



Comprehensive National Review Report, for
Beijing + 25
Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and
Platform for Action 1995

JULY 22, 2019

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Ministry of Women and Children Affairs

List of Abbreviations

7thFYP	Seventh Five Year Plan 2016-2020
A2I	Access to Information
ACC	Asian Cricket Council
AEC	Atomic Energy Commission
AI	Artificial insemination
APON	Adolescent peer organised network
ARSS	Agriculture and rural statistics survey
ASA	Association for Social Advancement
ASK	Ain O Salish Kendra
ATMs	Automated teller machines
BACCO	Bangladesh Association of call centres and Outsourcing
BAEC	Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission
B-SEP	Bangladesh Skills for Employment and Productivity
BASIS	Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Services
BBS	Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics
BCCSAP	Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan
BCCTF	Bangladesh Climate Change Trust Fund
BDHS	Bangladesh Demography and Health Survey
BDRCS	Bangladesh Red Crescent Society
BCC	Behavior change communication
BGB	Border Guards Bangladesh
BGISP	Bangladesh GIS Platform
BGMEA	Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association
BIGD	BRAC University's Institute of Governance and Development
BLAST	Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust
BMBS	Bangladesh Manabdhikar Bastabayan Shangstha
BMBS	Bangladesh Manabdhikar Bastabayan Shangstha
BMET	Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training
BMP	Bangladesh Mahila Parishad
BNWLA	Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association
BPfA	Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action
BR	Business Register
BRIDGE	Building Resources in Democracy, Governance and Election
BRTA	Bangladesh Road Transport Authority
BRTC	Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation
BSC	Bangladesh Shipping Corporation
BSC	Bangladesh Shipping Corporation
B-SEP	Bangladesh Skills for Employment and Productivity
BSMRAU	Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Raman Agriculture University
BTV	Bangladesh Television
CAP	Country Action Plan
CBHRTG	Community Based Human Rights Theatre Groups
CBN	Cost of Basic Needs
CBO	Community based organizations

CBWG	Community Based Working Groups
CCA	Controller of Certifying Authorities
CCGAP	Climate Change and Gender Action Plan
CCOAB	Cyber Cafe Owner's Association of Bangladesh
CCs	Community clinics
CEDAW	Convention on the elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women
CEP	Community Empowerment Programme
CFIS	Child Friendly Interview Skills
CHT	Chittagong Hill Tract
CIC-BD	Citizen's Initiative on CEDAW Bangladesh
CID	Crime Investigation Department
CIVD	Citizens' Initiatives for Domestic Violence
CMC	Central Monitoring Committee
CMNS	Child and Mother Nutrition Survey
CMSME	Cottage, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
COEL	Center of Excellence for Leather and Leather Goods
CPD	Centre for Policy Dialogue
CPI	Consumer Price Index
CRAF	Cyber Research Analysis Foundation
CRDF	Child Rights Defenders Forum
CRI	Bangladeshi Center for Research and Information
CSBA	Community-based skilled birth attendant
CSW	Commission on the Status of Women
DAE	Department of Agriculture Extension
DAM	Department of Agriculture Marketing
DCC	Dhaka City Corporation
DCCI	Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry
DLS	Department of Livestock Services
DEPB	Develop Evidence-based Planning and Budgeting
DLS	Department of Livestock Services
DoF	Department of Forestry
DP	Development partner
DPHE	Department of Public Health and Engineering
DSCC	Dhaka South City Corporation
DSF	Demand-side financing
DSHE	Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education
DTE	Department of Technical Education
DW	Democracy Watch
DWA	Department of Women Affairs
DWASA	Dhaka Water Supply Authority
ECCDS	Environment, Climate Change Impacts and Disaster-related Statistics
EGPP	Employment Generation for Programme for the Poorest
EPB	Export Promotion Bureau
EPI	Expanded Program on Immunization
EPZs	Export Processing Zones

FBCCI	Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry
FDI	Foreign direct investments
FFW	Food for Work
FWVs	Family welfare visitors
G2P	Government to Person
GAP	Gender Action Plans
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GCM	Growth Centre Markets
GDP	Gross domestic product
GED	General Economics Division
GiHA	Gender in Humanitarian Action
GiHA-WG	Gender in Humanitarian Actions Working Group
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft International Zusammenarbeit
GLAF	Govt. Legal Aid Fund
GNI	Gross national income
GPS	Global Positioning System
GPSs	Government Primary Schools
GRB	Gender responsive budget
HCTT	Humanitarian Coordination Task Team
HDI	Human Development Index
HIES	Household Income & Expenditure Survey
HNPSP	Health Nutrition and Population Sector Programme
HPN	Health, nutrition and population
HRDF	Human Rights Defenders' Forum
HRLF	Human Rights Lawyers Forum
IAGD-SDGs	Inter-Agency Expert Group on SDG Indicators
IAP	Indoor air pollution
ICC	Bangladesh International Chamber of Commerce
ICS	Improved cook stoves
ICT	Information and communications technology
IDCOL	Infrastructure Development Company Ltd
IEC	Information, education and communication
IGAs	Income Generating Activities
IHR	International Health Regulations
ILO	International Labour organization
INMAS	Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences
IMT	Institutions of Marine Technologies
ICVGD	Investment Component for Vulnerable Group Development
IPWS	Improvement of Price and Wage Statistics
IRESPPW	Integrated Rural Employment Support Project for the Poor Women
IRSOP	Improvement of the Real Situation Overcrowding in Prisons in Bangladesh
ISP	Internet Service Providers
ISS	Informal Sectors Statistics
JATI	Judicial Administration Training Institute
JMS	Jatiya Mahila Sanghsha

KSF	Kazi Shahid Foundation
LAS	Literacy Assessment Survey
LCG-WAGE	Local Consultative Sub-Group for Women's Advancement and Gender Equality
LDC	Least Developed Countries
LEDP	Learning and Earning Development
LFPR	Labour Force Participation Rate
LFS	Labor Force Survey
LGD	Local Government Division
LGED	Local Government Engineering Department
LICT	Leveraging Information and Communication Technology
LJD	Law and Justice Division
MBF	Ministry Budget Framework
MCH	Medical College Hospital
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MEBWGC	Making Every Bangladeshi Women and Girls Count
MEIs	Microeconomic Initiatives
MFA -	Marine Fisheries Academy
MFF	Mangroves for the Future
MIC	Middle income country
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
MIS-DGHS	Management Information System-Directorate General of Health Services
MMC	Market Management Committees
MNAS	Modernization of National Accounts Statistics
MNHI	Maternal and New born Health Initiative
MOEFCC	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
MOF	Ministry of Finance
MOHFW	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
MOLE	Ministry of Labor and Employment
MOST	Ministry of Science and Technology
MOSW	Ministry of Social Welfare
MOU	Memorandum of understanding
MOWCA	Ministry of Women and Children Affairs
MOWR	Ministry of Water Resources
MPs	Members of Parliament
MPWC	Multi-Purpose Women's Centres
MRDI	Management and Resources Development Initiative
MSPVAW	Multi-Sectoral Programme on Violence Against Women
MSVSB	Monitoring the Situation of Vital Statistics of Bangladesh
MTBF	Medium Term Budgetary Framework
NAPWD	National Action Plan for Women's Development
NBFIs	Non-bank financial institutions
NCWCD	National Council for Women and Children Development
NEET	Not in employment, education or training
NGO	Non-government Organization

NHD	National Household Database
NHRC	National Human Rights Commission
NIMC	National Institute of Mass Communication
NSSS	National Social Security Strategy
NST	National Science and Technology
NTCC	National Trauma Counseling Centre
NWDP	National Women Development Policy 2011
OAA	Old Age Allowance
OCC	One-Stop Crisis Centres
OCCs	One-Stop Crisis Cells
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
OWG	Open Working Group
PEDP	Primary Education Development Programme
PKSF	Palli Karma Shahayak Foundation
PMO	Prime Minister's Office
PO	Partner organization
PPP	Public Private Partnership
RERMP-II	The Rural Employment and Road Maintenance Program (Phase-II)
RMNCAH-N	Reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health and nutrition
ROSC	Reaching Out of School Children
ROSCAs	Rotating Savings and Credit Associations
RPL	Recognition of Prior Learning
SAIEVAC	South Asian Initiative to End Violence against Children
SAM	Share a Motorcycle
SCANU	Special Care New-born Units
SCAPAND	Strategic and Convergent Action Plan on Autism and Neuro development Disabilities
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SDI	Survey of Decent work indicator
SECDI	Survey on Early Childhood Development Index
SEEA	System of Environmental-Economic Accounting
SEIP	Skills for Employment Investment Program
SEN	Special education needs
SGF	Small Grants Facility
SHPC	Sexual Harassment prevention committees
SID	Statistics and Informatics Division
SMI	Survey of Manufacturing Industries
SOFI	State of Food Insecurity 2015
SOPs	Standard operating procedures
Stat4Dev	Strengthening Statistical Capacity of BBS for Collecting Data on Population and Development
STEM	Science, technology, engineering and math
STEP	Skills and Training Enhancement Project
STG	School Theatre Groups
STIs	Sexually transmitted infections
SVRS	Sample Vital Registration System

SWAP	Sector wide approach
TIP	Trafficking in Persons
TOT	Training of Trainers
TR	Test Relief
TSER	Transforming Secondary Education for Results
TTCs	Technical Training Centers
TUS	Time Use Survey
TVET	Technical and vocational education and training
UDC	Union Digital Centres
UHC	Upazila Health Complex
UNSC	UN Statistical Commission
UP	Union Parishad
UPHCSDP	Urban Primary Health Care Services Delivery Project
UZP	Upazila Parishad
VAW	Violence against Women
VAWC	Violence against women and children
VCF	Village Conservation Forum
VGd	Vulnerable Group Development
VGf	Vulnerable Group Feeding
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WDF	Women Development Forum
WE	Women entrepreneurs
WFS	Women Friendly Spaces
WHO	World Health Organization
WID	Women in Development
WIFI	Women ICT Frontier Initiative
WIP	Women in Parliament
WMS	Welfare Monitoring Survey

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Introduction

The Year 2020 will mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPfA) adopted by the world leaders in Beijing in 1995. The same year will also complete the five years of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). Therefore, the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) of the United Nations will undertake a review of the implementation of the BPfA after twenty five years in March 2020. It will assess the achievement, challenges and priorities in achieving gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls. The coming year is also critical for Bangladesh as the country will complete its Seventh Five Year Plan 2016-2020(7thFYP) period and develop a new plan towards achieving the SDGs.

This report is the outcome of a comprehensive national-level review process undertaken in Bangladesh according to the call of the ECOSOC involving Government, civil society, other stakeholder men and women of different ages and led by the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs. The process was supported by UN Women, where other UN agencies and Development Partners (DPs) were involved.

This report covers trends and achievements in gender equality, and women's advancement at the national level over the last five years after submission of the Beijing +20 National Review Report in 2014. It includes remaining gaps, challenges as well as future priorities and plans to accelerate women's advancement and gender equality. The report took into account the progress on other instruments like Convention on the elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), SDG, the Universal periodic report, relevant reports and the and CSW Agreed Conclusions.

Section one: Achievements, challenges, setbacks and Priorities

1. Achievements, Challenges and Set backs

The last five years have seen significant progress of Bangladesh in both economic growth and human development. Notable progress has been observed by global communities. Progress in gender equality in Bangladesh was observed by the Global Gender Gap Report, 2018 published by the World Economic Forum. Bangladesh ranked 48th among 149 countries in 2018 compared to 68th in 2014 calculated by educational attainment, health and survival, economic participation and political empowerment. The report observed that Bangladesh consolidated its position as the top performer in South Asian Region and was ahead of all other countries in Asia region except for the Philippines¹.

Figure 1: Evolution of Gender Gap Index of Bangladesh, 2014-18 (By rank)

1.1 Achievements

Source: Global Gender Gap Report 2018

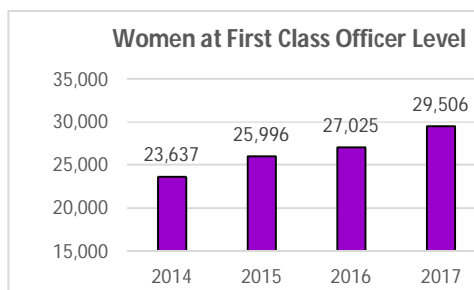
Gender equality and women's empowerment has been declared as one of the 10 priority action areas, by Sheikh Hasina, the Prime Minister of Bangladesh. Therefore, Bangladesh has taken multipronged actions to promote gender equality.

¹World Economic Forum, Global Gender Gap Report 2018

1.1.1 Participation in public life and leadership

The Government emphasised on establishing equal rights of women and men in state and public life and ensure their full and equal participation as declared in the National Women Development Policy 2011(NWDP) in light of the Constitution. The 7thFYP also emphasised on women's participation in the public spheres enhancing their role as decision makers in public and private spheres including politics, public institutions, business and trade for their empowerment. Since the last review of BPF in 2014, women in Bangladesh have made significant achievements in participation in public life and in leadership positions both in public and private sectors.

To enhance women's participation in diversified areas of workforce, the Government has opened opportunities for women in different fields and addressed the barriers faced by women. These include recruitment in non-traditional fields, support for career progression, creating skills and vocational training opportunities including in those considered as male domain. Bangladesh Army started recruiting female soldiers from 2013 and since then opportunities for women has opened in different wings of armed forces including in combat roles. Women were appointed as Vice Chancellors of universities, Justices, senior officials in administration, and police. Despite all social barriers to public participation, women have proven to take leadership positions in politics, social actions, business and in corporate fields. Women's' participation in civil service and especially in class one officer positions has been increasing. In 2017-18, there were 6 women occupying the position of Secretary (highest position in civil service). A total of 12 women are working as Deputy Commissioners of 12 districts, and 71 women were working as Upazilla Nirbahi Officer (Sub-District Executive Officer) in 2019². As of July 2018, there were 1 Additional Inspector General, 4 Additional Inspector Generals and 37 Superintendents in Bangladesh Police.³



Source: Annual Report, Ministry of Public Administration

Example: In April 2018, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina received the Global Women's Leadership Award for her outstanding leadership for the advancement in women's education and women entrepreneurship in Bangladesh and in the Asia Pacific region. Earlier in 2016, UN Women awarded Sheikh Hasina with "Planet 50-50 Champion" while Global Partnership Forum handed over the "Agent of Change Award" for her role in women's empowerment. Back in 2014, she was awarded with "WIP Global Forum Award" from UNESCO for her leading role in reducing gender gap in the political sphere in South and South-East Asia. She also received the "Tree of Peace" Award for promoting girls' and women's education in the same year.



Example: Dr Susane Giti was adorned with her new rank as major general in Bangladesh Army on September 30, 2018 as the first female officer of that rank. She joined Bangladesh Army as a physician in 1986 and attained FCPS degree in Haematology in 1996. Major General Susane Giti performed as pathology specialist in UN Mission and different military hospitals and is now working as the head of Pathology Department at Armed Forces Medical College⁴.

² Ministry of Public Administration, Government of Bangladesh, Annual Report 2017-2018

³ bpwn.org.bd

⁴ <https://www.thedailystar.net/country/susane-giti-first-female-bangladesh-army-major-general-1640794>

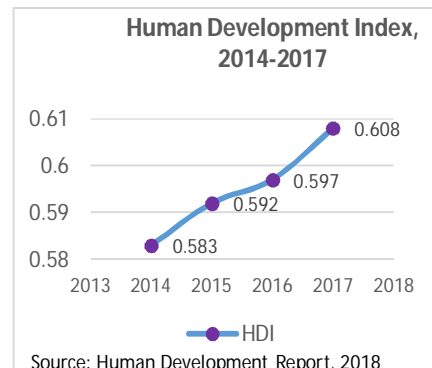


Rubana Huq was elected as the first female President of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) for 2019 and 2021 tenure and took over the position on April 20, 2019. Rubana Huq, a PhD in English literature has been in the position of Managing Director of Mohammadi Group for the last twenty years, and was active in empowering ten thousand women involved in manufacturing ready-made garments for export. She also heads the Real Estate Division of Mohammadi group and the Nagorik, a television channel. Besides being a successful business leader, Rubana is a poet, and regular weekly columnist of an English daily.

Example: For the first time in Bangladesh Army's history, four female officers were promoted as lieutenant colonels and made commanding officers of four battalions on January 24, 2019. Of them, three were appointed as the commanding officers to three artillery battalions, while one was made the commanding officer to an engineers' battalion. The officers are: Lt Col Sanjida Hossain (Artillery), Lt Col Syeda Nazia Royhan (Artillery), Lt Col Farhana Afrin (Artillery), and Lt Col Sarah Amir (Engineers).

1.1.2 Human Development of Women: Health and Education

Bangladesh in its journey towards a middle-income country (MIC) emphasises on developing its citizens as human resources. One of the key strategies of the 7thFYP is improving women's human capabilities to achieve better health and educational outcomes. Human development situation has shown rapid progress according to the Human Development Index (HDI), 2018 and Bangladesh with an HDI Value of 0.608 ranked 136th and fell in the medium human development category. The Gender Development Index value for the same year was 0.881⁵.



1.1.2.1 Education

Girls' education has been prioritised for the last two decades. Gender parity in access to education in both primary and secondary levels was achieved well ahead as part of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG). In 2018, the gross enrolment ratio in primary education reached at 114.23% and net enrolment rate 97.85%. In the same year, the gross enrolment ratio in secondary education reached 75.32% and the net enrolment rate 69.38%. Girls outnumber boys in these levels. The number of out of school children has been decreasing both in absolute and relative term. In 2018 the Bangladesh's complex education system catered to over 36.81 million students involving many stakeholders (14 types of providers in primary education, 10 examination boards at the secondary levels, and about 96.76% secondary education institutions are privately managed).

At the Secondary level in 2018, the gross enrolment ratio for boys in 2018 was 67.26%, and significantly lower compared to GER for girls which was 81.90%. Gender parity index was 1.24. In 2018, the completion rate was 63.99%, for boys, 59.81% for girls. The drop-out rate reduced to 37.62% in 2018 from 37.81% in 2017. However, the survival age group rose up from 72.53% in 2017 to 62.38% in 2018. At the Secondary level the drop-out rate reduced to 37.62% in 2018 from 37.81% in 2017 and the survival age group rose up from 72.53% in 2017 to 62.38% in 2018⁶.

⁵ United Nation Development Programme, Human Development Report, 2018

⁶ Bureau of Educational Information and Statistics, Education Statistics, 201

The Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in Higher Secondary level was significantly lower for girls compared to boys. The GER was 43.80%, among them 45.35% for boys, 42.16% for girls. The completion rate reached to 80.37% for both gender, 81.98% for boys and 78.79% for girls. The survival rate increased to 72.44% in 2018. The coefficient of efficiency was 73.70%. The co-efficient show significant improvement in girls' secondary education during the past decade.

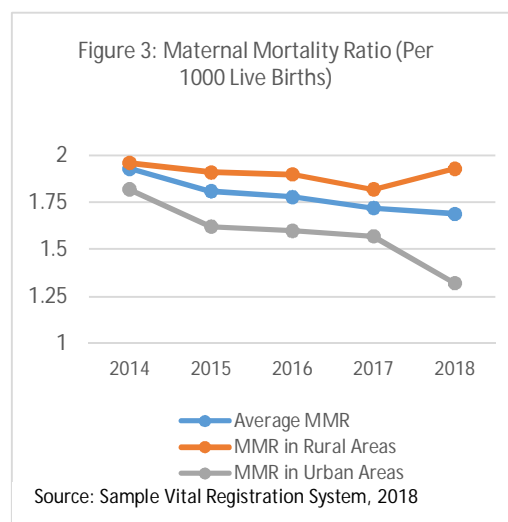
At the college level there were 4495 colleges in 2018 of which 744 colleges (16.55%) were exclusively for girls. The total enrolment in college in 2018 was 4.278 million of whom 2.046 million (47.83%) were girls. Gender parity index was 0.93 (Girls to Boys). Total teachers in 4,495 colleges were 123,518. Among them 29924 (24.23%) were female.

Professional education include 12 types including medical, dental, nursing, homeopathic, unani/ayurvedic, health technology, textile technology, leather technology, law and art, agriculture and library science. In 2018, the total students in these institutions were 121,488 and 46.00% were girls. In 2018, there were 2,495 (26.92%) female teachers among 9,267 teachers⁷.

Most of the institutions had safe drinking water facilities (97.41%) and about 95.59% institutions had separate toilets for girl students. Emphasis is being placed on girls' education in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), and ensuring quality education for all. Contents of education are being reviewed to reduce gender bias and sexual and reproductive health issues have been incorporated in school curriculum.

1.1.2.2 Health

Bangladesh being a small country with high density of population and limited resources, gradual progress in health and nutritional indicators has been achieved during the period of review. Life expectancy at birth has shown a small increase of 0.4 years in one year: from 71.6 years in 2016 to 72.0 in 2017. Experts analyzed that the gain in life expectancy was somewhat higher among the females (73.5 years) than those among the males (70.6 years) resulting from a higher survival advantage in favour of females. Maternal mortality ratio has decreased about 13 % over the last five years, from 1.97 maternal deaths per 1000 live births in 2013 to 1.72 in 2017. However, maternal mortality for urban women has been lower (1.57) than their rural counterparts⁸.



1.1.2.3 Nutrition

The nutritional status of women and children has shown some improvement over the years. The level of stunting has declined from 51% in 2004 to 36% in 2014. Wasting has declined from 17% in 2007 to 14% in 2014. The level of underweight has declined to 33% in 2014 from 43% in 2004. Still malnutrition among children and women still remains one of the major health problems in Bangladesh⁹.

⁷ Bureau of Educational Information and Statistics, Education Statistics, 2018

⁸ Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, Government of Bangladesh Sample Vital Registration System 2017,

⁹ Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Bangladesh, Health Bulletin, 2017

1.1.3 Economic benefits: Employment diversity, entrepreneurship and financial inclusion

One of the major strategy of the 7thFYP is ensuring economic benefits for women both for poverty reduction and promoting gender equality. Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) showed that 1.4 million new jobs have been created since 2015 with an increase of workforce to 62.1 million in 2015– 2016 from 60.7 million in 2013. The Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) for female was found to be 35.6 per cent in 2015–2016, which showed an increase of 2.1 per cent from 2013. LFPR for male population has increased from 81.7 to 81.9 per cent¹⁰. Of the total employment, informal employment being 85.1% dominates and only 14.9% employment is in the formal sector. For women, formal sector employment was only 8.2% of the total employment and for males 17.9% jobs were in the formal sector .In 2010, percentages of employed persons in informal sector was 87.5% of the employed population and only 12.5% were in the formal sector. Among the males 14.5% was in the formal sector and 85.5% was in the informal sector. For the females 7.7% was in the formal sector and 92.3% was in the informal sector.¹¹The number of working women increased to 18.6 million in 2016-17 from 16.2 million in 2010. Women’s participation in diversified jobs and their entry into the male dominated area was recorded, which include business (hospitality, construction, fashion, agri-business etc.), defence forces, law enforcement, ridesharing, para- trouping, marine cadets or migrant workers.

For the first time in 2016, thirteen female marine cadets got appointments to serve a year-long sea training in five ships of Bangladesh Shipping Corporation (BSC). The cadets were the first females to complete two-year long study from Bangladesh Marine Academy and joined the ships to complete the sea training to acquire academic certificates that are required for eligibility in applying for professional certificates.

Cottage, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (CMSME) led by 67,309 women received financing of BDT 121.74 billion in FY18 from Banks and non -bank financial institutions (NBFIs) which shows a promising 165 per cent growth from FY17. During the year around 3.96 million farmers received agricultural and rural credit of whom 1.58 million women got BDT 63.09 million from different banks¹².

Grameen Bank’s aggregate amount disbursed in 2017 under its diverse credit windows amounted to BDT 234.72 billion (USD 2.92 billion) and about 95% of Grameen Bank beneficiaries are women¹³.

1.1.4 Poverty reduction and social protection

Table: Poverty Reduction in Bangladesh, 2010-16

Head Count Poverty	Cost of Basic Needs (CBN) Method	
	2010	2016
National(Upper Poverty Line)	31.5	24.3
National (Lower Poverty Line)	17.6	12.9

Source: SDG Voluntary National Report Bangladesh 2017

Progress is visible in reducing poverty, supported by sustained economic growth. According to World Bank, poverty declined from 44.2 per cent in 1991 to 13.8 per cent in 2016/17 based on the international poverty line of \$1.90 per person per day. Food production and food security has increased. Bangladesh reach the lower middle-income country (MIC) status in 2015 and Bangladesh met the eligibility criteria for graduation from the United Nation’s Least Developed Countries (LDC) list in 2018, and is on track to graduate in 2024.¹⁴

¹⁰ Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, Government of Bangladesh, Labour Force Survey, 2016

¹¹ Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, Government of Bangladesh, Labour Force Survey, 2016 and 2010,

¹² Bangladesh Bank, Annual Report 2018

¹³ Grameen Bank, Annual Report 2017

Along with reduction of the multi-dimensional nature of poverty, Bangladesh is attentive about social empowerment and disaster resilience of the citizens. The National Social Security Strategy (NSSS) took a on life-cycle based approach (childhood, school age, working age, reproductive age, old age and disability) with attention on vulnerable women.

The Second Rural Employment and Road Maintenance Programme implemented by Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) created employment opportunities for 59,180 women during 2013-2018 in public work for road side tree plantation and maintenance. These women were also given vocational training so that they can go for self-employment after their job term is over.

As of June 2018, Palli Karma Shahayak Foundation (PKSF) through its 277 Partner Organizations (POs) was providing various services to 13.24 million members of whom 91.07% were women. The number of micro-finance borrowers was 10.38 million, of whom 92.01% were women. PKSF under its Kuwait Goodwill Fund organized 4,39,092 members and disbursed BDT 13,043 million in 11,651 groups since June 2011 of whom over 77% were women.¹⁵

About 70 per cent beneficiaries of the projects/ programs implemented by Rural Development and Cooperative Division (RDCD) are women. Above 1.57 million women have been supported by the “Amar Bari Amar Khamar (My Home My Farm)” programme. About 265 thousand women were supported through Comprehensive Village Development Program (Phase-2) Project and the 3rd phase of the project has been started. The “Integrated Rural Employment Support Project for the Poor Women (IRESPPW)” of Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB) supported livelihood enhancement for 77 thousand poor women in last five years.¹⁶

1.1.5 Conducive Legislation and Policies

To create an enabling environment for promoting gender equality, legislation and policies play important roles. During the last five years many laws have been enacted and policies aiming at promoting gender equality and increasing access of women in resources, human development opportunities, protection from vulnerability and gender based violence. The main Acts are: Child Marriage Restraint Act 2017, and Dowry Prohibition Act 2018. The policies include Bangladesh National Nutrition Policy 2015, National Information and Communication Technology Policy 2015, National Handicraft Policy 2015, Domestic Workers Protection and Welfare Policy 2015, National Industry Policy 2016, Expatriate Welfare and Overseas Employment Policy 2016, Overseas Employment Policy 2016, and National Youth Policy 2017. In addition several plans and strategies were also developed that include Gender Equity Strategy 2014 of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW), National Social Security Strategy 2015-2026, Agricultural & Rural Credit Policy and Programme for the FY 2018-2019, and Disable Persons’ Rights and Protection Action Plan 2018. The Child Marriage Restraint Rules were formulated in 2018. These acts and policies have recognized women as a distinct group and assured to address their needs. The implementation of the policies and laws and to enable women in reaping the benefits of these policies by ensuring enforcement is the challenge of the Government.

1.2 Challenges

Despite progress in the key areas, many challenges exist that need to be addressed for attaining the goal of gender equality and the SDGs.

¹⁴ <https://www.worldbank.org/en/results/2018/11/15/bangladesh-reducing-poverty-and-sharing-prosperity>

¹⁵ Palli Karma Shahayak Foundation (PKSF), Annual Report, 2018

¹⁶ Rural Development and Cooperatives Division Gender Budget Report, 2019-2020

1.2.1 Quality human resource development

The Government has emphasized on quality human resource development. The Gender Strategy of the 7th FYP called for comprehensive initiatives to build capacity and skills of women and girls to grow as self-reliant human being and to enable them to join the workforce.

1.2.1.1 Challenges in quality education

A major challenge in education is that a large number of children of school going age are still out of education system especially in remote rural, riverine and hilly areas. The drop-out though reducing but was still prevalent in every grade at the primary level, which was higher in grade 4. At the higher secondary level (xi-xii grades) dropout rate was 19.63% in 2018, compared to 21.80% in 2017, which was 41% in 2000. Child marriage and lack of proper water and sanitation facilities for girls especially at the secondary level is considered as a reason for drop out of girls at higher grades. In technical and vocational education, only 24.76% are girls. At the tertiary level 33.94 % are girls but their number is low in technical and science streams accepting medical education.¹⁷ Still girls' participation in STEM and ensuring quality education for all remain as challenges. Another challenge is to ensure proper education on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) because of the social inhibition about discussing the subject.

1.2.1.2 Challenges in health and Nutrition

The highest challenge as shown in the Gender Gap Report is health and survival. Despite efforts, full vaccination coverage is only 86.8% among children and valid tetanus toxoid coverage among women of childbearing age was TT1 98.2%; TT2 96.8%; TT3 89.2%; TT4 73.2%; TT5 52.3% (EPI CES 2016)¹⁸. About 5.1% children are born to adolescent mothers. About half (48.2%) of the deliveries take place in institutions and the rest at home. More than 72 % of the deliveries are attended by skilled birth attendants (more in urban than in rural) and the remaining (27.7%) by unskilled attendants. Maternal mortality ratio reduced to 1.72 in 2017 from 1.97 in 2013 but still is high.¹⁹ There are other challenges related to access to affordable health care at various stages of life. Malnutrition among children and women remains as one of the major health problems. Low birth weight, wasting, and stunting is common among children and 4% of adolescent girls were found to be severely short. Nationally, 16% of women were underweight, of whom 2% were severely underweight and among adolescent girls 7% were underweight, of whom 1% was severely underweight²⁰. The Government is operating Health and Nutrition Sector Programme and non-government organizations (NGO) are providing different services. The 'State of Food Insecurity (SOFI) 2015' that the proportion of hungry people reduced from 32.8% in 1990 to 16.4% in 2014. However, as for micronutrient deficiencies, a third of pre-school children and half of pregnant women are anaemic. Vitamin A deficiency affects one child in five, and vitamin B12 deficiency one child in three. Early marriage and related teenage pregnancies leading to a high prevalence of low birth weight (22%) are among the key determinants of malnutrition.²¹ Similarly, only half of the children are exclusively breastfed and complementary feeding practices are inadequate to meet the nutritional requirements of infants and young children²². In addition, SRHR services for adolescents and unmarried are inadequate.

¹⁷ Bureau of Educational Information and Statistics, Education Statistics, 2018

¹⁸ Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Bangladesh, Health Bulletin, 2017

¹⁹ Sample Vital Registration Statistics 2017, BBS

²⁰ Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Bangladesh, Health Bulletin, 2017

²¹ Government of Bangladesh, General Economic Division, Voluntary National Review (VNR) of SDGs, 2017

²² Government of Bangladesh, Voluntary National Report on SDG

1.2.2 Poverty, unemployment and type of occupation

Bangladesh still faces challenges with about 22 million people still living below the poverty line. To reach the MIC status, Bangladesh needs to create decent job opportunities for the 2 million youth entering the job market every year²³. Unemployment is a challenge for both men and women but increasing women's labour force participation rate from 35.6 per cent in 2015-16 is a challenge. Based on LFS 2016-2017, the largest number of Youth not in Employment, Education or training (NEET) belong to the age group 20-24 (4.6 million or 62.3% followed by age group 15-19 (2.8 million or 37.7 %). Out of almost 7.4 million youth aged 15-24 years belonging to NEET, 83% were female youths and 17.0% were male. Of them 71.7 % are from rural areas. Majority of women are working in informal sector (91.9%). Occupational segregation is pronounced and there were more males in all categories of employment except among household category, where 47.4% of the employed females were working compared to 9.1% of the employed males²⁴. In the public sector there is no gender based wage gap. Gender wage gap though is reducing but exists in the country, especially in private sector and informal employment, such as in agriculture, construction, craft and related trade workers, and in elementary occupations. The difference in earnings between the sexes and rural-urban is wider.

