



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Ministry of Finance
Economic Relations Division



OUTCOME DOCUMENT OF THE BANGLADESH DEVELOPMENT FORUM (BDF) 2020



Bangabandhu International Conference Centre (BICC), Dhaka
29-30 January 2020
GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH





We are dedicating BDF 2020 to birth centenary of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman

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PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT

We are immensely pleased to present the Bangladesh Development Forum (BDF) 2020 Outcome Document. This Outcome Document outlays a series of recommendations from the discussions of the various sessions aiming at improving the effective management of development assistance through joint programming, use of Government administrative and financial systems, ongoing dialogue and collaborative review of progress in implementing national plans and programmes. The BDF 2020 is an essential contribution to the achievement of the Agenda 2030, in line with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 17: "Revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development", a critical enabler of the SDGs in the country.

The Government of Bangladesh and its Development Partners (DP) are committed to strengthening their partnership by deepening their cooperation and mutual dialogue. In that spirit, the Economic Relations Division (ERD) has regularly been organising the BDF since 2010 to provide a platform for effective dialogue not limited to development partners but also to include a wide range of stakeholders, such as national and international NGOs, development think-tanks, development practitioners, and private sector leaders. Thus, it acts as a manifesto for building the partnership and fostering a whole-of-society approach for identified implementation challenges and policy gaps regarding the nation's development path.

The BDF 2020 took place on 29 - 30 January 2020. Its participants included representatives from Government institutions, development partners, development organisations, NGOs, civil society organisations, the private sector, academia and other national and international actors. Honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina opened the inaugural session of the event, chaired by Hon'ble Finance Minister Mr A H M Mustafa Kamal, with 1200 participants in attendance.

The BDF 2020 occurred at a crucial time when Bangladesh was nearing the end of implementing its 7th Five Year Plan (FYP), and the formulation of the 8th FYP had been initiated. Therefore, the forum provided an essential platform to assess the progress against the 7th FYP implementation and the SDGs. At the same time, it was an opportunity for a wide-ranging multi-stakeholder consultation to inform the development of the 8th FYP. During the two-day forum, the Government shared the broad strategies of the 8th FYP with the DPs and other prominent development actors. Ministries also presented their development plans in priority areas, including quality education, inclusive healthcare, innovative financing, rural transformation, sustainable urbanisation, climate financing, private sector engagement and trade facilitation.

The forum was held before the COVID-19 pandemic, which, unfortunately, delayed the finalisation of the present outcome document. Nevertheless, the sustained commitment of the Government and its partners to its finalisation illustrate the conviction that the BDF 2020 could sketch the roadmap to build on the achievements made over the last decade through ensuring a stronger and more inclusive partnership. This outcome document presents the substance of the keynote session and the eight thematic discussion sessions covering national priorities, the SDGs and the 8th FYP.

Beyond the BDF recommendations that were already taken into account in the 8th FYP, we believe that the outcome document portrays the forum's call for effective partnership and cooperation of all development partners to achieve the country's long-term sustainable development goals. We express our heartfelt gratitude to all involved in the preparation and publication of this outcome document.

INTRODUCTION

The Bangladesh Development Forum (BDF) was organized on 29-30 January 2020, before finalising the 8th Five-Year Plan (8 FYP). The recommendations made in the BDF 2020 were taken into account in finalizing the 8th Five Year Plan. However, the forum took place before the outbreak of Covid-19 and the finalization of the BDF report was postponed as the government and its partners were focusing on responding to the spread of the pandemic and its consequences. The Government of Bangladesh and its development partners jointly agreed that the report should be a faithful recording of the BDF2020. As such, this report does not attempt to integrate the developments that occurred between the time the forum took place and the finalization of the report.

The forum sought to deepen policy dialogue on key areas, including addressing critical challenges in the 8th FYP, cooperation on strategic priorities, and thereby support to Bangladesh. Stakeholders applauded the country's impressive growth and poverty reduction as well as progress on various other socioeconomic indicators, including human capital development. However, they also recognised that the country now faced several interlinked challenges:

- transitioning from a lower-middle-income to an upper-middle-income country;
- reaping its demographic dividend and the benefits of digital technologies;
- adapting to and mitigating climate change;
- furthering gender equality and women's empowerment, as committed by the Honorable Prime Minister,
- and continuously improving governance to leave no one behind.

In addition, they agreed that tackling issues related to governance and fighting corruption would be essential in ensuring inclusive growth and an enabling business environment.

The forum acknowledged that Bangladesh requires an effective partnership framework to achieve its development vision. Under the Government's leadership, the full range of partners needs to focus on results and align their strategies with national development priorities so that development cooperation is transparent and accountable to all citizens.

Introduction



Message From Honorable Prime Minister & Finance Minister



HE. Sheikh Hasina
Hon'ble Prime Minister
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

MESSAGE

Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim

The Chair,

Dear Colleagues,

Diplomats,

Representatives of Development Partners and
Ladies and Gentlemen.

Assalamu Alaikum and a very good morning to you all.

I welcome you all to the inaugural session of Bangladesh Development Forum 2020.

With the deepest homage, I remember the greatest Bangali of all times, Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Under whose directives through the nine months of a bloody war of independence we achieved independence and sovereign Bangladesh. I also recall the national Four-Leaders, 30 lakhs martyrs and 2 lacs abused mothers and sisters during the liberation war. Salam to all freedom fighters. I respectfully remember all martyrs of 15th August 1975.

Bangabandhu had left no idle time to reconstruct the war-ravaged country immediately after independence. He started discussions with the World Bank group as well as the bilateral donor organizations. That time World Bank had proposed to hold a consortium of the donors in Paris, the capital of France. But by the direct intervention of the Bangabandhu government, the consortium had held in Dhaka in 1973, where Bangladesh had taken lead as the President. During the course of time, that consortium of the donors is now known as 'Bangladesh Development Forum' and the then donors are now called 'Development Partners'.

