 7.2 per cent in Satkhira district to more than 90 per cent in Dhaka district. Bangladesh has some 570 urban centres, of which Dhaka is a megacity and Chattogram, Khulna, Rajshahi, and Sylhet are metropolitan areas, 25 are cities with a population of over 100,000 and the rest are smaller towns. Lack of adequate housing is a key problem in all of the cities and secondary towns in Bangladesh. About 57 per cent of urban households live in houses made of brick/cement walls.

The rapid growth of urban population, urban economic activities, and growth of average income have led to the phenomenal growth of the demand for transportation services resulting in manifold increases in motorized and non-motorized vehicles on the city streets. Extreme traffic congestion is a major problem in urban transportation in the cities. This problem is more acute in Dhaka, the capital city, but it also a common problem in other cities and urban centres.

There has been an increase in the supply of piped water in urban areas but the rapid increase in urban population has made the progress appear very small. According to HIES 2016, 37.28 per cent urban households have access to piped water.

Most urban centres face problems with the collection and disposal of urban solid waste. In Dhaka City, only 60 per cent of the solid wastes generated daily is collected by the City Corporation. The situation is better in Sylhet and Chattogram with 76 per cent and 70 per cent of solid wastes collected respectively while lower proportions of solid wastes are collected in Rajshahi, Khulna, and Barisal cities.

Bangladesh is exposed to various natural disasters such as river erosion, cyclones, droughts, tornadoes, cold waves, floods, flash floods, and earthquakes as well as human-induced disasters such as fire and building collapse. In addition, emerging issues such as climate change and salinity pose new challenges. Especially, climate change increases the frequency and severity of natural disasters. Some argue that about one per cent of GDP is lost annually due to disasters and it will increase due to climate change impact. Following the devastating cyclones of 1970 and 1991, Bangladesh has made significant efforts to reduce its disaster vulnerability and is considered today a global leader in coastal resilience due to its significant long-term investments in protecting lives. Despite these efforts, the vulnerability of the coastal population is on the rise due to climate change.

Progress against targets

11.1 By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums

According to UN-HABITAT, the proportion of the urban population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing was 55 per cent in 2014. However, the Census of Slum Areas and Floating Population conducted by BBS reveals that 6.3 per cent population lives in the slums. The government undertakes several measures to ensure housing to people. It constructs

houses and flats for providing housing to public sector employees. It develops residential plots for low and middle-income group people. In view of the acute shortage of land, it has started to construct high-rise flats and sell those on affordable terms.

The government has initiated in 2016 Bangladesh- Pro-poor Slums Integration Project funded by the World Bank with the objective to improve shelter and living conditions in selected low income and informal settlements in designated municipalities in Bangladesh. There are five components in the project including the shelter component and lending. The government has been planning to construct some 10,000 residential flats for slum dwellers in Dhaka for their rehabilitation.

11.2 By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons

Road Transport and Highways Division (RTHD) has concentrated on building city mass transport systems in order to address the need for a wider class of people and to enable their access to an affordable & comfortable transportation system. In this regard, the Mass Rapid Transit (MRT-6) and Bus Rapid Transit (BRT, Airport to Gazipur) system are being constructed. Apart from this, MRT Line -1 and MRT Line-5 (North) have been approved by the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC). Technical Assistance Project for MRT Line -5 (South) has also been approved. The government is also implementing the revised Strategic Transport Plan (2015-2035) to oversee and implement a huge urban transport network in and around Dhaka city plus neighbouring areas. All the initiatives taken by RTHD with regard to ensuring a safe, accessible, affordable and sustainable transport system.

11.3 By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries

Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha, or RAJUK – literally the Capital Development Authority of the Government of Bangladesh – is a public agency responsible for coordinating urban development in Dhaka, Bangladesh. RAJUK has taken a project of “Conservation of Flood Flow Zone and Compact Township Development” and “Waterfront West City”. Detailed Hydrological study, Environmental Study and Feasibility study are going on and from the beginning of the year 2021; these two projects will be submitted to the government for approval.

11.4 Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world’s cultural and natural heritage

The Ministry of Cultural Affairs has prepared an Action Plan for the period up to 2020 to preserve the cultural heritage of the country and implement projects, which will contribute towards the achievement of SDG targets. Important current and recent past activities include excavation of 23 archaeological sites and plan to excavate 8 archaeological sites in the 2018-19 and completion of archaeological surveys in 34 districts. Conservation activities are also going on simultaneously in possible cases. Financial support is provided to non-government

organizations engaged in archaeological preservation work and research both tangible and intangible heritages and persons engaged in cultural activities.

ADB aided South Asia Tourism Infrastructure Development Project (Bangladesh Portion) has been completed with an aim to improve culture-based tourism and to strengthen linkages between tourism and local people by building the capacity of communities to enable them to obtain greater benefits from tourism.

About 57 research books and journals have been published for the development of Bengali language and literature. Besides, 13 thousand folk songs and music that were on the verge of extinction have been collected and preserved. ‘Mongal Shovajatra’ (a mass procession that takes place at dawn on the first day of the Bengali New Year in Bangladesh) and ‘Shitalpati’ (Traditional Shitalpati weaving of Sylhet) have been enlisted by UNESCO as Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

11.5 By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations

The Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR) has prepared Disaster Risk Reduction Strategies of Bangladesh (2016-2020) in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and other international protocols ratified by the Government of Bangladesh. The MoDMR and its line agency have taken different projects to reduce the risk of disaster as the implementation of the national strategy in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. Social safety net programmes cover the support measures to address the emergency before, during and after the disaster. Construction of Bridges/Culverts more or less than 15 meters on the rural roads is done by the MoDMR. Equipment for search and rescue operation for earthquake, and other disasters, construction of multipurpose cyclone shelter in the coastal belt and cyclone-prone areas, construction of Herring Bone Bond (HBB) Road for sustainable rural earthen roads, construction of flood shelters in the flood-prone and river erosion areas, construction of district relief godowns (storage facility) cum information centre, etc. are the major interventions done by the MoDMR.

11.6 By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management

Waste management is one of the priority services provided by urban LGIs. Dhaka city alone produces around 6000 tonnes of household solid waste per day. Traditionally, waste management was carried out by dumping it at open landfills. Only Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) and Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) have sanitary landfills, which will be exhausted soon. Considering the land scarcity in the country, the government has decided to go for modern technology-based waste management like incineration. To this end, projects for land acquisition have already been approved by the ECNEC for DNCC, DSCC and Narayanganj City Corporation.

Bangladesh has successfully reduced open defecation to one per cent in 2015. Improved sanitation coverage has also been increased to 63 per cent. However, in Dhaka city, sewage network coverage is only around 20 per cent. Dhaka WASA has finalized its Sewage Master Plan (SMP) and started to implement it. Out of five Sewage Treatment Plants (STP) to be established under the SMP, one has been in progress at Dasherbandi for treating 50 crore litres of sewage daily. Projects for the construction of two STPs at Saidabad and Uttara are in the pipeline. The remaining two at Mirpur and Rayer Bazar will also be constructed in phases. CWASA has completed its sewerage and drainage master plan with the support of the World Bank. KWASA has completed its feasibility study for a sewage master plan with the support of ADB to undertake sewage management activities in three phases.

Bangladesh has set an ambient air quality standard and a number of specific strategies have been undertaken in the past addressing specific emissions sources in order to reduce the concentration of the criteria air pollutants to the ambient AQ standards. These include lead (pb) phase out from petrol, ban on two-stroke three-wheelers in Dhaka, promoting CNG conversion of vehicles, ban on older vehicles responsible for the larger amount of emissions, ban on vehicles older than five years, setting vehicle emission standards, policies to reduce emissions from brick kilns, ban on high Sulphur coal, and disseminate the use of improved cooking stoves. Some of these strategies were successful, while others were not so.

Despite these policies, air quality in Bangladesh, especially in Dhaka, has not improved. On the contrary, Dhaka's air quality has been continually deteriorating since 2010 making it the third most polluted in the world according to air quality data compiled by the World Health Organization (WHO) for megacities with a population of 14 million or more. Air pollution is estimated to claim 122,400 lives in Bangladesh a year (Health Effects Institute 2017). Annual mean levels of fine particulate matter (e.g. PM2.5 and PM10) in cities (population weighted) was 88.6 in 2016 (WHO).

11.7 By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities

Dhaka North City Corporation and Dhaka South City Corporation have reconstructed the footpath of the city where dedicated lines are earmarked for the blind peoples and for easy access of the persons with disabilities, there is smoothly sloping at the ending of the footpaths. Parks are renovated in the city corporation area where ensuring green and open spaces are given more emphasis.

11.a Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning

All urban, and rural local government institutions have master plan which need to be synchronized with national and regional development planning.

11.b By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, holistic disaster risk management at all levels

Housing and Building Research Institute (HBRI) has taken a technical development project to upgrade the structural integrity of buildings in densely populated urban areas and its strategic implementation towards resilient cities in Bangladesh. Public Works Department (PWD) has taken a project of “Urban Building Safety”. Feasibility study and environmental impact study of the urban redevelopment project for old Dhaka has been done. Pre-Development Project Pro-forma has been prepared for the project and it is under the approval process. RAJUK has taken a project on urban resilience and consultants are working according to their terms and reference.

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

Challenges

- Rapid urbanization has created an increasing demand for housing creating housing deficit. With current rate urbanization and supply of housing, the deficit is likely to persist in the future with housing remaining unaffordable for low and middle-income households and rising house rents draining a disproportionately large portion of wage income.
- Lack of an efficient public transport system has multiple related effects- slower vehicle speed costs working hours lowering labour productivity, incurs higher fuel consumption and emission. Overcrowded bus trip affects comfort and safety of riders, especially of women.
- Rising demand for construction materials fuelled by urbanization and construction itself has been the major cause of air pollution in the country, especially in the cities. Despite government regulations, numerous brick kilns around Dhaka are producing huge levels of dust and smoke accounting for 52 per cent of the pollution.
- Environmentally challenged areas such as coastal, haor, and riverbank erosion areas have been major sources of poor rural migrants who move to urban areas especially to Dhaka. Climate change will worsen the incidence of natural disasters such as floods/flash floods, cyclones and storm surges, salinity intrusion and climate change-induced sea-level rise and its impacts mainly in low-lying coastal areas will force millions of people to migrate to Dhaka. In order to relieve pressure on Dhaka secondary cities that will be climate-resilient and migrant-friendly needs to be developed.
- Rapid urbanization and overall socio-economic development in the country in recent years have substantially increased demand for improved urban services. Many of these services involve modern technology-based solutions that require a large investment. Existing resource bases of Urban Local Government Institutions (ULGIs) are not sufficient to meet these investment requirements.
- There are many service providers and stakeholders in urban areas. Effective coordination among them is important for greater interest of the urban dwellers. City Corporation Act 2009 clearly authorizes them to coordinate amongst stakeholders. The government has issued an official circular mentioning the roles and responsibilities of all departments/ agencies when they are invited by the city corporations to coordination

meetings. However, coordination among different agencies are still very challenging task.

- Almost all organizations functioning in the City Corporations have their own development policy, strategy and master plans. These master plans are scarcely synchronized resulting in conflicts between master plans during implementation. Development interventions causes sufferings of people during implementation, which could be avoided and causes loss of resources.

Way forward

- Dhaka city transport system is supposed to be improved substantially after completion of the construction of five metro railings, two rapid bus routes, 1,200 km of new roadways, six flyovers and three-ring roads in Dhaka by 2035. A metro rail line between Uttara and Motijheel and a rapid bus line from Gazipur to Mohakhali, which will be built by 2021, will ease the transportation problem to some extent.
- Around 60 per cent of the brick kilns have switched to efficient energy sources. The government is closely monitoring its operations so the rest uses efficient and sustainable technology and discouraging unregistered brick kilns from operating in the area.
- Private construction operators must strictly maintain the (government's) building code and carry material more carefully to avoid more dust. The urban traffic system has to be improved and made it more efficient through reducing traffic jams and old vehicles on the road, which results in burning fuel inefficiently, adding more particulate matter 2.5 in the air.
- The World Bank has been implementing Urban Resilience Project to strengthen the emergency response system and to develop the capacity of city corporations, while JICA exchanged its Loan Agreement for Urban Building Safety Project, which would serve as the catalytic role of public and private building safety. These programmes have helped concerned government officials to identify necessary actions forward, such as identification of urban risk, the legislative system for emergency operations and building safety, improvement of design and construction skills, the establishment of the coordination mechanisms, awareness-raising to the citizens and improvement of university education programme.
- The government has been increasing its contribution to urban local government institutions through Annual Development Programme allocation as well as through block allocations but more resources are required. Hence, urban LGIs require exploiting their full potential to increase revenue income prudently by exploring innovative initiatives and alternative options for financing like public-private-partnership (PPP) and access to credit facilities.
- City Corporations have started to activate the mechanism for better partnership, accountability, and transparency. There are several committees with citizen participation in place. However, capacity building, empowerment, and engagement of committees with citizen participation will be enhanced to strengthen urban LGIs for planning, budgeting, implementation and monitoring of basic urban services, especially for urban poor.

4.12 Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Introduction

Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) is defined as “the use of services and related products, which respond to basic needs and bring a better quality of life while minimizing the use of natural resources and toxic materials as well as the emissions of waste and pollutants over the life cycle of the service or product so as not to jeopardize the needs of future generations”. SDG 12 aims at decoupling economic growth from environmental damage and natural resource exploitation. Its major targets include the implementation of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on SCP, efficient management and use of natural resources, reducing various types of waste, and responsible management of wastes and chemicals, and adoption of sustainable practices in companies/business and in public procurement.

Context

Bangladesh has been able to achieve accelerated growth and lift several million people out of poverty over the past two decades. Recently, the country has fulfilled to graduate from the LDCs group. However, development has been accompanied by negative environmental impacts, which, if unchecked, can threaten economic development. The government has been aware of the negative impacts and their consequences. Accordingly, policies and strategies have been adopted to promote sustainable production, consumption, and disposal patterns in the economy. Many of these policies and strategies have been highlighted in the National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS) adopted by the government in 2013.

As economic development is one of the major indicators for future consumption, the country needs to be prudent in utilizing natural resources and minimizing the impact on environment through material and non-material consumption including food consumption. If we see the trend of lifestyle for last two decades, the consumption of energy and power, using air conditioners, computer, cell phone, TVs, cars, refrigerators, and other electric and electronic goods, using home utensils, the behaviour in food intake, using construction materials for infrastructure and urban development has been changed many folds. By 2041, Bangladesh will be a developed country if the current trend prevails. That is why we need to be very much efficient in using natural and man-made resources. As the country is being rapidly urbanized, the negative externalities like air and water pollution, waste generation particularly solid waste, medical waste, and electronic waste are increasing. If we could not be able to manage these negative externalities properly, the development of the country will not be sustainable in the coming future.

Progress against targets

12.1 Implement the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production, all countries taking action, with developed countries taking the lead, taking into account the development and capabilities of developing countries

The objective of the target is to support the integration of sustainable consumption and production into sustainable development policies, programmes and strategies, as appropriate, including, where applicable, into poverty reduction strategies. The SCP has six thematic areas:

(a) sustainable food system, (b) sustainable lifestyle, (c) sustainable public procurement, (d) sustainable building and construction, (e) sustainable tourism, and (f) consumer information.

To address the issue of the framework of Sustainable Consumption and Production, the Government of Bangladesh has prepared a draft roadmap in December 2018 with technical assistance from UNDP and support from Action Aid Bangladesh. The draft road map is prepared as a broad policy guideline, which focuses on sustainable consumption and production patterns and integration into national policies and strategies of different relevant sectors.

12.2 By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources

In Bangladesh, the material footprint and domestic material consumption are comparatively less than those of the developed countries are. The economy of the country has been growing to maintain a steady growth rate for the last two decades focusing on not only to uplift the standard of living of the people of the country but also to expedite the export of different commodities including garments and others. The main objective is to achieve the target of the socio-economic development of the country. Although the data for material footprint (MF) and Domestic Material Consumption (DMC) is not available up to now in Bangladesh, the trend to use the material footprint and domestic material consumption is in increasing day by day.

12.3 By 2030, halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses

The existing study shows that post-harvest loss of rice in Bangladesh is roughly more than 10 per cent and for wheat & maize 4-5 per cent. However, actual loss varies for different varieties of rice and other crops. The post-harvest food loss and waste are very high in perishable goods like fruits and vegetables and fisheries in some cases it is more than 30 per cent. Post-harvest losses of potatoes, vegetables like cauliflower, cabbage, tomato, mango, pineapple, jackfruit is quite significant in Bangladesh. There is no comprehensive study regarding post-harvest losses of poultry and dairy products in Bangladesh.

A Global FAO Report on State of Food and Agriculture 2019 shows that the estimated amount of food loss and waste in Bangladesh is 7.4 per cent, the range of food waste and loss is 0.2 per cent to 35 per cent. This estimation has been obtained from grey literature, and national and sectoral reports, excluding the official report.

Table 12.1: Situation of food waste and losses in some Countries of South Asia

Country	Mean (% of food waste and losses)	Range (Min and Max) (% of food waste and losses)
Bangladesh	7.4	0.2-35.0
India	1.0	0.0-62.5
Nepal	15.5	0.6-74.0
Pakistan	12.2	0.0-75.4

Source: State of Food and Agriculture-2019 (FAO Global Report)

The Ministry of Food has undertaken different interventions like modernizing the storage facilities and regular repair/maintenance of dilapidated food godowns (storage facilities) with a view to reducing the post-harvest losses of food in the storage level in the public sector.

In order to build resilience among the poor/marginal farmers and reduce the food grain losses in household storage level in disaster-prone areas (63 Upazila under 19 disaster-prone districts), 500,000 Household Silos (family level safe food storage facilities with the capacity of 56 kg of rice) has been distributed under Modern Food Storage Facilities Project.

To address the issue of reducing food losses in the public storage and distribution system, Ministry of Food has undertaken a research study titled “Assessment of current grain losses and identifying solutions for reducing them” done by International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). IFPRI is conducting the study in 10 public food godowns across the country. Findings of this study relate to the loss reduction in the supply chain of Public Food Distribution System. Although public food stocks account for only a quarter of the total stock of food-grains at any given point in time, it is an important component of the food supply chain of the country.

Ministry of Agriculture has identified some key strategies to achieve the SDG target 12.3, viz. (a) Post-harvest management & agricultural marketing, (b) Farm mechanization and facilitate agro-processing, (c) Supply of good quality seed, (d) Efficient use of agri-inputs, (e) Popularization/extension of green technologies (Bio-pesticides, GAP, IPM, ICM, INM, AWD, Dug-well, organic agriculture, etc.), and (f) Capacity Development. Agriculture marketing Act, 2018 has already been enacted to facilitate Agriculture marketing activities to the farmers, consumers as well as traders.

12.4 By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) and the Department of Environment (DoE) have undertaken the following initiatives in Bangladesh so far:

- Bangladesh is a party of the Stockholm, Basel and Minamata Convention
- Draft E-waste Management Rules prepared by DoE is ready
- The baseline of E-Waste Generation is being studied by the DoE through BUET
- Minamata Initial Assessment for Ratification is underway
- A project on Disposal of Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) from old transformer has been undertaken

To manage the hazardous waste properly, Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) has set the target for hazard waste treatment up to 15 per cent by 2030. Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) has a target/plan to modernize the equipment of solid waste management. Both DNCC and DSCC and other major city corporations are working on the safe removal of medical waste through a public-private partnerships.

The growth rate of e-waste generation is about 20 per cent per year, according to a study by the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology. The study carried out in 2018 found that the amount of e-waste rose to four lakh tonne in 2018 from 1.30 lakh tonne in 2010. So appropriate policy guideline is required to manage the electronic waste properly.

12.5 By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse

As an initiative to reduce waste generation, National 3R Strategy for Waste Management, 2010 was launched in Bangladesh. The City Corporations and Municipalities are making efforts to incorporate the concepts and guidance of this strategy in their solid waste management activities. However, there have been dedicated pilot initiatives in line with 3R Strategy through different programmes and projects being implemented by various Ministries/Divisions/Agencies.

12.6 Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle

The Ministry of Industries will work on this issue in the coming years according to their action plan. In this regard, certain guidelines need to be prepared for transnational, large, medium and small-scale companies/enterprises following the guidelines of metadata.

12.7 Promote public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities

To ensure efficiency, transparency, accountability, equal treatment as well as fair competition in public procurement and for the best utilization of public money, National e-GP web portal was inaugurated on in 2011. It has paved the path for the e-tendering system in Bangladesh. A guideline on the e-GP system was also issued in 2011.

The vision “Digital Bangladesh” along with transparency & reliability in public procurement, the e-tendering system is merely considered as a revolutionary initiative. Up to 31 December 2019, a total of 8,830 Procuring Entities of 1,325 organizations with all Ministries/Divisions and 68,389 tenderers have been registered in the e-GP system. By this time, 343,996 tenders were invited under the e-GP system. Central Procurement Technical Unit (CPTU) has signed MOU with 46 banks to receive tender security and performance security including registration fee, renewal fee and tender document fee related to the e-GP system. A total of 5,219 branches of these banks are providing services for e-tendering.

Up to December 2019, in total 27,267 officers have received different types of procurement training (3 weeks, 1 week, 3 days, 2 days, 1 day) under the CPTU. Moreover, about 14,985 officers from different procuring entities including banks have received training on e-tendering. In order to ensure the Value for Money based on the Whole Life Costing of goods, work and services, CPTU has taken initiatives for inclusion of Sustainable Public Procurement in the amendments of Public Procurement Act (PPA), 2006. In addition, Disposal Policy, Reverse Auction for the sale of unused or unusable assets and Quality Based Selection (QBS) for the procuring intellectual services have been proposed in the amendments of PPA 2006.

12.8 By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature

The issue of Sustainable Development Goals has been incorporated in the text titled “Bangladesh and Bishwporichiti” for classes VI to Classes XI and in Geography book for Class IX and Class X. National Curriculum and Textbook Board has provided training for the education experts so that they can help to update the curricula of different classes. Moreover, the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief has provided training on building protection in the coastal regions, saline treatment in the coastal regions, and construction of the transferable building in the areas, where the rivers break and take measures from thunderstorms.

12.b Develop and implement tools to monitor sustainable development impacts for sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products

The Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism (MoCAT) is responsible for the Development and Implementation of tools to monitor sustainable development impact for the economic, societal and environmental contributions of tourism. To achieve this target, short-term, medium-term and long-term action plans have been prepared by the MoCAT.

12.c Rationalize inefficient fossil-fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption by removing market distortions, in accordance with national circumstances, including by restructuring taxation and phasing out those harmful subsidies, where they exist, to reflect their environmental impacts, taking fully into account the specific needs and conditions of developing countries and minimizing the possible adverse impacts on their development in a manner that protects the poor and the affected communities

According to the Finance Division of the Ministry Finance, in 2018-19 around US\$ 297 million was provided as subsidies for fossil fuel, which is US\$ 177 million up to December 2019 for the fiscal year 2019-2020.

Challenges:

- The implementation of SDG-12 is very much challenging for a developing country like Bangladesh. At the early stage of SDG implementation, most of the indicators were in Tier –II or III. Therefore, the preparation of data collection was not possible without appropriate methodology and metadata.
- Baseline data for quite a few indicators under SDG-12 is not available in Bangladesh. Therefore, it is very much challenging to monitor the progress in comparison with baseline.
- SDG-12 covers almost all related activities/actions regarding production and supply chain for all commodities or services. Therefore, coordination is very much challenging. Although 13 Ministries/divisions are directly involved as lead/co-lead ministry and large number ministries as an associate, the number of related stakeholders is very large. It covers all sectors and sub-sectors along the production and supply chain. The role of the private sector is also very important in this regard.

- Partnership in the form of technical assistance with development partners is not yet fully visible. Although some ministries are closely working with UN agencies like FAO, the coordination with major stakeholders with UNEP is not mentionable.
- Lack of appropriate technology induces production and consumption in an unsustainable way, which is responsible for resource inefficiency.

Way forward:

- Lead/co-lead ministries will have to take necessary action to generate baseline data and monitoring the progress in comparison with the baseline. Technical assistance/support is required from the development partners as well as from the National Statistical organization (BBS).
- Inter-ministerial and inter-agency coordination mechanisms should be established.
- The training and capacity building activities regarding the methodology of the related targets and indicators need to be done within a stipulated time. More technical assistance/support is needed from the custodian agencies.
- Each lead ministry needs to provide the required data and information in consultation with relevant stakeholders of a particular target. National Data Coordination Committee (NDCC) might be useful in this regard.
- Mechanization and automation with appropriate technology in production and supply chain need to be strengthened.
- Massive awareness programme needs to be undertaken and implemented with a view to changing consumer behaviour and adopt a sustainable lifestyle.

Good practice: Bangladesh experiences frequent catastrophic weather like a cyclone, tidal bore in coastal areas and floods in river catchment areas resulting in loss of lives and properties. Loss of food grain and the crisis of drinking water become severe. Primarily, vulnerable and poor people in areas regularly affected by floods and cyclones. To reduce the losses of food grain during the natural calamity, Household Silo is an appropriate solution to the people of the affected areas.

Modern Food Storage Facilities Project of the Directorate General of Food under the Ministry of Food has undertaken a programme to distribute food grade plastic made 70 litre waterproof household silo among 500,000 families of 63 Upazilas of 19 disaster-prone districts to facilities storage of quality seeds and foodstuffs during natural calamities like flood, cyclone, a tidal bore, etc. with a view to reducing the losses of food gain and their nutritional quality.

The main objectives of household Silos are to increase the grain reserve available to households to meet their post-disaster needs and improve the efficiency of grain storage management reducing the losses of food.

Household silos are completely made by polypropylene copolymer plastic granules for which these are very much strong and healthy and food qualities remain good condition. Due to lightweight this can be easily moved or transferred from one place to another. The household silo with seeds and foods can be kept in a pit under the soil during the disaster period and the quality of the preserved foods will not be affected. The household silos have proper arrangements to tie up by rope, chain or hook which can easily be fixed with pole or trees. Commodities inside silo remain intact when silo is submerged in water.

Funded by World Bank, the silos have been distributed among the small, marginal and landless tenant farmers and women headed families to preserve the seeds and food grains during the disaster period at a subsidized price of Tk. 80 each where the making cost is Tk.1377. The beneficiaries have started to get the benefits of using household silos.

There is 28 thousand tonnes food grain or seeds preservation capacity that has been enhanced after distribution of five Lakh household silos in 63 Upazilas (Sub-districts). Thus, the Food grain and seed preservation arrangement without losing the weight and quality of food grain at the disaster-prone household level is an important milestone of the present government. This is an initiative at the grassroots level to preserve food grain at the household level and reduce the food storage loss during and after the disaster.

Innovative case: *Food Grain procurement particularly paddy procurement through mobile APPs*

Ministry of Food has taken some initiatives to ensure fair prices to the farmers and to reduce food grain losses during harvesting seasons under an Innovation programme through mobile APPs. Paddy, rice, and wheat are being purchased directly from the farmer during the production season. If the farmer took Paddy/ Wheat, (which has been produced by the farmer) to the food godowns/warehouse for sale, the warehouse officer and Upazila Food Controller issued WQSC (Weight, Quality and Stock Certificate) for paying the price after confirming the weights and quality as required. In this process, farmers received cash money directly from the local paying bank by submitting the WQSC. Similarly, if a miller applied for supplying rice, he or she would be allocated according to the capacity of his/her mill. In the same manner, the scheduled supplying of rice within a period confirmed the payment of the price and also play an important role to reduce food gain losses. This programme has been piloted in the field level and now it is being scaled up in different districts of the country.

Leave No One Behind (LNOB): To improve the nutrition status of ultra-poor people, fortified rice distribution under Food Friendly Programme has been started in 10 Upazilas (Sub-districts) of eight Districts by government assistance. The WFP and Nutrition International (NI) is also giving kernel (Micronutrients) assistance for another 14 Upazilas of 13 districts. So, a total no of 24 Upazilas of Food Friendly Programme is now under fortified rice distribution coverage. This year there is a plan to expand it to 100 more Upazilas across the country in 2020.

Rice fortification provides an immediate, ready-to-use product that helps to address micronutrient deficiencies at a large scale. Fortified rice kernels look, taste and cook like ordinary rice but are enhanced with six essential vitamins and minerals: Vitamin A, Vitamin B1, Vitamin B12, Folic Acid, Iron and Zinc. They are mixed with ordinary rice at a ratio of 1:100. In the course of time, the rice fortification programme will be strengthened and fortified rice will be distributed through social safety net programmes like under Khaddya Bandhob Karmosuchi (Food Friendly Programme) across the country.

4.13 Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Introduction

With rising greenhouse gas emissions, climate change is occurring at rates much faster than anticipated and its effects are clearly felt worldwide. In SDG 13, the focus has been given for strengthening resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters, integrating climate change measures into national policies, strategies, and planning, improving education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change

mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction, and early warning. While there are positive steps in terms of the development of nationally determined contributions, far more ambitious plans and accelerated action are needed on adaptation and mitigation. Access to finance and strengthened capacities need to be scaled up at a much faster rate.