1.2.3 Work environment and care services

With the increase on women's participation in education, employment and other public activities, the requirement for child, disability and elderly care services is increasing. Though day care service for children is being promoted by the Government and in private sector especially at factory levels but is highly inadequate and the need for developing a low-cost care economy is pronounced to support women's public participation. With the increased participation of women in economic activities, workplace harassment has also become evident in many places needing urgent prevention. The Government is working towards addressing this issue.

1.2.4 Child marriage

Despite taking actions in many areas including in legal, social, economic and educational measures to prevent child marriage, Bangladesh is one of the countries in terms of high global rates of child marriages. Though child marriage is reducing but still child marriage is prevalent. In 2018-19 for child marriage for ages 15-18 was 10.7%. Child marriages happen on the grounds of poverty, security, not having guardians to look after and such reasons.²⁵

1.2.5 Supporting disabled persons

Crude disability rate was about 9 per cent in 2017. About 52.1% was natal disability, 21.6 % was due to illness and 2.8 % due to wrong treatment calling for better health coverage and interventions. About 10.8 % disabilities are due to accidents and calls for traffic safety and occupational safety. Disability rate among women was 8.²⁶ Women with disability face additional complex discriminatory situation and social stigma as women and as disabled. Their access to education, treatment, employment, marital life and family support is low compared to that of men.

With the increase of women's mobility in public sphere, gender-based violence, sexual harassment and offences like rape and gang rape has created an insecure situation for women and girls. Both Government and civil society organizations operate many preventive, awareness raising and

²³<https://www.worldbank.org/en/results/2018/11/15/bangladesh-reducing-poverty-and-sharing-prosperity>

²⁴ Labour Statistics in Bangladesh an empirical Analysis, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, 2018

²⁵ Ministry of Women and Children Affairs Annual Performance Assessment Report, 2019-2020

²⁶ Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, Government of Bangladesh, Sample Vital Registration System, 2017

practical programmes; legal education and aid; and support programmes. Despite having good laws in place and initiative to promote gender equality, women's mobility in public is considered to be unsafe.

1.2.6 GBV, sexual harassment and insecurity and discriminatory norms

In many areas girls and women are discriminated against because of different social norms. These norms are related to preference for sons over daughters by parents, the differential roles and responsibilities of women and men, as well as their power and decision making authority. These often determine women's human development opportunities, mobility, their access to resources, participation in public actions, employment and participation in decision making. Both Government and civil society organizations operate many awareness raising and practical programmes, but still child marriage, school dropout, domestic violence take place because of these norms. Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK), a renowned NGO working with human rights issues reported that in 2017 a total of 303 cases of dowry related violence happened.

1.2.7 Women form the marginalized communities

In Bangladesh, about 30 million marginalised groups of diverges categories are among the citizens, including ethnic and low cast groups. Some communities are historically prone to exclusion, which make them more vulnerable. The marginalized communities face multiple forms of discrimination and at times become victims of rights violation. They face challenges that include low access to education, employment, economic, health care and, social opportunities. Their livelihoods are fragile and social status is low. Despite taking positive measures, women in these groups face additional marginalisation and low access to recourses. Bangladesh has to take additional efforts to "Leave No One Behind" to meet the SDG goals.²⁷

1.2.8 Climate Change

Bangladesh a victim of climate change and it adversely affect agriculture, water resources, livelihood, education, food security and health. Women become particularly vulnerable to climate change induced disasters. Irregular attendance of student and teachers are the common scenario after disaster due to family displacement and loss of livelihoods, and assets. Climate change negatively impacts on main livelihood options like agriculture and fisheries. It creates stress on women by raising water salinity and loss of water and sanitation facilities. It also brings diseases and other health problems. Adaptation and mitigation programmes have been taken to address climate vulnerabilities and to reduce the risks. Women as a group are becoming more resilient due to these programs. Yet, climate change induced disasters can deepen the gender based vulnerabilities of women and the Government is to address this challenge.

1.2.9 Challenges regarding capacity, monitoring and insufficiency of data

Despite good laws, policies and programmes the Government faces challenge in terms of capacity to monitor enforcement of the laws and policies. Government is emphasising on sex disaggregated data collection which has improved but still could not be ensured for monitoring in all areas. Besides, capacity of staff in addressing gender inequality needs further improvement. In assessing the situation of rural women, data availability becomes a challenge. A key challenge for monitoring is insufficient data and sex disaggregated data. While some progress has been made in availability of reliable data to effectively measure progress towards the SDG indicators since 2017, data gaps remains for many SDG indicators. Economic data is generally more easily available than data in the

²⁷ Manusher Jonno Foundation, State of the Marginalised Communities in Bangladesh, 2016

social and environmental areas. Still there is general lack of data not only disaggregated by sex, but also by rural and urban areas in many areas.

1.2.10 Resources

Bangladesh, though has achieved steady economic growth, considering the need of its large population, the allocation of country's resources is limited to address the needs in gender focused human development, infrastructure, labour market support, social protection and disaster resilience for all citizens. Developmental needs are high and large developmental investments are done generally in hard infrastructural sectors. Often gender analysis or addressing women's needs in those areas are insignificant. The gender responsive budget mechanism is gradually improving the situation.

1.3 Setbacks

During the last five years implementation of BPFA was not slowed down. Some resources had to be transferred to address other emergency situations both climatic and human made.

1.3.1 Influx of Rohingya people from Myanmar

Since August 2017, nearly 1 million Rohingya refugees fleeing from Rakhainstate of Myanmar have entered Bangladesh and were given shelter in Cox's Bazar. The majority of them are children and women. This ethnic group from Myanmar, are now at the centre of one of the fastest-growing refugee crises in the world. Their needs for food, shelter, and health care are immediate and enormous, and take a share from the limited resources. Almost every person including women and girls is either a survivor of or a witness to multiple incidences of killing through mutilation or burning alive, sexual assault, rape and gang rape of a close family member or neighbour. Many of them experienced sexual- and gender based violence, perpetrated by both the Myanmar army and by Rakhine locals resulting in pregnancy. The influx of refugees stretched the capacities of the government and humanitarian agencies working to provide emergency shelter, services and protection. Over the last almost two years besides utilizing own resources, the Government had to resort to development partner (DP)s in addressing the crisis. This has limited allocation of available resources for other programmes and affected the livelihood and support for the host community of the area. The return of refugee population is uncertain and every day babies are born in the settlements, which is apprehended to put more stretch on the limited resources.

1.3.2 Natural calamities

Flood²⁸: Almost at the same time while Rohingya refugees were entering Bangladesh, in August 2017 after the devastating flood of July, second time monsoon flood started affecting 8746 villages of 31 districts. Heavy rainfall in India and Nepal resulted in extensive flooding on rivers in Bangladesh. Most of the north-western part of the country was inundated affecting more than about six million people and 121 persons died. More than 562594 hectares of cultivable land was partially or fully flooded, crops damaged and half a million houses were either washed away or damaged owing to breach of flood protection embankments. About 3134 schools and colleges in flood affected areas were affected and 403km of road fully and 4432.38 km of road partially damaged. Medical response team had to be prepared. Early warning, evacuation, health and rehabilitation support had to be extended. Many people lost their livelihood and rehabilitation programmes required additional funding and support.

²⁸<https://reliefweb.int/report/bangladesh/bangladesh-flood-situation-august-22-2017>

Cyclone Mora²⁹: On 30 May 2017 Cyclonic Storm Mora hit Bangladesh and an estimated 10,074,699 people in coastal districts, especially Cox's Bazaar and Chittagong were hit with gusts that topped 130 km/h. A total of 500,000 people had to be evacuated from the coastal areas and at least six lives were lost. Approximately 52,000 houses were damaged or destroyed, leaving 260,000 people in possible need of shelter. In particular, Cox's Bazaar district was heavily hit, with approximately 17,000 residences damaged. Housing for Rohingya refugees near Cox's Bazaar were severely damaged. The activities to assist the affected families including distribution of hygiene kits, food, water, shelter sanitary equipment, cash grants, rehabilitation of schools and humanitarian assistance. The storm put women and children at risk of exploitation, abuse and violation, as they were taking shelter with people who are not their family members.

1.3.3 Gender based violence

Violence against women and girls is prevalent and a survey in 2015 by BBS found that almost two thirds (72.6%) of ever married women experienced one or more forms of violence by their husbands at least once in their lifetime. About 54.7% women experienced violence during last 12 months. Controlling behaviour was common experienced by 55.4% of ever-married women followed by physical violence (49.6%). Emotional violence, sexual violence and economic violence were experienced by 28.7%, 27.3% and 11.4% of women respectively.³⁰ The Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act 2010 and its Rules 2013 aims to prevent and protect women and children from domestic violence, which was earlier considered as private matter. As per the human right situation monitored by Ain O Salish Kendra, a human rights organization, only in 2017, out of 442 victims of domestic violence, 304 were killed and 58 committed suicide. Beside domestic violence, other forms of violence included violence towards domestic workers, rape, acid violence, sexual harassment (Stalking), dowry related violence and punishment by salish (mediation) or Fatwa. Government has developed a National Action Plan to Prevent Violence Against Women and Children (2018-2030) and civil society organizations have been taking different initiatives to combat violence against women and girls, which have been elaborated in Section 2.

2. Top five priorities for accelerating progress for women and girls in the last five years

- ✓ Quality education, training and life-long learning for women and girls
- ✓ Poverty eradication, agricultural productivity and food security
- ✓ Eliminating violence against women and girls
- ✓ Women's entrepreneurship and women's enterprises
- ✓ Gender-responsive social protection
- ✓ Basic services and infrastructure

In addition, priority was also given to

- ✓ Digital and financial inclusion for women
- ✓ Eliminating violence against women and girls

2.1 Quality education, training and life-long learning for women and girls

The Government emphasises on girls' education and to increase women's access in education and to reduce the dropout, 289, 08,921 students were given stipend and other financial assistance between FY 2019-10 and 2017-18 under five projects. During the same period 1488,401 students were given merit scholarships. Among all the beneficiaries, 75% are female students. The current stipend programmes for secondary education for girls are being consolidated and harmonised. A draft policy

²⁹<https://reliefweb.int/disaster/tc-2017-000058-bqdg9>

³⁰ Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, Government of Bangladesh, Sample Vital Registration System, 2017

for harmonization of secondary stipend programmes has been finalized where coverage and rate of stipend has been proposed to increase. The revised rate of stipend has already been approved. Besides, under the Prime Minister's Education Assistance Trust Act 2012, Taka 10000.00 million was given as seed money to the Trust to increase the number of female students in the higher education. A total of 840,062 female students received stipend since FY 2012-13 to FY 2017-18.

To enhance the role of teachers for quality education at the primary level, a quota of 60% has been reserved for women. In 2017-18 the proportion of women teachers reached to 62.6%. The percentage of teachers in experimental, ROSC and BRAC (the largest NGO of Bangladesh) schools reached 89%, 97.3% and 84.3% respectively. At the secondary level government schools the proportion of female teachers is 31.24% and in other secondary schools women are about one fourth of all teachers. Teachers are trained to ensure quality education and of all teachers received subject based training 45.53% are women.

A National Strategy to promote Gender Equality in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) was formulated. It aims to increase female participation in formal TVET institution by at least 60% by 2020 as well as increase female employment by 30%. Through a circular by the Technical Education Board, quota reservation for female enrolment has been increased from 10% to 20%.

2.2 Poverty eradication, agricultural productivity and food security

The Government emphasised on reduction of poverty and hunger among citizens and introduced or expanded several social protection programmes. Since the approval of the NSSS in 2015, the number of beneficiaries of social protection programmes has gradually increased. To enhance food security, women's participation in agricultural productivity, and access to food was emphasised.

During the last five years, Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) trained about 6,21,020 women on high yielding agriculture technology, food processing, preservation, packaging and ICT. MOA extended credit for cultivating high yielding and diversifies varieties and 60% recipients are women. Input assistance card was distributed among 13, 65,230 women farmers. The card allows marginal (0.02-0.19 ha), small (0.20-1.00 ha) and medium (1.01-3.03 ha) farmers to get cash subsidies.

The coverage of Vulnerable Group Development (VGD) Programme under Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MOWCA) was expanded for 1 million disadvantaged women from 750,000 all over the country in 2017. The additional beneficiaries included women in newly exchanged chit mahals (enclaves exchanged with India) and the local women of Cox's Bazaar who were affected by the influx of Rohingya population in the country. The number of beneficiaries has been raised to 1.04 million in the budget of 2018-19.

Normally fishermen are among the poorest section of people. Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries has trained 500,000 persons on fish production and processing of whom 25% were females. Women represent 10% of the total people engaged in fish cultivation and 80% of all the workers employed in fish and shrimp processing factories are women.

In last 3 years, a total of 2775 female farmers have been given technical training on silk cultivation. Bangladesh Sericulture Development Board produced and distributed 0.82 million mulberry plants to women. Also, 0.9 million of silk eggs (DFL) have been produced and distributed to them.

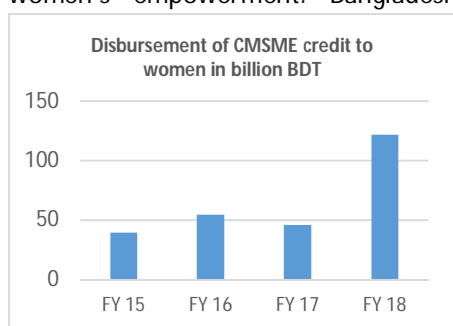
Integrated Livestock Development Project in Coastal Char Land under Department of Livestock is forming livestock groups with 34,408 beneficiaries of remote riverine islands. Among them 30,967

(90%) are women. They are receiving training on goat and poultry farming. In case of sheep farming 50% will be women and in poultry farming 100% will be women.

Employment opportunities are created for the rural poor during lean periods through different food based programmes, like Test Relief (TR), and Food for Work (FFW) programmes. Out of 9.91 million beneficiaries under different food based programmes 55% were women during 2016-2018. Open market sale of food items has continued as a means to ensure access to food for the poor during crisis. Women were 52% of the 11.97 million beneficiaries of the OMS during 2016-2018. Ministry of Food distributed 5 million food cards during lean periods (for five months a year) among the poor under its Food Friendly Programme and about 50% beneficiaries are women³¹.

2.3 Women’s entrepreneurship and women’s enterprises

Women entrepreneurship development has been emphasised both for economic growth and for women’s empowerment. Bangladesh Bank has fixed interest rate for financing women entrepreneurs at 9%. The National Industry Policy 2016 categorised and redefined the type of Industries to facilitate women’s access to institutional finance. Under Financing CMSMEs 67,309 women led enterprises received financing of BDT 121.74 billion in FY18 from Banks and NBFIs showing a 165 per cent growth from FY17. The government has allocated Tk1 billion for Women Entrepreneurship Fund and Tk. 250 million for Women Development Special Fund in FY19. Women entrepreneurs are given preference in allotment of spaces



Source: Bangladesh Bank Annual Report, 2018

in multi-tenant building in High-Tech Park.

Jatiyo Mohila Sangstha (JMS), an agency under MOWCA is implementing a project “Promotion of Women Entrepreneurs for Economic Empowerment (3rd phase)” for the period of July 2015-June 2020. It has trained 71,200 women in business management since 2015 and targeted to train 22,500 women entrepreneurs in 30 upazillas (sub-districts) including Dhaka. Thirty sales and display centres under this project has been established where women entrepreneurs can showcase their products. A country-wide women-friendly marketing network is being developed.³² Joyeeta Foundation, another entity under MOWCA provides financial and technical support to its members/beneficiaries. The Government has allocated 10 million BDT as seed capital to the Foundation.³³ MOWCA has taken initiative to develop 20 million women of rural areas as entrepreneurs through different projects and programmes especially by its IGA Project from 2017 to 2020.

SME Foundation organizes fairs at national and regional levels for marketing of products produced by women, arranges buyer-seller meetings, training women on improving product quality, preparing women entrepreneurs for the participating overseas fair in association with Export Promotion Bureau (EPB). It also supports women entrepreneurs accessing bank loans without mortgage and provides financial literacy to women entrepreneurs. Besides, 500 women entrepreneurs who received loan were trained through banks to increase their efficiency and capacity.

Construction of women market sections in growth centres and village haats (markets) and bazaars by LGED and Department of Agriculture Extension has created a congenial atmosphere for developing women entrepreneurship and fostering greater economic participation of women. LGED

³¹ Ministry of Finance, Government of Bangladesh, Gender Budget Report 2019-2020, 2019

³² Jatiyo Mohila Sangstha, Government of Bangladesh

³³ Jatiyo Mohila Sangstha, Government of Bangladesh, Annual Performance Agreement 2018-2019, 2018

constructed separate women sections in 30 markets in FY 2017-18 where women entrepreneurs are benefiting from the women market sections.³⁴

A total of 45,324 entrepreneurs provided with credits of Tk 4.2billion to develop agri-business by Department of Agricultural Marketing. Among them 45% are women entrepreneurs. Women workers involved in small and cottage industry were trained.³⁵

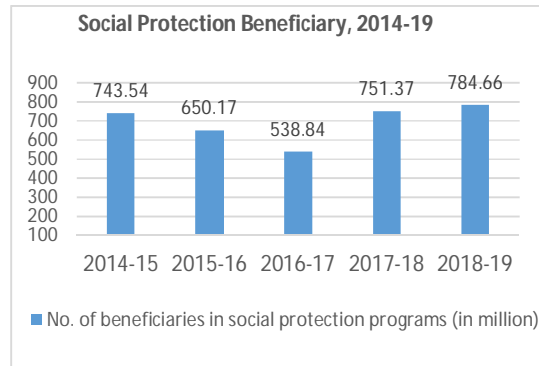
2.4 Gender-responsive social protection (universal health coverage, cash transfers, pensions)

The number of beneficiaries of social protection is increasing since the approval of the NSSS in 2015. The NSSS advocates for income transfer under a reformed VWB programme consolidating the existing fragmented social protection programmes.

A Gender Policy for the NSSS was developed and approved by Central Monitoring Committee (CMC) in May 2018. A Gender Strategy and Action Plan for the implementation of the Policy has been developed identifying action for each ministry implementing SP programmes and is in the process

of approval. The number of SP beneficiaries has increased after the approval of the NSSS in 2015.

The NSSS acknowledges the importance of nutrition for vulnerable people especially women and children. The Government has already started introducing fortified rice distribution for vulnerable women and nutrition behavior change communication (BCC) in its VGD programme. To ensure nutrition of the poor women and children, fortified rice with 6 micro-nutrients is being distributed among 220 thousand women in 96 upazillas.



Source: Ministry of Finance, Government of Bangladesh

2.5 Basic services and infrastructure (water, sanitation, energy, transport etc.)

Basic services and infrastructure have been emphasised to facilitate women's mobility, improving work environment and reducing pollution.

The government has launched separate bus services for both women and children. BRTC operates 17 buses for women and 2 for school-going children, all of which ply only in the capital, Dhaka. This service is also essential in other cities. Female govt. officials also enjoy separate, hassle-free bus service in different routes. A separate ride sharing service for women has been established by private sector named "O Bon" (hi sister) driven by women.

In June 2018, basic sanitation coverage in rural areas has reached to 99%. Secondary and Higher Education Division issued circular in 2015 to ensure separate water and sanitation facilities for male and female students and teachers in all education institutions. In 2017-18, Department of Public Health and Engineering (DPHE) established 360 public toilet/community latrines and 2025 shared latrines in urban areas with separate facilities for women. Under Primary Education Sector Development Programme-3, DPHE has established 28,500 washblocks in primary schools and established 39,300 water points. Some women-only bathing and toilet facilities have been installed in the Rohingya refugee camp areas of Cox's Bazaar for women and girls.³⁶ LGED has constructed 356 community latrine during the year.

³⁴ Local Government Engineering Department, Government of Bangladesh, Annual Report 2017-2018, 2018

³⁵ Ministry of Finance, Government of Bangladesh, Gender Budget Report 2019-2020, 2019

³⁶ Department of Public Health and Engineering, Government of Bangladesh, Annual Report, 2017-2018

LGED has constructed 10 bus terminals in 2017-18 with separate waiting, toilet and ticket counters for women. Slum improvement programme in urban areas has incorporated improvement of pathways, water and sanitation facilities and street lighting. The development activities are supervised by slum improvement Committees chaired by women.

Bangladesh Country Action Plan for Clean Cook stoves (CAP) targets to disseminate cook stoves to over 30 million households in Bangladesh toward achieving the goal of 100% clean cooking solutions by 2030. To achieve the goal of CAP, a project named "Household Energy Platform Program in Bangladesh" is being implemented from July 2016 to June 2021 to create awareness about improved cook stoves (ICS), ensure access to finance for entrepreneurs, create new business model, remove all barriers, introduce new technology, develop testing lab, reduce greenhouse gas emission, capacity building and research on new cooking solutions.³⁷

The per capita electricity generation of Bangladesh has increased from 220 kWh to 464 kWh in the last 8 years resulting in increase in household access to electricity which facilitated women's entry into the labour-market and improve their quality of life. 8.7 million households received electricity connection in the last 3 years.³⁸

About 4.13 million solar home systems have been installed providing better quality solar electricity to 18 million people who used kerosene lamps before as well as extra lighting hours at similar cost in the off-grid areas of Bangladesh. In 2013, Infrastructure Development Company Limited (IDCOL) restructured its bio gas programme with a target to install 100,000 domestic size biogas plants by 2021.³⁹

2.6 Digital and financial inclusion for women

As of April, 2018 total number of people using mobile phones are more than 150 million. Access to mobile phones has increased use of internet and social media. The total number of internet subscribers reached 85.918 million at the end of April, 2018. Out of more than 29 million registered Facebook users, 86 per cent use Facebook from their mobile devices. At least one third of the subscribers of mobile phones and internet are women.⁴⁰

From 2015-16 to 2017-18, the govt.'s ICT division has trained around 4,720 women in information and communication technology. The division has also imparted computer training to women through 2,001 computer labs around the country.

A project of Ministry of Commerce "E-BanijjoKorbo, NijerBabosaGorbo" is providing training for creating entrepreneurship for than 5,000 women across the country on e-commerce. Women are encouraged to e-trade through the project by providing them with full knowledge about the use of ICT technology using e-commerce.

Health, Nutrition and Population Sector Programme (HNPS) developed a BCC eToolkit for fieldworkers. It is a digital library of high-quality print and electronic materials on health, population and nutrition issues. The eToolkit was designed as a resource for fieldworkers while counselling their clients. It is updated annually by the BCC Working Group. The eToolkit is available online at www.dghs.gov.bd and <http://bdsbcc.org/> as well as offline and via Google Play for Android-based mobile devices.

³⁷ Asian development Bank, Bangladesh Gender Diagnostic of Selected Sectors, 2017

³⁸ Ministry of Finance, Government of Bangladesh, Gender Budget Report 2019-2020, 2019

³⁹ Infrastructure Development Company Limited (IDCOL), Annual Report, 2018

⁴⁰ <https://www.genderit.org/articles/cyber-violence-against-women-case-bangladesh>

Under ICT Division 23,608 young people received training at Bangladesh Computer Council and 6 divisional headquarters Centers from 2015-16 to 2017-18 (March) amongst them 20% were women. In 2018 Financial Year around 3.96 million farmers received agricultural and rural credit of which 1.58 million women got BDT 63.09 billion from different banks⁴¹. Transfer of social protection allowances are now done digitally through mobile banking like Bkash, rocket, and such others. The beneficiaries of stipend and some other safety net programmes receive their transfers through using ICT. Initiative has been taken to ensure 100% transfers in Government to Person (G2P) mode by 2021 through ICT based channels. Information of 5.2 million Social Safety Net beneficiaries of Ministry of Social Welfare, of whom majority are women have already been entered in a data base and the remaining ones will be included in the system.

3. Rights of women and girls experiencing multiple forms of discrimination

- ✓ Women living with disabilities
- ✓ Younger women
- ✓ Migrant women
- ✓ Women living in remote, rural and hilly regions
- ✓ Other

3.1 Women living with disabilities

About 9 persons in a thousand in Bangladesh suffer from one or other form of disability. Implementation of the Disable Persons' Rights and Protection Act 2013 continued and an Action Plan was prepared and approved in 2018.



Tamanna Akhtar Nura, daughter of Rowshan Ali and Khadija Parvin of Alipur of Jhikorgacha, Jashore district was born with only left leg and no hands. Nura's father is a teacher in a local private madrassa. The parents enrolled her in madrassa and her mother used to carry her to school. She writes and operates mobile phone and laptop by her only leg. She received the stipend for disabled students. In 2019 in the Secondary School Certificate Exam she passed with GPA grade 5. Nura is waiting to be admitted in a good college and dreams of learning ICT for her future employment.

Source: Personal Interview, 2019

To facilitate employment of disabled persons, ICT Division has been arranging job fairs for disabled persons who have ICT-training since 2015. Until 2018, around 400 persons were recruited by various organizations from such fairs among which 31 were women.

Ministry of Social Welfare operates a social allowance programme to support financially insolvent disabled persons. As of FY 2018-19 a total of 432,800 women were receiving disability allowance who form 42.38 p% of the total beneficiaries.

Bangladesh Skills for Employment and Productivity (B-SEP) project is working for reform in the TVET sector. It aims to develop skills level of potential workers including women and build partnerships to connect them with various economic sectors and organisations. B-SEP, supported Department of Technical Education to transform 118 TVET setups to be disability inclusive in infrastructure design,

planning and financing. This reorganisation increased the number of differently able trainees from 56 in 2014 – 2015, to 357 in 2015 – 2016.⁴²

⁴¹ Bangladesh Bank, Annual Report, 2018

⁴² Promoting Market Driven Employable Skills, 2019

The National Disabled Development Foundation operates specialized schools for disabled students in Bangladesh. Disabled Students are provided with special stipends for education. In 2018-19, a total of 41,904 female students received stipend (46.56%). The Protibondhi Sheba O Sahajya Kendra through 73 centres provide physiotherapy, hearing test, visual test, counselling, referral service etc. and assistive devices also given free of cost.⁴³

Bangladesh Shishu (Children) Academy (BSA) and Early Learning for Children Development Project (ECLD) jointly trained Master Trainers on inclusive education for all children with disability, especially those with Autism Spectrum Disorder and other neuro developmental disorders. Children with disability (including autism) are being admitted in the Early Learning Centres of ELCD project under MOWCA. They are also referred to appropriate institutions for proper investigation, treatment and follow-up. Training of trainers on autism and other disabilities have been provided to the leaders of adolescent clubs. Annual cultural competition programmes are organized by district and upazila offices of BSA for children special needs. About 30 children with special needs are trained on art at central office of BSA every year.

In 2018, a policy for using the information and data about persons with disabilities, a Special Education Policy for Persons without Neuro Developmental Disabilities, and a Policy for Special Education of the persons with Neuro Developmental Disabilities have been drafted.

3.2 Younger women

Bangladesh in its journey towards a middle income country emphasises on developing its young population and human resources. Bangladesh is the first Asia-Pacific government to commit to Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth. The a2i programme boosts digital workforce opportunities and commits to training 250,000 youth on 'future' skills and to supporting 340,200 quality apprenticeships.

During the last three years, 291,077 young rural and urban women were trained by the Department of Youth Development on various trades like housekeeping, tailoring, rearing of livestock, nursery raising, boutique and printing, bamboo and cane crafts, poultry and embroidery, computer and such others for self-employment. Credit facilities were extended to 30,945 young women for entrepreneurship.

The "Economic Opportunities and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights-A Pathway to Empowering Girls and Women in Bangladesh" project of Ministry of Commerce has provided comprehensive support to operate business in the domestic and international markets to women.

MOWCA is operating 4,883 Kishore-Kishori (adolescent) clubs for empowerment adolescents under a project. The project aims to cover 4,553 unions and 330 municipalities in the country. The clubs include 30 members - 10 boys and 20 girls of 11-18 years of age. The clubs support to discuss health education and other issues related to adolescence. Adolescent empowerment through clubs is an initiative of MOWCA. The clubs are run by Peer leaders who are trained on social issues like child marriage, dowry, SRHR etc. The clubs also organize local support group meetings, parents' meetings, fathers' meetings etc. They also organize quiz competition, essay competition, tree planting events, annual planning and cultural programmes.

Adolescent Development Programme of BRAC established "Kishori club" as safe centres for girls of 10 to 19 years where they can read, socialise, play, take part in cultural activities and have discussions on personal and social issues with their peers. There are around 9,000 adolescent clubs.

⁴³ Ministry of Finance, Government of Bangladesh, Gender Budget Report 2019-2020, 2019

The Programme has established Adolescent Peer Organised Network (APON/Life skill-based education) to offer life skills to adolescents on different social and health-related issues like SRHR, sexual abuse, children's rights, gender, HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted infections (STIs), sexual harassment, child trafficking, family planning, child marriage, dowry, and acid attacks. A campaign-based programme on SRHR implemented in 65 non-government secondary schools of four districts during 2013-2016 provided skills and information to adolescents on SRHR to enable them to make free and informed decisions.⁴⁴

3.3 Migrant women

A new policy titled the Policy on Expatriates Welfare and Overseas Employment 2016 and Rules on Overseas Employment and Expatriates' Management 2017 have been approved. These incorporate specific provisions to ensure safe migration for women. From 2016 to 2018, a total of 341,708 women workers went for overseas employment. To ensure safe migration measures and compulsory training for women, number of women among migrants is gradually increasing.

Women were being trained in 64 Technical Training Centers (TTCs) and 6 Institutions of Marine Technologies (IMTs) in different trades. Among the 64 TTCs, 6 are for women. Pre-decision awareness campaign for safe migration is arranged in collaboration with NGOs and civil society organisations (CSO) for aspirant female migrant workers. Mandatory Pre-departure Orientation Training is given to the outbound female migrant workers who go for housekeeping trade. Stipend is given to the female trainees for some trades at TTCs and IMTs.

To support women migrants who suffered from violence or torture, 6 safe homes have been set up in various places in Saudi Arabia, Lebanon and other countries to ensure their protection, to provide them food, medical care and legal assistance. Monitoring cells have been opened. Work Contracts have been signed to ensure the rights and protection of women workers and they are regularly reviewed at the meeting of the Joint Technical Committee for necessary amendments. In FY 2018-19, till February 2019, a total of 66,382 women workers have gone abroad.⁴⁵ They are mainly operators, supervisors, quality checkers and personnel officers, industrial nurses of garments industry, housekeepers, and housemaids. Women workers going for housekeeping can go free of migration costs to Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, Lebanon and Saudi Arabia.

Ministry of Expatriate Welfare and Overseas Employment established 30 labour welfare wings at Bangladesh Missions abroad to deal with issues related to migrant workers welfare and rights. Several MoUs and bilateral agreements have been signed with labour-receiving countries to ensure decent working conditions, rights at work, rights as national workers, etc. for female migrant workers. A call center and complaint management cell has been established for grievance redress of female migrant workers. Provision of legal assistance has been created to support abused and convicted female migrant workers and assistance is given for the deportation of victims of violence and abused female migrant workers through the labour welfare wings. Besides, returnee migrants including women are supported for employment and reintegrated by providing loans from Expatriate Welfare Bank. Children of migrant workers are also provided stipend.

Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET) has developed dramas/documentaries for raising awareness through media to prevent illegal migration. These dramas/documentaries are being broadcasted on various television channels. CD/DVD of dramas/documentaries will also be sent to every digital union centers and municipalities for broadcasting and telecasting.

