



# Bangladesh Moving Ahead With SDGs

Prepared for Bangladesh  
Delegation to 74<sup>th</sup> UNGA Session 2019



General Economics Division (GED)  
Bangladesh Planning Commission  
Ministry of Planning  
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
September 2019



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“Let us together create a world that can eradicate poverty, hunger, war and human sufferings and achieve global peace and security for the well-being of humanity.”

*Father of the Nation*

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at the UNGA in 1974



“ I am confident that  
Bangladesh could show its  
capacity in achieving SDGs  
the way it achieved the  
MDGs. ”





Sheikh Hasina  
*Hon'ble Prime Minister*

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## Prologue

This booklet is prepared providing a broad picture scenario on the assessment of progress made under each goal in implementation of SDGs in Bangladesh.

Bangladesh has already met some of the targets set for 2020 that is noteworthy, while some indicators are on track towards meeting the target of 2020. However, there are a number of indicators those need special attention in order to move the trajectory on track. This booklet has been prepared analyzing data of 83 indicators currently available in the country. However, dearth of data has still been an emerging challenge, particularly for the indicators of SDG 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15, for monitoring the progress of attainment of SDGs in the country. The Government of Bangladesh has taken necessary actions in all 17 goals to set a clear pathway in implementing the SDGs within the framework of the ‘Whole of Society’ approach.

I hope this document will be helpful for the Bangladesh delegation, taking part in the 74th UNGA Session 2018, in understanding the progress made by Bangladesh in achieving the SDGs based on indicators having data available. International cooperation received so far has been analysed along with review of financing that would be needed to implement the full course of SDGs agenda.

**Dr. Shamsul Alam**  
**The Editor**

# Part A: Status of SDGs Implementation in Bangladesh

## Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere

The progress on reducing extreme poverty measured by \$1.90 a day or by national poverty line (LPL) is on track. Similarly, progress on expanding coverage of social protection and proportion of government expenditure on services (health, education and social protection) as share of total government expenditure are also on track. Progress on reducing incidence of poverty (upper poverty line) does not seem to be on track. With higher expected economic growth in the economy (based on most recent developments) it is possible to achieve the 2020 milestone if the increase in income inequality does not offset the impact of higher growth on poverty reduction. The incidence of headcount poverty estimation stood at 21.6 percent in 2018.

The Government has adopted policies and programmes to address multidimensional nature of poverty in the country including fostering accelerated, inclusive and resilient growth, increasing coverage and effectiveness of social protection, achieving gender parity, increasing the size, reach, and diversity of microcredit programmes, promoting financial inclusion, and maintaining stable macroeconomic environment. Bangladesh will continue to strive to achieve SDG 1 emphasizing job creation, social protection, human capital development, improving private investment climate and mitigating climate shocks.

### 1.1 Assessment of Progress on SDG 1

#### 1.1.1 Proportion of population below international poverty line

Bangladesh has been successful, as mentioned above, in achieving significant reduction in poverty since 1991-92. Between 2010 and 2016 the incidence of poverty declined at an average annual 0.8 percentage points.

**Table 1.1 Proportion of population below the international poverty line (absolute Poverty)**

Poverty measure	1991	1995	2000	2005	2010	2016
\$1.90 a day	44.2	35.7	34.8	25.7	19.6	14.8

Source: World Bank, World Development Indicators, various years

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

National poverty measured as the proportion of population living below the national upper poverty line has consistently declined reaching 31.5 percent in 2010 and 24.3 percent in 2016. According to recent estimates it has declined to 21.6 percent in 2018.

**Table 1.2 Trends in Poverty Using Upper Poverty Line and Lower Poverty Line (Percent), 1992-2018**

	1991-92	2000	2005	2010	2016	2018 <sup>1</sup>
<b>Upper Poverty Line</b>						
National	56.7	48.9	40	31.5	24.3	21.6
Urban	42.8	35.2	28.4	21.3	18.9	16.3
Rural	58.8	52.3	43.8	35.2	26.4	24.5
<b>Lower Poverty Line (absolute Poverty)</b>						
National	41	34.3	25.1	17.6	12.9	9.4
Urban	24	19.9	14.6	7.7	7.6	6.1
Rural	43.8	37.9	28.6	21.1	14.9	11.2

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

Extreme poverty (lower poverty line) has also declined persistently during this period. According to recent estimates (GED) extreme poverty has declined to 11.2 percent in 2018.

### 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

Bangladesh has developed a wide network of Social Protection Programs (SPPs) to address the problems of poverty, vulnerability and marginalization. The coverage of SSNPs has increased both in terms of percentage of households as well as percentage of beneficiaries over time.

<sup>1</sup> Sample Household Survey, GED, Planning Commission for "Study on Employment, Productivity and Sectoral Investment in Bangladesh"

**Table 1.3 Trends in Coverage of Social Safety Net Programs, 2005-2016 (Household)**

Survey year	National	Urban	Rural
2019*	58.1	53.1	59.5
2016	28.7	10.6	34.5
2010	24.6	9.4	30.1
2005	13.06	5.45	13.06

Sources: BBS, HIES, various years

\* Bangladesh Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) 2019

### 1.a.2 Proportion of total government spending on essential services (Health, Education, Social protection)

In FY2015 government spending on these essential services as proportion of total government expenditure stood at 4.81 percent for health, 12.82 percent for education and 12.72 percent for social protection. The share of health sector peaked at 6.53 percent in FY 2016-17. The share of education sector peaked at 15.15 percent in FY2016 followed by a decline in the following year. The share of social protection peaked at 15.25 percent in 2016-17. As proportion of government expenditure share of the three components of services show mixed trends which needed to be increased achieving 2020 set milestone provided education's share rises in the future.

**Table 1.4 Proportion of government expenditure on services as proportion of total government expenditure (Percent)**

Services	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Education	13.39	12.82	15.15	14.42
Health	4.60	4.81	4.80	6.53
Social protection	12.30	12.72	13.60	15.25

Source: Calculated from budget figures of Ministry of Finance

## 1.2 Key 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.

Resource mobilization particularly from external sources remains a big challenge. The National Social Security Strategy requires substantial increase in resources and streamlined efforts for implementation. The professional capacity of Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, the national statistical organization, needs to be significantly enhanced to meet the multi-dimensional data requirements for tracking the progress of SDG 1 through generating quality data and validating data of other organizations. In Bangladesh many households live close to the poverty line and any sudden shock can push these households below the poverty line ruining the gains in poverty reduction.

### **1.3 Way Forward**

The Government will have to meet the challenge of generating employment for increasing labour force by fostering creation of productive and inclusive jobs in the economy. Higher growth will be achieved through higher investment comprising public and private sector investment as well as foreign direct investment. Improving management skills, improving technology, upgrade labour skills, reducing regulatory barriers and ensuring energy supply will be critical for investment.

While continued emphasis on food security and, agricultural diversification will receive emphasis through higher land and labour productivity and assured supply of quality inputs, appropriate mechanization and infrastructure building. In manufacturing, while emphasis on sustained success in RMG will continue, other potential labour intensive sectors such as leather, footwear, plastics, toys, electronics, jute goods and light engineering will need to flourish.

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

Progress on reducing stunting which stood at 28.0 percent in 2019 is virtually on track at the current rate of reduction. Similarly, progress on reducing wasting which stood at 8.4 percent is also on track. Total official flow to agriculture sector is low mainly because of changing development partners' preferences in aid allocation over time. It will require alignment of aid policy in view of SDGs emphasis on international support to agriculture. Obesity is also emerging as a problem among children.

Besides government policies and programmes to ensure food security to people some specific programmes have been adopted to address specific hunger and nutrition issues. These include introduction of nutrition fortified rice, distribution of iron-folic supplementation among pregnant, lactating women and adolescent girls, Vitamin A distribution for children, deworming, salt iodization, maternity leave for mothers to assist breast-feeding, and implementation of WASH programme emphasizing quality water, sanitation and hygiene.

### 2.1 Assessment of Progress on SDG 2

#### 2.1.1 Prevalence of undernourishment

Undernourishment costs Bangladesh more than USD one billion in lost productivity every year and even more in health care costs (FAO, 2016). In 2016 the prevalence of undernourishment stood at 16.4 percent of the population (FAO, 2016) implying about 26 million population suffer from undernourishment. Encouraging thing is undernourishment has been declining (Table 2.1).

**Table 2.1: Prevalence of undernourishment (Percent) (3-year average)**

Indicator	2011-2013	2012-2014	2013-2015	2014-2016	2015-2017	2016-2018
Prevalence of undernourishment	16.9	16.6	16.2	15.7	15.2	14.7

Source: FAOSTAT, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), 2019

#### 2.2.1 Prevalence of stunting among children under 5 years of age

Stunting reflects a failure to receive adequate nutrition over a long period of time and is worsened by recurrent and chronic illness. Bangladesh has made

progress in reducing the proportion of stunted children which declined from 45 percent in 1999-2000 to 28.0 percent in 2019 (MICS 2019).

**Table 2.2 Trends in Prevalence of Stunting among Under Five Children**

Indicator	1999-2000	2004	2007	2011	2014	2017-2018*	2019**
Stunted	45	51	43	41	36	30.8	28.0

Sources: NIPORT, Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey, Various Years

\* FAOSTAT, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

\*\* Bangladesh Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) 2019

### 2.2.2 Prevalence of malnutrition among children under 5 years of age, by type (wasting and overweight)

Despite increased cereal and vegetables production as well as production of animal proteins there has not been much progress in addressing high prevalence of malnutrition among children over time. The proportion of wasted children has fluctuated over time and peaked at 17 percent in 2007 from 10 percent in 1999-2000. It gradually declined to 9.8 percent in 2019. On the other hand, overweight among children under 5 years of age is following an increasing trend. In 1999-2000, overweight among children under 5 years of age was 0.9 percent that increased to 2.4 percent in 2019.

**Table 2.3 Trends in Prevalence of malnutrition among Under Five Children (Percent)**

Indicator	1999-2000	2004	2007	2011	2014	2017*	2019**
Wasted	10	15	17	16	14	8.4	9.8
Overweight	0.9	0.9	1.1	1.9	1.4	1.4	2.4

Sources: NIPORT, Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey, Various Years

\* FAOSTAT, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

\*\* Bangladesh Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) 2019

### 2.a.1 Agriculture Orientation Index (AOI)

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.

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. In transformational economy, manufacturing and industrialization may get preferences over relatively traditional sector.

**Table 2.4 Trends in Agriculture Orientation Index of Bangladesh, 2005-2016**

	2005	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
AOI	0.28	n.a.	0.52	0.58	0.78	0.56	0.53	0.41

Source: FAOSTAT, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

## 2.a.2 Total official flows to agriculture sector (million US\$)

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 has a trend with annual fluctuations which peaked at US\$ 363 million in 2014 but decreased to US\$ 192.58 million in 2017 followed by a decline in the following year.

**Table 2.5 Total official flows (official development assistance plus other official flows) to the agriculture sector, 2012 to 2017 (million US\$)**

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Total official flows (Loan & Grant)	34.99	65.01	363.02	210.57	177.83	192.58

Source: AIMS web portal, Economic Relations Division

Despite this volatility which is a characteristic of official aid flows Bangladesh may succeed in attracting larger aid flows to agriculture sector provided development partners align their aid policy with SDGs.