Context

Bangladesh is one of the most pro-active developing nations that has considered the issue of climate change seriously and subsequently achieved success in developing national-level scientific expertise and government level actions. While presiding over the launching of Global Commission on Adaptation (GCA) in The Hague, Netherlands, in 2018, former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has said Bangladesh is a role model in showing the world that even a developing country could roll out so many trends setting climate initiatives with courage and farsightedness. Highly appreciating Bangladesh's efforts during the Dhaka Meeting of the GCA in 2019, the former UN chief, Ban Ki-moon said: "Bangladesh is the best teacher to learn from about adaptation."

With regard to disaster management and risk reduction, Bangladesh is now considered a global role model. Between 1980 and 2008, Bangladesh experienced 219 natural disasters, causing in total over US\$16 billion damage, affecting 135 million adversely. Disasters in Bangladesh mostly linked with climate change. Now, after the government has trained 65,000 volunteers and prepared 25,000 communities to respond to any disaster, the country's response posture has moved from reactive relief to proactive risk reduction. The results are apparent in the fewer number of lives and livelihoods destroyed by natural disasters nowadays. At a briefing on disaster management at the UN Office for Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Management, in 2014, the then UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said Bangladesh set an example in disaster management. Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was awarded the Prize — the United Nations Champions of the Earth award — in recognition of her outstanding initiatives to address climate change. "Serving as Prime Minister of Bangladesh — one of the world's least-developed countries — Sheikh Hasina has proven that investing in climate change is conducive to achieving social and economic development," said the award announcement issued by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), which conferred the awards in 2015. The ability to sharply reduce the loss of lives and injuries based on a combination of the early warning system, construction, and availability of shelters and timely provision of relief and support measures is evident nowadays.

Recently approved "Bangladesh Delta Plan (BDP) 2100" is a water-centric, comprehensive, integrated, holistic and long-term plan for Bangladesh Delta. It is a techno-economic plan that includes a framework for its implementation with an investment plan phased out in short, medium and long term interventions. It is prepared to address the changing dynamics of the climate change impacts and disaster risk nexus. 'BDP 2100' is envisioned to ensure long-term water and food security, economic growth and environmental sustainability while effectively coping with natural disasters, Climate Change, and other delta issues through robust, adaptive and integrated strategies, and equitable water governance.

Progress against targets

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

The country is exposed to severe climate related environmental hazards like river erosion, cyclones, storm surge, salinity intrusion, flood, flash flood, droughts, tornadoes, cold waves, etc. In addition, climate change could substantially increase the frequency and intensity of existing climatic events. Impacts of climate change are visible in Bangladesh in the form of temperature extremes, erratic rainfalls and increased number of intensified floods, droughts, and prevalence of rough weather in the Bay.

Over the years, the country has improved its disaster response mechanism significantly reducing death tolls during disasters. As the population increases and climate change accelerates, however, risks to people and livelihoods are increasing.

Table 13.1 Deaths and Damages due to Disasters

	Affected person per 100,000	Death per 100,000
2016	12881	0.2045
2017	7656	0.4427
2018	22	0.2375
2019	4318	0.316

Source: Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief

The Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR) has prepared Disaster Risk Reduction Strategies of Bangladesh (2016-2020) in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and other international protocols ratified by the Government of Bangladesh. The MoDMR and its line agency have taken the following projects to reduce the risk of disaster as the implementation of the national strategy in line with Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030:

- a. Construction of Bridges/Culverts more or less 15 meter long on the Rural Roads
- b. Procurement of Saline Water Treatment Plant for Coastal Region
- c. Reduce cyclone damage extent and vulnerable people by construction and retrofit usable cyclone shelters
- d. Installation of solar panels on fisherman boats
- e. Reduce average flood extent and flood vulnerable people
- f. ICT based countrywide earthquake seismic monitoring system

Bangladesh Bank (the Central Bank of Bangladesh) has established a Climate Risk Fund from its Corporate Social Responsibility fund (10 per cent of the total fund) to combat climate change, which will also be used to address disaster management.

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

Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (BCCSAP) is the key climate change national plan and basis for climate investment in Bangladesh. BCCSAP provides an overall

framework for action, recognizing the need for adaptation and highlighting the government's willingness to follow a low carbon pathway towards achieving development. BCCSAP is a strategy/plan and a basic reference for aligning investments with climate change objectives. Six thematic areas with 44 programmes and 145 actions have been identified within these thematic areas. The thematic areas are (1) Food Security, Social Protection and Health, (2) Comprehensive Disaster Management, (3) Infrastructure, (4) Research and Knowledge Management, (5) Mitigation and Low Carbon Development, and (6) Capacity Building and Institutional Strengthening.

Bangladesh adopted its National Adaptation programme of Action (NAPA) in 2005 and revised it on 2009. MoEF&CC and ERD is on the process to prepare National Adaptation Plan (NAP). Institutional arrangements have been set up for the NAP process, through the formulation of an Inter-Ministerial Steering Committee, a Technical Advisory Committee and a core NAP formulation team.

Considering the vulnerabilities, the government has identified the following areas of interventions to address adverse impacts of climate change: (i) Food security, livelihood, and health protection (including water security), (ii) Comprehensive disaster management, (iii) Coastal Zone Management including Salinity intrusion control, (iv) Flood Control and Erosion protection, (v) Building Climate Resilient infrastructure, (vi) Increased Rural Electrification, (vi) Enhanced Urban Resilience, (vii) Ecosystem-based adaptation (including forestry co-management), (viii) Community based conservation of wetlands and coastal areas, and (ix) Policy and Institutional Capacity Building.

Following the participatory process involving all relevant stakeholders, the government has finalized Climate Change and Gender Action Plan (ccGAP). The underlying principle of the ccGAP is the transformative nature of gender interventions, which has the potential to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of climate change and socio-economic development responses. Bangladesh also adopted Climate Fiscal Framework (CFF), 2014 and Roadmap and Action Plan for Implementing Bangladesh NDC, 2018.

The Government of Bangladesh has prepared and enacted the Climate Change Trust Act 2010 to redress the adverse impacts of climate change. Bangladesh was the first government to set up a trust fund namely 'Bangladesh Climate Change Trust Fund (BCCTF)' to create a national resource for climate change investments with the aim to support the implementation of the BCCSAP. Since 2009-10, the government has allocated BDT 3500 crore in the BCCTF. Through BCCTF, 472 projects are being funded of which 191 projects have already been implemented. Bangladesh Climate Change Resilience Fund (BCCRF) was created by the assistance of development partners to provide funding for climate change management, adaptation and mitigation. Through its Annual Development Plan Bangladesh spend every year around 1-2 per cent of its GDP for climate linked activities which is around US\$ 3 to 5 billion (climate budget report, 2018-2019)

Bangladesh has finalized Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) that lays out adaptation and mitigation strategies to increase climate resilience. Bangladesh's mitigation contribution

covers the power, transport and industry sectors. Under a business-as-usual scenario, GHG emissions in Bangladesh in these sectors are expected to represent 69 per cent of total emissions by 2030. Bangladesh is committed to reduce the GHG emissions in these three sectors by 5 per cent by 2030 using only domestic resources, or by 15 per cent by 2030 from business-as-usual if sufficient and appropriate support are received from developed countries.

Bangladesh has taken the role of Presidency of the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF) and the Vulnerable Twenty Group (V20). We are also establishing the regional office of Global Centre on Adaptation (GCA) in Dhaka.

13.3 Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning

Different government agencies have taken following different initiatives to create awareness among the stakeholders.

- Department of Environment (DoE) has included a project idea into the World Bank Funded proposed project titled ‘Bangladesh Environmental and Sustainable Transformation (BEST)’ into its preparation/feasibility phase, for stocktaking and updating the environment and climate curricula at primary, secondary and tertiary level. After the feasibility phase, Climate Change related curricula will be integrated into the textbook and institutionalized at the primary and secondary level and where feasible into tertiary levels under the implementation phase of this BEST project.
- Climate Change issues have been integrated into the National Secondary Curriculum under Bangladesh Studies subject.
- Recently, DoE has completed the projects ‘National Capacity Development for implementing Rio Conventions through Environmental Governance’. With this project, Training of Trainers was developed and integrated as a module to Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre, for building awareness of the Administrative officials as well as different stakeholders who work at the community level.
- Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) along with its projects operational partner as Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI), Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI), Bangladesh Jute Research Institute (BJRI), and Bangladesh Sugarcane Research Institute (BSRI) have been implementing ‘Agro-Meteorological Information System Development’ Project during the period from July 2016-June 2021 to strengthen the capacity of the Government of Bangladesh to deliver reliable weather, water, and climate information services and improves access to such services by priority sectors and communities. Installation of analogue agro-meteorological display boards and Handheld Automatic Rain Gauges (ARGs) at 4051 Union Parishads; development of climate risk vulnerability maps as well as KIOSK for all 487 Upazilas (Sub-district) to identify the areas at risk and vulnerable members of the community. Other partners of the project are the Bangladesh Water Development Board and the Bangladesh Meteorological Department.

13.a Implement the commitment undertaken by developed-country parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to a goal of mobilizing jointly \$100 billion

annually by 2020 from all sources to address the needs of developing countries in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency on implementation and fully operationalize the Green Climate Fund through its capitalization as soon as possible

Economic Relations Division (ERD) of the Ministry of Finance is working as the National Designated Authority (NDA) of Green Climate Fund (GCF), the biggest and dedicated window under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. ERD identified six agencies to be the potential Direct Access Entity (DAE) to ensure direct access to funding from GCF. In the meantime, PKSF and IDCOL got the accreditation from GCF as DAE. ERD prepared Bangladesh Country Programme including 48 pipeline projects for future funding from GCF. Bangladesh got the approval of four GCF projects and total amount of GCF funding is around US\$ 95 million. Besides, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in its overall diplomacy, ranks climate change very high and all their Missions are instructed to pursue the issue of climate change.

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

- Implementation of Activities identified under the NDC Implementation Roadmap and mitigation action plans
- Capacity Building on Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) at DoE to better monitor climate change mitigation and adaptation projects and activities.
- Bangladesh prepared Technology Needs Assessment (TNA) on mitigation and adaptation in 2011 and 2012; Bangladesh is expected to update Technology Needs Assessment (TNA) and Technology Action Plan (TAP) for both climate change mitigation and adaptation during beyond 2020 period.

Challenges

- Availability of resources required at the national level to attain climate resilience and to address greenhouse gas emission reduction is inadequate.
- Lack of dedicated fund/resources in lead and associated line agencies to implement the programme and projects suggested under BCCSAP and NDC
- Process to access resources from UN Framework Convention on Climate Change is very cumbersome and time consuming.
- Weak coordination among relevant ministries, and agencies to collect data and
- Apparent lack of awareness/knowledge related to goals and targets of SDGs and climate change.

Way forward

- Ensure dedicated fund/resource and dedicated manpower to implement SDG 13
- Strengthen the capacity of officials to prepare quality projects in dedicated formats of Green Climate Fund, Global Environment Facility and other funds

- Enhance the capacity of monitoring and evaluation of project implementation
- Enhance the capacity of officials for international fund management.

Good practices

Floating Garden Agricultural Practices

In some parts of Bangladesh, most affected by flood and where water remains for a prolonged period of time, farmers are using their submerged lands for crop production by adopting scientific methods which are similar to hydroponic agriculture practices. This practice has traditional roots in practices dating back to the country's forbearers. This practice is most successful in the coastal areas that are adjacent to the sea-bank areas, which remain submerged for long periods, especially in the monsoon season, as well as the wetland Haor Areas.

The unique hydroponics production system was developed in the hands of the locals by using their



traditional knowledge for agricultural practice and livelihood. The production system is the major livelihood option for about 60-90 per cent of the locals. Bio-diverse vegetables and spices crops are grown sustainably over the years on floating substrata made mainly of water hyacinth and other minor aquatic weeds on flooded water. The land with the water is used for production of fish in the open water and crops on the floating beds. Thus, ensures a sustainable utilization

of agro biodiversity, natural resources and multiple use of the land. This traditional cultivation technique is, therefore an environmental-friendly means to utilize the natural resources of wetlands to grow vegetables and other crops almost all year round. With the floating gardens, numerous social, economic, agricultural and ecological benefits are provided to the local population. Considering the significance of this climate response age-old adaptation practice of crop cultivation in the Southern floodplains of Bangladesh, it is declared as Globally Important Agricultural Heritage (GIAH) by Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in 2015.

Adaption measures for drought prone area

Potential evapotranspiration is higher than precipitation in five months (January-May) resulting in water stress or drought for the growing crops. Thus a large part of the country in the northern side (65000 ha) remains fallow in rabi season. Following drought adaptation technologies are well practiced in this region:

Mulching

- Using 3-4 inch thick rice straw mulch is better for growing potato in Barind areas
- Black polythene mulch increases 23 per cent yield in tomato

- Application of 2-3 ton ha⁻¹ mulch increases 10⁻¹² per cent garlic yield which results in 11⁻¹³ per cent additional income

Conservation Agriculture

- Zero Tillage: Relaying of lentil at 10 days before harvesting of T.Aman rice keeping 20 cm straw height.
- Strip Tillage: Conserve soil moisture. Yield of wheat and Maize increased by 5⁻¹⁰ per cent and reduced cost of production by 15-20 per cent.

Low water required crops

Cultivation of low water required crops in Barind areas such as chickpea, lentil, mustard, wheat, white grain maize, barley etc.

Innovative cases: FFF model: Forest, fish and fruit model (Livelihood support) of Bangladesh Forest Department, which was funded by Global Environment Facility through UNDP, could be pursued in the coastal areas to bring resilience among communities.

Business case: *Global Clean Cooking Programme – Bangladesh; Removing barriers in the development of a sustainable market for the adoption of improved cook stoves in Bangladesh.* About 66 per cent of Bangladesh's population lives in rural areas, where women predominantly do cooking using traditional, wood-fuelled stoves. Burning wood for cooking releases carbon dioxide, methane, and black carbon. It also leads to deforestation and negative health impacts, causing an estimated 46,000 casualties every year in Bangladesh. Currently, only 3 to 5 per cent of households in the country use improved cook stoves. The scaling up of investment in improved cook stoves will increase demand and help extend the existing supply chain. The project will provide technical assistance to support partner organizations and local entrepreneurs to produce improved cook stoves, raise awareness, and carry out research and development of the stoves. Total project investment is US\$ 82.2 million out of which GCF grant will be US\$ 20.0 million. The project has an estimated lifespan of 3.5 years. An approximate number of beneficiaries is 17.6 million and anticipated avoided tons of CO₂ equivalent is 2.9 million tonnes of Infrastructure Development Company Limited (IDCOL) has been implementing the project.

4.14 Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

Introduction

Oceans cover almost three-quarters of the planet, comprising the largest ecosystem on Earth. The increasingly adverse impacts of climate change (including ocean acidification), overfishing and marine pollution are jeopardizing recent gains in protecting portions of the world's oceans. The average coverage of marine key biodiversity areas (KBAs) by protected areas has been raised from 32 per cent in 2000 to 45.7 per cent in 2018. To achieve sustainable development of fisheries, fish stocks must be maintained at a biologically sustainable level. Analyses reveal that the fraction of world marine fish stocks that are within biologically sustainable levels declined from 90 per cent in 1974 to 66.9 per cent in 2015. The SDG aims to sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems from pollution, as well as address the impacts of ocean acidification. Enhancing conservation and the sustainable use of ocean-based resources through international law will also help mitigate some of the challenges facing our oceans. As billions of people depend on oceans for their livelihood and food source

and on the transboundary nature of oceans, increased efforts and interventions are needed to conserve and sustainably use ocean resources at all levels.

Context

Bangladesh achieved self-sufficiency in fish production with a per capita fish consumption of 62.58 g/day against the set target of 60 g/day (BBS 2016). According to the FAO report, The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2018, Bangladesh ranked 3rd in inland open water capture fisheries and 5th in world aquaculture production. Currently, Bangladesh ranks 4th in tilapia production in the world and 3rd in Asia. The marine fisheries resources of Bangladesh impart a crucial role in the economy of Bangladesh contributing about 15.31 per cent of the total fisheries production of 0.6546 million tonnes during 2017-18. During the last decade, the contribution of fisheries sub-sector to national GDP, agricultural GDP, and overall GDP growth rate is consistent and satisfactory.

Hilsa (ilish), the national fish of Bangladesh accounts for about 12 per cent of total fish production. To increase the Hilsa production, the government is implementing a unique coordinated management programme to protect jatka (below 25 cm hilsa) and brood hilsa. Geographical Indication Registration Certificate (GI) has been achieved for our national fish hilsa. Bangladesh has achieved the membership of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC). The coastline of 710 kilometres starting from St. Martin's island in the southeast to the Sundarbans mangrove in the southwest. The east coast is an important breeding ground for marine turtles.

Progress against targets

14.1 By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution

1. Monitoring Control & Surveillance (MCS) at limited scale
2. Introducing of mariculture specially seaweed
3. Diversified coastal aquaculture
4. Formulated Marine Plan of Action

14.2 By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans

1. Formulated a 'Plan of Action (PoA)' through National Short-Term, Mid-Term and Long-Term development plan;
2. Draft Marine Fisheries Act-2019 is being scrutinized by the Parliamentary Standing Committee;
3. A seasonal ban for 65 days is being implemented.
4. Vessel Tracking and Monitoring System (VTMS) and Combing operation against the use of destructive fishing gears in a limited scale;
5. Fisheries survey and research activities have been started and 457 species have been identified.
6. Declaration of 3188 sq. km area as marine reserve area which contribute to cover total 5624 sq. km comprising 4.73 per cent of the marine territorial water.

7. For sustainably manage and protect coastal ecosystem, 6 Hilsa fish sanctuary have been established and maintained.
8. Transformed 64 commercial bottom trawlers to mid water trawlers for protection of bottom ecosystem

14.3 Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels

1. Ocean water quality monitoring activity in selected areas of Chattogram is going on regular basis. (MoEF&CC).
2. Environment-friendly shrimp farming
3. Marine Protected Area (MPA) declared & maintained

14.4 By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics

1. Vessel Tracking and Monitoring System (VTMS) in limited scale;
2. Combing operation against the use of destructive fishing gears in a limited scale;
3. Introduced TED (Turtle Excluder Device) in commercial fishing vessels
4. 40 meter water depth is reserved for small-scale fisheries to minimize the conflict between industrial vessels and artisanal fishers;
5. Database for 67,669 artisanal mechanized & non-mechanized boats has been developed by the project “Bangladesh Marine Capacity Building Project” implementing by DoF; and
6. Development of National Marine Fisheries Policy is in progress

14.5 By 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information

The government has established the country’s first marine protected area ‘the Swatch of No Ground Marine Protected Area’ in October 2014 to protect whales, dolphins, turtles, sharks, and other marine animals under the Bangladesh Wildlife (Conservation and Security) Act, 2012. Another area in the ‘Middle Ground and South Patches’ of Bay of Bengal, has been declared under the Marine Fisheries Ordinance 1983 together comprise 243,600 hectares constituting 2.05 per cent of the total marine area of 11,881,300 hectares (118,813 sq. km) of Bangladesh. If the area protected during the spawning season of Hilsa fish is included, then the protected area rises to 7.94 per cent. The target is to reach a 10 per cent level by 2030.

The Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock has declared Nijhum Dweep and its surroundings area comprising 3188 sq. km as marine reserve area on 24th June 2019, which contributes to cover total 5624 sq. km comprising 4.73 per cent of the marine territorial waters. Moreover, six Hilsa fish sanctuary covering 7000 sq. km have been established and maintained.

14.6 By 2020, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and refrain from introducing new such subsidies, recognizing that appropriate and

effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the World Trade Organization fisheries subsidies negotiation

1. Our national fish Hilsa is a geographical indicator (GI) product recognized as ‘Bangladesh Ilish’ worldwide. Although this fish is found in other countries of the world, our Hilsa is the best in taste, smell and delicacy. Hilsa has a huge contribution to our culture and economy. As a single species, it has the highest contribution in the country’s total fish production which is about 12 per cent of total fish production and contribution to GDP is one per cent. About 0.50 million people in the coastal fishery community are directly involved in the collection of Hilsa, and 2.0-2.5 million people involve to Hilsa transport, sell, create nets and boats, produce ice etc. The Government of Bangladesh has set up a Hilsa Conservation Trust Fund (HCTF) amounting US\$ 0.50 million to protect hilsa fish from over-exploitation due to population growth and enhance the effectiveness of incentive-based fisheries management.
2. The Government of Bangladesh has extended coverage of Social Safety Net Programme to ensure fishers livelihood deterring from fishing. In 2018-19, during 65 days ban for breeding of marine fishes 414,784 fishermen families have been provided with 35,948 tonnes rice as food assistance (40 kg /month/family). During 22-day ban for brood hilsa conservation 395,709 fishermen families have been provided with 7,914 tonnes rice as food assistance (20 kg /family). During 4-month ban for Jatka (below 25 cm hilsa) conservation 248,674 fishermen families have been provided with 39,747 tonnes rice as food assistance (40 kg /family).
3. Signed Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA) and sent to FAO. The Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA) is the first binding international agreement to specifically target illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. Its objective is to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing by preventing vessels engaged in IUU fishing from using ports and landing their catches.

14.7 By 2030, increase the economic benefits to Small Island developing States and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism

Fisheries and aquaculture offer many opportunities to alleviate poverty, hunger and malnutrition, generate economic growth and ensure better use of natural resources. As per BBS, 2018, Bangladesh has sustainable fisheries valued at 3.14 per cent of the total GDP. It has decreased compared with the base year 2015 when the value was 3.29 per cent of the total GDP. Latest status or initiatives taken by the government:

1. Piloting of semi-intensive coastal aquaculture and mariculture;
2. Bangladesh achieved a status of member of Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) in May 2018;
3. Institutional capacity building of the concerned agencies, strengthening of monitoring Control and Surveillance system in the Bay of Bengal.

14.a Increase scientific knowledge, develop research capacity and transfer marine technology, taking into account the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Criteria and

Guidelines on the Transfer of Marine Technology, in order to improve ocean health and to enhance the contribution of marine biodiversity to the development of developing countries, in particular small island developing States and least developed countries

To keep pace and to be at par with the developing world in the field of maritime higher studies and research, the Government of Bangladesh has established Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Maritime University, Bangladesh in 2013. It is the 3rd Maritime University in South Asia and the 12th Maritime University in the world. In 2018, the Government of Bangladesh has allocated 106.68 acres of land in Chattogram for the purpose of establishment of a permanent campus of the University. The university would conduct both graduate and post-graduate courses on various fields, such as Port and Shipping Administration, Maritime Technology, Naval Architecture, Oceanography, Marine Science, Hydrography, Ocean Engineering, Offshore Engineering, Coastal Engineering, Maritime Laws, Maritime Security and Strategic studies, Business Studies, Information and Computer technology, Environmental Science etc.

14.b Provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets

1. The Government of Bangladesh has completed the registration and database of 1.62 million fishermen and delivery of 1.42 million identity cards between them;
2. Hilsa conservation and development fund of Tk. 35 million has been formed for fisher's livelihood;
3. Financial aid was provided to the family of the fishermen who died due to natural disasters (storms, cyclones, tidal bores) and pirate attacks, tigers, crocodiles and bites of snakes, and fishermen missing for at least 3 months or permanently disabled caused while fishing; and
4. Access for small scale artisanal fishers to marine resources with the principles of "jal jar jola tar" meaning belongs net belongs waterbody and market is open for all.

14.c Enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in UNCLOS, which provides the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources, as recalled in paragraph 158 of "The Future We Want"

Bangladesh has ratified all three instruments within 2012. Bangladesh is formulating the legal framework according to the instruments. Currently, the law is being vetted in the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs after the approval of the cabinet. Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) is in charge of all issues related to UNCLOS. MoFA is working to provide inputs/consultation/ assistance to other Ministries/divisions/institutions on making fisheries sustainable, addressing marine pollution, sustainably managing, protecting, conserving and restoring marine and coastal ecosystem and marine protected areas, increasing the economic benefits to LDCs and providing access to small scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets, increasing scientific knowledge, developing research capacity and transfer of marine technology, minimizing ocean acidification and enhancing the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and resources by implementing the International Law as reflected in the

UNCLOS. In this regard, the Government of Bangladesh is working closely to uphold the overall aspects of the blue economy comprehensively.

Challenges

- Inadequacy of quality fish feeds and seeds
- Inadequate human resource capacity
- Lack of modern logistic supports
- Lack of effective partnership with private sectors
- Inadequate organized post-harvest technologies and facilities
- Data management system
- Adverse impacts of climate change & pollution
- Lack of coordination among the relevant agencies
- Lack of conducive market chain
- Import tax on fish feed and animal feed

Way forward

- Institutional capacity building (human resources & logistics)
- Promulgation of new acts, laws, rules, regulations, aligned with SDG targets
- Updating and revision of old laws, policies, rules etc. in line with SDGs
- Zone- and species-specific technology adoption and its dissemination at all levels
- Strengthening the 65-day fishing ban in the Bay of Bengal during fish breeding season in order to conserve fish resources
- Promoting GAP and food safety compliances
- Rational investment to sustain the robust growth
- Market chain should be improved
- Promotion of mariculture
- Tax waiver or reduced tax on fish and animal feed may be introduced

Good practices

i) Good Aquaculture Practice

Good aquaculture practices are a series of considerations, procedures, and protocols designed to foster efficient and responsible aquaculture production and expansion and to help in ensuring the final product quality, safety, and environmental sustainability. GAP includes considerations for site location; farm design, operation, and management, farming practice, water quality management, fish health management; incoming seed stock; facility bio-security; feed and feeding management, procurement and storage; production techniques to maximize fish health; harvest and cleaning and sanitation basics to ensure final product quality and safety. Good Aquaculture Practices (GAP) and Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) are in place at all stages of the fish/shrimp supply chain to comply with international and local markets. Fish farmers along with all others stakeholders are being trained by the Department of Fisheries in light of Prepared Training Manual on Good Aquaculture Practice.

II) Establishment of Hilsa sanctuaries and its conservation measures

There are six hilsa sanctuaries in the coastal region of Bangladesh covering a total area of 350 km for nursery ground that is usually banned for catching juvenile-hilsa (jatka) including all fishes during the ban period. The management of the six hilsa sanctuaries announced in the country has strengthened greatly to ensure that Jatka is grown safely and transformed into a Hilsa. It has contributed a lot to enhanced hilsa production.

Collaborative case: Community based Fisheries Management

Community-based fisheries approach describes “improvement of inland open-water fisheries management through the development of sustainable, community-based institutions and supporting them in undertaking a programme of adaptive management of their fisheries resources using technical measures such as stock enhancement of floodplain fisheries, restoration of fisheries habitats, the establishment of fish sanctuaries, and construction of fish passes”. The principle behind community-managed fisheries is the handover of the management of fisheries resources to community groups and they will manage the resources sustainably and equitably. The benefits of this approach are obvious - it is pro-poor, equitable and sustainable. In this approach, community groups responsible for managing fisheries resources balance the need for production with conservation, which results in sustainability. It supports the poverty alleviation strategy and conserves biodiversity, protects the environment and ensures participatory governance of open water fisheries resources.

Department of Fisheries has implemented several programmes of Community-based fisheries management like fish sanctuary, beel nursery, community-based fish culture (Daudkandi Model), sharing of power & responsibility in the management of Jalmohol (co-management), etc. In this open water management approach, landless people, poor fishermen, landowners of the adjacent waterbodies primarily organized and formed a main & different work-based committee to the management of that waterbody. At the end of the culture period, the profit distributes among the beneficiaries on a sharing & wages basis. In this context, the resource users get the rights to access the waterbodies in a sustainable manner and develop their socio-economic condition. In this approach, fish production increased by 41 per cent, biodiversity improved and species have re-appeared through fish sanctuaries.

4.15 Goal 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

Introduction

The targets of SDG 15 cover a broad range of issues around the protection of forests, mountains, wetlands and drylands, include both animal, and plant life. This includes proper use and management of forests, active restoration, conservation and protection of forests, fair and equitable benefit sharing, ending poaching and trafficking of flora and fauna, preventing and reducing the impact of alien species, integrating ecosystem and biodiversity values into planning processes.

Context

The forest coverage of Bangladesh is 14.10 per cent as a proportion of total land area of the country and tree cover area is 22.37 per cent of the country. Increasing forest coverage in the

designated forestland and tree cover outside the forestlands is a major target under the 8th Five Year Plan (2016-2020). In order to protect its very rich biodiversity, the country has taken many steps among which are continuing moratorium on tree felling, declaring protected areas, Ecologically Critical Areas, creating special biodiversity zones, creating safe zones for birds. Several activities are under implementation to achieve the targets to protect forest ecosystems, involve community people in forest management, control trafficking and poaching of fauna, etc.

Notwithstanding, gaps still exist in establishing baseline data for some indicators, substantial progress has been made in updating other indicators and making them consistent with globally accepted methodologies. Reliable data is crucial as a baseline and monitoring of the targets. The best available data were used to report the progress on SDG15 implementation. Forest Department under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has initiated projects for generating baseline data and information involving the key stakeholders and the updating the national forest inventory and continuing remote sensing analyses.