The Father of the Nation had always upheld the country's interest at his top priority. He had undertaken the First Five Year Plan (1973-1978) and implemented with utmost confidence till His life

amid thousands of barriers and absence of resources. We are unfortunate enough as a nation that he did not get much time for complete implementation. He was successful though he was able to transform the war-ravaged country into a least developed country status.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This Forum is taking place in such a time when the country is at a definite juncture in its development journey. The year 2020 bears great importance to our national life. Father of the Nation's birth centenary will be inaugurated through a colorful celebration on the 17th of March for the whole year ahead. The celebration of the 'Golden Jubilee' of independence and also the programs of the birth centenary of the Father of the Nation will move forward together in 2021. This celebration will not be limited to the ceremony, rather it will transmit the spirit of life throughout the nation; the new generation will be inspired to build 'Golden Bangladesh' as dreamed of by the Father of the Nation as they come across the touch with this new spirit.

Awami League Government takes short, medium and long term plans to expedite the country's development. Along with the medium-term FYP, we at first formulated long term 'Bangladesh Perspective Plan, 2010-2021' to implement the Vision-2021. We are at the end of its successful implementation. The country gained the lower-middle-income status back in 2015 by World Bank Classification and met all the criteria for graduating from the least developed country status in March 2018 by UN Classification. The UN triennial review of 2021 will very likely lead the country to graduate officially from the Least Developed Country category in 2024. Meanwhile, Bangladesh has also outlined a comprehensive plan for implementing the UN-mandated Sustainable Development Goals by the year 2030.

Implementation of the 7th FYP is about to the end. Meanwhile, we formulated the draft second long term 'Bangladesh Perspective Plan, 2021-2041' intending to implement the Vision-2041. The 8th FYP will be aimed at implementing the Vision-2041. This FYP will incorporate the strategies and policies for sustainable use of water, land and the natural environment developed under the Bangladesh Delta Plan-2100. Moreover, this FYP will adopt strategies to ensure the smooth transition of Bangladesh from LDC status, and the achievements of the SDGs by 2030. The 8th FYP will revolve around two core themes: promoting prosperity and fostering inclusiveness.

This Forum will pave the way to take stocks of the achievements and lessons learned during the 7th FYP. It will also shed light on Bangladesh's strategic choices to reach LDC graduation, SDGs and become a developed country by 2041. I hope this Forum would also provide a unique opportunity for wide-ranging multi-stakeholder consultation to identify areas of collaboration in formulating the upcoming 8th FYP. Above all, BDF 2020 would provide a comprehensive Road Map for sustaining and building on the accomplishments over the last decade through ensuring a stronger and more inclusive partnership.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Recently, in a list of 26 countries in the world prepared by the Spectator Index, Bangladesh has been placed at the top with a score of 188% in terms of the total GDP of the last ten years. The

IMF also placed Bangladesh as the 29th largest economy based on purchasing power. Currently, Bangladesh's GDP size reached about US\$320 billion, which is more than three times the GDP size in 2009, US\$102 billion.

The country has witnessed unprecedented advancement in almost all development parameters over the last decade. It has sustained robust economic growth over the last ten years averaging 6.6 percent. GDP growth for the Fiscal Year 2018-2019 reached 8.15 percent, the highest in the country's history. We were able to keep inflation within a reasonable limit, to build up foreign exchange reserves, to hold the currency exchange rate steady, to restrain fiscal deficits including shrinking external debt.

We have been continuing with remarkable progress in various socio-economic key indicators as well. The average life expectancy in Bangladesh is now 72.8 years. On the other hand, the rate of infant mortality and maternal mortality has decreased significantly. Both the diversity and severity of poverty have declined significantly. The headcount poverty reduced to 20.5 percent in 2019 from 41.5 percent in 2005 and the hard-core poverty reduced to 10.5 percent in 2019 from 25.1 percent in 2005. In recognition of Bangladesh's milestone achievements in the socio-economic front, the country has been termed as a 'Role Model of Development' globally.

We have emphasized creating regional communication and infrastructure, increasing efficiency and employment, using technology and institutional strengthening, economic and social equality, woman empowering and ensuring equal opportunities for everyone.

Our Government has established the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA) which offers diversified promotional and facilitating services for accelerating industrial development of the country. The establishment of 100 economic zones in different areas across Bangladesh phase by phase is ongoing for creating more attracting more foreign investment and employment generation as well. We have created these economic zones to stop unplanned industrialization in residential and arable land.

The country needs to prepare itself for facing new trade rules and regulations that would be pertinent once it officially graduates. Our government is trying to identify appropriate policy options for trade facilitation and export diversification in light of Bangladesh's LDC graduation.

Our government has been working steadfastly to establish stronger collaboration between government, development partners, private sector, civil society and non-governmental organizations which is crucial to ensure that the development gains that have been made over the years can be sustained and become more dynamic and inclusive.

Dear Colleagues,

Bangladesh needs to protect its development environmentally sustainable. Though Bangladesh received global appreciation for its remarkable progress in climate-resilient initiatives, the insufficient resource base is limiting the impacts of climate change. Bangladesh's SDG Financing Strategy 2017 reveals that the country already has nearly a US\$1 trillion gap in the financing gap. Through this Forum, we need to identify a sufficient supply of funds for financing the adaptation and mitigation of climate change impacts.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) will impact enormously in Bangladesh's economy and the job market. The country needs a proper mechanism to grab the opportunity of 4IR by identifying some policy guidelines on how Bangladesh can make the best use of its demographic transition.