## 2.2 Key Challenges

Challenges to Zero Hunger will be related to implementation of the Delta Plan 2100 which purports to take account of future uncertainties in climate change, socio-economic development, population growth and regional cooperation, addressing hunger in lagging regions and of disadvantaged groups, building resilience of poor people and problems emerging from urbanization. The Government has articulated these challenges and policies will be in place to address those, while preparing the 8th Five Year Plan.

The incidence of hunger is distributed unevenly in the country. Stunting still affects more than one third of the children. Women still suffer more when a family faces food shortage. It is necessary to build resilience of the poor, vulnerable, and affected people by increasing their capacity to adapt to mild, moderate and severe shocks such as draughts, cyclones, and floods so that they do not slip into poverty once they climb out of poverty.

### 2.3 Way Forward

A prosperous agriculture will be necessary to meet the growing demand of all types of food due to population growth and growth of income. The Government will continue to invest in agricultural research for development of stress tolerant crop varieties in respect of water, fertilizer and time economy, global warming, and GM technology and adoption of modern agricultural practices by farmers; and expanded use of surface water for irrigation and expanded use of renewable energy for small scale irrigation.

Lagged regions will need focused attention of the Government in terms of resource allocation, encouraging private investment through infrastructure development and promoting Special Economic Zones, expanded social protection programmes and expanded microcredit programmes.

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

According to MICS 2019, the child related indicators, namely, under 5 mortality rate (U5MR) (40 per thousand live births) and neo natal mortality rate (NMR) (26 per thousand live births) are on track to meet the 2020 milestones. Number of medically-trained care providers during the child birth, proportion of currently married women who use modern contraceptive method and adolescent (women aged 15-19 years) are very close to reaching their targets in 2020. Steps have been taken to reach the 2020 target of health worker density per 10,000 population.

The Government has been following sector wide approach in the health sector of the country from 1998 and presently the 4th program – Health, Population and Nutrition Sector Program (HPNSP) (2017-22) is being implemented. The program is comprised of three components, namely, governance and stewardship of the sector, strong health systems, and quality health services to achieve health, population and nutrition sector targets and the health-related SDGs.

### 3.1 Assessment of Progress on SDG 3

#### 3.1.1 Maternal mortality ratio per 100,000 live births

Maternal mortality ratio has been on the decline since 1995 and the trend has continued in 2018. There is discrepancy between rural and urban mortality rates which has also narrowed significantly due to improvement in access to maternal health care.

**Table 3.1 Maternal Mortality Ratio, 1995-2018**

	1995	2000	2005	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018
National	447	318	348	216	181	178	172	169
Rural	452	329	358	230	191	190	182	-
Urban	380	261	275	178	162	160	157	-

Source: BBS, SVRS, various years

### 3.1.2 Births attended by skilled health personnel (Percent)

The number of births attended by skilled health personnel has increased from 20.9 percent in 2007 to over 42.1 percent in 2014 and further to 59 percent in 2019. The proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel will increase to 65.7 percent in 2020 indicating the progress is on track. Improving maternal health through medically-trained providers care during child birth remains a challenge.

**Table 3.2 Births Attended by Skilled Health Personnel (Percent)**

	2007	2009	2010	2011	2013	2014	2016	2017-18	2019*
Births attended by skilled health personnel	20.9	24.4	26.5	31.7	34.4	42.1	50	52.7	59.0

Source: NIPORT, BDHS, various years

\* Bangladesh Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) 2019

### 3.2.1 Under-five mortality rate per 1,000 live births

There has been persistent decline in U5MR during 2000 which has continued until 2018. Sharp discrepancy between rural and urban rates existed in the early years but the rates tend to converge over the years marking much higher improvement in the rural areas. The 2020 target for U5MR (34) has already been achieved as remarkable success by 2017.

**Table 3.3 Under-five mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)**

	2000	2005	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019*
Rural	90	71	48	39	36	33	-	41
Urban	55	56	44	32	32	27	-	35
National	84	68	47	36	35	31	29	40

Source: BBS, SVRS, Various years

\* Bangladesh Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) 2019

### 3.2.2 Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births

There has been consistent decline in the mortality rate during the 2000-15 period though with pace of decline. Rural-urban discrepancy has vanished and converged to the national level. This marks a significant improvement in access to infant health care even to rural people. The NMR will decline to about 13 in 2020 provided the current downward trend continues implying the progress is on track.

**Table 3.4 Neonatal mortality rate (per 1000 live births)**

	2000	2005	2010	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019*
Rural	43	35	26	21	20	19	17	-	27
Urban	28.	28	25	19	20	20	17	-	24
National	39	33	26	21	20	19	17	16	26

Source: BBS, SVRS, various years

\* Bangladesh Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) 2019

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

Bangladesh continues to be a low HIV/AIDS prevalence and incidence country. The incidence of HIV stood at 0.04 percent at the national level with <0.1 percent for both men and women aged 15-49 years in 2016. In 2017, the incidence of HIV/AIDS declined to <0.01 (UNAIDS 2017).

### 3.3.2 Tuberculosis incidence per 100,000 population

An estimated incidence rate for all forms of Tuberculosis in 2015 was 225 per 100,000 population and 45 per 100,000 people died of Tuberculosis in the same year (NTP, Annual Report 2017). According to WHO Global Tuberculosis Report 2017, the incidence of tuberculosis per 100,000 has reduced to 221.

### 3.3.3 Malaria incidence per 1,000 population

Bangladesh has been one of the major malaria endemic countries in South East Asia. Malaria has been a major public health concern in the country. Malaria incidence per 1000 population stood at 1.58 per 1,000 population in 2017 (Health Bulletin 2017) from 4.3 in 2015 (MCP 2015).

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

The proportion of women of reproductive age (aged 15–49 years) satisfied with modern methods of family planning decreased from 81.7 percent in 2012-13 to 77.4 percent in 2019. The rate at urban areas is 78.5 percent, while 77.0 percent of women are satisfied with modern methods of family planning in rural areas.

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

According to MICS 2019, Adolescent birth rate (aged 15–19 years) is 83 per 1000. This number remained unchanged since 2012-13.

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

The proportion of the population with access to affordable medicines and vaccines on a sustainable basis stood at 78 percent in 2014 (BDHS, 2014). According to Bangladesh Demographic Health Survey 2017-18, this has further increased 85.6 percent.

### 3.b.2 Total net ODA to medical research and basic health sectors (million US\$)

Total net official development assistance to medical research and basic health sectors stood at US \$ 274.1 million in 2012 which declined to US\$ 177.4 million in 2015 and then increased to US\$ 252.5 in 2017. Total net official development assistance shows annual fluctuations with an upward trend since 2015.

**Table 3.5 Net official development assistance to medical research and basic health care, 2012-17 (Million US\$)**

2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
274.1	224.1	242.7	177.4	206.2	252.5

Source: Economic Relations Division

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

Bangladesh suffers from a shortage and mal-distribution of health workers. Health worker density per 10,000 population stood at 7.4 in 2016. Now the density has increased to 8.3 per 10,000 population and the distribution is 1:0.56:0.40 (HRD unit, HRH country profile, 2017, MOHFW) which is on track to reach the target of 2020.

## 3.2 Key Challenges

Health sector in Bangladesh continues to grapple with the existing issues of increasing access to, improving quality of and achieving equity in health care services for all. There is also the increasing burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as diabetes, cardio-vascular diseases and cancer contributing to increasing morbidity and mortality. New challenges facing the sector include increasing incidence of injuries including burn and acid injuries, drowning and other accidents including road traffic injuries, ageing and geriatric diseases, spread of infectious diseases such as Hepatitis B and C, health effects of geo-climatic disasters and arsenicosis.

In addition, the health sector is faced with the following specific challenges:

1. Reducing out-of pocket expenditure with a view to achieving UHC;
2. Ensuring urban primary health care service delivery especially for the poor;
3. Ensuring increased skilled birth attendance to reduce MMR;
4. Improving overall nutrition situation including underweight and stunting;
5. Improving service quality, standardization and accreditation for quality of care;
6. Ensuring availability of skill-mix HR through implementation HW strategy;
7. Developing new approaches and partnerships with the private sector and the community for ensuring basic services for the poor.
8. Sustainable health financing and promotion of equity in the context of achieving UHC.
9. Meeting chronic shortage of health workforce and skill-mix imbalance.
10. Inadequacy of adolescence friendly health services

### 3.3 Way Forward

The Government has already recruited doctors, nurses, Community Health Care Provider, and midwives to improve Maternal and Neo Natal Health (MNH). A large number of personnel including Family Welfare Assistant and Family Welfare Visitor will be recruited to support family welfare services. To improve Family Planning services in hard to reach area and low performing area adequate staff will be provided.

National Strategy for Adolescent Health (2017-30) was approved and 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 FP services in general.

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

Gender Parity Index (GPI) has remained above 1 for more than a decade in both primary and secondary levels of education and at tertiary education GPI reached to 0.71 in 2016. The Gross Enrolment Ratio in Pre-Primary education has been increasing at a pace of 1.45 percentage points per annum since 2013.

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

### **4.1 Assessment of Progress on SDG 4**

#### **4.1.1 Proportion of children and young people achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in reading and mathematics**

Bangla reading proficiency is achieved by 54 percent at the end of lower secondary level with 55 percent boys and 54 percent girls while English reading proficiency is achieved by only 19 percent students with 22 percent boys and 18 percent girls. Achieving minimum proficiency in English, which is the second language in schools, is alarming. In mathematics the minimum proficiency is achieved by 57 percent of the students with 62 percent boys and 52 percent girls (LASI 2015).

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

According to MICS 2019, the percentage of children aged 36-59 months who are developmentally on track (in at least three of the following four domains: literacy-numeracy, physical, social-emotional, and learning) is 74.5 which was 63.9 in 2012-13.

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

The inclusion of pre-primary education in the school system has been emphasized in “National Education Policy 2010”. Bangladesh has made some progress in increasing the participation rate in organized learning (one year before the official primary entry age). Participation in pre-primary has been showing increasing trend.

**Table 4.1: Participation rate in organized learning**

	2015	2016
Participation rate in organized learning (01 year before the official primary entry age) by sex	Boys:31 Girls:31.5	Boys:33.7 Girls:34.9

Source: WDI, 2016

## 4.5.1. Gender Parity Indices in Education

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

**Table 4.2: Gender Parity Index in Education, 2005-2017**

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

Sources: World Development Indicators, World Bank

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

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

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

The only data available on teachers receiving organized teacher training is that of primary level teachers receiving DPED/C-in-Ed training. The proportion of primary school teachers with C-in-Ed degree reached to 94.3 percent in 2018 from 82 percent of total teachers in 2015.

**Table 4.3: Percentage of C-in-Ed teachers in primary schools**

	2015	2018
% of DPED/ C-in-Ed Teachers	All: 82 Male: 80 Female: 86	All: 94.3 Male: 94.8 Female: 94.1

Sources: Ministry of Primary and Mass Education, 2018

## 4.2 Key Challenges

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

Quality is a major concern at all levels of education beginning at the primary level which spills over to successive levels of education. The quality and relevance of higher education and training are inadequate to meet the skills demand of the labour market.