Progress against targets

15.1 By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements

The country is occupying 14.10 per cent forest cover as a proportion of total land area. However, Bangladesh emphasizes increasing the tree cover throughout the country. The tree cover area is 22.37 per cent of the country. Landsat satellite imagery from 2000 – 2014 was used to produce tree cover map.

For the period 2014-15, terrestrial protected areas (PA) were 1.7 per cent of the country area and freshwater sites were 1.8 per cent. By 2019, terrestrial protected areas have increased to 3.06 per cent. Currently, 45 protected areas are managed by the Forest Department. Protected areas include 18 National Parks, 20 Wildlife Sanctuaries, 3 Eco parks, 1 botanical garden, 2 Special Biodiversity Conservation Areas and 1 Marine Protected Area.

15.2 By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally

As of 2018, the proportion of forest area under forest management plan is 35.10 per cent. Sufficient data to calculate Forest area annual net change rate is still not available but is expected after the completion of the next land cover map and national forest inventory. The land cover map 2015 will serve as the baseline for calculating the net change rate for reporting, but estimating the change rate of forest area in the country will depend on updating the land cover map for the year 2020 (scheduled to be prepared on 2021-22).

Aboveground biomass was assessed in the recently completed national forest inventory (2016-2019). The baseline aboveground biomass stock in the forest is 67.66 tonnes per hectare.

Land cover 2015 will be used to calculate the proportion of forest area located within the legally established protected areas to provide baseline information. Correction of Geographical

Information System (GIS) boundaries for several protected areas is being done by the Forest Department using Global Positioning System (GPS) to calculate the forest area accurately.

15.3 By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world

With a view to preparing the baseline data for ‘Proportion of land that is degraded over total land area’, “Sustainable Land Management” initiatives have been taken by the Department of Environment. Coordination is going on with several stakeholder organizations for data gathering. The land cover map is developed and secondary data on the soil is collected for analysing the status of the land.

15.4 By 2030, ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity, in order to enhance their capacity to provide benefits that are essential for sustainable development

The coverage by protected areas of important sites for mountainous biodiversity is 0.35 per cent which is situated inside the Publakhali Wildlife Sanctuary at Rangamati district. Based on the elevation, two mountainous classes are identified in Bangladesh. The baseline value for the Mountain Green Cover Index was determined to be 96.05 per cent. As of the definition, existing green cover is identified using the boundary of the mountainous area and land cover map 2015 of Bangladesh prepared by the Forest Department.

15.5 Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), 2015 under a project of the Forest Department has compiled the Red List to provide updated information on 1619 animal species under seven groups in total throughout the country. The number of species in Bangladesh as assessed in the 2015 Red List has been used for the development of the Red List Index. The Red List has taken into consideration to conserving the threatened and endangered wildlife. Red List Index are (a) Mammals: 0.60, (b) Birds: 0.91, (c) Reptiles: 0.79, (d) Amphibians: 0.86, (e) Fresh Water Fish: 0.81, (f) Crustacean 0.91, (g) Butterflies 0.64. Several of the concept notes on animal species conservation are being developed for detailed study for future planning. The plan has also been taken for the assessment and preparation of the flora Red List through a survey during 2020-2023 under the Forest Department.

15.6 Ensure fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and promote appropriate access to such resources

In Bangladesh, the Biodiversity act 2017 has been enacted that has covered the legislative, administrative and policy frameworks to ensure fair and equitable sharing of benefits. Planning, massive awareness, stakeholder engagement, and coordination is crucial to ensure fair and equitable sharing of benefits out of limited resources.

15.7 Take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products

The baseline data is still lacking for ‘Proportion of traded wildlife that was poached or illicitly trafficked’. Wildlife monitoring in five protected areas is on-going including the Sundarbans

reserved forests through Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) patrolling. Besides, the Crime Control Unit of the Forest Department is working against poaching and trafficking of wildlife.

15.8 By 2020, introduce measures to prevent the introduction and significantly reduce the impact of invasive alien species on land and water ecosystems and control or eradicate the priority species

The baseline data is yet to be available for ‘Proportion of countries adopting relevant national legislation and adequately resourcing the prevention or control of invasive alien species’. However, it has been planned for the identification of alien invasive plant species in the selected PAs during 2020-22 through field survey. Initially, the survey will be conducted in five Protected Areas and eventually planning will be developed for the management of invasive plant species.

15.9 By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts

Initiatives have been undertaken by the Government of Bangladesh to update National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) in line with the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and implement the NBSAP as global commitments as a party to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity and the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Biodiversity considerations have been integrated into related plans, programmes, and policies of Bangladesh with a view to mainstreaming it. Bangladesh Biodiversity Act of 2017 has been enacted. Valuation of goods and services provided by the ecosystem and biodiversity will be accomplished towards the integration of the values into the national accounting system. Awareness and education on biodiversity are being enhanced by taking up development initiatives. Indigenous and Traditional Knowledge of Biodiversity is being documented.

Challenges

- Halting deforestation, reducing forest degradation and increasing forest cover with limited land resources are major challenges. At the same time, further land is necessary to bring under forest cover/plantation for the horizontal expansion of the forest to implement the target, which very scares for a country like Bangladesh as identified by the stakeholders. Still lacking is awareness on the role of natural resources in people’s lives and engagement of both local and national level stakeholders to achieve the targets.
- The recent influx of Rohingya refugees from Myanmar is putting tremendous pressure on remaining forests in Teknaf-Cox’s Bazar range. Already about 6,000 acres of forestland belonging to the Forest Department has been allotted for temporary housing of the refugees. The refugees are also collecting firewood for cooking, further depleting the forest resources in the region. Land cover map 2015 identified majority of the hill forest areas of Chattogram Hill Tracts are converted to other land use specifically due to shifting cultivation, agriculture, settlement and other development work. Protecting forestland from conversion to other land uses is key, and must honour existing policies, rules, and acts against such conversion.

- Non-availability of baseline data for several indicators is considered a challenge that hamper to truly monitor the progress of implementation of different development activities.
- Getting adequate financial resources both from national and international sources to implement the strategic direction and actions plans to sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and biodiversity loss is very crucial.

Way Forward

- The ongoing 7th Five Year Plan adequately targets the specific activity to achieve the SDG targets in the forestry sector. Investment mechanism will be explored with the discussion involving the local and national stakeholders for the Chattogram Hill Tracts to increase the forest cover in the hill forest areas currently where the most deforestation and degradation is taking place.
- Several projects are under implementation by the Forest Department to increase forest cover and restore forest health. Specific activities include enriching existing forest areas with native and long rotation species, establishing forest in the newly accreted char lands to develop coastal green belt, conserving biodiversity in protected areas, engaging the poor people and women in social forestry activities and improving wildlife habitats and corridors development to protect wildlife.
- Planning is under development for wildlife conservation and generating data on poaching, hunting and killing of animals/wildlife. Strong motivation is required among local and national level stakeholders in order to safeguard natural resources and biodiversity.
- Development of institutional arrangements with adequate skilled human resources to support the consistent collection and the management of information systems for data archiving and sharing needs to be considered.
- Capacity building and retaining adequate technical skills for implementing activities related to target achievement is crucial.

Good practice: Social forestry activities are going on involving the community people through plantation beside the roads, embankments, polders, homesteads, fallow lands, etc. to increase the tree cover. Community people are also involved in raising block plantations in forestland as well as getting the benefits out of the activities to improve their livelihoods.

Implementation of co-management at the protected areas involving the community people for biodiversity conservation is an on-going activity. Local-level committees were formed including the representation of different key stakeholders and several activities are under implementation for biodiversity conservation.

Innovative case

1. Recycling plastic to save the environment

Plastic pollution is a worldwide problem and its hazards are greater than other wastes. It is a serious public health concern as it corrupts food chains and clogs up sewerage systems. Plastic almost inevitably ends up in riverbeds and oceans, depleting mass ecosystems and marine biodiversity, and makes solid waste management more expensive as landfills and open incineration do not provide

acceptable eco-friendly solutions for plastic disposal. A recent report by Earth Day Network ranked Bangladesh 10th among the top 20 plastic polluting countries in the world in 2018. Plastic accounts for eight per cent of the country's waste, which is equivalent to 800,000 tonnes. A fourth of that goes into the oceans and rivers.

One HM Tawhid came up with an answer to this problem by recycling plastic in an eco-friendly manner facilitated by a2i's Innovation Lab (iLab). The iLab is an initiative of the Access to Information (a2i) programme supported by the Cabinet Division, the ICT Division, UNDP and USAID and it offers the prospect of solutions and opportunities for sustainable development that are better, cheaper, faster, scalable and easy to use through focusing on science, technology and innovation related idea implementation.

This innovative project attacked plastic from two directions — reduce waste and incentivize plastic waste collection. This plastic is then used to produce fuel. The process breaks up polythene and plastic, and transforms it into another form of carbon producing fuel (petrol and diesel).

This is a proven concept currently implemented in Jamalpur, a northern district of Bangladesh. The project has a capacity to process 200kg to 400kg of plastic everyday with an average productivity of over 55 per cent. A single unit (300kg/day) can reduce almost 80 per cent of the entire district's plastic hazard. This small project from a small town in Bangladesh could actually provide the solution if it were scaled up. Tawhid's innovation could potentially reduce 80 per cent of plastic waste and 30 per cent of Bangladesh's entire waste.

II. Sustainable forest and livelihood Project

Collaborative forest management is a new approach that is going to be implemented under the "sustainable forest and livelihood" project of the Forest Department. Community people along with the officials of the Forest Department is currently involved to develop the site-specific planning (SSP). Web-based software and Global Positioning System (GPS) would have been used for finalizing the SSP and identification of required interventions. About 32 types of interventions will be performed in coastal, hill, Sal forests and trees outside forests (ToF) areas to increase the forest and tree cover.

Leave No One Behind (LNOB): Poor people and women are the most disadvantaged group in society. They are involved in forest management through social forestry and co-management activity for the improvement of their livelihoods and supporting conservation. Community people particularly poor people, women are involved in social forestry activities following the social forestry role and getting the benefits.

About 20 per cent of the positions on the co-management councils in 16 Protected Areas and 50 per cent positions in People's Forum of Protected Areas have been allocated for women members. Moreover, 33 per cent of the positions in Village Conservation Forum (VCF) are reserved for women from the villages adjoining the Protected Areas. Thus, women are playing an important role in biodiversity conservation.

4.16 Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

Introduction

The 2030 Agenda recognizes the need to establish peaceful, fair and inclusive societies that provide equal access to justice based on respect for human rights, effective rule of law as well

as transparent, effective and accountable institutions. Sustainable development cannot be achieved without peace and security. SDG 16 has been identified as an outcome and at the same time enabler of sustainable development. In order to create a peaceful state, effective and inclusive institutions that can deliver human needs, like education, healthcare, economics, and environmental protection are essentially required. Without peace, justice, and inclusion, achieving goals such as ending poverty, ensuring education, promoting economic growth can be difficult or impossible to attain. At the same time, various SDGs can help or hinder the achievement of SDG 16, for instance, climate change can act as a threat multiplier, aggravating additional social, environmental and political stressors, which could possibly lead to violence.

Context

Bangladesh is a peace-loving country. Homogeneous society, communal harmony, and political stability have shaped it as a conflict-free state. Being a small state with a huge population, small-scale violence and insecurity is a reality. Efficient and proactive initiatives from the government have improved the law and order situation. As a result, violent crime rates and human trafficking have reduced. Considering women and children the most vulnerable section of the society, numerous initiatives have been taken to ensure their safety and security. Since court case backlogs are a serious threat to access to justice, resolving cases through Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) has been encouraged. Bangladesh has developed a National Strategy for Prevention of Money Laundering and Combating Financing of Terrorism 2019-2021 with 11 (eleven) strategies with 137 actions. Identifying corruption as the main hindrance to development, the government is pledge bound to show zero-tolerance against it. Proper and effective implementation of various governance tools is expected to create a responsive, transparent and accountable public service, which in turn will act as preventive measures against bribery and corruption. The increasing rate of women's participation in elected bodies and civil service is encouraging but still, there is scope of improvement. The performance of the Information Commission and the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) is satisfactory as more people resort to these offices to get relief. Despite various initiatives, the desired results remain a challenge due to the non-availability of relevant data of various indicators pertinent to Goal-16. Capacity building of the government officials, introduction of innovative technology, sincere cooperation from DPs, NGOs, CSOs and most importantly meaningful participation of all citizens can guarantee successful achievement of SDG-16.

Progress against targets

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

The rate of intentional homicide during 2003-2004 remained static, around 2.7 victims per 100,000 population. According to the Public Security Division of Ministry of Home Affairs, in 2015 the rate declined to 1.8 with 1.4 for males and 0.4 for females. Efficient and proactive initiatives from the law enforcement agencies have improved the law and order situation which contributed to reducing the violent crime rates in the country. Intentional homicide rate

decreased further to 1.65 in the year 2017 to 1.39 in 2019 surpassing the milestone that was set in the M&E framework.

According to the Violence Against Women (VAW) survey of 2015 which covers only females as the victim, 57.7 per cent of the ever-married women experience any form of violence by their husbands. The proportion of women experiencing physical or sexual violence was 54.2 per cent and 26.9 per cent in the previous 12 months. The proportion of them subject to any form of violence in the previous 12 months was 38.0 per cent. However, it is important to note that majority of these women (61.4 per cent) came from the poorest households. Despite the availability of partial data and considering the social condition, Bangladesh has set milestones to decrease the incidence of violence against women gradually.

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

With regard to the elimination of human trafficking, the government has made significant progress in adopting the implementation of the rules of ‘Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act 2012’ in January 2017 and drafting an implementation roadmap for the national action plan. Awareness programme at school, college, market, and all public places, increasing night patrol in important places and arresting miscreants have put a positive impact in this regard. According to the Ministry of Home Affairs, as of December 2019, the number of victims of human trafficking has decreased to 0.61 from the baseline 0.85 in 2015 for every 100,000 population.

The Government of Bangladesh is determined to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and children. To fulfil this commitment, the government has declared the National Women Development Policy 2011, and National Children Policy 2011. To protect Women and Children from Domestic Violence, the Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act 2010 and the Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Rules, 2013 have been enacted. The Mobile Court Act 2009 and the Pornography Control Act 2012 is playing an important role to prevent sexual harassment. The Children Act 2013 has been enacted to protect the Child rights. National Action Plan to Prevent Violence against Women and Children (2013-2025) has been undertaken as an initiative to prevent violence against women and children, where legal arrangements & facilities, social awareness & mental transformation, socio-economic advancement, protective services, preventive & rehabilitation measures have been considered. Initiatives like the Establishment of 7300 Kishore-Kishoree club (Adolescent Club) and the formation of various committees at grassroots level on prevention of violence against women have made a positive impact on women’s security. The government has also established 561 no of Child Development Centre by 2019. Throughout the country, 100 Child-friendly space has been introduced in 2019. Ministry of Women and Children Affairs has established the Gender-Based Violence Cluster at the national level in 2017 and subsequently, two Sub-National Gender-Based Violence Clusters have also been established during the last two years. One national toll-free number (109) has been introduced throughout the country since 2012.

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

Formation of Justice Coordination Committees in both national and local levels have given thrust in ensuring access to justice for all. Since 2015, impressive progress has been achieved in this area as until 2019 total of 321,970 beneficiaries have received legal aid across the country. To reduce the case backlogs, relevant training including alternative dispute resolution has been imparted to 2514 judges/Lawyers/Staffs. It is pertinent to mention that 170,000 cases have been resolved through the village courts, 62,000 through legal aid and 17,000 through ADR. As women are very reluctant to report their victimization, separate women's desk has been set in every police station across the country.

Data from the Department of Prison, Ministry of Home Affairs reveals that in 2015, the proportion of un-sentenced detainees was 79 per cent in Bangladesh, which is not high indeed. To address this situation milestone has been set to cut it down to half from the baseline within 2030.

16.4 By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime

Bangladesh has developed a National Strategy for Prevention of Money Laundering and Combating Financing of Terrorism 2019-2021 which highlights eleven strategies with 137 action items for further implementation and effectiveness of Anti Money Laundering (AML) & Combating the Financing of Terrorism (CFT) measures. The strategy paper incorporates commitments and outlines the responsibilities of all concerned Ministries/Divisions/Agencies for effective AML & CFT. Considering the fact that the biggest source of Illicit Flow of Funds (IFF) is through trade, guidelines have been issued to have effective control measures to combat Trade-Based Money Laundering (TBML). A National Database on the microcredit sector has been built to monitor fund movements. Most of the licensed Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs) are now compelled to disbursing loans amounting more than Tk. 0.1 million through the banking channel.

16.5 Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms & 16.6 Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels

To build effective, accountable and responsive institutions in public service, the government has been implementing various governance-related initiatives, e.g., Annual Performance Agreement (APA), Citizen Charter, National Integrity Strategy (NIS), and Grievance Redress System (GRS). It is expected that these governance tools will ensure the creation of more transparent and accountable public institutions through which bribery and corruption will be prevented. The government has been encouraging innovation and use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in public service very sincerely. It is worth mentioning that process of 143 government services has been simplified until today. As the government is strongly committed to combat corruption and bribery, very challenging milestones have been set in its SDGs Monitoring and Evaluation Framework:

Table 16.1 Baseline and Milestone targets related to good governance

Indicator	Baseline (sources)	Milestone by 2025	Milestone by 2030
16.5.1 Proportion of persons who had at least one contact with a public official and who paid a bribe to a public official, or were asked for a bribe by those public officials, during the previous 12 months	Total: 31.32% Male: 28.91% Female: 35.02% (CPHS, 2018, BBS)	Total:15% Male=16% Female=14%	Total:10% Male=8% Female=12%
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	41.0% (ES,WB,2013)	25%	10%
16.6.2 Proportion of population satisfied with their last experience of public services	39.69% (CPHS,2018,BBS)	60%	90%

16.7 Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels

Considering the women’s empowerment, Bangladesh is at the top of South Asia and the situation is improving consistently as 15,000 women were elected out of over 60,000 representatives in Local Government Institutions and out of 350 Member of Parliaments (MPs), 73 are women including 50 reserved seats. Moreover, the percentage of male-female civil employees in 2017 is as follows:

Table 16.2 Percentage of male-female employees at the civil administration

Class	Male	Female	Total	Male (%)	Female (%)
Class -I	132,353	31,432	163,785	81%	19%
Class-II	83,251	41,782	125,033	67%	33%
Class-III	594,138	253,295	847,433	70%	30%
Class -IV	205,526	49,278	254,804	81%	19%
Total	1015,268	375,787	1,391,055	73%	27%

(Source: Ministry of Public Administration (MoPA), 2020)

16.8 Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance

Expanding membership and voting right of developing countries in institutions of global governance would require concerted efforts and meaningful cooperation among the developing countries. Bangladesh has been very vocal in its part in multilateral fora in championing and promoting the causes of the developing nations. Bangladesh will continue to promote the interests of developing countries in the UN and other multilateral institutions.

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

Social inclusion, recognition, and protection of a person’s human right is protected by Article 7 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). Registration rate for children under 5

years of age was only 10 per cent in 2001. The government initiated several measures to improve performance. In 2001, the 'Birth and Death Registration Project' began with UNICEF support under the Local Government Division and had been implemented in phases. The new birth and death registration act was adopted in 2006. In 2009, the Birth and Death Registration Information System was initiated to provide electronic registration. All these contributed to significant improvement in birth registration for all in the country. According to the latest data, 54.6 per cent (ORGBDR, 2018) of children under five years of age have been registered.

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

The enactment of the Right to Information (RTI) Act in 2009 makes provisions for ensuring the free flow of information and people's right to information in the country. Freedom of thought, conscience, and speech is recognized in the Constitution as a fundamental right and the right to information is an alienable part of it. In line with the act, an Independent Information Commission has also been established. Besides, the government closely monitors the implementation of the RTI Act by establishing focal points in every government organization responsible for providing information; some non-government organizations also have designated officials to provide information.

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

The main aim of the state is to protect, promote and ensure human rights according to the constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. A statutory independent National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has been established in the country in accordance with the provision of the National Human Rights Commission Act 2009. The purpose of establishing such a splendid institution is to contribute to the embodiment of human dignity and integrity as well as to safeguard the basic order of democracy so that inalienable fundamental human rights of all individuals are protected and the standards of human rights are improved in the country.

The NHRC's response to human rights violations focuses on promotional activities such as statements, spot-visits, seminars and roundtable discussions as well as responding to gross violations of human rights. The Commission is now implementing its Second Five Year Strategic Plan (2016-20) where it has identified 17 Pressing Human Rights Issues with Priority Areas for 2016-2020. Two issues that top the list are Violence by state mechanism, particularly enforced disappearances, torture including custodial torture, extra-judicial killings and culture of impunity, and violations of economic, social and cultural rights, including health rights, discrimination against the marginalized and People with Disabilities.

In 2018, the Commission responded to 729 cases of human rights violation of which 589 cases were resolved. Larger number of violations consisted of violence (121), complain against police (46), jobs (48), land (57), corruption (21) and threat (26). The number of complaints resolved in 2016 stood at 503.

Challenges:

- Non-availability of baseline data of 10 out of 23 indicators stands as one of the main challenges in achieving this goal. To determine the current situation and track the progress, producing relevant and quality data consistently is a prime need.
- Although there are laws to address most of the legal issues, lack of proper implementation is constraining success in crime reduction.
- Ensuring access to an effective judicial system especially the backlog of 3.5 million court cases is one of the key challenges in achieving the relevant SDG targets. The shortage in human and technical resources in the judicial department has been constraining quick settlement of disputes.
- Though various governance tools have been implemented, their effectiveness has not yet proven in creating accountable and responsive public service. Without citizen's engagement and participation, these governance initiatives will not add more value.
- Lack of capacity especially the technical knowledge of the officials also put a serious challenge in achieving SDGs.

Way forward

- It is necessary to generate relevant and quality data on regular basis. An efficient monitoring mechanism supported by a credible database can contribute to positive change in achieving SDGs targets.
- Capacity building of the government officials along with proper functioning accountability mechanisms can be a catalyst in shaping our governance context. Research and study should be done to find out the ways to make our governance tools more effective. Meaningful participation and engagement of the citizen in the governance process should be ensured to bring out the desired outcome.
- Proactive initiatives should be taken to detect discriminatory provisions in various laws so that justice can be ensured irrespective of sex, religion, caste, race and social status. More judicial officers should be deployed with proper training so that backlog of court cases can be minimized.
- Proper implementation of laws and massive awareness programme can bring fruitful results in reducing violence against women and children.
- Due emphasis should be given on acquiring the latest technology especially the prevention of money laundering and combating financing terrorism.
- Strong political commitment, productive people's involvement and raising ethics and morality will be a catalyst in preventing corruption and bribery in all forms.
- For international standard dispute resolution, FBCCI Arbitration Centre has been formed for commercial ADR to help the businesspersons to settle their disputes (domestic and international) with a vision to create a trade facilitation eco-system and to minimize cost and time period in dispute resolution.

Good practices

i. **Grievance Redress System (GRS)** (<http://grs.gov.bd/>)

As per Article 21(2) of the Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, "Every person in the service of the Republic has a duty to strive at all times to serve the people." Besides, to enhance the quality of public service delivery, it is necessary to ensure transparency and accountability in the public administration. With a view to ensuring transparency and accountability, Grievance Redress System (GRS) has been introduced in Bangladesh. The role of GRS is very important in ensuring accountability of administration to citizens, improving quality of public services, and strengthening good governance.

The main objectives of introducing GRS are to improve the quality of service delivery to the public within the minimum possible time and without any harassment and to develop the mentality among the public servants to come forward in a self-motivated way to render the services. Grievances may arise from citizen's dissatisfaction or aggravation on the quality of services or products or service providing processes. Even if the grievances are not logical or realistic, presence of an effective platform for demanding redress or raise voices creates an opportunity for mitigation of citizens' dissatisfaction and discontent. Since the inception of GRS in Bangladesh, 31,294 cases were resolved out of 51,784 till 2018-19 only at the Ministry level.

ii. **e- Mutation**

The amount of land is dwindling in the country due to the increasing population, infrastructural development, and the economic and social progress. An analysis showed that field administration is providing more than forty important land services to citizens. The manual system of land management is not capable to reach at the desired level of service delivery of citizens. Besides ensuring hassle-free service delivery in less time, less cost, and less visit, it was felt to establish a modernized, efficient, and information technology-based land management to preserve land-related data. Wide-ranging initiatives have been introduced to digitize land management and services with a view to implementing the goal of Digital Bangladesh within 2021.

The mutation is a function of correcting and updating the land records in case of changing ownership. Ownership of any property may be changed in different ways, for example; purchase, inheritance, heba, donation, acquire, will, and settlement. By mutating a property, the new owner gets the property recorded in his name. Every year, nearly 2.2 million applications of mutation are filed in the Upazila (Sub-district) Land offices. E-mutation system has been developed by the Ministry of Land to perform mutation activities electronically to ensure less time, cost, and visit for citizens and reduce hassle. Presently, the mutation service is delivered in 485 Upazila office and Circle office using this system.

Earlier, the mutation of the land was commonly known as the most troubling process as it involves various kinds of externalities such as middle-men problem, slow-pace problem, etc. However, the idea of "e-Mutation" has changed the whole picture of the land offices of Bangladesh. It has created to change the administration as a digital one by reducing Time, Cost, and Visit (TCV). Before introducing "e-mutation" it used to take 45 days with more than 3 or 4 visits to complete a mutation. After "e-mutation" it takes only 28 days & 1 visit. As this is an electronic system, the transparency is beyond the question. On the other hand, the credibility of land offices has raised significantly.

iii. **Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS)** (<http://crvs.gov.bd/>)

Civil registration captures the significant events of people's lives and the information gathered by recording used by governments to generate vital statistics on the demographics and health of the

population through a uniform ID-management and ensuring all government services. CRVS is the regular administrative process of registering the important events and facts of citizen's life, such as birth, death, etc., with the purpose of identifying every citizen of the state for the implementation of the global goal 'get everyone in the picture'. Internationally, six factors are considered as the main components of CRVS, which are birth, death, causes of death, marriage, divorce, and adoption. In Bangladesh in-migration, out-migration and education are incorporated with the internationally recognized six components of CRVS and Service Delivery Platform (ISDP) is going to develop as an initiative to further enhance the service delivery of people's services, especially in the social security programmes. On this reason, Unique ID-UID has been introduced under the CRVS by integrating various ID systems in the country for the specific identification of each person. This extended and service-oriented plan of CRVS is called 'CRVS + Beyond' (CRVS +...).

4.17 Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

Introduction

In order to achieve sustainable development goals by 2030, all the participating countries are required to mobilize and effectively utilize necessary means of implementation, financial and non-financial, public and private, domestic and international resources. Major financial resources include domestic taxes, FDI, and ODA. On the other hand, domestic policy frameworks, effective institutions, and support for good governance, democracy, rule of law, human rights, transparency, and accountability fall under the non-financial resources category. While developing countries strive to mobilize required resources, advanced countries actually provide support through ODA to help them shift to sustainable development paths. SDG 17 focuses on strengthening the means of implementation of the sustainable development goals through enhancing resource mobilization capacity, domestic and external, of the developing countries, long-term debt sustainability through coordinated policies, adopting and implementing investment promotion regimes. It also puts special emphasis on revitalizing the global partnership for sustainable development through sharing knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources.

Context

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

The government recognizes that the current progress in resource mobilization, both domestic and external, need substantial improvement for delivering on the sustainable development goals by 2030. Although tax revenue is the major source of domestic revenue, accounting for about 85 per cent of the government revenue, the tax-GDP ratio in Bangladesh (approximately

10 per cent) is still one of the lowest among the comparable countries. Narrow tax base, widespread exemptions, and administrative inefficiencies are identified as factors responsible for low revenue collection. A low tax effort index value of 0.493 for Bangladesh indicates underutilization of its revenue collection capacity and a high potential for financing budgetary imbalance through raising tax revenue. Improvement in the existing collection performance requires institutional and legal reforms along with the modernization of the National Board of Revenue (NBR).

The substantial inflow of external resources, comprising official development assistance (ODA), foreign direct investment (FDI), and remittance is critical for financing SDGs implementation in the current resource scenario vis a vis the estimated resource requirement. During 2015-2019 ODA registered a remarkable growth of 24.4 per cent, on average getting US\$ 3.3 billion in each year. Net FDI grew at an average annual rate of 17 per cent during the same period, on average getting US\$ 1.9 billion each year. Remittance grew at an average annual rate of 2.4 per cent during this time. Notably, remittance flow has rebounded in 2019 crossing its level attained in 2015.

