



Bangladesh Voluntary National Review (VNR) 2025



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

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Table of Contents

List of Abbreviations	3
Opening Statement	6
Executive Summary	7
2. Methodology and process of the VNR report preparation	11
3. Policy and Enabling Environment	14
3.1. Institutional Mechanism for SDGs Implementation	14
3.2. Policy Frameworks for Transformative Development	14
3.3. Leveraging Private Sector Roles in Social and Sustainable Investment	16
3.4. Innovation and Digital Transformation in the Private Sector	16
3.5. Strengthening Evidence-Based Accountability	18
3.6. Localizing the SDGs: From National Plans to Community Action	19
4. Review of progress of the SDGs	23
4.1. SDG 1: No Poverty	23
4.2. SDG 2: Zero Hunger	25
4.3. SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being	26
4.4. SDG 4: Quality Education	29
4.5. SDG 5: Gender Equality	31
4.6. SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation	35
4.8. SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth	38
4.9. SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	41
4.10. SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities	43
4.11. SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities	44
4.12. SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production	46
4.13. SDG 13: Climate Action	47
4.14. SDG 14: Life Below Water	50
4.15. SDG 15: Life on Land	52
4.16. SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	53
4.17. SDG 17: Partnerships for The Goals	56
5. Leaving No One Behind: Status and Aspirations	58
6. New Context, New Initiatives	63
Bibliography	73
Annex	75

List of Abbreviations

8FYP	Eight Five-Year Plan	BWBD	Bangladesh Water Development Board
ACC	Anti-Corruption Commission	CAO	Chief Adviser's Office
ADR	Alternative Dispute Resolution	CARE	Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere
AFOLU	Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use	CBOs	Community-Based Organizations
AIDS	Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome	CDM	Clean Development Mechanism
AIMS	Aid Information Management System	CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
AOI	Agricultural Orientation Index	CHT	Chittagong Hill Tracts
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations	CPHS	Citizen Perception Household Survey
BBS	Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics	CSO	Civil Society Organization
BCCSAP	Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan	CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
BCCTF	Bangladesh Climate Change Trust Fund	CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
BDHS	Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey	DHS	Demographic and Health Survey
BDHS	Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey	DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
BDP	Bangladesh Delta Plan	HIES	Household Income and Expenditure Survey
BFIU	Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit	HIV	Human immunodeficiency virus
BIDA	Bangladesh Investment Development Authority	ICT	Information and Communications Technology
EIAs	Environmental Impact Assessments	IDCOL	Infrastructure Development Company
EPI	Expanded Programme on Immunization	ILO	International Labour Organization
ERD	Economic Relations Division	IMF	International Monetary Fund
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific	IMO	International Maritime Organization
ESD	Education for Sustainable Development	ISA	International Seabed Authority
EU	European Union	IUB	International University Bangladesh
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization	JAC	Judicial Appointments Commission
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment	JMC	Joint Monitoring Cell
FID	Financial Inclusion Department	LDC	Least Developed Country
FMC	Fisheries Monitoring Centre	LEED	Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design
FTA	Free Trade Agreement	LFS	Labour Force Survey

GCED	Global Citizenship Education	LNOB	Leave No One Behind
GCF	Green Climate Fund	LPG	Liquefied petroleum gas
GDP	Gross Domestic Product	M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
GHG	Green House Gas	NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
GIS	Geographic Information System	NHRC	National Human Rights Commission
GIU	Governance Innovation Unit	NMR	neonatal mortality rate
GoB	Government of Bangladesh	NPDM	National Plan for Disaster Management
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals	NSAs	Non-State Actors
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey	NSDS	National Sustainable Development Strategy
MMR	Maternal Mortality Ratio	NSSS	National Social Security Strategy
MoE	Ministry of Education	ODA	Official Development Assistance
MoF	Ministry of Finance	PKSF	Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation
MPA	Marine Protected Area	PPPs	Public–Private Partnerships
MW	Mega Watt	QLFS	Quarterly Labor Force Survey
NAP	National Adaptation Plan	R&D	Research and Development
NBR	National Board of Revenue	REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
NCD	Non-communicable diseases	RMG	Ready-made Garments
NDC	Nationally Determined Contributions	SCP	Sustainable Consumption and Production
NDCC	National Data Coordination Committee	SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
NEET	Not in Education, Employment, or Training	UPs	Union Parishads
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations	US	United States
NHRC	National Human Rights Commission	VAW	Violence Against Women
NEET	Not in Education, Employment, or Training	VDCs	Village Development Committees
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations	VNR	Voluntary National Review
NEET	Not in Education, Employment, or Training	WASH	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene
SHS	Solar Home System	WHO	World Health Organization
SME	Small and Medium Enterprise		
SOEs	State-Owned Enterprises		
STS	Smooth Transition Strategy		

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BANGLADESH

Opening Statement

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

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

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

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

As we prepare for our graduation from Least Developed Country (LDC) status, Bangladesh is calling for a renewed multilateral spirit that can provide an institutional pathway to support smooth transition and sustainable transformation of the economies of the graduating countries. Bangladesh stands ready to take on a leadership role—as a constructive, credible, and principled advocate for equitable development and shared prosperity across the world.

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

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Muhammad Yunus', with a large loop at the start and a horizontal line at the end.

(Professor Muhammad Yunus)

Executive Summary

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

Chapter 1: Introduction

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

Chapter 2: Methodology

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

Chapter 3: Policy and Enabling Environment

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

Chapter 4: Progress Reviews of the SDGs

Chapter 3 presents a detailed scrutiny of Bangladesh's progress across all 17 SDGs, with particular focus on health, gender equality, decent work, marine ecosystems, and partnerships. There are noteworthy positives that need to be mentioned. Fewer people are living in extreme poverty. More children—especially girls—are in school. Access to electricity has expanded, and social protection coverage has widened. Health care access has improved. RMG workers continue to face risk and low pay. Bangladesh's coasts are degraded by erosion, salination, and destructive fishing. The chapter also highlights persistence and innovations that are closing gaps. Communities are shifting to solar power, mobile health clinics, women-owned cooperatives, and ICT-based services to close service gaps. These are not stopgap solutions—they're blueprints for the future. However, scale, data, and improved coordination are necessary to effect a systemic change nationwide, building on and capitalizing from isolated and sporadic gains.

Chapter 5: Leave No One Behind – Status and Aspirations

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

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

Chapter 6: New Context, New Initiatives

The mid-2024 political changes were a turning point. The uprising of young people led to the establishment of a new government, one that emerged with promises of reform, accountability, and changing the pattern of how development is conceived and delivered. In this connection, the Interim Government formed a White Paper Committee to assess the economic and institutional damage of recent years. Alongside this initiative, a high-level Task Force laid out a new development strategy. Eleven reform commissions were formed to address root problems, including electoral credibility, judicial independence, and gender inequality.

Along with this, new initiatives were undertaken, including formalizing informal work, supporting small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), building climate-resilient infrastructure, and piloting universal health coverage. The approach was different—less centralised, more responsive, more open to the public's ideas. These are only beginning to materialise, but they suggest a transformation to achieve a development model based on trust, equity, and shared responsibility.

Chapter 7: Translating Vision into Reality: Strategic Pathways to 2030

The final chapter reaffirms the government's commitment to the faster implementation of the SDGs and urges regional and international cooperation in specific areas, including financial and technological support, equitable transboundary water sharing, overseas migration, international trade, and economic integration. The way forward revolves around five critical areas: establishing better local government; enhancing digital services; developing climate-resilient water, health, and education systems; improving the transparency and responsiveness of planning; and bridging the gap between words and action. The graduation out of LDC status in 2026 brings a sense of urgency—and of opportunity. The country must be able to draw in new investment, grow exports, and prepare its citizens for the next-generation economy.

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

Background

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

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

Bangladesh has been facing macroeconomic challenges, including episodes of higher inflation, exchange rate volatility, a fragile financial sector, and current account imbalances. In that backdrop, the ongoing political transition presents an opportunity; if the country can enhance its SDG targets, these challenges can be effectively addressed. The balance of payments crisis was initially triggered by rising import costs and slower-than-expected growth in export earnings during the post-COVID-19 recovery. This situation was further exacerbated by the weak policy responses of the previous regime, which are now being addressed through the adoption of a cautious monetary policy stance. As a result, the decline in foreign exchange reserves has been halted, with reforms currently underway to ensure effective economic stabilisation.

Reform initiatives have been reinforced focusing on improving fiscal discipline, modernising public financial management, and enhancing the regulatory environment. At the same time, careful attention has also been given to the selection of prudent development programmes. Structural reforms in state-owned enterprises (SOEs), energy pricing, and labour market flexibility are expected to unlock new productivity gains. Bangladesh's graduation from Least Developed Country (LDC) status, scheduled for November 2026, underscores the urgency of carrying forward these reforms while simultaneously operationalizing smooth transition strategies. As the VNR 2025 acknowledges, these macroeconomic

dynamics are not isolated from the SDG agenda—they are intricately linked to poverty reduction, inequality, job creation, and sustainability.

A Transformative Reform Moment

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

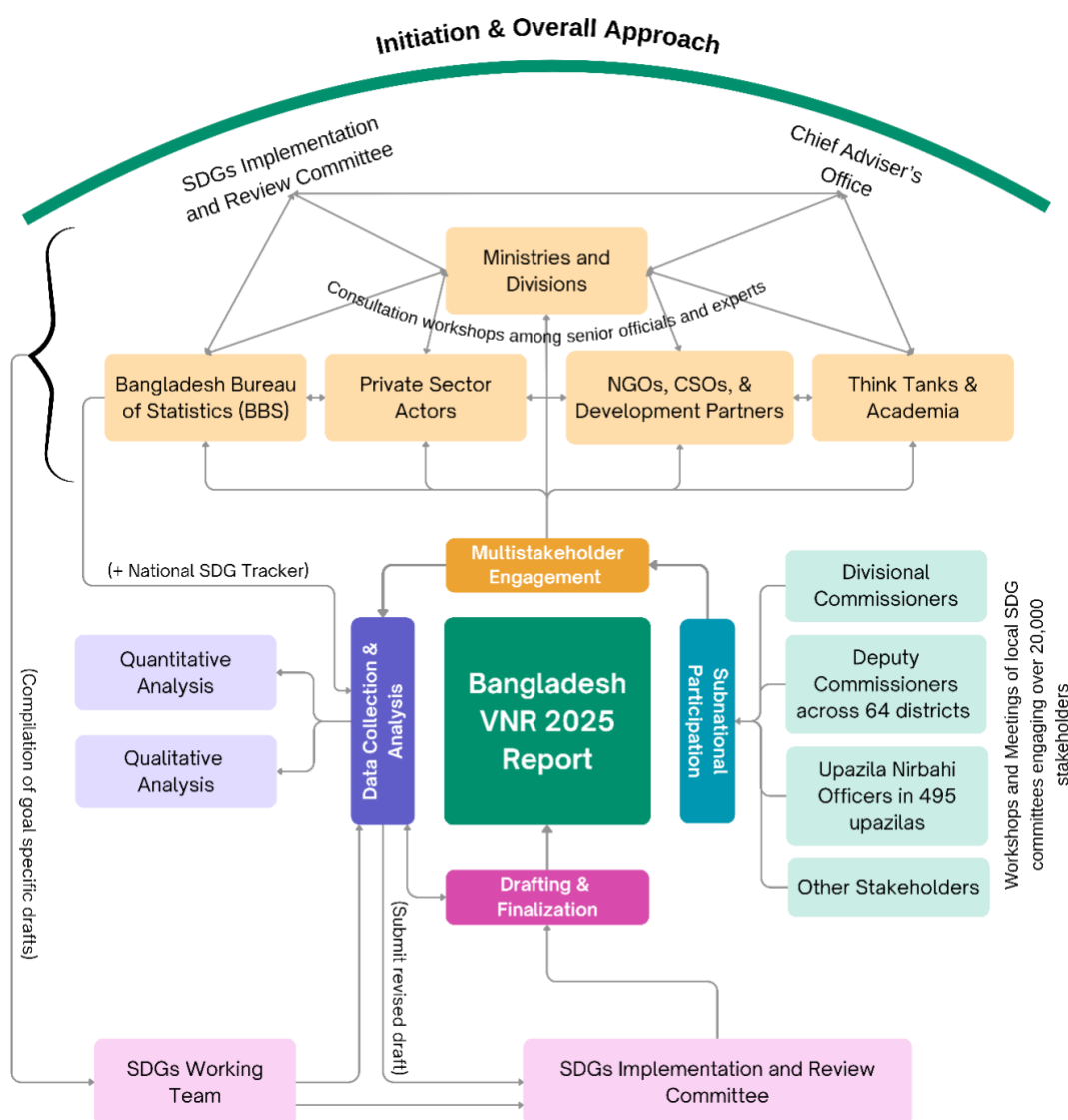
Simultaneously, sectoral reforms have focused on expanding access to healthcare, strengthening labour protections, advancing gender equality, and integrating the informal economy—which represents over 80% of employment—into the formal sector. Environmental and climate resilience also feature prominently,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

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

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

CHAPTER 2: METHODOLOGY AND PROCESS

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



Data Sources and Analytical Framework

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

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

Multi-Stakeholder Engagement

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

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

Grassroots and Subnational Participation

To strengthen and reinforce local engagement, Divisional Commissioners conducted consultations with officials from districts, sub-districts (upazilas), local governments, and other stakeholders. Approximately 800 participants in each division attended these workshops, which assessed progress concerning localized SDG indicators (39+1 indicators). Deputy Commissioners across 64 districts and Upazila Nirbahi Officers in 495 upazilas organised meetings of local SDG committees, engaging over 20,000 stakeholders. These

grassroots and subnational contributions informed the national VNR document, enriching it with a bottom-up perspective.