## 4.3 Way Forward

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 in school; and (c) improved teaching-learning of foundational skills through appropriate curriculum and pedagogy skills, management of teachers focusing on fair selection and recruitment, pre-service training, professional development and continuous assessment.

Quality and relevance of tertiary education can be improved through (a) infrastructural development at the universities; (b) establishing more public universities focusing on science and technology; (c) updated curricula to provide knowledge, skills and relevant competencies; (d) restructuring and empowering University Grants Commission (UGC) to ensure accountability

and transparency in the higher education sector led by eminent educationists; (e) inclusion of experts, employers and expert alumni in curriculum design; (f) establishing effective institutions-industry linkages through partnership in research and development, experience sharing, and internships; (g) implementing the Quality Assurance Mechanism; (h) develop promotion system based on comprehensive performance assessment, and (i) operationalization of competency based skills qualifications, and recognition system in the TVET sector.

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

*The proportion of female members in the Parliament has been slowly increasing over time reaching 20.88 percent in 2019. Though decreasing yet women and girls aged 15 years and over are subjected to different types of violence by their current or former intimate partner as well as by persons who are not intimate partners, and they are significantly more vulnerable to violence by their intimate partners. In 2015, 2.5 percent 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. Women bear significantly greater burden of unpaid domestic and care work in the family than men.*

### 5.1 Assessment of Progress on SDG 5

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

The situation of early marriage has improved in 2019 compared to 2012-13. The rate of early marriage before the age of 15 has declined to 15.5 percent in 2019 than that of 18.1 percent in 2012-13.

**Table 5.1: Percentage of early marriage**

Proportion of women aged 20-24 years who were married or in a union	2012-13	2019
(a) before age 15	18.1	15.5
(b) before age 18	52.3	51.4

Source: Bangladesh Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS), BBS, various years

#### 5.5.1 Proportion of seats held by women in (a) national parliament (%) (b) Local Govt.

Bangladesh is the example of a country with dominant leadership of women in the national parliament and government. Currently, the Prime Minister, the Speaker of the National Parliament, and the Leader of the Opposition and the Deputy Leader of the House are all women.

**Table 5.2 Proportion of Female Members in the Parliament, 2001-2019**

	2001	2008	2014	2015	2016	2017	2019
No of female members	41	64	70	71	71	72	73
No of total seats	330	345	350	350	350	350	350
Percentage	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, 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 percent in 2019 compared to 12.73 percent in 1991. The share of reserved seats for women was raised to 50 from 45. However, the current Parliament has 23 directly elected women Parliamentarians ever highest than any previous time.

In Local Government, the proportion of seats held by women has increased to 25.61 percent in 2018 from 23.00 percent in 2016. 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 government.

It is heartening to report that Bangladesh ranked 48 in global ranking of countries with a score of 0.721 indicating significantly better performance in promoting women empowerment compared to her South Asian neighbours.

**Table 5.3 Comparative Picture of Women Empowerment in South Asia**

Total	Bangladesh	Maldives	India	Sri Lanka	Nepal	Bhutan	Pakistan
Ranking	48	113	108	100	105	122	148
Score	0.721	0.662	0.665	0.676	0.671	0.638	0.550

Source: World Economic Forum, Global Gender Gap Report 2018

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

As a result of government's focus on digitization, orientation of technology is booming in the country. The most emerging is the use of mobile phone that has contributed in increasing connectivity even in most remote areas. The proportion of people using mobile phone in 2018 was 78.1 percent, of which 83.4 percent of male and 72.34 percent of female was using mobile phone in Bangladesh [Citizen Perception Household Survey (CPHS) 2018].

## 5.2 Key Challenges

Some of the key challenges to achieving gender equality in the country are: eradication of violence against women, prevention of child marriage and addressing gender digital divide.

As violence originates from multiple sources and has multiple causes its elimination requires multipronged actions. The Government of Bangladesh has adopted many initiatives, but they appear inadequate 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 proportion of marriage of girls aged below 18 years has been declining. Still there is ample room for improvement.

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.

## 5.3 Way Forward

The commitment of the Nation to address the issue of gender differences is enshrined in the country's Constitution. The Government's efforts to address gender differences pertain to participation in global initiatives, providing policy and legal framework, improving women's human capabilities, increasing their economic benefits, creating enabling environment for women's advancement and implementing Gender Responsive Budget.

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.

Ensuring conducive environment for women in the workplaces and public spheres: Public opinion against VAW in workplaces and public spheres needs to be created to discourage and eventually eliminate such outrageous activities.



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

*The success of Bangladesh in achieving MDG targets is well recognized. As part of this recognition, Hon'ble Prime Minister had been made a member of HLPW for SDG-6. This membership has induced lots of activities in SDG-6 and an action plan has been formulated by MOWR. 87 percent of population has access to safe water sources (Target 6.1) and 61 percent population has access to safe sanitation (Target 6.2) in 2015. For sustainable management of water resources, two key initiatives can be observed related to Target 6.3 (improvement of water quality) and Target 6.6 (protection of water ecosystem).*

### 6.1 Assessment of Progress on SDG 6

#### 6.1.1 Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services

The proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services stood at 56 percent (UNJMP, 2015) after making adjustments for arsenic contamination. At least basic drinking water availability reported in 2015 was 97 percent (estimated by UNJMP, 2017).

#### 6.2.1 Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services, including a hand-washing facility with soap and water

According to the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation (JMP) report in 2015, only 1 percent of the population are practicing open defecation, 10 percent of the population are using unimproved latrines, 28 percent of the population enjoy shared latrines and 61 percent of the population use improved latrines (UNICEF & WHO, 2015). Of course, these are the base year (2015) figures. Data not yet emerged for the following years.

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

The amount of Official Development Assistance (ODA) on water and sanitation is following an upward trend. In FY 2014-15, the amount of ODA on water and sanitation was US\$ 301.1 million. The amount has increased to US\$ 496.8 million in FY 2017-18.

## 6.2 Key Challenges

The key challenge is to enhance the coverage of water and sanitation; particularly in the hard to reach areas. As different institutions are engaged in water supply in different areas in the country, coordination among all implementing agencies is prerequisite to achieving the targets of SDG 6. Another major challenge of Goal 6 is dearth of data. Initiatives need to be taken to generate required data for monitoring the progress on SDG 6.

## 6.3 Way Forward

The Government of Bangladesh has set a standard WASH for Schools in Bangladesh especially in the Government Primary Schools. Primary Education Development (PED) program is one of the milestone programs 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.

The Centre for Environmental and Geographic Information Services (CEGIS) was assigned to provide intellectual and logistical support for the entire activities related to SDG-6. It was planned to prepare action plans for six different targets along with two implementation mechanisms of the goal on water and sanitation.

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

*It is heartening to note that Bangladesh is moving steadfastly towards ensuring access of 100 percent households to electricity well ahead of the target time in 2025; it reached to 92.2 percent in 2019. The proportion of population with access to clean fuels and technology for cooking increased to 19.0 percent in 2019. The combined effect of slow increase in renewable energy and fast increase in non-renewable energy is the main reason of low share of renewable energy in the total final energy consumption. Energy efficiency in the country is improving gradually.*

### 7.1 Assessment of Progress on SDG 7

#### 7.1.1 Proportion of population with access to electricity (%)

The proportion of population with access to electricity increased to 92.2 percent in 2018-19 from 55.26 percent in 2010. About 20 percentage points increase between 2010 and 2016 and about 10 percent points jump in the following year was possible because of heightened efforts of the government to increase supply through domestic production as well as imports.

**Table 7.1 Proportion of population with access to electricity (Percent)**

	2000	2005	2010	2016	2019*
National	31.2	44.23	55.26	75.92	92.2
Urban	80.4	82.61	90.10	94.01	97.8
Rural	18.7	31.19	42.49	68.85	90.7

Source: BBS, HIES, Various years; Data for 2018-19 is from Power Division

\* Bangladesh Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) 2019, BBS

#### 7.1.2 Proportion of population with primary reliance on clean fuels and technology (%)

The proportion of population with access to clean fuels and technology increased by 0.63 percentage points per year during the period 2000-2015. In 2016, the access increased by 1.04 percentage points from its previous level in 2015. If the latest trend continues to hold the proportion of population with access to clean fuels and technology will reach 20.93 percent in 2020 which will be of course below the target.

**Table 7.2 Proportion of population with access to clean fuels and technology for cooking (percent)**

2000	2005	2010	2015	2016	2019*
7.24	9.74	12.9	16.68	17.72	19.0

Source: World Development Indicators, World Bank

\* Bangladesh Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) 2019

### 7.2.1 Renewable energy share in total final energy consumption

The share of renewable energy sources in total final energy consumption is estimated at 2.79 percent in 2015 (base year). Bangladesh has planned to produce 10 percent of total power generation from renewable sources by 2020. This target seems hard to achieve for two interrelated reasons. On the one hand, renewable energy supply has been increasing but at a slower rate and on the other hand, the supply of electricity from non-renewable sources is increasing at a much faster rate.

**Table 7.3 Renewable energy share in the total final energy consumption (percent)**

2015	2016	2017	2018
2.79	2.85	2.87	2.89

Source: SREDA, 2018

## 7.2 Key Challenges

Bangladesh faces formidable challenges in attaining sustainable development goal 7. Expanding supply of electricity at a faster rate to meet existing unmet industry, commerce and household demand and rising future demand. Addressing energy efficiency issue in the industrial sector (for example adopting co-generation system to utilize exhausted gas from broiler) and in the household sector through pre-metering.

LNG imports expose Bangladesh to international gas trade price which has several consequences. The weighted average of Bangladesh gas tariff is estimated to jump from USD 1.7 per gigajoules (GJ) to at least USD 3.1 per GJ. This price jump will escalate production cost in the industrial sector affecting competitiveness of industries.

Emphasis on coal-fired power projects to produce projected amount of electricity will require 60 million tonnes of coal per year. Building huge infrastructure including port, rail transport and coal stocking infrastructure to handle this massive volume of coal is a challenge.

Energy pricing (electricity, fuel and gas) and subsidies present a challenge to the economy. Power sector subsidy is estimated to be 2-3 percent of annual GDP of the country. As coal fired projects come into being in the future sustainability of power and energy sector might show some regress.

### 7.3 Way Forward

The Government is introducing highly efficient power plants to the national power grid. Eligible single cycle power plants are being upgraded to combined cycle power plants. Some of the older power plants are in the process of repowering to increase its capacity with high efficient machines.

All the upcoming coal power plants are being equipped with latest ultra-supercritical technology, flue gas desulphurization and electrostatic precipitator to minimize the impact on the environment. Adopting such proven and latest technologies will ensure the proper use of resources to achieve efficiency in power sector.

In order to meet the demand of gas, the Government has plans to import Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG). For this purpose, Floating Storage Regasification Units (FSRUs) are under construction.

To promote development of renewable energy the Government is giving assistance to private sector in terms of incentives for implementing renewable energy-based generation facilities. NGOs and private entities are playing a vital role in implementing solar home system (SHS) in rural areas. The total number of SHS installed in the country is 5.5 million with the capacity to generate 232.99 MW electricity (SREDA, 2019).