Bangladesh is one of the world's fastest-growing economies, where urbanization is happening very faster. Urbanization accounts for more than 65% of the national GDP. We need your cooperation to improve service delivery mechanisms for the urban poor and vulnerable populations to ensure more inclusive and sustainable development in cities.

'My village, My Town'- was one of the main pillars of our election manifesto in 2018. The modern amenities include physical infrastructures, safe drinking water, modern healthcare, quality education, modern sewerage and waste management, increased electricity and fuel supply, high-speed internet facilities, electric equipment, and standard consumer goods have to be ensured to reach this concept.

Apart from the modernization of the agricultural sector, we intend to provide supports to the non-agricultural sector, for manufacturing light equipment and as regards its marketing, necessary assistance, including loan facilities.

There have been milestone achievements in the health sector of Bangladesh. A rapid rise in chronic, non-communicable diseases, particularly among the poor, blaring those successes. Estimates suggest that NCDs- which include diabetes, cardiovascular disease, respiratory disease, and cancers- now account for half of all deaths each year. We need to address the policy options that could be leveraged through ensuring health equity, governance, and accountability.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

There is a shortage of trained teachers and facilities in Bangladesh's rural areas, making education inequitable. We need to ensure that the students across Bangladesh have access to standard education, creativity and need-based skill development which are vital for the homogeneous education system.

Bangladesh a decade back is not the same at present. Present Bangladesh is a transformed country of commitment. The labor and merit of her people, the timely policy of the government, venture and ceaseless support by the Development Partners accelerate our future endeavors. I hope and do firmly believe that our development partners and bilateral donor countries with contributing more towards our ambitious journey as they did before, which will eventually be counted in achieving a 'Golden Bangladesh' as dreamed of by our Father of the Nation.

Keeping this in mind and wishing all-out success of the Bangladesh Development Forum 2020, I pronounce its grand inauguration. Thank you all once again.

Khoda Hafez.

Joi Bangla, Joi Bangabandhu

May Bangladesh Live Forever.



A H M Mustafa Kamal

Hon'ble Minister

Ministry of Finance

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

MESSAGE

Her Excellency Sheikh Hasina, the Hon'ble Prime Minister of Bangladesh;

My dear colleagues in the cabinet and parliament;

Excellencies;

Distinguished Guests from home and abroad;

Dear Friends, Ladies and Gentlemen;

A Good Morning and greetings of 'Mujib Year' to you all.

It is an honour for me to be here this morning with all of you, the iconic personalities living in our planet, who are destined to serve the cause of humanity and thereby to build a happy and prosperous world. It is indeed my privilege to welcome you all to the 4th Bangladesh Development Forum.

Distinguished Dignitaries,

This year's Bangladesh Development Forum coincides with the birth centennial of our Father of the Nation, the greatest Bangalee of all times, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. In the lives of Bangalee nation Bangabandhu emerged as an envoy of peace and freedom. Without the birth of Bangabandhu we could not have our freedom and a sovereign Bangladesh, also free ourselves from all source of oppression. For this reason at the beginning of my speech I humbly remember Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman along with our four national leaders killed in jail, family members of Bangabandhu killed on darkest hours of 15 August 1975, 3 million martyrs and 2 hundred thousands of our mothers and sisters who sacrificed everything in liberation war. I solicit to Allah for eternal peace of their departed souls.

Distinguished Guests,

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman gave us independent Bangladesh but unfortunately we lost him before culmination of his dream of building a developed “Golden Bangladesh”. However, in the absence of Bangabandhu, his legacy of blood, our Hon’ble Prime Minister is taking care of the incomplete task of building a poverty and hunger free developed Bangladesh as initiated by Bangabandhu. The stable democratic government led by our Prime Minister took our economy to a respected height in the world in last 11 years. Bangladesh has achieved 188% growth, the highest in the world in last one decade, where China was second with 177% growth. Furthermore, during the last five years, in terms of per capita income growth Bangladesh topped along with India and China having a growth rate of 45%. This success story of Bangladesh is now considered as a ‘Development Miracle’ by the economic and business researchers worldwide.

UK based Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR) opined that Bangladesh economic standing is expected to overtake Malaysia, Hong Kong and Singapore by 2024.

Distinguished Guests,

- Bangladesh has fulfilled all criteria for graduating to a developing country by 2024
- The economy is growing over 8 percent now, the highest in Asia
- Poverty and extreme poverty reduced to 20.5 and 10.5 respectively, which is around the world average
- Per capita income quadrupled in ten years to 1,909 US dollars
- Inflation hovers around 5 percent
- Inward remittance is growing over 20 percent
- Bangladesh has one of the lowest debt to GDP ratio in the world, only 34 percent
- For the first time taka denominated “Bangla Bond” is listed in London Stock Exchange
- 100 special economic zones are being established where 10 million people will have the opportunity of employment
- 10 mega infra-structures are under construction including Padma Bridge, Dhaka mass rapid transit, Karnafully tunnel, Payra sea port, Matarbari coal fired power plants and so on.

Distinguished Delegates,

Bangladesh is a land of opportunity. There are many reasons to invest in Bangladesh that include but not limited to consecutive higher economic growth, strategic location, young, skilled and competitive workforce-our median age of population is 26 only and we will reap demographic dividend up to 2065, digital facilities, tax holiday and exemptions, facilitation of utility connections, hassle-free repatriation of profits and so forth.

My Dear Friends,

You are aware that Bangladesh, a front-runner in implementing Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) - the predecessor of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), is well on its track and has taken comprehensive action plan and programmes to achieve the relevant targets and goals of SDGs by or before 2030.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

You all are aware that world economy is passing through a financial sluggishness. After great depression of 1930s the world economy experienced the lowest economic growth last year.