Drafting and Finalization of the VNR Report

The initial draft of the VNR was prepared by the SDGs Working Team (SDGWT) based on goal-wise inputs received from coordinating Ministries/Divisions, local government, NGOS, private sectors, development partners and CSOs. Then the draft VNR report was shared and consulted with SDGs focal points of various stakeholders through consultation workshops. The General Economics Division, which provides the secretariat support to the SIR Committee, revised the draft report in consultation with the SDGWT based on the feedback of the consultation workshops following the UN Secretary-General's Voluntary Common Reporting Guidelines. The revised draft was again validated by all stakeholders through a validation workshop and the final report was approved by the SIR Committee.

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

CHAPTER 3: POLICY AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

3.1. Institutional Mechanism for SDGs Implementation

Bangladesh has developed an institutional framework to coordinate and implement the SDGs in a way that is inclusive, transparent, and effective. This structure brings together actors from government, civil society, the private sector, and development partners to ensure that progress on the SDGs is well-managed and widely owned. At the centre of this framework is the SDGs Implementation and Review Committee, chaired by the Principal Coordinator (SDGs Affairs) at the Chief Adviser's Office. This high-level body includes secretaries from 42 ministries and divisions, making it the key national platform for SDG oversight and coordination. To ensure broad representation, the committee also comprises key non-governmental actors, such as the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce & Industries (FBCCI) for the private sector, the NGO Affairs Bureau, the Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) for grassroots development, and the UN System. At the central of this framework is the SDGs Implementation and Review Committee, chaired by the Principal Coordinator (SDGs Affairs) at the Chief Adviser's Office. This high-level body includes secretaries from 45 ministries and divisions, making it the key national platform for SDG oversight and coordination.

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

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

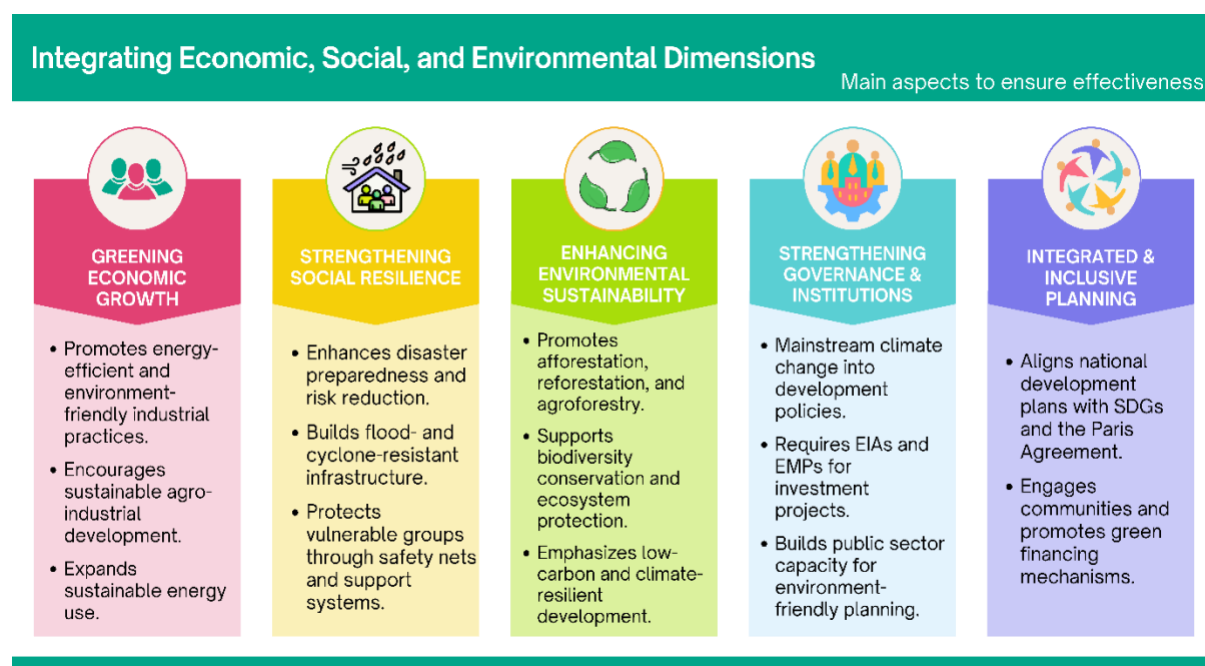
3.2. Policy Frameworks for Transformative Development

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

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

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

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



3.3. Leveraging Private Sector Roles in Social and Sustainable Investment

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

Role of PPPs and Other Initiatives in Development Investment

The Public-Private Partnership Authority, under the Chief Advisor's Office, has played a pivotal role in institutionalizing Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) through policy frameworks and project pipelines. However, financing and implementation remain concentrated in the transport and energy sectors, with limited expansion into social and green infrastructure. A shift toward more structured investment through SDG-linked partnerships, particularly those involving private sector leadership and blended finance, is gaining momentum.

Social business, a non-dividend, financially sustainable company that maximizes social benefit instead of purely focusing on profit, is a concept advocated by Nobel Peace Laureate Muhammad Yunus. These businesses focus on homegrown solutions to address local socioeconomic problems and add a proactive dimension to local entrepreneurship development, green investments, and community empowerment among marginalized groups. In Bangladesh, examples of social business practices are gaining popularity, serving as an alternative dimension to development investment.

Key Initiatives on PPPs in Development Investment:

- **Skills for Employment Investment Program (SEIP)**, supported by ADB and led by the Finance Division, private training partners trained over 7 lakhs youth with a 60% employment rate, as of May 2025.
- **Public-Private Partnership Authority (PPPA)** oversees 81 active PPP projects across health, education, IT, transport, infrastructure, energy, and shipping, etc.
- **Grameen Caledonian College of Nursing (GCCN)**, a social business, has produced over 1,168 nursing graduates for both domestic and international service, with 889 students currently enrolled in various nursing programs.
- **BRAC's Graduation model** supported by donor-private-NGO partnerships, lifting ultra-poor households sustainably.
- **PRAN-RFL's** CSR-led skills development and community engagement models linked to local employment creation.

3.4. Innovation and Digital Transformation in the Private Sector

The private sector in Bangladesh is a major driver of digital transformation, not only for profit-driven innovation but also for broadening access to essential services.

Government collaboration, especially under the ICT division, has supported digital inclusion by engaging private sector actors in delivering last-mile services. However, rural-urban divides, affordability issues, and digital literacy remain key barriers to maximizing the transformative potential of these innovations.

Notable Innovations and Digital Transformation Initiatives:

- **ICT Division** provide digital training and promote SME skills and e-services delivery.
- **Kasha**, a tech-driven initiative that offers discreet access to reproductive health products for low-income women.
- **Grameenphone's "Internet School"** project promotes digital education in remote communities.
- **SOLshare's** peer-to-peer solar energy trading platform brings clean energy to off-grid areas.
- **Bhumijo**, a Dhaka-based social enterprise, build a low-cost, gender-sensitive urban sanitation solutions.

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

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

Selected Green and ESG Initiatives in the Private Sector:

- **LEED Certification:** 243 LEED-certified factories, including 101 Platinum and 128 Gold, with 68 of the top 100 highest-rated LEED-certified factories in the world.
- **Bangladesh Bank:** Promotes green financing through policy mandates and refinancing schemes.
- **IDCOL:** Finances solar home systems and renewable energy projects.
- **PRAN-RFL Group:** Implements circular economy practices by recycling plastic waste from product packaging, aiming for 100% plastic recycling by 2030.
- **ACI Limited:** Promotes sustainable farming practices and water conservation, aligned with Good Agricultural Practices (GAP).
- **Grameenphone and Unilever Bangladesh:** Publish sustainability reports aligned with the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) frameworks.
- **BRAC Bank:** Integrates ESG into its operations and corporate governance.
- **DBL Group and Ha-Meem Group:** Implement water recycling and treatment systems in textile production, utilizing advanced water-saving technologies.
- **Bangladesh Steel Re-Rolling Mills (BSRM):** Recycles steel waste into new products, minimizing resource depletion.

3.5. Strengthening Evidence-Based Accountability

Bangladesh is making progress in enhancing evidence-based accountability for the implementation of the SDGs. Bangladesh government has finalized the national Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Framework that outlines the current status (benchmark) and sets targets for the SDGs indicators for the desired milestones of 2025 and 2030.

The availability and quality of data are increasingly highlighted in different SDG workshops and seminars to ensure that planning and policies are grounded on consistent evidence. Still, certain issues remain, such as the number of SDG indicators are defined by low data availability and lack of disaggregated data by marginalised groups (e.g., women, childrenren, persons with disability, climate-vulnerable people, etc.). Though UNESCAP's SDG Gateway reports that Bangladesh ranks first in South Asia and eighth in the Asia-Pacific region for the availability of SDG data, the Data Quality Assessment score of about 40 out of 100 indicates room for improvement.

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



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

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

and practical recommendations to strengthen the country's capacity for evidence-based monitoring and accountability.



(Note: Compilation from Multistakeholder Workshop on SDG Data Gaps-Jointly Organized by BBS, ESCAP, UN Women, and RCO on 23-24 March, 2025)

3.6. Localizing the SDGs: From National Plans to Community Action

Emphasizing the "whole-of-society" approach, the country has engaged underprivileged people, business entities, NGOs, and local governments in its development initiatives. By conducting workshops and capacity-building programs, the Governance Innovation Unit (GIU) of the Chief Adviser's Office has played a crucial role in translating global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into practical, local priorities. Bangladesh established 39 national priority indicators (NPIs) in 2018 plus one more to handle particular local concerns. Therefore, to match the local goals with the 2030 Agenda, decentralized governance, innovative methods, and active involvement of civil society were important in promoting inclusive and sustainable development.

Strengthening Local Government Institution

The decentralized governance structure of Bangladesh is the foundation of its SDG localization strategy. This structure includes rural local governments, such as Zila Parishad (District Council), Upazila Parishad (Sub-district Council), and Union Parishad (Union Council), as well as urban local governments, such as Pourashava (Municipalities) and City Corporations. These bodies are playing key role in delivering essential

social services like health, education, sanitation, and local economic development to communities under their jurisdiction.

Empowered by the Union Parishad Act, 2009, amended in 2024, Union Parishads (UPs) stand as the first point of contact for the rural people, assigned to address the immediate and basic needs of their communities. Upazila Parishads, functioning as an intermediary tier, coordinates service delivery across sectors and bridging the gap between local and national priorities. They are supported by the Upazila SDG Implementation and Coordination Committees, which oversee the action plans. To improve accountability, participatory tools such as Ward shava (community meetings), open budget sessions, and annual reporting mechanisms enable citizens to influence the development planning and monitor progress. These platforms ensure that localization is not only technically sound but also socially responsive. In 2024, the government unveiled the National SDGs Communication Strategy and Action Plan (NSCSAP), a comprehensive framework aimed at engaging citizens, particularly youth, students, and local authorities, in advancing progress on the SDGs.

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

Contribution of Civil Society, NGOs, and Community Organizations

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

Awareness-Raising and Advocacy

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

Mobilizing Community Participation

Community organizations have heavily mobilized local involvement in SDG-related projects. By involving women, youth, and marginalized groups in decision-making processes, they help ensure that development

plans are both inclusive and equitable. For instance, THP's SDG Union Strategy operates in 185 unions and utilizes Participatory Action Research (PAR) to empower the poorest individuals as "barefoot researchers," enabling the establishment of Self-Help Groups (SHGs). These projects encourage community ownership of development goals. Reaching over 700,000 ultra-poor individuals in northern Bangladesh, CARE's SHOUHARDO-III project provides integrated solutions in nutrition, resilience-building, and agriculture.

Capacity-Building and Technical Support

Local governments and community leaders have received necessary guidance and capacity-building support from NGOs and CSOs. Organizations like BRAC and Grameen Bank offer training on data collection, gender-sensitive planning, and local SDG monitoring. Volunteer networks—comprising youth and women leaders, PAR facilitators, and peace ambassadors—enhance local governance and community engagement. These volunteers support Union Parishads by working alongside them. Furthermore, Save the Children's MOMOTA initiative in the Rangpur division has enhanced local health systems through capacity-building for health professionals, transportation support for expectant mothers, and facility upgrades, thereby directly advancing SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being). Importantly, the private sector and NGOs are also being engaged in capacity-building programs to align their activities with national development goals, thereby embracing a "whole-of-society" approach.

Promoting Gender Equality and Social Inclusion

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

Strengthening Governance and Accountability

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

Addressing Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability

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

associated with SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) while also strengthening regional climate adaptation frameworks.

Leveraging Partnerships for SDG Localization

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

CHAPTER 4: REVIEW OF PROGRESS OF THE SDGS



4.1. SDG 1: No Poverty

Poverty alleviation has been a key priority of the government of Bangladesh. To end poverty, the country has focused on promoting international migration as a major driver of its economic growth and expanding its social protection programmes. Moreover, multipronged programs to ensure food price stability, increase women's participation in the labour force, improve access to institutional finance and microfinance for the poor, mitigate the effects of climate change, enhance access to and the quality of education and healthcare have been ongoing. Recognising the importance of resource mobilisation for poverty eradication, Bangladesh has also ramped up its pro-poor public social spending from 13.6% of its national budget in 2016 to 17.06% in FY 2024-25.