⁴⁴<http://www.brac.net/education-programme/item/782-adolescent-development-programme>

⁴⁵ Ministry of Finance, Government of Bangladesh, Gender Budget Report 2019-2020, 2019

4. Addressing humanitarian crises

- ✓ Supporting Rohingya refugees

4.1. Supporting Rohingya refugees

Emergency support had to be extended to 1 million refugees from Myanmar since 2017. More than 30,000 refugee women who were heads of their households facing greater vulnerability. Other vulnerable subgroups include the single elderly and orphan children. Requirements for water and sanitation ensuring safe latrines, water points and bathing facilities, maternal health care for thousands of pregnant and lactating women, support for sick children, elderly and disabled overstretched the existing facilities. Refugee women are vulnerable to sexual harassment, GBV, trafficking. This had environmental impact also. Deforestation and depletion of water resources is enhanced due to use of wood as fuel. The settlements and camps for Rohingyas in the reserved area of Department of Forest is destroying social forestry. Movement of thousands of vehicles transporting aid workers, visitors and goods for camps are polluting the air. More over the Cyclone Mora in 2017 affected both-locals and Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar. The local communities are being affected due to scarcity of supply of essential services, food and goods, price hike, loss of livelihood and pollution.

The influx has stretched the capacities of the government and humanitarian agencies working to provide emergency shelter, clean water and sanitation, health-care, delivery of food and nutrition support for malnourished girls and boys as well as education, and protective services. The Government and aid agencies are struggling to serve the refugees and the local communities as they had to divert their resources to the emergency requirement affecting the normal development work.

Multi-Purpose Women's Centres (MPWC) were set up in refugee camps in Cox's Bazar and Ukhiya. The centres are one-stop information hubs for women to access life-saving information and participate in awareness sessions on health, nutrition, prevention of gender-based violence, and other issues. Referrals to services, psycho-social support, skills training and peer mentoring is given to Rohingya women from the centres. These provide child care and private rooms as safe spaces for women and adolescent girls. Considering the security and privacy concerns, the centres offer breast feeding corners, secured bathing spaces, women-only toilets and children's recreation.

Host community support was designed under the Joint Response Plan to reduce impact on the environment, strengthening livelihoods, education opportunities and mitigating environmental degradation. It includes distribution of LPG cooking-sets and cylinders with a plan to cover 240,000 households in the refugee and host community in 2019. In 2018, some 340,174 tree saplings were planted in camps and the most affected surrounding communities. In 100 primary and 14 secondary schools 59,913 students were supported through grants to improve the quality of learning materials and to support retention. A total of 2,469 teachers were trained.²⁷ Government health facilities, including community clinics, union-level facilities and hospitals were assisted to cope with the increased patient volumes. The number of nurses, medical officers and medical specialists was increased in the Sadar Hospital. WASH facilities were given to 144,250 individuals from 449 new deep wells and hand pumps and from 144 rehabilitated deep wells and hand pumps. Sanitation facilities were created by 130 blocks of latrines and 325 hand washing facilities. About 64,000 households (320,000 individuals) received livelihood support through capacity building in improved agricultural practices and home gardening. 70,000 landless farmers also received food production assistance.⁴⁶

⁴⁶ Joint Response Plan for Rohingya Humanitarian Crisis, 2019

As the community attempts to revive the local economy, the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) has been assisting locals through Microeconomic Initiatives (MEIs) - an income-generating programme involving beneficiaries in identifying and designing the support they receive like vocational training, productive grants or microcredit loans, or a combination of all three. They can invest cash in agriculture, livestock and small-scale businesses to generate income and consequently improve the local economy. MOWCA has issued additional 40,000 VGD cards for the women of the host community to ensure their food security.

5. Top five priorities for progress for women and girls for the coming five years

- ✓ Quality education, training and life-long learning for women and girls
- ✓ Eliminating violence against women and girls
- ✓ Access to affordable quality health care, including sexual and reproductive health and rights
- ✓ Right to work (Employment, Financial inclusion, entrepreneurship) and rights at work
- ✓ Gender-responsive social protection (e.g. universal health coverage, cash transfers, pensions)
- ✓ Basic services and infrastructure (water, sanitation, hygiene, energy, transport, communication, etc.)
- ✓ Gender-responsive budgeting

5.1 Quality education, training and life-long learning for women and girls

Education, training and continued education has been prioritized by the Government of Bangladesh to transform its huge population into human resource. Girls' education is emphasized for promoting gender equality and supporting women's empowerment.

The Fourth Primary Education Development Programme (PEDP IV) is the major programme (2019-2023) with the objective to provide quality education to all children of Bangladesh at the preprimary and primary level (Grade V) through an efficient, inclusive, and equitable education system all over the country. The results indicators will measure progress in gender disaggregated manner. They include, a. percentage of grade 3 students achieving grade-level competencies in Bangla and mathematics (quality); b. percentage of Government Primary Schools (GPSs) that meet at least three of four school level quality indicators (quality); and c. primary cycle completion rate (quality/access). The programme will work for curriculum reforms; teacher recruitment and education; ICT in education; assessments and examinations reforms; pre-primary education; equitable access and participation: (gender and inclusion); need-based infrastructure including water and sanitary hygiene facilities; special education needs [SEN]; education in emergencies; communication and social mobilization; and management, governance, and financing. The total estimated cost is USD 18.04 billion. A Gender and Inclusive Education Action Plan guides the programme in addressing gender equality and inclusion. Contents of pre-primary to Grade 5 have already been revised to incorporate gender perspectives. A total of 64,000 primary teachers will be oriented on the revised curriculum that includes awareness on gender and inclusive education and fifty percent of the trainees will be women. The Gender and inclusive education sensitive materials will be used for teachers' orientation. The ongoing stipend programme for primary level will continue and expanded. School feeding programme will be expanded to cover children of remote areas. Free distribution of text books will also continue.

The Government will continue the Secondary Education Sector Improvement project. The project includes curriculum development, stipends, teachers' training and ICT education for students. Another project within the secondary education sector, Transforming Secondary Education for Results (TSER) programme will enhance quality of teaching and learning as well as improve access and retention of 13 million students from grades 6-12, especially girls and children from poor

households. The program will support modernization of curriculum and ensure professional development, management, and accountability of teachers. The program will support stipends and school grants to increase school completion rates especially for girls and poor students. A pilot adolescent girls' programme will be implemented to motivate girls to remain in schools, which will include stipends for girls in grades 9-12 from poor areas, adolescent health topics in the curriculum and build separate toilets for girl students.

The Skills for Employment Investment Program (SEIP) will provide skills development opportunities to young women and men to enhance the productivity and employability of the growing workforce. The Project 2 (2017 -2021) aims to harness the evolving skills development system by strengthening training partnerships established with private sector to expand the scope of skills training in the identified potential priority areas. It will incorporate additional public and private training partners, and pilot up skilling training for Bangladeshi migrant workers overseas.

5.2 Eliminating violence against women and girls

The implementation of National Action Plan to Prevent Violence Against Women and Children (2018-2030) has been prioritized. The National Action Plan on Prevention of Child Marriage (2018-2030) will also be implemented to end Child marriage. MOWCA Plans to establish a National Centre on Gender based Violence for coordinating, monitoring and supervising the activities on preventing violence against women and children. Referral system and services will be enhanced in all government hospitals at districts and upazilla level for providing comprehensive services towards women like "One-Stop Crisis Centre". The services of the One-Stop Crisis Centres and One Stop Crisis Cells will be expanded and enhanced. Psychosocial services will also be extended at district and upazilla levels by developing skilled psychosocial counsellor through government and nongovernment initiatives. The National Forensic DNA Profiling Laboratory is providing services to various investigating agencies to solve violent crimes like, murder or rape and also services like determining maternity, paternity and identity.

Bangladesh is involved in the 16 Days of Activism Campaign and also works with the theme "Orange the World: #HearMeToo". The efforts will continue.

Controller of Certifying Authorities has emphasized on raising awareness about IT based crime. Cyber safety awareness will be developed all over the country. A cyber safety awareness campaign has been initiated and there is a target to take this campaign across the whole country involving 40 million students in 170,000 schools and colleges." The contents on Internet literacy, will be included in the national curriculum of schools and colleges and in 100 universities of the country. Teachers will be developed to provide cyber safety training classes for students locally.⁴⁷

Ministry of Social Welfare (MOSW) provides safe shelters and maintenance are being provided to women who come into contact with the legal system in order to increase social security and reduce the risk of harm. Annually, 15 thousand women will be provided assistance through Government/non-Government organisations to enable them to receive fair justice under the legal system and for rehabilitation into society.

5.3 Affordable quality health care, including sexual and reproductive health and rights

The government has been implementing a sector wide approach (SWAP) titled Health Nutrition and Population Sector Programme (HNPS) involving multiple partners. The SWAP adopted a series of multiyear strategies and programmes. The Fourth HNP Sector Programme period cover from January

⁴⁷<https://en.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/news/150891/Bangladesh-trains-girls-to-fight-online-predators>

2017 to June 2022 at the cost of US\$14.7 billion. It is being implemented in collaboration with development partners, nongovernmental organizations, civil society, and other stakeholders. It is aimed at ensuring access to quality and equitable health care for citizens with improved efficiency and equity while achieving universal health coverage. The HNPS has developed a Gender Action Plan and implementing it to address gender based health needs and also to develop capacity of the Health providers.

To meet the challenges in the lagging regions of improving reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health and nutrition (RMNCAH-N) a sub project within the SWAP will implement school-based services in education sector to improve adolescent health, and intervene for adolescent health, civil registration and vital statistics, equity, the health of tribal and hill populations, climate change and health, and to enhance efficiency of both health and education sectors.

The Third Urban Primary Health Care Services Delivery Project (UPHCSDP) is implemented by the Local Government Division (LGD) through public-private partnerships. The Project in partnership with the City Corporation and municipalities strengthens and scales up provision of primary health services in urban areas, especially for the poor and vulnerable. It also addresses gaps in institutions and capacity for sustainable delivery of primary health services. A Gender Action Plans (GAP) provides strategies, mechanisms, components, activities, indicators, budget provisions and other measures to address gender concerns. It will help local governments strengthen their policies on health issues and develop capacities for managing private-public partnership contracts.

The Project "Improving Sexual, Reproductive Health and Rights including Maternal and Newborn Health in low performing districts" of the MOHFW aims to support improving integrated sexual and reproductive health and rights including provision of maternal, new born, child and adolescent health services in the five lowest performing districts of the country. This initiative will support health systems strengthening, capacity development, community awareness rising, and empowering adolescents through education. It will help to save over 15,500 lives and provide 1.75 million women and girls with greater knowledge and access to sexual and reproductive health and rights. Also improved home and community based new-born care behaviour and practices will be supported in 25 low performing districts. Special Care New-born Units (SCANU) for sick new-borns will also be established in the lowest performing five districts. Community awareness on family planning and adolescent sexual and reproductive health care empowerment will be done through education.

5.4 Right to work and rights at work, digital and financial inclusion, entrepreneurship

The Second Small and Medium Enterprise Project under the Financial Institutions Division will work for narrowing gender disparities through ensuring women's access to financial resources. The Project will ensure medium- and long-term credit, especially to SMEs, SME clusters, and Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation estates in rural areas outside metropolitan areas of Dhaka and Chittagong. Under a credit line established with Bangladesh Bank (\$20 million) women entrepreneurs will receive a minimum of 15% of the credit. At least 15 new incubation facilities at educational institutions will be established incorporating the needs of women in the design and development of incubation centers. The needs assessment and training programmes on SME will incorporate gender perspectives. Profitable and untapped areas for WEs will be identified. Manual will be developed on standard procedures for assisting WEs access to financial resources and services, and in improving profitability of their businesses. The staff of financial institutions will be trained on manual application and in conducting training on WEs' access to financial services.

The ICT Division will train 30 thousand women in ICT and develop their entrepreneurial skills and scale up ICT under the flagship programme titled 'Women ICT Frontier Initiative (WIFI)' will be

implemented in collaboration with government, civil society, and women's groups and entrepreneur associations. The WIFI programme aims to empower women, in building a digital Bangladesh and for creating socially and economically-empowered women through ICT-enabled entrepreneurship. The ICT division is providing over 100,000 young men and women with capacity development training under different projects ensuring at least 30 per cent women's participation in all the trainings. The ICT Division has recently adopted another new project titled 'She Power' exclusively for development of 10,500 women entrepreneurs for the ICT industry. Training programmes target potential and current women entrepreneurs on how to use ICT in support of their businesses. Implementing partners include the Bangladesh Computer Council, the Department of ICT under the ICT Division, Bangladesh Institute of ICTs in Development, and Bangladesh Women in Information Technology.

The Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Services (BASIS) will provide training and mentoring to some 3,000 women ICT entrepreneurs to strengthen capacities and help generate sales worth £28 million (\$38m) by 2020. Also access to digital and financial inclusion will be expanded for all through IT based processing and disbursement of financial benefits and credits.

A new project for a2i is working with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to build a new system for citizens to receive social protection payments. This is vital for the government, as over US\$5 billion is disbursed each year – almost 3% of its GDP. The system registers citizens using their biometric data, such as fingerprints, and then lets them receive payments on their phone or on a smart card at his or her doorstep without going to a financial institution, which will benefit women. The platform will be integrated with Bangladesh Bank and the local banks.

A Project as part of "Commonwealth-She Trades"⁴⁸ aims to connect three million women to market by 2021 around the world to work together to address trade barriers and create greater opportunities for women entrepreneurs. It is supported by a web and mobile digital platform to increase competitiveness of women entrepreneurs in agriculture, apparel and services sectors in Bangladesh. The project will support governments with tools to implement gender-responsive policies and share best practices. It will also support women entrepreneurs in trade, productivity and competitiveness to ensure that they play an active role in international trade. The project will also address challenges faced by women entrepreneurs in including access to and control over land, cumbersome business and financial institutional processes among other entrepreneurial challenges. It will connect with over 3,000 women-owned businesses from Bangladesh, Ghana, Kenya and Nigeria, identify unique and innovative businesses opportunities and help develop new partnerships and increase women's visibility in emerging markets.

MOWCA is implementing a project titled, "Income Generating Training at the Upazilla Level" with a budget of BDT 2.83 billion Taka. It aims at training 217,440 poor and disadvantaged women with training, linking them with micro finance providers and marketing channels. Since inception until June 2019 already 93,320 women have been trained on different trades including motor driving, computer servicing and repairing, front desk and salesmanship and others.

Employment will be generated for women in health, education, rural development and other sectors through the development programmes and also through the self-employment and public works programmes of different ministries. A new hostel has been established for nurses of National Heart Foundation Hospital. Another working women hostel has been approved for Gazipur district and two hostels will be vertically expanded. Additional sixty day care centres will be established by MOWCA in Dhaka and at the district level.

⁴⁸<http://www.intracen.org/news/ITC-launches-SheTrades-Commonwealth---Bangladesh/>

5.5 Gender-responsive social protection

The On-going social protection programmes will be continued and expanded. The VGD programme especially the Vulnerable Group Development will continue with strengthened focus on self-employment and nutrition of poor women. The Lactating Mother Programme and maternity allowance programmes will be consolidated and will be implemented in a new name “Mother and Child Benefit Programme” on a pilot basis which will be expanded later. The Gender Strategy and Action Plan for the National Social Security Strategy will be implemented and a consolidated Vulnerable Women’s Benefit Programme will be developed.

A Pilot National Social Security Insurance system will be rolled out incorporating low-cost provisions for women’s participation and addressing their gender-based needs. A consolidated Child Benefit Programmes will be rolled out in phases for around 7.5 million children of 0-4 years of age.

The Government will continue to implement and expand the stipend programmes at the primary and secondary level. The secondary stipend programmes will be consolidated, harmonized and expanded. A cell in the Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education (DSHE) will implement the entire stipend programme from grade VI to XII and it would be mainstreamed under revenue budget.

The workfare programmes under different ministries will be consolidated and coordinated. Activities and elements will be incorporated for graduation and empowerment of women and girls through social protection.

The cash allowance programmes for the disabled persons, freedom fighters, women, and elderly people will continue, expand and 100% digital transfer from G2P will be ensured.

Food Security programmes for emergency situation and food for education in vulnerable areas will continue. Other food based programmes will be converted to cash based programme to ensure transparent G2P transfer.

5.6 Basic services and infrastructure

Bangladesh Power System Enhancement and Efficiency Improvement Project will strengthen the transmission and distribution network. It will improve access to reliable electricity targeting for 100% access to power by 2021 and improved power sector sustainability in Bangladesh by 2030. The project, especially, the component on rural electrification, will enhance reliable access to electricity and contribute to economic growth in rural areas. About 875,000 households will benefit from power distribution by 2020, with other impacts for women and children. An attached grant will support to develop new energy-based businesses in rural areas, including those led by women. Support for improved safety and awareness for the efficient use of electricity will target end-users, mostly women and address their specific concerns. The project will generate jobs for local communities during construction and operation of the physical infrastructure and adopt gender targets to promote women’s equitable participation in project related employment opportunities. It will conduct a survey on women led energy-based livelihoods in project areas and provide training on energy based livelihoods and business development services to new or recently electrified households. It will also include women in technical skills training (e.g., distribution grid, service line and household wiring maintenance and troubleshooting; energy auditing and energy management certification for BPL HHs; simple and routine electrical repairs).

Dhaka Water Supply Network Improvement Project of Dhaka WASA (DWASA) is expanding the piped water supply network to enhance access of citizens of Dhaka to water. Community based

organizations (CBO) will be formed with 50% leadership by women to participate and voice their views for decision-making on water supply matters. A gender action plan will be implemented. Focused and efficient community campaigns will make women aware of the need to use water economically. Women will have equal opportunity to participate in training programmes, recruitment, and employment in construction. At least 2.4 million women will benefit from 187,000 rehabilitated connections to households and communities. From 42,000 new or legalized connections of households and communities, least 550,000 women will benefit. Community level consultations during design and implementation will include least 50% women landowners, heads of households, and other affected women. In the constructions, at least 20% of the unskilled laborers will be local destitute women, who receive equal pay with men for work of equal value. All job advertisements for civil works will follow the guidance as per the DWASA Gender Strategy. The contractors are to follow gender-related applications of core labor standards, water and sanitation facilities and occupational health and safety measures for women workers at all construction sites. At least 30% female headed households will directly benefit from 24 hours of continuous safe water supply in low income communities.

Rural Connectivity Improvement Project of LGED will enhance rural connectivity by 2023. A gender action plan includes provisions for at least 40% participation of women in project orientation seminars and in the planning of project roads. It reserves 20% provision for women in unskilled labour work for road improvement works with equal pay for equal work following core labor standards with gender-inclusive provisions and women-friendly work environments. Awareness raising programmes in the community will include topics on training on gender-based violence, human trafficking, and the prevention of STIs, including HIV. They will include at least 40% of students, teachers, parents, and school management committees along the project roads. Road safety awareness programmes will include women and students, teachers, parents, and school management committees along the project roads. Manuals for maintenance, climate-resilient design and construction for rural road will be developed and endorsed.

All schools will follow the directives related to ensuring water and sanitation facilities in educational institutions. All cyclone/flood shelters will have water, sanitation, privacy facilities for women. Bus terminals, railway stations, river ports and market will have sanitation facilities and security for women. Women only buses will continue to operate.

The Household Energy Platform Program in Bangladesh undertakes capacity building and research on new cooking solutions for clean and efficient cooking aiming at women's good health, as well as time and money saving. Women are engaged and trained in entrepreneurship related to manufacturing, marketing, distribution, and maintenance of ICS. IDCOL looks to install 5 million ICS by 2021.

5.7 Gender-responsive budgeting

The Government of Bangladesh regularly compiles a report on Gender Responsive Budget during the Budget Session of the Parliament. The report mainly compiles the allocation by different ministries. Initiative has been taken for tracking expenditure for gender specific results.

A project Strengthening Gender Responsive Budgeting in Bangladesh is being implemented by the MOWCA, which will support strengthening government's capacity for gender responsive budgeting to ensure adequate financing for gender equality and women's empowerment. The project will address the capacity gaps in gender responsive budgeting by providing training to officials responsible for budgeting in five ministries. It will also develop a gender disaggregated database for

the 5 ministries and a GRB monitoring and evaluation mechanism as per the National Action Plan of Women Development 2013.

The project will train government officials, particularly officials responsible for preparing ministry budget on GRB and train civil society groups on gender responsive budgeting and planning. A pilot initiative will develop gender disaggregated database of 5 ministries and provide hands on training to officials of Finance Division and 5 ministries. A GRB monitoring and evaluation framework will be developed and pilot tested in 5 ministries. A gender audit tool will be developed, pilot tested in five ministries and support capacity development of other ministries to use gender audit tool. The Medium Term Budgetary Framework (MTBF) and Ministry Budget Framework (MBF) will be reviewed for necessary adjustments in consultation with Ministry of Finance (MOF) to better alignment with the national targets of the SDGs.

Section Two: Progress across the 12 critical areas of concern

6. Advancing gender equality in relation to women's role in paid work and employment

- ✓ Introduced / strengthened gender-responsive active labour market policies (e.g. education and training, skills, subsidies)
- ✓ Improved financial inclusion and access to credit, including for self-employed women
- ✓ Improved access to modern technologies (incl. climate-smart technologies), infrastructure and services (incl. agricultural extension)

6.1 Introduced/strengthened gender-responsive active labour market policies (e.g. education and training, skills, subsidies)

Bangladesh has introduced several programmes to enhance women's active labour market participation and improvement of work environment.

About 90% of the domestic workers are women. To uphold their rights, the "Domestic Workers Safety and Welfare Policy, 2015" was approved. The Policy recognized the rights of domestic workers and they are recognized as workers. The policy has important guidelines for determining the wages of domestic workers. It is a challenge to ensure its effective implementation as the sector is informal.

A Labor Welfare Fund was established by the Ministry of Labor and Employment (MOLE) to support workers and their families engaged in institutional and informal sectors. Compensation for workers who become physically and emotionally unfit or die due to accident, support for transportation of dead bodies, funeral, treatment of fatal disease, maternity welfare of women workers is given. Financial incentives as acknowledgement of special skills, and educational scholarships are being provided from the fund. A total of 1,438 workers of different levels from different institutional and informal sectors were given financial assistance above BDT 8.24 million up to FY 2017-2018.

Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishments under MOLE has developed a factory inspection checklist incorporating specific criteria on GBV and SRHR. Awareness and capacity of 18 manager-level employees and labour inspectors were enhanced on SRHR and GBV to ensure their accountability as standard bearers in ensuring the rights of female employees. Several trainer trainings were conducted and the trained inspectors subsequently operationalized the checklist. Five factories have been recommended for using the checklist and thereby improving their labour standards.

About 4 million women and men are working in the readymade garment sector of whom 80 percent are women. The minimum wage for garment workers has been raised and re-fixed. Considering the need of ensuring reasonable wages for workers, the Government has re-fixed the minimum wage for 36 non-government industrial sectors. In addition, arrangements have been made for conveyance, medical and food allowances. For the first time, yearly 5% increment of salary has been arranged for garments workers.

Center of Excellence for Leather and Leather Goods' (COEL) has taken various training programs for increasing women employment. With the help of BGMEA and ILO, a Center of Excellence for Bangladesh Apparel Industry' has been established where garments workers especially women are provided different types of training.

Through "Child Labor Management in Hazardous Employment in Bangladesh" project of MOLE, one hundred thousand child laborers were supported and brought out of hazardous work. They were provided with 18 months of non-formal education and 6 months of skill development training. After completion of the training, children are given necessary inputs/equipment related to the trades in which they are trained for getting them out of hazardous work and bring them back to normal life. In the 4th phase of this project, a plan has been taken to make 100,000 children skilled by providing skill development training by 2020.

6.2 Improved financial inclusion and access to credit, including for self-employed women

The 700 microfinance organizations certified by the Micro- Credit Regulatory Authority, Grameen bank and other banks are supporting 49 million persons through provision of micro-finance. These agencies are also supporting the beneficiaries for savings. Up to June 2018, the organizations had accumulated savings above 493,100 million Taka. Only in 2017-18, loan distribution was BDT. 1628.54 billion. This has created self-employment and entrepreneurship opportunities for 15 hundred thousand persons and improving their livelihood. Above 80% of the micro finance beneficiaries are women⁴⁹.

To reach banking services at the grassroots level, besides agriculture loan and school banking, agent banking and mobile banking have increased facilitating financial inclusion. The number of branches of the scheduled banks was 6,435 in 2005-06, which was enhanced to 10,114 in 2017-18. Besides, 29 banks were approved to offer mobile based financial services as alternative payment channel and 18 banks have already giving services. A total of 28 commercial banks are supporting internet based online payments. E Commerce transaction is about 0.02 billion daily. Many women are now involved in online business (e- commerce) and payments are made through mobile banking. Mobile banking, agent banking and ATM booths have made financial transactions easy. As of June 2018, above 8 hundred thousand agents were serving 27.21 million active accounts. Transfer of most of the social allowances and stipends for men and women are delivered through mobile or agent banking⁵⁰.

NGOs like BRAC, Association for Social Advancement (ASA), and BURO Bangladesh provide foreign remittance services in collaboration with banks and Western Union for fast and safe money transfer to the doorsteps of the relatives of migrant workers and expatriate Bangladeshis. It helps rural women to receive remittances quickly at their home.

Department of Agriculture Marketing (DAM) has trained 29,780 farmers in the past three years on agri-business. About BDT. 42.00 million have been disbursed among 46,324 entrepreneurs as loan and 45 percent of the recipients were women⁵¹.

⁴⁹ Ministry of Finance, Government of Bangladesh, 10 Years of Progress, 2018

⁵⁰ Ministry of Finance, Government of Bangladesh, 10 Years of Progress, 2018

⁵¹ Ministry of Finance, Government of Bangladesh, Gender Budget Report 2019-2020, 2019

6.3 Improved access to modern technologies, infrastructure and services

Solar energy has been supporting lighting at home enabling rural women to perform household work and income generating activities. Now, solar energy is powering a field hospital in Cox's Bazar Rohingya camp, the fastest-growing refugee camp of the world. Hope Foundation established a field hospital for Women in the Kutupalong camp area, where there is a dire need for health services among the refugees. As more than half of the refugee population are women and girls. Over 64,000 pregnant women are provided with specialised care. The hospital is run by solar energy, which will reduce the hazard of lack of power.⁵²

DAE has trained 16, 45,246 farmers on modern technology of which 18.87 per cent are women. Woman's involvement in the production of compost and organic fertilizer is creating employment opportunities for them.

Department of Livestock Services (DLS) under Expansion of Artificial Insemination (AI) Program and Embryo Transfer Technology Project (2016-2020) has trained 29,746 beneficiaries. In 2017-18, a total of 4,070 AI technicians received training in artificial insemination among them 520 were women (12.77%). Women's employment has been created from artificial insemination in the rural area. DLS during 2015-2021 has already trained 186,029 beneficiaries on "Improved Livestock Technology Management" and among them 77,933 (37%) are women. Animal Nutrition and Technology Transfer Project trained 3,050 persons of whom 605 are women (19.83%) who received training on animal nutrition development and technology transfer in 2017-18.

DAM constructed women market sections in 60 growers' markets and 15 wholesale markets. Above 3,000 women groups formed by various projects of DAM have been trained on agri-Marketing. A total of 51,651 farmers were trained on marketing management, post-harvest management, supply chain, value chain development, and entrepreneurship development in the past three years. Among them 15,495 are women (30%). A Number of 23,466 women agri-business entrepreneurs have been created by the DAM under various projects and programmes. These are increasing woman's participation in labour market and enhancing their access to public property and services.

DWA runs a sales centre Angana in the premise of DWA Head Office in Dhaka to create marketing opportunities for rural women in garments and clothing. Joyeeta Foundation has established sales cum Display Centre in Dhaka to facilitate marketing of various products of 180 women associations benefitting 14,000 women.

7. Unpaid care, domestic work and work-family conciliation

- ✓ Expanded childcare services or made existing services more affordable
- ✓ Invested in time and labour-saving infrastructure, such as public transport, electricity, water and sanitation, to reduce the burden of unpaid care and domestic work on women
- ✓ Expanded support for frail elderly persons and others needing intense forms of care

7.1 Expanded childcare services or made existing services more affordable

With the increase in women's participation in education, employment, business and other activities outside home, the need of child care is increasing. The Government provides child care to 3,053 children through 94 day-care centres in urban areas in Dhaka and divisional towns. Besides, In compliance with the Labour Law, child care facilities are gradually being expanded in garment and other industries where more women are working. Until December 2018, a total of 4,537 day-care

⁵²<https://www.globalcitizen.org/en/content/rohingya-camps-hope-foundation-solar-hospital/>

centres are serving in different factories all over country. A total of 8,726 numbers of women have been provided maternal benefits all over country in 2017-18 (July 17- June 18).⁵³

BRAC operates the largest day care centre for its staff in Dhaka. It also established a few day care centres in urban slums of Dhaka where low income mothers could keep their children at a minimum cost when they go to work. BRAC Institute of Education Development and Phulki, an NGO operated child care are partnering to develop childcare and early learning in an Inclusive and Sustainable Business Model. They support developing improved childcare centres by connecting with companies for segments like garment industry, urban communities and rural areas. Some other NGOs also provide child care support for their staff.

In addition, different government departments and ministries like, LGED, BBS, DWA, Police Head Quarter in Rajarbagh, Dhaka are operating day care services for staff. Several day-care centres have been established at private initiatives mostly run by women in Dhaka at household level. To ensure quality services for child care MOWCA is drafting a "Child Day Care Centre Act" which will provide guidelines for day care and their services. The Private Software Technology Park Guidelines, includes a provision to establish Baby Day Care Centre in every High-Tech Park/Software Technology Park.

7.2 Expanded support for frail elderly persons and others needing intense forms of care

Through the 29 labour welfare centre' under MOLE, workers and their families receive health services with free of cost. Between July 2016 to March 2017, a total of are 44,557 workers received health services and among them 33,220 workers were female.

City Corporations and municipalities provide primary healthcare services to urban poor through 38 mother-care centers, 145 primary healthcare centers and 276 satellite clinics under Urban Primary Health Care Services Delivery Project (UPHCSDP) of the Local Government Division (LGD). The services include support for congenital diseases, providing child-care, maternal care, controlling of contaminated diseases, supporting women victims of violence and providing general medical services.

MOHFW has taken initiatives to establish senior citizens' corner in the public hospitals and health complexes with special consideration for senior women citizen. The MOHFW recognizes the need for reorienting the existing institutional arrangements for health service delivery for the elderly. A National Institute for Physical and Geriatric Medicine and Rehabilitation is being setup. The MOHFW will also promote multi-sectoral collaboration with other ministries improving geriatric health care. The Bangladesh National Nutrition Policy 2015 emphasised on nutritious foods for all citizens, focusing on children, adolescents, women and elderly people.

MOSW runs a school for children suffering from autism. A Strategic and Convergent Action Plan on Autism and Neurodevelopment Disabilities (SCAPAND) has been developed and incorporated within the current health sector program.

MOSW operates 85 Children Homes (orphanage)-43 for boys, 41 for girls and 1(one) for both. They can accommodate 10,375 orphan children and now serving 8057 children. The children are given food and lodging, shelter, general education, religious and moral teaching, sports and recreation, health care, vocational training, reintegration and rehabilitation services. Eight new government children homes are under construction and another 19 homes are in plan for next year. Eleven training and rehabilitation centres are being established in different cities to support street children. MOSW is planning to extend these training and rehabilitation centre in all the 19 old district

⁵³ Ministry of Finance, Government of Bangladesh, Gender Budget Report 2019-2020, 2019

headquarters. MOSW is currently running 6 safe homes for women and socially abused girl in 6 divisions.

7.3 Invested in time- and labour-saving infrastructure (public transport, electricity, water and sanitation, to reduce the burden of unpaid care and domestic work on women)

As of December 2018, under IDCOI 1.65 million ICS have been disseminated to reduce use of solid fuels, indoor air pollution (IAP) and GHG Emission. By January 2017 its initial target of disseminating 1 million ICS was achieved almost two years ahead of the project completion period. Now, the Program is aiming to disseminate 5 million ICS by 2021.