Table 17.1 External Financing Sources

	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019
ODA (US\$ million)	3005.5	3531.7	3677.3	6369.0	6542.0
FDI (net) (US\$ million)	1833.9	2003.5	2454.8	1416.0	3888.9
Remittance (US\$ billion)	15.3	14.9	12.8	14.9	16.4

Progress against targets

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

Total government revenue as a proportion of GDP measures government control on economic resources. It also indicates the government's capacity to meet budget requirements. Government revenue, comprising tax revenue and non-tax revenue, in FY 2015 was 9.6 per cent of GDP. The share is hovering around 10 per cent in the last four years.

Tax revenue, accounting for around 90 per cent of the total government revenue, witnessed fluctuation to its contribution to the domestic budget in recent years. In 2016, the contribution has marginally increased to 63.7 per cent from the baseline share of 63 per cent in FY 2015. In FY 2018, the contribution of taxes to budget financing dropped to 60.4 per cent from 66.1 per cent in FY2017. The provisional estimates for FY 2018-19 is 65.44 per cent.

A large part of the domestic resource generated in the form of tax and non-tax earnings was contributed by the private sector in Bangladesh. The low level of the tax-GDP ratio is attributed to the lack of proper enforcement of the relevant acts, rules, and regulations, tax evasion and tax avoidance. Poor infrastructure for collection of taxes including weak online-based collection systems, limited capacity to expand tax network and lack of enforcement to deal with tax evasion and avoidance are some of the other reasons. Effective collaboration between

government, private sector, and CSOs are needed to improve the performance in this connection.

Table 17.2 Proportion of Domestic Budget Funded by Domestic Taxes (Per cent)

Indicators	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY 2019
Total government revenue as a proportion of GDP (%)	9.8	10.1	10.2	9.7	12.6
Proportion of domestic budget funded by domestic taxes (%)	63.0	63.7	66.1	60.4	65.44% (P) (FD, 2018-19 revised Budget)

Source: Budget documents, Finance Division, Ministry of Finance

17.3 Mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources

External sources, consisting of FDI and ODA, play a critical role in financing Bangladesh's budgetary expenses with around 20 per cent contribution. Net official development assistance in FY2016 was US\$3.56 billion, about 17.1 per cent higher than the previous year. However, in FY2018, ODA exceeded 6 billion dollars, which is very encouraging development in the case of external financing.

Table 17.3 ODA and FDI to Annual Budget

	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018
Budget (US\$ billion)	30.46	34.06	34.06	39.20
Net ODA (US\$ in billion)	3.04	3.56	3.68	6.37
Net ODA as % of budget	11.56	11.70	10.80	16.25
FDI (US\$ in billion)	2.23	2.00	2.45	2.58
FDI as % of budget	8.50	6.58	7.21	6.58

Source: ERD, Ministry of Finance

FDI as a proportion of government budget remained stable at around 7 per cent. It is noteworthy that the level of FDI has increased both in FY 2017 and FY 2018. Still, the 2030 milestone is too ambitious to be achieved. Serious attention is needed to develop an investment-friendly atmosphere for attracting a substantial amount of investment into the country. Attracting more FDI will require actions at various levels. Creating enabling business environment through building the required physical infrastructure (such as Special Economic Zones (SEZs), roads, rails, ports, electricity and gas supply), developing human resources (such as management, technical professionals and skilled labour force) and improving the soft infrastructure (such as IT infrastructure, tax, fees, and charges) will be of heightened importance in this context.

It is observed that the annual flow of remittance had been increasing since FY 2010 peaking to US\$15.31 billion in FY2015 and then it plummeted in the following two years. There is a downward trend in the remittance/GDP ratio, which reached its nadir in FY 2017. It is good to see that remittance has picked up in the very recent period with growth rates bouncing back in FY 2018 (17.3 per cent) and FY 2019 (9.6 per cent). The positive trend in remittance flow has continued in FY2020 after the Government of Bangladesh has announced 2 per cent cash

incentive for sending remittance from abroad. The government and private sector need to collaborate more effectively to identify new markets with new demands for workers, along with retaining the traditional markets. Skills up-gradation needs to be given topmost priority to ensure higher earnings by migrant workers.

Table 17.4 Remittance as proportion of GDP

Indicator	FY2010	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019
Remittance (in bill US\$)	10.99	15.31	14.93	12.77	14.98	16.42
Remittance as proportion of GDP	9.5	7.8	6.7	5.1	5.5	5.4

Source: ERD, Ministry of Finance

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

Debt service as a proportion of exports of goods and services measures the proportion of debt service, interest, and principal payments, to total export earnings. Large debt service payments actually reduce government capacity to increase development expenditure and therefore impedes economic growth. Total debt service burden in recent years has improved, from 19.14 per cent in FY 2015-16 to 21.40 per cent in FY 2018-19.

Table 17.5 Debt service as Percentage of Exports

Indicator	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019
Total debt service as a proportion of exports of goods and services (%)	19.14% (BB and ERD, FY16)	17.59% (BB & ERD, 2016-17)	18.37% (BB & ERD, 2017-18)	21.40% (p) (BB & ERD, 2018-19)

Source: BB and ERD, Ministry of Finance

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

The primary focus of ‘Digital Bangladesh’ is to ensure access to ICT for all citizens. Bangladesh ICT Infrastructure of Bangladesh has also taken good leaps in recent years. The national ICT infra-Network for Bangladesh Government (Phase II) has been established successfully. The project has implemented 800 video conferencing systems at different Ministries, Departments, and Upazila (Sub-district) office. Bangladesh has also joined the South Asian Sub Regional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) in order to expand the internet connectivity not only nationally but also regionally. Optical Fibre Cable Network development in 1000 Union Parishad and 290 Upazila has been completed. Additionally, the installation of Wireless Broadband Network for Digital Bangladesh (4G, LTE) has been implemented.

South Asian neighbouring countries like Maldives and Bhutan has teamed up with Access to Information (a2i) programme to adopt some of Bangladesh’s most popular initiatives like multimedia classrooms, e-health, e-payments, information-technology training and government enterprise architecture, as well as the signature Digital Centres. Peru signed a contract with Bangladesh to implement its own SDG tracker after the successful launch of Bangladesh’s SDG Tracker, a platform that tracks the country’s SDGs progress against pre-set targets, by region, by indicator and across time, by integrating data from various agencies using any device in any location. Paraguay, Tunisia, Brazil, Namibia, Malawi, Nigeria, Colombia, Morocco, Uganda and Ecuador have expressed interest in doing the same.

Inspired by the success of the National Portal created by a2i, Somalia took the initiative to build one of their own. Cambodia decided to emulate Bangladesh’s empathy training, a crucial ingredient in Bangladesh’s success in implementing many of their interventions, and are now sending doctors to different medical colleges disguised as patients.

Much of this collaboration is being done through the South-South Network for Public Service Innovation (SSN4PSI) launched in 2017 by the UN Office for South-South Cooperation. Through the network, Bangladesh not only collaborates with fellow developing countries, but also has been taking a lead in forging these partnerships between Southern countries.

Fixed Internet broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants measure the level of accessibility to technology, communication, and opportunities for knowledge sharing across the world. The fixed broadband subscription provides wide scope for searching and sharing knowledge. Connectivity to broadband internet is steadily increasing in the country. In 2015, 2.41 subscriptions were recorded for every 100 population, which has increased to 4.80 in 2019, which means more efforts are needed to meet the milestones of the 2030 target.

Table 17.6 Fixed Internet Broadband Subscriptions

Indicator	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Fixed Internet broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants, by speed	2.41	3.77	-	4.46	4.80

Source: BTRC

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

Around 60 per cent geographical area of Bangladesh has been covered by optical fibre network. It will enable almost all of the citizens to have easy, safe and low cost internet service. The proportion of individuals using the Internet measures access to the modern communication medium. The proportion of the population using the internet has increased significantly in the country. The number of internet users in 2015 was 30.39 per cent, which has increased to 55.5 per cent in 2018. This new communication technology has been adopted at a fast rate with the proportion of the population reaching 41.4 per cent in 2017 and close to 50 per cent in 2017. The 2020 milestone has been surpassed in 2016. The government’s IT enabling policies and

support and the active participation of the private sector and CSOs in this connection has helped Bangladesh to keep the progress on track.

Table 17.7 Proportion of Individuals using Internet (Per cent)

Indicator	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Proportion of individuals using the Internet	30.39	41.4	49.5	55.5	60.4

Source: BTRC

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

Technical and financial assistance is critical especially for the developing countries having resource mobilisation challenges. Grants provided by the Development Partners as financial and technical assistance to Bangladesh was US\$ 570.8 million in FY 2015, which has declined in two successive years (US\$ 530.6 million in FY 2016 and US\$ 459.4 million in FY 2017). In FY 2018, it has reached to US\$ 382.4 million but reached the five-year lowest value of US\$ 279.7 million in FY 2019. When the country is in the process of fulfilling the LDC graduating criteria for the second tri-annual reviews, capacity building needs an utmost priority to implement the national plans and strategies, particularly related to the Agenda 2030.

17.10 Promote a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization, including through the conclusion of negotiations under its Doha Development Agenda

According to the Bangladesh Tariff Commission, in 2015 weighted average tariff of Bangladesh was 4.85 per cent, which has increased to 6.13 per cent in 2017. However, after then there is a declining trend and it has reached 4.64 per cent in 2019, which is within the committed value of 5.5 per cent by 2020.

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

The tariff is a restriction on trade that impedes the free flow of goods and services between countries. As a least developed country, Bangladesh enjoys preferential tariff rates in the developed country markets. In addition, membership in different bilateral and multilateral agreements provide special tariff rates to the country's exports. In 2014, Bangladesh faced an 8.25 per cent MFN tariff and a 3.88 per cent preferential tariff. In 2016, the MFN tariff was 10.5 per cent (weighted 13.25 per cent), and 9.47 per cent preferential tariff.

17.15 Respect each country's policy space and leadership to establish and implement policies for poverty eradication and sustainable development

Bangladesh participated in the 2018 Monitoring Round of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation (GPEDC), which allowed reporting on, among others, indicator

17.15.1. The study reveals that in Bangladesh, providers of development co-operation use country-owned results frameworks and planning tools to a large extent (76 per cent) in 2018, an increase when compared to 66 per cent in 2016. The GPEDC 2018 Monitoring Round found that 92 per cent of the outcome objectives of new development co-operation projects and programmes are aligned to those defined in the country strategies/plans. Furthermore, 71 per cent of results indicators of new projects and programmes were drawn from country-owned results frameworks and 64 per cent of these results indicators were monitored using data from government monitoring systems and statistics.

17.16 Enhance the global partnership for sustainable development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the sustainable development goals in all countries, in particular developing countries

The Economic Relations Division (ERD) under the Ministry of Finance, responsible for managing external resources in the form of development co-operation from different sources, has undertaken several strategic institutional and policy measures to harness resources to support Bangladesh's SDGs implementation. It has strengthened its collaboration with different line Ministries/Divisions to speed up the process of resource mobilization and project implementation. ERD has already prepared the National Policy on Development Cooperation (NPDC) to ensure predictable and beneficial development cooperation.

In addition, active participation in the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) and presenting Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs 2017) that focused on the progress and challenges related to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), High-Level Meeting (HLM2) of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC), and later becoming elected Co-Chair of GPEDC in HLM2 in December 2017 are some of the major steps towards developing global partnership. Regular Local consultative group meeting, the introduction of online aid portal 'Aid Information Management System', Strategic transformation of cash flow through comprehensive government financing and debt management strategy, organizing Bangladesh Development Forum (BDF) in January 2018 and January 2020 have been undertaken for mobilizing and efficiently managing external resources.

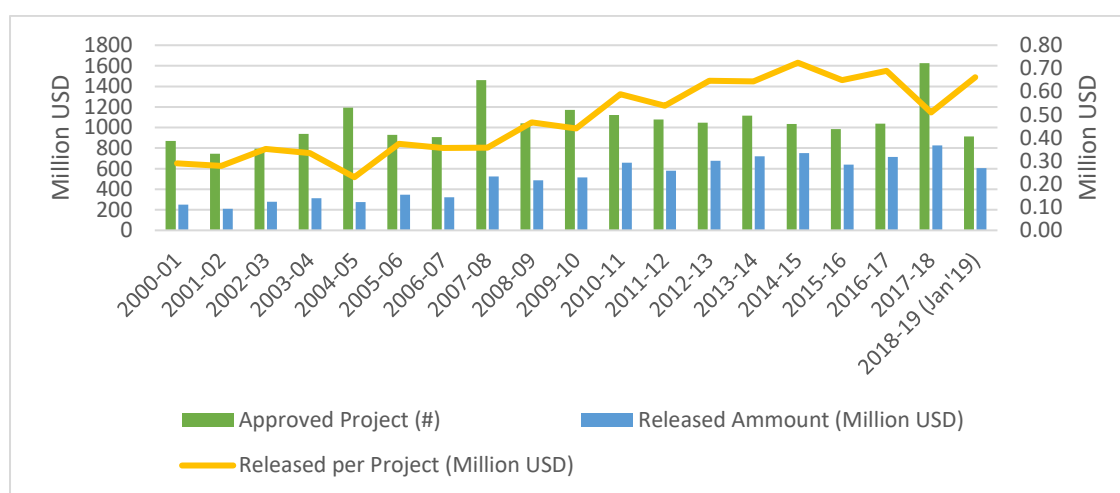
Bangladesh has reported overall progress since 2016 in multi-stakeholder development effectiveness monitoring frameworks. In 2018, Bangladesh – together with its bilateral and multilateral providers of development co-operation, civil society, and private sector actors – took part in the Global Partnership monitoring exercise to assess progress made towards effective development co-operation commitments. Since 2016, the country maintained a mutual accountability mechanism for development co-operation and fully meets the requirement for having a system in place to track public allocations for gender equality and women empowerment. Bangladesh has also reported an increase in the quality of public-private dialogue and in the share of development co-operation recorded in budget and subject to

parliamentary scrutiny. However, a decline is reported in the quality of the country’s public financial management systems and in the space for civil society’s contribution to development.

17.17 Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships

According to the data of the NGO Affairs Bureau, the flow of funds to the NGOs in Bangladesh depicts a mixed scenario since 2015, with a slow rise in case of overall flow and a decline in case of release per project. In fact, Bangladesh’s NGO fund has experienced two distinct trends in recent years, particularly since 2017, in the aftermath of the influx of displaced Rohingya population from Myanmar. One of the reasons for the recent rise in the flow of funds is the diversion of resources to the Rohingya people. Indeed, the Rohingya crisis is having an adverse impact on the availability of funds for the CSOs in Bangladesh. Therefore, SDGs implementation by the CSOs could suffer from funding shortages.

Figure 17.1 Flow of Foreign Grants Fund through NGO Affairs Bureau of Bangladesh



Source: NGO Affairs Bureau, 2019

17.18 By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts

The Government of Bangladesh has enacted Statistics Act 2013, approved by the National Parliament. There is also a Statistics Rule 2014. Recently, BBS has formed a committee to check the alignment of the statistics act, 2013 with the fundamental principle of official statistics (FPOS), corroborated by the United Nations. The Government of Bangladesh has adopted an actionable National Strategy for Development of Statistics (NSDS) with strategic directions, policies and institutional reforms for strengthening the BBS, the NSO of Bangladesh. A project has been taken to support NSDS implementation.

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

Bangladesh conducts Population and Household Census every 10 years. The last census was conducted in 2011. The 6th round of census will be done within January 2 to January 8 in 2021 aiming to get the most authentic data. For the first time, the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), the National Statistical Organization of Bangladesh will carry out population census and household listing at a time.

‘Birth and Death Registration Act, 2004’ was approved in 2004, which came into effect in 2006. The act was further amended in 2013, which allowed Union Parishad, Paurashava, Cantonment Board, City Corporations and Bangladesh missions abroad to act as registrars for births and deaths. The Act provides the legal basis for mandatory birth registration within 45 days of birth. In 2010, an online birth registration system (BRIS) was established. In view of making the system more dynamic and sustainable, the Government of Bangladesh created an office of the Registrar General of Birth and Death in 2016. All these contributed significantly to a phenomenal increase in birth registration, which, by December 2018 reached 166.43 million. Despite all these, 80 per cent childbirth outside the hospital has been making the task quite challenging. According to MICS 2019, 56 per cent of children under age 5 whose births are reported registered with a civil authority, which was 37 per cent in 2013. Death registration, though covered by the same act, has not attained considerable progress so far. According to the 2015 data, only 49 per cent of the total deaths have been recorded.

Challenges

- Over the past several years changes have taken place in the composition of foreign aid disbursement. The share of the grant is declining and the share of the loan is increasing gradually. This means the amount of repayment will create more burdens for Bangladesh.
- Due to the changing pattern of borrowing, the bilateral loan is increasing. In many cases, the cost of borrowing is increasing. The growing investment demand makes Bangladesh mobilize loans with more interest rates.
- After the LDC graduation, Bangladesh will face many challenges in mobilizing foreign assistance. The condition of getting assistance will be tougher.
- Among all possible grants and loans, some are not aligned with the development roadmap of Bangladesh. Developing screening capacity to mobilize loans and grants having true development efficacy is a major challenge.
- Aid utilization is a major challenge in Bangladesh, which sometimes arises from the slow implementation of projects. Project aid has increased significantly; hence, the slow pace of implementation impedes the proper utilization of foreign aid.
- Remittance inflow hit a record of US\$16.4 billion in FY2018-19. However, remittance sources are undiversified. Traditional markets are facing economic and political challenges making it increasingly challenging to generate increase remittance flows. Skill issue with the potential migrant workers requires substantial attention and cooperation from development partners and international community.

- An optimum tax-GDP ratio is a binding requirement for every government to meet government obligations towards SDGs implementation. In the last 10 years, Bangladesh's average tax to GDP ratio was 10.3 per cent. This indicates that internal resource mobilization is a big challenge for achieving SDGs.
- FDI is not registering high growth often due to weak ease of doing business in the country. Lack of adequate access to power and gas, property registration, intellectual property rights are allegedly the leading factors behind the low foreign direct investment.

Way forward

- Considering the changing pattern of foreign assistance effective and need-based resource mobilization mechanism is necessary. The government is undertaking different specific capacity building programmes in this regard.
- In case of external borrowing proper assessment of the project, need analysis, aid efficacy and most importantly strengthening negotiating capacity is immensely needed.
- Assuming the challenges of LDC graduation, ERD has started pre-emptive actions by taking a project namely "Smooth and Sustainable Graduation Project". This project will expect to assess the changing scenario and recommend the policy segregations in this regard.
- Bangladesh is planning to capture the best benefits from external resources. In this connection, ERD is trying to strengthening screening capacity to capture the most relevant external resources. In this connection to enhance the capacity and to assess aid information data, a project namely "Enhancing Government of Bangladesh's Aid Management and Coordination Capacity for Sustainable Development" is ongoing.
- The real potential of harnessing remittance is still untapped. The government has established different financial institutes to expatriate this core issue. National Skills Development Authority (NSDA) under the Prime Minister's Office has been established to implement the National Skills Development Policy 2011.
- Massive reform activities are underway to reform tax administration and revenue generation mechanism. Steps have been taken to tax automation, reform VAT and increasing the proportion of Direct tax.
- To boost up foreign direct investment, the Government of Bangladesh has initiated comprehensive measures like relentless power supply including importing energy (coal and LNG), which is the pre-condition of FDI attraction. The government has targeted to establish Economic zones as well as establishes a specialized body like Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA). One-Stop Service Act 2018 has been enacted and BIDA is going to launch a virtual One-Stop Service for local and foreign investors.
- Having Partnerships with global and regional platforms, FBCCI has been engaged with its regional and global counterparts like CACCI, CWEIC, SAARC-CCI, CCPIT,

SRCIC, and other organizations to exchange knowledge and expertise on trade and investment, which will ultimately contribute to attaining the SDGs. To attract FDI relocation to Bangladesh, FBCCI has been working with trade and investment partners like JETRO and CACCI.

South-South Collaboration



South Asian neighbouring countries like Maldives and Bhutan has teamed up with Access to Information (a2i) programme to adopt some of Bangladesh's most popular initiatives like multimedia classrooms, e-health, e-payments, information-technology training and government enterprise architecture, as well as the signature Digital Centres. Peru signed a contract with Bangladesh to implement its own SDG tracker after the

successful launch of Bangladesh's SDG Tracker, a platform that tracks the country's SDG progress against pre-set targets, by region, by indicator and across time, by integrating data from various agencies using any device in any location. Paraguay, Tunisia, Brazil, Namibia, Malawi, Nigeria, Colombia, Morocco, Uganda and Ecuador have expressed interest in doing the same.

Inspired by the success of the National Portal created by a2i, Somalia took the initiative to build one of their own. Cambodia decided to emulate Bangladesh's empathy training, a crucial ingredient in Bangladesh's success in implementing many of their interventions, and are now sending doctors to different medical colleges disguised as patients.

Much of this collaboration is being done through the South-South Network for Public Service Innovation (SSN4PSI) launched in 2017 by the UN Office for South-South Cooperation. Through the network, Bangladesh not only collaborates with fellow developing countries, but also has been taking a lead in forging these partnerships between Southern countries.

5. Means of implementation

(a) Finance

The "SDGs Need Assessment and Financing Strategy: Bangladesh Perspective" conducted by the Government of Bangladesh estimates that an additional amount, over the current provision of investment related to SDGs by public sectors and external sources, would be US\$ 928.5 billion at 2015-16 constant prices. This amount would be required over the period of FY 2016-17 to FY 2029-30, which is 19.75 per cent of the accumulated GDP by 2030; annual average cost would be US\$ 66.32 billion (at constant prices). In the financing strategy, five potential sources of gap financing have been suggested: (a) Private sector financing (42 per cent), (b) Public sector financing (34 per cent), (c) Public-Private Partnership (6 per cent), (d) External financing (15 per cent: FDI-10 per cent & Foreign aid-5 per cent), and (e) Non-Governmental Organization (4 per cent).

It is evident from the VNRs process that in the current growth trajectory, Bangladesh will continue to face large investment gaps, including for poverty alleviation, sustainable energy, public service delivery, ICT, and climate change adaptation. Only better development cooperation will be able to fill these gaps. The development partners need to consider setting the target of 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to LDCs within 2030. Access to right fund at the right time and at the right amount would be critical for climate change adaptation and mitigation activities to continue and sustain the economic growth. Accession criteria for climate fund should be kept as simple as possible and the commitment for climate fund by the DPs should be in addition to ODA.

The Green Climate Fund, the largest source of funding with multiple choices of instruments should make its accreditation criteria and procedures simple so that the national implementing entities can access the fund directly and easily and start work immediately. South-South and Triangular Cooperation plays an important role in the development of LDCs. The UN Office for South-South Cooperation should endeavour to develop a concrete and flexible global framework for South-South and Triangular Cooperation.

(b) Technology

When the world is moving towards the 4th Industrial Revolution (4IR), the government envisioned to build a knowledge-based and information technology-driven "Digital Bangladesh" by 2021. The main philosophy of 'Digital Bangladesh' is to maintain proper balance between growth and equity in the country. The main components of the ICT strategy in the current 7th Five-Year Plan (2016-2020) are based on some core principles: (a) Economic growth (b) Enhance quality education through ICT (c) Growth of agriculture through ICT (d) Strengthening healthcare for the poor through ICT, and (e) Establishment of effective and efficient social security administration through ICT.

Despite the initial suspicions regarding the formation of Digital Bangladesh, the visibility and success of this initiative has become quite prominent now through various programmes taken by the government. Around 60 per cent geographical area of Bangladesh has been covered by optical fibre network. This has aided in establishing a total of 5,875 Digital Centres across the country. More than 100 types of government services and more than 150 private services are being provided through Digital Centres. Up to March 2020, more than 100 million online birth

registration, more than 30 million online applications for passport, more than 3 million online application for e-Porcha has been submitted by the citizens from marginalized areas.

With a view to ensuring the sustainability of the Digital Centres, Agent Banking Services and rural assisted e-commerce services have been introduced, using the current establishment of Digital Centres. Using the existing opportunities of Digital Centres, rural assisted e-commerce platform ekShop ensures the accessibility to the online market for both the rural buyers and sellers from nearby access points and creates employment opportunities for many underserved citizens.

Number of mobile SIM subscribers in Bangladesh now stands at over 166 million and the number of internet subscribers reach to about 100 million, which indicates the increasing acceptance and retention of ICT in daily lives of every citizen. In order to provide public service-related accurate information to the people of all occupations, Bangladesh's National Web Portal has been recognized as the world's largest information portal with portals of more than 46,500 offices.

There is no reason to deny the fact that the use of technology in the production, marketing and distribution process of goods and services, may create risks of dropping jobs for some people, who are primarily engaged in traditional occupation. According to the survey conducted by a2i programme, in the next 10 years, 20 per cent of tourism and hospitality sectors, 30 per cent in readymade garments, 35 per cent in leather and leather industry, 40 per cent in agro-food sector and 60 per cent of the employment in the furniture sector are at risk of reducing employment. However, demand for new employment will be created to regulate the risky professionals, such as Digital marketing, Cyber security, Data analytics, Industrial Robotics Operator, Pattern making, Modelling and simulation, 3D Printing, Ready-to-Assemble Designer, Machineries Maintenance and Augmented Reality. The future productive capacity and growth of Bangladesh will depend on the level of re-efficiency of this huge population; it will also determine how Bangladesh can keep pace with the developed world.

The government is already working on digital skills, among which important ones are: (a) Advanced Digital Skills Pilot Programme, Course Curriculum and Resource Persons Development through partnership with three institutes of the University of Dhaka, viz. “Institute of Leather Engineering & technology”, “Institute of Information Technology”, and “Department of Tourism and Hospitality Management”. (b) Initiation of Intermediate Digital Skills Development Programme in 2500 Sheikh Russel Digital Labs of the Government of Bangladesh, (c) Expansion of work-based hands-on training programmes or apprenticeship programmes for getting practical experiences of new automated machinery in the factories, and (d) Initiation of new trades related to factory automation in the skills development centres established under different Ministries/Divisions.

The young generation is the future of the country. Formation of ‘Digital Bangladesh’ with skilful and intelligent youth workforce is the first step in establishing a knowledge-based society in our country. In Bangladesh context, the transformational production system will expand through the service sector initially and, will gradually increase in the manufacturing sector, dangerous and repetitive work getting priority. To have full automation, i.e. overcoming the human error, the whole production system and control and supervise will be done by artificial robots-will need extra time for Bangladesh.

However, challenges of ICT sector regarding achieving SDGs includes but not limited to developing an e-government master plan, supporting product innovation and creation ecosystem, funding for research and development in ICT & science and Technology and rapid satisfactory completion of all ongoing projects.

(c) Capacity development

Project on capacity building: With a view to increasing the capacity of the public administration, a project titled "Enhancement of Public Administration Skills to Achieve Sustainable Development Goals" has been approved by the government. Wholly funded by the government, the tenure of the project is initially for five years, where the objective is to implement the innovative ideas of the Hon'ble Prime Minister by increasing the capacities and efficiency of government and non-government employees that will eventually help to achieve the SDGs. It is expected that competent and citizen-friendly public sectors will be established. Under the project, so far Fellowships for PhDs and Masters have been provided for 66 and 132 persons respectively, where topics are selected on SDGs. Besides this, it has been decided that all SDGs lead and co-lead Ministries/Divisions after conducting need assessment for capacity development of their officials will prepare specific schemes covering short courses to masters and PhD. for human resource development.

Emphasizing Training for Sustainable Development Goals: One dedicated module on SDGs has been included in the foundation-training course of the newly recruited government officials of the Government of Bangladesh. Training of Trainers has been arranged to create a resource pool of officials on SDGs from different cadres. Refresher's course for the officials trained on ToT of SDGs has also been imparted. Officials from this resource pool provide training at different national training institutes. They are also chosen to provide training to the local level government officials particularly on localization of SDGs. All focal points of SDGs working at different Ministries/Divisions have been imparted training on SDGs from the General Economics Division of the Bangladesh Planning Commission. Governance Innovation Unit of the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) also sends selected focal points of SDGs to Curtin University, Australia to have in-depth training on SDGs focusing on action research.

Inclusion of SDGs in school curriculum: A policy decision has been taken to give school students an idea about the SDGs as they will be the prime movers in coming years to implement the Agenda 2030. In order to implement this decision, SDGs have already been included in the textbooks from class VI to IX, as recommended by a specific committee.

(d) Trade

We reckon that the implementation of the Doha Development Agenda and subsequent rounds of World Trade Organization (WTO) as well as Nairobi (2015) and Bali (2013) Packages are going to be critical for trade to evolve as an important enabler in the SDGs implementations. Here, it is important to point out the institutional initiatives through which countries like Bangladesh, as an LDC, receives preferential treatment in trade. There are primarily four categories of initiatives namely (a) various WTO provisions providing special and differential treatment (SDT) (b) autonomous, non-reciprocal initiatives through various countries' Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) schemes (c) preferential market access initiatives of various regional trade agreements (RTAs) (d) bilateral trade initiatives. Bangladesh has been

able to take significant advantage of the preferential market access provided under the aforesaid initiatives. Lower-duty or duty-free entry has given Bangladesh's exports a competitive edge in developed and developing country markets. We have emerged as a leading exporter of apparels in the global market.