Poverty has fallen, although rural-urban disparity persists.

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

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

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

Good Practice

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

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

Challenges and Way Forward

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



4.2. SDG 2: Zero Hunger

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

Progress in reducing undernourishment and food insecurity is slowing, revealing post-pandemic stagnation.

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

Child stunting has declined, but the rise in wasting and persistent anaemia reflects ongoing nutritional challenges.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Challenges and Way Forward

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



SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being

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

Maternal and child mortality have declined, but rural access to quality care and the 2030 targets remain out of reach.

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

Child mortality trends also show mixed outcomes. According to Sample Vital Registration System (SVRS) of BBS, the under-five mortality rate (U5MR) improved from 36 per 1,000 live births in 2015 to 28 in 2021 but rose again to 33 in 2023. However, the neonatal mortality rate (NnMR) stagnated, with a national rate of 20 per 1,000 live births in both 2015 and 2023, despite a dip to 16 in 2022. Rural-urban disparities are also evident here, with rural NnMR being higher than urban rates in most cases since the base year of 2015, and limited progress toward the 2030 NnMR target of 12 and the U5MR target of 25.

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

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

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

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

Persistent health system gaps drive high costs and limited coverage

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

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

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

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

Mortality rates due to household and ambient air pollution rose from 149 per 100,000 in 2016 to 241 in 2023. Unsafe water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) conditions also worsened, with related mortality increasing from 119 in 2016 to 161 in 2023, far from the 2030 target of 4.5 deaths per 100,000. These figures underscore the urgent need for environmental health to be a policy priority. Unintentional poisoning, primarily due to improper handling of chemicals and pollution, has maintained a mortality rate of 0.30 per 100,000 from 2016 through 2021. Although low, this rate has not improved, indicating a need for better regulation, increased community awareness, and cross-sectoral collaboration.

Road traffic injuries are a significant area of concern. SVRS of BBS results conclude that the deaths decreased from 4.96% in 2015 to 3.29% in 2018, with males comprising the majority of casualties.

Good Practice

Establishment of NCD Corners at Upazila Health Complexes: To address the burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs), Bangladesh has established NCD Corners at Upazila Health Complexes. Funded by the Government of Bangladesh and Reimbursable Project Aid (RPA), with a budget of BDT 138 million, this initiative operates under WHO-adapted clinical protocols and provides accessible screening, diagnosis, and treatment services by trained multidisciplinary teams at the primary healthcare level.

Grameen Healthcare Services (GHS) as Social Businesses: Through an integrated approach to health education and service delivery, GHS have significantly strengthened Bangladesh's health system. GHS offers affordable and often free healthcare to underserved communities.

Challenges and Way Forward

- Unequal access to maternal and child health services continues to be a major obstacle to reaching SDG 3. Targeted investments in community-based midwifery programs, mobile health services, and rural health infrastructure are essential for addressing inequity and ensuring equitable service delivery.
- NCDs are now responsible for 67% of fatalities and mental health issues, such as suicide, are on the rise. Tackling this requires scaling up prevention through school and workplace campaigns, strengthening early detection via NCD Corners, and integrating mental health into primary care with trained personnel.
- High OOP expenses account for 73% of total health spending, which causes postponed treatment or financial difficulty. Expanding schemes like SSK, increasing public health financing, subsidizing essential medicines, and piloting insurance for informal workers can enhance financial protection.
- Human resource shortages and misdistribution hamper healthcare delivery and service quality. With only 12.78 health workers per 10,000 people and acute rural deficits, the imbalance is evident. Addressing this requires scaling up medical education, incentivizing rural deployment, establishing regional training centres, and using digital tools for workforce management.
- Environmental and road safety-related health risks are growing threats to public health. Air and WASH-related deaths remain high, and road traffic fatalities are rising. Bangladesh must enforce pollution control, expand clean energy and WASH infrastructure, and fully implement the Road Transport Act with smart monitoring to mitigate these risks.



SDG 4: Quality Education

With the overarching goal of ensuring quality education for all, Bangladesh has achieved notable progress by attaining gender parity in primary and secondary schools and near-universal enrolment in primary education. Several policies have played a key role in improving national education accessibility. The National Educational Policy 2010 extended free primary schooling to eight years. Moreover, in 2019, the government introduced the National School Meal Policy that sought to meet the nutritional needs of primary school students and increase school attendance. Despite these strides, many challenges have persisted.

Early childhood development and youth literacy rates have improved; however, rural-urban disparities in literacy and gaps in pre-primary learning persist.

In 2019, 74.5% of children (aged 24-59 months) were on track in their early development in terms of health, learning, and psycho social well-being, moving closer to the 2025 target of 80%. However, disparities remain across regions. 77.9% of urban children were on track compared to 73.7% of their rural counterparts.

Adult literacy rates have remained stagnant since 2020 at 75.6%, with a pronounced disparity along both the rural-urban and gender dimensions, albeit to a lesser extent. However, the youth have a much higher literacy rate than the country's adults, increasing from 95.1% to 96% from 2020 to 2023 with girls outperforming boys since 2015.

Learning outcomes have improved but shortcomings in the quality and completion of early education remain.

Assessing the minimum reading proficiency of school children, according to the Literacy Assessment Survey (LAS), at grade 3 and end of primary levels (grade 5), the proportion of children fulfilling the criteria stood at 61.9% and 94% respectively in 2023 with both groups exceeding the 2030 target (57.9% and 53.2%, respectively) than the former. The situation is more promising at the lower secondary level, with 98.52% of students meeting minimum reading proficiency in 2023.

Regarding the proportion of children meeting the minimum proficiency levels in mathematics, it highlights the need for targeted interventions, including improved math teachers and teaching resources, particularly at the secondary education level. Specifically, in 2023, 61% and 95.87% of schoolchildren possessed the minimum math proficiency at grades 3 and the end of primary levels, respectively (the target for 2030 is 41.1% and 38.7%, respectively). However, at the end of secondary education in 2023, only 23.63% of children met the minimum requirements, falling way short of the 2025 target of 55%.

The completion rate of primary education in 2023 stood at 67.54% falling short of both the 2025 and 2030 targets (87% and 95% respectively). For lower secondary education, although the completion rate increased slightly from 64.7% in 2019 to 59.95% in 2023. However, the completion rate of upper secondary education was 47.4% in 2023.

Gender parity has been achieved in primary and secondary education but gaps in tertiary and technical education persist.

On a national level, in 2023, gender parity in education has been achieved at the secondary, and higher secondary and tertiary levels with the Gender Parity Index (GPI) values for each level exceeding 1 (2030 target) respectively. Gender parity has also been achieved in education for disabled students for the first time with a GPI of 1.39, surpassing the 2030 target of 1. However, gender equality in education is yet to be achieved at the primary level (with a GPI of 0.95 in 2023).

Despite increased youth engagement, gender and rural-urban divides persist in education, training participation, and ICT skills.

In 2023, nearly 13% of youth and adults participated in formal or non-formal education and training, with approximately 14.5% of participants being men compared to 11.5% being women.

Moreover, ICT skills reveal low proficiency across all age groups. For example, in 2023 less than 5% of youth and adults could carry out basic computer tasks like copy-pasting data, sending messages with attachments, or using basic formulas in arithmetic. When it comes to more advanced skills like fact-checking online information or programming, the situation is more dire with only 3.4% and 0.2% of youth and adults possessing such skills. Digging deeper, there is also a rural-urban divide even in the possession of basic ICT skills, with 9.7% of youth and adults being able to copy and paste data compared to 2.7% of their rural counterparts. Still, it is promising that the youth (aged 15-24) outperform broader age groups in terms of their ICT proficiency. For example, 0.3% of youth and adults can create electronic presentations, while this skill is present in 0.5% of youth aged 15 to 24.

School infrastructure, teacher qualifications, and SDG education integration are advancing, but inequalities in access to facilities and the need for more trained teachers remain critical.

Bangladesh primarily incorporates Global Citizenship Education (GCED) and Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) into the curriculum from preschool to grade 12 via its National Curriculum Framework 2021. Consequently, in 2022, it received its highest scores of 0.87 in national education policies and 0.85 in teacher education, respectively. The national curriculum and students' assessment practices received a score of 0.76 and 0.67 respectively, suggesting scope for further mainstreaming.

According to Annual Primary School Census (APSC), in 2023, primary schools achieved near-universal electricity access (95.3%) and surpassed 2025 targets for single-sex sanitation (90.8%) and access to safe drinking water (97.8%). However, 71.2% of primary schools offered basic handwashing services in 2023. In terms of digital accessibility, while 92.5% of primary schools had access to computers for teaching, 79% had internet access, falling short of the 2025 target (100%). Moreover, while the proportion of schools with disability-friendly infrastructure and materials commendably rose from 37.5% to 47.1%, the number is far below the 2025 target of 80%.

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

Good Practice

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

Challenges and Way Forward

- Low participation in pre-primary education, poor learning outcomes in both the primary and secondary levels, and high dropout rates emphasize the need for educational reform.
- The inadequate inclusion of marginalised groups, such as, children with disabilities and Indigenous students in backward areas continues to struggle in getting equitable access. Inclusive infrastructure (e.g., ramps), multilingual materials, and community-based schooling can play a vital role in bridging these gaps.
- Insufficient digital infrastructure and ICT skills, particularly in rural areas and among youths, hinder the use of the full potential of economic opportunity. Improving internet access, providing more training on ICT in remote areas, and training teachers in digital tools will modernize learning environments.
- Persistent rural-urban disparities in literacy and the gender gap in tertiary and technical education necessitate targeted intervention. Scholarships for women in tertiary education, early education programs focused on rural areas, and initiatives to improve digital accessibility can promote more equitable participation.

- Underfunding and climate vulnerability jeopardize the resilience and continuity of education all across Bangladesh. To address this, it is essential to increase public education investment, attract international support, and implement climate-resilient strategies, such as blended education, which combines in-person and remote learning, to ensure uninterrupted access to quality learning during disruptions.



SDG 5: Gender Equality

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

Legal frameworks and political commitments have strengthened women’s rights, but implementation gaps and socio-political biases persist.

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

Furthermore, Bangladesh has maintained gender budget shares above 30% since 2015-16, peaking at 37.9% in 2020-21 and stabilizing at 33.9% in 2022-23, with a target of 35% by 2025 to promote equitable resource allocation.

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

Violence against women in Bangladesh shows a declining trend, yet underreporting and service gaps, considering the socio-cultural fabric of Bangladesh, remain herculean barriers to achieving a violence-free society. The proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual, or psychological violence has declined from 38% in 2015 to a combined total of 22.8% in 2024. According to the Violence Against Women (VAW) Survey of 2024, the prevalence of any form of violence

remains as high as 70% against ever-married women aged 15 and above. Rural and urban breakdowns in 2024 stand relatively close, at 24.2% and 24.8% respectively, indicating that violence is pervasive throughout the country. Progress is also evident when it comes to reducing sexual violence by non-intimate partners. In 2015, the national rate stood at 2.45%. By 2024, the total had diminished sharply to 0.46%, with rural and urban rates closely aligned at 0.45% and 0.48%, respectively.

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

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

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

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

Good Practice

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

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

Challenges and Way Forward

- Promoting gender equality through education, awareness, and change of social norms, need to be enhanced in all spheres of life. However, the struggle remains dire as gender-based violence, though outlawed, continues due to weak enforcement and societal acceptance.

- Expanding ICT and digital literacy initiatives would be instrumental in reducing the digital divide related to gender and unlocking new opportunities for women.
- Additionally, the looming threat of climate change weighs heavily on women, especially in vulnerable regions, deepening existing inequalities. Bangladesh is therefore integrating gender perspectives into climate strategies to bolster women's resilience and leadership.



SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation

Bangladesh has expanded access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation services in recent years. Although ensuring equitable coverage and the consistent adoption of hygiene practices across regions and populations remain key impediments.

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

Access to water and sanitation has undeniably improved, yet the benefits are not being distributed equally across the country. While 71.22% of the population had access to safely managed drinking water services in 2023, Bangladesh still faces the formidable challenge of reaching 100% coverage by 2025. Similarly, safe sanitation services are only available to 45% of the population as of 2023, a number that makes the ambitious target of 80% by 2030 seem quite challenging to achieve. In terms of hand-washing facilities, the percentage of the population with access to soap and water has dropped to 65.2% in 2023, down from 71% in 2020, making the goal of achieving 100% by 2030 seem like an impossible feat.

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

In 2021, 40.73 million cubic meters of domestic and industrial wastewater were safely treated, showing an increase from 32.8 million cubic meters in 2020, which delineates progress. On the other hand, water-use efficiency has significantly declined, from 9.82 USD per cubic meter in 2020 to 5.84 USD per cubic meter in 2021, indicating a need for urgent reform in water resource management.

Bangladesh remains below global water stress thresholds.

As of 2023, the country remains in the initial stages of implementing integrated water resources management (IWRM), with 64% of integration achieved in 2023, compared to 58% in 2020. At the same time, transboundary water cooperation remains a significant challenge. Although Bangladesh shares several vital water sources with its neighbouring countries, only 38% of the transboundary basin areas

have formal, operational cooperation arrangements in place as of the data of both 2022 as well as 2018 (JRC, 2022), which makes the target of reaching 50% for 2030 to be extremely difficult.