NGO Forum, network of NGOs working for water supply and sanitation installed 465 water options during 2017 benefiting 74,273 individuals from 13,882 households. The target groups are from the poor, marginalized and socially excluded groups within the hard-to-reach area population like indigenous, low caste, persons with disabilities, and women in vulnerability who usually have poor access and remain deprived of government services. Through 3,800 Para Kendro (Community based service proving center), health & nutrition services, education and supply pure drinking water are being provided to 1,56,435 families of 3 Hill districts.

Kazi Shahid Foundation (KSF) has developed its Biogas Programme to address health hazards of women from biomass fuels in Panchagarh district. KSF uses a mixed approach, using both dung and waste food to produce cooking fuel for Biogas Plant. It is using a "no cash" microfinance repayment system and the cost of the Biogas Plant is reimbursed through the effluent slurry, as well as, excess cow dung or milk. This multi-prong approach ensures access to fuel without hazard. A comprehensive training and support are provided to quickly deal with both simple and complex problems and finding innovative methods to use the bio-slurry as a regular income generating asset.

Source: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/partnership/?p=26483>

The Northern Bangladesh Integrated Development Project of LGED is establishing toilet, tube well and solar light in urban slum of 18 municipalities.⁵⁴

8. Austerity/fiscal consolidation measures

Bangladesh has not introduced any austerity measures officially but has taken some initiatives that have implications for cost reduction.

8.1 Public Private Partnership (PPP)

The Government has initiated infrastructure development and other activities through PPP. Until December 2018, 55 projects were undertaken in PPP method under various ministry/divisions in transportation, health and education, tourism, housing, industrial, water supply, information and technology sectors. The private sector and the public sector will complement each other to ensure delivery of services on time and on budget with the quality of public services. Women are benefitting from the services. The division of tasks, responsibilities and risks under PPP enable the delivery of infrastructure assets and public service through the most cost-effective method at the appropriate quality standards.

A policy to outsource government services from private sectors has been formulated in 2018 to bring down expenditure. In five categories services will be outsourced which will include also office services of heavy drives, mechanics, electrician and such others. The government is now delivering about 54 services and most of the services will be outsourced which will boost efficiency and reduce

⁵⁴ Local Government Engineering Department, Government of Bangladesh, Annual Report 2017-2018. 2018

state expenditure. Already some government services have been outsourced and they are running very efficiently like the support services, Hazz management, billing for telephone electricity etc.

The impact on women/men has not been assessed. Anecdotal evidence shows that employment of women in public sector support services has reduced compared to men in outsourced categories and the Government will take measures to address this.

9. Reduce/eradicate poverty among women and girls

- ✓ Promoted poor women's access to decent work through active labour market policies (e.g. job training, skills, employment subsidies, etc.) and targeted measures
- ✓ Broadened access to land, housing, finance, technology and/or agricultural extension services
- ✓ Supported women's entrepreneurship and business development activities
- ✓ Introduced or strengthened social protection programmes for women and girls (e.g. cash transfers for women with children, public works/employment guarantee schemes for women of working-age, pensions for older women)
- ✓ Introduced/strengthened low-cost legal services for women living in poverty

9.1 Promoting poor women's access to decent work through active labour market policies (e.g. job training, skills, employment subsidies, etc.) and targeted measures

Bangladesh High-Tech Park Authority is offering various training on ICT for graduate pass students and professionals. For the development of Kaliakoir High-Tech Park project, 6,418 persons have been trained and 21% of them are women. Bangladesh High-Tech Park Authority has decided to appoint 30% women workers in every High-Tech Park in Bangladesh. The private IT companies of the High-Tech Park are encouraged to give preference to women for appointment as workers. Women are also given priority in getting rooms in dormitories.

Eight Export Processing Zones (EPZs) have been established for enhancing export and attracting direct foreign investment and overall development. 0.51 Million people have been employed in these EPZs; out of which 64% of the employees are women.

The Civil Aviation Authority has taken initiatives to increase women's participation in jobs under the authority. Specifically, women's participation in air traffic control, air traffic management and air navigation services have been encouraged and increased during last three years. Currently, about 700 women are working in Biman Bangladesh Airlines at different positions including 01 General Manager, 09 pilots, 215 cabin crews, 6 technicians and other positions.

National Hotel and Tourism Training Institute offers training on tourism as well as hotel and hospitality management. The main courses are Diploma in Hotel Management, Diploma in Tourism Management, Professional Chef Courses, Certificate Course in Food and Beverage Production, Service, Baker and Pastry Production, Travel Agencies, Tour Operators, Receptionists etc. A significant number of trainees are women and employment of women in tourism sector has been increasing day by day.

Bari Bose Borolok-"(Rich being at home) is a training program on ICT and Freelancing implemented by the ICT Division in collaboration with private sector and NGOs. It aims to contribute towards the fulfilment of 2021 vision of the government. The project trains young adults specially the Girls/Women in gaining ICT knowledge, and employable skills and ensures their access to ICT to enable them to compete in the market for freelance work. The training program is structured at two

levels - a. Basic and b. Advanced level. Once the basic training is complete, the advance training is delivered on advance ICT/IT and software. A total of 14,360 women were trained under the project. Out of the trained women, 2240 women were given subject based advanced training on IT.

Share A Motorcycle (SAM) has launched a female only bike hailing service in March 2019, where both rides and commuters are female. A vast percentage of women commuters did not use motorbike services in apprehension of sexual harassments and discomfort. A good number of women are seen riding electronic scooters in the Dhaka streets now-a-days. Women generally would share the rides if another woman commuter is found. Pink SAM has been introduced, in line with their requirement. The initiative not only eased women's mobility but women drivers would have the opportunity of earning a monthly income for their own livelihood. There are other companies coming forward to bring women in ride-sharing.

9.2 Access to land, housing, finance, technology and/or agricultural extension services

Under Prime Minister's Office, income-generating projects have been taken up from 2011-2012 to 2017-18 for the development of the small ethnic community living in the plain land. Out of a hundred thousand beneficiaries of these 50% are women. Ashrayan-2 project was taken for rehabilitation of 250,000 thousand landless-homeless, destitute and poor families. Through this project, so far 24,000 families have been provided loans and training, of which 50 per cent are women. Besides, 60,000 women have been rehabilitated. Land and house ownership is shared jointly with husband and wife. Each beneficiary is a member of the registered Co-operative Society. Women are encouraged in income-generating activities. So far, 151,000 women have been provided training and loans and there are plans to rehabilitate 178,000 landless families and women by 2019.

Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) has constructed housing infrastructure for the cleaners residing in 14 colonies of the DCC. The cleaners who were living in unhealthy and polluted environment will have decent housing facilities. The old buildings have been dismantled by LGED and 13 new 10 storied buildings are being constructed in Dhaka city by LGED. A total of 1155 flats are being constructed and 345 flats in 4 buildings have been completed and distributed in October 2018. The rest will be completed and handed over within 2019. This is facilitating improved housing for 1,155 families of DSCC and benefitting women and children live in a healthy condition.

Ministry of Land developed 348 cluster villages where 12,168 families have been rehabilitated under Guchcha gram project in the last three financial years. The houses are registered in joint name of both spouses and ensure women's right over the property. About 10 thousand acres agricultural Khas land has been distributed among 20 thousands landless families. It distributed BDT 117.7 million for income generating activities and BDT 54 million as micro credit to these rehabilitated families for their socioeconomic development.

MOWCA is operating 8 hostels that are providing accommodation for 1,608 working women throughout the country of which four are in Dhaka and rest are in Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna and Jashore. A 50 bedded hostel cum training centre for working women has been recently constructed in Sherpur district. A hostel with 744 seats have been constructed in Asulia, Savar to accommodate female garment workers.

Under a project of Chittagong Development Authority, construction of 244 dormitories has been completed in order to solve the housing problem of 4,000 women workers working on the side of Saltgola-Patenga Road in Chittagong. Besides, several hostel for students and working women are operated under private sector. The Dhaka Business and Professional Women Club runs a hostel for working women in Baily Road of Dhaka City.

9.3 Introduced/strengthened low-cost legal services for women living in poverty

The Local Government Division (LGD) has initiated a project (2016-2019) for revitalization of village courts to ensure good governance. The project operates in 1,080 unions of 27 districts. The project aims at providing access to justice for people in coastal, erosion prone, Riverine Island and remote areas and areas with ethnic minority groups through revitalizing the village courts. The main target groups are disadvantaged and marginalised people specially, women and poor. The project aims at empowering marginalized people in accessing justice against violation of their rights and solving disputes at a low cost and within a short time. Due to the awareness raising activities under the project about village courts, during FY 2017-18 1080 unions received justice services| A total of 46,336 disputes were registered and verdict was given for 33,458 and implemented for 29,984 cases. A total of 3,137 cases were referred to village courts from the higher courts. The project has enabled the poor to get justice at the local level and reducing the pressure on the higher courts. So far, BDT.320.8 million has been recovered as compensation to the aggrieved persons.

The National Legal Aid Committee under the Law and Justice Division (LJD) provides free legal aid to the helpless and poor women seeking justice. The District Legal Aid Committees headed by the District Judge in all the districts provides financial support from the Legal Aid Fund to the poor women litigants. Thus, the poor women can access to justice in cases of violence against women. In last three years 81,307 women were provided with free legal aid services. Another 7885 women received legal aid through hotline from this committee. To attract skilled professionals for litigation, the fees of panel lawyers working for free legal aid were increased and women are getting better service and free legal help in reducing early marriage, wife beating and dowry. Through the labour legal aid cell, women involved in garment sector and in other menial job are being provided legal support.

Besides Government, NGOs like BRAC, Ain o Salish Kendra, Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST) and several others provide free legal services to poor women. They provide legal services, mediation, and litigation. Most of the cases are related to dowry, maintenance/dower upon divorce, family disputes and violence against women. The NGOs refer cases to village courts, Arbitration Council or other courts based on the merit and as desired by the clients. This enables women in accessing justice for free or at a low cost.

10. Access to social protection for women and girls

- ✓ Introduced or strengthened social protection for unemployed women (e.g. unemployment benefits, public works programmes, social assistance) (migrant worker grant, female FF grant)
- ✓ Introduced or strengthened conditional cash transfers
- ✓ Introduced or strengthened unconditional cash transfers
- ✓ Other

10.1 Introduced or strengthened social protection for unemployed women

Rural roads maintenance has been implemented as a safety net and social protection program in Bangladesh. The Rural Employment and Road Maintenance Program (Phase-II) (RERMP-II) under LGED has been maintaining 90,960 km of rural earth roads throughout the year. A total of 59180 rural poor women have been trained for employment and income generating work. As of FY 2018-19, a total of 66.4 million person-days' work has been created under this project.

The SWAPNO project under LGD creates employment for the rural poor women for an 18 month cycle. During the 2nd cycle of the project since November 2017, total of 1,401,696 (314*4464) work

days of employment was created for 4464 beneficiaries of 124 unions of UPs of Kurigram and Satkhira district. During this cycle, BDT 275.9 million was provided as wages, of which 25% was reserved as mandatory savings. At the end of 2018, each beneficiary received BDT 46.35 thousand as cash wage and BDT 15.45 thousand as mandatory savings. SWAPNO initiated a practice related to savings and investments, through Rotating Savings and Credit Associations (ROSCAs). In total BDT 76.0 million was accumulated as savings as of December 2018 and each woman received at least BDT 7200 from the accumulated savings. Utilizing ROSCA and other savings, all women beneficiaries started different Income Generating Activities (IGAs).

In 2017-18 the urban development projects of LGED directly created employment opportunities for 12.58 million person days. The Northern Bangladesh Integrated Development Project operates poverty alleviation programme in 18 municipalities of Northern Bangladesh. The Project has developed a poverty reduction Plan and providing training to urban poor women. Women have been trained on quilt making, sewing and distributed sewing machine among the trained women.

Northern Areas Reduction of Poverty Initiative Project under MOLE with an estimated Cost of 3260 million is being implemented for poverty alleviation of women in the economically backward northern districts. It provides training and employment to poor semi-literate young women in the RMG industry by training them. Poor semi-literate young women of five districts of greater Rangpur are the beneficiaries of the project. They are trained to be self-reliance and eligible for employment in RMG.

During the FY 2017-18, LGED has created 1,171.8 million employment days under its projects in rural and urban roads, growth centre, other infrastructure development and maintenance. Besides LGED has supported income generation training and increasing income for micro entrepreneurs, traders, transport workers, farmers and others and about a third of them are for women.

10.2 Introduced or strengthened conditional cash transfers

The major conditional cash transfer programme is stipend for primary and secondary levels, which has been discussed elsewhere.

Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief implements Employment Generation for Programme for the Poorest (EGPP). The total allocation in this program in FY 2018-19 was 1,6500 million Taka. Employment is created for forty (40) days for the rural poor to undertake rural infrastructure repair, development and maintenance activities. At least 33 per cent beneficiaries of this programme are destitute and poor women. In the first phase of FY 2017-18 the percentage of women beneficiaries rose to 45 per cent.

10.3 Introduced or strengthened unconditional cash transfer

MOSW implements the Old Age Allowance (OAA) Programme, through which the elderly persons can meet their basic needs. The OAA provides cash transfers to men aged sixty-five years and over and women aged sixty two years and above. The cash allowance has enhanced their status at home, and improved their confidence and psychological well-being. It also has some spill over effects to other household members as well as macro impacts. It does not cover all poor older people. As of FY 2018-19, a total of 4 million persons are receiving the benefit and among them 19,44,480 are women.

Widows and divorced women in Bangladesh are about a tenth of ever married women and they face poverty and social stigma. The MOSW implements an unconditional cash transfer allowance

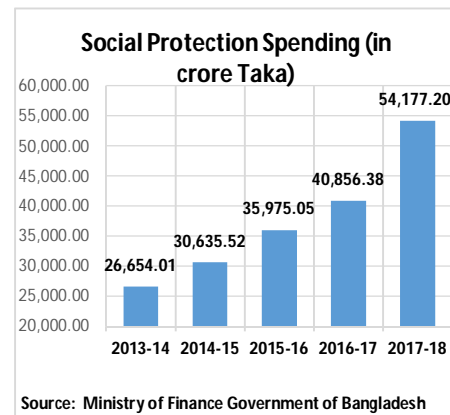
programme. As of FY19, total number of beneficiaries under the program is 1.4 million each receiving a monthly allowance of BDT 800. The allowance covers only a tenth of eligible women.

Maternity allowance of BDT800 a month is being provided by MOWCA to poor pregnant mothers and their children to cover the shortage of nutrition for 24 months for 2 cycles and 251 selected NGOs/CBOs are providing them with training on health, nutrition and income generating activities. Studies reveal that “Maternity Allowance Programme” plays a supporting role in reducing the risk of pregnant mothers and new born babies in the rural areas. Number of beneficiaries has been increased to 0.75 million in 2018 from existing 0.06 million and the duration of allowances period has been extended up to 3 years from existing 2 years. Government has introduced G2P payment system in disbursing this allowance in 7 upazillas in 2018 on pilot basis.

MOWCA operates the Working Lactating Mother Fund, which provides financial support to women during pregnancy and for development of their unborn babies in the urban areas. Since FY 2016-17, 0.18 million lactating working mothers of Dhaka, Narayanganj, Gazipur, and Chittagong and all City Corporations and municipalities have been supported for 2 years. The programme includes health, nutrition and income generating training. The monthly allowance has been increased from BDT 500/- to BDT800/- in FY 2018-19. Number of beneficiaries has been increased to 0.275 million working mothers and the duration has been extended to 3 years.

10.4 Other

The National Social Security Strategy (NSSS): Bangladesh has developed the NSSS in 2015 with a life cycle based approach. The NSSS aims to, “Build an inclusive Social Security System for all deserving Bangladeshis that effectively tackles and prevents poverty and inequality and contributes to broader human development, employment and economic growth.” The NSSS incorporates a provision for developing a comprehensive Vulnerable Women Benefit programme consolidating the currently fragmented programmes. The Strategy identified support requirements at different stages of life. As Social protection has been emphasised by the Government the annual budget, social protection has been increasing as shown in the chart. A major share of the budget supports women.



Gender Policy for NSSS: The Government has developed and approves a gender Policy for NSSS. The Policy provides a pathway for promoting gender equality through social security programmes. It provides that social security programmes will be a combination of protective, preventive, promotive and transformative in nature with ultimate goal of utilizing the transformative potential for empowerment of the poor beneficiaries, especially women and girls of all communities. The goal of the Policy is “To support women and girls in coming out of poverty and empower them by reducing their risks and vulnerabilities through a transformative and gender responsive social security system”. It includes strengthening the demand side, grievance redress and feed-back mechanisms by strengthening of participation and advocacy by CSO and the private sector. It aims for progressive expansion of coverage of services and benefits and ensuring universal social security for Bangladeshi women and men throughout their lifecycle and meeting their basic needs, promoting human development opportunities and social empowerment.

Gender Strategy and Action Plan for NSSS: In 2019, a Gender Strategy has been developed for social protection, which is a framework complementing the implementation of the NSSS and the Gender Policy for the period of 2019-2025. The strategy has been synchronized with other strategic priorities of the country, like employment, development of human resources, food security, maternity and such other. It incorporates ways for reaping better gender equality benefits from social security programme. A gender action plan provides priority actions for different ministries and outlines actions focusing on expanding and spelling out activities of different ministries/divisions to promote gender equality through their social security programmes with time line and indicators. The Action Plan emphasised on formulating a Vulnerable Women’s Benefit Programme by MOWCA consolidating relevant programmes according to the provision of the NSSS.

11. Action to improve health outcomes for women and girls

- ✓ Promoted women’s access to health services through expansion of universal health coverage or public health services
- ✓ Expanded specific health services for women and girls, including sexual and reproductive health
- ✓ Provided gender-responsiveness training for health service providers

11.1 Women’s access to health services through expansion of universal health coverage

Community Clinic (CC): At the ward level, MOHFW established 13,861 community clinics (CCs) each of them is planned to serve 6,000 to 8,000 people for expanded health coverage. The existing union and upazilla facilities (4,500) also provide community clinic services. Up to 30 September 2017, a total of 13,442 CCs were in operation. They deliver primary healthcare services, like EPI, treatment for common diseases (pneumonia, fever, cough, etc), family planning services, health education, and first-aids and serve as the first contact points for patients. Some of the community clinics have also stated services for normal delivery through community birth attendants at the clinics. The MOHFW aims to develop the CCs as the unit of comprehensive healthcare providing unit for the local communities through leadership by community people. There are also health workers – one for every 5,000 to 6,000 people at the ward or village level. The villagers, particularly the poor and the underprivileged mothers and children receive services from the nearby CCs. On an average, 9.5-10.00 million patient-visits take place nationwide each month in the CCs of whom majority are children and women⁵⁵.

Shasthaya Batayan-Health Call Center(16263):In 2015 a multipurpose Health Call Center was launched by the MIS-DGHS to provide health advice round-the-clock (24/7) through a calling code ‘16263’. The call center provided live health counselling, complaints management, and content delivery. Total numbers of calls received in 2016 and 2017 were 12,05,898 and 7,53,304 respectively. Reasons for calls were for doctor’s consultation, health information, ambulance information, complaints, and to know about services. Among the total calls, the number of those relating to doctor’s consultation was highest in 2017. This has enabled women to get doctor’s advice from home without any hassle.

Telemedicine Services: Due to shortage of skilled healthcare personnel in remote areas; the GOB has started Telemedicine Services under DGHS and monitored by its MIS unit. It initially started with 8 centres in 2011 and more or less 10 centers each year have been added. There are 84 telemedicine centers, including Telemedicine Monitoring Unit at the MIS-DGHS and another 10 centers were added in 2017. Among 84 telemedicine centers, 8 at the specialized hospitals, 7 at MCHs, 11 at DHs,

⁵⁵ Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Bangladesh, Health Bulletin, 2017

57 at UHCs, 1 at MIS monitoring cell. The centres also have facilitated women receiving required medicine.

11.2 Health services for women and girls, including sexual and reproductive health

Eighty six midwifery-led care sites have been established at sub-district hospitals to provide care services and offer mentorship programmes providing midwifery education and clinical practice. As a result, 43 facilities provide a basic standard of midwifery-led care, leading to significant increases in evidence-based routine care such as skin-to-skin contact after delivery, companionship for women in labour, upright position for delivery and response to obstetric emergencies⁵⁶.

Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (BAEC) launched the ultra sonography system for the first time at the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC). Currently 14 INMAS (Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences) are providing treatment services to patients with ultra sonography and radio isotope. About 60% of the ultra sonography treatment service recipients and 85% of the medical service recipients through radioactive isotopes are women.

The Maternal Health Voucher Scheme, a demand-side financing (DSF) initiative implemented by MOHFW was expanded and currently is being implemented in 53 upazillas of 41 districts. Poor pregnant woman, based on specific criteria (approximately 35% of the pregnant woman of an upazilla) are registered and provided health voucher. The total number of cumulative beneficiaries reached 1,392,383 (from 2006-2007 to September 2017). In 2016-2017, a total of 89,618 pregnant women received the benefit. All voucher-holders received health services free of charge (for ANC, PNC, Safe delivery, and treatment of complications, including caesarean section, transportation cost, and laboratory test). If delivery is done in a health facility or by skilled birth attendants at home, a voucher holder mother also gets cash incentive for nutritious food). There is a target to scale up the program in 10 sub-districts per year⁵⁷.

More than 110 midwives were deployed to ensure quality delivery of comprehensive SRHR services, including focused antenatal care for pregnant women. A 24/7 delivery services with initial stabilization of obstetric and new born emergencies, postnatal and new born care, counselling and health promotion, family planning services, menstrual regulation, post-abortion care, and adolescent SRH care has been established. The midwives have the needed commodities, access to consultations and referral systems that allow them to provide life-saving care to critical cases.

Referral mechanisms were established in four districts to provide multi-sectoral GBV-related services, to address GBV and increase utilization of multi-sectoral response services in Bangladesh. Services and rights-related information were provided through 122 courtyard community sessions to 4,321 women and girls who are at risk or survivors of GBV. Services were provided to 1,334 women and girls, including medical care, psycho-social support, legal aid and referrals.

The Maternal and New born Health Initiative (MNHI) is being implemented in 11 districts. The program focuses on saving maternal and new born lives through creating need-based demand and priority-based actions. The broad principle of this program is to find the bottlenecks through data analysis. Finally, the health managers develop Evidence-based Planning and Budgeting (DEPB) for every upazila and hospital.

⁵⁶ UNFPA, Annual Report, 2018

⁵⁷ Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Bangladesh, Health Bulletin, 2017

11.3 Gender-responsiveness training for health service providers

The MOHFW has programs to produce family welfare visitors (FWVs) and community paramedics. To address the shortage of skilled manpower in the remote areas to extend obstetric care MOHFW took a short-term measure for fulfilling the gap. Young medical doctors were given 6 months' training on obstetrics and anaesthesiology. A community-based skilled birth attendant (CSBA) training program is being continued to train and educate the family welfare assistants/ female health assistants, community healthcare providers, and other health workers in NGOs and private sector, on midwifery skills. The CSBAs are trained to conduct normal safe deliveries at home and to identify the risks and complicated cases and to motivate the families to refer to the nearby health facilities where comprehensive EOC services are available. The Government introduced midwifery course and created posts for 2,994 midwives.

A mobile-based job aid app was developed focusing on interpersonal communication skills and sexual and reproductive health issues, and 100 urban health providers were trained in its use by BBC Media Action. The training helped participants understand how to use the app in providing needed information and services to women and girls in urban areas on maternal health.

Eighty six midwifery-led care sites were established at sub-district hospitals to provide care services and offer mentorship programmes providing midwifery education and clinical practice. Now 43 facilities provide a basic standard of midwifery-led care, leading to significant increases in evidence-based routine care such as skin-to-skin contact after delivery, companionship for women in labour, upright position for delivery and response to obstetric emergencies.

A protocol was developed by MOHFW in 2017 on Health Sector Response to Gender-based Violence for Health Care Providers with UNFPA. This has led to capacity building of 1,334 health service providers including doctors, nurses and midwives. They were trained on health service provision for gender-based violence survivors. A web-based module on the clinical management of rape was developed in Bengali to build the capacity of health service providers at the central and local levels.

12. Actions to improve education outcomes and skills for women and girls

- ✓ Taken measures to increase girls' access to, retention in and completion of education, technical and vocational education and training (TVET) and skills development programmes
- ✓ Provided gender equality and human rights training for teachers and other education professionals
- ✓ Increased access to skills and training in new and emerging fields, especially STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) and digital fluency and literacy
- ✓ Ensured access to safe water and sanitation services and facilitated menstrual hygiene management especially in schools and other education/training settings

12.1 Girls' access to, retention in and completion of education, TVET and skills development

The largest and most critical input for enrolment and retention of girls is the primary and secondary level stipend programme, which has been discussed elsewhere. Stipend for female students at degree level has been introduced under the Prime Minister's Trust Fund, BDT 5637.02million stipends have been provided to 1.03 million students from FY 2012-13 till now. Among the beneficiaries, 0.84 million are female students.

In 2017, the National Curriculum and Textbook Board published textbooks for students in the primary level who are disabled and those who belong to ethnic communities. The Board distributed textbooks written in Braille among blind children and multi-lingual textbooks written in five different ethnic languages including Chakma, Marma, Garo, Sadri and Tripura.

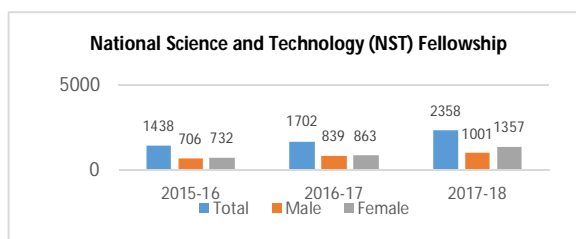
The National Skills Development Council, completed the final draft of a set of Competency Standards for life skills education to be integrated into technical and vocational education and training. It has begun developing the corresponding competency based learning materials to be finalized in 2019. These materials will support technical and vocational training providers for systematic and standardized application.

The Skills and Training Enhancement Project (STEP) supported development of 45 polytechnic institutes to improve women's inclusion in the institutions, upgrade classroom facilities and build capacity to deliver industry-relevant skills. It raised awareness on TVET among prospective female students and families by showcasing success stories of female graduates and connecting them to employers through the National Skills Competition and Job Fairs. Over 40,000 low-income female students were given stipends to overcome financial constraints in enrolling in technical diploma programmes. Female enrolment increased from 5 per cent to 14 per cent; diploma pass rates improved for girls increased from 50 per cent to 81 per cent. Over 31,000 poor women received short training in trades such as architecture and computer engineering. About 4,000 females, mostly informal workers, were assessed through the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) program to support their graduation to better jobs. A recently conducted tracer study on polytechnic graduates shows that nearly half of female graduates were working, mostly in education and manufacturing sectors.

Bangladesh's first children's educational programme *Sisimpur*, an adaptation co-production of Sesame Street, the educational television series of the USA, localized to meet the needs of children in Bangladesh airs in Bangladesh Television (BTV). MOWCA supports broadcasting of the show in the BTV. *Sisimpur* incorporates educative subjects from a range of fields, including early child development, literacy, mathematics, science, culture, safety. Each segment of the series presents educational messages to help prepare children for school, and provide them with basic skills, knowledge on social issues, life skills, and cultural understanding. *Sisimpur* has already successfully completed 700 episodes in 12 seasons and the 13th and the 14th seasons are under process. It reached children of the remote areas. Duronto Television has also started to broadcast the show from July 2019. *Sisimpur* will continue in BTV and RTV. The 15th anniversary of the show will be celebrated on the first day of the Benglai New Year, 2020, and a number of special events are planned for the year.

12.2 Skills and training in new and emerging fields: STEM, and digital literacy

National Science and Technology (NST) fellowship is provided by Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) for the help of research work of students and researchers in various fields of science and technology.



Source: GRB Report, Ministry of Science and Technology

A number of 48 women researchers were donated for research projects in the FY 2017-18. In order to popularize science, 7 science exhibition galleries have been established at the National Museum of Science and Technology. The Museum organizes National Science and Technology Week, Science Fair, Science Seminar and Symposium, Science Quiz and Olympiad. The number of women participants in these programs is growing.

The Marine Fisheries Academy (MFA) enrolled 8 female cadets for training since 2010-11 for the first time and at present, 25 female cadets are studying in MFA for three years B.Sc. course. Moreover, about 33 female cadets were passed out from the academy and had joined various fish processing plants for employment.

The Government has taken initiative for establishment of Technical Schools and Colleges in 8 divisional headquarters for women.

12.3 Access to safe water and sanitation services and menstrual hygiene

The government directed that there must be provisions for separate toilet (wash blocks) for female teachers and students in every primary school and established a National standard of WASH in Schools. A little less than 94% of the schools have latrines within the school compounds. Of which 92.2% are of the improved category. Around 84% have one access to drinking water within the school compound, which are mostly shallow tube-wells, deep tube-wells, made of Tara pumps or piped water. The government has a standard for pupils: hand-washing facilities are 1000:1. 42% of school authorities supply soap/detergent for hand washing of pupils during the critical events, such as before taking foods and after using latrines.⁵⁸

Separate wash block is being set up for male and female students in phases. New residential halls are being constructed in the universities. Special projects have been adopted for the students of the hill areas. Already, 57 hostels and 2833 toilets have been constructed in government colleges for the students' accommodation.

Under the Third Primary Education Development Programme (PEDP 3) completed in 2018 the Department of Public Health and Engineering (DPHE) installed 39,300 safe water points and 28,500 WASH blocks in primary schools. Under PEDP 4 programme, 4,600 wash blocks and 1,250 water points are under construction. By 2023 All primary schools will have separate WASH blocks for boys and girls and at least one safe water point. Department of Secondary and Higher Education has issued circular to install separate toilet facilities for female students and teachers in all schools.

DPHE installed 40,091 tube wells in rural areas in FY 2017-18. It has also put up 62,947 sanitary and eco-toilets in urban and rural areas combined. The number of public toilets constructed in this period was 2,385.

13. Prioritised forms of violence against women and girls: specific contexts or settings

- ✓ Intimate partner violence/domestic violence, including sexual violence and marital rape
- ✓ Sexual harassment and violence in public places, educational settings and in employment
- ✓ Violence against women and girls facilitated by technology (e.g. cyber violence, pornography, online stalking)
- ✓ Child, early and forced marriages

Bangladesh has a stern view on violence against women and children (VAWC). Still violence is prevalent.

⁵⁸<http://washinschoolsmapping.com/projects/bangladesh.html>

13.1 Intimate partner violence/domestic violence, including sexual violence and marital rape

In 2015 the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics conducted a survey on its prevalence. The survey categorised violence in five forms and assessed prevalence: physical violence, sexual violence, economic violence, emotional violence, and controlling behaviour. The Report revealed that violence by women's current or previous husband was prevalent. Above two thirds (72.6%) of ever married women had suffered one or more such forms of violence by their husband at least once in their lifetime, and above half (54.7%) experienced violence during last 12 months. A large proportion (41.7%) of women experienced injuries from life partners in the form of physical or sexual violence. About 12.9% reported injuries during the last 12 months. A higher proportion of women reported cuts, scratches, bruises or aches (32.3% in lifetime and 9.8% in the last 12 months). The major forms of violence experienced by ever-married women were controlling behaviour (55.4%) physical violence (49.6%), emotional violence (28.7%), sexual violence (27.3%) and economic violence (11.4%) at least once in life-time. Any form of violence by partner in lifetime experienced by rural ever-married women was 74.8% and it was slightly lower in urban areas. Despite high rates of partner violence, 72.7% women never reported or shared with others. Reporting to any authority is limited mainly due to concern about family honour (15.6%); afraid of the perpetrator (12.0%); and shame or embarrassment (7.7%).