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

*Bangladesh has made an upward shift in the average annual growth rate to more than 7 percent in the recent years (FY2015-FY2018) and attained 8 percent in the last year from the 6-7 percent rate experienced earlier. This growth rate coupled with slower population growth led to increasing per person GDP growth and the country is nearly on track to achieve the 2020 target. The estimated unemployment rate in Bangladesh has been closer to 4 percent for a long time and it can be reasonably expected to remain closer to this long run level in the near future. Recent GED Survey revealed that the unemployment rate in Bangladesh is 3.1 percent (2018).*

*Increasing informality which undermines government efforts to ensure decent jobs and higher unemployment rate of women and persons aged 15-29 years that need to be addressed to achieve the 2020 targets.*

### **8.1 Assessment of Progress on SDG 8**

#### **8.1.1 Annual growth rate of real GDP per capita**

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

In 2018 real growth in GDP per capita has increased to 6.40 percent from 5.12 percent in the baseline year of 2015. Per capita GDP has also grown substantially from US\$ 928 in 2011 to US\$ 1909 in 2019.

#### **8.2.1 Annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person**

Growth rate of real GDP per employed person increased to 5.56 percent in 2018 from 4.49 percent in 2015. According to the 2017 labour force survey number of persons employed, defined as persons in employment or engaged in economic activity in the age group of 15 years and above, is 60.8 million (55.8 percent of the total), up by 2.18 percent over the previous year.

**Table 8.1: Economic growth (percent)**

	<b>Baseline 2015</b>	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>2017-18</b>
Annual growth rate of real GDP per capita	5.12	5.77	6.05	6.40
Annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person	4.49	6.27	4.99	5.56

Source: NAW, BBS, 2018

### **8.3.1 Proportion of informal employment in non agriculture employment, by sex**

According to the recent labour force survey of 2016-17, informal employment comprises 85.1 percent with 82.1 percent male and 91.8 percent female. Non-agriculture sector, comprising industry and services sectors, account for 59.4 percent of the total employment, formal and informal combined. The proportion of informal employment in the non-agriculture sector employment has increased slightly from 77.8 percent in 2015 to 78 percent in 2016.

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

According to the recent BBS survey, average monthly wage has improved slightly and was TK 13528 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, which may fuel inequality among working age population, which may fuel income inequality among working age population.

### **8.5.2 Unemployment rate, by sex, age and persons with disabilities**

The overall unemployment situation has marginally improved in the recent years, from 4. percent in 2010 to 3.1 percent in 2018. The female labour has experienced higher unemployment than their male counterpart. Female unemployment rate is more than triple the male unemployment rate. Unemployment rate for male has decreased from 3 percent in 2016 to 1.7 percent in 2018 (GED).

**Table 8.2: Unemployment rate**

	2010	2016	2018
Male	4.1	3	1.7
Female	5.8	6.8	6.9
Total	4.6	4.2	3.1

Source: BBS, LFS, various years and GED (Sample Household Survey 2019)

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

About 28.9 percent of youth (aged 15-29 years) was not in education, employment or training (NEET) in the base year which decreased to about 26.8 percent in the following year. While the proportion of youth male NEET is closer to 9 percent, the proportion of youth female is about 44 percent in 2016-17.

**Table 8.3: Proportion of youth not in education, not in employment (NEET)**

	Baseline 2015	2016-17
Proportion of youth (aged 15-24 years) not in education, employment or training (Percent)	28.9 (M: 10.3, F: 46.7)	26.8 (M-9.2; F-43.9)

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

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

The Bangladesh Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) 2019 is the most recent survey conducted in Bangladesh. According to the survey, 10.8 percent of children in the age group of 5-17 years are classified as working children. Among them, 8.1 percent lives in urban areas while 11.5 percent in rural areas.

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

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

**Table 8.4: Fatal and non-fatal occupational injuries**

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

Source: MoLE, Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishments, 2017

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

Number of commercial bank branches for every 100,000 adults increased to 9.68 in 2018 from 8.37 in 2015. Access to ATMs has also improved significantly in the recent years, from 6.79 in 2015 to 12.41 in 2018 indicating increasing financial accessibility.

**Table 8.5: Financial Inclusion Indicators**

	2015	2016	2017	2018
(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	(a) 8.96  (b) 9.58	(a) 9.61  (b) 9.19	(a) 9.68  (b) 12.41

Source: Bangladesh Bank, 2018

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

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

## 8.2 Key Challenges

The economy has to create more productive jobs to absorb the flow of new entrants with higher average schooling. The majority of workers are employed in the informal sector. Unemployment rates among youths continue to be a cause of concern. There seems to be some inconsistencies between skills demand and supply. High cost of migration, fraudulent practices, substitution of contracts in destination countries and unacceptable conditions of work and living constrain the outward flow of workers.

Female labour force participation (FLFP) remains low (36.3 percent) by world average (49 percent) and while women's education at higher secondary level and above is now widespread, highly educated women face high unemployment rates, much higher than those for comparably educated men. The net annual FDI flow has been low and concentrated on a few sectors such as textiles and apparels, telecommunication, energy and power although this year FDI reached to 3.61 US\$ billion thanks to increasingly improving favourable business environment. The challenges remain in improving ease of doing business and introducing One Stop Service (OSS), improving service delivery particularly in the ports.

## 8.3 Way Forward

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

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

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



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

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

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

*The share of manufacturing value added in GDP has increased significantly already exceeding the 2020 milestone in FY2017. The share of manufacturing employment in total employment increased up to 2013 and then levelled off in the last two years.*

*Total international support to infrastructure has been increasing with some annual fluctuation. The proportion of population covered by 2G mobile network has reached close to 100 percent, while the 2020 milestone has already been achieved in June 2019 in case of 3G technology. 4G coverage has reached to 79 percent in June 2019.*

### 9.1 Assessment of Progress on SDG 9

#### 9.2.1 Manufacturing value added as a proportion of GDP (%)

Manufacturing has been a more dynamic sector in the economy achieving relatively higher growth rate. Accordingly manufacturing value added as a proportion of GDP has been rising steadily since 2000-01 reaching 19.47 percent in 2014-16. It is heartening to note that the share of manufacturing value added in GDP already reached the 2020 milestone of 21.5 percent in FY2017. Increasing share of manufacturing in GDP in Bangladesh is a notable phenomenon. Eighty percent of industrial sector is comprised of manufacturing. With manufacturing growth, industrialization is getting momentum.

**Table 9.1 Share of Manufacturing value added in GDP, 2001-02 to 2016-17 (percent)**

2001-02	2005-06	2010-11	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
15.76	16.13	17.75	20.16	21.01	21.74

Source: Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS)

#### 9.2.2 Manufacturing employment as a proportion total employment (%)

Higher growth of manufacturing output has resulted in higher proportion of employment in the sector. There has been a decline in the manufacturing employment share in 2015-16. The stability in manufacturing employment share in last two years, if continues, will make it difficult to attain the 2020 milestone.

**Table 9.2 Manufacturing employment as a proportion of total employment (percent)**

1999-2000	2002-03	2005-06	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 and Quarterly Labour Force Survey, Various years

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

Mobile phone was first introduced in Bangladesh in October 1990 and 2G in 1992. 3G networks succeed 2G ones, offering faster data transfer rates and are the first to enable video calls. 4G was launched in February 2018. 2G technology coverage has reached closer to 100 percent in June 2019. 3G technology coverage in June 2019 has exceeded the target of 92 percent set for 2020. 4G coverage has reached to 79 percent in June 2019.

**Table 9.3 Proportion of population covered by a mobile network by technology (percent)**

Technology	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019 (upto June)
2G	99	99	99	99.4	99.46	99.49	99.54	99.6
3G	NA	NA	NA	71	90.2	92.55	95.23	95.23
4G								79

Source: Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission

## 9.2 Key Challenges

Road transport improvement faces challenges from complexity of land acquisition along with resettlement and compensation complexity. Other pertinent issues which need to be aligned properly include road construction technology, adequate finance, proper data, and axle load. Road safety maintenance requires proper and adequate roads, road accident data, and awareness of users as well as special attention from traffic police.

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

### 9.3 Way Forward

Government's efforts to achieve SDG 9 rest, on the one hand, on providing infrastructure comprising all modes of transport and ICT infrastructure and, on the other hand, on providing policy support to private sector investment as well as foster public-private partnership. Financing, capacity constraints of implementation agencies, complexity of land acquisition are of the key challenges in this sector. In the face of vulnerability to natural disasters which are worsening due to climate change impact Bangladesh is building resilient infrastructure. Manufacturing growth has to be inclusive and sustainable.



## Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries

*The Government policies have been largely effective in enhancing growth and reducing poverty but they have not succeeded that much in reversing the worsening income distribution. According to recent available data (HIES 2016) income inequality has increased while consumption inequality has remained relatively stable.*

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

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

### 10.1 Assessment of Progress on SDG 10

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

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

#### 10.7.2: Number of countries that have implemented well-managed migration policies

In Bangladesh, Expatriates’ Welfare and Overseas Employment Policy 2016 has been approved in January 2016.

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

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

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

Official development assistance has an increasing trend which has continued in the SDG period. Foreign direct investment shows an increasing trend with annual fluctuation and reached US\$ 3613.30 million in 2018. On the other hand, official development assistance continued to increase to US\$ 4662.52 million in 2017-18.

**Table 10.1: Resource flows for development by type of flows (US \$ million)**

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

Source: ERD \*calendar year

## 10.2 Key Challenges

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

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

## 10.3 Way Forward

The Government is cognizant of the upward trend of inequality in the country and its implications for growth and poverty reduction. An important way to reduce inequality is to ensure access of all people especially the poor and the disadvantaged to quality education and health services.

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 or semi-skilled workers.

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

Migration of workers and its appropriate role in promoting pro poor growth needs to be emphasized. In this context migration will also be mainstreamed with national development process. Expatriate Welfare and Overseas Employment Policy 2016 needs to be implemented effectively.



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

*Comparatively, Bangladesh has a low level of urbanization with an estimated 35 percent of the population living in urban areas in 2016. In terms of absolute urban population of 56.28 million, it is quite large. Nearly 44 percent of the urban population lived in purely temporary structures and 29 percent lived in semi-permanent structures. Thus, an overwhelming proportion of urban households lived in poor quality houses. There has been significant improvement in the quality of housing in recent years as evident from HIES 2016. Close to 96 percent of slum households live in poor quality (not pucca) houses.*

### 11.1 Assessment of Progress on SDG 11

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 acute shortage of land it has started to construct high rise flats and sell those on affordable terms. The government has been planning to construct some 10,000 residential flats for slum dwellers in Dhaka for their rehabilitation.

Completion of the ongoing urban development projects will lead to creation of 7360 km road, 1502 km drain, 3329 meter bridge/ culverts, 36 bus/truck terminals, 22 cyclone shelters, 152 km footpath, 40 solid waste disposal grounds, and 35 fecal sludge treatment plants.

Dhaka city transport system will improve substantially after completion of the construction of five metro rail lines, two rapid transit bus routes, 1,200km 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 2019 will ease the transportation problem to some extent.

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 air pollutants to the ambient AQ standards.