Since developed country markets account for about 90 per cent of Bangladesh's total exports, preferential market access in these countries is of special significance to us. Bangladesh's export basket has so far remained limited to RMG. We need to take advantage of potential opportunities by exporting other products, which are eligible for preferential market access. The challenges, however, are lack of GSP coverage, Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) agreement, Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs), and inadequate trade-related supply-side capacities. We need cooperation from the developed countries in sustaining and expanding our trade capacities as well as transferring a substantive portion of our trade gains to SDGs implementation.

(e) Policy and Institutional Coherence

The Government of Bangladesh is committed to adhering to the principles of coordination, coherence, and impact – anchored on integrated planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation, to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs.

The government has created committees from the national level to sub-districts level for internal coordination to ensure that all stakeholders are involved in monitoring the achievement of the SDGs and evaluating related policies and to improve coherence between global to national, District and Sub-district development plans. All levels of the institutional mechanisms should function in a way to ensure that the trade-offs and synergies across economic, social and environmental policies are taken into account in policymaking.

The National Social Security Strategy clearly stipulates that the government's Social Security policy must be seen as a core element of the other policies and programmes that together comprise the broader Social Development Framework (SDF). The main objective of the SDF is to have a comprehensive and consistent set of policies that can help Bangladesh achieve better equity and social justice in the context of its development effort. This focus of the SDF is to be achieved through a range of policies and programmes encompassing the government's poverty reduction strategy, the education strategy, the health, nutrition and population strategy, the strategy for sanitation and water supply, the strategy for inclusive finance, the strategy for women and gender empowerment, the strategy for social inclusion of ethnic and religious minorities, the strategy for environmental protection and climate change management, the strategy for disaster management and Social Security Strategy. These various strategies and programmes are mostly complementary in nature and tend to strengthen the impact on poverty reduction, reduce the vulnerability of the poor and promote social cohesion.

To boost up foreign direct investment, the Government of Bangladesh has initiated comprehensive measures like relentless power supply, which is the pre-condition of FDI attraction. The government has targeted to establish Economic zones as well as establishes a specialized body like Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA). One-Stop Service Act 2018 has been enacted and BIDA is going to launch a virtual One-Stop Service for

local and foreign investors. BIDA is now coordinating the actions to be taken by different Ministries to improve the business environment in the country in an integrated way.

The Government of Bangladesh has formulated the National Skills Development Policy in 2011. This policy is being implemented by combining the principles of the Education Policy 2010, the Non-Formal Education Policy of 2006, the Youth Policy, the National Training Policy of 2008, and the National Skills Development Council Action Plans of 2008. Efforts are given to tie between the educational institutions and the demand of the private sector to upgrade the curriculum to meet the new challenges.

Poverty-environment-climate-disaster nexus has been mainstreamed in the project design phase, budgetary process, project implementation, and monitoring processes. Some fiscal initiatives have also been designed by the Government of Bangladesh, associated with its medium-term budgeting perspective. The government is keen on providing tax incentives to encourage investment in renewable energy ventures. The proposed incentives include exemption from being charged 15 per cent VAT on renewable energy equipment and materials used in the production of renewable energy; the establishment of a network of micro-credit providers in remote rural areas to provide funding for the purchase of renewable energy equipment; and corporate income tax exemptions for renewable energy projects. Climate Public Expenditure and Institutional Review (CPEIR) has been developed. The initial assessment detailed in the CPEIR indicates that approximately seven per cent of total public expenditure contributes to green growth-related activities. All banks and financial institutions are required to comply with Bangladesh Bank's green finance regulations.

Progress has been made in strengthening the link between planning and budgeting through the Five Year Plans as well as through the Annual Development Programmes that are now much better linked to both the Plan's strategies and targets as well as to the Medium Term Budgetary Framework (MTBF) of line Ministries. Commendable progress has been made in the area of introducing results-based monitoring and evaluation at the macroeconomic level. Supreme Audit Institution, the independent constitutional body, is responsible for ensuring the accountability of public money. Their annual report is, however, discussed at the Public Accounts Committee of the National Parliament.

(f) Multi-stakeholder Partnerships

SDGs call for actions through the help of global partnerships with both the public and the Private Sector. To achieve these SDGs government has taken the lead in living up to their pledges. At the same time, private sector should spread their hand with new initiatives, new ideas and new technologies to the government for the sake of the country and betterment of the people. To fully realize the SDGs, all parties—government, civil society and the private sector—must have a shared responsibility.

Collaboration with the private sector: The private sector has been the driver of economic growth in Bangladesh like many other developing countries. A large number of targets of SDGs are related to growth, employment, and the delivery of key services such as education and health, which could not be achieved without the active participation of the private sector. However, there has to be a framework of how these two actors can work in tandem. To effectively contribute to the SDGs, private financing flows need to be stable and long-term

oriented. Apart from typical Corporate Social Responsibility, private sector entities might explore business cases with regard to the targets of SDGs. Blended financing and some innovative financing are also required to meet the financing targets as well. In some cases, particularly protecting the environment, the private sector requires incentives from the government to remain competitive in the world market. In order to make the private sector more 'responsible' in production and consumption, an efficient mixture of laws and incentives should be in place.

With a view to working more actively with the Government to help achieve the SDGs as a valuable partner, FBCCI leadership made extensive visits to the Chambers of 16 Districts under Rajshahi and Rangpur Divisions. They exchanged views with the local business leaders on the participatory role of the private sector to engage in SDGs objectives. FBCCI leadership stressed exploring local potentials to speed up regional development for achieving sustainable goals, bank loans at the lowest interest rate for flourishing small and medium scale enterprises (SMEs), providing electricity at a lower cost, assistance for promoting product-based industries and improving road communication systems toward the directions.

Recently, a questionnaire was developed jointly by the PMO, GED, and FBCCI to conduct a survey on activities of industries and commercial organizations in achieving SDGs. The questionnaire was distributed among the industries through the member organizations of FBCCI to respond. However, participation in the survey was not mandatory and 64 industries/commercial concerned responded to the survey. Among them, the number of manufacturing industry was 54 (84.4 per cent), service-oriented companies were 8 (12.5 per cent), and others was 2 (3.1 per cent).

Among all the responders, 87.5 per cent companies have taken CSR programmes. Through CSR, a maximum 73.2 per cent companies are contributing to promoting education and schooling, 67.9 per cent companies are supporting health, 69.6 per cent companies are contributing to poverty reduction, and 62.5 per cent are contributing to safe drinking water & sanitation.

Out of all responders, 82.8 per cent companies have taken technological development of organization and capacity building/training programmes for their employees. 96.9 per cent companies have taken social protection programmes for their employees. 90.3 per cent companies pay medical allowances and 38.7 per cent companies pay pension. 98.4 per cent companies have taken welfare programmes for their employees. 82 per cent companies have arranged separate washroom for male & female workers, 47.6 per cent companies have arranged a day-care systems for women workers.

Cent per cent responders have ensured safety in working place of their companies; 98.4 per cent have ensured electrical safety & 95.3 per cent have ensured fire safety. 98.4 per cent companies provide health service for employees and their family members at low cost; 95.2 per cent have ensured first aid box & 61.9 per cent have appointed fulltime doctors. Out of the total companies, 75 per cent have Research and Development (R&D) programmes. 54 per cent companies maintain the re-cycling of products for environmental safety and minimizing energy consumption. 56.3 per cent companies have taken scientific/automatic waste management processing for environmental safety. 78.1 per cent companies are engaged with green factory/roof gardening/rooftop solar energy systems in response to climate change and

environmental pollution. 53.1 per cent companies have achieved international recognition/certificate for its working environment and quality of products. With regard to support from the government, 71.9 per cent companies requested policy support to achieve SDGs.

Collaboration with NGOs: The Government of Bangladesh through forming a ‘SDGs Implementation Sub-committee’ by the NGO Affairs Bureau has taken the initiative to collaborate with NGOs and make their contribution visible and accountable. NGO Affairs Bureau in collaboration with Citizen’s Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh (the platform includes more than a hundred organisations from across the country working on SDGs) held a conference titled “Role of NGOs in implementation of SDGs in Bangladesh” on May 18, 2017. It was followed by the formulation of an 'NGO's SDG Action Plan'. The Plan sets to map out all the activities and contributions of NGOs related to the SDGs irrespective of their source of funds.

Collaboration with the UN agencies: With respect to the initiative of the UN agencies and cooperation of development partners, NGOs and the private sector, a framework of collaboration has been devised focusing on 4 pillars viz. : (a) Enhancing evidence-informed policy analysis & formulation, (b) Accelerating the implementation of policies, (c) Securing and prioritizing financing, and (d) Fostering a whole-of-society approach. Based on the framework, quite a few time-bound action plans related to SDGs have been prepared to implement. The SDGs Implementation and Review Committee has been monitoring the progress of this Action Plan. With a strong and meaningful partnership, it is hoped that the Action Plan will be implemented through different projects, programmes, and activities.

(g) Localization of SDGs in the context of Bangladesh

The Government of Bangladesh is in the process of localizing SDGs, particularly in the District and Upazila (Sub-district) level. On 3rd December 2018, the Cabinet meeting has approved 40 (39+1) priority indicators for localization of SDGs; 39 indicators from 17 goals are selected which would be crucial for the local level of our country and implementation of whom would have reinforcing effects on other targets as well. The rest one (+1) would cover ‘leave no one behind’ for which different districts or Upazila will have different targets based on the context and ground reality of that particular geographical area. ‘Natore Model’ is developed for District level and a framework is finalized for localizing SDGs at the Upazila level. Awareness programmes through workshops at the Divisions and District levels have been done. It is hoped that local level people would fix the targets and prepare corresponding action plans to implement the SDGs. Localizing the SDGs means making the aspirations of the SDGs become real to communities, households, and individuals, particularly to those who are at risk of falling behind. Local communities and stakeholders, who know the individual and collective needs and capacities best, are critical partners in implementing and realizing our global accord. With the auspices of GIU, Divisional level Training of the trainers (ToT) has been completed and Upazila Action Plan and District Action Plan for SDGs implementation is finalised. It is planned to provide a special allocation for every District to tackle the challenge of +1 of that particular district comprising of Upazilas. List of 64 indicators of localization of SDGs of 64 Districts of Bangladesh has been given at Annex-2 of this report.

(h) Data, monitoring and accountability

Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics as an NSO of Bangladesh has been bestowed with providing data for 105 indicators of the SDGs. Statistics Act approved in 2013 and the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics are the two most important policy documents to guide the National Statistics System (NSS). National Data Coordination Committee (NDCC) has been constituted headed by the Secretary, Statistics and Informatics Division by taking/through the representatives from all data generating agencies/ministries of the government and also representatives from private and CSOs to streamline the data generation system, reducing the duplicity and prioritize the areas of the survey, identify data gaps, ensure the availability of quality data and coordinate among ministries and divisions to make data available for SDGs and monitor other international commitments.

BBS has identified the following surveys to be important for data source of SDGs and some of them are being implemented, some are at the approval stage and others are at the preparation stage of the project formulation: (1) Literacy Assessment Survey, (2) Survey on Access to Public Transport and Road Communication, (3) Citizen's Perspective Household Survey, (4) Gender Based Violence Survey, (5) Bangladesh Disaster Related Statistics, (6) Household Income and Expenditure Survey, (7) Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, (8) Child and Mother Nutrition Survey, (9) Health and Morbidity Status Survey, (10) Time Use Survey, (11) Quarterly Labour Force Survey, (12) Child Labour Survey, (13) Cost of Migration Survey, (14) Survey on Manufacturing Industries, (15) Access and Use of ICT by Household and Individual Survey, (16) Food Security and Agriculture Statistics Survey, (17) Sample Vital Registration System, (18) National Strategy for the Development of Statistics Implementation Support Project, (19) Citizen Perception Household Survey and (20) Survey on Persons with Disabilities. In each project or survey programme, there are steering and technical committees where technical experts from academia, research organizations or CSOs are taken as members. Following the Statistics Act, 2013, government agencies are taking prior approval of their survey/census from BBS. Besides, few research organizations are working in collaboration with BBS through different MoU or LoA to conduct a few surveys jointly and advance analysis and research of the survey data. The Government of Bangladesh has launched an online SDGs Tracker which is being administered by BBS backstopping IT support from a2i Programme where all the data generating ministries are connected to provide data on the platform. In addition to coordination among the data providing agencies in the NSS, BBS is also providing technical support and training on metadata in light of their responsibility in data generation. Officially, BBS is the authority to check the authenticity of data provided by the focal points of different ministries in the SDG Tracker System. A technical working committee, headed by Director General of BBS has been formed to review and authenticate the data submitted in the SDG Tracker before publishing. With the assistance of a2i programme, pieces of training have been imparted to the focal points from Ministries/Divisions/Agencies on the procedure of data submission to the SDGs tracker. The nominated cluster focal points of BBS participates in each consultation meeting of the lead ministries of SDGs implementation to explain the metadata and importance of data in progress monitoring. Recently, BBS has formed a committee to check the alignment of the statistics act, 2013 with the fundamental principle of official statistics, corroborated by the United Nations. BBS is also implementing the UNSD-DFID Project as one of the partners of 20 National Statistics Office to develop the capacity in SDG data generation

and dissemination. Recently, BBS has joined as a partner with UNSD to implement the Data4Now initiative in Bangladesh in collaboration with a2i Programme. To foster the overall SDGs related activities BBS has established an ‘SDG Cell’ to coordinate the overall SDGs data-related activities in Bangladesh.

As part of the enhancement of the SDG Tracker –a2i programme has added data analytics in SDG Tracker to provide in-depth insights to the policymakers on different thematic areas of SDGs. To make the data analytics insightful and comprehensive, a joint initiative has been launched between a2i and Leonard Cheshire’s Disability Data Portal. The Disability Data Portal was developed by Leonard Cheshire for the Global Disability Summit in 2018. It provides a snapshot of the data globally available on PWDs in 48 countries, including Bangladesh. The Portal currently hosts disability-disaggregated data for 16 indicators - mostly drawn from the framework of the SDGs- related to four thematic areas: inclusive education, stigma and discrimination, technology and innovation, and economic empowerment. This initiative links Bangladesh disability data analysis from the Disability Data Portal to the SDG Tracker as the first step in a joint initiative between these two data-sharing platforms. As the partnership develops, more features will be added to strengthen the inclusion of disability disaggregated data, and participatory data collected by Disabled People's Organizations, within the SDG Tracker. This is intended to support disability-inclusive policy development in Bangladesh to achieve the ‘Leave No One Behind’ agenda.

(i) Key Areas of International Cooperation

A review of the targets of the SDGs with provision of international cooperation in Bangladesh identifies potential areas where development partners can contribute towards meeting the SDGs. International cooperation in several areas is crucial:

- Tax reforms and decentralisation of revenue collection is essential. Technical assistance in the analysis of development impact when tax regimes are changed is another area where the development partners can contribute.
- For ODA, international cooperation is needed to develop capacity of the implementing agencies to efficiently utilise the funds. Development partners need to entrust more responsibilities to their country offices to ease procurement and disbursement bottlenecks and speed up project implementation.
- For FDI, Bangladesh needs to disseminate more information about its potential and areas of investment. Improvements in doing business index of the World Bank could be the first step in this regard. Introduction of international standard auditing and accounting of business firms and corporate houses may increase flow of FDI in larger volume.
- At the global level, private sector has collaborated on various fronts to create practical tools and guidelines that assist businesses in sorting out how to put the SDGs into action, which might be adopted by Bangladesh. In addition, an attractive CSR market could also be leveraged to serve useful social objectives, and in this context the guidelines developed under the UN Compact could serve a useful purpose.
- For debt sustainability, Bangladesh need to monitor debt services in association with the development partners. This is needed as Bangladesh is moving from an era of concessional finance to finances of more commercial nature involving much higher debt

service liabilities. The support should act as an early warning system and help avoid any possible systemic shock to the Bangladesh economy.

- To scale up South-South cooperation, Bangladesh needs to adopt reference benchmarks to assess performance. International cooperation is needed to develop common reference indicators and a central database for this important source of cooperation. Tracking data in a systematic manner will allow the government agencies to effectively understand the extent of cooperation and engage further.
- For trade, Bangladesh needs to actively engage in the negotiations by forming coalitions with other graduating LDCs or non- LDC developing countries in various areas of interests. This needs international cooperation e.g. capacity development of Ministry of Commerce. To increase its share in global exports, Bangladesh needs to diversify its export basket to non-RMG products and destinations outside EU and USA. Trade creating customs union and trade with neighbours may be pursued vigorously.

6. Next steps

Aligning SDGs with National Development Strategies and Policies: The Government of Bangladesh has already finalized the 2nd Perspective Plan (2021-2041) based on the declaration of Hon'ble Prime Minister's "Vision 2041" and it has been approved by the National Economic Council (NEC), the highest economic policy-making body of the government on 25th February 2020. The Vision seeks to eliminate extreme poverty and reach Upper Middle-Income Country (UMIC) status by 2031, and High-Income Country (HIC) status by 2041 with poverty approaching extinction. The transition, indeed transformation, can be realized through a process of rapid inclusive growth leading to the elimination of poverty while increasing the productive capacity, building an innovating knowledge economy and protecting the environment. Hence, the social, economic and biosphere contents of Agenda 2030 is the crux in the 2nd Perspective Plan of Bangladesh, based on which the 8th Five Year Plan (2021-2025) will be in operation from 1st of July 2020. The government is committed to incorporate almost all the targets of SDGs in the 8th FYP.

Updated National Action Plan of SDGs: In line with the 7th FYP, the lead Ministries/Divisions in consultation with co-lead and associate Ministries/Divisions have prepared SDGs Action Plan. The present Action Plan focused on the projects and programmes to be implemented by 2020, the terminal year of the 7th FYP. It is expected that after the approval of the 8th FYP, the National Action Plan of SDGs will be revisited.

Updating SDGs Financing Strategy: The financing requirement for SDGs estimated in 2017 did not take into account the concessional finance and market access that Bangladesh might lose due to LDC graduation. Because of the current shrinking of fiscal space and requirement to repurpose funds for economic recovery due to COVID-19 pandemic – Bangladesh might need to do the financial requirement exercise again to have a realistic and more reliable projection following the Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF).

Voluntary National Reviews of SDGs: Bangladesh has participated in the Voluntary National Reviews process in 2017 where seven goals were reviewed. It is going to participate in the Voluntary National Reviews process of SDGs in 2020 for the second time where all goals of Agenda 2030 will be reviewed during the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) of sustainable development. The government is agreed in principle that once every three years it will take part in the global reviews process of SDGs. In each VNRs process, there will be some value addition from the earlier one.

Strengthening the localization of SDGs: As part of its localization efforts of SDGs, the Government of Bangladesh in the regular cabinet meeting approved 40 indicators (39+1) to be implemented by the local levels of administration. While fixing the targets for 39 indicators at local levels at Districts and Sub-districts, they have identified the most vulnerable area or sector or group of people where total area is mostly lagging behind and not covered by regular activities of the government. Both the Districts and Sub-districts have identified the area of the +1 which will enable us equipped for targeted intervention also putting dedicated resources for those interventions. This can be a starting point of the local level budget called 'District

Budget'. It is expected that regular budgetary support will be earmarked to address the +1 component of the localization of SDGs in the coming years.

Strengthening the Involvement of the Private Sector in SDGs implementation: The private sector is considered as one of the important players for SDGs implementation. Apart from typical Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), some private sector entities are now piloting business cases with regard to the targets of SDGs, particularly to address the requirements of 'leaving no one behind'. A framework will be prepared to involve the private sector entities with SDGs. Initiatives might be taken for consultations with the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce & Industries (FBCCI) to mitigate the target wise challenges mentioned in the VNRs towards the implementation of SDGs. It is expected that individual entities will provide targeted action related to SDGs based on the targets given by their association, which will ultimately be monitored by the FBCCI. A set of questionnaires has been designed to track it and it is expected that the SDGs Tracker will have a different window for the private sector.

Generation of most disaggregated data: Out of 232 global indicators of SDG, only 61 indicators were readily available, partial availability was 60, and the remaining 111 had no data. It is planned that by 2021, 2023, 2025, 2027 and 2030 the readily available data would be 80, 110, 130, 160 and 200 respectively. At the terminal year of SDGs, partially available data would be 30 and not available would be only two. Along with the data generation, emphasis will be given on the availability of disaggregation. It is expected that the localization of SDGs will incentivize for disaggregated data collection and reporting at the local level. It will operationalize a process of accountability that is closer to the people.

Involving youth in SDGs through the concept of 'by the youth' and 'for the youth': One-third population of our country is youth, who is the prime mover of SDGs of our country. The government has approved National Youth Policy 2017. According to the Policy, the priority areas for youth development in our country are: (a) Empowerment (b) Health and recreation (c) Governance (d) Sustainable development (e) Equitable development (f) Building a healthy society (g) Globalisation (h) Survey and research. It is found that youth can be involved in almost all goals of Agenda 2030 and the government is trying to involve the youth in SDGs in the form of 'by the youth' and 'for the youth' and the activities will be expanded in coming years.

Strengthening SDGs Implementation Review (SIR) mechanism: The first National Conference on SDGs Implementation Review (SIR) was held on 4th to 6th July 2018. Around 2000 participants from the government, NGOs, CSOs, private sector and Development Partners (DPs) participated in the conference. The synthesis report of the SIR highlighted the achievements so far, identified the challenges and provided guidelines for the way forward. Based on the experience of first SIR of SDGs, the decision was taken that it would be held regularly in every 2-3 years intervals. In the next round of SIR, initially, the review will start from the Upazila level (Sub-district), followed by the District and Divisional levels. Eventually, the national level conference on SIR will be held in Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh incorporating government, NGOs, CSOs, Private Sector, Development Partners, and all relevant stakeholders.

7. Conclusion

The Government of Bangladesh has decided to participate in the second time in the Voluntary National Reviews process of SDGs at the High-Level Political Forum of Sustainable Development as part of its commitment to engage in the global process of sharing knowledge, experiences, and good practices. It is important as we enter into the fifth year of the implementation of the transformative 2030 Agenda. In the first VNRs Report of Bangladesh submitted in 2017, our reviews were confined within seven goals viz. SDG 1 (no poverty), SDG 2 (Zero hunger), SDG 3 (Good health and well-being), SDG 5 (Gender equality), SDG 9 (Industry, innovation, and infrastructure), SDG 14 (Life below water), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the goals). This time all goals are reviewed with the help of the latest available data and information to reflect the progress of our journey towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda during the last four years, identify challenges, and inform our plans and strategies to address those challenges. Some of the good and innovative initiatives are also documented here.

Bangladesh had started the SDGs implementation early as the preparatory phase of its 7th Five Year Plan (7th FYP: 2016-2020) coincided with the formulation process of the 2030 Agenda. In the VNRs Report of 2017, the correlation between the 7th FYP and the 2030 Agenda was examined, and the analysis revealed that the two documents were indeed well aligned. Hence, the implementation of the 7th FYP, the home-grown development plan of Bangladesh, enables us to implement the global agenda.

The latest available data shows that in some indicators, we have already achieved, or on-track against the targets set for 2020 by the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework of SDGs of Bangladesh. The proportion of people living below the national extreme poverty line is 10.5 per cent in 2019, which is on track to achieve the target set for 2020. The stunting rate of under-five children was 42 per cent in 2012-13, which has come down to 28 per cent in 2019, which is also on-track. Similarly, the proportion of wasted children was 14.3 per cent in 2014, which has declined to 9.8 per cent in 2019. Extraordinary success has been achieved in curbing under-five mortality and neonatal mortality as the present status has already reached the target of 2020, set by the Government. In 2017, 70.3 per cent of women of reproductive age have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods. The prevalence of current tobacco use among persons aged 15 years and older is 35.3 per cent in 2017, which equals the target set for 2020. The annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person is 5.85 per cent in 2019, which has already crossed the target set for 2020. It is true for manufacturing value-added as a proportion of GDP, which is 24.08 per cent in 2019.

The Government is in the process of finalizing the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) to estimate multidimensional poverty in the country apart from income or consumption-based poverty estimation. The government's commitment to social protection, enhancing both in budgetary allocation and in coverage, is evident. Ensuring food security in availability and accessibility are both in the right direction. The government is committed to providing electricity to every household by 2021 and access to electricity is 96 per cent in January 2020. Social forestry activities are going on involving the community people through plantation beside the roads, embankments, polders, homesteads, fallow lands, etc. to increase the tree

coverage. To increase access to justice, resolving cases through Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) has been encouraged in the country.

However, considerable challenges lie ahead of 2030. Even if extreme poverty comes down to around 2.5 per cent in 2030, about five million people would still be hard-core poor then. Therefore, the absolute number of poor people is a huge challenge for Bangladesh. The disparity between the lowest and highest quintile of the population is prevalent in society. Though consumption Gini is stable, income Gini is, however, increasing. Focusing availability, accessibility, utilization, and stability for ensuring food security for all in a densely populated country like Bangladesh will always remain a challenge. Albeit the health sector has shown phenomenal success, ensuring Universal Health Coverage will require more resources and efforts. Warranting quality education at all levels is a daunting task. The increasing rate of women's participation in elected bodies and civil service is encouraging but still, there is a scope of improvement. The sudden influx of a million Rohingya refugees in Teknaf area has put enormous pressure on drinking water and sanitation facilities. Bangladesh, being the climatically vulnerable country nevertheless taking many actions to reduce exposure, adaptation, and mitigation of climate change will always remain a challenging agenda in its development discourse. Finally, increasing domestic resource mobilization, particularly increasing the tax-GDP ratio at the desired level will be critical.

This VNRs report points out some structural challenges for SDGs implementation in Bangladesh. It has identified resource mobilization, active stakeholders' engagements, data availability and management, localization of SDGs, and incorporating three dimensions of sustainability, i.e. social, economic, and environmental protection in development activities as major structural impediments. As we chart our future courses of action, we have decided to have wide consultations among all relevant stakeholders to devise ways and means to overcome these challenges.

The government under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina envisions transforming Bangladesh into a developed country by 2041. The 2030 Agenda fits quite well into this vision. We consider 2030 Agenda as an important guiding document complementing our efforts to achieve sustainable development for our people. The Government considers poverty as a multidimensional issue and hence multidimensional approaches are needed to tackle it. The Government's commitment to investing more in health, education and social protection will continue in the coming years. By creating awareness of, and incentivising sustainable consumption and production and by investing more in research and development, the productivity of agriculture will be augmented without harming the environment. Quality of education at all levels will be ensured by investing more in skill development of the teachers and infrastructure. Violence against women will be reduced by strictly implementing the relevant laws and by increasing their access to economic opportunities with enhanced gender-responsive budget implementation. Basin-wide Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) will be emphasized shifting from standalone projects in the water sector. With a view to enhancing skills, the link between the education system and the labour market will be strengthened. National Social Security Strategy, 2015 will be followed thoroughly to address the risks and vulnerabilities and to tackle the inequalities in the economies. The urban challenges will be mitigated by enhancing effective coordination among all the service

providers active in the urban local government institutions and by involving stakeholders in the planning and decision-making process.

The Voluntary National Reviews Report of Bangladesh is a comprehensive analysis of the country's experience in pursuit of sustainable development. Ensuring food security by investing more in agricultural production has been a priority of the Government. However, the Government has taken a holistic approach to development, which focuses on economic diversification, infrastructure development, women empowerment, employment opportunities for the youth, resilience building and adaptation to climate change impacts, and removal of the structural impediments to development. The Government recognizes the importance of creating a knowledge-based society; it is adopting measures to make technology available to our people. The use of ICT for financial and multiple services facilitated the inclusion of the marginalized section of the society and we are committed to taking it to a new height. Creating ownership of the implementation of the SDGs in Bangladesh among all the stakeholders will catalyse their actions. While various stakeholders are increasingly aligning their plans and strategies with the SDGs, there are ample scopes to scale up actions. The local level consultations for the VNRs process gives us new insights about the involvement of local stakeholders. The UN system might be involved in this process to provide technical inputs and support capacity development at the local level. Hon'ble Prime Minister of Bangladesh has demonstrated strong political commitment to the implementation of the SDGs. This is vital for achieving these ambitious and transformative goals. However, a robust framework of global partnership is necessary for addressing the daunting challenges facing the goals. Only our collective actions will lead us to a safe, peaceful, inclusive, and prosperous world as was envisioned in the 2030 Agenda.