Sustaining financing and local participation are essential for inclusive and resilient water governance.

From 2016 to 2022, the amount of water and sanitation-related official development assistance that is part of a government-coordinated spending plan for water and sanitation saw a steady increase, peaking at 526.6 in 2019. However, this trend slowed down, with a decline to 326.7 in 2023.

Good Practice

Community-Managed Desalination for Water Security in Satkhira: To address critical water scarcity caused by salinity and aquifer limitations in Arpangasia village, Satkhira, a reverse osmosis (RO) desalination plant was installed in 2021 by Shushilan with Oxfam's support. This climate-resilient, community-managed system ensures safe water access for thousands and empowers women through active leadership in water governance.

- Provides 14,000 litres of safe drinking water daily to 4,000 people, improving health in a high-risk zone.
- Benefits 440 households by reducing dependency on unsafe water sources.
- Empowers women through the Women in WASH Platform, ensuring inclusive water

Challenges and Way Forward

- In Bangladesh, rapid urbanization and inadequate waste management are straining water resources in many different ways, particularly in growing cities. The way forward lies in improving water management systems as well as expanding modern infrastructure to cope with the urban demand, especially through projects in places like Dhaka and Chattogram.
- Meanwhile, urban-rural disparities continue to widen, leaving rural and marginalised urban communities with limited access to safe water. The path ahead involves focusing on inclusive water solutions that target vulnerable populations.
- Lastly, vulnerability to climate change, especially in coastal areas, leads to a scarcity of freshwater resources. The salinity intrusion and flooding are further detrimental to the water sources, while climate adaptation is needed to tackle these challenges.



SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy

The country has taken steps in diversifying its energy mix by scaling up renewable energy initiatives and enhancing energy efficiency. However, persistent challenges in investment, infrastructure, and technological capabilities must be tackled through coordinated policy initiatives and multinational collaboration to ensure inclusive and sustainable energy access for all.

Bangladesh has achieved near-universal electricity access, though disparities in service consistency and quality remain a concern.

Bangladesh has made significant improvements in providing access to electricity over the past decade, with near-universal coverage expected by 2023, a target the government was set to achieve in 2022. Due to policy commitment and continued investment in grid and off-grid electrification, in 2023, 99.53% of the population had access to electricity, increasing from 78% in 2015.

Clean energy and efficiency are advancing, but the adoption of renewable energy remains limited in the overall energy mix.

Reliance on clean fuel technologies has been persistent in showing progress in Bangladesh. In 2023, 29.67% of people used clean fuels predominantly, which is far below the 35% objective set for 2030 and marginally below the 30% target set for 2025. Energy intensity has shown positive results in terms of efficiency, as energy intensity declined from 2.81 ktOE/BDT billion in FY 2015-16 to 1.28 ktOE/BDT billion in FY 2022-23, indicating improved energy efficiency.

Investments and installed capacity for clean energy are rising, but greater scale and speed are needed to meet future energy demands.

The renewable share increased slightly between 2015 and 2023, rising from 2.79% to 4.11%. Faster implementation and stronger public-private partnerships are crucial for 10% renewable electricity generation by 2030, as envisioned in The Integrated Energy and Power Master Plan (IEPMP) 2023. Clean energy funding from international donors rose from USD 301 million to USD 497 million between 2015 and 2019.

Challenges and Way Forward

- With only 4.11% of total final energy consumption coming from renewable sources in 2023, well below the 2030 target of 10%, accelerating renewable energy adoption is critical. The way forward involves enhancing private sector participation through tax incentives, scaling solar and wind infrastructure, and tapping into global carbon markets via mechanisms like the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM).
- Solar and wind projects face significant investment barriers, especially without predictable financing models. Mobilising domestic and international financial resources, including concessional loans, PPPs, and innovative tools like Export Credit Agency (ECA) financing to de-risk private investment and accelerate project implementation.
- The intermittent nature of solar and wind energy requires modern grid systems and efficient energy storage.



SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

Steady economic growth has resumed post-pandemic, but productivity gains and per capita income growth remain below targets.

Bangladesh's economy has remained relatively stable since the COVID-19 pandemic, but gains in productivity and per capita income continue to fall behind when the national and the SDG targets are concerned. Target 8.1 calls for at least a 7% annual growth rate of real GDP per capita in least developed countries like Bangladesh, yet revised figures, which came up following the political transition, show per capita GDP growth was only 4.22% in FY 2023-24. The annual growth rate of GDP per employed person has decreased from 3.83% in 2021 to 3.47% in 2024.

Informal employment continues to dominate the labour market, with women disproportionately affected.

Informal employment has been one of the major challenges plaguing Bangladesh's labour markets, with over 84.08% of the total employed population being in the informal sector as of 2023. The burden of informal employment falls strenuously on women, with rates exceeding 95% from 2015 to 2023, while the percentage for men is around 78% during the same period.

Moreover, youth employment underscores similar susceptibility, with the 2023 Labour Force Survey showing that 92.1% of employed youth (aged 15–29) work in informal arrangements, reflecting significant

barriers to formal employment, lack of experience, limited access to vocational training, as well as persistent mismatches between education and labour market demand.

Labour market inequalities persist, with gender pay gaps and limited wage growth in key sectors.

In 2023, female earnings lagged behind in most of the sectors, with older women facing the sharpest disparities, with women above 65 earning 70% less than men of the same age group (SIDA, 2024). Though total unemployment has steadily dropped to 3.35% in 2023, gender gaps still persist. Meanwhile, people with disabilities face even steeper barriers, with only 27.29% of those aged 15 and over employed in 2022 (BBS, 2022)

Youth unemployment and disengagement remain significant.

In 2023, 39.9% of youth aged 15–24 were not in education, employment, or training (NEET) (SVRS, 2023). According to the LFS, 2023, among the total NEET youth, 61.7% are females and 38.3% are males, revealed a persistent gender gap.

Child labour has increased among boys and older adolescents, posing a setback to progress.

According to the Child Labor Survey, in 2022, around 34.3 % of children between the ages of 5 and 11 years were engaged in child labour. In the 14-17 year age range, the percentage was even higher, at 51.8%, with a male-female disaggregation of 57.4% and 32.5%, respectively.

Digital and financial inclusion is improving, but challenges in financing and strategy persist.

Data from Bangladesh Bank's Financial Inclusion Department (FID) indicates that the number of commercial bank branches per 100,000 adults has remained relatively stable from 2015 to 2023. In contrast, the number of ATMs per 100,000 adults has increased significantly, rising from 7.96 in 2015 to 14.81 in 2023.

Bangladesh has made progress in the proportion of adults (15 years and older) with an account at a bank or other financial institution, or with a mobile money service provider, which reached 51.71% in 2023. According to the Bangladesh Bank Financial Inclusion Report 2023, as of December 2023, 58% of mobile financial service (MFS) accounts were held by males and 42% by females. Overall, 62.86% of males and 43.46% of females aged 15 and above have access to formal financial services. Meanwhile, microfinance institutions predominantly serve rural populations, with 91% of beneficiaries being women.

Good Practice

Employment Injury Scheme (EIS) for RMG Workers: To enhance social protection for about four million ready-made garment (RMG) workers in Bangladesh, a pilot Employment Injury Scheme (EIS) was started in June 2022. Aligned with ILO Convention No. 121, the scheme offers financial compensation for workplace injuries, including death and permanent disability. This initiative, which features a tripartite governance board to ensure accountability, marks a good step toward formalising social security systems in one of the country's key economic sectors.

Futurenation: Through the partnership with Grameenphone, UNDP's Futurenation platform is transforming youth development in Bangladesh by connecting thousands of young people from marginalised and mainstream backgrounds to skill-building, entrepreneurship, and job opportunities. By leveraging digital tools, global mentorship, and institutional collaboration, the initiative bridges skill gaps and enhances employability in the era of digital transformation.

Challenges and Way Forward

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



SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

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

In Bangladesh's villages, there has been a streamlining when it comes to the path to opportunities since by 2023, 91.1% of rural residents lived within 2 kilometres of an all-season road, a jump from 88.5% just a year before. This expansion translates to easier journeys to schools, markets, and hospitals.

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

Bangladesh's manufacturing sector has been growing its share, rising from 20.35% of GDP in 2016 to 23.82% in 2024, with similar figures for manufacturing value added per capita. However, the share of manufacturing employment as a proportion of total employment has declined from 14.4% to 11.56%. Meanwhile, the share of medium- and high-tech manufacturing has slipped to just 5.48% of value added in 2024.

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

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

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

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

Good Practice

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

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

Challenges and Way Forward

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



SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities

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

Income growth for the bottom 40% of Bangladesh's population increased from 7.7% in 2016 to 15.1% in 2022, surpassing the national targets for 2025 and 2030 of 9.5% and 10%, respectively. However, wealth inequality persists, with the top 10% holding 41% of national income.

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

In 2016, approximately 15.98% of people lived on less than half the median income, and this figure remained consistent through 2018, indicating significant social and economic exclusion.

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

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

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

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

Challenges and Way Forward

- disproportionately impacted by indirect taxes, which account for over two-thirds of national tax revenue, despite the fact that more than two-thirds of registered taxpayers do not actually pay taxes. This regressive tax system fails to redistribute wealth and undermines efforts to reduce inequality. Strengthening the tax structure through progressive taxation and enhancing tax compliance can significantly bolster the government's capacity to address income disparities and foster inclusive growth.

- Although there have been increases in real terms, budgetary allocation for key sectors continues to fall short of global standards, remaining under 2% of GDP for education, less than 1% for health, and approximately 2.5% for social protection.
- Enhancing social mobility and reducing long-term inequality depend on increasing financial investments in these sectors, especially for disadvantaged populations.



SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

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

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

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

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

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

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

Urban environmental management systems need urgent and sustained improvement.

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

Good Practice

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

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

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

Challenges and Way Forward

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



SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production

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

Despite the policy frameworks being integrated into the national strategies, the rising material footprint is deeply concerning for Bangladesh, as it rose from 494 million tonnes in 2015 to 1012.38 million tonnes in 2023. Per capita material footprint also rose during this period, reaching 5.92 tonnes per person in 2023.

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

Bangladesh saw a 32.8% hike in food waste from 10.62 million tonnes in 2021 to 14.1 million tonnes in 2024. With disaggregated compliance for agreements like the Basel Convention at 50%, the Montreal Protocol at 100%, and the Stockholm Convention at 66.7%, Bangladesh's compliance rate with international hazardous waste agreements was 58.66% in 2022. Continuously high generation of hazardous waste (about 27 kg per person) and minimal treatment progress (only 0.26% of hazardous trash was processed in 2020–21, up slightly from 0.23% in 2018–19).

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

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

Good Practice

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

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

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

Challenges and Way Forward

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



SDG 13: Climate Action

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

Bangladesh is advancing disaster resilience with declining disaster impacts

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

However, local government-level progress remains critically inadequate, as by 2019, only 8.33% of City Corporations and 0.99% of Paurashavas had adopted and implemented local disaster risk reduction (DRR) strategies aligned with national frameworks, with only one of twelve city corporations meeting this essential benchmark.

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

The National Plan for Disaster Management (NPDM) 2021–2025 aligns comprehensively with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015–2030), integrating climate resilience, gender-responsive approaches, and private sector participation. Bangladesh revised its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) at the national climate policy level in 2021, with the current development of the third NDC, broadening sectoral coverage beyond energy to include agriculture, industry, waste management, and land-use change.

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

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

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

Good Practice

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

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

Challenges and Way Forward

- Although Bangladesh has mobilized USD 1,189.5 million against a USD 12,000 million requirement by 2025, a substantial financing gap remains. Though mobilizing private sector investments, carbon taxes, and better-designed plans for funds like the Green Climate Fund (GCF) are vital, instruments like the Climate Fiscal Framework (CFF) and Bangladesh Climate Change Trust Fund (BCCTF) provide significant foundations.
- Although disaster resilience has improved nationally, local-level adoption of risk reduction strategies remains low, with only 8.33% of city corporations and 0.99% of municipalities implementing plans by 2019. Strengthening local disaster management committees, offering targeted capacity-building programs, and equipping vulnerable areas with early warning systems will empower communities to respond effectively to growing climate risks.
- The European Green Deal and other regional trade regulations are expected to impede trade and investment for developing countries like Bangladesh, especially in light of the country's imminent graduation from LDC status. Regional initiatives led by economic powerhouses that impose trade restrictions and environmental conditionalities indiscriminately run counter to the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities (CBDR-RC), as enshrined in the Paris Agreement. The UN should step forward build consensus across members so that the core environment principles are respected.
- Balancing Green Transition with Industrial Growth will remain a challenge. As one of the world's lowest carbon emitters, Bangladesh faces the dual challenge of pursuing a green transition while sustaining industrial development. Without adequate financial and technological support, adopting environmentally sustainable practices could undermine economic progress and hinder the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- In Accessing Concessional Climate Finance for Adaptation, Bangladesh continues to face significant barriers in accessing concessional climate finance, particularly for adaptation measures. Complex procedures, high transaction costs, and stringent eligibility criteria hamper the timely and effective utilization of available funds necessary for building climate resilience.
- Bangladesh also has to face Fiscal Trade-offs due to Climate-related Disasters. With the increasing frequency and intensity of climate-induced disasters, governments are compelled to divert limited resources toward disaster response and management. This fiscal burden constrains investments in productive sectors such as health and education, ultimately impeding progress toward sustainable development. This reality reinforces the moral and developmental imperative for concessional financing, not only for disaster management but also for underfunded, high-impact sectors vital to the future well-being of societies.