## 11.2 Key Challenges

Rapid urbanization has created increasing demand for housing creating housing deficit. With current rate urbanization and supply of housing, deficit is likely to persist in the future with housing remaining unaffordable for low and middle income households.

Rising demand for construction materials fueled by urbanization and construction itself has been major cause of air pollution in the country especially in the cities.

Rapid urbanization and overall socioeconomic development in the country in recent years have substantially increased demand for improved urban services.

Development interventions cause sufferings of people during implementation which could be avoided though proper coordination among agencies and synchronizing among projects.

## 11.3 Way Forward

Urban Resilience Project is being implemented in Dhaka North, Dhaka South and Sylhet City Corporation areas. It seeks to create an enabling environment for centrally coordinated and locally managed disaster risk management (DRM). It will establish, in addition to increasing institutional capacity, Emergency Operation Centers, Emergency warehouses, satellite control rooms, heavy equipment for emergency management, rescue and life-saving equipment.

## Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

*About 5.5 percent of the total procured food is wasted of which 3 percent is wasted during procurement and preparation stage, 1.4 percent during serving, and another 1.1 percent from the plates.*

*The total solid waste generation in all urban centres in Bangladesh in 2005 stood at 13,332.9 tonnes per day of which Dhaka and Chattogram accounted for 34.8 percent and 11.6 percent of total waste respectively.*

### 12.1 Assessment of Progress on SDG 12

In 2012, heads of states at the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) adopted the 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns (10YFP). This is a global framework for action to shift towards SCP and is closely connected to SDG 12-indicator 12.1.1 refers explicit to implementing it.

The Government is aware of the challenges of achieving accelerating economic growth, social inclusion and environmental sustainability in the face of limitation of natural, physical, human and social capital. Bangladesh has taken initiatives to develop the 10 Year Framework of Programmes on SCP.

### 12.2 Key Challenges

Food loss and waste is a matter of grave concern globally but especially in developing countries like Bangladesh where millions of people go hungry. Food loss occurs due to problems in harvesting, storage, packing, transport, infrastructure or market / price mechanisms as well as climatic conditions. An estimated 10 percent of crop productivity in Bangladesh is lost during postharvest operations.

Food that is fit for human consumption but is not consumed because it is left to spoil or discarded by retailers or consumers is called food waste. The biggest challenge is to ensure behavioural change of people so that sustainable consumption can be ensured as well as wastage of food can be minimized.

### 12.3 Way Forward

Sustainable production in crop agriculture would be ensured through increased surface water irrigation, balanced fertilizers use, use of organic fertilizer, capacity building in post-harvest handling of producers and expanding Integrated Pest Management system.

Electricity generation would be enhanced through coal based and nuclear power-based power plant ensuring adequate safeguards and using environment friendly technology, and utilizing renewable sources.

Adequate water supply would be ensured through encouraging use of surface water and harvesting rain water. Water quality would ensure through provision of fiscal and other financial incentives for retro-fitting or for reduction of effluents from industries and enforcing the Environment Conservation Act & Rules.

CO<sub>2</sub> emission will be controlled through banning older vehicles, introducing improved mass-transit systems in cities, promoting energy efficient technology in brick kilns as well as in household cooking .

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

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

*In facing the climate change scenarios, Bangladesh is well prepared with a number of climate change related strategies, plans and actions. Through BCCTF, it has spent around 2700 crores of taka over last 8 years in climate change adaptation measures. Revision of BCCSAP and preparation of NAP is already underway.*

### 13.1 Assessment of Progress on SDG 13

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

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

#### 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

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

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

Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (BCCSAP): BCCSAP (2009-2018) is the key climate change national action plan and basis for climate investment in Bangladesh. BCCSAP provides an overall framework for action, recognizing the need for adaptation and highlighting the GoB's willingness to follow a low carbon pathway towards achieving development. A roadmap for developing the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) was prepared in 2015. The Government of Bangladesh has prepared and enacted the Climate Change Trust Act 2010 to address the adverse impacts of climate change. Bangladesh was the first government to set up a trust fund namely 'Bangladesh Climate Change Trust Fund' to create a national resource for climate change investments with the aim to support implementation of the BCCSAP. Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC): INDC (now National Determined Contributions – NDC), lays out adaptation and mitigation strategies to increase climate resilience.

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

In 2018, Bangladesh has already received funding from Green Climate Fund (GCF) for the three projects for Clean Cooking Program, Enhancing adaptive capacities of coastal communities and Climate resilient infrastructure mainstreaming in Bangladesh.

## **13.2 Key Challenges**

Over the years, the country has invested heavily in disaster management infrastructures such as flood embankments, flood shelters, cyclone shelters etc. due to which mortality rate has fallen significantly in recent times. However, many of such structures are suffering from lack of proper operation and maintenance. As a result, when disaster strikes the structures

fail to provide adequate protection. Rehabilitation of these structures after a disaster is also becoming a major problem due to requirement of large funds. As a case in point is the considerable time required to rehabilitate the coastal polders after Cyclones Sidr in 2007 and Aila in 2009. People within the polder had to suffer for long time as the polders threatened water congestion in the meantime. Such situations will become more common as cyclones and floods are expected to be more frequent due to climate change.

### 13.3 Way Forward

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



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

*Bangladesh has recently gained a vast swath of marine territory (118,813 sq. km in total). This marine area is rich in natural gas resources and biodiversity. In recent times, it has declared two marine protected areas, one targeting Hilsa breeding ground and another targeting Cetaceans. Total protected area now stands at 2.05 percent of the marine area. Major success has been achieved in Hilsa protection with production almost doubling in last 15 years.*

### 14.1 Assessment of Progress on SDG 14

#### 14.5.1: Coverage of protected areas in relation to marine areas

The Government has established the country's first marine protected area 'the Swatch of No Ground Marine Protected Area' on 27 October 2014 that will safeguard whales, dolphins, sea turtles, sharks, and other oceanic species. The two Marine Protected Areas (MPAs); one in 'Swatch of No-ground' of Bay of Bengal, declared under Bangladesh Wildlife (Conservation and Security) Act, 2012 and another in 'Middle Ground and South Patches' of Bay of Bengal, declared under the Marine Fisheries Ordinance 1983 together comprise 243,600 hectares (2436 sq. km) constituting 2.05 percent of the total marine area 11,881,300 hectares (118,813 sq. km) of Bangladesh. According to Department of Forest (2016-17), coverage of protected areas in relation to marine areas is 7.94 percent.

#### 14.7.1: Sustainable fisheries as a proportion of GDP in small island developing States, least developed countries and all countries

Sustainable fisheries as a proportion of GDP has reduced to 3.14 percent in 2018 compared to 3.29 percent in 2015. This might be because of the faster growth of GDP than that of growth of fisheries.

However, five Hilsa sanctuaries and four major spawning grounds in the coastal and freshwater areas of the country have been established under the 'Protection and Conservation of Fish Act-1950' for the effective conservation of Jatka and brood Hilsa in the major nursery and spawning areas. Twenty-two days (October 12-November 02, 2016) in each calendar year remained banned for fishing in the sea, coastal areas along with the rivers by all sorts of commercial trawlers under the Marine Fisheries Ordinance 1983, section 55, subsection 2 (D) for safe migration and undisturbed spawning of Hilsa.

## 14.2 Key Challenges

Bidders and oil companies are most likely to drill on the shallow shelf sea first due to relative easiness and cost-effectiveness but drilling in this area without extensive and overall environmental, socio-economic and biological impacts analysis may prove to be harmful.

Marine biodiversity has declined sharply due to environmental degradation and numerous anthropogenic activities such as over-fishing of inshore fisheries, indiscriminate catching of juveniles, construction of barrages and dams, siltation, extensive use of pesticides, pollution etc. Increase in the human population and consequent increases in the demand for fish & fishing pressure is aggregating the situation every year.

## 14.3 Way Forward

A balance needs to be maintained between protection of marine biodiversity and industrial activities in and around the coast. Sustainable management of fisheries requires keeping the fish catch within sustainable yield. The government has already imposed a 2 months fishing ban in the Bay of Bengal during fish breeding season in order to conserve fish resources. In order to assess the fish stock of the Bay, a fish stock assessment survey has started this year after nearly three decades. The assessment is expected to be complete by 2019. At the same time, a management or strategic plan on how to manage the marine stock for sustainable use has been also under preparation.

## **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**

*The forest coverage of the country now stands at 14.47 percent (BFD, 2018). The quality of the forest in terms of canopy coverage is becoming a major concern. Increasing tree density is therefore a major target under 7th FYP. In order to protect its very rich bio-diversity, the country has taken many steps among which some are continuing moratorium on tree felling, declaring ECAs, creating special bio-diversity zones and creating two vulture safe zones. Strong implementation is required in order to safeguard the bio-diversity.*

### **15.1 Assessment of Progress on SDG 15**

#### **15.1.1 Forest area as a proportion of total land area**

Total forest area in Bangladesh is 2.58 mha which is 17.5 percent of the total land area of the country in 2015. Bangladesh has successfully brought large swath of newly accreted coastal lands under afforestation. Currently 140,000 ha of land is under mangrove plantation. Coastal afforestation program is accelerated to bring more lands under afforestation.

#### **15.1.2 Proportion of important sites for terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity that are covered by protected areas, by ecosystem type**

Bangladesh currently has 40 Protected Areas (PA) in different locations. A total of 21 PAs (7 National Parks, 12 Wildlife Sanctuaries, 1 Marine PA and 1 Special Biodiversity Conservation Area) have been declared by the government to conserve wildlife and their habitats since 2010.

In 2015, 1.7 percent of the terrestrial area was covered under PA, which was increased to 3.08 percent in 2018.

### **15.2 Key Challenges**

The major challenges in meeting target of forest area are absence of proper document and conspicuous demarcation of forest lands and lengthy procedure of disposing up land related cases. Growing demand of timber and wood for different purposes of development is also eroding forest coverage.

Recent influx of Rohingya refugees from Myanmar is putting tremendous pressure on remaining forests in Teknaf-Cox's Bazar range. Already about 6000 acres of forest land belongs to Forest Department has been allotted for temporary housing of the refugees. The refugees are also collecting fire woods for cooking further depleting the forest resources in the region.

In Sundarban South West, human intrusion during the Rashmela (cultural event) has been identified as a major threat. Among various biological resource use categories, logging is the highest threat, followed by hunting and killing of terrestrial animals and collection of terrestrial plants.

### 15.3 Way Forward

Recognizing that tree density of the forests is not satisfactory, the 7th Five Year Plan targets to increase the tree density by more than 70 percent. The Forestry strategy of the plan includes continuing moratorium on felling in the natural forests, increasing tree density of the existing forests and older plantations through 'enrichment planting' and 'assisted natural regeneration', and intensification of plantation activities in coastal zones.

An estimated of 50,000 ha. land of hill forest and 5,000 ha. of plain land forest will be planted during the plan period. Productivity of plantations will have to be increased manifold. Multi-purpose trees will receive special attention to increase the productivity of land under forest.

The existing coastal afforestation and enrichment plantation will also be continued. The existing mature coastal plantations will remain for reinforcing green belt. An area of 30,000 ha. will be planted and replanted in the coastal areas.