8. Annexes

Annex-1: At a Glance Progress of Sustainable Development Goals of Bangladesh-2019

Indicators	Baseline Data (Year, Source)	Target by 2030	Current Status	Remarks
Goal – 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere				
1.1.1 Proportion of the population living below the international poverty line by sex, age, employment status and geographic location (urban/rural)	14.77% (PovcalNet, WB, 2016)	0.00%	14.77% (PovcalNet, WB, 2016)	Refined indicator; baseline has been revised
1.2.1 Proportion of population living below the national poverty line, by sex and age	UPL: 24.3% LPL: 12.9% (HIES, 2016, BBS)	UPL: 7.02% LPL: 2.55%	UPL: 20.5% LPL: 10.5% (BBS, 2019)	Projected figures based on HIES 2016
1.2.2 Proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions	MPI: 0.18 HC: 37.51 Intensity: 46.84 (BBS, 2019)	-	MPI: 0.18 HC: 37.51 Intensity: 46.84 (BBS, 2019)	MPI is newly introduced in Bangladesh
1.3.1 Proportion of population covered by social protection floors/systems, by sex, distinguishing children, unemployed persons, older persons, persons with disabilities, pregnant women, newborns, work-injury victims and the poor and the vulnerable	28.7% HHs (HIES, 2016)	40% HHs	58.1% population (MICS 2019, BBS)	
1.4.1 Proportion of population living in households with access to basic services	Sanitation: 55.9% Hygiene: 59.1% Clean Fuel: 9.9% Antenatal Health care: 58.7% Primary completion rate: 79.5% (MICS, 2012-13, BBS)	Sanitation: 100% Hygiene: 100% Clean fuel: 50% Antenatal healthcare: 100% Primary Completion rate: 100%	Sanitation: 84.6% Clean Fuel: 19% Antenatal Health care: 75.2% Primary completion rate: 82.6% Electricity: 92.23% (MICS, 2019, BBS)	This is an index based on HH size, all the indicators should be generated from same survey.
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, by sex and type of tenure				Waiting for Agriculture Sample Census
1.5.1 Number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population	Affected Persons: 12,881 (BDRS, BBS, 2014) No. of Death: 0.2045 (MoDMR, 2016)	1,500	Affected Persons: 4,318 No. of Death: 0.316 (MoDMR, 2019)	Repeated Indicator (11.5.1 & 13.1.1)
1.5.2 Direct economic loss attributed to disasters in relation to global gross domestic product (GDP)	1.3% of GDP in 2014 (BDRS, 2015, BBS)	<1.0%	1.3% of GDP in 2014 (BDRS, 2015, BBS)	
1.5.3 Number of countries that adopt and implement national disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030				Repeated Indicator (11.b.1 & 13.1.2) Global indicator
1.5.4 Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies	City Corp: 8.3% Municipalities: 0.9% (MoDMR, 2019)	100% of all local governments	City Corp: 8.3% Municipalities: 0.9% (MoDMR, 2019)	Repeated Indicator (11.b.2 & 13.1.3)
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				New indicator

Indicators	Baseline Data (Year, Source)	Target by 2030	Current Status	Remarks
1.a.2 Proportion of total government spending on essential services (education, health and social protection)	Health: 5.1% Education: 13.71% SP: 14.99% (FD: FY 15)	Health: 5% Education: 15% SP: 15%	Health: 5.1% Education: 11.8% SP: 14.5% (FD, 2018-19 revised Budget)	Refined indicator;
1.b.1 Pro-poor public social spending				Refined indicator, Tier III indicator
Goal – 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture				
2.1.1 Prevalence of undernourishment	15.2% (FAO, 2016)	<10%	14.7% (2018)	The State of Food Security & Nutrition 2019, FAO
2.1.2 Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population, based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES)	Moderate:32.3% Severe: 11.1% (FAO 2014)	Moderate: <12.6%	Moderate: 30.5% Severe: 10.2% (2018)	The State of Food Security & Nutrition 2019, FAO
2.2.1 Prevalence of stunting (height for age <-2 standard deviation from the median of the World Health Organization (WHO) Child Growth Standards) among children under 5 years of age	42% (MICS 2012-13, BBS)	12%	National: 28.0% (U: 26.3%, R: 28.4% (MICS 2019, BBS)	Baseline has been revised
2.2.2 Prevalence of malnutrition (weight for height >+2 or <-2 standard deviation from the median of the WHO Child Growth Standards) among children under 5 years of age, by type (wasting and overweight)	a) Wasting: 9.6% (MICS, 2012-2013) b) Overweight: 1.6% (MICS, 2012-13)	a) <5% b) 1.0%	Wasted: 9.8% Overweight: 2.4% (MICS 2019, BBS)	Baseline has been revised; BDHS 2014 was 14.3%
2.2.3 Prevalence of anaemia in women aged 15 to 49 years, by pregnancy status (percentage)				New indicator
2.3.1 Volume of production per labour unit by classes of farming/pastoral/forestry enterprise size				No baseline data
2.3.2 Average income of small-scale food producers, by sex and indigenous status				No baseline data
2.4.1 Proportion of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture				Pilot survey going on
2.5.1 Number of plant and animal genetic resources for food and agriculture secured in either medium- or long-term conservation facilities	BARI: 8,384 BRRI: 8,051 BINA: 1,700 BJRI: 6,012 BSRI: 1136 CDB: 520 BFRI: 213 (Fisheries) BFRI: 18,000 (Forests) BTRI: 475 BSRTI: 68 BLRI: Animal: 30 Plant: 40 (MoA, 2015)	15,000 8,581 3,300 6,700 1,200 600 220 20,000 700 108 37 52	BARI:11,081 BRRI: 8,578 BFRI-260 BINA: 2,822 BJRI: 6,027 BSRI: 1,136 CDB: 528 BLRI: Animal-33 Plant-44 (MoA, 2019)	
2.5.2 Proportion of local breeds classified as being at risk of extinction	5 animal species at risk (BLRI, 2015)	1	5 animal species at risk (BLRI, 2019)	Refined indicator; baseline revised
2.a.1 The agriculture orientation index for government expenditures	0.779 (FAO, 2013)	1.0	0.409 [FAO, 2016]	Baseline has been revised
2.a.2 Total official flows (official development assistance plus other official flows) to the agriculture sector	215 MUS\$ (ERD, FY 15)	500 MUS\$	228.12 MU\$ (ERD, FY 2018-19)	
2.b.1 Agricultural export subsidies	76.9 MUS\$ (BB, FY 17-18)	70.0 MU\$	73.74 MU\$ (BB, 2018-19)	Baseline has been revised

Indicators	Baseline Data (Year, Source)	Target by 2030	Current Status	Remarks
2.c.1 Indicator of food price anomalies	Consumer Food Price Index: (-) 0.20 Rice: 0.60 Wheat: (-) 0.70 (FAO, 2016)	-	Consumer Food Price Index: 1.20 Rice: 1.60 Wheat: 0.60 (2017, FAO)	
Goal – 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages				
3.1.1 Maternal mortality ratio	181 (SVRS, 2015)	70	National: 169 [R: 193, U: 132] (SVRS, 2018)	
3.1.2 Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel	43.5% (MICS, 2012-13)	80%	59.0% [U: 73.7%, R: 54.8%] (MICS 2019, BBS)	Baseline has been revised
3.2.1 Under-5 mortality rate	36 (SVRS, 2015)	25	29 (SVRS, 2018)	
3.2.2 Neonatal mortality rate	20 (SVRS-2015)	12	16 (SVRS, 2018)	
3.3.1 Number of new HIV infections per 1,000 uninfected population, by sex, age and key populations	0.01 (UNAIDS, 2016)	<0.01	Bangladesh <0.01 (All ages) (UNAIDS, 2018)	Baseline has been revised
3.3.2 Tuberculosis incidence per 100,000 population	225 (NTP 2015)	45	221 (WHO, 2019)	Baseline has been revised
3.3.3 Malaria incidence per 1,000 population	2.99 (NMEP, 2015)	0	0.92 (NMEP, 2019)	Baseline has been revised
3.3.4 Hepatitis B incidence per 100,000 population	1.38 (WHO, 2018)	-	1.38 (WHO, 2018)	Incidence rate among U5 children only
3.3.5 Number of people requiring interventions against neglected tropical diseases	49,873,889 (WHO, 2016)	35,000,000	56,339,392 (WHO, 2019)	
3.4.1 Mortality rate attributed to cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes or chronic respiratory disease	21.6% (WHO, 2016)	14.4%	21.6% (WHO, 2019)	Baseline has been revised
3.4.2 Suicide mortality rate	7.68 (BP, 2015)	2.4	7.56 (BP, 2019)	Baseline has been revised
3.5.1 Coverage of treatment interventions (pharmacological, psychosocial and rehabilitation and aftercare services) for substance use disorders	16,416 (DNC, MoHA, 2015,)	55,000	Total: 38,035 (M: 37735, F: 220 (DNC, 2018)	
3.5.2 Alcohol per capita consumption (aged 15 years and older) within a calendar year in litres of pure alcohol	0.083 (DNC, 2016)	0.1	0.083 (DNC, 2018)	Refined indicator; baseline revised
3.6.1 Death rate due to road traffic injuries	2.48 (BP, 2015)	1.2	1.65 (BP, 2018)	(per 100,000 population)
3.7.1 Proportion of women of reproductive age (aged 15–49 years) who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods	72.6% (BDHS, 2014)	100%	77.4% [U: 78.5%, R: 77.0%] (MICS 2019, BBS)	
3.7.2 Adolescent birth rate (aged 10–14 years; aged 15–19 years) per 1,000 women in that age group	83 (MICS, 2012-2013)	50	83 [U: 60, R: 91] (MICS 2019, BBS)	
3.8.1 Coverage of essential health services	52 (WHO-2016)	100	54 (WHO, 2019)	Refined indicator
3.8.2 Proportion of population with large household expenditures on health as a share of total household expenditure or income	<u>More than 10%:</u> 24.7% <u>More than 25%:</u> 9.5% (HIES-2016, BBS)	-	<u>More than 10%:</u> 24.7% <u>More than 25%:</u> 9.5% (HIES-2016, BBS)	24.7% people spent more than 10%; 9.5% people spent more than 25%
3.9.1 Mortality rate attributed to household and ambient air pollution	68.2 (WHO, 2012)	55	149 (WHO, 2016)	
3.9.2 Mortality rate attributed to unsafe water, unsafe sanitation and lack of hygiene	11.9 (WHO 2016)	4.5	11.9 (WHO 2016)	Baseline has been revised

Indicators	Baseline Data (Year, Source)	Target by 2030	Current Status	Remarks
(exposure to unsafe Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for All (WASH) services)				
3.9.3 Mortality rate attributed to unintentional poisoning (per 100,000 population)	0.30 (WHO 2016)	0.15	0.30 (WHO, 2019)	Baseline has been revised
3.a.1 Age-standardized prevalence of current tobacco use among persons aged 15 years and older	43.3% (GATS, 2009, WHO)	25%	35.3% [M: 46%, F: 25.2%] (GATS, 2017, BBS)	
3.b.1 Proportion of the target population covered by all vaccines included in their national programme	82.3% (≤12 months old children) (EPI-CES, 2016)	100%	85.6% (BDHS 2017-18)	Baseline has been revised
3.b.2 Total net official development assistance to medical research and basic health sectors	177.4 MUS\$ (ERD, FY15)	500 MUS\$	402.02 (ERD, FY 2018-19)	
3.b.3 Proportion of health facilities that have a core set of relevant essential medicines available and affordable on a sustainable basis				
3.c.1 Health worker density (per 10,000) and distribution (physician: nurse: health technologists)	(a) 7.4 (WHO, 2016) (b) 1: 0.5: 0.2 (MoHFW, 2014)	(a) 44.5 (b) 1: 3: 5	(a) 8.3 (b) 1: 0.6: 0.3 (HRM Datasheet, MoHFW, 2019)	
3.d.1 International Health Regulations (IHR) capacity and health emergency preparedness	78.0% (WHO, 2016)	100%	58 (WHO, 2019)	Baseline has been revised
3.d.2 Percentage of bloodstream infections due to selected antimicrobial-resistant organisms				New indicator
Goal – 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all				
4.1.1 Proportion of children and young people (a) in grades 2/3; (b) at the end of primary; and (c) at the end of lower secondary achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in (i) reading and (ii) mathematics, by sex	(a) Grade 3 (Reading Bangla – Total 41%, Maths – Total 28%) (b) End of primary – grade 5 (Reading Bangla – Total 45%, Maths – Total 25%) (NSA, 2015, DPE) (c) End of lower Secondary <u>Reading:</u> Bangla – B: 55, G: 54, T: 54 English – B: 22, G: 18, T: 19 <u>Math</u> - B: 62, G: 52, T: 57 (LASI, 2015)	c) End of lower Secondary <u>Reading:</u> Bangla – B: 85, G: 85, T: 85 English – B: 75, G: 75, T: 75 <u>Math:</u> B: 85, G: 85, T: 85	(a) (i) Reading: In grade 2/3: 25.9% [Poorest: 36.4%; Richest: 64.3%] (a) (ii) Math: In grade 2/3: 13.0% [Poorest: 20.1%; Richest: 38.1%] [MICS 2019, BBS]	Baseline has been updated
4.1.2 Completion rate (primary education, lower secondary education, upper secondary education)	Primary: 82.6%; Lower Secondary: 64.7%; Upper Secondary: 29.4% [MICS 2019, BBS]		Primary: 82.6%; Lower Secondary: 64.7%; Upper Secondary: 29.4% [MICS 2019, BBS]	New indicator
4.2.1 Proportion of children aged 24-59 months who are developmentally on track in health, learning and psychosocial well-being, by sex	63.9% (MICS 2012-13)	100%	National: 74.5% [U: 77.9%; R: 73.7%] (MICS 2019, BBS)	Refined indicator
4.2.2 Participation rate in organized learning (one year before the official primary entry age), by sex	Boys: 38% Girls: 40% Total: 39% (APSC, 2015)	Boys: 100% Girls: 100% Total: 100%	National: 77.5% [U: 80.0%, R: 76.8%] [MICS 2019, BBS]	Baseline are administrative but current data are from household survey

Indicators	Baseline Data (Year, Source)	Target by 2030	Current Status	Remarks
4.3.1 Participation rate of youth and adults in formal and non-formal education and training in the previous 12 months, by sex	(a) Secondary Both: 72.78% Girls: 77.84% Boys: 67.75% (b) Higher Secondary Both: 38.99% Girls: 35.86% Boys: 42.12% (c) Tertiary Both: 15.03% Girls: 12.11% Boys: 17.83% (d) Technical Education Total: 14% (BES, 2015)	(a) Secondary Both: 100% Girls: 100% Boys: 100% (b) Higher Secondary Both: 100% Girls: 100% Boys: 100% (c) Tertiary Both: 30.00% Girls: 30.00% Boys: 30.00%	(a) Secondary Both: 75.62% Girls: 83.36% Boys: 67.83% (b) Higher Secondary Both: 47.32% Girls: 45.87% Boys: 48.68% (c) Tertiary Both: 19.01% Girls: 16.18% Boys: 21.73% (BES, BANBEIS, 2019)	Data provided for the formal education. Secondary is 6-10 and Higher Secondary is 11-12
4.4.1 Proportion of youth and adults with information and communications technology (ICT) skills, by type of skill	Female 15-49y: 1.4% [U: 4.1% R: 0.6%], (MICS, 2019, BBS)	-	Female 15-49y: 1.4% [U: 4.1%; R: 0.6%] [MICS 2019, BBS]	Baseline has been revised
4.5.1 Parity indices (female/male, rural/urban, bottom/top wealth quintile and others such as disability status, indigenous peoples and conflict-affected, as data become available) for all education indicators on this list that can be disaggregated	a) Primary GPI: 1.02 b) Secondary Student GPI: 1.15 c) Higher Secondary Student GPI: 0.85 d) Tertiary Student GPI: 0.65 e) Technical Student GPI: 0.38 f) Disability Student GPI (6-10): 0.61 g) Teacher (Secondary) GPI: 0.26 h) Teacher (Tertiary) GPI: 0.21 (APSC, 2015 for Primary and BES, 2015 for others)	a) GPI: 1.00 b) GPI: 1.00 c) GPI: 1.00 d) GPI: 0.80 e) GPI: 0.70 f) GPI (6-10): 1.00 g) GPI: 0.50 h) GPI: 0.50	(a) GPI: 1.06 b) Secondary Student GPI, National: 1.17 (R: 1.18, U: 1.14) c) Higher Secondary student GPI, National: 0.94 (R: 0.97, U: 0.93) d) Tertiary Student GPI: 0.74 e) Technical Student GPI: 0.34 f) Disability Student GPI (6-10): 0.53 g) Teacher (Secondary 6-10) GPI: 0.30 h) Teacher (Tertiary) GPI: 0.31 [BES, BANBEIS, 2019]	
4.6.1 Proportion of population in a given age group achieving at least a fixed level of proficiency in functional (a) literacy and (b) numeracy skills, by sex				No baseline data
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				Refined indicator; repeated indicator (12.8.1 & 13.3.1)
4.a.1 Proportion of schools with access to (a) electricity; (b) the Internet for pedagogical purposes; (c) computers for pedagogical purposes; (d) adapted infrastructure and materials for students with disabilities; (e) basic drinking water; (f) single-sex basic sanitation facilities; and (g) basic handwashing facilities (as per the WASH indicator definitions)	Primary (a) 58% (b) 0.8% (c) 0.8% (d) 34% (e) 82% schools (f) 48% schools (g) n/a (APSC, 2015) Secondary (a) 86.03% (b) 26.49% (c) 82% (d) Ramp: 14% (BES, 2015) (e) 96.61%	Primary (a) 100% (b) 100% (c) 100% (d) 100% (e) 100% schools (f) 100% schools (g) 100% Secondary (a) 100% (b) 100% (c) 100% (d) 100%	Primary level: (a) 76.86% (b) 8.36% (c) 17.9% (GEMR, 2016) (d) 52.06% (POD, DPE, 2018) (e) 78.88% schools (f) 70.88% schools (g) 43.5% (POD, DPE, 2018) Secondary (a) 93.25% (b) 37.64% (c) 76.72% (d) 18.48%	

Indicators	Baseline Data (Year, Source)	Target by 2030	Current Status	Remarks
	(f) 95.55% (g) 19.68% (BES, BANBEIS, 2017)	(e) 100% (f) 100% (g) 100%	(e) 97.07% (f) 95.93% (g) 28.66% (BES, BANBEIS, 2019)	
4.b.1 Volume of official development assistance flows for scholarships by sector and type of study	8.76 MUS\$ (FY 2015, ERD)	25 MUS\$	7.6 MUS\$ (FY 2016, ERD)	
4.c.1 Proportion of teachers with the minimum required qualifications, by education level	a) Primary Total: 73% (M: 77%, F: 70%) (APSC, 2015) b) Lower secondary: 59.61% c) Upper secondary: 44.10% (BES, 2015)	a) Total: 100% b) 100% c) 100%	a) Total: 80.06% [APSC- 2018, DPE] b) Total 62.01% (M: 60.65%, F: 63.78%) c) Total: 59.01% (M: 56.90%, F: 72.56%) (BES, BANBEIS 2019)	Refined indicator; serial number in the baseline figures changed.
Goal – 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls				
5.1.1 Whether or not legal frameworks are in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex				Qualitative indicator
5.2.1 Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by form of violence and by age	54.7% (VAW Survey, 2015, BBS)	0%	54.7% (VAW Survey, 2015, 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	6.2% (VAW Survey, 2015, BBS)	0%	6.2% (VAW Survey, 2015, BBS)	
5.3.1 Proportion of women aged 20–24 years who were married or in a union before age 15 and before age 18	Before 15: 23.8% (MICS, 2012-13) Before 18: 58.6% (BDHS, 2014)	Before 15: 0% Before 18: 10%	Before 15 yrs: 15.5% Before 18 yrs: 51.4% (MICS 2019, BBS)	Completely child marriage free Bangladesh by 2041
5.3.2 Proportion of girls and women aged 15–49 years who have undergone female genital mutilation/cutting, by age				Not Relevant to Bangladesh
5.4.1 Proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work, by sex, age and location	Female: 25.8% Male: 5% (TUS, 2012)	Female: 20% Male: 10%	Total: 15.3% (F: 23.6%, M: 6.9%) (LFS, BBS, 2016-17)	
5.5.1 Proportion of seats held by women in (a) national parliaments and (b) local governments	(a) 20% (LPAD, 2014) (b) 23% (LGD, 2016)	(a) 40% (b) 33%	a. 20.88% (BPS, 2019) b. 25.21% (LGD, 2018)	
5.5.2 Proportion of women in managerial positions	11.4% (LFS, 2015- 16)	30%	10.7 (LFS, 2016-17)	Baseline has been revised
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	2.5% (BDHS, 2014)	-	2.5% (BDHS, 2014)	Baseline has been revised
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				Global indicator
5.a.1 (a) Proportion of total agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land, by sex; and (b) share of women among owners or rights-bearers of agricultural land, by type of tenure				
5.a.2 Proportion of countries where the legal framework (including customary law) guarantees women's equal rights to land ownership and/or control				Global indicator
5.b.1 Proportion of individuals who own a mobile telephone, by sex	Both sex: 79.76% (BTRC, 2015)	100%	Both sex: 78.1% (M: 83.4%, F: 72.34%) (R: 76.38%, U: 83.73%) (CPHS, BBS, 2018)	

Indicators	Baseline Data (Year, Source)	Target by 2030	Current Status	Remarks
5.c.1 Proportion of countries with systems to track and make public allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment				Global indicator
Goal – 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all				
6.1.1 Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services	National: 47.9% (U: 44.7% R: 48.8%) (MICS 2019, BBS)	100%	National: 47.9% (U: 44.7% R: 48.8%) (MICS 2019, BBS)	Baseline has been revised
6.2.1 Proportion of population using (a) safely managed sanitation services and (b) a hand-washing facility with soap and water	a) National: 84.6% (U: 90.6% R: 82.9%) b) National: 74.8% (U: 87.0% R: 71.4%) (MICS 2019, BBS)	100%	a) National: 84.6% (U: 90.6% R: 82.9%) b) National: 74.8% (U: 87.0% R: 71.4%) (MICS 2019, BBS)	Baseline has been revised
6.3.1 Proportion of domestic and industrial wastewater flows safely treated				Refined indicator
6.3.2 Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality				
6.4.1 Change in water-use efficiency over time				
6.4.2 Level of water stress: freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources	6.0% (FAO, 2017)	3.5%	6.0% (FAO, 2017)	Baseline has been revised
6.5.1 Degree of integrated water resources management implementation (0–100)	50 (UNEP, 2017)	70	52 [BWDB, 2019]	
6.5.2 Proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation	38% (JRC, 2018)	50%	38% (JRC, 2018)	Data provided considering the Ganges Water Sharing Treaty of 1996.
6.6.1 Change in the extent of water-related ecosystems over time				
6.a.1 Amount of water- and sanitation-related official development assistance that is part of a government-coordinated spending plan	301.1 MUS\$ (ERD FY 15)	450 MUS\$	526.6 (ERD, FY 2018-19)	
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				
Goal – 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all				
7.1.1 Proportion of population with access to electricity	78% (SVRS, 2015)	100%	National: 92.23% (U: 97.8%, R: 90.7%) (MICS 2019, BBS)	Administrative data: 96% (January 2020)
7.1.2 Proportion of population with primary reliance on clean fuels and technology	20.8% (SVRS, 2015)	35%	Total: 19.0% (U: 58.0% R: 8.2%) (MICS 2019, BBS)	
7.2.1 Renewable energy share in the total final energy consumption	2.79% (SREDA, 2015)	10%	3.25% (SREDA, 2019)	
7.3.1 Energy intensity measured in terms of primary energy and GDP	2.67 Ktoe/billion BDT (HCU, 2016)	6 MJ	2.15 Ktoe/billion BDT (HCU, 2019)	Baseline has been revised
7.a.1 International financial flows to developing countries in support of clean energy research and development and renewable energy production, including in hybrid systems	301.1 MUS\$ (ERD FY 15)	800.0 MUS\$	496.80 MUS\$ (ERD, FY 2018-19)	
7.b.1 Installed renewable energy-generating capacity in developing countries (in watts per capita)				Refined indicator; repeated Indicator (12.a.1)
Goal – 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all				
8.1.1 Annual growth rate of real GDP per capita	5.12% (BBS, FY 15)	7.5%	6.91% (NAW, BBS, 2018-19)	Baseline has been revised

Indicators	Baseline Data (Year, Source)	Target by 2030	Current Status	Remarks
8.2.1 Annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person	5.71% (NAW, BBS, 2015)	6.5%	5.85% (NAW, BBS, 2018-19)	Baseline has been revised
8.3.1 Proportion of informal employment in total employment, by sector and sex	Total: 86.2% [By Sector: Agriculture 97.9%, Industry 90.0% and Service 70.6%] [By Sex: Male: 82.3%, Female: 95.4%] (QLFS, 2015-16, BBS)	65%	Total: 85.1% [By Sector: Agriculture 95.4%, Industry 89.9% and Service 71.8%] [By Sex: Male: 82.1%, Female: 91.8%] (QLFS, 2016-17, BBS)	Refined indicator
8.4.1 Material footprint, material footprint per capita, and material footprint per GDP				Repeated Indicator (12.2.1)
8.4.2 Domestic material consumption, domestic material consumption per capita, and domestic material consumption per GDP				Repeated Indicator (12.2.2)
8.5.1 Average hourly earnings of female and male employees, by occupation, age and persons with disabilities	Average Monthly earning: Tk. 12,897 (M: 13,127 F:12,072) (LFS, 2015-16)	70% increased	Average Monthly earning: Tk. 13,258 (M: 13,583 F:12,254) (LFS, 2016-17, BBS)	
8.5.2 Unemployment rate, by sex, age and persons with disabilities	Total: 4.18% (M: 3.0%, F: 6.8%) (LFS 2015-16)	Total: 0% (M: 0%, F: 0%)	Total 4.2% (M: 3.1%, F: 6.7%) (LFS 2016-17)	Baseline has been revised
8.6.1 Proportion of youth (aged 15–24 years) not in education, employment or training	28.9% (M: 10.3%, F: 46.7%) (LFS, 2015-16)	3%	29.8% (M: 10.3%, F: 49.6%) (LFS, 2016-17)	Baseline has been revised
8.7.1 Proportion and number of children aged 5–17 years engaged in child labour, by sex and age	By sex: M: 953,204 (2.4%) F: 745,690 (1.88%) By age: 5 years: 19,320 (0.05 %) 6-11 years: 432,188 (1.09%) 12-13 years: 38,766 (0.10%) 14-17 years: 120,8620 (3.05%) (Child Labour Survey, 2013)	Fully eliminate all forms of child labour.	By sex: M: 953,204 (2.40%) F: 745,690 (1.88%) By age: 5 years: 19,320 (0.05 %) 6-11 years: 432,188 (1.09%) 12-13 years: 38,766 (0.10%) 14-17 years: 120,8620 (3.05%) (Child Labour Survey, 2013)	As per Bangladesh Labour Act 2006 (as amended in 2013) a people under 14 years is regarded as child.)
8.8.1 Frequency rates of fatal and non-fatal occupational injuries, by sex and migrant status	a) Fatal injuries: 382 per year (M: 362; F: 20) b) Non-fatal injuries: 246 per year (M:177; F: 19) (DIFE, 2015)	Reduced by 10%	a) Fatal injuries: 228 (M: 220; F: 8) b) Non-Fatal:111 (M: 94; F: 17) (DIFE, 2019)	
8.8.2 Level of national compliance with labour rights (freedom of association and collective bargaining) based on International Labour Organization (ILO) textual sources and national legislation, by sex and migrant status				
8.9.1 Tourism direct GDP as a proportion of total GDP and in growth rate	a) 1.56% (TSA Survey, 2012)	a) 5%	a) 1.56% (TSA Survey, 2012)	
8.10.1 (a) Number of commercial bank branches per 100,000 adults and (b) number of automated teller machines (ATMs) per 100,000 adults	(a) 8.37 (b) 6.79 (IMF, 2015)	(a) 12 (b) 9	a) 9.68 (b) 12.41 (BB, 2018)	