SDG 14: Life Below Water

Marine pollution remains a persistent threat, as unstable nutrient levels underscore the need for improved management.

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

The progress of marine protected area expansion has stagnated, requiring renewed efforts to strengthen ocean conservation zones.

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

Efforts to combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing have improved, but enforcement gaps weaken the overall impact.

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

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

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

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

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

Good Practice

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

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

Challenges and Way Forward

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



SDG 15: Life on Land

Forest coverage and sustainable management practices are growing but restoring degraded land and improving mountainous biodiversity protection demand urgent attention.

The forest coverage has remained stagnant, with the proportion of total land increasing marginally from 14.10% in 2015 to 14.47% in 2018, and then remaining unchanged by 2020. Although this circumstance reflects positive direction, it falls short of the national goals of 18% by 2025 and 20% by 2030. The country's progress on sustainable forest management is evident through a net forest area change rate of 0.23%.

Protected areas have expanded across terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems, yet gaps remain in coverage and management innovation.

Bangladesh has made some progress in expanding terrestrial protected areas. From 1.7% in 2015, the protected area of terrestrial ecosystems increased to 3.06% in 2019 (BFD, 2020), with a target of 5% by 2030. According to the 2024 Plant Red List, 395 out of 1,000 assessed plant species are classified as threatened, including 5 critically endangered, 127 endangered, and 263 vulnerable species. A further 256 species had insufficient data for assessment, reflecting critical knowledge gaps.

Strengthening enforcement against illicit wildlife trafficking and augmenting biodiversity financing are critical for protecting endangered species and attaining long-term conservation goals.

Bangladesh continues to wrestle greatly with illegal wildlife trade. With an illegal wildlife trade indicator of 252 in 2021, the country underlined the severity of the problem. Though organisations like the Wildlife Crime Control Unit and Wildlife Circle are active, enforcement resources remain inadequate, especially in remote areas and porous border zones. Biodiversity-relevant revenue rose significantly from USD 14.7 million in FY 2015–16 to USD 81.8 million in FY 2020–21—a 457% increase.

Good Practice

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

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

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

Challenges and Way Forward

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

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



SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

Progress in reducing violent deaths and improving public safety is evident.

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

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

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

protests and state responses, have increased. In 2025, CPHS reported that 89.53% and 80.67% of the male and female populations, respectively, felt safe walking alone around the area they lived in after dark. A further disaggregation shows 83.75% of the urban and 85.3% of the rural population felt the same way.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Public service delivery is improving.

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

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

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

Good Practice

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

Challenges and Way Forward

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



SDG 17: Partnerships for The Goals

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

In Bangladesh, the tax-to-GDP ratio has generally been around 8% between 2016 and 2023 (FD, 2023). The proportion of the domestic budget funded by domestic taxes declined, from 63% in FY2015–16 to 61% in FY2023–24, and remains inadequate to meet the growing fiscal needs of the country. Strengthening the digital tax infrastructure, enhancing taxpayer education, and enforcing compliance among high-income individuals and corporations are essential to improve domestic revenue mobilization.

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

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

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

In Bangladesh, the debt service to export ratio decreased from 8.6% in FY2014–15 to 8.1% in FY2023–24, due to growing external borrowing and fluctuating export earnings. The recent depreciation of the Bangladeshi Taka has further increased the cost of external debt repayment.

Bangladesh has made progress in digital access, but technological capacity remains below regional standards.

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

Good Practice

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

Challenges and Way Forward

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

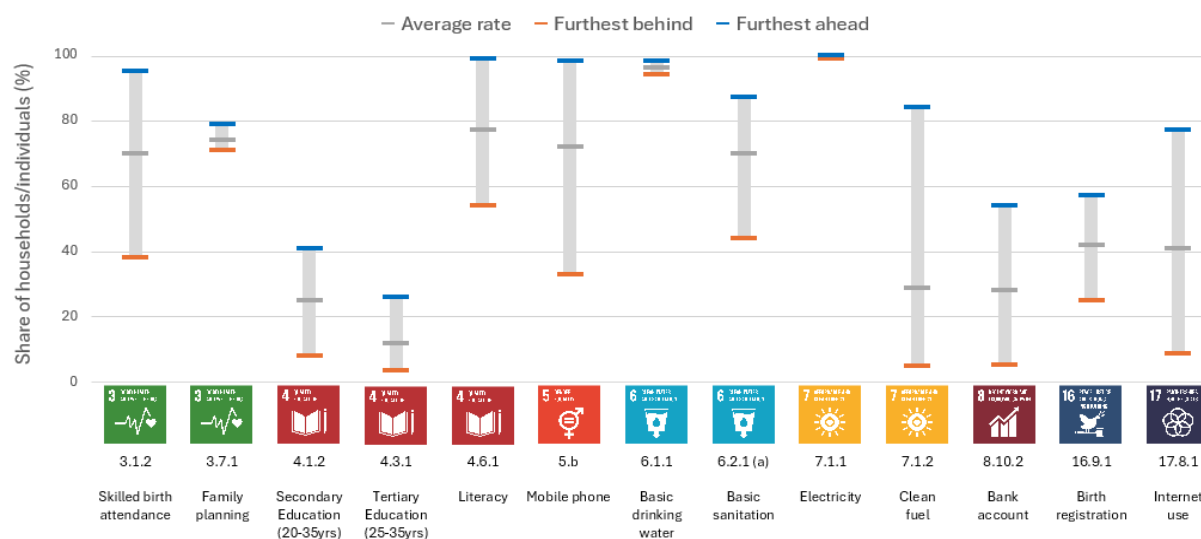
CHAPTER 5: LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND: STATUS AND ASPIRATIONS

Understanding the Landscape of LNOB in Bangladesh

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

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

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



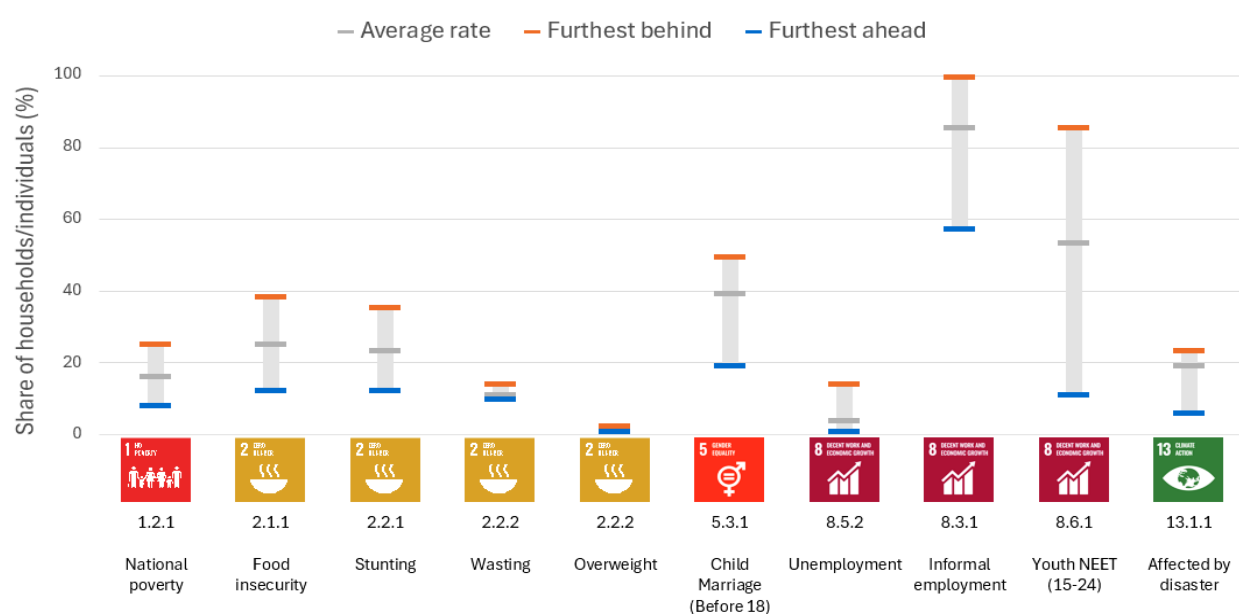
Note: ESCAP elaborations based on Bangladesh HIES and LFS (2022) collected by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS). All results are weighted using final household weights.

The results show near-universal access to electricity and basic drinking water as of 2022. However, wide disparities are found in access to clean fuels for cooking and digital and financial inclusion, where the furthest behind are over 48 percentage points behind the furthest ahead. Gaps in access to basic services,

education, and financial tools indicate significant inequality, though education indicators such as tertiary attendance show smaller gaps.

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

Empowering Youth as Drivers of Change

Bangladesh's VNR 2025 underscores the principle of Leaving No One Behind (LNOB), particularly emphasizing youth development. Youth aged 18–35 comprise 33% of the population and are pivotal to the nation's progress. However, as a heterogeneous community with diverse needs and identities, they face systemic inequalities—41% of youth are classified as NEET, 26% are economically vulnerable, and 19% are living with disabilities. Addressing these disparities is crucial for achieving the SDGs.

Bangladesh has achieved moderate progress in youth-related SDGs, as reflected in the Youth Development Index (YDI) 2022 score of 0.768, though there is room for improvement compared to its regional counterparts, e.g., Bhutan (0.84) and India (0.77). In health (SDG 3), maternal mortality has declined, yet 30% of youth report limited access to healthcare, particularly in rural areas, with mental and reproductive health services remaining largely neglected. Education (SDG 4) shows improved literacy rates, but marginalised groups still face challenges in accessing quality education and vocational training. Moreover, decent work (SDG 8) is another concern, with youth unemployment at 28.24% and 38.3% of the workforce engaged in informal work, exacerbated by skills mismatches.

Advancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Bangladesh has made progress in advancing women's empowerment through legal reforms and policy initiatives. In 2023, the High Court mandated the inclusion of mothers' identities on educational records, and the Evidence Act has strengthened women's legal protections. The Women and Children Repression Prevention Act (2020), which enhances accountability for gender-based violence, now requires DNA testing in assault cases. Politically and economically, women's representation has improved; by 2024, women held 21% of parliamentary seats, and one-third of local government seats were reserved for them. The gender budget has been extended to 44 ministries, accounting for 34.11% of the total budget in 2024–25, although its share of GDP has decreased to 4.86%. In education, female primary enrollment stands at 61.35%, but university enrollment has fallen to 37%. This underscores the need for interventions in the higher education sector. Maternal mortality has decreased to 136 per 100,000 live births; however, only 40% of pregnant women receive adequate antenatal care, indicating deficiencies in healthcare access. Unpaid care work—70% performed by women—is often not recognized by society, while the gender pay gap persists. Reskilling of women in an era of technology and automation has become of utmost priority.

Ensuring the Rights and Well-being of Children

Progress on child-related SDGs remains uneven. Although Bangladesh has made efforts to reduce stunting and increase skilled birth attendance, significant deficiencies remain. Mental health services are severely lacking, adolescent birth rates are reversing, and acute malnutrition remains a significant concern. High out-of-pocket healthcare costs restrict access to adequate healthcare for children. In education, rigid age policies exclude working children from mainstream schooling. Child labour has risen to 8.9% (3.54 million children), primarily in agriculture, domestic, and hazardous work. The child protection remains a grave concern, with 51.4% of girls married before 18 (UNFPA, 2025). Moreover, post-COVID violence against children has surged by 70%, including trafficking and cyber exploitation.

These difficulties are made worse by systematic obstacles. Legal and policy gaps include the absence of an updated child labour elimination strategy and weak enforcement of the Children Act. Only 40% of children under the age of five have their births registered, which limits their access to services. The investment shortfalls are significant—only 15% of the national budget is allocated to children, falling below the 20% standard.

Empowering Dalits and Ethnic Minorities

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

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

Climate-Vulnerable Communities in the Frontlines of Crisis

According to the Climate Risk Index 2025, Bangladesh ranks 31st among countries most impacted by extreme weather events. The effects are extremely unequal, especially for women, children, persons with disabilities, people with impairments, and climate migrants. During disasters, gender-based violence rises, with 71% of women in vulnerable regions reporting an increase in abuse following floods. Climate displacement reaches 100,000 individuals per year, disrupting education for 19 million children, while

rising temperatures feed epidemics of waterborne and other diseases, as well as mental health concerns. In climate-vulnerable slums, immunization rates (67.5%) fall short of national levels (82.2%). These difficulties are exacerbated by systematic failures. Of 900 climate programs, only 2% give women's needs top priority; Social Safety Net Programs (SSNPs) often overlook climate aspects. Green jobs constitute less than 1% of employment, with youth in climate hotspots facing 33% higher unemployment. There remains systemic challenges, such as corporate greenwashing and unenforced environmental regulations, and 90% of climate decisions still do not involve women. Moreover, half of the SDG indicators lack reliable climate-disaggregated data, leaving 30.3 million students' education disruptions unaddressed and 43.95% of vulnerable groups suffering climate-induced sleep disorders.

Realizing Disability Rights and Accessibility

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

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

Chapter 6: NEW CONTEXT, NEW INITIATIVES

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

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

White Paper and Task Force Reforms Chart a New Course for Sustainable, Inclusive Development Aligned with Agenda 2030.