## 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

*The government of Bangladesh has undertaken appropriate measures which contributed significantly to reduce human trafficking and youth mental and physical abuse. Improvement has also taken place in other vital sectors.*

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

*To build effective and accountable institutions and combat corruption in public service the Government has been implementing some governance related initiatives, e.g., Annual Performance Agreement (APA), Citizen Charter, National Integrity Strategy (NIS), and Grievance Redress System (GRS). These tools will ensure creation of more responsive and corruption free public institutions in the future. Government also established Human Rights Commission, Information Commission and Competition Commission to help ensure human rights and justice, transparency and improving behavior of market actors.*

### 16.1 Assessment of Progress on SDG 16

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

Intentional homicide rate during 2003-2014 remained unchanged, around 2.7 victims per 100,000 population. However, according to the Ministry of Home Affairs, in 2015, the rate has dropped to 1.8 with 1.4 for male and 0.4 for female. Intentional homicide rate in 2018 decreased further to 1.65 (MoHA, 2018). However, over the past couple of years this indicator registered an impressive 4.26 percent annual average decline.

**Table 16.1: Number of victims of intentional homicide**

Indicator	2010	Baseline [2015]	2018	Milestone by 2020
Number of victims of intentional homicide per 100,000 population, by sex and age	2.6	Total: 1.8 Male: 1.4 Female: 0.4 (MoHA, 2015)	Total 1.65 Male 1.23 Female 0.42 (MoHA, 2018)	Total 1.6 Male 1.3 Female 0.3

Source: MoHA 2018

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

According to the VAW (Violence Against Women) survey 2015, 57.7 percent of the ever-married women experience any form of violence by their husband. Proportion of women subject to any form of violence in the previous 12 months is 38.0 percent.

### 16.1.4 Proportion of population that feel safe walking alone around the area they live

According to the Citizen Perception Household Survey (CPHS) 2018, 85.85 percent of population feel safe walking alone around the area they live of which 87.88 percent are male and 83.71 percent are female. According to MICS 2019, 74.8 percent of women age 15-49 years feel safe walking alone around.

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

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

**Table 16.2: Victims of human trafficking and sexual violence**

Indicator	Baseline [2015]	2018	Milestone by 2020
Number of victims of human trafficking per 100,000 population, by sex, age and form of exploitation	0.85 (M: 0.53; F 0.32)	0.58 Male 0.36 Female 0.22	Total 0.5 (MoHA,

Source: MoHA 2018

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

In 2015, 72.7 percent of the women who experience violence from their partner never reported their experience to others. Only 2.1 percent victims reported to local leaders and 1.1 percent sought help from police. Since 2015 impressive progress has been achieved in this area. Although an annual target

of providing legal aid to 37000 beneficiaries by 2020 was set, in 2017 legal aid has been provided to 80000 beneficiaries. According to MICS 2019, 10.3 percent of women who experienced violence reported to police.

### **116.3.2 Un-sentenced detainees as a proportion of overall prison population**

This indicator helps assess performance of judicial system in finalizing cases and providing access to an effective judicial system. Available data suggests that, currently, the proportion of un-sentenced detainees is quite high (83.60 percent in 2018) in Bangladesh, more than double the target rate for 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**

According to the Citizen Perception Household Survey (CPHS) 2018, 31.32 percent of population 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.

### **16.6.2 Proportion of population satisfied with their last experience of public services**

According to the Citizen Perception Household Survey (CPHS) 2018, 39.69 percent of population are satisfied with their last experience of public services.

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

The percentage of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority has increased from 37.0 percent in 2012-13 to 56.2 percent in 2019. The percentage is higher in rural areas at 56.8 percent than that of 54.0 percent in urban areas.

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

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

### **116.a.1 Existence of independent national human rights institutions in compliance with the Paris Principles**

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

### **16.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**

According to the Citizen Perception Household Survey (CPHS) 2018, 35.6 percent of population has reported 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. According to MICS 2019, 10.5 percent of women age 15-49 years having personally felt discriminated against or harassed in the previous 12 months (same as 10.3.1).

## **16.2 Key Challenges**

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

Capacity building of the law enforcing agencies and a properly functioning accountability mechanism can significantly improve the situation. Ensuring access to an effective judicial system is one of the key challenges in achieving the relevant SDG targets. Shortage in human and technical resources in the judicial department has been constraining quick settlement of disputes. Reporting incidence of violence, particularly domestic violence and violence against women, is a major issue in the country. Actually preventing violence, protecting the at-risk, supporting victims and making the perpetrators more accountable requires timely reporting of the issues to the appropriate authority.

### 16.3 Way Forward

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



## Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

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

Achieving SDGs will critically depend on the availability of resources including external resources. The need for enhanced international cooperation and support has been emphasized for achieving 62 of the 169 targets. International community will have to provide adequate and timely support to Bangladesh to help implement a comprehensive and all-encompassing development agenda like SDGs by 2030.

### 17.1 Assessment of Progress on SDG 17

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

Government revenue, comprising tax revenue and non-tax revenue in 2017-18 is 11.60 percent of GDP. The tax revenue share has improved to 10.3 percent of GDP from previous year share of 9.7 percent mainly due to substantial increase in the number of registered tax payers, rise in tax revenue collection, and for prudent tax collection and management mechanism. Tax revenue, accounting for over 85 percent of the total government revenue, increased its contribution to the domestic budget in the recent years.

**Table 17.1: Proportion of Domestic Budget Funded by Domestic Taxes (Percent)**

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

Source: Bangladesh Economic Review various years, Ministry of Finance

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

Net official development assistance in 2017-18 was US\$ 6.29 billion, about 70 percent higher than the previous year. The ODA contribution to the country's total annual budget increased from 2015 level. FDI reached 3.6 US\$ accounting for 7.9 percent of budget in 2018.

**Table 17.2: Overseas Development Assistance to Annual Budget**

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

Source: Ministry of Finance

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

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

**Table 17.3: Remittance as proportion of GDP**

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

Source: Ministry of Finance

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

Debt service burden in the recent years has improved significantly, from 7 percent in 2012 to 3.24 percent in FY2017 and to 3.84 percent in FY2018. The impressive improvement in the debt service ratio has been possible, due to low aid inflow and, sustained higher growth of exports. Over last couple of years, increase in exports has been impressive (over 10 percent annually) and that brought down the size of debt service as a proportion of exports of goods and services.

**Table 17.4: Debt service as Percentage of Export**

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

Source: Ministry of Finance

### 17.6.2 Fixed Internet broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants, by speed

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

**Table 17.5: Fixed Internet Broadband Subscriptions**

	2010	2012	2013	2014	Baseline 2015	2016	2017
Fixed Internet broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants, by speed	0.27	0.39	0.97	1.95	2.41 (BTRC, 2015)	3.77	4.46

Source: WDI, WB 2017, and BTRC

### 17.8.1 Proportion of individuals using Internet

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

**Table 17.6: Proportion of Individuals using Internet (percent)**

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

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

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

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

**Table 17.7: Value of Technical Assistance committed to Bangladesh (Million US\$)**

	2012	2013	2014	Baseline 2015	2016	2017
Dollar value of financial and technical assistance (including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation) committed to developing countries	588.0	726.3	680.7	570.8	530.6	596.73

Source: ERD

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

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

**Table 17.8: Average Tariff Rate**

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

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

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

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

## **17.2 Key Challenges**

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

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

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

## **17.3 Way Forward**

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



## Part B: : Poverty Eradication and Inclusive Development within the framework of SDGs

The United Nations (UN) Member States formally adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) agenda on 25 September 2015. The 17 SDGs, and its associated 169 targets with 232 indicators, aim to end poverty, hunger and inequality; act on climate change and the environment; improve access to health and education; care for people and the planet; and build strong institutions and partnerships.

The SDGs are a follow-up on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) adopted in 2000. However, SDGs differ from MDGs in various aspects. SDGs want to ensure that 'No One Is Left Behind'. The new goals have been envisioned to enable countries to utilize their own financial resources and capacity and seek assistance from developed countries on areas where they fall short. SDGs also focus on quality than just quantity. For example, MDG focused on high enrollment while SDG has targeted education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyle. In the global context, the MDGs fell short of meeting the expectation of developing a global partnership for development. Therefore, the SDGs envisaged itself as integrated, indivisible, multi-dimensional global set of objectives and endorsed the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) and adopted the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA). However, there are criticisms with regard to the SDGs with the risk of under-achieving the goals themselves. There are lots of areas of focus and it ultimately runs the risk of becoming "a badly decorated Christmas tree".

Progress of international cooperation in financing has remained largely short of the commitments. The overall external resources, which include foreign direct investment (FDI), towards developing countries have declined. For Bangladesh, the trend of grants, commodity aid and bilateral aid have declined while project aid and multilateral development assistance saw a rise. Particularly, support from the World Bank (WB) and Asian Development Bank (ADB) have been notable, with provision of US Dollar (\$) 19.78 billion and \$13.60 billion respectively over 1971-72 to 2017-18. As bilateral partner, Japan ranks the top, with a total contribution of \$11.36 billion since 1971-72. The progress report of the UN-Secretary General provides a disheartening view on SDGs and the current obstacles, which include declining ODA, misalignment of private sector efforts with SDGs, and the rising trade wars. It reiterated the call for more international cooperation and capacity building activities. For the SDGs to be attained, committed external resource

flow, capacity development, strengthening of political and administrative institutions, transparency, public participation, engagement with youth and communities, and private sector participation is imperative. Without multi-stakeholders' participation, the SDGs will find little success towards its ambitions.

**Goal 1-No Poverty:** SDG 1 targets to end poverty in all forms and dimensions by 2030. GoB is committed to achieving the vision to build a society free from poverty and social disparity through the Perspective Plan of Bangladesh. The Perspective Plan covers the period from 2010 to 2021. It provides the road map for accelerated growth and lays down broad approaches for eradication of poverty. The underlying policies in the Plan stress on the inclusiveness and pro-poor approach to growth so that in the process of reaching the Vision 2021 goal of reaching middle- income status there is substantial eradication of poverty through a comprehensive scheme of social inclusion. The 7th FYP mentions eradication of extreme poverty as a cardinal principle of the strategies laid out in the document.

**Goal 2 - Zero Hunger:** SDG 2 aims to end extreme hunger and malnutrition by 2030. Because of various region-wide destabilization, the number of people suffering from hunger has been increasing globally. Enhanced efforts to address this challenge requires concerted effort from national and international multi-stakeholder partnerships. According to a report by UNWFP (2016), hunger leads to about \$1 billion productivity loss annually in Bangladesh. Considering this, many of the targets of the goal have been incorporated within the national development plans in Bangladesh. One of the broad development goals of the 7th FYP is to achieve higher food security. The targets necessitating international cooperation for success include establishing international seed banks, increasing local and foreign investment in agriculture, and elimination of export subsidies around the world. Notably, a regional seed bank has already been established by the SAARC. While aid in agricultural sector has stayed around \$200 million annually, the Agricultural Orientation Index (AOI) had fallen in 2016 to 0.41 from the previous year's 0.53, which may indicate underinvestment.

Many of successful efforts in Bangladesh have been implemented with support from the international cooperation over the years. It is, therefore, expected that international development cooperation in an expanded form could also contribute to fire up Bangladesh's journey forward through successful implementation of SDGs and targets and managing its graduation challenges in the coming decade.