During Asian Financial Crisis of 1997 and the global recession of 2007-08, Bangladesh remained immune and resilient due to vibrant and successful leadership of our Hon’ble Prime Minister. We expect that despite worldwide economic turmoil our target of economic growth 8.2 percent as stated in our national budget will be achieved although we have a little bit slow-downs in export and imports at par with global slow-downs.

Dear Friends,

I would like to request all citizens of Bangladesh to rise up their spirits and make consistent efforts for sustained development by helping Hon’ble Prime Minister and her government, so that we can achieve the developed ‘Sonar Bangla’, long cherished dream of our father of the nation, to ensure peace, progress, prosperity and equity for all of us by the year 2041.

To conclude, I would like to express my gratitude to the Hon’ble Prime Minister for her gracious presence in the inaugural session of the Forum. I am confident that her presence will act as a catalyst as well as will be encouraging for all of us to make BDF successful. Accordingly, development partners should align their forthcoming assistance programme with the long term plans of the Government. I also convey my heartfelt thanks to respected guests from home and abroad and representatives of development partners for their participation.

I hope that in two days’ conference thought provoking ideas will come up to make effective decisions and strategies for achieving our ultimate development goals.

Thank you all. I wish all of our overseas friends a comfortable stay in Dhaka.

Joy Bangla Joy Bangabandhu

May Bangladesh live forever!



BANGLADESH DEVELOPMENT FORUM 2020

Chief Guest :

Sheikh Hasina, MP

Hon'ble Prime Minister
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Chair :

A H M Mustafa Kamal, FCA, MP
Hon'ble Finance Minister

Date : 29-30 January 2020

Venue : Bangabandhu International Conference Center (BICC)





Guest : **Sheikh Hasina, M**
Hon'ble Prime Minister
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Chair : **A H M Mustafa Kamal, FCA, MP**
Hon'ble Finance Minister

Date : 29-30 January 2020
Venue : Bangabandhu International Conference Center (

Objectives and summary of the BDF 2020

OBJECTIVES AND SUMMARY OF THE BDF 2020

The BDF is a high-level multi-stakeholder participatory forum, periodically hosted by the Economic Relations Division (ERD) of the Ministry of Finance, which provides a platform for effective dialogue among development partners, national and international NGOs, development think-tanks, development practitioners, and leaders from the private sector. It aims at enabling partnerships to identify and tackle implementation challenges and policy or resource gaps.

The BDF 2020 was organized on 29-30 January 2020 by ERD at Bangabandhu International Conference Center, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka, Bangladesh. The objective of the BDF was to provide a platform to assess the progress made in implementing the 7th Five-Year Plan (7 FYP) and consult a wide range of partners for the formulation of the upcoming 8th Five-Year Plan (8 FYP). In addition, the BDF 2020 was also an opportunity to look at the country's progress in implementing the 2030 agenda, identifying current and future needs and challenges in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Apart from an inaugural and a closing session, the BDF was composed of an introductory keynote session that set the stage for eight in-depth thematic discussion sessions covering the national priorities, the SDGs and the 8 FYP :

- The Keynote Session drew on the draft 8 FYP and outlined the strategies to achieve the plan's goals, and discussed the necessity of building an effective partnership for structural transformation and further social progress in Bangladesh.
- In the eight thematic sessions, stakeholders worked towards identifying critical policy options and measures to address challenges faced in their respective areas

- o **Private Sector Engagement and Trade Facilitation:** this session explored reforms needed to improve the investment climate and strengthen institutions that support the private sector intending to improve Bangladesh's competitiveness in attracting domestic and foreign investment. This session also discussed policy options for trade facilitation and export diversification in light of Bangladesh's graduation from the Least Developed Country (LDC) status in 2024.

- o **Partnership for Climate Change and its Financing:** this session highlighted the necessity of effective collaboration with Development Partners (DPs) and the private sector for financing to respond to climate change. Given its unique geographic, socioeconomic, and physical characteristics, the impact of climate change threatens the life and livelihoods of millions of Bangladeshis and poses significant challenges to sustainable development. However, Bangladesh made remarkable progress on climate-resilient initiatives, the scanty resource base limits adaption and mitigation of climate change.



- o **Innovative Financing for a Self-reliant Bangladesh:** The session looked at innovative financing sources and mechanisms to address the \$1 trillion gap identified in Bangladesh's SDG Financing Strategy 2017. In particular, it stressed the significant role that the private sector could play in advancing the SDGs and contributing to smooth LDC graduation. While Bangladesh has transformed itself from an aid-dependent country into a trade-dependent one, external financing continues to be critical for poverty alleviation, social sector activities and infrastructural development.
- o **Rural Transformation: Creating Opportunities for All:** The session highlighted the importance of building strategic partnerships with all key stakeholders (including the private sector, development partners and NGOs) to achieve the vision of the Government to extend all modern amenities to every village in Bangladesh: roads,

transport and communications, safe drinking water, modern healthcare, quality education, sanitation and waste management, electricity and fuel supply, computer and high-speed internet facilities, and common consumer goods. The rural transformation requires the modernization of the agricultural sector and non-agricultural sectors such as light manufacturing.

- o **Healthcare Services: Inclusive Delivery Options:** The session addressed policy options and new tools and technologies (like e-Health, m-Health, etc.) to integrate health equity, governance, and accountability into program design, delivery, and evaluation. The dramatic rise in chronic, non-communicable diseases (NCDs) - including diabetes, cardiovascular disease, respiratory disease, and cancers - particularly among the poor, accounting for half of all deaths each year, was highlighted as a critical challenge.