One of the earliest actions of the Interim Government was to form the White Paper Committee to critically assess the economy and review its performance, thereby establishing a baseline for the new government going forward. The report of the White Paper on the State of the Bangladesh Economy (2024) offered a detailed assessment of the economic and institutional challenges inherited from the past, including depleting foreign reserves, inflationary pressure fueled by hefty borrowing of the government from the central bank, rampant siphoning off of capital from the banking sector, rapidly rising inequality, crippling governance and thus declining public trust, and widening inequalities. Additionally, the government of Bangladesh formed a task force to outline a comprehensive strategy to address pressing challenges and facilitate economic growth, social development, and environmental sustainability. The Task Force Report on Re-strategizing the Economy and Mobilizing Resources for Equitable and Sustainable Development (2025) outlines key reforms that closely align Bangladesh's growth trajectory with the SDGs.



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

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

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



The Public Administration Reform Commission identified measures to decentralize governance functions, increase efficiency, and promote citizen-centered service delivery. Reforms include consolidating overlapping ministries, expanding local government authority, and embedding citizen feedback mechanisms in public services. Strengthening public sector effectiveness is vital for achieving SDG 16.6 and SDG 11.3 on inclusive urbanization.

Recognizing the detrimental impact of corruption on development, the Anti-Corruption Reform Commission proposed expanding its mandate and independence through constitutional recognition of the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) as an institution. Tackling corruption is essential for achieving SDG 16.5 on reducing illicit financial flows and bribery.

The Health Sector Reform Commission prioritized expanding access to primary healthcare, scaling up public investment in health infrastructure, and launching health insurance schemes for informal workers. These reforms aim to strengthen Bangladesh's resilience against public health crises and are aligned with SDG 3.8 on universal health coverage.

The Labor Reform Commission sought to modernize labour regulations, enhance occupational safety, expand skills training initiatives, and improve protection for informal workers. These actions directly support SDGs 8.5 on productive employment and 8.8 on labor rights. Special attention has been given to youth empowerment, recognizing Bangladesh's demographic advantage. The interim government is now expediting the country's digital transformation to a full digital economy and smart governance by 2030. It plans to increase startup funding and global partnerships, aiming to create pathways for productive employment and support SDG 8.6, which focuses on reducing youth unemployment.

The Women's Affairs Commission recommended key reforms to advance gender equality in Bangladesh. Its report proposed updating laws to better protect women from violence and discrimination, expanding women's participation in public service and politics, and increasing investment in women's entrepreneurship and skills development. These initiatives are directly aligned with SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 8.5 (Full and Productive Employment), and SDG 16.7 (Inclusive Decision-Making), recognizing that inclusive legal and economic empowerment is essential for sustainable development.

Notably, a seven-member Jatiya Oaikymoto (National Consensus) Commission, led by the Chief Advisor, has been formed to build a national consensus around key reform proposals, including electoral systems, public administration, the judiciary, anti-corruption measures, and police reform, through dialogue with political parties and stakeholders.

Simultaneously, in early 2025, the interim government initiated a series of legal and human rights reforms designed to strengthen judicial independence and accountability. The introduction of the Supreme Court Judge Appointment Ordinance established a seven-member council, thereby reducing executive influence in judicial appointments. Additionally, a proposal for a separate judicial secretariat was presented to enhance administrative autonomy. On the human rights front, Bangladesh signed the UN Convention on Enforced Disappearances and launched a National Commission on Enforced Disappearances, demonstrating a renewed commitment to justice and transparency.

Some notable recent initiatives taken by the interim government leading to SDG implementation



Transforming Bangladesh's economic landscape through informal sector integration and MSME development.

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

Building a Climate-Resilient Bangladesh and Strengthening Global Partnerships for Sustainable Development.

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

Several Sector Wise Reforms by the Interim Government in 2024-2025

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

The government is revising its *Renewable Energy Policy 2025*. Currently it is revising contracts with Independent Power Producers (IPPs) to eliminate "capacity payment" clauses which obligated payments regardless of electricity generation.

The Merchant Power Policy (MPP) in Bangladesh shifts the power sector by allowing private sector players to sell electricity to distributors or buyers rather than solely to the Bangladesh Power Development Board (PDB). On 18th Nov 2024, the government cancelled 31 LOIs (Letter of Intent) issued during the previous regime to purchase renewable energy from unsolicited proposals.

In the Railway Sector, short term reforms are being implemented from the two-year railway reform plan. This includes adjusting the number of trains and coaches on different routes, increase sectional speed, forming a 'quick response team' for emergency assistance during accidents, and establishing monitoring cells to oversee service quality.

A Supreme Court Judges Appointment Ordinance has been passed to ensure transparent, merit-based appointments to the higher judiciary. Establishing specialized Commercial Courts in Bangladesh to ensure speedy and efficient resolution of commercial disputes are on the way. This promotes investment and enhances the business environment.

The repeal of the Cyber Security Act 2023 and a major overhaul of cyber security legislation is in process. Personal Data Protection Ordinance and an Interoperability Ordinance to facilitate intergovernmental data exchanges are in process.

In March 2025, *The Women and Children Repression Prevention Act* was amended with updates and expanded several provisions to enhance protection for women and children. Key features of the 2025 amendment include: Punishment for rape; Definition of rape & age of consent, Punishment for abetment of suicide, Sexual harassment-Definition & Penalty, Rights of children born from rape; Timeframe for investigations; Confidentiality and media restrictions; Compensation fund for rape survivors.

In 2024, with support from UN Women and Civil Society groups, the government of Bangladesh renewed efforts to draft a comprehensive Sexual Harassment Prevention and Protection Bill. The updated draft includes: A clear legal definition of sexual harassment: A formal complaint and investigation process; Mandatory internal complaint committees in institutions, Legal penalties for offenders.

In an amendment of legislation of *the Domestic Violence Act*, the Government of Bangladesh is currently undertaking efforts to amend the Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act 2010, aiming to enhance its effectiveness in safeguarding victims and ensuring timely justice. The Ministry of Women and Children Affairs has proposed revisions to the Act to address existing gaps and challenges.

For Basic Training for Primary school teachers, the training period has been increased to 10 months instead of 6 months following a recommendation from an EU Study.

For Social Protection, a social insurance scheme pilot has been tested. The Employment Injury Scheme (EIS) pilot in Bangladesh is a programme that tests a system to provide compensation and medical care to ready-made garment workers injured at work. It is jointly supported by the Government, employers, Development Partners (including the EU, Germany, Netherlands and Canada) and the technical assistance is provided by the ILO and GIZ. The pilot aims to show how a national insurance scheme for work-related injuries can function effectively. Lessons from the pilot will help design a permanent, government-led scheme in the future. The pilot has been operationalised in Bangladesh's Export Processing Zones (EPZs) since March 2025. To be replicated in 2025 in the leather and footwear sectors. Ongoing discussions to expand the pilot to the ship-breaking sector. National tripartite consultation started in May 2025, with the goal of transitioning from the pilot to a fully-fledged National Employment Injury Scheme. A national framework and draft law will be prepared by the end of 2025 or early 2026. Full rollout support planned by June 2027.

In April 2025, *The Labour Information Management System (LIMS)* in Bangladesh was introduced which is a digital platform designed to collect, store, and manage data on workers and factories, both in the formal and informal sectors. The LIMS project is implemented under DIFE from May 2022 to April 2025. The system facilitates the identification and registration of workers and establishments by verifying national identity cards or birth certificates. It helps the Government monitor compliance with labour laws, identify social protection beneficiaries and improve oversight of workplace conditions. The system aims to strengthen transparency and data-driven decision-making in the labour sector. The system includes

650,000 workers & 5,000 factories. Feasibility study for LIMS, phase 2 is ongoing. Initiative is in line with Labour Reform Commission recommendation on a National Labour Database.

The Government also plans to launch a comprehensive unemployment insurance scheme by 2027.

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

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

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

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

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

The new ordinance amends the Public Service Act 2018 significantly reshaping the disciplinary framework for nearly 1.4 million civil servants, for example by introducing quick disciplinary actions with tighter timelines and limits on appeals. It eliminates formal inquiries, raising concerns over arbitrary punishments and weakened defence rights.

Chapter 7: TRANSLATING VISION INTO REALITY: *STRATEGIC PATHWAYS TO 2030*

Since adopting the SDGs in 2015, Bangladesh has made sincere efforts to harmonize its national planning, budgeting, and sectoral strategies with the 2030 agenda. The July Mass Uprising of 2024 marked a transformative shift in the political process through a youth-led revolution that resulted in an Interim Government. The Interim Government has begun diagnosing Bangladesh's socioeconomic and institutional challenges to achieving shared prosperity. Implementing the recommendations from various reform commissions will be key to effectively overcoming existing barriers to inclusive development, establishing a new foundation for the SDG agenda with opportunities to promote greater accountability, transparency, and inclusive governance.

With increased public trust and a growing recognition of citizens' rights and aspirations, Bangladesh now prioritizes an SDG acceleration strategy that blends equity, partnerships, innovation, and environmental sustainability.

Delivering on the SDGs requires significant investment, strategic partnerships, and deepened reform

Achievement of the SDGs within the remaining timeframe requires not only sustaining progress but also confronting structural barriers. The Government has adopted an active vision with three interconnected strategic orientations: (i) deepening institutional and governance reform, (ii) expanding domestic and foreign access to finance and technology, and (iii) establishing greater regional and global partnerships in favour of resilient development.

These directives are Bangladesh's recognition that transformational outcomes cannot be met with business-as-usual strategies. Post-COVID-19 global economic uncertainty, as well as the added dimension of LDC graduation, Bangladesh recognizes that SDG implementation must be enabled by adaptive governance, inclusive institutions, and evidence-based policy reforms.

A strengthened financing architecture is essential to implementation

The Government is committed to strengthening domestic resource mobilization by reforming tax administration, broadening the tax base, and strengthening compliance through digital platforms. As per the recommendation of the commission established by the Interim Government, National Board of Revenue (NBR) has been dissolved, replaced by two divisions— Revenue Policy and Revenue Management Division (UNB, 2025). These efforts aim to enhance the efficiency of tax collection agencies to expand the tax base, minimize tax evasion, and reduce illicit financial outflows. At the same time, the fiscal space remains under strain from competing demands, pressure on subsidies, and post-pandemic recovery needs.

To complement domestic efforts, Bangladesh calls on the international community for increased concessional financing, predictable climate finance, and debt relief mechanisms for climate-vulnerable countries. Blended finance and innovative financing instruments such as SDG bonds, climate risk insurance, and impact investing also need to be explored. Furthermore, the Government is placing greater emphasis on results-based budgeting, value-for-money assessments, and aligning public investments with SDG priorities.

Regional cooperation and global solidarity are critical to shared prosperity

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bangladesh's development context is rich with grassroots innovations and public-private collaborations that showcase how localized action can contribute to national objectives. The Grameen Danone partnership is one of the successful cases in point for how social businesses can solve nutrition problems

while remaining financially sustainable. By producing fortified yoghurt at affordable prices, the initiative increases child health effects alongside supporting local dairy farmers and women entrepreneurs.

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

The readymade garment (RMG) sector, employing over four million workers, has been drastically changed in the wake of the Rana Plaza collapse. The Accord and Alliance initiatives brought together international buyers, factory management, and representatives of workers to improve fire and building safety. These collaborations have resulted in increased compliance, more assertive workers, and increased global competitiveness. Presently, Bangladesh's RMG industry is the safest in the world, and it is a model worth emulating by other industries.

Global solidarity remains a foundation of SDG progress

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

Digital public goods such as interoperable ID systems, open-source education platforms, and mobile health applications must be governed under inclusive, multilateral structures. Bangladesh seeks support in shaping its digital infrastructure and governance structure to respect privacy, promote innovation, and make it inclusive.