Poverty alleviation remains central to development policy, planning and public project implementation in Bangladesh. The main thoughts in Sixth and Seventh five year plans was to reduce poverty through accelerate growth and employment creation. The Government of Bangladesh is strongly committed to reducing poverty, improving human development, promoting gender equality and reducing inequality. The Government of Bangladesh has been continuously investing a considerable amount of public resources for uplifting socio-economic status of the people of this country. Onwards 2009, around half of total budget is directly or indirectly allocated for poverty alleviation. Besides, the government has taken the SDGs seriously as the agenda recognizes alleviation of poverty as the greatest challenge for all. Over the past decades, the country has made immense progress in the areas of poverty reduction, gender equality, health and education, sanitation etc. Nevertheless, the government is mindful that these progresses are not enough and it has to make enormous effort and allocate resources to tackle its existing and forthcoming challenges to achieve SDGs.

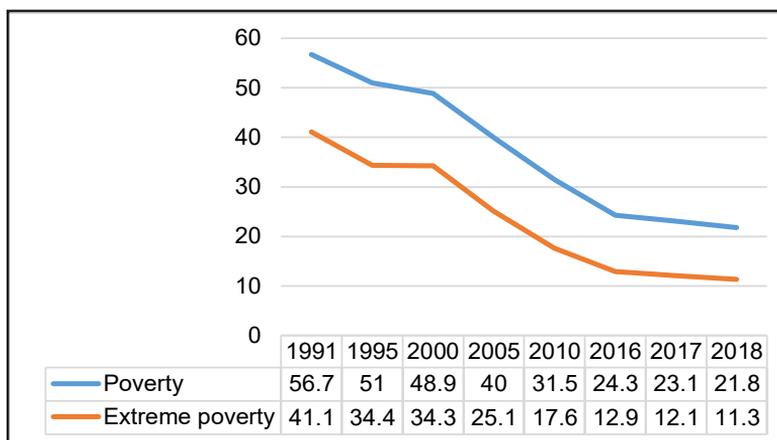
Government of Bangladesh recognizes the multi-dimensional nature of poverty and the need to address the problem by adopting appropriate policies and strategies. Over the last two five year plans development policies and strategies mainly centre on the overarching goal of achieving pro-poor growth. The economy enjoyed annual growth rate persistently around 6.5% during the past eight years. Sustained growth over the last one decade has been instrumental in reducing poverty.

Growth in employment, labour productivity and real wages are the most important factors for sustainable reduction in poverty. The strong growth in total employment, growing faster than labour force growth, along with increases in labour productivity economy wide and especially in agriculture supported the rapid growth in real wages in agriculture. Agricultural workers tend to be amongst the poorest and an increase in productivity and real wages is the most sustainable way of securing reduction in extreme poverty. The growth-employment-poverty reduction linkage focusing on labour intensive urban and rural manufacturing production played pivotal role for reducing poverty.

The underlying philosophy of the government for the economic development of the country is to accelerate growth by fostering industry particularly the manufacturing sector, to create employment from accelerated growth and thereby reduce poverty. Other crosscutting issues that are closely linked to this is the adaptation and mitigation of climate change, disaster risk reduction, and inclusiveness which is basically aligned with principle of SDG – “leave no one behind”. Following table shows poverty rate has fallen substantially,

which has dropped down more than half which is 24.3 according to the last Household Income and Expenditure Survey in 2016. The recent estimate shows poverty came down to 21.8 percent while extreme poverty fell to 11.3 percent in 2018. Our target is to bring moderate poverty down to 18.6 by 2020 and 9.70 by 2030.

**Figure -1: Long term poverty trends**

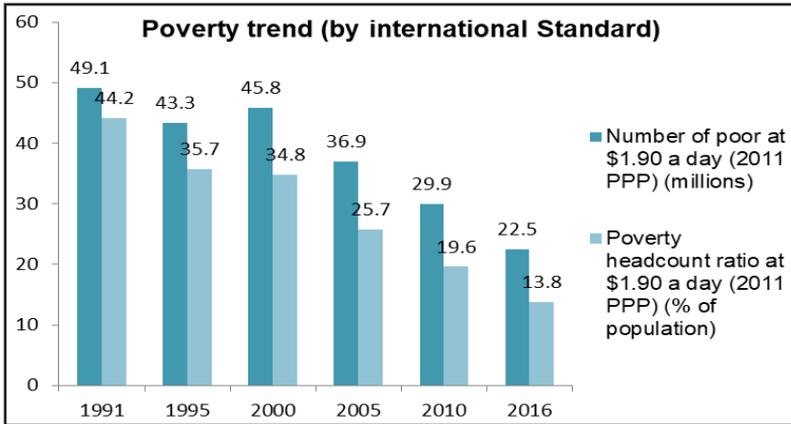


The Government considers inclusiveness as a means of equity, equality of opportunity, and protection in market and employment transitions in course of the growth process. If not addressed, systemic inequality of opportunity has the potential to derail the growth process. Thus, inclusiveness is meant to capture more than income, to include opportunity, productive employment, and access to services for the marginalized and physically challenged people. The inclusiveness and equality will be ensured through a range of measures including improving farm productivity and incomes, sharpening the focus on equity aspects of public spending on education, health, family planning; nutrition and water supply, reducing the regional disparity, improving the access of the poor to means of production (fertilizer, seeds, water, electricity and rural roads), improving the access of the poor to institutional finance and scaling up resource on social safety net and social insurance.

The Government of Bangladesh is firmly committed to fulfill the aspirations of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) - “leave no one behind”. In recognition of the fact that SDGs are overarching, the government has adopted a “whole of society” approach for implementation and attainment of the SDGs.

We have stellar progress in reducing poverty head count ratio at \$1.9 a day (2011 purchasing power parity) to 13.8 percent in 2016 from 34.8 percent in 2000. We have a target to bring extreme poverty down to 3 percent by 2030. There is also achievement in halving total number of poor by international standard to 22.5 million in 2016 from 45.8 million in 2000. All these progresses have been made possible by the comprehensive approach of the government along with programs undertaken by NGOs to fight the poverty.

**Figure-2: Poverty trend by international standard for Bangladesh**

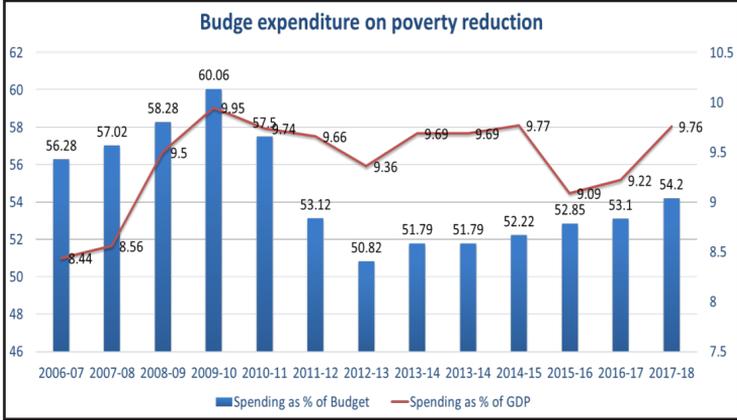


Source: World Bank

The government has formulated a comprehensive National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) to consolidate all safety net programmes to support its citizens who need it most. Distressed people particularly women, children, aged and disabled persons have been given due priority under NSSS. Anti-poverty strategy of the government through the expanded Social Safety Net Programmes (SSNP) to address risk and vulnerability helped reduce poverty and inequality<sup>2</sup>. In order to fight with poverty, for the last decade, more than 50% of the budgetary allocation is directly and indirectly targeted the poverty by revitalizing social protection and empowerment programs under the NSSS 2015.

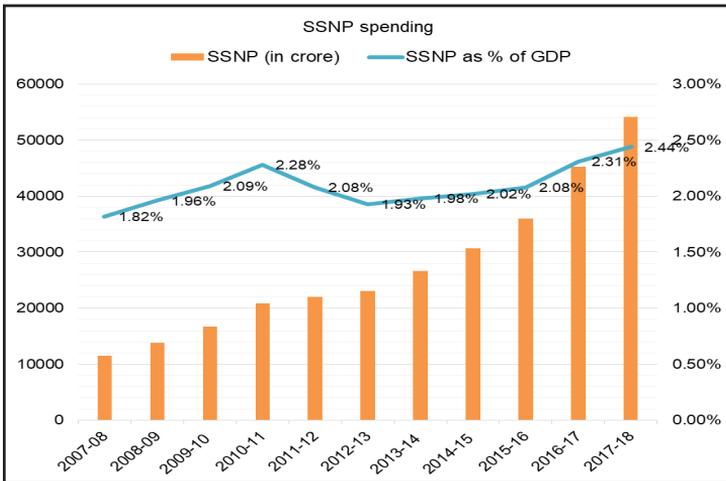
<sup>2</sup> National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) of Bangladesh, General Economics Division, Planning Commission, GOB, July 2015

**Figure-3: Budget expenditure on poverty reduction**



Safety net coverage was 13% of population until 2008. However, approximately 27.80% of households are now receiving monetary benefits (cash or in kind) from any of the government’s social safety net schemes. Distressed people particularly women, children and disabled persons have been given priority under NSSS. The allocation has been hovering around 2% of GDP.

**Figure-4: Social Safety Net Programme (SSNP) spending**



Source: Ministry of Finance

## Strategies of the government to alleviate poverty

The followings are the strategies that our government follows to address the biggest challenge of the development.

- 1) Promote growth by sustaining increases in labour productivity and job creation in manufacturing and service sector;
- 2) Increase farm income through improving agricultural practices;
- 3) Enhance the access of the poor to production inputs (fertilizer, seed, irrigation water, power, rural roads) and to institutional finance
- 4) Expand employment opportunities in lagging regions by improving connectivity with growth poles through better infrastructure and by investing in human capital;
- 5) Facilitate migration from poor areas given the poverty-reducing impact of remittances;
- 6) Undertake entrepreneurship development scheme/strategy/mechanism for the returnee Migrants;
- 7) Stimulate women's participation in the labour force;
- 8) Promote overseas employment including women migration to the new destination and expand the existing overseas labour market;
- 9) Sustain Bangladesh's past successes in reducing fertility;
- 10) Improve poor household's access to and quality of education, health and nutrition services;
- 11) Strengthen the coordination, targeting and coverage of social protection programs;
- 12) Enhance the access to micro finance;
- 13) Ensure stable food prices; and
- 14) Mitigate the adverse consequences of climate change

## “One House, One Farm” project: A grass root model for poverty alleviation

One House, One Farm was undertaken by the present government with a view to alleviating poverty and sustainable development through encouraging savings, capital formation, financial inclusion by income generating activities in rural areas. The project aims to build the habit of saving in rural areas by granting an amount equal to weekly savings, which is contrary to the traditional approach of micro credit. Village Development Organizations (VDOs) are created by rural poor, ultra poor and beggars to develop entrepreneurship among the members. The project operates in all districts of the country with 75531 VDOs as of June 2018. Total number of enrolled beneficiaries is 3.61 million households, which is targeted to reach 6 million (30 million hardcore poor). The project has raised income and solvency of poor families. Low income family is estimated to be lowered to 3 percent from 15 percent in project area. For the sustainability of the impact beyond project period, a new bank called Rural Savings Bank was established. It is the first of its kind in the world as it provides 100 percent online banking dedicated for the poor.