The Government of Bangladesh, to address the issue of violence in the domestic area approved the Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act, in 2010. The Act aims to prevent domestic violence, protect women and children from domestic violence, and to establish equal rights for women and children. The Act defines domestic violence in terms of four types of abuse, i.e. physical, psychological, sexual and economic. Committing any activity falling within these categories constitutes an offence. The Act also specifies the responsibilities of the police, rights of the victims of such abuse, judicial process, and types of sentences. MoWCA, the lead ministry in developing the law, enacted a Rule to enforce the Act entitled "Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Rules, 2013". It specifies the responsibilities of law-enforcing agencies and provides process to bring charges against perpetrators. The Law and the Rules are in effect now.

13.2 Sexual harassment and violence in public places

In the recent years with increasing participation of women in education, employment and other works has increased their mobility in public. Women and girls are also facing violence and harassment public places, work places and education institutions. Sexual harassment in public places and educational institutions are being reported frequently in mainstream media and social media. This has increased the focus on the issue. Not much is known about workplace violence. Fair Wear Foundation found that 60 per cent of female garment workers had experienced sexual harassment in the factories. Qualitative research suggested that emotional and economic violence was common in this sector, while physical and sexual violence was not uncommon. Most of the perpetrators of workplace violence were mid- and low-level factory management staff, mostly male. The most common forms of violence faced by female garment workers included name-calling, shouting, yelling, teasing, rough behaviour, being referred to using slang, and propositioning.⁵⁹

The Honourable High Court issued a judgement on sexual harassment and provided guidelines to employers and educational institutions on how to address sexual harassment issues in 2010. In response to a petition by the Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association (BNWLA) filed a writ petition in 2010 under Article 102 of the Constitution the High Court ruled in May 2010 that any kind of physical, mental or sexual harassment of women, girls and children at their workplaces, educational institutions and at other public places, including roads, was a criminal offence,

⁵⁹<https://bmcpublihealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12889-018-5442-5>

punishable by fines and/or imprisonment.⁶⁰BNWLA noted that harassment still was a problem and monitoring and enforcement of the guidelines were poor. This sometimes prevented girls from attending schools or work. Formation of complaints committees and the installation of complaints boxes at educational institutions and workplaces as directed by the Courts were rarely enforced. BNWLA filed another petition and The Honourable High Court issued an order in May 2019 about the Government to report on formation of complaints committees and the installation of complaints boxes at educational institutions and workplaces. Several ministries (incl. Ministry of Foreign Affairs), departments and universities have already formed such committees.

A collaborative programme between four universities, the University Grants Commission, the civil society, and UN Women was designed to prevent violence against women on campuses. Through this joint effort, the participating universities established mechanisms and procedures to prevent violence and to support survivors. Sexual Harassment Prevention Committees were formed in all universities to guide the interventions. New mechanisms were established within the universities; including the adoption of Prevention of VAW in the Standard Operating Procedures, creating awareness on the High Court Directive on Prevention of Sexual Harassment (2009) for new students, and developing counselling sessions for the survivors. All universities distributed written resources on sexual harassment. In addition, three universities established dedicated phone lines to allow students to talk to the members of the Sexual Harassment prevention committees (SHPC).

Funded by ICT Division under its "a2i" project, a smart phone app "JOY" aiming to address violence against women and children was launched by MOWCA. It can help women and children in emergency situations whenever they face violence. A victim by pressing an emergency button can send text messages seeking help to the police super of the area, metropolitan deputy police commissioner, three pre-selected 'friends and family' numbers, and to a national help centre (109). With internet connection, the app will send the victim's GPS location, picture and audio recording to concerned authorities. On the basis of the evidence, the help centre will take necessary steps. A victim can also file a written complaint choosing the category of the crime from the app. Anyone can attach proof, including video or audio, later. All the information will be kept secret and the app is free when sending SMS or call to the help centre.

Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) is also considering women's safety in public transports. LGED and BRTA have been consciously trying to ensure women's safety in bus terminal by establishing separate waiting rooms, adequate lighting, etc.

13.3 Violence against women and girls facilitated by technology

While the expansion of ICT and growing access to internet is a positive indicator of development, it has brought risks and led to increased cyber violence against women in absence on inadequate legal protections. Young women are more likely than men to face severe online sexual and violent abuse. Women have reported on online harassment, abuse, and violence. According to a study 2017 (Zaman, Gansheimer, Rolim, &Mridha), 73 per cent of women internet users have reported cybercrime.

The Information and Communication Technology Division established a Cyber Help Desk. As of December, 2017, the Help Desk received more than 17,000 complaints, 70 per cent of complainants were women. Women were also targeted for digitally manipulated images with pornographic materials. Often women end up with their social media accounts hacked. The perpetrators would then upload fake indecent messages and pictures to victimize, defame or blackmail them.

⁶⁰<http://www.dpiap.org/resources/article.php?id=0000194&year=&genreid=05>

Sometimes the perpetrators gain the trust of their victims and record their intimate moments by hidden camera to black mail.

To provide overall safe and secure online and networked computing environment, Bangladesh Police has established a Cyber Police Centre to improve the police response to cybercrime swiftly and effectively by providing a national investigative capability for serious cybercrime incidents. It aims at developing the mainstream capability of the police across the country and coordinating law enforcement to all types of cybercrime.

In 2018, The Government of Bangladesh legislated Bangladesh Digital Security Act. The Act includes provisions regarding Digital Crime Identification, Prevention, Suppression, Trial and other related matters. The Act addresses various types of digital offences, such as electronic forgery, digital fraud, publishing of offensive information, cyber terrorism, defamation, etc. Since its approval, opposing political parties, journalists and rights activists have expressed their concerns over the new law fearing it might undermine free speech and independent journalism in the country. The Government has assured that any misuse will be protected and freedom of expression will not be curtailed.

14. Actions prioritized to address violence against women and girls

- ✓ Introduced or strengthened violence against women laws, and their enforcement and implementation
- ✓ Introduced, updated or expanded national action plans on ending violence against women and girls
- ✓ Introduced or strengthened measures to increase women's access to justice (e.g. establishment of specialist courts, training for the judiciary and police, protection orders, redress and reparations, including for femicide cases)
- ✓ Introduced or strengthened services for survivors of violence (e.g. shelters, help lines, dedicated health services, legal, justice service, counselling, housing)
- ✓ Introduced or strengthened strategies to prevent violence against women and girls (e.g. in the education sector, in the media, community mobilization, work with men and boys)

14.1 Introduced and updated national action plans on ending violence against women and girls

The Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA) led the process revision, updating and approval of the National Plan of Action on Violence against Women. The revised Plan will be effective for 2018–2030. The revised Plan incorporates targets for SRHR for adults and adolescents which were not included in the previous plan. The Plan was developed in a participatory manner with participation on government ministries, national and international non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, researchers and academia.

The Strategies include, i. Elimination of discrimination Against Women and Girls, ii. Development of women and children as human capital and iii. Promotion of women's leadership. Action Areas include i. Legal arrangement and legal assistance; ii. Social awareness and mental transformation; iii Improving socio-economic condition of women and children; iv. Protective services for violence against women and children; and v. Prevention and rehabilitation. Institutional measures for implementation and monitoring is also included. Development of a monitoring mechanism for implementation and costing of the approved plan is under progress with support from UNFPA.

As per the directives of the High court and the Concluding observations of the CEDAW Committee in 2016, a comprehensive law on Sexual harassment is being drafted.

14.2 Introduced or strengthened measures to increase women's access to Justice

Many different measures have been taken to strengthen women's access to justice. MOWCA has a central cell to prevent violence against women and children in the Ministry which monitors and follows up the efforts and initiatives to address VAWC. There are such Cells under the Department of Women Affairs (DWA) and Jatiya Mahila Sanghsha (JMS), which provide legal support to the women and children victims of violence.

In 2018, the High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh ('High Court') issued landmark judgments on rape and sexual violence for ensuring justice and protection for rape survivors.⁶¹ Women's Help Desks have been established in four district courts to ensure minimum standards and essential prevention and response services for women and girls at risk of GBV. The help desks in courts provide legal advice, information, assistance and referrals. During 2018, a total of 1,111 women and girls accessed the help desks and received services. A female fulltime legal support officer has been appointed to assist and guide women and girls in courts.

NGOs also support access to Justice. Ain O Shalish Kendra, a national NGO working to uphold the human rights of women organized Human Rights Lawyers Forum (HRLF) and they were trained on gender aspects of human rights. The HRLFs support access to justice and deal with cases of poor victims of HR violation often without any fees. In the tri-monthly meetings they follow-up the cases on behalf of the marginalized victims handled by the HRLF members. They coordinate with the local BAR Associations and Govt. Legal Aid Fund (GLAF) Committees. These lawyers play active role in voluntarily providing assistance to the poor to access legal aid fund while seeking justice.

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad (BMP), a women's right organization provides legal support to the women victims of violence throughout the country. In 2018, a total no. of 760 cases were dealt by BMP which include both old and the new cases. The court delivered several verdicts in favour of the victims in 2018. BMP through mediation and counselling recovered a total of BDT 59,26, as dower and maintenance which has been handed over to the victims of violence against women and girls (VAWG).

14.3 Introduced or strengthened services for survivors of violence

Department of Social Services operate 7 safe custodies for women, girls and adolescents. DWA operates one such shelter and 6 women support centres. In these safe custodies and shelters the women and children victims can stay up to 6 months where they get legal support, psychosocial counselling and life skill training⁶². Annually, about, 600 disadvantaged women and on an average 600 adolescents gain access to safe home programmes of MOSW. The shelters provide access to social security services, legal aid to women affected by social maladies.

A safe home in Gazipur district is run by DWA to house women and girl victims who have been put in safe custody by court. They are given safe shelter during the legal process. They are taken to court and brought back on the dates of hearing. They are given food, medical care, and recreational facilities. In addition, they are given counselling and skills development training on sewing in the shelter.

Women's Help Desks have been established in 31 police stations in four districts and in Dhaka Metropolitan city with UNFPA support which provide assistance in cases of GBV. A total of 4,505 women and girls received services by 2018. A phone-based survey of service recipients found that

⁶¹ Naripokkho and Others v Bangladesh and Others [Writ Petition No. 5541 of 2015] <https://www.blast.org.bd/content/judgement/Judgment-of-gang-rape-in-microbus-writ-5541-of-2015.pdf>

⁶² <http://bdf2018.erd.gov.bd/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/BDF18-Addressing-Violence-Against-Women-and-Ensuring-Women-Empowerment-.pdf>

almost three-quarters were satisfied with Help Desk services in 2018. The survey also highlighted the importance of having female police officers in the help desks.

In 2018, the High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh ('High Court') issued another important judgment on rape and sexual violence. It prohibited the 'Two Finger Test' on rape survivors in determining the occurrence of rape. In April 2018, the Court provided guidelines on conducting medico-legal tests on rape victims and the responsibilities of the police in recording, and supporting victims through, complaints of rape and sexual violence.

The Multi-Sectoral Programme on Violence Against Women (MSPVAW) under MOWCA in collaboration with 11 other ministries address violence against women and children. The programme started in May 2000 is now in its fourth phase (July 2016-June 2021) and has been appreciated by the Government Departments, NGO, DPs and Citizen's Group. The types of support include the following.

Nine One-Stop Crisis Centres (OCC) in Medical College Hospitals provide health care, police assistance, DNA test, social services, legal assistance, psychosocial counselling and shelter services. One-Stop Crisis Cells (OCCs) in 40 districts sadar hospitals and 20 sub-district health complexes provide various services for women and children victims of violence. The services include mobilization of police and legal services as well. The National Trauma Counselling Centre (NTCC) in Dhaka provides psychosocial counselling to the women and children victims of violence. It also provides training for professionals and stakeholders. The National Forensic DNA Profiling Laboratory in Dhaka ensures speedy and fair trial for the incidences of violence against women and children. A National Helpline Centre has been established which provides 24/7 services through the toll-free helpline number 109. The number of the toll free helpline has been incorporated in the textbooks of secondary and higher secondary levels.

BMP runs a shelter home named Rokeya Sadan for the victims of VAWG and social injustice. Rokeya Sadan provides the inmates with food, education, nutrition, income generating training, legal assistance, psychological counselling, and entertainment. In 2018, a total number of 18 including 6 new victims were given shelter in Sadan.

15. Prevent violence against women and girls

- ✓ Public awareness raising and changing of attitudes and behaviours
- ✓ Grassroots and community-level mobilization
- ✓ Working with men and boys

15.1 Public awareness raising and changing of attitudes and behaviours

MOWCA established Violence Prevention Committees, which are working at the national, district, upazila and union levels. They include members of NGOs and CSOs to prevent violence against women and children. To raise awareness, on violence against women, courtyard and community meeting are organized for at grass root level. Information is also disseminated through information, education and communication (IEC) materials through printed, electronic and social media. Drama and TV episodes on child marriage and violence are broadcast from time to time. Several NGOs are also involved in public awareness rising.

Bangladesh Betar (Radio), Bangladesh Television, private F.M. radio, disseminate information to the remote areas of the country through introduction of modern technology. They have expanded networks in information. A significant segment of radio listeners and television viewers are women.

Radio programmes targeted on women's rights and well-being are broadcasted. Community radios cater to women's needs at the community level. Programmes on community education, health, rural development and rights of women are regularly broadcasted. Four new episodes of the "Shahana cartoon" were produced with support from UNFPA and disseminated through six private TV channels.

A project titled "Advocacy and Communication for Children and Women (5th phase)" under Ministry of Information has been contributing to realize children's and women's rights. The main objectives of this project are to bring change in the social and behavioural pattern for reducing the discrimination and to raise awareness for protecting the rights of women and children. Women are encouraged to participate in the development activities through Drama, Spot, Jingle, Talk Show, Field Based Report, Outdoor Programs, Debate Competition, Direct Phone-in Programs, Trainings etc.

ASK organized training courses every year on Human Rights and Gender Relation for human rights actors, staff and staff of partner organizations to enhance their knowledge about gender perspectives in human rights for ensuring effective activism. This has strengthened their role to address gender issues at the community level. Training, meetings, and discussions are held to change social attitude to prevent and protest any kind of gender-based violence and domestic violence against women and girls. Community organizations have been formed and oriented in ASK operating areas. Women can speak up for their rights and stand up against injustice. They protest social and individual behaviour that hinder girls and women to claim their own right to choice, mobility, justice and dignity.

BMP organized sharing meetings in educational institutions, schools, colleges and universities in different parts of the country to increase awareness among youth on and motivate them to challenge patriarchal norms. Programmes were held at Law Department of University of Dhaka, Daffodil International University of Bangladesh, Jahangirnagar University, University of Development Alternative Bangladesh, ASA University, and Dhakeswari Mills School-College. A total of 693 students and teachers attended the programmes. A national action committee has been launched with more than hundreds members representing all sections of society in 2018.

BRAC, the largest NGO in the world works for transforming socio-cultural gender norms at the community level by advocating for gender equality and gender justice at all level through gender mainstreaming. BRAC reached 1.845 million people through awareness efforts on violence against women, children and prevention of child marriage across 7 districts in 2018.

15.2 Grassroots and community-level mobilization

Awareness raising and community mobilization activities are done by several ministries including MOWCA, MOSW, Local Government Division (LGD), Ministry of Youth and Sports (MOYS) and Rural development and Cooperative Division (RDCD). The activities include community awareness and mobilization to promote women's empowerment and preventing violence against women and girls.

BMP District branches also organized 24 sharing meetings in 2018 with young students in different parts of the country. A total of 1656 teachers and students took part in those meetings. The district branches also organized meetings and took initiative to form local action committees to resist VAWG and social anomy. The meetings were participated by cross section of people representing teachers, journalists, lawyers, NGO representatives, elected local leaders, and also members of local branches of BMP. BMP, too involved school, college and university students and youth in the women's movement and to work for gender equality at the central and district level organized study circles for

students. The study circle provided opportunity to the youth to engage in women rights movement. A total of 43 study circles were organized by BMP's central and district branches. More students are now vocal against sexual harassment and other forms of VAWG and participating in protests whenever there is an incident.

ASK organized Community Based Human Rights Theatre Groups (CBHRTG) and School Theatre Groups (STG), which raise community awareness about women's rights through cultural issue-based drama. ASK trained them to raise community awareness through drama. They perform dramas taking issues and incidents of the local level and orient people on human rights and mobilize them against VAWG.

The Government and the Gender in Humanitarian Action (GiHA) Working Group organised 16 Days of Activism campaign Against Gender Based Violence in Cox's Bazaar around the International Day 2019 for the Elimination of Violence against Women. About 200 different activities took place with the Rohingya refugees and host communities. More than 20 organizations joined to promote messages about Gender Based Violence (GBV) address challenges faced by Rohingya women and girls in the camps. Activities included interactive theatre, singing competitions, friendly games and women-centric gatherings, door-to-door home visits, film screenings, rallies, educational workshops, and a media sensitivity training for local journalists. A football tournament, meetings between women and religious leaders (Imams) and government officials were also held. Later, Rohingya women and girls planted trees across the camps. Community volunteers, mobilizers, and staff conducted door-to-door visits during the week to ensure that no women and girls were left out.

Awareness raising activities were undertaken by LGD to orient local people, service providers and other stakeholders on the activities and services of village courts. 1,35,358 courtyard meetings, 2,435 community meetings, 9501 drama show and 1906 rallies were organized in 2017-18. This has provided information about the justice services provided by village courts to more than 4.8 million men and women.

BRAC engaging multiple stakeholders organizes Community Action Groups in villages and provides a forum for Action Groups to discuss performance in addressing gender norms. To encourage attendance, trained local theatre groups stage dramas on topics such as domestic violence, child marriage, and sexual harassment of schoolgirls. Local people including religious figures, teachers and other informal leaders are invited to speak and present awards to role models. Police and local government officials are invited to speak about laws and recourse mechanisms on gender violence and encourage community members to access services.

15.3 Working with men and boys

The Engaging Men as Partners to End Violence against Women Initiative led by BRAC's on-going Community Empowerment Programme (CEP) was designed to engage men and boys for the safety and security of women and girls in the community. The initiative involves a variety of social actors, including local elected officials and other political and social leaders to address VAWG. The actions include mobilizing men, women and adolescents to form Community Action Committees and Youth Groups to monitor and prevent VAW, developing community action plans, building capacity to act as change agents and such others. School centred programme train girls and boys as mentors who orient other students and local boys against eve teasing and sexual harassment of girls. CEP engages local elites, religious and political leaders and local administration in VAW issues.

A network of like-minded organizations named Campaign to work with boys and men is addressing violence involving boys and men was working to prevent all forms of violence against women and children. It was renamed as "Engage Men & Boys: Network for promoting gender justice" in 2011

and it is working to engage boys and men against social injustice. The Network works as a catalyst to break the traditional beliefs, norms and values perpetuating VAWG and upholding gender justice. It works through establishing active linkages at the local, national and global levels to raise men's and boys' voices and action on gender-based violence/VAW. The other activities include advocacy and lobby for ensuring action to engage men and boys to address gender-based violence, research to develop knowledge base on men and masculinity; campaign to change structural and behavioural barriers to ensure gender justice and to establish alliances with feminist and other social justice movements to ensure gender justice.

ASK organized Community Based Working Groups (CBWG) at the union and Upazila levels. They include ASK's partner PNGOs staff and representatives from other organizations. The CBWG members are oriented on human rights, gender, family laws, child rights, women's rights, legal aid and VAWG.

In Cox's Bazaar, male volunteers have been trained to watch against VAWG around the Rohingya refugee camps as watchmen and tasked with protecting their communities at night, especially in areas where security risks are higher for women and girls. Some 850 religious leaders have been actively engaged in raising awareness on GBV prevention and risk mitigation initiatives.

16. Prevent and respond to violence against women and girls facilitated by technology

- ✓ Introduced or strengthened legislation and regulatory provisions Implemented awareness raising initiatives targeting the general public and young women and men in educational settings
- ✓ Worked with technology providers to set and adhere to good business practices
- ✓ Other

16.1 Introduced or strengthened legislation and regulatory provisions

As discussed earlier, that in 2018, The Government of Bangladesh legislated Bangladesh Digital Security Act and the ICT Division established a Cyber Help Desk. A full-fledged specialised unit -- Cyber Crime Investigation Bureau -- has already been approved by the home ministry while the import of the OSINT is in the pipeline. The unit investigates crimes like hacking of Face book and twitter accounts, uploading nude pictures or videos on websites, hacking online bank accounts, using abusive words on the internet, comments hurting religious sentiments and other offences. Around 246 cases were filed with 49 police stations of the DMP under the ICT and pornography act in 2017. The cyber security division was tasked with handling 76 of those cases. So far, it has completed investigation of 28as of 2018.

Initiatives have been taken to improve the police response to cybercrime swiftly and effectively by developing the capability of the police across the country. Strengthening coordination to address all types of cybercrime by law enforcement agencies, the national investigative capability is being developed.

A 'Cybercrime Tribunal' has been formed to addresses cyber violence. It is known that, around 90 percent of the instances of online violence are not reported by the victims. Information received under Right to Information (RTI) Act reveals that from July 2013 to February 2016, the Cybercrime Tribunal received 520 cases of which 328 cases were dropped. News media in Bangladesh are mostly unable to notice the angle of gender violence in cybercrime.⁶³

⁶³ <https://www.genderit.org/articles/cyber-violence-against-women-case-bangladesh>

16.2 Implemented awareness raising initiatives targeting the general public and young women and men in educational settings

The ICT Division in 2017 finished conducting a pilot project to teach the female students from urban areas on how to keep themselves safe from online threats. School girls are trained to protect them from being blackmailed or harassed online following a rise in cybercrimes. Mostly the victims of cybercrime are young girls and therefore, awareness among the girls first was necessary Telecommunication & Information Technology. In this pilot project, over 10,000 girls were trained from 40 schools and colleges through workshops. Over 500 girl students from 4 schools took part in a Cyber Security Awareness camp in Dhaka, April, 2017. A cyber security consulting agency Four D Communications conducted the training on how to defend themselves online, and how to bring cyber criminals to justice. They were also informed of the ICT Act to help cyber harassment victims and how to seek help in case of online harassment and blackmails.

The Controller of Certifying Authorities (CCA), an organization under ICT Division organized workshops on cyber-security in 40 schools around the country in 2018. Around 10,000 girls studying from eighth to twelfth grade participated in the workshops commonly entitled "Cyber Security Awareness for Woman Empowerment". They were informed about the threats of cybercrime and the existing legal provisions to address such crimes. They were oriented about the ways to keep themselves safe in the world of social media, how to avoid being harassed, reporting a crime, and about the government help lines in case of emergency. They also received short and practical training on cyber security. Most of the workshops were held in Dhaka.⁶⁴

Community police have been formed in all the police stations to increase public awareness in order to prevent sexual harassment. Awareness rising about pornography law and other activities are being done every year through open house day and various crime prevention meetings.

A Solution Fair was arranged as part of 16 day Activism against VAW to inform general public about the responses to end violence against women and girls in Bangladesh along with the reintegrating mechanisms to support survivors. The Generation Breakthrough project jointly implemented by MOWCA and Ministry of Education on adolescents and youth equips young people with life skills and knowledge using innovative approaches. Young men and women were oriented to positively shift attitudes and behaviours around gender roles, gender-based violence, and sexual and reproductive health. They were informed about the helpline and the comprehensive services in regard to GBV. Self-defence for girls was also encouraged.

ASK implemented a project on sexual exploitation of children online and in travel and tourism through a consortium with other NGOs. The Consortium organized a dialogue on "What Should We Do to Stop Violence against Children" in Cox's Bazar with civil society. Stakeholders from different levels i.e. government officials, journalists, teachers, members of Child Rights Defenders Forum (CRDF), Union Council members and members of Cyber Research Analysis Foundation (CRAF) joined. ASK presented a situation analysis report based on the monitoring from the working areas of ASK. A leaflet on Cybercrime especially online sexual violence and exploitation was published for sensitizing the mass people.

16.3 Worked with technology providers for good business practices

ASK organized 3 consultations and 4 meetings with private sector for developing a code of conduct for Internet Service Providers (ISP) and Cyber Café owners in 2017. ASK reviewed and analysed existing laws and policies and discussed with them. ASK initiated advocacy with the government and

⁶⁴Information and Communications Division, Government of Bangladesh, Annual report 2016-2017

other relevant stakeholders to accept and implement a Code of Conduct. Cyber Cafe Owner's Association of Bangladesh (CCOAB) and the Internet Service Providing Organization (ISP) shared their best practices and showed their positive interest to work jointly with ASK for adolescent and youth as part of their social responsibility. Besides, ASK continued communication with different stakeholders at the national and local levels to create public demand for a code of conduct.

17. Portrayal of women and girls, discrimination and/or gender bias in the media

- ✓ Enacted, strengthened and enforced legal reforms to combat discrimination and/or gender bias in the media
- ✓ Introduced binding regulation for the media, including for advertising
- ✓ Supported the media industry to develop voluntary codes of conduct
- ✓ Provided training to media professionals to encourage the creation and use of non-stereotypical, balanced and diverse images of women and girls in the media

17.1 Legal reforms to combat discrimination and/or gender bias in the media

Bangladesh enacted the Pornography Control Act 2012, which is in effect. The first ever anti-pornography law, declared production, preservation, marketing, carrying, distribution, sale, purchase and display of any form of porn as crime and prescribes a maximum 10-year sentence. The law defined pornography to include contents that highlight sexually explicit and obscenity in speech, gestures, acting, nude or semi-nude dance poses. It is applied for film, video footage, still picture, or graphics or in any other manner devoid of educational or artistic significance. It also prohibited sexually stimulating books, magazines, sculptures, statues, cartoons and leaflets are also prohibited. The offences under this Act are non-cognizable and non-bailable. The Act has a separate section for child pornography and it empowers the Court to take expert opinion/help from IT experts. The DV Act and its implementation have been integrated in the training curriculum of the judicial staff and law enforcing agencies.

The National broadcasting policy, 2014 is in effect. It aims to ensure that mass media to strengthen broadcasting for development and positive portrayal of women's productive roles. It expects that the media would to create awareness among the public about empowerment of women and other under-served communities. The specific provisions in the policy prohibit negative portrayal of women in the media, such as prohibition of broadcasting any programme that encourages violence or discrimination towards women and children.

17.2 Training to media professionals

The National Institute of Mass Communication (NIMC) published a gender-related instruction manual for training programs called "Gender ebong gono madyom Proshikkhon Nirdeshika (Gender and mass communication training guide)" periodically. In FY 2016-17, the NIMC arranged two workshops on branding called 'Digital Bangladesh and Women Empowerment' and "Educational Assistance and Social Safety". Both of the workshops continued for around 2 weeks and a total of 42 individuals took part in the programme, among whom 16 were women.

National Institute for Mass Communication (NIMC), with help from UNICEF, prioritized issues such as reproductive health, safe maternity, child development, child marriage, autism, HIV, AIDS, education of girl children, and corporal punishment as topics for communication and training. NIMC conducted and published various research papers including anti-dowry programs on Bangladesh Television, Audience Feedback and Influence Survey (2015) and Role of electronic media in raising awareness of health of women and children in the coastal region (2017). Some other workshops arranged by

NIMC in FY 2016-17 were "CRC, CEDAW, Meena and Girls' Education" and a training workshop on "Techniques of child participation in electronic media".

Management and Resources Development Initiative (MRDI), an NGO implemented a Mentorship program on gender in 2018. Initially 13 journalists were selected for best story ideas and gender preference and were supported to develop their capacity in writing gender focused stories. Among them 10 journalists working with national print, online and TV. They took part in a 3 day long intensive training course. After that they completed a 4 months mentorship programme and follow-up to elaborate their story ideas by developing comprehensive story planning. Under this programme 10 detailed reports with some series contents were developed under this programme.

18. Violence against specific groups of women facing multiple forms of discrimination

- ✓ Transgender persons
- ✓ Female Prisoners
- ✓ Victims of human trafficking

18.1 Transgender persons

Transgender individuals (called hijras in South Asia) have traditionally been looked down upon and discriminated. In November 2013 Bangladesh Government officially recognised transgender individuals as a third gender. Nonetheless, they still face societal discrimination and rejection. The estimated number of transgender people range from 10,000 to half a million (out of Bangladesh's population of about 160 million). The government announced plans to recruit transgender persons as traffic police — a move widely welcomed. The central bank instructed financial institutions to spend a portion of their corporate social responsibility funds on the transgender community. A total of 7,650 third gender persons are getting monetary allowance and stipend at differential rates from MOSW. The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has recruited the first transgender official in Bangladesh's state-run human rights organization.

18.2 Female Prisoners

Female prisoners are 4.1% of all prisoners as of June 2019. Altogether 2,899 women are behind bars – 2,369 of them are under trial while the 533 are serving various sentences. There are 267 children below the age of six with the female prisoners and detainees. The children live with their mothers if they are too young to live separately, or if there are no family members to take care of them outside. They stay the first six years of their life within the prison, and then they are sent to stay with relatives, or to a government shelter. There are day-care centres in 10 jails, and Bangladesh Shishu (children) Academy runs pre-primary schooling inside the prison. All educational supplies are funded by the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs. New female block has been constructed in the new central Jail. Dhaka Ahsania, Mission, an NGO, provided legal support to a total of 15,833 female prisoners since 2012 under Project Improvement of the Real Situation Overcrowding in Prisons in Bangladesh (IRSOP). Of them, 1472 female prisoners were released from the Jail.

The prison officials in Bangladesh have introduced a meditation programme for inmates for the first time. Both male and female inmates have been given a chance to try meditation - not only to lower their stress levels but also to give them a chance to reform and succeed in the outside world. The meditation trainers play audio which teaches them how to focus their minds, prisoners follow the instructions dutifully and peacefully.

8.3 Victims of human trafficking

To implement the Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act 2012, the Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Rules 2017 have been formulated in collaboration with civil society. The Public Security Division under Ministry of Home Affairs (MOHA) runs a Task force on rescue, repatriation and reintegration of the trafficking victims incorporating government, NGOs and international organizations. To support the Taskforce a special Cell is working in the Ministry. The activities of the Taskforce include maintaining database, training of police, coast guard, Border Guard of Bangladesh (BGB), rescue repatriation and reintegration of victims and also support the victims for livelihood. Besides at the district level there is Counter Trafficking Committee in each district.

Ministry of Home Affairs (MOHA) developed standard operating procedures (SOPs) on the roles of the law enforcing agencies, development organizations, and human rights activists. The SOP includes ways for proactive identification, rescue, repatriation and reintegration of the trafficking victims. Some police officers used a checklist to proactively identify victims when they came into contact with commercial sex establishments. NGOs and international organizations reported identifying more than one thousand victims during 2017. An international organization identified 37 Rohingya victims who were subjected to trafficking within Bangladesh and provided them rehabilitation services.

In 2015, a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Government of India on human trafficking on coordination on the rescue and repatriation of Bangladeshi victims was signed and its implementation is continued. A Coordinated Border Management Plan is jointly implemented by BGB and Border Security Force of India. The Government is in the process of drafting an Action plan for 2018-2022. The government continued to conduct national awareness campaigns on collaboration with NGOs through print media, television, and local level meetings.

The government continues to train police officers through an anti-trafficking module at the police academy. A total of 50,780 police officers were trained on human trafficking through a total of 148 programs in 2017. In 2017, the government reported 778 cases were recorded with police under the PSHTA, of which 496 remained under investigation at the end of the year. Of the 282 completed investigations, 86 cases were unsubstantiated and 196 cases resulted in charges against the accused.

19. Women's participation in public life and decision-making

- ✓ Reformed constitution, laws and regulations that promote women's participation in politics, especially at decision-making level, including electoral system reform, adoption of temporary special measures, such as quotas, reserved seats, benchmarks and targets
- ✓ Implemented capacity building, skills development and other measures
- ✓ Encouraged the participation of minority and young women, including through sensitization and mentorship programmes
- ✓ Collected and analysed data on women's political participation, including in appointed and elected positions

19.1 Laws and regulations to promote women's participation in politics and decision-making

The Bill for 17th Amendment of the Constitution was approved in the Parliament to reserve the 50 parliamentary seats exclusively for women for another 25 years. According to the constitution, parliament shall consist of 300 members to be elected directly, and 50 reserved seats for women to be allotted to parties based on their proportional representation in the House. There are 50 reserved seats in the parliament at present. As the 10-year tenure of the reserved seats was to end on January 24, 2019, the amendment was made. The tenure of women MPs has been extended for another 25 years, to 2044. The 25-year period of the reserved seats is to be counted from the first day of the 11th parliament. For the first time Government has appointed a woman Election Commissioner in the Election Commission.