The path forward requires ambition, innovation, and shared responsibility

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

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Annex

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

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

Indicators	Baseline data (source, year)	Current status (source, year)	Milestone by 2025	Target by 2030
2.2.3 Prevalence of anaemia in women aged 15 to 49 years (%)	40 (NMS, 2012)	36.7 (WHO, 2019)	30	20
2.3.1 Volume of production per labour unit by classes of farming/pastoral/forestry enterprise size	13.4 (ASC, 2020)	13.4 (ASC, 2020)	-	-
2.3.2 Average income of small-scale food producers, by sex and indigenous status	\$ 545.96 (2017 PPP) (ASC, 2020)	\$ 545.96 (2017 PPP) (ASC, 2020)	-	-
2.a.1 The agriculture orientation index for government expenditures	0.56 (NAW, 2016)	0.78 (NAW, 2024)	0.85	1
2.a.2 Total official flows (official development assistance plus other official flows) to the agriculture sector	215 (ERD, 2015)	458.4 (ERD, 2023)	400	500
2.b.1 Agricultural export subsidies	54.7 (BB, 2016)	48.6 (BB, 2024)	73	70
3.1.1 Maternal mortality ratio per 100,000 new births	181 (SVRS, 2015)	136 (SVRS, 2023)	100	70
3.1.2 Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel	72.4 (SVRS, 2019)	69.68 (SVRS, 2023)	72	80
3.2.1 Under-5 mortality rate per 1000 population	36 (SVRS, 2015)	33 (SVRS, 2023)	27	25
3.2.2 Neonatal mortality rate per 1000 live births	20 (SVRS, 2015)	20 (SVRS, 2023)	14	12
3.3.1 Number of new HIV infections per 1,000 uninfected population	<0.01 (NASP; UNAIDS, 2016)	<0.01 (NASP; UNAIDS, 2023)	0.01	<0.01
3.3.2 Tuberculosis incidence per 100,000 population	225 (NTP, 2015)	221 (NTP, 2023)	112	45
3.3.3 Malaria incidence per 1,000 population	2.99 (NMEP; WHO, 2015)	0.048 (NMEP, 2023)	0.09	0.0
3.3.4 Hepatitis B incidence per 100,000 population	1.38 (WHO, 2015)	1.38 (CDC, 2019)	0.7	0
3.3.5 Number of people (in millions) requiring interventions against neglected tropical diseases	49,873,889 (WHO, 2016)	56,381,566 (WHO, 2021)	40000000	35,000,000
3.4.1 Mortality rate attributed to cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes or chronic respiratory disease	21.6 (WHO, 2016)	24 (SVRS, 2023)	10	6
3.4.2 Suicide mortality rate	7.68 (BP, 2015)	8.07 (BP, 2024)	3.5	2.4
3.5.1 Coverage of treatment interventions for substance use disorders	16,416 (DNC, 2015)	30133 (DNC, 2020)	45,000	55,000
3.5.2 Alcohol per capita consumption within a calendar year in liters of pure alcohol	0.09 (DNC, 2016)	0.06 (DNC, 2023)	0.04	0.02
3.6.1 Death rate due to road traffic injuries per 100,000 population	4.96 (BP, 2015)	10.01 (SVRS, 2023)	1.5	1.2
3.7.1 Proportion of women of reproductive age (aged 15–49 years) with needs for family planning satisfied with modern methods	72.6 (BDHS, 2014)	72.9 (SVRS, 2023)	80	100
3.7.2 Adolescent birth rate, aged 15–19 years, per 1,000 women in that age group	(a) 75 (SVRS, 2015)	84.3 (SVRS, 2023)	60	50

Indicators	Baseline data (source, year)	Current status (source, year)	Milestone by 2025	Target by 2030
3.8.1 Coverage of essential health services index	52 (WHO, 2016)	52 (WHO, 2021)	80	100
3.8.2. Proportion of the population with large household expenditures (>10% of the total household expenditure or income) on health as a share of total household expenditure or income	25.6 (HIES, 2016)	3.46 (HIES, 2022)	-	-
3.9.1 Mortality rate attributed to household and ambient air pollution (per 100,000 population)	68.2 (WHO, 2012)	241 (SVRS, 2023)	60	55
3.9.2 Mortality rate attributed to inadequate WASH services per 100,000 population	11.9 (WHO, 2016)	161 (SVRS, 2023)	5	4.5
3.9.3 Mortality rate attributed to unintentional poisoning (per 100,000 population)	0.3 (WHO, 2016)	0.3 (WHO, 2019)	0.25	0.15
3.a.1 Age-standardized prevalence of current tobacco use among persons aged 15 years and older	43.3 (GATS, 2009)	35.3 (GATS, 2017)	30	25
3.b.1 Proportion of the target population covered by all vaccines included in their national programme (%)	86.8 (EPI Coverage Evaluation Survey, 2016)	81.6 (EPI Coverage Evaluation Survey, 2023)	98	100
3.b.2 Total net official development assistance to medical research and basic health sectors (in millions)	177.4 (ERD, 2015)	617.2 (ERD, 2023)	400	500
3.c.1 Health worker (a) density per 1000 population and (b) distribution (physician: nurse: health technologist)	(a) 7.4 (MIS, 2016) (b) 1:0.5:0.2 (HRH datasheet, 2016)	(a) 12.78 (MIS, 2023) (b) 1:0.6:0.3 (HRH datasheet, 2019)	(a) 31.5	(a) 44.5
3.d.1 International Health Regulations (IHR) capacity index	76 (CDC, 2016)	69 (CDC, 2024)	95	100
3.d.2 Percentage of bloodstream infections due to selected antimicrobial-resistant organisms	68 (WHO, 2018)	68 (WHO, 2018)	-	-
4.1.2 Completion rate (primary education)	82.6 (MICS, 2016)	77.4 (SVRS, 2023)	87	95
4.2.1 Proportion of children aged 24–59 months who are developmentally on track in learning	84.5 (MICS, 2019)	84.5 (MICS, 2019)	80	100
4.2.2 Participation rate in organized learning	39 (APSC, 2015)	67.48 (SVRS, 2023)	90	100
4.6.1 Proportion of population in a given age group (adult) achieving at least a fixed level of proficiency in functional (a) literacy and (b) numeracy skills	(a) 87.4 (b) 64.6 (SVRS, 2015)	(a) 96 (b) 75.6 (SVRS, 2023)	-	-

Indicators	Baseline data (source, year)	Current status (source, year)	Milestone by 2025	Target by 2030
4.7.1 Extent to which (i) global citizenship education and (ii) education for sustainable development are mainstreamed in (a) national education policies; (b) curricula; (c) teacher education; and (d) student assessment	(a) 0.88, (b) 0.76, (c) 0.85 (SHED, 2022)	(a) 0.88, (b) 0.76, (c) 0.85 (SHED, 2022)	-	-
4.b.1 Volume of official development assistance flows for scholarships (million USD)	8.76 (ERD, 2016)	3.38 (ERD, 2023)	20	25
5.2.1 The proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual, or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by the form of violence	Any form of violence: 38 (VAW, 2015)	Any form of violence: 24.4 (VAW, 2024)	20	0
5.2.2 Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months	2.4 (VAW, 2015)	0.46 (VAW, 2024)	3	0
5.3.1 Proportion of women aged 20–24 years who were married or in a union by age: (a) married before age 15, (b) married before age 18	(a) 6.2 (SVRS, 2019) (b) 58.6 (BDHS, 2014)	(a) 8.2 (b) 41.6 (SVRS, 2023)	(a) 0 (b) 20	(a) 0 (b) 10
5.4.1 Proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work by women	Female: 25.80 Male: 5 (TUS, 2012)	Female: 24.5 Male: 3.30 (TUS, 2022)	Female: 24 Male: 7	Female: 20 Male: 10
5.5.1 Proportion of seats held by women in (a) national parliaments and (b) local governments	(a) 20 (BPS, 2014) (b) 23 (LGD, 2016)	(a) 20.86 (BPS, 2023) (b) 23.46 (LGD, 2023)	(a) 35 (b) 27	(a) 40 (b) 33
5.5.2 Proportion of women in managerial positions	11.40 (QLFS, 2016)	7.3 (QLFS, 2022)	23	30
5.6.1 Proportion of women aged 15-49 years who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health care	36.4 (BDHS, 2014)	45.5 (BDHS, 2022)	-	-
5.6.2 Bangladesh's score in laws and regulations that guarantee full and equal access to women and men aged 15 years and older to sexual and reproductive health care, information and education	-	89.1% (MoHFA, 2025)	-	-
5.b.1 Proportion of women who own a mobile telephone	61.8 (Access and Use of ICT Survey, 2024)	64.8 (Access and Use of ICT Survey, 2024)	90	100
6.1.1 Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services	47.9 (MICS, 2019)	71.22 (SVRS, 2023)	100	100
6.2.1 Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services	Sanitation services: 42.8	Sanitation services: 45	60 85	80 100

Indicators	Baseline data (source, year)	Current status (source, year)	Milestone by 2025	Target by 2030
	Hand-washing facility with soap and water: 74.8 (MICS, 2019)	Hand-washing facility with soap and water: 65.2 (SVRS, 2023)		
6.3.1 Proportion of domestic and industrial wastewater flows safely treated	32.8 (LGD, 2020)	40.73 (LGD, 2021)	-	-
6.3.2 Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality	57.9 (DoE, 2020)	57.9 (DoE, 2020)	-	-
6.4.1 Change in water-use efficiency over time (%)	9.82 (DPHE, 2020)	5.84 (DPHE, 2021)	-	-
6.4.2. Level of water stress: freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources	100 (BMDA, 2020)	100 (BMDA, 2020)	3	3
6.5.1 Degree (0-100) of integrated water resources management	50 (UNFP, 2017)	64 (BWDB, 2023)	60	70
6.5.2 Proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation	38 (JRC, 2018)	38 (JRC, 2022)	40	50
6.a.1 Amount of water- and sanitation-related official development assistance (in million USD)	301.1 (ERD, 2016)	326.7 (ERD, 2023)	400	450
6.b.1 Proportion of local administrative units with established and operational policies and procedures for participation of local communities in water and sanitation management	95.99 (DPHE, 2019)	95.99 (DPHE, 2021)	-	-
7.1.1 Proportion of population with access to electricity	78 (SVRS, 2015)	99.5 (SVRS, 2023)	100	100
7.1.2: Proportion of population with primary reliance on clean fuels and technology	20.8 (SVRS, 2015)	29.67 (SVRS, 2023)	30	35
7.2.1 Renewable energy share in the total final energy consumption (%)	2.79 (SREDA, 2015)	4.11 (SREDA, 2023)	5	10
7.3.1 Energy intensity measured in terms of primary energy and GDP	2.81 (HU, 2015)	1.28 (HU, 2023)	1.1	0.78
7.a.1 International financial flows to developing countries in support of clean energy research and development and renewable energy production, including in hybrid systems	301 (ERD, 2015-16)	497 (ERD, 2018-19)	600	800
7.b.1 Installed renewable energy-generating capacity in developing countries (in watts per capita)	2.66 (SREDA, 2015)	7.01 (SREDA, 2023)	-	-
8.1.1 Annual growth rate of real GDP per capita	5.12 (NAW, 2015-16)	4.22 (NAW, 2023-24)	7	7.5
8.2.1 Annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person	4.31 (NAW, 2017)	3.47 (NAW, 2024)	5.5	6.5
8.3.1 Proportion of informal employment in total employment	86.2 (QLFS, 2015-16)	84.09 (LFS, 2023)	75	65

Indicators	Baseline data (source, year)	Current status (source, year)	Milestone by 2025	Target by 2030
8.5.1 Average monthly earnings of employees	13258 (QLFS, 2023)	14180 (monthly income) (QLFS, 2022)	18700	21925
8.5.2. Unemployment rate	4.2 (QLFS, 2015-16)	3.35 (LFS, 2023)	3.5	2.5
8.6.1 Proportion of youth (aged 15–24 years) not in education, employment or training	28.9 (QLFS, 2015-16)	18.9 (LFS, 2023)	12	3
8.7.1 Proportion of children aged 5–17 years engaged in child labour (%)	4.3% (Child Labour Survey 2013)	4.4% (Child Labour Survey 2022)	1	0
8.8.1. Frequency rates of (a) fatal and (b) non - fatal occupational injuries per year	(a) 382 (b) 246 (DIFE, 2015)	(a) 1.9 (b) 1.36 (DIFE, 2023)	-	-
8.9.1 Tourism direct GDP as a proportion of total GDP and in growth rate	1.56 (TSA, 2011-12)	3.02 (TSA, 2018-19)	4.5	5
8.10.1 (a) Number of commercial bank branches per 100,000 adults and (b) number of automated teller machines (ATMs) per 100,000 adults	a) 9.61 b) 7.96 (FID, 2015)	a) 9.57 b) 14.81 (FID, 2023)	a) 10 b) 8	a) 12 b) 9
8.10.2 Proportion of adults (15 years and older) with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile-money- service provider	Bank: 31 FI: 29.1 Mobile: 2.75 (WB, 2014)	51.71 (SVRS, 2023)	-	-
9.1.1 Proportion of the rural population who live within 2 km of an all-season road	83.45 (LGED, 2016)	91.09 (SVRS, 2023)	90	95
9.1.2 Passenger and freight volume (in million USD)	a. 136.25 b. 0.28 (BIWTC, 2015)	a. 66.3 b. 42.28 (BIWTC, 2022)	12.5 0.6	15 0.8
9.2.1 Manufacturing value added as a proportion of (a) GDP and (b) per capita	(a) 20.16 (b) 130 (NAW, 2015)	(a) 23.82 (b) 418 (NAW, 2024)	(a) 28	(a) 35
9.2.2 Manufacturing employment as a proportion of total employment	14.4 (QLFS, 2016)	11.56 (QLFS, 2023)	22	25
9.3.1 Proportion of small-scale industries in total industry value added	19.53 (SMI, 2016)	20.88 (SMI, 2024)	-	-
9.3.2 Proportion of small-scale industries with a loan or line of credit	-	57.79 (SMI, 2019)	-	-
9.5.1 Research and development expenditure as a proportion of GDP	0.3 (NAW, 2015)	0.3 (NAW, 2020)	1	1
9.5.2 Researchers (in full-time equivalent) per million inhabitants	855 (MoST, 2015)	1036 (MoST, 2021)	998	1080
9.a.1 Total official international support to infrastructure (in billion USD)	1247 (ERD, 2016)	6331 (ERD, 2023)	2600	3500
9.b.1 Proportion of medium and high-tech industry value added in total value added	5.21 (NAW, 2015)	5.48 (NAW, 2024)	15	20
9.c.1 Proportion of population covered by a mobile network, by technology	2G: 99 3G: 71 4G: - (BTRC, 2015)	2G: 99.63 3G: 95.54 4G: 98.3 (BTRC, 2022)	100	100