### Factors that drive down poverty

- 1) Steady high economic growth
- 2) Enhanced labour productivity and increased real wages
- 3) Increased investment in Human capital development
- 4) Shift from low return agricultural labor to nonfarm employment
- 5) Growth in export industries particularly in manufacturing ready-made garments
- 6) Increasing flow of remittances
- 7) Fall in the number of family dependents
- 8) Increased coverage of Social Safety Net Programme

### Our Challenges for poverty reduction

- 1) Reaping the benefit of demographic dividend
- 2) Improving agricultural productivity
- 3) Employment enhancing growth
- 4) Minimizing climatic effects

- 5) Improving competitiveness, business investment climate and ease of doing business
- 6) Mismatch in skill development to cater to market demand
- 7) Underemployment (13 million youth not in education, employment and Training)
- 8) Building Strong Institutions and governance
- 9) Scaling up resources for social protection

### **Role of Development Partners in the context of SDGs implementation:**

Forging close and dynamic partnership between Bangladesh and the development partners has never been more pressing than now, particularly in the context of implementation of SDGs and managing the upcoming graduation process. Following areas could be worthwhile to note.

***Redeem obligation on shared responsibility to implement SDGs:*** It is important that the international community, particularly the development partners recognize and take their shared responsibility to assist the developing countries, including Bangladesh in all possible ways to achieve the SDGs and associated targets. The indications are still mixed and the development partners need to intensify their efforts in this direction on a priority basis.

***Mobilizing domestic resource:*** Although the primary burden of mobilizing resources rests with the developing countries themselves through domestic means, so far the evidence is not encouraging. The development partners need to extend technical and other support to the developing countries, particularly LDCs to enhance their capacity for domestic resource mobilization through improving tax regime, and developing other supporting infrastructures and practices to mobilize adequate domestic resources. ODA could be one important tool for this purpose in building capacities.

***Improving capacity for management:*** This is one area where perhaps the developing countries need most support from the development partners. Capacity building could cover a great deal of areas from project management to financial management to human resource development to developing legal and regulatory framework to raising productivity to competitiveness to refining dispute resolution to developing skills for conducting negotiations to advance common interests. The UN Secretary General underscored the importance of this issue in this way, ‘Capacities also needed to be strengthened for national resource mobilization and the expansion of fiscal space, preventing and tackling illicit financial flows and gaining access to available financing, as well as in trade-related aspects, in particular in the least developed countries<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>3</sup> UN(2018), Report of the Secretary General on the progress towards Sustainable Development Goals, 8 May 2018

**Exploring under or unexplored resources:** Bangladesh needs huge support for developing a sustainable and forward looking economy for the present and future generations. Exploring the Blue Economy, renewable energy, Artificial Intelligence, Automation and bio technology could add immense value to achieve those objectives.

**Opening more space for growth acceleration:** Bangladesh is on the cusp of a huge transition and would need enabling regional and global environment to grow at a steady pace during the next few decades. Support for poverty alleviation initiatives, concessional market access, assistance, FDI and loans on favourable terms, transfer of technology and allowing space for its migrant workforce could be helpful and the development partners, both from the developing and developed world could contribute to this process.

**Extending climate management support:** Bangladesh is at the forefront of climate disaster without contributing anything to this calamity. In light of this, the development partners must assist Bangladesh through mitigation and adaptation support to meet those challenges on a sustainable basis.

## Part C: Sustainable Financing for Sustainable Development

Bangladesh has become a frontrunner in implementing SDGs, setting an example of the best practice in mainstreaming global goals and targets into the national plan with an effective drive in SDGs implementation by involving all stakeholders. The following provides an overview of cost assessment and strategy for financing SDGs in the light of Bangladesh perspective.

### SDGs Financing Strategy: Bangladesh Perspective

It is crucial for Bangladesh to have a reasonable estimate of costing and mode of financing for the implementing of SDGs in order to develop a concrete roadmap for implementing and achieving the SDGs goals. The aim is to assess the cost of implementation of SDGs, estimated goal-wise annual additional resource requirements and explore the financing strategy to bridge the resource gap. The study on “SDG Financing Strategy: Bangladesh Perspective” provides a well-defined work plan that highlights all the actions necessary to attain significant progress in the SDGs in Bangladesh.

The report estimates that an additional amount, over the current provision of investment related to SDGs by public sectors and external sources, would be USD 928.48 billion at 2015-16 constant prices. This amount would be required for SDGs implementation over the period of FY 2017-FY 2030, which is 19.75 per cent of the accumulated GDP under 7th FYP period. The annual average cost of SDGs would be USD 66.32 billion (at constant prices) for this period. The domestic fund to be generated for meeting annual average cost is around 57 billion dollar (Table 1).

**Table 1: Financing Strategy for Implementation of SDGs (US \$ in billion)**

	FY17- FY20	FY21- FY25	FY26- FY30	FY17- FY30
Total additional amount from domestic sources (85.11% of total)	107.72	257.49	430.87	796.09
Total additional amount from external sources (14.89% of total)	22.07	43.15	67.17	132.39
Total additional amount from both domestic and external sources (100%)	129.79	300.65	498.04	928.48
Annual average additional amount from domestic sources	26.93	51.50	86.17	56.86
Annual average additional amount from external sources:	5.52	8.63	13.43	9.46
of which FDI	2.73	6.45	10.70	6.91
Grants and Aid	2.79	2.17	2.74	2.55

Source: SDGs Financing Strategy: Bangladesh Perspective (GED 2017)

## Source of Financing

Five potential sources of gap financing have been suggested in the financing study. They are: Private Sector Financing, Public Sector Financing, Public-Private Partnership (PPP), External Financing, of which foreign direct investment and Foreign Aid and Grants and finally Non-Government Organization (NGO). The external source has an average share of around 15 percent. On average, public sector would account for around 34% of the financing requirement, whereas private sector has the share of around 42% during 2017-30 period. The average share of PPP is 6%. The external sources have an average share of around 15% where the share of FDI is 10% and that of foreign aid is 5%. Finally, the NGOs would contribute around 4% for the same period.

## Challenges of Financing

It is pertinent to shed light on the challenges regarding the proper implementation of SDGs in Bangladesh. One of the main challenges in achieving SDGs is vast improvement in implementation of projects and programmes. Delays in project implementation have deleterious impact on cost as well as on the intended benefits. Improving tax-effort by 9 percentage points over the next 13 years will not be easy. NBR must embark on new initiatives based on reforms; automation; capacity development and audit to improve revenue mobilization in Bangladesh. Access to climate funds critically depends on our capacity to negotiate with the development partners. In this context, Bangladesh has identified areas of strengthening. These should be ensured on a priority basis. The 7FYP states that the international experience with the implementation of infrastructure through PPPs suggests that this policy has worked best when the legal framework is well-thought out and when and the management of the initiative involves competent professional staff. The legal framework needs to lay down clear rules of engagement, the incentive framework and dispute resolution mechanism that compares favourably with international good practice. Government needs to work on these two important areas.

In 2018, Bangladesh fetched US\$ 3.61 billion Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). The volume of global investment decreased by 13 percent last year (2017), whereas it increased by a robust 68 percent in Bangladesh. Having US\$ 6.91 billion FDI annually during the period 2017-2030 would be attainable.

Implementation of PPP remains a big challenge. The potential areas for PPP are the power generation, infrastructure and urbanization. Despite positive developments, PPP has yet to emerge as a major financing avenue

in Bangladesh. Three factors can be largely ascribed to slow progress in PPP. These include: (i) absence of a well-thought out legal framework; (ii) lack of internationally competent professional and project management staff; and (iii) lack of PPP related capacity in Ministries.

## **Moving Forward**

UNESCAP (2016) estimated that by 2030 it will cost 10% of GDP in India and 20% of GDP in Bangladesh to initiate the social investment package. South Asian countries require greater resources to meet the infrastructure gap. Larger domestic and external resources can be stimulated through the following strategies: (i) Domestic Resource Mobilization: Improving the tax base and reinforcing tax administration and compliance can boost domestic resources. Also, identifying the loopholes and closing them to prevent tax leakages is essential. (ii) Harnessing private investments and public-private partnerships for sustainable development: PPPs have shown considerable success in addressing specific urban infrastructure needs since they can contribute to enhancing public investments. Countries have also stimulated private sector to contribute to the corporate social responsibility to increase public resources. (iii) Regional and international cooperation for sustainable financing: Potential for regional cooperation is immense in South Asia. This can be used to meet the resource financing needs of the relatively less developed capital markets from the more developed capital markets. SAARC Development Fund, South Asian Development Bank and the New Development Bank can all contribute to raising capital and should soon be put into function.

# List of SDGs Related Publications by GED Since 2016

1. Integration of Sustainable Development Goals into the 7<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan (February 2016)
2. A Handbook on Mapping of Ministries by Targets in the Implementation of SDGs aligning with 7<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan (2016-20) (September 2016)
3. Data Gap Analysis for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Bangladesh Perspective (January 2017)
4. টেকসই উন্নয়ন অভীষ্ট, লক্ষ্যমাত্রা ও সূচকসমূহ (মূল ইংরেজি থেকে বাংলায় অনূদিত) (প্রকাশকাল : এপ্রিল ২০১৭)
5. Bangladesh Voluntary National Review (VNR) 2017: Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world (June 2017)
6. SDGs Financing Strategy: Bangladesh Perspective (June 2017)
7. A Training Handbook on Implementation of the 7<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan (June 2017)
8. Bangladesh Development Journey with SDGs [Prepared for Bangladesh Delegation to 72<sup>nd</sup> UNGA Session 2017] (September 2017)
9. Monitoring and Evaluation Framework of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Bangladesh Perspective (March 2018)
10. National Action Plan of Ministries/Divisions by Targets for the Implementation of SDGs (June 2018)
11. Journey with SDGs Bangladesh is Marching Forward [Prepared for Bangladesh Delegation to 73<sup>rd</sup> UNGA Session 2018] (September 2018)
12. এসডিজি অভিযাত্রা: এগিয়ে যাচ্ছে বাংলাদেশ (জাতিসংঘ সাধারণ পরিষদের ৭৩তম অধিবেশনের জন্য প্রণীত) (সেপ্টেম্বর ২০১৮)
13. Synthesis Report on First National Conference on SDGs Implementation (November 2018)
14. Sustainable Development Goals: Bangladesh First Progress Report 2018 (December 2018)
15. টেকসই উন্নয়ন অভীষ্টঃ বাংলাদেশ অগ্রগতি প্রতিবেদন ২০১৮ (ইংরেজি থেকে অনূদিত) (এপ্রিল ২০১৯)
16. Empowering People: Ensuring Inclusiveness and Equality [For Bangladesh Delegation to High-Level Political Forum 2019] (July 2019)
17. Prospects and Opportunities of International Cooperation in Attaining SDG targets in Bangladesh (September 2019)
18. Bangladesh Moving Ahead with SDGs [Prepared for Bangladesh Delegation to 74<sup>th</sup> UNGA Session 2019] (September 2019)



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