To support the realization of SDGs target 5.5 on women's leadership at all levels of decision-making The Government with support from UN Women strengthened capacity of the political parties, Election Commission, and CSOs to implement the commitments of the government's in the Representation of People Order on reservation of 33 per cent of seats in the parliament and local government. A total of 11 trainers were certified as trainers on Building Resources in Democracy, Governance and Election (BRIDGE) and received full accreditation.

BMP launched week long programme for dialogue with political parties in March 2018 on political empowerment of women and effective and meaningful participation in the parliament. Four dialogues were held with the major political parties and the senior officials of those parties were present in the dialogues In March and May 2018.

Democracy Watch (DW), an NGO working for democracy and governance, organized Ward Platforms at the union level and provided orientation to at least two female and males from each ward to enable them to consult with representatives from all the villages of their respective wards. DW conducted 82 trainings with 1458 volunteers in Gaibandha district and women were 47.89% of trained volunteers. These women were able to overcome their family, social and religious obstacles and organized Ward Platform-WP formation meetings in their respective wards. People from different backgrounds i.e. farmer, retired service holder, member of community based organizations (CBOs), member of clubs, group member of other NGOs, religious leaders, ethnic minority, youth, senior citizens, small traders, fishermen were part of the 737 ward platforms. The members attended the Ward level meetings and placed their demands to the local government.

19.2 Implemented capacity building, skills development and other measures



Bangladesh has opened opportunities for women in employment in field previously considered as men's domain including armed forces, civil aviation.

For the first time, 13 female marine cadets were appointed to serve a year-long sea training in five ships of Bangladesh Shipping Corporation (BSC). They were the first females to complete two-year long study from Bangladesh Marine Academy. Now they need to complete the sea training to acquire academic certificates that

are required for eligibility in applying for professional certificates.

At least 30 per cent women's participation in the Workers' Welfare Associations of Export Processing Zones has been ensured.

Captain Jannatul Ferdous has become the Country's first female paratrooper. Women are working commercial airline pilots. BGB has recruited 438 female soldiers. BGB has determined a minimum quota of 5% in recruitment. Women have been recruited as soldiers in 19 ICPP at the border area. Besides, they are employed as guard police and trainers.



Sharmin Zaman, currently the head of sales and marketing at Summit Communications Limited, has been working in the country's marketing scene for almost a decade. Her tireless efforts has contributed to the success of her organization which is one of the largest fiber optic infrastructure operators in Bangladesh, and the industry as a whole. Before joining SCL, she served in Grameen phone's sales division, the largest telecom operator in the country. As a token of her exemplary achievements in the field of marketing and her devotion to effective leadership, she received the "Bangladesh Women Leadership Awards 2018" by CMO Asia. She is an inspiration for both women and men who strive for excellence in business or any other profession.

Source: <https://www.observerbd.com/details.php?id=164112>

Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) is providing training on denting, painting, welding and driving. A total of 2741 women received training through 4 BRTC training centers and 15 driving training institutions by 2018. BRTC has decided to appoint female driver for BRTC Bus Service and female conductors have already been appointed. Bangladesh Road Transport Authorities (BRTA) offers residential training course to train women as drivers with the assistance of government and private training centers. A total of 32,473 women received driving licenses after completing driving courses successfully by 30 June 2019.

19.3 Encouraged participation of minority and young women

Young women's participation in sports is being encouraged. In the 2018 Bangladesh team won Twenty20 Asia Cup organized by the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) in Malaysia, beating India. Women's national cricket team became champion of ACC Women's Asia Cup 2018, and brought pride, glory, international acclaim and more over hope for the women. In 2016, Mabiha Akhter Simanta won the gold medal in weightlifting in women's 63 kg weight class at the South Asian games. The Bangladesh women's national football team received a silver medal at the SAFF Women's Championship 2016. The Bangladesh Women's U-15 Football Team won the inaugural edition of the SAFF U-15 Women's Championship in December 2017. They also own a league state match against India and won the AFC U-14 Girls' Regional Championship in both 2015 and 2016. Women have also participated in other sports and games like, shooting, swimming, basketball, athletics and kabaddi etc. Women are also participating in surfing.

In the Chittagong Hill Tract (CHT) Region, access to communication, power infrastructure, micro-and creation of ancillary marketing facilities for agricultural products have created income generating opportunities for indigenous women, enabling them to enhance their income. The micro-credit programme targeting the women (40%) has created women's opportunity for economic participation. Technical education and various vocational training programs targeting the women (50%) are creating more employment opportunities for women in CHT.

Young women have shown significant progress in adventures as well. Wasfia Nazreen, a mountaineer and activist became the first Bangladeshi and first Bengali who completed the Seven Summits in November 2015. The National Geographic recognized Nazreen as one of their Adventurers of the Year 2014-15 and again selected as one of their Emerging Explorers in 2016. Wasfia became the only woman to hold the simultaneous title of National Geographic Explorer and

Adventurer of the Year. Wasfia is also active and known for her campaigns to raise awareness of human rights situations in Tibet, environmental impacts, sex workers and minority groups. She was named by Outside magazine as one of 40 women in the last 40 years who have advanced and



challenged the outdoor world through their leadership, innovation, and athletic feats. Wasfia took up the challenge to climb the seven summits in celebration of Bangladesh's 40 years of independence and women empowerment. She founded Osel Foundation, which empowers marginalized girls from Bangladesh through the outdoor actions and mentorship for mountaineering.

Many women and girls have been recognized internationally through their work in culture and literature. Women's participation in cultural reality shows, Dhaka LitFest, media, classical and folk festivals, theatre, and films have increased not only as artists but also as directors, producers, designers, choreographers, musicians, and in some technical areas. Annual recognition in various areas of film and TV performance is organized. Women producers have been supported by providing grants in film making.

20. Women in decision-making in the media, including through ICT

- ✓ Strengthened the provision of formal and technical vocational education and training (TVET) in media and ICTs, including in areas of management and leadership
- ✓ Taken measures to enhance access, affordability and use of ICTs for women and girls (e.g. free Wi-Fi hubs, community technology centers)
- ✓ Collaborated with employers in the media and ICT field to improve internal policies and hiring practices on a voluntary basis

20.1 Formal and technical vocational education and training (TVET) in media and ICTs

In order to establish quality technical education institutions with standard and modern technology, a project named 'Establishing one technical school in every upazila has been undertaken. Establishing one women polytechnic institute in each divisional town is in process. Project to establish 4 women polytechnic institutes in Sylhet, Barisal, Rangpur and Mymensingh divisions is adopted.⁶⁵

To increase women's participation in technical education 4-year long diploma course in Engineering is being offered. The courses include new courses on footwear, tourism and hospitality, food processing and preservation, interior design, software design and development and audio sound technology, web design, oceanography, garment design and pattern making, architecture and interior design. Four Polytechnic Institutes produce 1600 graduates each year.

Directorate of Technical Education (DTE) has increased number of female officers to 20% in FY 2017-18 which was 0% in FY 2016-17. The number of female officers has increased to 57.15% in FY 2017-18 from 23.53% in FY 2016-17 in the technical education teachers training Colleges. In the polytechnic institutes, 13.11% employees were female in FY 2016-17 which has increased to 18.59% in FY 2017-18. In the Polytechnic Institutes the proportion for female teachers reached from 13.11% in 2016-17 to 18.59⁶⁶. Overall the percentages of female teachers in technical and vocation education were 20% in 2018⁶⁷.

The Learning and Earning Development (LEDP) project under ICT Division is a significant initiative taken to provide free training in different freelancing skills for the youth. It equips them with training

⁶⁵ TMED Gender Budget Report, 2019-2020

⁶⁶ Ministry of Finance, Government of Bangladesh, Gender Budget Report 2019-2020, 2019

⁶⁷ Bureau of Educational Information and Statistics, Education Statistics, 2018

on – Digital marketing, Graphics Design, and Web Design and Development. The project supports them in self-employment and promoting on-line outsourcing. It has so far provided different IT/ICT training to 51,974 women to support them to be economically self-reliant.

JMS, an agency under MOWCA in 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 trained 2,304 women for outsourcing work through a project called “My Internet, My Income” with a budget of 72.0 million taka.

20.2 Access, affordability and use of ICTs for women and girls

The Union Digital Centres (UDC) numbering 4,555 have been established as one-stop information and service delivery outlets in all union councils, the lowest tier of the local government. UDCs provide services to the underserved people of the rural areas, such as, rural women, people with disabilities and the elderly who can access vital information and services. The UDCs are micro-enterprise run by entrepreneurs--1 male and 1 female in each union. They provide citizens both free and fee-based access to public services using ICT. The services have expanded during the last five years and include land records, birth registration, telemedicine, passport issuance, overseas job application as well as application to other government services. Private services like mobile financial services, insurance, various types of computer and vocational training, admission to colleges and university, payment of fees are facilitated by these centres. The UDCs are run through public-private entrepreneurship model. They are hosted in local government institutions and private entrepreneurs operate them and serve the needs of rural women and men. This has reduced time and cost for services.

“Tottho Apa” (Info Sister), a project of Jatiya Mohila Shangstha under MOWCA, is empowering women through ICT towards digital Bangladesh (2nd phase) project has been working for the period of April 2017 to March 2022. It is being implemented in 490 sub-districts under 64 districts and provides access to IT-based services to 10 million rural underprivileged and distressed women. A total of BDT 1,548.4 million has been allocated for the project for the 2018-19 fiscal year. Under the first phase of the project 490 training centres were developed in 490 sub-districts. The centres help rural women to access information, communicate with their children living abroad and provide digital services at their door steps.

The ICT Division has started a project entitled “She Power Project: Sustainable Development for Women Through ICT” in 2018. The project plans to increase the participation of women in the ICT eco-system and their employability in the sector. It will help women in building their entrepreneurial capacity. The project aims to cover 21 districts in the country including Dhaka, Savar, Chittagong, Faridpur, Sylhet, etc. Steps have been taken to expand the project throughout the country.

LGED and the 321 municipalities have initiated a programme for establishing municipal digital centres to reach e-services to the urban poor community. Information about the services of the municipalities are provided through the websites of the municipalities.

MRDI, with support from Manusher Jonno Foundation for the project 'Enhancing women's right of access to information in Bangladesh' designed several types of capacity and awareness building programmes for the government officials, CSOs and women groups on Right to Information Act for facilitating them towards contributing to ensure women's right of access to information.

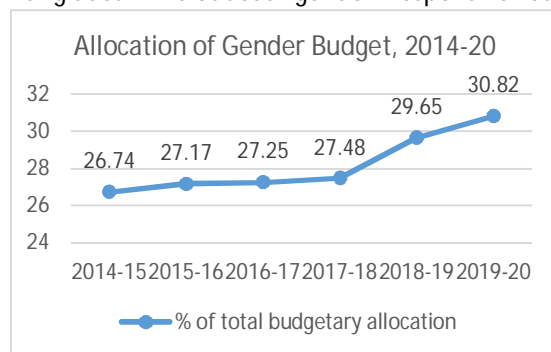
Another project of the ICT Division named “ICT Training Program in Recently Extinct Enclaves” has been developed and waiting for approval. It will create awareness and basic knowledge of ICT among the youth of recently extinct enclaves to create self-employment; to create necessary infrastructure to impart ICT education in the schools; and, to provide e-government services to people living there.

20.3 Collaboration with employers in the media and ICT field

In April 2019, Leveraging ICT for Growth, Employment and Governance (LICT) Project under Bangladesh Computer Council of ICT Division organized a day-long job fair on Dhaka IT-ITES Job Fair 2019 together with Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Services (BASIS) and Bangladesh Association of call centres and Outsourcing (BACCO) and Dhaka University Career Club. The fair was attended by IT & corporate companies of the country as employers for direct interview with the prospective employees. More than 10 thousand Bachelor's Graduates completed their registration online for joining the job fair. More than 20 thousand young people came to the job fair. The companies interviewed young people interested in IT job and selected primarily.

21. Tracking the national budget to promote gender equality and women's empowerment

Bangladesh introduced gender responsive budget (GRB) under the Medium Term Budgetary



Source: Ministry of Finance, Gender Budget Report 2019-2020

Framework (MTBF) in 2008. Currently 44 ministries are to use GRB within the Recurrent, Capital, Gender and Poverty (RCGP) framework. Through RCGP all expenditure items are disaggregated to indicate what percentage of allocated funds contributes to poverty reduction and gender equity. The system allows government ministries to enter estimates in terms of percentages for recurrent, capital, gender, and poverty and provides a yearly trend

analysis by ministry about expenditure in these areas. The data is provided when the ministries fill

in the required formats while responding to Budget Call Circular 1. All the 44 Ministries are to prepare a report annually, which is again compiled for presenting at the Budget Session of the Parliament. The allocation for gender budget has been increased over the years.

Fourteen criteria are used for allocating resources for gender and for analyzing for planning and assessment of impact on women in preparing the development projects/programmes. A Gender Budget report is placed at the Parliament during the Budget session every year compiled by the Ministry of Finance. In 2019-20, performance report on GRB was submitted by 44 ministries and divisions. MOF collects estimates of budget allocation for gender equality, social protection, climate change, and children of different ministries and compiles separate reports. The resource allocation for gender by the ministries is to be aligned with the strategies and priorities identified by the ministries/divisions and should correspond to actions on the 14 set criteria. The allocation on gender mainstreaming in different ministries has been increased over time. In 2019-20 the allocation reached to 30.82% of the total budget. However, the ministries' capacity needs to be further strengthened to ensure purposive monitoring of gender budget. Examining the empowerment and welfare outcomes of budget on men and women and boys and girls is to be undertaken. At the local Government level (UP, UZP and municipalities) budget is prepared in consultation with local citizens through open budget sessions in which one-third participation of women is mandatory. This practice is yet to be followed at all levels. The areas of expenditure are:

1. Access to health care and improved nutrition
2. Access to public properties and services
3. Access to education and training
4. Reduce daily working hours of women
5. Women's participation in labour market and income generating activities
6. Enhance social safety for women and reduce probable vulnerabilities

7. Women's empowerment
8. Women's participation in various forums
9. Ensure safety and free movement for women
10. Monitoring and evaluation
11. Increase social status of women
12. Access to law and justice to women
13. Information technology for women
14. Reduce violence and oppression

In addition, separate guidelines have been issued for local government institutions to allocate a share for gender equality promotion from the Upazila Parishad (Sub-district Council Budget). Since 1915-16, the Upazila Governance and Union Governance Project of LGD formed Women Development Forum (WDF) with the elected women members of the Upazila and Unions. A circular in 2015 instructed the Upazilla Parishads to allocate 3% of the Total Budget in favour of the WDF. The instruction also included the instruction that 25% of the projects implemented by the Upazila parishads will be implemented by women members. The Budget can be utilized for:

- Education of girls, especially to reduce dropout and encourage girls for education.
- Employment: Training and employment of unemployed young women in collaboration with skills and training providing organizations.
- Cultural activities: Create opportunities for girls in sports, culture and arranging competitions.
- Awareness rising: Observation of International Women's Day, Human Rights Day, other activities for women's development involving men. Other activities may include women's political empowerment, reducing risks of women and children in disasters, human trafficking, VAW.
- Others: development activities for widow, destitute and vulnerable women, organizing meetings and activities of the WDF.

22. Tracking the proportion of official development assistance (ODA)

This is not applicable to Bangladesh as the Country is not a donor country.

23. National strategy or action plan for gender equality

Bangladesh has a National Women Development Policy 2011 guiding the actions of government and civil society for ensuring gender equality and women's empowerment. To implement this a National Action Plan (2013-2025) was approved and is under implementation. The priority areas are: a. Women's Human Rights and Fundamental Rights; b. Development of Girl Children; c. Elimination of all kinds of Children Abuse ; d. Armed Conflicts and the State of Women; e. Education and Training; f. Sports and Culture; g. Participation in Economic Activities and economic empowerment; h. Elimination of Poverty of Women; i. Employment of Women; j. Gender Responsive Budget and Gender Disaggregated Database; k. Support Services ; l. Women and Technology; m. Food Security of Women; n. Women and Agriculture; o. Political Empowerment of Women; q. Administrative Empowerment of Women; r. Health and Nutrition; s. Housing and Shelter; t. Women and Environment; u. women in Disasters; v. Women of Backward and Small Ethnic Groups; w. Program for Disabled Women; x. Women and the Mass Media; and y. Other Vulnerable Women Groups.

Currently the Action Plan is being updated incorporating actions and targets until 2030 aligning with the targets of SDGs. As the national action plan is under updating and costing has not been done yet. Government is gradually increasing resources under gender budget to ensure sufficient resources for the implementation of actions incorporated in the National Action Plan. The Government is also taking support from DPs to address the resource constraints for women's empowerment and gender equality.

24. Implementation of CEDAW, UPR)and other UN human rights mechanisms

Bangladesh is a state party and periodically reports on the Implementation of CEDAW and the UPR. Although there is no specific action plan to implement CEDAW, the Government implements the National Women Development Policy 2011, the National Action Plan for Women's Development (NAPWD), the National Action Plan on Violence against Women, and the National Action Plan on Child Marriage Prevention. These documents are based on the principles of Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA), CEDAW and UPR. Bangladesh has been gradually reforming the various personal laws to eliminate discrimination against women and also installing policies and measures. The Government has recently enacted the Dowry Prohibition Act 2018, Child Marriage Restraint Act 2017, and implementing the Rules, 2013 of the Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act, 2010. Bangladesh Government removed the reservations to Article 16 (1) (f) which, among other things, says that States parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure that men and women have the same rights and responsibilities with regard to guardianship, wardship, trusteeship and adoption of children. Substantial progress has been made in other areas and the Government is working so that eventually reservations to Article 16 (1) (c) which spells out equality of women's rights in matters relating to marriage and family relations may also be removed in the course of time. The key areas addressed in the National Action Plan have been discussed in Serial No. 23 above. The National Women Development Policy 2011 and the National Action Plan on Women's Development 2013 were also formulated considering the Articles of CEDAW. Bangladesh also implements other human rights mechanisms, ratified by Bangladesh and promotes gender equality.

25. National human rights institution

Under the National Human Rights Commission Act of 2009, the National Human Rights Commission of Bangladesh (the NHRCB) was reconstituted in June, 2010 as a statutory and independent institution to promote and protect human rights in Bangladesh. The purpose of establishing NHRCB is to promote and protect human rights in Bangladesh for all individuals and improve the human rights standards. Its mission is to ensure the rule of law, social justice, freedom and human dignity through promoting and protecting human rights the NHRCB. The NHRCB identified Four Long-Term Goals: a. human rights culture throughout Bangladesh, where the dignity of every person is respected; b. A just society where violence by state is an episode of the past and officials know, and are held accountable for, their responsibilities; c. A nation that is respected internationally for: - its human rights compliance - ratification of all human rights instruments - up-to-date reporting to treaty bodies - Open cooperation with UN special mechanisms; and d. An NHRC that is credible, independent, objective, effective and respected for spearheading human rights protection throughout the country.

The NHRC has developed its second Strategic plan (2016-2020) and identified 17 priority areas. These include among others, the following, which are very relevant for women and to address gender inequality:

- Violations of economic, social and cultural rights, including health rights, discrimination against the marginalized and people with disabilities;
- Women empowerment and discrimination against women, gender-based violence;
- Protection of child rights, elimination of hazardous child labour and prevention of early and forced marriage;
- Human trafficking, safe migration and discrimination and abuse of migrant workers;
- Impediments to access to justice, particularly for the poor;
- Occupational safety, wages and welfare including trade union rights of the garment workers;
- Ensuring right to education;
- Rights of older persons;
- Rights to freedom of Expression.

The NHRC in 2016 recommended the Government to withdraw its reservations to article 2 and article 16/1(c) of the CEDAW.

26. Women, peace and security agenda

- ✓ Adopted and/or implemented a National Action Plan on women, peace and security
- ✓ Integrated women, peace and security commitments into key national and inter-ministerial policy, planning and monitoring frameworks
- ✓ Used communication strategies, including social media, to increase awareness of the women, peace and security agenda

26.1 National Action Plan on women, peace and security

Bangladesh emphasises on women's role in peace and security agenda. A National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security has been drafted identifying national priorities to ensure that the objectives of Security Council resolution 1325 and subsequent Women, Peace and Security resolutions are followed through action in the country.

The National Action Plan incorporates the agenda of gender equality and building an inclusive and sustainable peace process. It provides a framework to ensure women's meaningful participation in the prevention of conflict and violent extremism in Bangladesh. It also includes measures for the protection and advancement of women's rights to promote resilience during crises. The National Action Plan provides time-bound actions for the advancement of women's participation and rights, and includes indicators of success. The National Action Plan reinforces Bangladesh's continued efforts in establishing peace and security within and beyond its border by ensuring women's greater role in peacekeeping, peace building, disaster management, addressing humanitarian crises, prevention of violence against women and preventing violent extremism among others.

A working group of eight government ministries and divisions was involved in the development of the action plan led by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Civil society members were also engaged in the process. The National Action Plan is waiting for finalization and approval.

26.2 Women, peace and security commitments into key national policy frameworks

The National Policy for Women Development, 2011 Includes provisions for women's participation in peace and security related activities both at national and international levels. Women's participation in peace and security has also been incorporated in the National Action Plan for Women's Development, 2013.

27. Women in humanitarian action and crisis response, in fragile or crisis settings

- ✓ Promoted and supported women's meaningful participation in peace processes and the implementation of peace agreements
- ✓ Promoted equal participation of women in humanitarian and crisis response activities at all levels, particularly at the decision-making level
- ✓ Integrated a gender perspective in humanitarian action and crisis response
- ✓ Protected civil society spaces and women's human rights defenders

27.1 Women's participation in peace processes and peace agreements

Bangladesh has been contributing to UN peacekeeping operations by deploying uniformed personnel to serve since 1988. An all-female Bangladeshi Formed Police Unit was sent in 2015 to serve with the UN mission, known as MINUSTAH. They served until October 2017. Members of the Bangladeshi contingents play different roles in UN peacekeeping missions including protection of women and children from violence and providing free medical consultations to the local community. So far, 14 female units/contingents and 1,329 female members were sent to UN peacekeeping missions. According to the guidance of UN Bangladesh is in the process of enhancing the proportion of women at officer level in the mission to 15%. Women have performed as Contingent Commander in Peace keeping missions.

Number of women working in Bangladesh Police has increased and the number is 13,272, which is 7.50% of the total percentage of cadre personnel is 10.26%. A Police women Network is also member of the International Association of Women Police and is working for the betterment of women in policing.⁶⁸ A full-fledged female unit (11 Armed Police Battalion) was formed in Bangladesh Police.

To provide necessary support and assistance to women of all kind, Fire Service and Civil Defence has developed 12,511 women volunteers for support of women and children during disasters and emergency. These women have shown commendable performance during the rescue operations in case of fire incidents in Banani, Chawk Bazar and in other unrest.



Flight Lieutenants Nayma Haque and Tamanna-E-Lutfi of Bangladesh Air Force (BAF), were the country's first two women combat helicopter pilots who joined in December 2014. They were chosen by BAF as members of a United Nations (UN) peacekeeping mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo in 2017. They became the first Bangladeshi women pilots to join a one-year-long UN peacekeeping mission of 358-strong BAF team. Women members of BAF have worked there in the last seven years but for the first time, Tamanna and Nayma went as combat pilots in the UN peacekeeping mission.

Source:
<https://en.prothomalo.com/banglades>

27.2 Gender perspective in humanitarian action and crisis response

As discussed earlier about a million Rohingya refugees have been sheltered in Bangladesh. The government collected statistics on the ground to design gender-responsive crisis response plans. According to the recent family counting data by ISCG, approximately 52% of the Rohingya refugee population are women and girls with the largest gender discrepancy being among the population of working age (age 18-59) where 55% are female. Overall 80 per cent of the Rohingya population are women and children.

Led by MOWCA and DPs a Gender in Humanitarian Actions Working Group (GiHA WG) co-chaired by UN Women was established in 2017 under the national level Humanitarian Coordination Task Team (HCTT) to ensure gender-responsive disaster response and humanitarian action. Thirty humanitarian professionals including government and NGO representatives were trained in addressing gender in humanitarian action and disaster. The GiHA WG helped in withdrawal of the restriction on female midwives and health workers to enter into the refugee settlements after dark to ensure emergency services for the pregnant and other women during the night.

⁶⁸ bpwn.org.bd

Nineteen Women Friendly Spaces (WFS) have been established by a national NGO Mukti with support from UNFPA. A midwife is deployed at every WFS to provide clinical management of rape, family planning and related SRH services. In these spaces, women and girls can access specialized GBV case management services and referrals, information and awareness-raising sessions, and individual or group psychosocial support, including social recreational activities. In WFSs 106,496 women and girls accessed a safe place for the first time by 2018. A total of 1,730 women and girls received life skills training at Women-Led Community Centres.

SRHR was also addressed in the camp area. To provide quality delivery of comprehensive SRHR services, more than 110 midwives were deployed. Access was ensured for 24/7 to services like antenatal care for pregnant women, delivery services with initial stabilization of obstetric and new born emergencies, postnatal and new born care, counselling and health promotion, family planning services, menstrual regulation, post-abortion care, and adolescent SRH care. The midwives were equipped with supplies, provide consultations and referral services that allow them to provide life-saving care to critical cases. Access to comprehensive family planning services and contraceptive methods were also ensured.

Four Multi-Purpose Women's Centres (MPWC) have been established in the camps with support from UN Women. Women can learn about nutrition, health and hygiene, water purification and vaccination, to cyclone and floods preparedness. They can discuss topics like puberty and menstrual hygiene, family planning and HIV prevention as well as issues like child marriage and domestic violence. The Centre also provides skills training for Rohingya women. In 2018, more than 17,226 women received services and 709 women accessed the livelihood training opportunity.

27.3 Protected civil society spaces and women's human rights defenders

Human right activist organizations are working in Bangladesh. They are supporting the Government in upholding the rights of women and children through their advocacy and actions. Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK), Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, BLAST, Madaripur Legal Aid Association, Adhikar, Bangladesh Manabadhikar Bastabayan Shangstha (BMBS), Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association, BRAC are among such organizations. These organizations work to uphold the rights of women, children, labourers, migrants, ethnic minority groups, persons with disability and other vulnerable groups. They monitor human rights situation, investigate provide legal aid, ligations support and shelters for victims of human rights violation.

ASK regularly monitors, investigates, provides support and monitors progress cases of HR violations and disseminates findings. ASK has organized Human Rights Defenders' Forum (HRDF) in its operation area with local leaders, lawyers, teachers, women and others. ASK also supports capacity building of the human rights defenders to strengthen their network to respond locally respond to human rights violation cases and to strengthen monitoring. ASK monitors the overall human rights situation of Bangladesh regularly and annually publishes a document on the rights situation for dissemination.

In 2017 ASK and HRDFs conducted fact finding into 97 cases of HRV (ASK 51 and HRDF 46) including those on violence against women, children, religious persons, ethnic minorities, and indigenous communities. Investigation also included occupational safety and security and violation of migrant workers' rights.

BMP's district branches also took initiative to form local action committee to resist VAWG and social anomy and organized meetings. These meetings were participated by cross section of people representing teachers, journalists, lawyers, NGO representatives, elected local leaders, and also members of local branches of BMP.

28. Accountability for violations of human rights of women and girls in conflicts or crisis

- ✓ Strengthened capacity of security sector institutions on human rights and prevention of sexual and gender-based violence and sexual exploitation and abuse
- ✓ Increased access of conflict-affected, refugee or displaced women to violence prevention and protection services
- ✓ Measures to combat trafficking in women and children

28.1 Capacity of security sector institutions on human rights

Capacity building training was provided on Trafficking in Persons (TIP) to 86 public prosecutors and 51 police officers of Inspector and Sub-inspector level and 140 DLAPL including protection of the victims. A total of 26 District Legal Aid Officers (DLAO) and officials of National Legal Aid Services Organization (NLASO) were oriented on protection of victims' rights in TIP cases. Judicial Administration Training Institute (JATI) incorporated TIP module in training for judges.

Bangladesh Police offers basic training and specialised courses through Police Staff College and Police Training Academy. Training in Police Staff College includes Gender Sensitive Policing and Gender Policy Development, Gender and Violence Against Woman or Prevention of Gender Based Violence.⁶⁹ In the area of human rights various courses are offered like, Management Course on Human Rights and Key International Issues for Senior Police Officers; Police Management and Human Rights; Human Rights and Law Enforcement; Human Rights and Humanitarian Laws; International Human Rights Law and Community Policing; Human Rights Laws and Gender Responsive Community Based Policing, Training of Trainers (TOT) on Human Rights. In addition, Courses are offered on IT Based Crime and Border Management. In the area of human trafficking, Investigation Techniques of Human Trafficking Cases, and Methods of Combating Human Trafficking are offered to different levels of officers. As of 2016, a total number of 29,889 police officers of different ranks were trained on TIP in 186 training programmes.⁷⁰ The Police Training Academy also provides 15- day long training on Reproductive Health and gender issues. Police members are also trained on the Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act, 2010. The Forensic Training Institute under the Crime Investigation Department (CID) of Police provided training on TIP to 1828 persons in 2016.

To combat human trafficking, about 515 BGB soldiers were trained on Child Friendly Interview Skills (CFIS) by with support of Ministry of Home Affairs. This was aimed to develop their skills on child-friendly behaviours with child victims of trafficking, and the process of handing them over to the local police stations for legal actions.

The Training Directorate of Bangladesh Ansar-VDP offers multidimensional training courses for Ansar-VDP members every year. The training contents include the subject of Combating Human Trafficking as a cross cutting issue. It covers concept of human trafficking, target groups, causes and effects of trafficking in women and children, probable preventive measures against trafficking in persons.

⁶⁹ https://int.search.myway.com/search/GGmain.jhtml?p2=%5ECIV%5Exdm006%5ETTAB02%5Ebd&ptb=57673DE0-5FDA-4250-B1BA-1ECD03E0C0BE&n=78492a71&cn=BD&ln=en&si=EAlaIQobChMI38mWmYHG2wIVBIGOCh1TYwCDEAEYASAAEgKuy_D_BwE&tr=hpsb&trs=wt&brwsid=65aa1ff-347b-4fef-a31d-48aec331e824&searchfor=policetraininginbangladesh&st=tab
<https://bpa.gov.bd/training/>

⁷⁰ US Department of Justice, Trafficking in Persons Report, 2018

28.2 Violence prevention for conflict-affected, refugee or displaced women

Women and girls are in urgent need of a range of sexual and reproductive services, including psychosocial health care. Over 10,000 incidents of gender-based violence were reported since August 2017 until 2018. A Regional Trauma Counselling Centre along with 11 Mental Health Service Centres (MHSC) have been established under the Multi-Sectoral Programme on Violence against Women of MOWCA in Kutopalong and Balukhali camps of Ukhia Upazila for Rohingya women and children. The centres ensure a coordinated approach through MHSCs in providing psychosocial counselling services to the Rohingya women and children.

Effective coordination was established among DPs led by UNFPA to ensure effective coordination between multiple actors on gender- based violence and the provision of life-saving services to meet the specific needs of vulnerable women and girls. Hundreds of volunteers have been trained to administer psychosocial and mental health services to survivors. Men, women, boys, and girls are receiving information of services available on GBV through outreach and awareness raising sessions.