Indicators	Baseline data (source, year)	Current status (source, year)	Milestone by 2025	Target by 2030
10.1.1 Growth rates of household expenditure or income per capita among the (a) bottom 40 per cent of the population (b) total population	a) 7.7 b) 9.1 (HIES, 2016)	a) 15.1 b) 15.5 (HIES, 2022)	9.5 9.3	10 9.7
10.2.1 Proportion of people living below 50 per cent of median income	15.98 (HIES, 2016)	-	-	-
10.3.1 Proportion of population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed in the previous 12 months.	35.6 (CPHS, 2018)	19.31 (CPHS, 2025)	25	20
10.5.1 Financial Soundness Indicators	8.4 (NPL) (BB, 2015)	9.57 (NPL) (BB, 2023)	-	-
10.7.1 Recruitment cost borne by employee as a proportion of monthly income earned in country of destination (BDT)	17.6 (CMS, 2020)	14.6 (QLFS, 2022)	-	-
10.7.3. Number of people who died or disappeared in the process of migration towards an international destination	98 (IOM, 2019)	88 (IOM, 2024)	60	40
10.7.4 Proportion of the population who are refugees, by country of origin	663 (RRRC, 2019)	-	-	-
10.a.1 Proportion of tariff lines applied to imports from least developed countries and developing countries with zero-tariff	4.8 (WTO Cell, 2015)	4.6 (WTO Cell, 2022)	-	-
10.b.1 Total (a) official development assistance, and (b) foreign direct investment for development, (in thousand USD)	(a) 3 (ERD, 2015) (b) 1.28 (BB, 2015)	(a)11.6 (ERD, 2015) (b) 1.47 (BB, 2024)	(a) 9 (b) 12	(a) 10 (b) 15
10.c.1 Remittance costs as a proportion of the amount remitted	4.06 (BB, 2015)	5.21 (BB, 2023)	3.5	3
11.1.1 Proportion of urban population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing	55.1 (UN-Habitat, 2014)	-	30	20
Indicator 11.2.1. Proportion of population that has convenient access to public transport, by sex, age and persons with disabilities	85.05 (SVRS, 2023)	85.05 (SVRS, 2023)	-	-
11.4.1 Total per capita expenditure on the preservation, protection and conservation of all cultural and natural heritage	13.64 (MoEFCC, 2016)	2.1 (MoEFCC, 2021)	2.3	3.54
11.5.1 Number of directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population	12881 (BDRS, 2014)	3766 (BDRS, 2021)	2000	1500
11.5.2 Direct economic loss attributed to disasters in relation to global gross domestic product (GDP)	1.3 (BDRS, 2015)	1.32 (BDRS, 2021)	1.1	1
11.6.1 Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed in controlled facilities out of total municipal waste generated	-	2.23 (EPRWMS, 2019-20)	-	-
11.6.2 Annual mean levels of fine particulate matter (e.g. PM2.5 and PM10) in cities (population weighted)	88.6 (WHO, 2016)	-	-	-

Indicators	Baseline data (source, year)	Current status (source, year)	Milestone by 2025	Target by 2030
11.b.2 Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies (%)	City corporations: 8.3 Paurashava: 0.9 (MoDMR, 2019)	11.92	30	100
12.2.1 (a) Material footprint, (b) material footprint per capita, and (c) material footprint per unit of GDP (kg)	(a) 959.43 (b) 5.65 (c) 2.08 (BBS, 2022)	(a) 1012.38 (b) 5.92 (c) 2.24 (BBS, 2023)	-	-
12.2.2 (a) Domestic material consumption, (b) domestic material consumption per capita, and (c) domestic material consumption per unit of GDP	(a) 854 (b) 5.03 (c) 1.86 (BBS, 2022)	(a) 905.99 (b) 5.3 (c) 2.01 (BBS, 2023)	-	-
12.4.1 Bangladesh's compliance rate for hazardous waste and chemicals against international environmental agreements	58.66 (DoE, 2020)	58.66 (DoE, 2020)	-	-
12.4.2 (a) Hazardous waste generated per capita; and (b) Proportion of hazardous waste treated (%)	(a) 27.78 (b) 0.23 (ECDS Cell, 2019)	(a) 27.25 (b) 0.26 (ECDS Cell, 2021)	-	-
12.5.1 National recycling rate, tons of material recycled	14.91 (ECDS Cell, 2019)	15.59 (ECDS Cell, 2021)		
12.6.1 Proportion of companies publishing sustainability reports	49 (DoE, 2022)	49 (DoE, 2022)	-	-
12.8.1. Extent to which (i) global citizenship education and (ii) education for sustainable development are mainstreamed in (a) national education policies; (b) curricula; (c) teacher education; and (d) student assessment	(a) 0.88 (b) 0.76 (c) 0.85 (d) 0.67 (SHED, 2022)	(a) 0.88 (b) 0.76 (c) 0.85 (d) 0.67 (SHED, 2022)	-	-
12.a.1 Installed renewable energy-generating capacity in developing countries (in watts per capita)	2.66 (SRDA, 2015)	7.01 (SREDA, 2023)	-	-
12.c.1. Amount of fossil-fuel subsidies (production and consumption) per unit of GDP	0.00 (FD, 2016)	0.22 (FD, 2021)	0.02	0.01
13.1.1 Number of directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population	12, 881 (BDRHS, 2014)	3,766 (BDRHS, 2021)	2000	1500
13.1.3 Proportion of cities that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies	City corporations: 8.3 Paurashava: 0.9 (MoDMR, 2019)	11.92	30	100
13.3.1 Extent to which (i) global citizenship education and (ii) education for sustainable development are mainstreamed in (a) national education policies; (b) curricula; (c) teacher education; and (d) student assessment	(a) 0.88 (b) 0.76 (c) 0.85 (d) 0.67 (SHED, 2022)	(a) 0.88 (b) 0.76 (c) 0.85 (d) 0.67 (SHED, 2022)	-	-
14.4.1 Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels	88.88 (DoF, 2022)	88.88 (DoF, 2022)	-	-

Indicators	Baseline data (source, year)	Current status (source, year)	Milestone by 2025	Target by 2030
14.5.1 Coverage of protected areas in relation to marine areas	2.05 (BFD, 2015)	7.94 (DoE, 2017)	7	10
14.6.1. Degree of implementation of international instruments aiming to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing	3 (score range 1-5) (DoF. 2018)	3 (score range 1-5) (DoF. 2022)	-	-
14.7.1 Sustainable fisheries as a proportion of GDP	0.33 (NAW, 2016)	0.2 (NAW, 2024)	3	3
15.1.1 Forest area as a proportion of total land area	14.1 (BFD, 2015)	-	18	20
15.1.2 Proportion of important sites for (a) terrestrial and (b) freshwater biodiversity that are covered by protected areas	(a) 1.7 (BFD, 2015) (b) 1.8 (BFD, 2014)	(a) 3.06 (BFD, 2019)	(a) 3.3 (b) 9.0	(a) 5 (b) 14
15.3.1. Proportion of Land that is degraded over total land area	4.26 (DoE, 2020)	4.26 (DoE, 2020)	-	-
15.4.1 Coverage by protected areas of important sites for mountain biodiversity (%)	0.35 (BFD, 2019)	-		
15.4.2 Mountain Green Cover Index	96.05 (BFD, 2015)	-	-	-
15.7.1. Number of traded wildlife that was poached or illicitly trafficked	252 (BFD, 2021)	252 (BFD, 2021)	-	-
15.a.1 Revenue generated, and finance mobilized from biodiversity-relevant economic instruments (in million USD)	14.7 (FD, 2015-16)	81.83 (FD, 2020-21)	-	-
15.c.1. Number of traded wildlife that was poached or illicitly trafficked	252 (BFD, 2021)	252 (BFD, 2021)	-	-
16.1.1 Number of victims of intentional homicide per 100,000 population	1.94 (BP, 2015)	1.41 (BP, 2022)	1.5	1
16.1.2 Conflict-related deaths per 100,000 population	0.85 (BP, 2015)	0.17 (BP, 2018)	-	-
16.1.3 Proportion of population subjected to (a) physical violence, (b) psychological violence and (c) sexual violence in the previous 12 months	Total: 57.7 (VAW Survey, 2015)	(a) 12.1 (b) 17.6 (c) 8.6 (VAW Survey, 2024)	30	15
16.1.4 Proportion of population that feel safe walking alone around the area they live	85.85 (CPHS, 2018)	84.81 (CPHS, 2025)	90	95
16.2.1 Proportion of children aged 1–17 years who experienced any physical punishment and/or psychological aggression by caregivers in the past month	88.5 (MICS, 2019)	-	80	70
16.2.2 Number of victims of human trafficking per 100,000 population, by sex, age and form of exploitation	1.78 (BP, 2015)	0.64 (BP, 2023)	0.3	0
16.2.3 Proportion of young women and men aged 18–29 years who experienced sexual violence by age 18	3.45 (VAW Survey, 2015)	8.6 (VAW Survey, 2024)	1.5	0

Indicators	Baseline data (source, year)	Current status (source, year)	Milestone by 2025	Target by 2030
16.3.1 Proportion of victims of violence in the previous 12 months who reported their victimization to competent authorities	2.45 (VAW Survey, 2015)	5.4 (VAW Survey, 2024)	20	30
16.3.2 Unsensitized detainees as a proportion of overall prison population	76.5 (Department of Prison, 2016)	73 (Department of Prisons, 2023)	50	40
16.3.3 Proportion of the population who have experienced a dispute in the past two years and who accessed a formal or informal dispute resolution mechanism	97 (CPHS, 2018)	83.6 (CPHS, 2025)	-	-
16.5.1 Proportion of persons who had at least one contact with a public official and who paid a bribe to a public official, or were asked for a bribe by those public officials, during the previous 12 months	31.32 (CPHS, 2018)	31.67 (CPHS, 2025)	15	10
16.5.2 Proportion of businesses that had at least one contact with a public official and that paid a bribe to a public official, or were asked for a bribe by those public officials during the previous 12 months	41 (WB Establishment survey, 2013)	23 (WB Establishment survey, 2022)	25	10
16.6.1 Primary government expenditures as a proportion of original approved budget	Education & Technology: 92 Health: 93 SP: 73 Agriculture: 84 LGD & D: 100 Housing: 95 (FD, 2015-16)	Total: 80.4 (FD, 2017-18)	-	-
16.6.2 Proportion of population satisfied with their last experience of public services	39.7 (CPHS, 2018)	-	60	90
16.7.1 Proportions of positions in national and local public institutions, including (a) the legislatures; (b) the public service; and (c) the judiciary, compared to national distributions, by sex, age, persons with disabilities and population groups	(a) 0.19 (BPS, 2019) (b) 0.53 (MoPA, 2017) (c) 0.56 (LJD, 2019)	(b) 0.67 (MoPA, 2021)	-	-
16.7.2 Proportion of population who believe decision making is inclusive and responsive	-	24.62 (CPHS, 2025)	-	-
16.9.1 Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority, by age	37 (MICS, 2013)	39.66 (SVRS, 2023)	80	100
16.10.1: Number of verified cases of killing, kidnapping, enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention and torture of journalists, associated media personnel, trade unionists and human rights advocates in the previous 12 months	1 (NHRC, 2019)	3 (NHRC, 2023)	-	-
16.b.1 Proportion of population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed in the previous 12 months on the	35.6 (CPHS, 2018)	19.31 (CPHS, 2025)	25	20

Indicators	Baseline data (source, year)	Current status (source, year)	Milestone by 2025	Target by 2030
basis of a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law				
17.1.1 Total government revenue as a proportion of GDP, by source	8.62 (NBR, 2016)	8.35 (NBR, 2023)	17	18
17.1.2 Proportion of domestic budget funded by domestic taxes	63 (FD, 2016)	65.44 (FD, 2019)	67	70
17.2.1. Net official development assistance, total and to least developed countries, as a proportion of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee donors' gross national income (GNI)	\$3 billion (ERD, 2015)	\$4.96 billion (ERD, 2017)	-	-
17.3.2 Volume of remittances (in USD) as a proportion of total GDP (%)	5.63 (BB, 2015-16)	5.31 (BB, 2023-24)	9	10
17.4.1 Debt service as a proportion of exports of goods and services	19.14 (BB, 2017)	21.4 (BB, 2019)	17	15
17.6.1 Fixed Internet broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants not in explanation	2.41 (BTRC, 2015)	6.78 (BTRC, 2022)	15	20
17.8.1 Proportion of individuals using the Internet	38.9 (ICT Use and Access Survey, 2022)	46.5 (ICT Use and Access Survey, 2024)	-	-
17.9.1 Dollar value of financial and technical assistance (in million USD)	570.8 (ERD, 2016)	143.29 (ERD, 2023)	1200	1500
17.10.1. Worldwide weighted tariff-average	4.85 (BTTC, 2015)	4.64 (BTTC, 2019)	5.5	5.5
17.19.1. Dollar value of all resources made available to strengthen statistical capacity in developing countries (in million)	38.45 (SDG Cell, 2018)	Total: 2.01 (SDG cell, 2023)	-	-
17.19.2.b Achieve (a) 100 per cent birth registration and (b) 80 per cent death registration	(a) 37% (MICS, 2013) (b) 49% (LGD, 2018)	(a) 63.36 (SVRS, 2023) (b) 50.49 (LGD, 2019)	(a) 80 (b) 70	(a) 100 (b) 80

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