- o **Energy Security for Sustainable Growth:** This session addressed the link between energy security and sustainable development. In recent years, Bangladesh's impressive economic growth has boosted the demand for energy and put strains on the environment. To pursue energy security, the country will need to ensure that energy supplies are available, sufficient, affordable and sustainable through measures aiming at conserving and raising energy efficiency; rationalizing pricing and taxation systems; improving energy sector governance; and diversifying energy supplies, making greater use of alternative and renewable resources.
- o **Sustainable Cities: Services and Protection for the Vulnerable:** This session looked at ways to improve service delivery mechanisms for the urban poor and vulnerable populations to ensure more inclusive and sustainable development in cities. Urban Bangladesh accounts for more than 65% of national GDP, but the rapid urbanization has meant that cities are not sustainable. In



particular, the lack of proper low-cost housing, sanitation and other basic amenities in slums and other underserved areas, including informal settlements, affects the vulnerable part of the population.

- o **Quality Education for All and preparing for the 4th Industrial Revolution:** This business session discussed inequities in the education system, stressing the lack of qualified teachers and facilities, especially in rural areas. It highlighted challenges relating to the focus on memorization and low school completion rates. Equitable access to quality education is especially relevant in the context of the 4th Industrial Revolution (4IR). With Bangladesh at the peak of its demographic dividend period, with the right policies and enabling environment, the country could adapt to this transformation and become a major player in the 4IR. Investing in technology, digitization, youth and skill development is necessary for reskilling and upskilling of the workforce.



Joint Communique



Bangladesh Development Forum 2020 29-30 January 2020 Dhaka, Bangladesh

Joint Communique

In upholding the spirit of partnership for sustainable development, the Government of Bangladesh convened the Bangladesh Development Forum (BDF) 2020 on 29-30 January with a wide range of development partners and stakeholders. The two-day event was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, dedicating and attributing the occasion to the centennial celebrations of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's birth anniversary.

Ministers and leading government representatives together with high-level delegates and experts from development organizations, bilateral missions, private sector, non-government organizations, community-based organizations, civil society organizations, research institutes, and academia took part in the event.

With the aim of a multi-stakeholder consultation on the upcoming national development priorities, the Forum focused on:

- Taking stock of stakeholder assessments of selected priority areas that are likely to have a strategic impact on Bangladesh's long-term development including the 8th Five Year Plan (8 FYP), Sustainable Development, Agenda 2030 and Vision 2041;
- Acknowledging and bringing together various strands of development actions taken by different stakeholders;
- Devising a broadly agreed partnership position and indicating steps towards its implementation on approaches to be adopted by actors in the short to mid-term time frame- especially in light of the 8th Five-Year Plan, Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 and Vision 2041.

The Forum also provided a stage for assessing the progress made in implementing the 7th Five Year Plan and for evaluating the country's progress in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The unique attributes of this year's BDF were the balanced panel of experts and the participation of young people.

The keynote session on "Effective Partnership for Implementing the 8th Five Year Plan Aiming towards Achieving SDGs", set the tone for discussions in the subsequent eight sessions over the

two days. Based on the common principles of leaving no one behind, the eight sessions were focused on:

1. Private Sector Engagement and Trade Facilitation
2. Partnership for Climate Change and its Financing
3. Innovative Financing for a Self-reliant Bangladesh
4. Rural Transformation: Creating Opportunities for All
5. Health Services: Inclusive Delivery Options
6. Energy Security for Sustainable Growth
7. Sustainable Cities: Services and Protection for the Vulnerable
8. Quality Education for All: Preparing for 4th Industrial Revolution

The Secretaries of the lead ministries presented keynote papers on the above thematic areas and received views from panelists who are experts and thought leaders in the respective areas. While applauding the country's impressive growth and poverty reduction as well as progress on various other socio-economic indicators including human capital development, participants recognized that the following inter-linked challenges now face the country: transitioning from a lower middle income to an upper middle income country; reaping its demographic dividend and the benefits of digital technologies; adapting to and mitigating climate change; reaffirm the Honorable Prime Minister's commitment to furthering gender equality and women's empowerment; and continuously improving governance to leave no one behind. Putting the issue of governance and fighting corruption on the agenda will help ensure inclusive growth and an enabling business environment. The Forum sought to deepen policy dialogue on key area including addressing critical challenges in the 8th FYP, and cooperation on strategic priorities; and thereby support to Bangladesh.

The Forum acknowledged that Bangladesh, on this trajectory of development, demands greater partnership in a more holistic way. An effective partnership framework for sustainable development needs to reflect government leadership on policy reform; and bring together the full range of partners to align their strategies with the national development priorities focused on results ensuring development co-operation is transparent and accountable to all citizens.

The Forum ended with the following commitments to take forward the recommendations that came out of the BDF sessions:

- a) Developing a BDF 2020 Outcome Document based on mutual accountability that sets shared objectives and targets;
- b) Agreed actions of the Outcome document will be followed up through the Local Consultative Group (LCG) Government-DP Plenary;
- c) The 8th Five-Year Plan will guide the discussion on the LCG Working Group reform.

Keynote Session



Effective Partnership for Implementing the 8th Five year Plan Aiming towards Achieving SDGs

28 January, 2020 [Hall of Fame, BICC]

Chair

Mr. Khandker Anwarul Islam, Cabinet Secretary

Keynote

Dr. Shamsul Alam, Member (Senior Secretary), General Economics Division

Panelists

Mr. Abdur Rouf Talukder, Secretary FD

Mr. Masud Bin Momen, Secretary MoFA

Ms Rensje Teerink, EU Ambassador to BD

Ms Judith Herbertson, Head of DFID Bangladesh

Ms Ameerah Haq, Chair, BRAC Global Board



Overview

The BDF 2020 was organized in the final year of the country's seminal Vision 2021, while sights are set to become a prosperous developed nation by 2041. The country is nearing the end of implementing its 7 FYP while steps have been initiated for formulating the 8 FYP, and the country is likely to graduate officially from the Least Developed Country category in 2024. The BDF 2020 was the occasion to recount the achievements and lessons learned during the 7 FYP. In addition, it shed light on Bangladesh's strategic choices to reach three milestones, i.e., smooth and sustainable LDC graduation by 2024, achieving the SDGs by 2030 and becoming a developed country by 2041.