Indicators	Baseline Data (Year, Source)	Target by 2030	Current Status	Remarks
8.10.2 Proportion of adults (15 years and older) with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider	(a) Bank: 31% (b) FI: 29.1% (c) Mobile: 2.7% (Global Findex, WB, 2014)	(a) Bank: 40% (b) FI: 35% (c) Mobile: 5%	69.25% (BB, 2018)	
8.a.1 Aid for Trade commitments and disbursements	a) Com: 2424.3 MUS\$ b) Disb: 910.1 MUS\$ (OECD-WTO, 2015)	a) 5000 MUS\$ b) 2000 MUS\$	a) Com: 2424.3 MUS\$ b) Disb: 910.1 MUS\$ (OECD-WTO, 2015)	
8.b.1 Existence of a developed and operationalized national strategy for youth employment, as a distinct strategy or as part of a national employment strategy				Global indicator
Goal – 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation				
9.1.1 Proportion of the rural population who live within 2 km of an all-season road	83.45% (LGED, 2016)	95%	83.45% (LGED, 2016)	
9.1.2 Passenger and freight volumes, by mode of transport	Passenger: 7,938,000 Freight: 279,286 M. ton (CAAB, 2015)	-	Passenger: 12,398,000 Freight: 383,018 M. ton [CAAB, 2018]	
9.2.1 Manufacturing value added as a proportion of GDP and per capita	Proportion of GDP: 20.16% Per Capita: \$130 (NAW, FY 15, BBS)	35%	Proportion of GDP: 24.08% Per Capita: \$184 (NAW, BBS 2018-19)	Baseline has been revised
9.2.2 Manufacturing employment as a proportion of total employment	14.4% (LFS 2015-16)	25%	14.4% (LFS 2016-17)	
9.3.1 Proportion of small-scale industries in total industry value added				
9.3.2 Proportion of small-scale industries with a loan or line of credit				
9.4.1 CO ² emission per unit of value added				
9.5.1 Research and development expenditure as a proportion of GDP	0.3% (NAW, 2015, BBS)	1%	-	
9.5.2 Researchers (in full-time equivalent) per million inhabitants	855 (MoST, 2015)	1080	-	
9.a.1 Total official international support (official development assistance plus other official flows) to infrastructure	1247 MUS\$ (ERD, FY 15)	3500 MUS\$	4041.90 MUS\$ (ERD, FY 2018-19)	
9.b.1 Proportion of medium and high-tech industry value added in total value added	12.65% (NAW, 2015, BBS)	-	11.57% (NAW, BBS, 2018)	
9.c.1 Proportion of population covered by a mobile network, by technology	2G: 99% 3G: 71% (BTRC, 2015)	2G: 100% 3G: 100%	2G: 99.6% 3G: 95.40% 4G: 82% (BTRC, June 2019)	
Goal – 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries				
10.1.1 Growth rates of household expenditure or income per capita among the bottom 40 per cent of the population and the total population	Yearly income growth of – (a) bottom 40% population: 7.7% (b) total population: 9.1% (HIES, 2016)	a) 10% b) 9.7%	Yearly income growth of – (a) bottom 40% population: 7.7% (b) total population: 9.1% (HIES, 2016)	Baseline has been revised
10.2.1 Proportion of people living below 50 per cent of median income, by sex, age and persons with disabilities	15.98% (HIES, 2016, BBS)	-	15.98% (HIES, 2016, BBS)	
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	35.6% (CPHS, 2018, BBS)	20%	Total: 35.6% (M: 35.1%; F: 36.3%) (CPHS, 2018, BBS)	Repeated Indicator (16.b.1)
10.4.1 Labour share of GDP, comprising wages and social protection transfers				
10.4.2 Redistributive impact of fiscal policy				New indicator

Indicators	Baseline Data (Year, Source)	Target by 2030	Current Status	Remarks
10.5.1 Financial Soundness Indicators	1 - Regulatory Tier 1 capital to assets: 5.40 2 - Regulatory Tier 1 capital to risk-weighted assets: 8.00 3 - Nonperforming loans net of provisions to capital: 44.19 4 - Nonperforming loans to total gross loans: 8.40 5 - Return on assets: 1.86 6 - Liquid assets to short-term liabilities: 51.13 7 - Net open position in foreign exchange to capital: 4.72 (BB, 2015)	-	1 - Regulatory Tier 1 capital to assets: 4.74 2 - Regulatory Tier 1 capital to risk-weighted assets: 6.77 3 - Nonperforming loans net of provisions to capital: 53.36 4 - Nonperforming loans to total gross loans: 9.89 5 - Return on assets: 0.86 6 - Liquid assets to short-term liabilities: 44.48 7 - Net open position in foreign exchange to capital: 7.43 [BB, 2018]	
10.6.1 Proportion of members and voting rights of developing countries in international organizations	a) IBRD: Amount US \$ 646.8 million (0.28% of total) No. of Votes 7176 (0.30% of total) b) MIGA: Amount US \$ 5.99 million (0.34% of total) No. of Votes 825 (0.38% of total) c) IFC: Amount US \$ 9,632 million (0.38% of total) No. of Votes 10,452 (0.38% of total) d) IDA: No. of Votes 150,243 (0.54% of total) e) AIIB: Total Voting Power of Bangladesh: 0.9391% f) ADB: No. of Shares in ADB: 1.021% No. of Votes in ADB: 1.115% (ERD, 2018)	-	a) IBRD: Amount US \$ 646.8 million (0.28% of total) No. of Votes 7176 (0.30% of total) b) MIGA: Amount US \$ 5.99 million (0.34% of total) No. of Votes 825 (0.38% of total) c) IFC: Amount US \$ 9,632 million (0.38% of total) No. of Votes 10,452 (0.38% of total) d) IDA: No. of Votes 150,243 (0.54% of total) e) AIIB: Total Voting Power of Bangladesh: 0.9391% f) ADB: No. of Shares in ADB: 1.021% No. of Votes in ADB: 1.115% (ERD, 2018)	Repeated Indicator (16.8.1)
10.7.1 Recruitment cost borne by employee as a proportion of monthly income earned in country of destination				
10.7.2 Number of countries with migration policies that facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people				Global indicators
10.7.3 Number of people who died or disappeared in the process of migration towards an international destination				New indicator
10.7.4 Proportion of the population who are refugees, by country of origin				New indicator
10.a.1 Proportion of tariff lines applied to imports from least developed countries and developing countries with zero-tariff				Global indicator

Indicators	Baseline Data (Year, Source)	Target by 2030	Current Status	Remarks
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)	a) ODA: 3043.07 MUS\$ (ERD, FY15) b) FDI: 2235.39 MUS\$ (BB, FY 2015)	a) ODA: 11000 MUS\$ b) FDI: 15000 MUS\$	a) ODA: 6542 MUS\$ (ERD, 2018-19), b) FDI: 3888.99 MUS\$ (BB, FY 2018-19)	
10.c.1 Remittance costs as a proportion of the amount remitted	4.06% (BB, 2015)	<3%	4.48% (BB, 2018)	Baseline has been revised
Goal – 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable				
11.1.1 Proportion of urban population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing	(i) 55.10% (UN-Habitat, 2014) (ii) 6.3% (only slum) (BBS, 2014)	20%	(i) 55.10% (UN-Habitat, 2014) (ii) 6.3% (only slum) (BBS, 2014)	
11.2.1 Proportion of population that has convenient access to public transport, by sex, age and persons with disabilities				
11.3.1 Ratio of land consumption rate to population growth rate				
11.3.2 Proportion of cities with a direct participation structure of civil society in urban planning and management that operate regularly and democratically				
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)	1.72 ppp\$ (MoCA, FY 2015-16)	-	1.75 ppp\$ [MoCA, 2018-19]	
11.5.1 Number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population	Affected Persons: 12,881 (BDRS, BBS, 2014) No of Death: 0.2045 (MoDMR, 2016)	1,500	Affected person: 4318 No. of Death: 0.316 [MoDMR, 2019]	Repeated Indicator (1.5.1 & 13.1.1)
11.5.2 Direct economic loss in relation to global GDP, damage to critical infrastructure and number of disruptions to basic services, attributed to disasters	1.3% of GDP in 2014 (BDRS, BBS, 2015)	<1% of GDP	1.3% of GDP in 2014 (BDRS, BBS, 2015)	
11.6.1 Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed in controlled facilities out of total municipal waste generated, by cities				Refined indicator
11.6.2 Annual mean levels of fine particulate matter (e.g. PM2.5 and PM10) in cities (population weighted)	88.6 (WHO, 2016)	-	88.6 (WHO, 2016)	
11.7.1 Average share of the built-up area of cities that is open space for public use for all, by sex, age and persons with disabilities				
11.7.2 Proportion of persons victim of physical or sexual harassment, by sex, age, disability status and place of occurrence, in the previous 12 months	Female: 26.9% (VAW, BBS, 2015)	15.0%	Female: 26.9% (VAW, BBS, 2015)	
11.a.1 Number of countries that have national urban policies or regional development plans that (a) respond to population dynamics; (b) ensure balanced territorial development; and (c) increase local fiscal space				Refined indicator; global indicator
11.b.1 Number of countries that adopt and implement national disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030				Repeated Indicator (1.5.3 & 13.1.2) Global indicator
11.b.2 Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies	City Corp: 8.3% Municipalities: 0.9% (MoDMR, 2019)	100% of all local governments.	City Corp: 8.3% Municipalities: 0.9% (MoDMR, 2019)	Repeated Indicator (1.5.4 & 13.1.3)
Goal – 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns				

Indicators	Baseline Data (Year, Source)	Target by 2030	Current Status	Remarks
12.1.1 Number of countries with sustainable consumption and production (SCP) national action plans or SCP mainstreamed as a priority or a target into national policies				Global indicator
12.2.1 Material footprint, material footprint per capita, and material footprint per GDP				Repeated Indicator (8.4.1)
12.2.2 Domestic material consumption, domestic material consumption per capita, and domestic material consumption per GDP				Repeated Indicator (8.4.2)
12.3.1 (a) Food loss index and (b) food waste index				
12.4.1 Number of parties to international multilateral environmental agreements on hazardous waste, and other chemicals that meet their commitments and obligations in transmitting information as required by each relevant agreement				
12.4.2 Hazardous waste generated per capita and proportion of hazardous waste treated, by type of treatment				
12.5.1 National recycling rate, tons of material recycled				
12.6.1 Number of companies publishing sustainability reports				
12.7.1 Number of countries implementing sustainable public procurement policies and action plans				Global 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				Refined indicator; repeated Indicator (4.7.1 & 13.3.1)
12.a.1 Installed renewable energy-generating capacity in developing countries (in watts per capita)				Refined indicator; repeated Indicator (7.b.1)
12.b.1 Implementation of standard accounting tools to monitor the economic and environmental aspects of tourism sustainability				Refined indicator
12.c.1 Amount of fossil-fuel subsidies per unit of GDP (production and consumption)	0.04% of GDP (FD, FY 2014-15)	-	0.6% of GDP 1.3% of expenditure on FF [FD, 2018-19]	Refined indicator
Goal – 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts				
13.1.1 Number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population	Affected Persons: 12,881 (BDRS, BBS, 2014) No. of Death: 0.2045 (MoDMR, 2016)	1,500	Affected Persons: 4,318 No. of Death: 0.316 (MoDMR, 2019)	Repeated Indicator (1.5.1 and 11.5.1)
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				Repeated Indicator (1.5.3 & 11.b.1) Global Indicator
13.1.3 Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies	City Corp: 8.3% Municipalities: 0.9% (MoDMR, 2019)	100% of all local governments.	City Corp: 8.3% Municipalities: 0.9% (MoDMR, 2019)	Repeated Indicator (1.5.4 & 11.b.2)
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				Refined & repeated Indicator (13.b.1) [slight amendment] Global Indicator
13.2.2 Total greenhouse gas emissions per year				New 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				Refined & repeated Indicator (4.7.1 and 12.8.1)
13.a.1 Amounts provided and mobilized in United States dollars per year in relation to the continued existing collective mobilization goal of the \$100 billion commitment through to 2025				Refined 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				Refined & repeated Indicator (13.2.1); Global indicator
Goal – 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development				
14.1.1 (a) Index of coastal eutrophication; and (b) plastic debris density				Refined indicator
14.2.1 Number of countries using ecosystem-based approaches to managing marine areas				Refined & Global indicator
14.3.1 Average marine acidity (pH) measured at agreed suite of representative sampling stations				
14.4.1 Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels				
14.5.1 Coverage of protected areas in relation to marine areas	2.05% (BDF, 2015)	10%	2.05% (BDF, 2015)	Baseline has been revised

Indicators	Baseline Data (Year, Source)	Target by 2030	Current Status	Remarks
14.6.1 Degree of implementation of international instruments aiming to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing	3/4 Medium Level implementation (FAO, 2015)	4/5 High Level implementation	3/4 Medium Level implementation (FAO, 2015)	
14.7.1 Sustainable fisheries as a proportion of GDP in small island developing States, least developed countries and all countries	3.29 (NAW, 2015, BBS)	3.00	3.14 (NAW, BBS, 2018)	
14.a.1 Proportion of total research budget allocated to research in the field of marine technology				
14.b.1 Degree of application of a legal/regulatory/policy/institutional framework which recognizes and protects access rights for small-scale fisheries				
14.c.1 Number of countries making progress in ratifying, accepting and implementing through legal, policy and institutional frameworks, ocean-related instruments that implement international law, as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, for the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans and their resources	Ratification of or accession to relevant instruments: 100 Implementation of the Relevant Instruments: 90 (MoFA, 2019)	-	Ratification of or accession to relevant instruments: 100 Implementation of the Relevant Instruments: 90 [MoFA, 2019]	Global indicator
Goal – 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss				
15.1.1 Forest area as a proportion of total land area	14.10% (Excluding inland water area) (BFD, 2015)	20%	14.47% (BFD, 2018)	Baseline has been revised
15.1.2 Proportion of important sites for terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity that are covered by protected areas, by ecosystem type	a) Terrestrial: 1.7% (2014-15, MoEFCC) b) Freshwater: 1.8% (2013-14, MoEFCC)	a) 5% b) 14%	a) Terrestrial: 3.06% (BFD, June 2019)	
15.2.1 Progress towards sustainable forest management	15.2.1.1: Forest area annual net change rate: 0.23% 15.2.1.2: Above-ground biomass stock in forest: 67.66 tons per hectare 15.2.1.3: Proportion of forest area located within legally established protected areas: 14.68% 15.2.1.4: Proportion of forest area under a long-term forest management plan: 35.10% (BFD, 2019)	-	15.2.1.1: Forest area annual net change rate: 0.23% 15.2.1.2: Above-ground biomass stock in forest: 67.66 tons per hectare 15.2.1.3: Proportion of forest area located within legally established protected areas: 14.68% 15.2.1.4: Proportion of forest area under a long-term forest management plan: 35.10% (BFD, 2019)	National indicators are used.
15.3.1 Proportion of land that is degraded over total land area				
15.4.1 Coverage by protected areas of important sites for mountain biodiversity	0.35 % (BFD, 2019)	-	0.35 % (BFD, 2019)	
15.4.2 Mountain Green Cover Index	96.05% (BFD, 2015)	-	96.05% (BFD, 2015)	
15.5.1 Red List Index	a) Mammals: 0.60 b) Birds: 0.91 c) Reptiles: 0.79 d) Amphibians: 0.86 e) Fresh Water Fish: 0.81 f) Crustaceans: 0.91 g) Butterflies: 0.64 (IUCN, 2015)	-	a) Mammals: 0.60 b) Birds: 0.91 c) Reptiles: 0.79 d) Amphibians: 0.86 e) Fresh Water Fish: 0.81 f) Crustaceans: 0.91 g) Butterflies: 0.64 (IUCN, 2015)	Baseline has been updated
15.6.1 Number of countries that have adopted legislative, administrative and policy frameworks to ensure fair and equitable sharing of benefits				Global indicator

Indicators	Baseline Data (Year, Source)	Target by 2030	Current Status	Remarks
15.7.1 Proportion of traded wildlife that was poached or illicitly trafficked				Repeated Indicator (15.c.1)
15.8.1 Proportion of countries adopting relevant national legislation and adequately resourcing the prevention or control of invasive alien species				Global indicator
15.9.1 (a) Number of countries that have established national targets in accordance with or similar to Aichi Biodiversity Target 2 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 in their national biodiversity strategy and action plans and the progress reported towards these targets; and (b) integration of biodiversity into national accounting and reporting systems, defined as implementation of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting				Refined & global Indicator
15.a.1 (a) Official development assistance on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity; and (b) revenue generated and finance mobilized from biodiversity-relevant economic instruments				Refined & repeated Indicator (15.b.1)
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				Refined & repeated Indicator (15.a.1)
15.c.1 Proportion of traded wildlife that was poached or illicitly trafficked				Repeated Indicator (15.7.1)
Goal – 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels				
16.1.1 Number of victims of intentional homicide per 100,000 population, by sex and age	Total: 1.94 (M: 3.1, F: 0.76) (BP, 2015)	Total: 1 (M: 0.9, F: 0.2)	Total: 1.39 (M: 2.1, F: 0.67) (2019, BP)	
16.1.2 Conflict-related deaths per 100,000 population, by sex, age and cause	Total: 0.85 (BP, 2015)	-	Total: 0.17 (M: 0.08, F: 0.09) (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	Female: 57.7% (VAW Survey, 2015, BBS)	Female: 15%	Female: 57.7% (VAW Survey, 2015, BBS)	
16.1.4 Proportion of population that feel safe walking alone around the area they live	Always: 85.85% (M: 87.88%, F: 83.71%) Sometimes: 9.55% (M: 8.35%, F: 10.82%) (CPHS, 2018, BBS)	Always: 95.00%	Always: 85.85% (M: 87.88%, F: 83.71%) Sometimes: 9.55% (M: 8.35%, F: 10.82%) (CPHS, 2018, BBS)	
16.2.1 Proportion of children aged 1–17 years who experienced any physical punishment and/or psychological aggression by caregivers in the past month	82.3% (MICS, 2012-13, BBS)	-	Total: 88.5% (U: 88.9%, R: 88.4%) [MICS 2019, BBS]	
16.2.2 Number of victims of human trafficking per 100,000 population, by sex, age and form of exploitation	Total: 0.92 (M: 1.14, F: 0.64) (BP, 2015)	0	Total: 0.61 (M: 0.58, F: 0.63) (BP, 2019)	Baseline has been revised
16.2.3 Proportion of young women and men aged 18–29 years who experienced sexual violence by age 18	Female: 3.45% (VAW Survey, 2015, BBS)	Female: 0%	Female: 3.45% (VAW Survey, 2015, BBS)	
16.3.1 Proportion of victims of violence in the previous 12 months who reported their victimization to competent authorities or other officially recognized conflict resolution mechanisms	Female: 2.45% (VAW Survey, 2015, BBS)	Female: 30%	Total: 10.3% (U: 12.2%, R: 9.8%) (MICS 2019, BBS)	
16.3.2 Unsensitized detainees as a proportion of overall prison population	76.5% (DoP, SSD, 2016, MoHA)	40%	83.6% (DoP, 2018)	
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				New indicator
16.4.1 Total value of inward and outward illicit financial flows (in current United States dollars)				
16.4.2 Proportion of seized, found or surrendered arms whose illicit origin or context has been traced or established by a competent authority in line with international instruments				
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	Total: 31.32% (M: 28.91%, F: 35.02%) (CPHS, 2018, BBS)	Total= 10% Male= 8% Female= 12%	Total: 31.32% (M: 28.91%, F: 35.02%) (CPHS, 2018, BBS)	

Indicators	Baseline Data (Year, Source)	Target by 2030	Current Status	Remarks
were asked for a bribe by those public officials, during the previous 12 months				
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	41.0% (ES, WB, 2013)	10%	41.0% (ES, WB, 2013)	
16.6.1 Primary government expenditures as a proportion of original approved budget, by sector (or by budget codes or similar)	81.6% (FD, FY 2015) (Budget: 250,506 Cr Tk. Actual exp.: 204,380 Cr. Tk)	-	80.4% [FD, FY 2017-18] (Budget: 400,266 Cr. Tk. Actual exp.: 321,862 Cr. Tk)	
16.6.2 Proportion of population satisfied with their last experience of public services	39.69% (CPHS, 2018, BBS)	90%	39.69% (CPHS, BBS, 2018)	
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	(b) Proportion of position of females in Public Administration: 0.53 (MoPA, 2017) (c) Proportion of position of females in Judiciary: 0.56 (LJD, 2019)	-	(b) Proportion of position of females in Public Administration: 0.53 (MoPA, 2017) (c) Proportion of position of females in Judiciary: 0.56 (LJD, 2019)	
16.7.2 Proportion of population who believe decision-making is inclusive and responsive, by sex, age, disability and population group				
16.8.1 Proportion of members and voting rights of developing countries in international organizations	a) IBRD: Amount US \$ 646.8 million (0.28% of total) No. of Votes 7176 (0.30% of total) b) MIGA: Amount US \$ 5.99 million (0.34% of total) No. of Votes 825 (0.38% of total) c) IFC: Amount US \$ 9,632 million (0.38% of total) No. of Votes 10,452 (0.38% of total) d) IDA: No. of Votes 150,243 (0.54% of total) e) AIB: Total Voting Power of Bangladesh: 0.9391% f) ADB: No. of Shares in ADB: 1.021% No. of Votes in ADB: 1.115% (ERD, 2018)	-	a) IBRD: Amount US \$ 646.8 million (0.28% of total) No. of Votes 7176 (0.30% of total) b) MIGA: Amount US \$ 5.99 million (0.34% of total) No. of Votes 825 (0.38% of total) c) IFC: Amount US \$ 9,632 million (0.38% of total) No. of Votes 10,452 (0.38% of total) d) IDA: No. of Votes 150,243 (0.54% of total) e) AIB: Total Voting Power of Bangladesh: 0.9391% f) ADB: No. of Shares in ADB: 1.021% No. of Votes in ADB: 1.115% (ERD, 2018)	Repeated Indicator (10.6.1)
16.9.1 Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority, by age	37% (MICS 2012-13)	100%	Total: 56.2% (U: 54.0%, R: 56.8%) (MICS 2019, BBS)	
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				
16.10.2 Number of countries that adopt and implement constitutional, statutory and/or policy guarantees for public access to information				Global Indicator
16.a.1 Existence of independent national human rights institutions in compliance with the Paris Principles				

Indicators	Baseline Data (Year, Source)	Target by 2030	Current Status	Remarks
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, BBS)	15%	Total: 35.6% (M: 35.09%, F: 36.29%) (CPHS, BBS, 2018)	Repeated Indicator (10.3.1)
Goal – 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development				
17.1.1 Total government revenue as a proportion of GDP, by source	9.6% (FD, FY 15)	18%	12.45% [FD, FY 2018-19 Revised Budget]	
17.1.2 Proportion of domestic budget funded by domestic taxes	63% (FD, FY 15)	70%	65.44% (FD, 2018-19 revised Budget)	
17.2.1 Net official development assistance, total and to least developed countries, as a proportion of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee donors' gross national income (GNI)	a) Total net ODA: 131.6 billion US\$ b) Total net ODA to LDCs: 37.3 billion US\$ c) Net ODA to Bangladesh: 3.00 billion US\$ (OECD, 2015 & ERD, 2015)	-	a) Total net ODA: 146.6 billion US\$ b) Total net ODA to LDCs: 65.97 billion US\$ c) Net ODA to Bangladesh: 4.96 billion US\$ (OECD, 2017 & ERD, 2018)	Global Indicator
17.3.1 Foreign direct investment, official development assistance and South-South cooperation as a proportion of gross national income	(a) FDI: 1.1% (BB, FY14-15) (b) ODA: 1.5% (ERD, FY14-15)		(a) FDI: 1.1% (BB, FY14-15) (b) ODA: 1.5% (ERD, FY14-15)	Refined indicator; baseline has been revised
17.3.2 Volume of remittances (in United States dollars) as a proportion of total GDP	6.74% (BB, FY16)	10%	5.4% (BB, FY19)	Baseline has been revised
17.4.1 Debt service as a proportion of exports of goods and services	19.14% (BB and ERD, FY16)	15%	21.40% (p) (BB & ERD, 2018-19)	Baseline has been revised
17.5.1 Number of countries that adopt and implement investment promotion regimes for developing countries, including the least developed countries				Refined & global indicator
17.6.1 Fixed Internet broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants, by speed	2.41 (BTRC, 2015)	20	4.80% (BTRC, December 2019)	Refined indicator
17.7.1 Total amount of funding for developing countries to promote the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies				Refined & global indicator
17.8.1 Proportion of individuals using the Internet	30.39% (BTRC)	-	60.4% (BTRC, 2019)	Administrative data, not survey
17.9.1 Dollar value of financial and technical assistance (including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation) committed to developing countries	570.8 MUS\$ (ERD, FY 2015)	1500 MUS\$	279.7 MUS\$ (ERD, FY 2018-19)	
17.10.1 Worldwide weighted tariff-average	4.85% (BTC, 2015)	5.5%	4.64% (BTC, 2018-19)	
17.11.1 Developing countries' and least developed countries' share of global exports	a) Bangladesh Share in Global Export of Goods: 0.23% b) Bangladesh Share in Global Export of Services: 0.07% [BTC, 2017]	-	a) Bangladesh Share in Global Export of Goods: 0.23% b) Bangladesh Share in Global Export of Services: 0.07% [BTC, 2017]	Global indicator
17.12.1 Weighted average tariffs faced by developing countries, least developed countries and small island developing States	a) MFN: 8.25% b) Preferential: 3.88% (WITS, BTC, 2014)	a) 8.25% b) 3.88%	SAT: 8.33% WAT: 2.95% (BTC, 2018)	Refined indicator
17.13.1 Macroeconomic Dashboard	-	-		
17.14.1 Number of countries with mechanisms in place to enhance policy coherence of sustainable development				Global indicator

Indicators	Baseline Data (Year, Source)	Target by 2030	Current Status	Remarks
17.15.1 Extent of use of country-owned results frameworks and planning tools by providers of development cooperation				Global indicator
17.16.1 Number of countries reporting progress in multi-stakeholder development effectiveness monitoring frameworks that support the achievement of the sustainable development goals				Global indicator
17.17.1 Amount in United States dollars committed to public-private partnerships for infrastructure		-		Refined indicator; baseline needs to be recast
17.18.1 Statistical capacity indicator for Sustainable Development Goal monitoring				Refined indicator
17.18.2 Number of countries that have national statistical legislation that complies with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics	The Government of Bangladesh has enacted Statistics Act, 2013, approved by the National Parliament; there is also a Statistics Rule 2014.			Global indicator
17.18.3 Number of countries with a national statistical plan that is fully funded and under implementation, by source of funding	BBS has approved the National Strategy for Development of Statistics (NSDS) covering 2014-2023.			Global indicator
17.19.1 Dollar value of all resources made available to strengthen statistical capacity in developing countries				Global 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	(a) Bangladesh conducts Population and Household Census in every 10 years. (b) DR: 49% (ORG, 2018)	(a) (b) BR: 100% DR: 80%	(a) In Bangladesh, next Population and Housing Census will be held in 2021. (b) 166.43 million births have been registered DR: 24.44% (ORG, 2018)	Global indicator

Annex-2: Plus one (+1) of the 40 (39+1) Priority indicators of the localization of SDGs in Bangladesh

Division name	District name	Name of selected Indicator	SDG goal	Thematic Area
1. BARISAL DIVISION	BARGUNA (1)	Ensure 100% institutional delivery	3	Health
	BARISHAL (2)	Reduce river erosion by at least 50% and rehabilitate 100% of river erosion victims	13	River protection
	BHOLA (3)	Bring the extreme poverty rate below 3%	1	Poverty
	JHALOKATI (4)	Bring the extreme poverty rate below 3%	1	Poverty
	PATUAKHALI (5)	Ensure 100% institutional delivery	3	Health
	PIROJPUR (6)	Ensure safe drinking water supply for 100% people in the district	6	Safe water
2. CHITTAGONG DIVISION	Bandarban (7)	Develop industry by declaring the entire Bandarban Hill District as a tourist area and formulate a master plan	9	Tourism
	BRAHMANBARIA (8)	Establish a society free from inner collisions through the development of mutual harmony	17	Partnership
	CHANDPUR (9)	Chandpur Sadar Upazila is free from road accidents	16	Road safety
	CHATTOGRAM (10)	Eliminate waterlogging	13	River protection
	COX'S BAZAR (11)	Develop planned sustainable tourism industry	9	Tourism
	CUMILLA (12)	Increase the number of science students to 50% to ensure quality up-to-date education	4	Education
	FENI (13)	Make cultivable agricultural lands of the district free from degradation i.e. remove topsoil of cultivable lands to prepare bricks and bring fallow lands under 100% afforestation	2	Agriculture
	KHAGRACHHARI (14)	Modernize tourist centres including development of tourism industry in hill districts	8	Tourism
	LAKSHMIPUR (15)	Take effective measures to prevent erosion of the Meghna River	13	River protection
	NOAKHALI (16)	Eliminate waterlogging for the purpose of building sustainable cities and settlements in Noakhali district by 2021	11	Urbanization
	RANGAMATI (17)	Make Rangamati Hill District malaria free by 2030	3	Health
3. DHAKA DIVISION	DHAKA (18)	Construct flats for slum dwellers	11	Urbanization
	FARIDPUR (19)	Achieve 100% Education for Sustainable Development with a) National Education Policy, b) curriculum, c) Teacher training, Gender equality and Human Rights	4	Education
	GAZIPUR (20)	Construct sustainable and impactful infrastructure of industries including construction of regional and inter-district infrastructure for industrial development	9	Infrastructure
	GOPALGANJ (21)	Ensure employment and eliminate unemployment for every able-bodied person in the district	8	Employment
	KISHOREGANJ (22)	Ensure safe food for 30% people in the district	2	Food