The Women Friendly Spaces and the Multi-Purpose Women's Centres (MPWC) are offering services and support to victims. In the WFSs, women and girls can safely access a range of services and receive dignity kits, which contain clothing, soap, sanitary napkins and torches. Roughly 150,000 women and girls have visited the spaces over the past year. More than 114,000 have received dignity kits. Hundreds of volunteers have been trained to administer psychosocial and mental health services to survivors. Women and girls, including those that are GBV and trafficking survivors, are accessing peer support and recreation, case management, and GBV emergency referral services in safe spaces for women and girls.

Solar street lights have been installed in certain zones and some Rohingya populations have received solar lamps which improves safety situation. Some earmarking of appropriate locations for Safe Spaces for women and girls and child-friendly spaces have being conducted in coordination with the GBV sub-sector and the child protection subsector.

28.3 Measures to combat trafficking in women and children

To implement the Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act 2012, Rules were developed in 2017. Different Ministries and Departments, NGOs and INGOs are working together for addressing the issues relating to the women and child trafficking. Monitoring Cell have been established in the Police Headquarters and district to oversee the trafficking situation. Victim Support Centres have been established in 8 district headquarters for providing various supports and services to the women and children victims of violence. Services are provided not only to the victim of human trafficking but also to every women and children. Other activities on TIP include the following:

- Collection of information about cases on women, children and human trafficking, the rehabilitation of the rescued victims and the results of the investigation including the arrest of the accused.
- Collection, publication, and preservation of statistics of human trafficking.
- Carrying out necessary administrative procedures with the NCB and the Public Security Division to visit the places of human trafficking spots, arrest the suspects, recover victims,
- Visit to other countries by the investigation committee members to bring back the victims of human trafficking from abroad.
- Trial of cases.
- Investigation and coordination of human trafficking prevention information available from the various ministries/NGOs or on the basis of news items and application.
- Collect and compile fortnightly/monthly reports from various units of police by the Public Security Division.

29. Rights of the girl child

- ✓ Measures to combat negative social norms and practices and increased awareness of the needs and potential of girl children
- ✓ Strengthened girls' access to quality education, skills development and training
- ✓ Tackled disadvantages in health outcomes due to malnutrition, early childbearing (e.g. anaemia) and exposure to HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases
- ✓ Implemented policies and programmes to reduce and eradicate child, early and forced marriage
- ✓ Implemented policies and programmes to eliminate violence against girls, including physical and sexual violence and harmful practices
- ✓ Promoted girls' awareness of and participation in social, economic and political life

29.1 Awareness of the needs and potential of girl children

To prevent the common tendency to ask for dowry as groom price in the form of money, ornaments or household articles, the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1980 had provisions to combat dowry. However, at times false allegations were also brought against the grooms on seeking Dowry. The Dowry Prohibition Act, 1918 has been approved to replace the law of 1980 and is intended to prevent the filing of false cases. Anyone convicted of filing a false case under the law will face up to five years in prison or a BDT 50,000 fine, or both," The new Law keeps the existing provision of one to five years of imprisonment on seeking dowry

The stipend programmes, school meal programme food for education etc. were initiated mainly to ensure continuity of girls' education. The microfinance programme of Bangladesh and employment of women in the RMG and other sectors continued to support women's self-reliance. Skills training, financial inclusion and education programmes are contributing towards reducing son preference in Bangladesh. Radio- and TV programmes also motivate for girls' education and empowerment to reduce bias against having girls. BRAC University's Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD), found that with growing number of girls going to schools and increased employment opportunities for women, the son preference has reduced. A large proportion of parents are indifferent to the sex of the child and families already having a son were expressing preference for a daughter.⁷¹

An online platform, Kishor Batayan (Adolescent window) is specifically designed to provide children with a safe space on internet where they can learn new things and interact with each other. The government's Access to Information (A2I) Program has developed Kishor Batayan or Konnect. Children can use the platform to get to know about digital technologies and share what they find interesting. Konnect also has a YouTube channel, which has videos that raise awareness about negative social norms. The contents of videos include anti-child marriage, anti-child labour, anti-trafficking, messages and other awareness-raising animated cartoon clips. Girls also benefits from this programme.

ASK implemented a project titled South Asia Young Women's Leadership and Mentoring Initiative in 2017. It aimed at enhancing awareness and knowledge about rights and in supporting women and girls in realizing the rights. It also aimed at women's greater access to resources and services and in changing social norms and practices to value women and girls as equal human beings. Twenty four young women leaders selected from two working areas of ASK were engaged and trained by ASK. They selected issues from their community that they wanted to address. ASK conducted a workshop with local elected women leaders in Jhenaidah district.

⁷¹<https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/2017/10/11/evidence-suggests-preference-sons-decline>

29.2 Child, early and forced marriages

As per UNICEF, Bangladesh has the fourth highest prevalence rate of child marriage in the world. The Government pledges for reducing marriage of girls under 15 to zero by 2021. As discussed earlier that the country has adopted the Child Marriage Restraint Act 2017, Child Marriage Restraint Rules 2018 and the National Plan of Action to End Child Marriage (2018-30). The Action Plan aims to bring under 15 marriages to zero and under 18 marriages to 10% by 2030. The target is to completely eliminate marriage under 18 by 2041. The Government believes in women's empowerment as pivotal to reduce child marriages and has taken many initiatives in education, training, awareness and other areas. Due to taking good initiatives on awareness rising against child marriage, Bangladesh received the Accolade Global Film Competition 2017 Humanitarian Award and the Accolade Winner Award to End Child Marriage.

The Government has made it mandatory to present a birth certificate at the time of marriage. The Local Government Division is leading a movement of Child Marriage Free Unions and facilitated by Plan Bangladesh with the aim of enforcing existing law more effectively.

In May 7, Thomson Reuters Foundation supported developing a new phone app to fight against child marriage in Bangladesh. It is collaboration with children's charity Plan International. The mobile app, being rolled out by Plan and the Bangladesh government aims to prevent child marriage by allowing matchmakers, priests and officers who register marriages to verify the bride and groom's ages through a digital database.⁷²

At the grassroots level the government officials arrange various talks, seminars, and community gatherings. Many marriage registrars and Imams have pledged to the government not to put any child into wedlock. Mobilizing people by organizing gender-related training programs, meetings and human chains have also been undertaken to discourage forced marriages.

The UNICEF-UNFPA Global Programme focused on Bangladesh to Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage, a multi-stakeholder programme working across 12 countries over four years. UNFPA is supporting the ministry in costing the plan to end child marriage in 2019. Bangladesh is a member of the South Asian Initiative to End Violence against Children (SAIEVAC) which adopted a regional action plan to end child marriage from 2015-2018. Bangladesh is actively implementing the plan.

MOWCA established a mechanism to collect information about girls who survive child marriage with their names and addresses. The local government institutions collect such information and send it to the ministry on a monthly basis. From 2015 to 2017, approximately the government was able to prevent 2,763 girl children from being married off. Monitoring committees in districts and sub-districts are working to this end.

Girls Not Brides Bangladesh, the Bangladesh Alliance to End Child Marriage, a network of over 20 NGOs coordinated by BRAC was formed in 2013 and became an official Girls Not Brides National Partnership in July 2014. The partners range from small grassroots organisations to larger INGOs. It is vocal against child marriage and organized Bangladesh Girl Summit in 2014. They mobilise girls and community with the message that marriage does not protect adolescent girls. There are much better ways to secure their future by ensuring girls' schooling and by providing economic opportunities for women and girls. They urged the government to work with civil society organisations and to ensure Girls' medical and healthcare services, as well as quality education, with the provision of child care, if necessary. They were closely involved with the development of the National Strategy and Action Plan on ending Child Marriage.

⁷²<https://www.globalcitizen.org/en/content/app-end-child-marriage-bangladesh/>

29.3 Girls' awareness of and participation in social, economic and political life

The Accelerating Protection of Children (APC) project of MOWCA is operating 2,100 adolescent clubs with support from UNICEF in 26 districts. The Clubs are using the same curriculum and activities like the Adolescent Club Project and the clubs will be integrated within MOWCA's one programme.

Duronto TV, the first Bangladeshi satellite channel for children, began its commercial broadcast in 2017 with its key objective to broadcast programmes that are focused solely on children. The Channels entertains children and provides them with history, tradition and culture, including programmes focusing on travel, magic, science, sports, family and toys. Broadcasters hope to inform children on their own history, heritage and culture. The channel features a programme called "Icchedana" (Wings of Desire) which addresses the obstacles adolescent girls face if they do not confirm to their predetermined gender roles. This programme aims at contributing towards the transformation of the discriminatory social norms and those that hinder the growth of girl children.

BRAC is orienting school children about sexual harassment in the educational setting and in the community. BRAC has developed a message on "Good touch and bad touch". The messages are disseminated through posters, stickers, books and other means. Through this the small children are informed of the touch in the body and when to report to the elders. Across 914 schools, 23,019 pre-primary and primary students were orientated on good touch/bad touch (child sexual abuse) in 2018.

BRAC's practices awareness rising through its adolescent programme. A total of 91,286 adolescent girls were reached through awareness raising programme. They were oriented on health, nutrition, reproductive and sexual health issues in 94 Upazilas in 2018. BRAC also works with students in secondary schools to create safe spaces for girls. In 2016, through the adolescent clubs, 78,684 secondary school students were educated on sexual harassment and child marriage.

As discussed before, child marriage is a prevalent problem in Bangladesh. A group of teenage girls of Mymensingh were formed in a group called the Kishori Brigade (Teenage Brigade) initially to resist child marriage as an experiment in 2017. The first team was able to stop 13 child marriages. There are now 27 Kishori Brigades comprising of 242 female students from 24 schools.⁷³

Narsingdi district is 50 kilometres north-east of the capital, Dhaka. Here Edge club has given a platform for a group of girls to be self-reliant by acquiring skills in English and digital skills. The Edge club initiative is supported by the British Council and operated by BRAC, is helping to equip girls with skills and teach them about their rights. The project is making breakthroughs on gender equality despite a climate of increasing conservatism in the country.⁷⁴

Meena is a renowned global programme supported by UNICEF that deliver messages on gender, child rights, education, health, protection and development. The Meena programme disseminate positive images of girls succeeding against the odds to gain equal treatment, love, care and respect through creative and exciting story lines. It promotes understanding on social barriers faced by girls and ways to overcome them. The Meena Communication Package consists of, comic books, animated films, posters, discussion and teachers' guides and radio series. They are disseminated through national TV and radio. In 2016, during the 70th anniversary of its founding, UNICEF Bangladesh launched the 'Meena Game' as a 'free' app. It is a digital platform for children to learn issues related to their own well-being through entertainment.

⁷³<https://www.prothomalo.com/bangladesh/article/1425596>

⁷⁴<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2019/apr/29/girls-in-bangladesh-learn-to-talk-their-way-out-of-forced-marriage>

30. Gender perspectives and concerns into environmental policies

- ✓ Supported women's participation and leadership in environmental and natural resource management and governance
- ✓ Strengthened evidence and/or raised awareness about gender-specific environmental and health hazards (e.g. consumer products, technologies, industrial pollution)
- ✓ Enhanced women's access to sustainable time- and labour-saving infrastructure (e.g. access to clean water and energy) and climate-smart agricultural technology – solar power, water, crop
- ✓ Increased women's access to and control over land, water, energy, and other natural resources
- ✓ Taken steps to ensure that women benefit equally from decent jobs in the green economy

30.1 Women in environmental and natural resource management

Department of Forestry (DoF), under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MOEFCC) manages the reserve forest of the country and also organizes social afforestation. There are 42 protected areas for conservation of bio-diversity and wildlife. Underparticipatory biodiversity preservation activities, 30 per cent women's participation have been ensured in the local planning and management committee of forest resources. Village Conservation Forum (VCF) has been established through a Co-Management System in protected forest areas. Women are to constitute minimum 30% of the members in the VCFs. There is also a provision for poor and destitute women's participation in the People's Forum by 50%, which is organized from time to time.

The revised regulation on Social Afforestation Program 2010 ensures participation of woman in forest management committees. Initiatives have been taken to provide training on forest management by DoF and conservation of biodiversity to the beneficiaries under the social afforestation programme. People involved in co-management of reserved forests of which 40 per cent are women. In FY2016-17 out of a total of 18,835 beneficiaries in social forestry, 4,308 were women. In FY2017-18, social afforestation covered 10,178 hectares of land with 25,603 beneficiaries and around 27% of them were women. A project named "Community Based Adaptation in Ecologically Critical Areas through biodiversity conservation and Social Protection" involved 2045 men and 1551 women members in the village conservation group in Sylhet and Cox's Bazar.

Women have been trained on programmes for technicians on emission of ozone depleting gases from refrigerators. This will create job opportunities and reduce the risk (disasters) and health hazards.

Mangroves for the Future (MFF)⁷⁵ through a Small Grants Facility (SGF) supports sustainable development and building resilience in coastal communities through an integrated approach to coastal management. MFF's SGF provides small-scale grants to initiatives that provide practical, hands-on demonstrations of effective coastal management. MFF supported Nabolok Parishad, an organization provided rural women in villages near the Sundarban Impact Zone with alternative livelihoods, financial training and a sense of ecological stewardship to promote conservation and poverty reduction. The support has helped women to change their livelihood options from collecting shrimp post-larvae and fish larvae from the Kholpetua River, to production of mats with local weeds. This has reduced pressure on local and extended ecosystems and depletion of Sunderban resources.

Ministry of Water Resources (MOWR) has ensured women's participation ensured in the various infrastructures maintenance related activities of water sector in accordance with "Participatory

⁷⁵<https://www.iucn.org/news/bangladesh/201606/empowering-women-community-and-ecosystem-resilience>

Water Management Regulation 2014” prepared under Bangladesh Water Development Board Act 2000. The rules provides for forming water management groups with cluster groups including landless men and women of the project area for infrastructure development or maintenance related activities of which 30% are to be women. To ensure the proper maintenance of earthwork in the various projects, 2 women members out of 6 members are to be women in the executive committee of water management groups. Participation and training of women is ensured. As per guidelines of the water management, women are to constitute 33% of total members in the water management bodies. At the end of 2017, there were 2,182 Water Management Groups and 146 Water Management Associations oversee and maintain the already implemented projects by MOWR.

30.2 Access to sustainable time- and labour-saving infrastructure

Marketing of Environment Friendly Cooking is joint programme of Department of Environment supported by Bangladesh Climate Change Trust Fund (BCCTF), Deutsche Gesellschaft International Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and Government of India. The programme has distributed around 1 million environment friendly cook stoves (Bondhu Chula) have been installed in 64 districts to protect women and child from indoor air pollution. MoEFCC, also developed entrepreneurship capacity among 1,200 individuals to create and distribute such cook stoves and distributed around 220,000 cookers.

Solar Gaon⁷⁶, a social enterprise is working in Rangpur-Dinajpur districts, which helps the farmers install the solar pumps and maintain them. A combination of private grants, credit and equity provided by Solar Gaon and supported by IDCOL is bringing solar-powered technologies affordable to low-income farming communities. A majority of the more than 300 households in Shakarpur have been given access to solar based lighting systems through government schemes supported by IDCOL, which finances renewable energy infrastructure projects. The power generated by the solar pumps help farmers to irrigate their paddy fields and helps meeting other household needs like water purification, cold storage for mushrooms and to keep poultry farms. During night, solar lights powered by excess energy help women run literacy classes.

E-Village smart agriculture project ⁷⁷ is an ICT based project of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Raman Agriculture University (BSMRAU) to support farmers with smart agriculture. The project is to develop specialized digital devices to provide the farmers with critical information about soil conditions, environmental impacts and overall crop health by utilizing sensor and smart phone technologies. Using a smart phone application, farmers can collect data from their crops and upload the data to an internet server. Later, agriculture experts analyze the data and provide specific pesticide, fertilizer, and irrigation recommendations. In 2017 BSMRAU signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Bangladeshi Center for Research and Information (CRI), and IT consulting firm iSoftStone to develop both the device and application to execute the project. The goal is to help farmers maximize their outputs while minimizing their inputs such as fertilizers and pesticides. In a demo took place in 2017 and during the trial run, 15 villagers including women were each given one device and one smart phone. During the following three weeks, farmers received training on how to use the devices and monitored progress. Farmers can get help by sending a SMS message and receiving a solution.

The Government is providing subsidies to set up 44,000 biogas plants through IDCOL. IDCOL provides clean energy to around 200,000 people. Ashulia, only 50 kilometres from Dhaka is one rural village in the country where out of around 50 households, 35 have already converted to biogas burners, using waste from their cows and poultry. This is saving women’s time for collecting fuel and also reducing

⁷⁶<https://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/story/solar-power-one-stop-solution-rural-bangladesh>

⁷⁷<https://www.isoftstoneinc.com/posts/smart-agriculture-digital-bangladesh/>

their health hazards. Under the agribusiness Development Project of Department of Agriculture Marketing (DAM), women have established bio-gas plants in Gazipur and Sirajganj.

30.3 Access to and control over land, water, energy and other natural resources

Ministry of Land distributed agricultural Khas lands among 26,168 landless women during the last three fiscal years through District, Upazila and Union Land Offices under Poverty Reduction Programmes. Deeds include the names of both husband and wife. The women, as a part of the families who received these lands, have been given comprehensive training for skills development.

BWDB undertakes drainage, canal digging, and other infrastructure for enhancing navigability of rivers, reducing river erosion, ensuring water supply in dry season, excavation and re-excavation of irrigation canals, construction/repair of irrigation structures etc. Many of these activities involve earth work and these are done through labour contracting societies formed by poor. Minimum 30% of the earth work contracts to women. Thus, women get involved in managing and maintaining water resources. They also get employment opportunities in irrigation activities, fish cultivation in ponds and canals, social forestry etc. and they are trained accordingly. Women have been trained on water management to improve their livelihood through better water management through WMAs. They are also trained on low gestation agriculture production, fisheries, operation & maintenance of project infrastructure, and income generating activities etc.

31. Gender perspectives into disaster risk reduction, climate resilience and mitigation

- ✓ Supported women's participation and leadership, including those affected by disasters, in disaster risk reduction, climate resilience and mitigation policies, programmes and projects
- ✓ Strengthened the evidence base and raised awareness about the disproportionate vulnerability of women and girls to the impact of environmental degradation and disasters
- ✓ Promoted access of women in situations of disaster to services such as relief payments, disaster insurance and compensation

31.1 Women in disaster risk reduction, climate resilience and mitigation policies

Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MOWR) adopted an inclusive approach and initiated to prepare Bangladesh for the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. The Government planned for gender responsive disaster management planning and practices as part of the implementation of Sendai Framework of Action of DRR.

Since women are considered to be the most vulnerable in every disaster, they benefit from the risk reduction programmes and training. Women are trained in non-farm livelihood in the disaster affected areas. Under the project, women were imparted trainings on different issues of disaster management. Out of them 10,000 have been trained as CPP volunteers and 8,000 have been trained as Fire Service and Civil Defence volunteers. At district, upazila and union level, 9,540 female members of the disaster management committee and 8,200 school girls and female teachers were trained. Besides, 25,000 women were trained as community members.

The Climate Change and Gender Action Plan (CCGAP) 2013 was developed with four key pillars in the light of the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (BCCSAP). They were a) Food Security, Social Protection and Health; b) Comprehensive Disaster Management; c) Infrastructure; and d) Mitigation and Low Carbon Development. It also had i. Capacity building and Institutional Strengthening and ii. research and knowledge management, as cross cutting issues. This is under implementation.

31.2 Awareness on vulnerability of women and girls on environmental degradation and disasters

Bangladesh has ensured women's participation in its cyclone/disaster preparedness programmes. Women are involved in the design of early warning systems, the building of cyclone shelters, and in raising community awareness. All these together have helped in reducing the deaths of women. A strong focus on gender in disaster risk reduction, ensuring women's participation at all levels has yielded good results in disaster risk reduction.

MODMR involves women in awareness building activities concerning disasters. Community empowerment, capacity building, response management activities are also being undertaken to reduce the loss both to lives and properties. MODMR, under Harmonized Training Module trained 14,093 district, upazila and union disaster management committee members from 4 districts which many are women. Under the ECRRP-D1 project, 1,900 officials from 38 districts were trained in disaster management and a considerable number of them are women. About 26,000 urban volunteers and 55,260 volunteers under Cyclone Preparedness Programme were trained and a fifth among them are woman.

31.3 Access of women to services in situations of disaster

A project named "Social protection of women and children living in disaster prone areas due to climate change", is being implemented by MOWCA at a cost of 50.0 million. The Project aims at ensuring livelihood support and enhancing health security of women and children of disaster prone areas through provisions of safe drinking water and social protection. Provisions of safe drinking water have been made for the women and children under Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme (Phase-2) project of MODMR as well.

During disasters citizens especially women and children take shelter at Flood and Cyclone Centers which are children and women friendly. Multipurpose Disaster Shelter Project, implemented by LGED, is constructing 556 new multipurpose disaster shelters cum schools and other infrastructure in disaster prone coastal areas. It is improving 450 existing schools, building 550 km connecting roads, and 500 m bridges / culverts in 9 districts aiming to benefit 14 million people in coastal areas affected by climate change. The project is constructing shelters ensuring provisions for women and girls' water, sanitation and privacy. The aim is to reduce the vulnerability of the people to natural disasters. Rural roads will improve access and communication networks to shelters. The implementation of environmental and social management plans will support community women.

Since liberation of the country to 2016, a total of 2487 cyclone shelters only in the cyclone prone areas were constructed to protect people and their asset with support from many DPs. A project Multi Purpose Cyclone Shelters in Coastal and Cyclone Prone Areas- Phase II is being implemented during July 2016-June 2019 by MODR in 13 coastal and 3 cyclone prone districts to build another 220 shelters at with a budget of 5331.6 million Taka. The shelters are being built on the premises of school, college and madrassas so that they are used for education when there is no emergency. Each of them can accommodate 1200 persons with a special room for the persons with disabilities. It contains ramp for ensuring access by persons with disabilities. The shelters have separate room for breast feeding or privacy, mini kitchen for making children's food, separate toilet for men and women, high comode for disabled persons and elderly, and solar system for lighting.

Coastal Climate-Resilient Infrastructure Project of LGED developed roads, shelters and markets in the coastal districts. Women received employment in construction work for livelihood in 30% of the LCSs. In the markets 15% space has been allocated for poor women vendors in open sheds in each of the 88 Growth Centre Markets (GCM) and rural markets and 186 community markets. The

shelters and the markets ensured provisions for separate toilet facilities and piped water/tube wells in selected large markets. At least 2 out of 9 members in Market Management Committees (MMC) are women, based on GOB's MMC Directive- and ensure women's effective participation in community training for market development. Community women have been oriented and trained on use and maintenance of hand operated tube wells, sweet water ponds and solar panels in the markets.

In June 2017, heavy monsoon rain caused a series of landslides and floods in Rangamati, Chittagong, and Bandarban—the three hill districts of Bangladesh. Twenty separate landslides hit Rangamati, roads were washed away, buried hillside houses where people were sleeping and power grid was also destroyed. The Government attempted to warn people ahead of the storm and more than 10,000 people were evacuated to emergency shelters and given food. Doctors worked by candlelight to help the injured. The Bangladesh Navy also helped reach people cut off by flooding and the Government offered cash and building materials to the affected families.

Section Three: National institutions and processes

32. National machinery for gender equality and the empowerment of women

Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MOWCA) is the Nodal Ministry of the Government responsible for the development and protection of the rights of women and children. It is a full ministry currently headed by the Prime Minister. The Ministry has four different attached departments and agencies to implement activities at the field level. They are Department of Women Affairs, Jatiya Mahila Shangstha (National Women Organization), a statutory organization under MOWCA, Bangladesh Shishu (Children) Academy and Joyeeta Foundation. Above the ministry there are other institutional mechanisms to monitor development of women and children. They are:

National Council for Women and Children Development (NCWCD): A high-powered 55 member committee for women's development, headed by the Prime Minister consisting of 19 other ministers, 8 Members of the Parliament, 15 secretaries of ministries/divisions, 2 Members of the Planning Commission, Director General of DWA, Chairpersons of JMS and Bangladesh Shishu Academy and 7 prominent women, nominated by the government. MOWCA provides the secretarial support. Since it is chaired by the Prime Minister, it meets only for providing critical policy decisions.

Parliamentary Standing Committee on Women and Children Affairs: It is a 10 member Committee headed by a Member of Parliament, to review the progress of the National Women Development Policy on behalf of the Parliament. Generally, the Committee meets once in a month and MOWCA is the member secretary.

Women's Development Implementation and Evaluation Committee: It is a 35 member Committee headed by the State Minister of the MOWCA, to monitor implementation of the NAP represented by different ministries and divisions and civil society. The Committee meets on a six monthly basis. The secretary of the MOWCA is the member secretary.

Women in Development Focal Points Mechanism was established since the Fourth Five Year Plan in 1990. All ministries and divisions are responsible to address women's advancement into their programmes. Each ministry/Division is to identify official at the rank of joint secretary to function as the WID focal point. The Focal Points are to ensure that gender concerns are included in the policies, plans, and programs of their respective ministries/divisions. MOWCA is trying to convert the focal point mechanism to a Gender Desk for all ministries for sustainability.

Besides, there is the Inter-ministerial Coordination Committee on the National Programmes for the Prevention of Violence and Dowry. The Committee includes representatives from the ministries and civil society and meets six-monthly. The Committee coordinates and reviews programs of all organizations and committees working on VAW.

At the district and sub district levels there are Women and Development Coordination Committees headed by the Deputy Commissioner and Sub-district Executive Officer respectively. The District and Sub-district Women Affairs Officers provide secretarial support to these committees. The committees review, monitor and facilitate mainstreaming gender in programme implementation, planning and reporting at the field level.

33. Head of the national machinery in SDG implementation

The Prime Minister, as Head of the Government is the lead in the SDG implementation. The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) is coordinating the implementation of SDGs. The PMO has launched a platform for coordination of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Affairs in 2016 for monitoring and implementation of SDGs in Bangladesh. The Senior Secretary of PMO chairs the committee constituted by 27 Secretaries of different ministries and divisions of the Government. The General Economics Division (GED) of the Planning Commission provides secretarial support to the Committee. The Secretary of MOWCA is a member of the Committee. MOWCA participates in all other inter-ministerial meetings on SDG. In 2018, the SDGs coordination platform organized a national SDGs status review seminar where all ministries presented their status. MOWCA is the lead Ministry responsible for SDG 5 indicators.

34. Stakeholders to participation in BPfA and SDGs

34.1 Whole of Society Approach

The government has adopted a "Whole of Society" approach for implementation and monitoring of the SDGs and the Beijing Platform for Action.

34.1.1 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action

- ✓ Civil society organizations
- ✓ Women's rights organizations
- ✓ Academia and think tanks
- ✓ Parliaments/parliamentary committees
- ✓ United Nations system

The Government's National Women Development Policy was developed in light of the BPfA. The National Action Plan for Women Development to implement the Policy incorporates roles of various stakeholders including Government, civil society, women groups and private sector. As discussed earlier the NCWCD, the highest-level committee includes Government ministries, Parliamentarians, and civil society representatives which provides guidance on gender equality. The Parliamentary Standing Committee and other committees monitor the implementation of the National Action Plan.

The government emphasises on the role of women's organizations and nongovernment organizations in national development efforts for poverty reduction and promoting gender equality. The government also encourages their participation in different committees and consultations. The advocacy and influence of women's organizations with networks in the country side, have been instrumental and have contributed in the content of many new policies and legislations. Representatives of women's organizations, researchers, and academia and women's rights activists

have contributed to implement and monitor the fulfilment of the country's commitment to the BPfA. The role of NGOs, women's organizations, and human rights organizations continue to play an active and important role. The organizations provide services for implementation like raising awareness, community mobilization and provision of human development, economic and legal services, and policy advocacy. The NGOs range from small rural women organization to large NGOs, like the BRAC.

After the Beijing Conference a Core Group for Beijing Follow up was established incorporating members from government, civil society, women groups and DPs. The Group played an important advisory role and contributed in formulation of the National Women's Policy 1997 and the National Action Plan for Implementation of the BPfA. However, the mechanisms for follow-up to the BPfA were not fully active since 2000 as there are other ways that allow for exchange and collaboration between Government and civil society through various committees.

For regular dialogue between the Government, CSOs and women organizations several mechanisms are in place. They include membership in government led committees, issue based consultations, incorporation in drafting committees etc. Aside from the committees mentioned in SI. No. 33 on Women Institutional Machinery including representatives from CSOs, there are many other working groups or committees which also included women organisations and CSOs. These include drafting committees to develop the action plan to prevent child marriage, the action plan to prevent violence against women, or the Domestic Workers Rights Policy. When the domestic violence legislation was formulated there were sustained interactions and dialogues between the Law Commission, MOWCA , members of Parliament, various human rights and women's rights organizations and other CSOs through Citizens' Initiatives for Domestic Violence (CIVD), a coalition of CSOs.

The Local Consultative Sub-Group for Women's Advancement and Gender Equality (LCG-WAGE) is for DP-Government consultation and coordination. The Secretary, MoWCA is the Chair and a DP representative is the Co-chair of the Sub-Group. UN Women has been a Co-chair for the last three years and currently UNICEF is the co-chair. The Committee followed up implementation of BPfA and undertakes consultations with civil society from time to time.

There is Citizen's Initiative on CEDAW Bangladesh (CIC-BD), a platform of 57 CSOs and women groups. The CIC BD, mainly follows up the implementation of CEDAW but also follows up BPfA. The Government coordinates with the platform for critical gender equality agenda including BPfA. There is a regular practice of inviting CSOs to consult while formulating reports, policies and laws.

34.1.2 The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

- ✓ Private sector
- ✓ Civil society organizations/NGOs
- ✓ Women's rights organizations
- ✓ Academia and think tanks
- ✓ United Nations system

As has been discussed earlier that an Inter-ministerial Committee is in place to monitor implementation of the SDGs. Two civil society representatives from think tanks of the country are members of the Committee. Besides other civil society members are invited from time to time.

The Government has taken up a bottom up approach to prepare a roadmap for localisation of the 2030 Agenda through consultation with local government institutions. A strategy on the role of

private sector in implementing SDGs is under process which will encourage private investment in public good.

Dialogues are being held with the UN agencies, private sector and the DPs and they are facilitating the implementation of SDGs. Business associations like, Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) and Bangladesh International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) organized seminars, workshops and symposia on SDGs implementation. Dialogues have also been held in media and with media through seminars and workshops to share views regarding role of media in SDGs implementation in Bangladesh.

Several consultations were organized with the Members of Parliament (MPs) as they can play important role in disseminating the transmitting messages and supporting implementation of SDGs at the local level. Their guidance was sought in localizing the SDGs and its targets. The Honourable Speaker of the Parliament proposed to form several committees comprising of MPs to work on specific goals and targets and provide regular suggestions and guidance to the government.

The Government acknowledges the critical role of CSOs in SDG implementation. The General Economics Division (GED), declared that effective coordination among all stakeholders, including the civil society, is key for SDG implementation. Several consultations with NGOs, civil society organizations businesses, DPs, ethnic minorities, professional groups, labour associations, women network and media and such stakeholders' have been held to ensure their engagement on the SDGs implementation involving representatives from the NGOs, CSOs, businesses, DPs, ethnic minorities, professional groups, labour associations, women network and media.

The Citizen's Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh, a civil society network in partnership with the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), organised a workshop titled, Appreciation Course on 2030 Agenda: Framework Issues and Implementation Challenges in November 2016 with 42 participants from 36 Partner Organisations of the Platform and identified their areas of involvement, and recommended potential areas where CSOs could build partnership with the GoB in the overall SDG implementation process. The Citizen's Platform for SDGs, a civil society network aims to contribute towards achieving SDGs. The Platform wants to support by: tracking the implementation of SDGs; sensitising policymakers towards challenges and efficiency in resource deployment; bringing transparency and social accountability; and facilitating exchange of information and coordination among stakeholders.

Considering the role of women in the economy and society especially their catalytic role in growth and development the government has engaged with different women groups, including Bangladesh Civil Service Women Network to enhance their roles in SDGs implementation. Similarly, systematic consultation with young generation especially high school and university students has started. Government is also engaged with professionals of diverse background including law enforcement agencies, local level public officials, health professionals, engineers, planners, school teachers, legal practitioners, peasants, RMG workers and members of different labour groups and ethnic minority groups.