Context

The poverty rate came down to 20.5% in 2019 from 31.5% in 2010, and extreme poverty to 10.5% in 2019 from 17.6% in 2010. The improvement in the social sector, particularly in reducing maternal mortality, under-five mortality, child mortality, stunting and wasting, increasing life expectancy at birth, adult literacy rate, access to water and sanitation, gender parity index, empowering women, has been remarkable. Along with continued and scaled up investment in the social sector, the Government intends to drive investment in transformational mega-infrastructures and establish economic zones for foreign direct investment.

The upcoming 8 FYP represents the first phase of implementation of the vision 2041. The plan will consider both the graduation from the LDC status by 2024 and achieving Agenda 2030. The following is the projection of moderate and extreme poverty based on the growth elasticity during the 8 FYP Period.

Poverty projections over the 8 FYP period

	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25
Moderate poverty (ratio)	17.27	15.84	14.52	13.31	12.17
Extreme poverty (ratio)	8.37	7.46	6.65	5.91	5.28

With the core theme "Promoting Prosperity Fostering Inclusiveness", the 8 FYP aims in developing the infrastructure level of an upper-middle-income economy, reducing moderate poverty to 12.17% and extreme poverty to 5.28%, graduating from the LDC status in 2024 and achieving critical SDG targets to leave no one behind.

Vision for the Future

To achieve the development vision of the next five years, the Government must ensure that partners and the private sector play a significant role. A large part of the underlying partnership will come through investment and trade by North-South, South-South, regional and international cooperation. Such investment will have a spillover effect in the areas of science, technology and innovation. There are two parts of implementing the plan:



1. Investing in infrastructure, education, health, poverty reduction, which tends to come at a high cost,
2. Strengthening the capacities and reforms of administrative, legal, judicial, social and economic institutions requires a relatively smaller financial investment but political will and sustained engagement.

Discussion Points

The discussions among the participants highlighted several cross-cutting themes and priorities that need to be carried forward in the thematic sessions and the 8FYP, including:

- rapid rural transformation;
- boosting saving investment;
- harnessing the potential of the young generation;
- consolidating efforts for revenue mobilization;
- rapid implementation of mega infrastructure;
- supporting Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) development;
- eradicating poverty and reducing regional disparity;
- promoting modern and sustainable agriculture for nutrition for all;
- focusing on quality education;
- ensuring power and energy security;
- providing quality health care;

- empowering women, ethnic minorities, the marginalized and people living with disabilities;
- tackling climate change, managing disaster and protecting the environment;
- eradicating corruption, more accountable administration, and ensuring good governance;
- and empowering local Government through decentralization.

Recommendations

The session produced several recommendations aiming at supporting Bangladesh in achieving its objectives in terms of sustainable development:

- Take into account the challenges of the post-graduation period: declining trade benefits, loss of the Generalised Scheme of Preferences (GSP) and facilities, loss of trade concessions, and potential reduction of Official Development Assistance (ODA);
- Improve the business climate and focus on increasing private investment and FDIs;
- Target foreign investments, especially from European companies;
- Apply a multi-pronged approach to women's empowerment;
- Emphasize on bilateral loans from China and others end;

- Mobilise resources to meet the requirement of \$928 million by 2030 to achieve SDGs and stress the importance of the domestic resource mobilisation and revenue earnings;
- Integrate blended financing, primarily climate change financing;
- Strengthen the orientation of the 8 FYP with climate-smart and climate-friendly interventions;
- Support the technology and capacity building to combat the effects of climate change. Bangladesh needs to prepare for the consequence of climate change;
- Create opportunities for the young generation (age below 25) in the private sector investment and decent jobs;
- Advancement of the agricultural sector through automatization/modernization;
- Increase education and health sector investment/ allocation to ensure 100% enrolment in school and community clinics;
- Improve transportation systems through the development of seaports and airports;
- And ensure access to electricity in rural areas.



Working sessions



Private Sector Engagement and Trade Facilitation

Chair

Mr. Sheikh Fazle Fahim, President, FBCCI

Keynote

Dr. Md. Jafar Uddin, Secretary, Ministry of Commerce

Panelists

Mr. Md. Sirazul Islam, Executive Chairman, BIDA

Mr. Paban Chowdhury, Executive Chairman, BEZA

Mr. John Smith-Sreen, Economic Growth Office Director, USAID

Mr. Yutaka Yoshino, Program Leader, Equitable Growth, Finance, and Institutions, the WB

Ms. Rubana Huq, President, BGMEA

Overview

Vision 2021 and vision 2041 elaborated from the Government's 2008 election manifesto and 2019 election manifesto respectively to enable the free market economy and fast-growing digital trade and commerce, recognising that the country's overall economic growth, development and macroeconomic stability depend on import and export growth. Bangladesh's sustained growth was accompanied by a structural transformation of the economy with an increasing share of the manufacturing and services sector and growth driven by the private sector.