Division name	District name	Name of selected Indicator	SDG goal	Thematic Area
	MADARIPUR (23)	Facilitate the migration and movement of people in an orderly, safe, regular and responsible manner through the implementation of planned and sound immigration policies and other initiatives	9	Migration
	Manikganj (24)	By 2030, Increase the number of young and adult population having technical, vocational and other relevant skills required to become an entrepreneur and get decent job	4	Education
	MUNSHIGANJ (25)	Bring down the dropout rate of secondary level students to 0 (zero) In order to ensure quality education	4	Education
	NARAYANGANJ (26)	End of child labour	8	Child labour
	Narsingdi (27)	Bring the working population from the informal sector to the formal sector	8	Employment
	RAJBARI (28)	Increased production, processing, preservation and commercialization of safe vegetables and spices	2	Agriculture
	SHARIATPUR (29)	Bring the rate of child marriage down to zero.	5	Gender
	TANGAIL (30)	Launch practical trade course on weaving industry in weaving rich educational institutions	4	Education
4. KHULNA DIVISION	BAGERHAT (31)	Remove salinity by systematically excavating filled and occupied rivers and canals	13	River protection
	CHUADANGA (32)	Raise, expand Black Bengal goats in a scientific manner and eliminate unemployment	8	Employment
	JASHORE (33)	Increase the amount of organic material in agricultural land by 3%	2	Agriculture
	JHENAIDAH (34)	Promote sustainable agriculture: end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition	2	Agriculture
	KHULNA (35)	Water source for every 50 people in rural areas and water supply through household based pipelines in urban areas	6	Safe water
	KUSHTIA (36)	Develop weaving industry	9	Innovation
	MAGURA (37)	Create employment through establishment of economic zones	8	Employment
	MEHERPUR (38)	Increase the number of tourists and employment by 300% by making Mujibnagar spectacular through the development of liberation war based tourism education	8	Employment
	NARAIL (39)	Create opportunities for processing and employment of agricultural products through establishment of agro-based industries	8	Employment
	SATKHIRA (40)	Progress on the scale of institutional framework that protects the rights of open fishermen	14	Fisheries
5. MYMENSINGH DIVISION	JAMALPUR (41)	Construct sustainable dams in 100% of the Jamuna riparian zone of Jamalpur for preservation of river banks, prevention of erosion and flood control	13	River protection
	MYMENSINGH (42)	Increase the access to financial services in favour of small-scale industries and other business ventures, provide low interest loans and Integrate them in the integrated value chain and market system	8	Employment

Division name	District name	Name of selected Indicator	SDG goal	Thematic Area
	NETRAKONA (43)	Hundred per cent inclusive and equitable quality education	4	Education
	SHERPUR (44)	Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and above who have been sexually assaulted by a person other than their husband in the last 12 months, depending on age and place of occurrence	16	Violence
6. RAJSHAH I DIVISION	BOGURA (45)	Occupy and re-excavate the Karatoya River	13	River protection
	CHAPAINABABG ANJ (46)	Generate 100% employment through safe mango production, storage, marketing and processing	8	Employment
	JOYPURHAT (47)	Ensure the presence of 100% skilled health workers during delivery	3	Health
	NAOGAON (48)	Develop agriculture and fisheries through surface water conservation	2	Agriculture
	NATORE (49)	Develop integrated agriculture while keeping crops and biodiversity intact	2	Agriculture
	PABNA (50)	Ensure the amount of organic fertilizer usage is 50% of the total fertilizer used	2	Agriculture
	Rajshahi (51)	Reduce unplanned destruction of agricultural land and digging of ponds	2	Agriculture
	SIRAJGANJ (52)	Protect Sirajganj district from river erosion	13	River protection
7. RANGPUR DIVISION	DINAJPUR (53)	Ensure employment of 13000 people in Dinajpur district every year by setting up required number of industrial establishments and sending skilled manpower abroad through training	8	Employment
	GAIBANDHA (54)	Increase the ratio of agricultural land under productive and sustainable agriculture	2	Agriculture
	KURIGRAM (55)	Bring the unemployment rate below 3%	8	Employment
	LALMONIRHAT (56)	Bring down the death toll from road accidents to 1.2 per 100,000 people	3	Health
	NILPHAMARI (57)	Ensure uninterrupted employment	8	Employment
	PANCHAGARH (58)	Ensure fair prices of locally produced agricultural products by setting up agro-based industrial factories	2	Agriculture
	Rangpur (59)	Eliminate of unemployment through establishment of agro-based industries	8	Agriculture
	THAKURGAON (60)	Ensure that all ethnic minority children are eligible for schooling	4	Education
8. SYLHET DIVISION	Habiganj (61)	Develop tourism through sustainable forest and wetland (haor, river) management	8	Tourism
	MOULVIBAZAR (62)	Ensure primary education to all children living in the tea garden	4	Education
	SUNAMGANJ (63)	Increase the number of local governments adopting and implementing local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies	13	Disaster
	SYLHET (64)	Create full, productive employment and decent employment opportunities for all and achieve stable, inclusive and sustainable economic growth	8	Employment

Annex-3: Some pictures of VNRs consultations





9. Appendix

Impact of COVID-19 pandemic on SDGs implementation and national measures to tackle it

1. Introduction

The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic is taking lives, spreading human sorrow, and seriously disturbing people's livelihood, while overwhelming the health system fast, has now expanded to every stratum of the society and the economy. It is a human crisis evident in every country of the world, which we have not witnessed in the last hundred years. Different international and financial organizations have assessed the global economic growth prospect and noted that a global recession is underway. Different models speculate different numbers of human losses, but that will actually depend upon the necessary measures taken to tackle this pandemic by all actors -governments, academia, scientists, businesses, employers and workers' organizations, civil society organizations, communities, and individuals- to act in solidarity in new, innovative, and deliberate ways for the common good and based on the core values of humanity.

As the COVID-19 global pandemic has mired economies around the world and thrown the future of the global economy into ambiguity, Bangladesh's economy (trade volume to GDP is 31.5 per cent in FY 2018-19), is affected both on the demand and supply sides. Bangladesh reported the first COVID-19 case on 8th March 2020, over two months after the pandemic started in China and about the same time as the infection rates in Europe began to grow exponentially. Many of Bangladesh's trading partners went under complete or partial lockdown to ensure social distancing measures and resulting in widespread disruption of economic activity. The first case of COVID-19 related death in Bangladesh was confirmed on 18th March 2020 and from 26th March to 30th May, the government maintained the lockdown. As of 12th June 2020, the total number of COVID-19 positive patients was 81,523 and the death toll was 1,095 (1.34 per cent), the total number of cured patients was 17,250 (21.16 per cent).

2. Impact of COVID-19 pandemic on SDGs implementation

The coronavirus pandemic underscores the profound unsustainability of today's world. It exposes the chronic underinvestment in human health and well-being and the consequences of relentless exploitation of biodiversity and the natural environment.

One of the phenomenal successes of the Bangladesh economy is the reduction of poverty, which has declined from 40 per cent in 2005 to 20.5 per cent in 2019. However, according to the Labour Force Survey 2016-17 done by BBS, 85.1 per cent of total employment in the economy is informal. The proportion of informal employment in the non-agriculture sector employment, however, is 78 per cent in 2016. The closedown of the economy for a couple of months has a detrimental effect on these groups that has every possibility to push them back beneath the poverty line. Achieving SDG-1 i.e. reducing poverty is the effect of multiple strategies followed by the government like pro-poor growth, increasing labour productivity, expanding employment opportunities in the lagging regions, promoting overseas employment, targeted social safety nets and the like. Yet in course of the COVID-19 pandemic, none of these instruments other than the social safety net programmes could function well. Exports earnings (RMG sector accounts for more than 84 per cent of the country's exports) and remittance

inflows (over 5 per cent of GDP) have declined; without sending new workers abroad, close to half a million migrant workers have returned since the outbreak of the pandemic. The closure of non-essential businesses including restaurants, shopping malls, and places of entertainment have reduced demand for services, consumer durables including luxury goods, and non-essential consumer goods. The lockdown has weakened the domestic demand for services except for the consumption goods required for the month of Ramadan. The high levels of uncertainty in the global and domestic economies are likely to dampen both domestic investment and the inflow of foreign direct investment.

With regard to SDG-2, Bangladesh has achieved remarkable success in food production and now self-sufficient in producing major cereals. The vegetables production very nearly matches demand. Various fruits of larger quantity and of good quality are being produced and being exported. Bangladesh has reduced the under-five underweight rate from 66 per cent in 1990 to 22 per cent in 2017. However, COVID-19 has an unfavourable effect on hunger. There are still a lot of challenges to ensure safe and nutritious food for all in a populous country like Bangladesh. There is potentially six months' worth of consumption ready to be harvested. Supply chains of many food commodities have been disrupted, in particular, poultry, dairy, and fisheries are under stress. There is a possibility of reductions in economic access to food and nutrition. There is a major challenge to deliver the raft of new measures in response to COVID-19 and to coordinate interventions across ministries and across development partners.

The present VNRs 2020 Report reveals that the SDG-3 has the highest level of updated indicators available to monitor the progress of Bangladesh against the targets whether on-track or off-track. It is globally credited that with respect to GDP, Bangladesh's public health investment might be considered low, but the country's health outcomes are better than its comparable countries. In this goal, Bangladesh has already achieved some targets set by the government to be achieved by 2020. Ironically, COVID-19 is directly affecting the sector and the doctors, nurses, health technicians, and health workforces are called the frontline fighters against the COVID-19 war. The outbreak started in Wuhan, China, in December 2019, and declared a global pandemic on 11th March 2020 by WHO. Bangladesh's health sector has started the preparation to control and contain the pandemic in the country since January 2020 based on National Preparation and Response Plan. As a living document, the National Guidelines on Clinical Management of Coronavirus Disease 2019 has been prepared with the latest evidence and the WHO guidelines to be followed by every clinician/hospital, who will treat COVID-19 'confirmed', 'probable', or 'suspect' cases. However, challenges are mounting to get access to health services for non-COVID patients throughout the country.

SDG-4 is another goal that is severely affected. Since March 17, 2020, all schools, colleges, universities, and educational institutions- general education to madrasah education, technical education, professional education, teacher education, and specialized education are closed. In the country, there are 133,901 primary education institutions where the total number of teachers is 623,964 and the total number of students is 17,251,350. The primary education is predominantly managed by the public sector. The secondary education bodies have been managing a huge number of secondary schools, school & colleges, colleges, technical and vocational institutions, madrasahs, and universities. The total number of post-primary level institutions is 41,906 where 559,432 teachers are providing education to 19,473,535 students. However, out of the huge number of secondary schools, there are only 663 public management

institutes. More than 96 per cent institutes are privately managed. The government provides subsidies to 16,197 of the total privately managed schools. Because of COVID-19 impact, the huge number of students, teachers, and staff are at home. Non-government teachers are struggling for their livelihood and students are facing psychological pressure remaining inside the home with social distancing.

With regard to SDG-5, there are challenges as well. The main export-earning sector of the country is the readymade garments, which predominantly employs women worker. Hence, the share of women's income from the non-agricultural sector is likely to have a negative trend because of the shutdown of the RMGs. Handwashing with soap is considered as one of the preconditions to avoid COVID-19 attack. Nationally, 74.8 per cent practised handwashing (SDG-6) meaning one-fourth of the people are at risk of being attached with COVID-19. One of the important goals of SDGs, which is also considered important for the achievement of many goals, is SDG-8, which is very much evident to be affected negatively because of both the demand and supply side effects of the pandemic. Only the Padma Multipurpose Bridge is being implemented in very limited speed. Otherwise, all construction-related projects are in a stalemate position. Apparently, the inequality goal (SDG-10) will suffer. As in many countries of the world, in Bangladesh too the poorest have borne the biggest brunt of the pandemic. This blow was in part cushioned by proactive social protection measures taken by the government (see section 3). However, it is likely to worsen existing social, economic and gender inequalities at least in the short term. In the urban slum (SDG-11), it is really challenging to maintain hygiene to tackle the COVID-19. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the natural environment (SDG 15) has been complex. On one hand, air pollution has declined on account of slowdown in economic activity. On the other hand, the disposal of large quantities of personal protective equipment poses an environmental threat. The crisis has highlighted the urgency of more sustainable means of production and consumption (SDG 12). As a cross-cutting issue, governance (SDG 16) is crucial to ensure the accountability of the government measures taken to tackle the crisis. The government machinery including its employees, police, armed forces, local government institutions have to ensure accountability and transparency while delivering relief-cash or kind and providing stimulus packages.

Probably, one of the biggest impacts of COVID-19 will be on the international cooperation and partnership (SDG 17) due to rise of conservative ideology that will prevent countries from benefiting from increased trade, technology transfer, investment, and foreign aid.

With regard to '*Leave no one behind*', the aspiration of SDGs, it can be said that the pandemic has disproportionately, and more detrimentally, affected members of most vulnerable social groups—including people living in poverty, elderly, persons with disabilities, youth, women, and transgender. A report by the United Nations on the impacts of COVID-19 on women notes that the compounded economic impacts are felt especially by women and girls who are generally earning less, saving less, and holding insecure jobs or living close to poverty.

3. National measures to tackle COVID-19 pandemic

The birth centenary of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was 17th March 2020 and to celebrate the programme in a befitting way at home and abroad, the Government of Bangladesh earlier declared 17th March 2020 to 17th March 2021 as the “Mujib Year”. The countdown of the “Mujib Year” started on 10th January, the very day when in 1972 Bangabandhu returned to independent Bangladesh from imprisonment in Pakistan via England.

When all classes of people of this country were eagerly waiting for the inaugural of the “Mujib Year”, the news of the first attack of the COVID-19 case was detected on 8th March 2020. Being informed about it, the Hon’ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has postponed all the outdoor programmes scheduled for the “Mujib Year” and started concentration to tackle the COVID-19. All educational institutions have been declared closed since 17th March 2020 and the country has gone to lockdown from 26th March to 30th May 2020. Higher Secondary Certificate examination of 2020 has been postponed.

Bangladesh as a densely populated country with a population of 166 million is now trying her best to manage the global pandemic of COVID-19 like all other countries of the world. On this COVID-19, all need to work together and help with each other on how we move forward. In this case, we are following the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, where the first step is preparedness, second is the emergency response and third is rehabilitation to get the momentum of high economic growth and development back.

The national response is being overseen by the Hon’ble Prime Minister who has outlined clear directives for the citizens for their health and safety. Through several video conferencing, taking feedback from the grassroots participated by government officials, political leaders, and different stakeholders, she accordingly instructed necessary directives to them. The Hon’ble Prime Minister has given 31-point directives to the citizens to follow to mitigate the risk: (1) Coronavirus needs to be treated; awareness activities related to this virus need to be implemented. (2) No need to hide, seek medical attention if you have symptoms of coronavirus. (3) Not everyone needs to wear Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) in general; it must be ensured for everyone involved in medical treatment. (4) Special priority should be given to the healthcare of all concerned including doctors, nurses, lab technicians, cleaners, ambulance drivers engaged in the treatment of COVID-19 disease. (5) Those who are in-home quarantine or isolation need to be treated humanely. (6) Regular hand washing, use of masks, and maintaining social distance should be followed. (7) Naval ambulances have to be arranged in the riverine districts. (8) Proper health check-ups and medical care for those suffering from other diseases should be continued. (9) Ensure cleanliness: all City Corporations, Municipalities, and Upazila (Sub-district) Parishads across the country need to intensify clean-up activities. (10) We have to pay attention to law and order. All government officials, including the Department of Health Services, the Administration, the Law Enforcement Agency, and the Armed Forces, are working through proper coordination in this national disaster; this trend must be continued. (11) No corruption will be tolerated in relief work. (12) Day labourers, workers, farmers need help. Additional lists need to be made for the working poor. (13) Social Safety Net Programmes will continue. (14) Proper attention should be paid to ensure that economic activities do not come to a standstill. (15) No land should be barren. The food production system needs to be maintained, and more crops need to be produced for ensuring food security. (16) The supply chain needs to be maintained so that the market stays open. (17) General activities will continue; commodity prices must be kept under control. (18) In the public interest, all Bengali New Year celebrations should be stopped so that public gatherings do not take place. (19) Local people's representatives, political leaders, people from all walks of life will work together; the administration will work with everyone. (20) Along with the government, wealthy individuals and organizations of the society will coordinate with the Deputy Commissioner and the Upazila Nirbahi Officer to conduct relief and health care activities. (21) People's representatives and Upazila administration will prepare a ward-wise

list and distribute food among the needy. (22) Relief assistance should be provided to the most backward sections of the society such as agricultural workers, day labourers, rickshaw and van drivers, transport workers, beggars, the persons with disabilities, street children, abandoned and widowed women, and the transgender community. (23) Necessary measures have to be taken for senior citizens and children. (24) All government employees and voluntary organizations should properly comply with the Standing Orders on Disasters (SOD). (25) Take the necessary steps to monitor the production, supply, and regular marketing of essential commodities. (26) Don't panic and buy extra products. (27) Farmers will continue to cultivate regularly; government incentives will continue. (28) All industrial owners, traders, and individuals will keep their respective industries and businesses and homes clean. (29) Industry owners will continue production by ensuring their health protection through dialogue with workers. (30) Media workers will continue to play their due role in creating public awareness. (31) We have to stop spreading rumours. Don't listen to rumours and don't be disturbed by rumours.

A National Committee headed by the Hon'ble Minister of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) has been constituted to take necessary steps for the prevention and control of coronavirus. Besides, committees have been formed at city corporation, municipality, district, Upazila, and Union levels. Specific hospitals have been set up in Dhaka for coronavirus patients. Besides, more hospitals are being prepared. Separate beds have been provided for coronavirus patients in District and Upazila level hospitals. In addition to government hospitals, a significant number of private sector hospitals are involved in the treatment of coronavirus. On an emergency basis, 2,000 doctors and 5,000 nurses have been recruited and they have already started working. Additional 2,000 doctors and 3,000 health technicians will be recruited soon.

MoHFW has rapidly implemented community-based prevention practices, case identification, and quarantining utilizing local community health capacity for slowing the spread of disease following lockdown; expansion of testing facilities, immediate arrangement, and procurement of medical equipment and supplies such as medicine, PPE, masks, etc. Besides, healthcare workers' training programmes were initiated for improving infection prevention control and case management. Also, risk communication and community engagement has been focused on encouraging the spirit of solidarity, empowering individuals and communities to stop the spread of COVID-19 through behavioural change, informed individual decisions and collective community action. Some other measures have been taken for public health management at designated Points of Entry such as health screening of passengers arriving from countries at Points of Entry (PoEs), screening of passengers before arriving, screening of passengers after arrival at the Point of Entry etc.

On March 15, Hon'ble Prime Minister joined a video conferencing with the Heads of State and Government of the SAARC countries to prevent coronavirus on the basis of international and regional cooperation. She urged the leaders of the SAARC countries to make a concerted regional effort to curb the spread of this disease. The foreign ministries of the SAARC countries are working together to implement the proposed recommendations. The leaders have decided to form a joint fund where Bangladesh has announced to give 1.5 million US dollars.

Since physicians, nurses, and other health workers are treating coronavirus-infected patients from the front row, ignoring resource constraints and the risk of death, the Hon'ble Prime

Minister thanked and congratulated them on behalf of the fellow citizens. They will be given a cash incentive (honorarium) for their service and Tk. 1,000 million has been earmarked for it.

Insurance is being provided for doctors, nurses, health workers, field administration officials, members of law enforcement, members of the armed forces and Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB), and other directly involved employees of the republic to prevent coronavirus. If someone is infected while on duty, then according to the rank, he/she will be provided with health insurance of Tk. 0.5 to 1.0 million for everyone and in case of death, the amount will increase 5 times. For this purpose, Tk. 7,500 million has been allocated for health insurance and life insurance.

As public transport and aviation are suspended, it has started to have a negative impact on our imports and exports. The outbreak of this deadly virus has left expatriate siblings unemployed in most countries. Remittance flow has come down to stagnation. The Government has already announced various stimulus packages worth of Tk. 1029.57 billion to revive economic activities and production system, which is 3.7 per cent of GDP. Nineteen economic sectors including export-oriented industries, small, medium and cottage industries, agriculture, fisheries, poultry, and animal husbandry have been brought under these incentive packages.

The government has identified four key activities to overcome the potential adverse effects of the coronavirus on the economy, which will be implemented immediately i.e. in the remaining three months of the current financial year, in the short-term - in the next financial year and in the medium-term - in the next three financial years - in these three phases. There are four activities:

(1) Increasing government expenditure: In the case of government expenditure, 'employment creation' will be given priority.

(2) Formulation of Financial Assistance Package: The main objective of the financial assistance package is to revive economic activities, retain workers, and keep the competitiveness of entrepreneurs intact.

(3) Increase the scope of social safety net activities: The scope of existing social security activities will be increased to meet the basic needs of the people living below the poverty line, day labourers and the people engaged in informal activities.

(4) Increasing the money supply: In order to overcome the adverse effects of the economy, increase the money supply in such a way that it does not affect inflation.

In addition to continuing existing social security activities, the programmes that have been taken to protect marginalized people due to coronavirus are:

(1) 0.5 million tonnes of rice and 0.1 million tonnes of wheat have been allocated for the distribution of free food items to low-income people. Its total value is Tk. 25,030 million. As of 24th May 2020, 0.163 million tonnes of rice and Tk. 914.8 million in cash have been allocated.

(2) Low-income people living in urban areas are purchasing rice at the rate of Tk. 10 per kg (one-fourth of the original price) under the Open Market Sales (OMS) programme. In the next three months, 80,000 tonnes of rice will be distributed under this programme. For this, a subsidy of Tk. 2510 million will be paid. In May 2020, an additional 5 million cards were distributed to poor families to buy rice from the OMS.

(3) Day labourers, rickshaw or van puller, motor workers, construction workers, newspaper hawkers, hotel workers, and people of other professions have lost their jobs due to long leave or partial lock-down. About 5 million such families who have lost their jobs but are not included in any assistance programme have been given Tk. 2,500 per family through their mobile phones for which a total of Tk. 12,500 million has been spent. More than Tk. 170 million has been provided in two phases for the students and teachers of Qawmi Madrasa and Tk. 1220.22 million for the Imams and Muezzins of mosques across the country.

(4) In most poverty prone 100 Upazilas, the beneficiaries of the 'Old Age Allowance' and 'Allowance for Widows and Deserted Women' programmes will be 100 per cent under the social safety net programme. The budget allocation for this is Tk. 8150 million.

(5) One of the activities undertaken on the occasion of the birth centenary of the Father of the Nation is the house building programme for the homeless. A total of Tk. 21,300 million has been allocated for this to ensure that no one will be homeless in the country.

The financial packages adopted in the industrial sector include: Tk. 300,000 million for working capital of affected industry and service sector organizations, Tk. 200,000 million for working capital of micro, small and medium enterprises, and Tk. 127,500 million for increasing the facilities of Export Development Fund introduced by the Central Bank of Bangladesh, Tk. 50,000 million under Pre-shipment Credit Refinance Scheme and Tk. 50,000 million loan facility for a special fund for export-oriented industrial establishments. FBCCI, as an apex Trade Body of the private sector in Bangladesh has been actively engaged with relevant government organizations on the stimulus package offered by the Government and to facilitate smooth implementation of packages provisioned.

With a view to creating jobs for the youth and expatriate siblings who have lost their jobs, a total of Tk. 20,000 million (each organization Tk. 5,000 million) has been allocated to Palli Sanchay Bank (Village Savings Bank), Karmasangsthan Bank (Employment Bank), Prabasi Kalyan Bank (Expatriates' Welfare Bank), and Palli Karma Sahayak Foundation (PKSF).

This year, Boro paddy was planted in about 4.8 million hectares of land. The government has deployed appropriate workers and machinery to harvest the Boro paddy. Special measures have been taken to keep the supply and distribution system of food and agricultural products intact. The Government has already started collecting paddy and rice so that the farmers get a fair price for it. This season, 2.23 million tonnes of food grains will be procured, which is 0.2 million tonnes more than last year. This will cost an additional Tk. 8,600 million. The Government has provided combined harvesters and reapers at subsidized rates to the farmers to assist in harvesting and threshing of paddy. Tk. 2,000 million was allocated for the purchase of agricultural machinery.

An agricultural refinancing scheme of Tk. 50,000 million has been allocated for farmers to provide working capital in the agricultural sector. From this fund, loans will be provided to small and medium farmers in agriculture, fisheries, dairy, and poultry at 4 per cent interest rate. Tk. 95,000 million is being earmarked for agricultural subsidy. Another refinancing scheme worth of Tk. 30,000 million has been taken for low income farmers and small traders.

Many benevolent individuals and organizations have also come forward to distribute relief items to help the poor. However, these relief items and assistance are distributed in a disciplined

manner through local government agencies and members of the law enforcement agencies without being distributed in isolation.

While the educational institutions are closed, the educational activities at the primary and secondary levels have been continued through a specialized television channel. Some private schools are managing classes through social media. Ministry of Primary and Mass Education, and Ministry of Education are providing necessary support to prepare digital contents. Motivational and instructional bulletin for health safety are being continuously telecast through the television channels for the students and for the public.

In a virtual conference organised by the World Economic Forum on 23rd April 2020, the Hon'ble Prime Minister has placed a five-point proposal to fight the coronavirus pandemic: (i) new thinking on human well-being, tackling inequality, supporting the poor, and getting back our economies to pre-COVID levels, (ii) robust global leadership from G7, G20, and OECD. UN-led multilateral system should step forward, (iii) devising strategies and practical support measures as the world is currently witnessing the transformation in global businesses, work, and manufacturing, (iv) meaningful global strategy should be adopted to share the burden and responsibilities for the migrant workers, (v) developing innovative solutions in various sectors to better prepare for the future.

Moreover, the government aims to incorporate a one-year recovery plan in its Five Year national development plan, which will be instrumental for implementing SDGs in the next five years. It will guide the country on how socio-economic and environmental development will take place, how resources will be mobilized and how and where they will be spent. In the next financial year, the allocation of development budget in the health sector will be enhanced substantially.

Snapshot of Stimulus Packages announced by the Hon'ble Prime Minister		
Sl.	Name of the Packages	Allocation (Tk in Million)
1	Special allocation for export oriented industries	50,000
2	Providing working capital facilities for the affected industry and service sector organizations	300,000
3	Providing working capital facilities to small (including cottage industries) and medium enterprises	200,000
4	To increase the facilities of EDF (Export Development Fund) introduced by Bangladesh Bank	127,500
5	Pre-shipment Credit Refinance Scheme	50,000
6	Special Honorarium to doctors, nurses and health workers	1,000
7	Health insurance and life insurance	7,500
8	Distribution of free food items	25,030
9	Distribution of rice at the rate of Tk. 10 per kg	2,510
10	Distribution of cash among the targeted population	12,580
11	Increase the coverage of the allowance programmes	8,150
12	Construction of houses for homeless people	21,300
13	Procurement of Boro Paddy/Rice (Additional Two Lakh MT)	8,600
14	Mechanization of agricultural work	2,000
15	Agricultural subsidies	95,000
16	Agricultural refinancing scheme	50,000
17	Refinancing scheme for low income farmers/small traders	30,000
18	Creation of Jobs (through Village Savings Bank, Employment Bank, Expatriates' Welfare Bank and PKSF)	20,000
19	Government subsidy for interest waiver of deferred bank loans for the month of April-May/2020	18,400
	Total stimulus packages in Million Tk.	1,029,570
	Total stimulus packages in Million US\$	12,113
	Total Stimulus Packages as % of GDP	3.70

4. Data Intelligence for COVID-19 Response in Bangladesh

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) together with a2i Programme and other stakeholders (Government institutions, telecom companies, development partners, NGOs, Academia, etc.) has developed data intelligence platform (<https://www.corona.gov.bd>) to minimize the fatalities based on data-driven decision-making. The analytics helps to identify hotspots and high-risk cases, analyse and predict requirements for additional patient management and guide resource allocation (health workers, testing facilities, hospitals, isolation units, ICT, etc.) and guide the government with timely policy response visualizing insights to them. The platform integrates data of the National Helpline 333, National Health Service-Hotline 16263, COVID-19 Hotline 10655, *3332# USSD, epidemiological data, COVID-19 test data, suspected patient data, citizen's self-reporting data, community health workers report, mobility data, disease migration and Call Detail Record (CDR) data to generate insights for the decision making and planning deploying advanced-level technology (AI, Machine Learning, Big data analytics, cloud technology, etc.). Various data models such as the EPI model, agent-based model, Eco-model, SIR model, Geo-fencing, etc. have been using to monitor the situation, identify the concentration and risk zones, and taking necessary measures. In the data intelligence platform, there are decision support dashboards for the healthcare providers, for government administration, for multi-stakeholder communication for medical and administrative decisions and awareness-raising.

5. Conclusion

The Economist, a leading source of analyses on international business and world affairs, has listed Bangladesh as the 9th strongest economy in its report on the financial strength of 66 emerging economies in the wake of the Covid-19 fallout. The World Health Organization predicts that the coronavirus pandemic will not go away overnight. However, life will not stop. Until a vaccine is discovered, we may have to live with the coronavirus. Economic activities must be introduced in the interest of livelihood.

The COVID-19 response and recovery process provides us with a chance to work on existing inequities to ensure that everyone in the society receives fair opportunities as we prepare to enter a post-pandemic society of hope. If not properly addressed at this stage, it may increase inequality, exclusion, discrimination, and unemployment in the medium and long term, making us vulnerable as a society for future threats. Businesses and organisations have the opportunity to become agents of change by working actively on inclusion along with the class, and gender lines.