34.2 Mechanisms of participation of women and girls from marginalized groups

There is no separate mechanism to ensure participation of women and girls from marginalized groups in the process. They are invited in the consultations with others and their perspectives are incorporated in plans, deliberations and programmes. The Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tract Affairs and the Prime Minister's Office organize consultations and raise the views of ethnic minority groups.

34.3 Stakeholders' contribution to the preparation of this national report

The progress of implementation of the BPfA adopted in 1995 will be reviewed and assessed by the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in its session in 2020. Bangladesh has conducted a comprehensive national-level review on the achievements, challenges, impacts of the implementation of BPfA and has identified challenges through stakeholder consultation. The national-level review will be submitted for consideration and compilation by the CSW and for placement to the General Assembly in 2020.

The review was conducted in a participatory manner by involving stakeholders from different areas and they have contributed in the review. MOWCA, as the nodal Ministry led the process and UN Women provided technical support. One expert was assigned the responsibility of facilitating the review and compiling the report through a participatory process by ensuring contributions from all stakeholders, civil society, government and DPs and others. The methodology of the review included the following:

- a. Review of documents including national report submitted as per international commitments of the Government like CEDAW, SDG, UPR, BPfA
- b. Reports and documents of the Government ministries, NGOs and others
- c. Browsing of websites of the Government ministries and agencies, UN agencies,
- c. Collection and compilation of data and statistics from different sources, reports and websites.
- d. Sending out the Questionnaire from ESCAP to all Ministries and collection of information
- e. Collection of good examples in different areas of PFA as per the guidance note.
- f. Meeting and consultation with selected stakeholders including UN Women
- g. Consultation meeting with the Women in Development (WID) Focal Points of Government Ministries.
- H. Consultation with representatives of civil society, women groups and DPs
- i. Conducting one specific consultation with officials of different agencies of MOWCA

The contents of the consultations were: 1. Objective of the consultation, 2. The contents of Beijing PFA and the process of the review, 3. Structure of the report, 4. Preliminary findings on the achievements, challenges, setbacks and information and upcoming priorities for next five years, 4. Consensus building on achievements and , challenges, 5. Gathering additional information on achievements (additional, if any), challenges, sources of information and good practices with request to send additional information, if any, and 6. Identification of priority areas for next 5 years for gender equality.

Participants were divided in six groups in two sessions to discuss the achievements, challenges, setbacks and upcoming priorities for next five years during the first session. The second session discussed progress and issues in 12 areas of concern, data and statistics, and the implementation of the BPfA and the SDGs. The recommendations of the groups were presented in two plenary sessions.

The draft report was shared with government ministries and DPs, civil society, academia, media and private sector. The key areas of progress over last five years (after the Beijing + 20 years review in 2015) was shared in the plenary. Inputs and comments from the groups and from the plenary sessions were noted and compiled. The final report was prepared incorporating all relevant information and the suggestions and feedback from all.

35. Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls in SDG implementation

Gender equality and women empowerment is very much part of the SDG implementation in Bangladesh. Bangladesh is implementing the SDGs mainly through the Five Year Plans. Fortunately, in Bangladesh two simultaneous processes significantly facilitated integration of SDGs into the national development agenda through the Five Year Plans. While the Government was participating in the process of developing the 2030 global agenda, the process of developing the 7thFYP was going on at the national level. Therefore, the sustainable development goals proposed by the UN Open Working Group (OWG) received serious consideration for integration into the Five Year Plan. The goals were also given emphasis while setting the priority areas of the 7thFYP. The 7thFYP took the initial steps of implementation of SDGs. The 7thFYP incorporated the actions proposed in the SDGs for the first five Years. The 7thFYP incorporated strategies, identified action areas and indicators inconsistency with the SDGs.

The 7thFYP aimed at “establishing a country where men and women will have equal opportunities and rights and women will be recognized as equal contributors in economic, social and political development’. The Plan provided strategies to develop women as self-reliant human beings and reduce discriminatory barriers by taking both developmental and institutional measures. A framework was given that included 4 areas of strategic objectives. They were:

1. Improve women’s human capabilities
2. Increase women’s economic gains
3. Enhance women’s voice and agency
4. Create an enabling environment for women’s advancement.

Seven action areas were identified to achieve the 4 strategic objectives. They were:

1. Increase access to human development opportunities
2. Enhance access to and control over productive resources
3. Increase participation and decision making
4. Establish conducive legal and regulatory environment
5. Improve institutional capacity, accountability and oversight
6. Increase protection and resilience from crisis and shocks
7. Promote positive social norms

The National Action Plan on Women’s Development 2013 is being updated. It is also being developed in line with SDGs. The 8th Five Year Plan for 2021-2025 is now under process of development and will also aim at implementing the SDGs and incorporate actions to achieve them.

Section Four: Data and statistics

36. Priority areas in gender statistics at the national level

- ✓ Promulgated laws, regulations, or statistical programme/strategy setting out the development of gender statistics
- ✓ Used more gender-sensitive data in the formulation of policy and implementation of programmes and projects (SDG 4)
- ✓ Produced knowledge products on gender statistics (e.g., user-friendly reports, policy briefs)

36.1 Laws, regulations, strategy for the development of gender statistics

Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) is the custodian of data management in the Country according to the Bangladesh Statistics Act, 2013. Rules to implement the Act were developed and approved in 2014. Statistics and Information Management Policy was also developed in 2016. BBS collects, collates and analyses statistics for all national censuses and other surveys. Demographic and reproductive health related data collection is the responsibilities of National Institute of Population Research and Training. It conducts National Demographic and Health Surveys, Utilization of Essential Service Delivery Survey, Contraceptives Prevalence Survey and other demographic surveys. BANBEIS collects and maintains all educational statistics related to secondary, technical, madrasa and tertiary education. Department of Primary Education (DPE) compiles the annual Primary Sector Performance Report. The Bangladesh Statistics Act, 2013, mandates BBS as the sole custodian of data management and all other agencies are required to get their survey methodologies and data collection instruments checked and cleared by BBS before administering any survey or studies.

A National Strategy for the Development of Statistics has been developed for the overall development of the statistical capacity of Bangladesh. It aims at qualitative development of statistics collection, standardization, so that economic analysis and development planning can be better and updated. A strategy has been developed to ensure data for all.

According to the commitment of the Government of Bangladesh at the UN Statistical Commission in 2013 collection and compilation of data for a minimum set of gender indicators continued. Out of the agreed fifty two indicators, data for 47 indicators are collected through different censuses and surveys. Still sex disaggregated data has not been ensured in many areas and BBS is trying to minimize the gap through new studies and collection of new data.

36.2 New Surveys to produce National Baseline information on Specialised Topics

BBS conducts specialised and sectoral surveys and censuses to update the data, establish baseline and to fill in data gap. BBS conducts three census, a. Population and Housing Census, b. Agriculture Census and c. Economic Census.

Several core surveys are conducted regularly that include a. Sample Vital Registration System (SVRS), b. Household Income & Expenditure Survey (HIES), c. Labor Force Survey (LFS), d. Consumer Price Index (CPI), e. Bangladesh Demography and Health Survey (BDHS), f. Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS), and g. Literacy Assessment Survey (LAS).

HIES is one of the core activities of the BBS. It includes a wide range of information at the household level. The main contents household income, expenditure and consumption; poverty profile with urban and rural breakdown and district-level poverty; standard of living and nutritional status; weights of Consumer Price Indices (CPI); health status and educational level of the population;

poverty estimates by administrative divisions and districts; socio-economic characteristics of the population and households. The Survey provides benchmark data for formulation of policies for poverty reduction, nutritional status, and social protection. It helps in monitoring of the five year plans and SDGs. It also provides data on disability, migration, and remittances, microcredit and disasters management. Most of the data are presented in a sex disaggregated manner. The preliminary report was published in 2017.

SVRS is a continuous annual data collection system by the BBS. It generates reliable demographic data to monitor the progress of the indicators of the SDGs, five year plans and sectoral plans relating to population and health. SVRS for 2017 has been published based on the data generated through a continuous data collection system. The SVRS supports to monitor the progress of the health indicators of the Seventh Five Year Plan. The SVRS collects data on births, deaths, marriages, divorce, migration, disability, HIV Aids, Contraceptive use and other key demographic indicators. The findings of the SVRS-2017 indicate positive improvement in demographic and health condition in the country over the years. The SVRS data is also useful to determine resource requirements in the health and population sector to address the needs of vulnerable segments of the population.

The second Violence Against Women (VAW) Survey, 2015 was conducted by BBS to prepare a baseline for the SDG 5 as well as to support planning to address this issue of concern. The Survey found that violence by intimate partner is common and women are shy to report them. Intimate partners' violence includes physical, psychological, economic and controlling. Women are also exposed to other kinds of violence including sexual harassment in the workplace, violence due to not fulfilling dowry demands, pregnant women's deaths associated with violence and injuries, trafficking of girls and women, rapes, and acid-burning. The VAW survey filled the vacuum of nationally representative, quantitative data on violence against women in Bangladesh. The results are useful for the policy makers for policy planning, programme design and resource allocation. It is equally useful to the civil society for advocacy for a society free from all forms of violence.

The surveys completed and reports published during the period include among others: a. Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) 2016, b. Census of Undocumented Myanmar Nations Staying in Bangladesh 2015, c. Labour Force Survey 2016-17, d. Sample Vital Registration System 2017, e. Violence Against Women Survey 2015, f. Survey on Investment from Remittance 2016, g. Bangladesh Disaster-related Statistics 2015, and h. Economic Census 2013.

36.3 Knowledge products on gender statistics

Gender statistics is essential to measure the status, monitor the realities of the lives of women and men, girls and boys and to plan for reducing gender gap. The first compendium of gender related statistics was published in 2009 by BBS compiling the statistics from different survey and censuses. In 2012 Gender Statistics of Bangladesh was published taking key statistics from various surveys.

The latest Gender Compendium has been published in 2018 titled Gender Statistics in Bangladesh, 2018. As gender encompasses multi-dimensional issues encompassing their survival and human development situation, roles of women and men in the economy, politics and society, demographic behaviour and access and control over resources. These data are collected from the male-female break up given by different data sources such as Housing and Population Census, HIES, SVRS, MICS, Economic Census, Different Types of Sample Surveys as well as Administrative Data. Gender Statistics of Bangladesh 2018 is a comprehensive compilation of the latest sex-disaggregated data and information, covering population, demography, health, education, nutrition, economic participation, women participation in local government, violence against women, etc.

Another product of BBS was titled, “Setting Priorities for data Support to 7th Five Year Plan and SDGs: An Overview” was prepared in 2017. This was developed after an assessment of the status of existing data collection. It reviewed the data gathered through the current surveys and compared with the data requirement for reporting on SDG indicators. Gaps in existing data were identified and new studies were planned. Some of the important ones are Time Use Survey (TUS), Survey of Decent work Indicator (SDI), Survey of Manufacturing Industries (SMI), Informal Sectors Statistics (ISS), Survey on Violence Against Women, Compilation of Gender Statistics in Bangladesh etc. Sex disaggregation of data will help reducing the data gap. The list of the identified studies is given at Annex - . In addition, BBS publishes Statistical Bulletins periodically.

37. Priorities for strengthening gender statistics over the next five years

- ✓ Re-processing of existing data (e.g., censuses and surveys) to produce more disaggregated and/or new gender statistics
- ✓ Conduct of new surveys to produce national baseline information on specialized topics (e.g., time use, gender-based violence, asset ownership, poverty, disability)
- ✓ Production of knowledge products on gender statistics (e.g., user-friendly reports, policy briefs, research papers)
- ✓ Statistical capacity building of users to increase statistical appreciation on and use of gender statistics (e.g., trainings, statistical appreciation seminars)

37.1 New surveys to produce national baseline information on specialized topics

There are many ongoing initiatives of producing new baseline information, which will support policy makers and planners in the coming years. Data collection of some of these studies have been completed but analysis is underway and reports will be published soon. The ongoing studies include:

- MICS- 2018
- National Household Database (NHD)
- Population and Housing Census 2021
- National Strategy for Development of Statistics Implementation
- Monitoring the Situation of Vital Statistics of Bangladesh (MSVSB)
- Agriculture (Crop, Fishery & Livestock) Census 2019
- Improving Labour Statistics and Labour Market Information System (LMIS) through Panel Survey
- Online Secondary Data Collection

Other key gender focused planned surveys include Time use Survey, Violence Against Women Survey.

Development and Updating of National Population Register: After completion of the national household database, a national Population Register will be developed against a unique identification number for each citizen and thereafter will be updated regularly.

Poverty Mapping: A poverty mapping will be done based on the data from the Population and Housing Census 2021 and the HIES 2016. The World Food Programme is expected to provide technical assistance for this.

Food Balance sheet: A Food balance sheet will be prepared. It will estimate per capita food availability at the national level, estimation of per capita item-wise availability of nutrition, comparison between per capita item-wise availability of nutrition and ideal availability of nutrition. This will provide policy makers with information on availability of food and nutrition for agricultural management for health, nutrition and food.

37.2 Re-processing of existing data to produce gender statistics

BBS has recently initiated a new project supported by UN Women for 'Making Every Bangladeshi Women and Girls Count (MEBWGC)'. The aim of the project is to enhance the capacity of production, accessibility and use of gender statistics in Bangladesh. The objective of the Project is to address the urgent need to increase the availability of accurate data on gender equality and women's rights to inform policy and decision-making. It will enhance capacity and support to address the data gap by making quality, comparable, regular and accessible gender statistics available to monitor and report on the SDGs, BpFA and CEDAW and other national priorities. The Project will help process or reprocess surveys/censuses to compile gender statistics in consultation and collaboration with other government producers and users of gender data and statistics; civil society organizations, research and academic institutions. It will help to develop a costed action plan for implementing the provisions of the Statistical Act-2013 and NSDS and a gender module and guidelines to be integrated in the NSDS. It will also identify data requirements based on systematic review and assessment and development of new methodology for gender-specific Tier I, Tier II and Tier III indicators of the SDGs. Support will be provided to BBS and SID in setting up coordination mechanisms for Gender Statistics across the BSS and other ministries.

37.3 Statistical capacity building of users for use of gender statistics

BBS is already implementing a programme "Strengthening Statistical Capacity of BBS for Collecting Data on Population and Development (Stat4Dev)" at cost of 4435.5 million with support from UNFPA. The outputs of the project include master planning for the Population and Household Census 2021; piloting of zonal operations for the Census; an atlas mapping of the cyclone shelters, education institutions cum cyclone shelters, and multi-storeyed buildings in disaster-prone areas; institutionalization of the Geographical Information System platform for all stakeholders, and design a website with assistance from Bangladesh GIS Platform (BGISP). It will also conduct gender-based violence (GBV) survey and strengthen the staff capacity of BBS and SID.

The MEWGCP also aims to developing gender statistical capacity of BBS, Statistics and Informatics Division (SID), General Economics Division (GED), MOWCA, and the SDGs Implementation and Monitoring Committee, Office of the Prime Minister. The key areas of capacity development will be:

- Regular statistical data collection by BBS on key areas of gender and support data collection on priority data needs such as on time-use, VAW, and sex-disaggregated population statistics;
- Identification and addressing capacity needs of stakeholders for compiling the Tier II indicators through development and application of new methodologies;
- Production and use of data for SDGs indicators through pilot study and related training for BBS and other ministries; and
- Collection of gender statistics, including in Tier II and Tier III gender-specific SDGs indicators for data producers and users.

The Statistical Staff Training Institute runs many training courses every year for capacity building of its staff on different statistical management. In 2018-19, the institute operated 32 different training courses for staff and officers. The key courses were Basic Statistics, Computer for Statistics, Statistical Modelling, Survey Methodology, Bangladesh Central Product Classification, Bangladesh Standard Industrial Classification. Other specialised training courses are also offered.

38. National set of indicators for monitoring progress on the SDGs

The General Economics Division (GED) of the Planning Commission in support from BBS has developed a monitoring and evaluation of the SDGs and identified the national set of SDG indicators.

For each of the indicators, the responsible ministry/Division and agency was identified. Initiatives were also taken to strengthen the capacity of the SDG focal points of the relevant ministries on administrative data collection and reporting on SDG indicators.

Bangladesh is one of the first countries, which prepared and submitted Voluntary National Report on the status of SDGs. A National Action Plan for the Implementation of SDGs has been Developed and being implemented. GED coordinated developing the action plan, which includes actions of each of the responsible ministries and divisions for the implementation of the SDGs. This makes it easier to allocate resources to Ministries/ Agencies in their respective annual budgets for sector specific projects and initiatives.

Bangladesh has been harmonizing national indicators with SDG indicators. A total of 242 national set of indicators have been identified. Among these 231 are global indicators. There are 11 indicators identified at the local/country level. A total of 39 Indicators have been prioritized nationally. The list is in Annex A.

The on-going 7th FYP is aligned with the goals and targets of the SDG. The Plan period will be over in 2020. The Government has already initiated the process of developing the 8th Five Year Plan, which will focus on implementation of the SDG targets and equally emphasize on gender equality in all sectors.

39. Collection and compilation on SDG 5 indicators and gender-specific indicators

One SDG Cell has been established in the SID and BBS analysed the data availability for the SDGs. Prime Minister's office launched the SDG Tracker (www.sdg.gov.bd). Data collection for SDGs has already begun in Bangladesh.

A total of 39 Plus 1 indicators have been prioritised (Annex A). Not all SDGs indicators are supported by the existing Surveys of BBS or other national statistics. Scarcity of data has emerged as a major challenge for monitoring of SDGs in Bangladesh as data are readily available only for 70 indicators (30%) out of 232 indicators to assess progress of SDGs. This was understood during the preparation of the 2018 progress report. All National Statistical Organizations needs to strengthen efforts to reduce the gap. For this to happen, capacity of the BBS and others needs to be strengthened. The Line Ministries/Divisions also need to take initiative in generating administrative data related to SDGs. The development partners should support to strengthen capacity of BBS, other statistics gathering agencies and relevant line Ministries to generate quality and reliable data in timely manner.

The Data Gap Analysis for Sustainable Development Goals in Bangladesh Perspective, was completed in January 2017 based on the indicators developed in 2017 (Annex B). The Inter Agency Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAGD-SDGs) updated the indicators in 2017. In the updated version four indicators were newly included (1.5.4, 1.a.3, 3.b.3, 13.1.3) and one indicator was omitted (2.b.1 Producer Support Estimate) and twenty five indicators were rephrased or edited. There are nine indicators, which have been repeated twice or thrice. A Monitoring and Evaluation Framework of SDGs has been developed based on the latest available indicators suggested by IAEG-SDGs in November 2017.

Data and information sharing mechanism between BBS and Planning Commission is inadequate to support SDGs reporting as the Institutionalization of data transfer to SDGs tracker is weak. Also, there is lack of comparability of data due to lack of harmonizing the concepts, definitions, and methodologies etc. following international standards. Baseline data were not available in many

cases. Use of technology in collection of statistical data is also limited causing delays in reporting. Initiatives have been taken to overcome this weakness.

Regarding the challenges on indicators of SDG 5, all data are available excepting data on indicator 5.a.1: (a) Proportion of total agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land, by sex; and (b) share of women among owners or rights-bearers of agricultural land, by type of tenure were not available readily. These will be collected during the next Agricultural Census. Annex A includes the prioritised gender indicators marked in yellow.

For the set of 52 indicators on Gender Statistics recommended by UN Statistical Commission (UNSC) data is available for 45 indicators. Among these 52 indicators, indicator "Proportion of girls and women aged 15-49 years who have undergone female genital mutilation/cutting, by age" is not applicable for Bangladesh.

40. Disaggregation routinely provided by major surveys in Bangladesh

- ✓ Geographic location: Urban and rural
- ✓ Sex
- ✓ Age
- ✓ Education
- ✓ Marital status
- ✓ Disability
- ✓ Other characteristics relevant in national context: National, district, and sub-district

All major surveys and Censuses include sex disaggregated data to a great extent. Gradually the more sex- disaggregation is being ensured. Examples are:

Sample Vital Registration System includes household characteristics and population composition with household headship by sex, rural/ urban, administrative division and religion. Other household data include household facilities, income, sex composition, dependency ratio, child-woman ratio, literacy rate, sex ratio, educational attainment by sex and location. Measures of fertility, mortality include age and sex-specific death and maternal mortality data includes age and location specific data on marriage and marriage dissolution, trends in marriage, divorce and separation. Contraceptive usage data by age and method are collected. Migration and disability data by age, sex and location are presented.

Labour force Survey is a regular survey done at a five year interval. The data are collected and mainly disaggregated by sex and rural urban. The data include, labour force, employed population, unemployed population, not in labour force, crude activity rates, unpaid family workers, youth Labour force, and time use for household work by sex and urban rural. There are many different levels of data under these categories. In addition, female labour force by urban rural, status of employment by category, sex and urban rural, female share in employment of persons aged 15 or older, by major occupational group and area, female share of employment aged 15 or older in high-status occupations, by broad sector, share of women in wage employment of persons aged 15 or older in the non-agriculture sector, by area etc. are included. Among the other data share of women in wage employment of persons aged 15 or older in the non-agriculture sector, by area is also presented.

Annex A: SDG Indicators Prioritized in of Bangladesh

Goal	Target of Bangladesh	Indicator *
Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere	Reduce extreme poverty below 3%	1.2.1 Proportion of population living below the national poverty line, by sex and age
	Reduce poverty below 10%	1.2.1 Proportion of population living below the national poverty line, by sex and age
Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture	Reduce prevalence of stunting (height for age <-2 standard deviation from the median of the World Health Organization (WHO) Child Growth Standards) among children under 5 years of age to 12%	2.2.1 Prevalence of stunting (height for age <-2 standard deviation from the median of the World Health Organization (WHO) Child Growth Standards) among children under 5 years of age
	Maintain at least 55% of land under productive agriculture	Nationally agreed indicator
Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages	Reduce infant mortality (below one month) to 12 per thousand	3.2.2 Neonatal mortality rate
	Bring under-5 mortality to 25 per thousand live births	<i>3.2.1 Under-5 mortality rate</i>
	Bring maternal mortality to 70 per 100000 live birth	<i>3.1.1 Maternal mortality ratio</i>
	Bring down death rate due to road traffic injuries to 1.2 per 100000	3.6.1 Death rate due to road traffic injuries
Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all	Achieve and maintain pass rate at 100% at the primary level	Nationally agreed indicator
	Achieve and maintain pass rate at 100% at the lower secondary level	Nationally agreed indicator
	Achieve and maintain above 20% of students passed at secondary level from technical stream	Nationally agreed indicator
	Ensure access to (a) electricity; (b) the Internet for pedagogical purposes; (c) computers for pedagogical purposes; (d) basic drinking water; (f) single-sex basic sanitation facilities in 100% schools	4.a.1 Proportion of schools with access to (a) electricity; (b) the Internet for pedagogical purposes; (c) computers for pedagogical purposes; (d) adapted infrastructure and materials for students with disabilities; (e) basic drinking water; (f) single-sex basic sanitation facilities; and (g) basic handwashing facilities (as per the WASH indicator definitions)
	Ensure disable-friendly environment at 100% of schools	4.a.1 Proportion of schools with access to (a) electricity; (b) the Internet for pedagogical purposes; (c) computers for

Goal	Target of Bangladesh	Indicator *
		pedagogical purposes; (d) adapted infrastructure and materials for students with disabilities; (e) basic drinking water; (f) single-sex basic sanitation facilities; and (g) basic hand washing facilities (as per the WASH indicator definitions)
Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	Bring the marriage rate among girls aged 15 and below to zero	<i>5.3.1 Proportion of women aged 20–24 years who were married or in a union before age 15 and before age 18</i>
	Bring the marriage rate among girls aged 18 and below to 10	
	Increase women's participation in productive activities to 5%	Nationally agreed indicator
Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all	Increase access to safe drinking water facilities for 100% population	6.1.1 Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services
	Increase access to safe sanitation facilities for 100% population	6.2.1 Proportion of population using (a) safely managed sanitation services and (b) a hand-washing facility with soap and water
Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all	Hundred per cent population with access to electricity	7.1.1 Proportion of population with access to electricity
	Use of renewable energy increased to 10%	7.2.1 Renewable energy share in the total final energy consumption
Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all	Annual growth rate of real GDP by 10%	8.1.1 Annual growth rate of real GDP per capita
	Reduce unemployment rate to 3%	8.5.2 Unemployment rate, by sex, age and persons with disabilities
	Reduce percentage of youth (15-29 Years) not in education, training and employment (NEET) to below 15%	8.6.1 Proportion of youth (aged 15–24 years) not in education, employment or training
Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation	Ensure 100% roads as all-season pucca road	9.1.1 Proportion of the rural population who live within 2 km of an all-season road
	Enhance contribution of manufacturing as a proportion of GDP to 35%	9.2.1 Manufacturing value added as a proportion of GDP and per capita
	Increase proportion of entrepreneurs in information technology by 10 times	9.2.2 Manufacturing employment as a proportion of total employment
	Create 10 times more entrepreneurs in the ICT field	Nationally agreed indicator
Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries	Bring down the ratio of income between the highest and lowest 10 per cent of population to 20	Nationally agreed indicator

Goal	Target of Bangladesh	Indicator *
	Reduce the proportion of investment for migration to 10% of annual remittance	10.7.1 Recruitment cost borne by employee as a proportion of monthly income earned in country of destination
Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable	Ensure 20% seats for women, children, elderly and disabled persons in all public transports	11.2.1 Proportion of population that has convenient access to public transport, by sex, age and persons with disabilities
Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns	Ensure instalment of waste management mechanism in 100 % industrial undertakings and implement their use	Nationally agreed indicator
Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts	Reduce number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters to 1500 per 100,000 population.	13.1.1 Number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population
Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development	Enhance coverage of protected marine areas to 5% in relation to marine areas	14.5.1 Coverage of protected areas in relation to marine areas
Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss	Increase forest area as a proportion of total land area to 18%	15.1.1 Forest area as a proportion of total land area
	Increase tree cover (green) area to 25% of total land area	Nationally agreed indicator
Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels	Increase birth registration for 100% children below the age 5 years	16.9.1 Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority, by age
	Increase the proportion of cases resolved to 60% of the accepted cases by the National Human Rights Commission	Nationally agreed indicator
Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development	Increase total government revenue as a proportion of GDP to 20%	17.1.1 Total government revenue as a proportion of GDP, by source
	Bring 100 inhabitants under internet facilities	17.8.1 Proportion of individuals using the Internet

In addition, each district can choose one local indicator

- The priority gender indicators are in *violet and italics*

Annex B: List of Planned Survey of BBS to Address Data Gap for SDG

(Figures in million BDT)

SL. No.	Title of the Projects/Programmes	Implementation Period	Estimated Cost (Approximate)
1	2	3	4
	National Accounting Wing, BBS		
1.	Development of Quarterly Gross Domestic Product(QGDP)of Bangladesh Project	2017-21	368.00
2.	<i>Improvement of Price and Wage Statistics(IPWS)Project</i>	2017-20	78.00
3.	<i>Modernization of National Accounts Statistics(MNAS) Project</i>	2017-22	421.00
4.	<i>Development of Environment, Climate Change Impacts and Disaster-related Statistics (ECCDS)Project</i>	2017-23	348.00
5.	System of Environmental-Economic Accounting(SEEA)Project	2020-25	461.00
	Total Budget of National Accounting Wing		1676.00
	Agriculture Wing, BBS		
6.	<i>Agriculture (Crops, Fisheries and Livestock) Census Project-2018</i>	2016-20	3539.96
7.	Modernization of crops area and productivity estimation and forecasting using remote sensing Project	2019-22	248.00
8.	<i>Strengthening the reporting system of agricultural crops Project</i>	2016-18	48.00
9.	<i>LivestockandPoultrySurvey-2017Project</i>	2016-18	47.58
10.	<i>Survey on agricultural stocks, seed, feed, wastage and post-harvest loss in household level Project</i>	2017-19	49.50
11.	<i>Agriculture and rural statistics survey(ARSS)Project-2017</i>	2016-18	38.79
12.	CostofProductionSurvey-2017Project	2017-21	40.00
13.	<i>Land use, land cover and ownership pattern of land project</i>	2019-22	78.00
14.	Forestry survey-2020Project	2019-21	27.58
	Total Budget of Agriculture Wing		4116.55
	Census Wing, BBS		
15.	Adoption of multimodal e-Census in BBS Project	2018-20	1259.10
16.	<i>Literacy Assessment Survey Project</i>	2016-17	87.86
17.	<i>Institution based Education Survey Project</i>	2017-18	65.00
18.	<i>Survey on Assessment of Education Contents and Knowledge Competency Project</i>	2017-18	780.00
19.	<i>Compilation of Crime, Justice and Transparency Statistics Project</i>	2018-20	300.00
20.	<i>Compilation of District Statistics Project</i>	2022-23	80.00
21.	<i>Survey on Monitoring the Situation of Slum Dwellers and Providing Score-Card Project</i>	2017-18	150.00
22.	<i>Survey on Access to Safe, Affordable and Sustainable Transport System Project</i>	2017-18	75.00

23.	<i>Survey on Micro-credit Project</i>	2017-19	120.00
24.	<i>Census of the socio- economic condition of Merged Enclaves Population of Bangladesh Project</i>	2016-17	12.00
25.	<i>Census on Professionals like Potter, Fisher, Black & Gold Smith, Gypsy and Other special community 2017 Project</i>	2016-18	199.65
26.	<i>HandloomCensus2017Project</i>	2016-18	70.00
	Total Budget of Census Wing		3197.83
	Demography and Health Wing, BBS		
27.	<i>Child and Mother Nutrition Survey(CMNS)2017Project</i>	2016-18	35.32
28.	<i>Survey on Early Childhood Development Index(SECDI)Project</i>	2018-20	65.00
29.	<i>Compilation of Gender Statistics in Bangladesh Project</i>	2016-18	18.00
30.	<i>National Survey on Persons with Disability Project</i>	2016-18	75.00
31.	<i>Survey on National Micronutrients Status Project</i>	2017-19	60.00
32.	<i>Survey on Socio-economic, Demographic and Health Survey Project</i>	2017-19	65.00
33.	<i>Survey on Tobacco Using Bangladesh Project</i>	2016-18	33.57
34.	<i>Survey on Violence against Children of Bangladesh Project</i>	2017-19	51.00
35.	<i>Survey on Violence against Women of Bangladesh Project</i>	2018-20	55.00
	Total Budget of Demography and Health Wing		4578.85
	Industry and Labour wing, BBS		
36.	<i>Informal Sectors Statistics(ISS)Project</i>	2016-17	41.53
37.	<i>Survey of Manufacturing Industries (SMI) And Integrated Business(IBS)Project</i>	2016-18	72.74
38.	<i>Development of Statistical Classification (BSC&BSCO)Project</i>	2016-17	9.90
39.	<i>Improving Business Register (BR) of Bangladesh Project</i>	2016-17	48.80
40.	<i>Survey of Decent work Indicator (SDI) Project</i>		
41.	<i>Time Use Survey (TUS) of Bangladesh Project</i>	2017-18	11.00
42.	<i>Survey on ICT use and access by Household and Individual Project</i>	2017-18	15.00
43.	<i>Big Data for Official Statistics-real Time Tourism Statistics using Mobile phone positioning data Project</i>	2017-18	50.00
44.	<i>Welfare Monitoring Survey (WMS) of Bangladesh Project</i>	2018-19	19.00
	Total Budget of Industry and Labour Wing		278.97
	Total cost estimation of BBS Projects (BDT .in Lac BDT)		9727.23

Note: The studies in italics should ensure sex disaggregated data collection and gender based analysis.

Source: Setting Priorities for Data Support to 7th FYP and SDGs: An Overview (2016), Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, Statistics and Information Division (SID), Ministry of Planning.

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Annex D: URLs reviewed

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