Current context

For the Bangladesh economy, exports are the drivers of employment generation and overall economic growth. With around two million young people entering the job market every year, Bangladesh must break into new markets. Ready-Made Garments (RMG) occupy 83% of the export basket, and Bangladesh aims to increase its total exports to \$54 billion by 2021. Prudent policy and implementation of core strategies helped export earnings at \$46.87 billion in FY19, which was only \$16.20 billion in FY10 with 14.30% growth on the previous fiscal year. Approximately 744 different products are now being exported to 202 countries, while RMG is the leading item with approximately 84% share of all exports. The congenial business climate also helped to attract FDI, and the upward trend in FDI flows over the last ten years with a significant increase in the recent period.

- o GDP growth has experienced a 1%-point increase every decade.
- o Robust 6-7% GDP growth has been inclusive and export-driven during the last decade;
- o The trade-GDP ratio increased to 38% in 2018 from 18.9% in 1990;
- o The share of manufacturing in GDP rose 8% in 2018;

Key challenges faced to further the development of the private sector include:

- About 2.2 million new jobs are required every year.
- Private Investment as a percentage of GDP needs to increase (23.10% as of FY18).
- FDI currently at \$3.6 billion and lower than other emerging markets (e.g. Vietnam \$15.5 billion, Philippines \$6.4 billion) need to increase.
- Limited progress in diversifying and improving exports. Current value chain participation is 36%.
- Lags behind comparator countries in overall Competitiveness (103 among 140 countries in Global Competitiveness Index by WEF, 2018).
- Global Infrastructure Outlook estimates an investment need of \$608 billion in infrastructure in Bangladesh by 2040. This translates into an average investment requirement of \$24.3 billion in infrastructure annually.
- Almost 35% of the products get damaged in cargo and container handling at the key ports.
- LDC graduation in 2024 is anticipated to adversely impact trade-related International Support Measures along with General Support

related International Support Measures and Development Assistance related International Support Measures.

- Technology adoption and innovation in manufacturing are slow. Skills in manufacturing need to be enhanced for the expected growth.
- The absence of quality Infrastructure is impeding export-led growth, and immediate intervention is required to push the diversification of the export basket.

Status of Trade Facilitation: Trade facilitation entails modern policies and procedures along with efficient logistics. One day delay in shipment may lead to a reduction in overall trade by 1%. Overall, trade facilitation leads to enabling business environment for the private sector. This eventually increases private sector investment, FDI and creates employment opportunities. In harnessing the potential of trade, a holistic approach to simplify, harmonize, and modernize the entire trading process following the requirements of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) has been initiated. While the Ministry of Commerce, together with key border clearance agencies, has initiated and completed a series of modernization programs to facilitate trade, challenges remain:

- Delays in project implementation due to cumbersome procurement process.
- Delays in the approval process for institutional reform.
- Adoption of the concept of Time Release Study by the Other Government Agencies till National Single Window is launched.
- Fully functional National Single Window within all relevant Government agencies.
- Full implementation of the Customs Modernization Strategic Action Plan 2019-2022 and Export Sector Roadmaps.
- Limited transport facilitation and coordination amongst border clearance agencies.

- Absence of Comprehensive Trade Policy.
- Delays in receiving cash incentives by the exporters. Complicated duty drawback system.
- Absence of Integrated and Multimodal Transport Facility and logistics support enabling environment for enhanced investment and export.
- Absence of National Quality Infrastructure.
- Institutional capacity of all border clearance agencies.
- Limited skills and facilities for policy analysis and trade statistics, which is crucial for trade negotiations.
- Inadequate investment promotion, investor tracking, investor aftercare, and follow up for sectors with export potential.
- More time and cost incurred by women traders as compared to their male counterparts.
- Limited stakeholder outreach program in new policies, procedures and ICT-based reforms.
- A commitment of the Development Partners for timely implementation of T.F. measures.



Areas demanding immediate attention

These are areas where Bangladesh needs continued support from its development partners to enhance trade and investment further:

- o Category C measures (e.g. establishment of enquiry point, test procedures, risk-management, post-clearance audit, authorized operators, expedited shipment, clearance of perishable goods, border agency cooperation, single window, some aspect of transit).
- o Integrated Transport Modality and logistic support enabling environment for enhanced investment and export.
- o Post LDC benefit for the export sector.
- o Time-release Survey reports can be produced for all border clearance on a regular basis by the National Single Window.
- o Capacity Development of Other Government Agencies (BSTI, Quarantine, Fisheries and Livestock, Port Authorities and numerous licenses issuing agencies apart from Ministry of Commerce and National Board of Revenue).
- o Strengthening the private sector to regulate with the automation of Government agencies and modernization of customs procedures.

Discussion points

Participants acknowledged that the private sector engagement is the centre point for all reform initiatives and successful implementation in the thematic area. The summary and key points of the speakers after the presentation by Dr Md. Jafar Uddin, Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, are below:

Mr Md Sirazul Islam, Executive Chairman of BIDA, stated that the private sector external fund flow had reached \$18.2 billion. To achieve growth aspirations, we have

to leapfrog our efforts to achieve our targets. Despite an upward trend in FDI, it remains significantly lower than the 7FYP target of \$7.44 billion. FDI inflow averages around 1% of GDP, whereas in Vietnam, 6.3%, Malaysia, 3.2%, China, 2.3%, Philippines 1.7%. Bangladesh target by the end of 8FYP FDI will be 2% of GDP. To that end, BIDA has launched one-stop shops (OSS) for investor service in Bangladesh and aims to improve the Doing Business ranking of the country. OSS is currently providing 18 services of three Government agencies, but continued support is needed from development partners for technical assistance.

Mr Paban Chowdhury, Executive Chairman of BEZA, underlined that cross-border paperless trade and compliance with WTO TFA could reduce the cost of doing business significantly. This can be through modernization of Custom agencies, ensuring, for instance, a Single Window facility for trade. Coordination and cooperation between public and private sectors are also indispensable.

Mr Yutaka Yoshino, Program Leader, Equitable Growth, Finance and Institutions, the World Bank, stressed that the growth rate should be around 10% per year during the next decade to achieve targets. He stated that Bangladesh has successfully connected to the global trade value chain and that it has an abundant supply of labour, but that reforms are required to expand the market and product for export diversification. Increasing productivity to compete with other countries in the region is a critical challenge, as well as reducing the trading costs. Reforms are needed to modernize Customs transactions, and the Government should employ resources to collect duty from Value Added Tax (VAT) rather than import taxes.

Mr John Smith-Sreen, Economic Growth Office Director at USAID, mentioned that the Feed the Future project of USAID helps the agriculture logistic sector, which can create new jobs. However, the lack of transparency and complexity in the trading process reduce the trust of traders. The RMG sector, in particular, should be more

resilient and diversified to produce different types of products, and in general, economic growth should be more inclusive.

Ms Rubana Huq, President of BGMEA, underlined that both product and skill diversification is needed in Bangladesh, with support from the Government of Bangladesh and development partners.

The Chair, Mr Sheikh Fazle Fahim, President of FBCCI, stated that more cooperation is needed between the ministries and the public and private sector. He said that FBCCI had commissioned a study looking into a national export strategy for Bangladesh for the next two decades, trade logistics, FINTECH and financial restructuring of the financial system. There was also a study done by FBCCI that highlighted that for the Economic Zones to function correctly, the BWH facility needs to be provided. He concluded by saying that such dialogues are needed for a more cohesive interaction between different stakeholders to achieve higher growth targets.



Recommendations

- Focus on the issue of trade facilitation and efficiency improvement is the key to enhance trade and commerce of a country;
- Ensure harmonization of the legal framework in the country;
- Reduction of cost in trade makes the industries competitive worldwide and enhances the opportunity of trade for a country, and diagnosing of Trade Integration, Bonded Warehouse, and how Bangladesh can diversify the base of export;
- Diversify the RMG Sector as well as other sectors so that private entities can actively participate in the development process of Bangladesh;
- With the help of technological upgrade, the private sector should work on green business and green financing;
- Ensuring coordination among different trade-related agencies and ministries of Bangladesh is a great challenge for the private sector, and excessive bureaucracy is an obstacle;
- Policies to meet the challenge of graduation from LDC in 2024.

Commitments and follow up action

- **Inter-Ministerial Coordination, Fast Track Service and market and product expansion:** the Government of Bangladesh has a framework of Inter-Ministerial Meeting, which coordinates and addresses important issues. MoC is seeking new markets, including the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), Brazil and others.
- **Sector-specific and new market expansion related service provided by BIDA:** Support on Doing Business initiatives, which helped the



4.2 Partnership for Climate Change and its Financing



Partnership for Climate Change and its Financing

28 January, 2020 [Carnival, BICC]

Chair

H.E. Md Shahab Uddin, Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change

Guest of Honour

Mr. Javier Manzanares, Deputy Executive Director, GCF

Keynote

Mr. Ziaul Hasan, ndc, Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

Panelists

Mr. Kabir Bin Anwar, Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources
Prof Kimio Takeya, Distinguished Technical Advisor to the President, JICA
Ms. Radhika Lal, SDG Finance Advisor, UNDP Regional Bureau of Asia Pacific
Dr Muhammad Musa, Executive Director, BRAC International

country to climb eight positions in the ranking from 176 to 168. BIDA also launched the OSS to facilitate investment. BIDA has adopted a 5-pronged approach- i) Revisiting the policy framework befitting the bigger income economies, ii) assuring faster coordinated and transparent investor services, iii) making institutions more efficient and private sector-oriented to deliver investor services, iv) Building enabling industrial infrastructure to facilitate investment and v) Developing skilled workforce. To support the country's growth momentum, BIDA has initiated its organizational reform.

- **Trade Facilitation by NBR and MOC and Investment Promotion Service by BIDA:** National Single Window for trade (NSW) and the e-port system can facilitate trade.

- **Change of mindset of Government officials to the private sector and reduce bureaucracy** will be instrumental in reform delivery. The private sector is an important stakeholder to contribute to the economic development of the country, including through innovative financing and technology.
- The **economic zone will enhance export diversification**, which is very important to maintain sustainable growth in the export of Bangladesh.
- The impetus should be given to **deepening the National Board of Revenue (NBR) institutional capacity, monitoring the results, and assessing the impacts of ongoing programs communicating with all relevant stakeholders.**

Overview

The pre-existing vulnerabilities of Bangladesh in terms of livelihoods, particularly in the coastal areas and flood plains, and for the poorest households, including women, receive further pressure due to the consequences of climate change. Among those, increased water salinity leading to difficulties in crop cultivation, change in weather patterns leading to an increased number of irregular floods and droughts as well as bank and coastal erosion will affect the country's development in both the short and the long term.

Mitigation and adaptation to climate change are important considerations for Bangladesh as it seeks to reach middle-income and prosperous country status by 2021 and 2041, respectively. While adaptation is a priority for the Government, leading global discussions at international fora such as the Conferences of Parties (COP) should not lead to underestimation of the increased share of emissions.

Therefore, today's planning and investments are essential to avoid stranded assets in the future and to allow people to adapt to new circumstances. Furthermore, a targeted approach to climate change may reduce the speed of urbanization by reducing the migration of the rural poorest households to the already highly congested capital and intermediary cities.

In November 2019, the Bangladesh Parliament became the first to declare climate change a "planetary emergency." The declaration also made Bangladesh the first among developing countries to issue such an alert and call for action. However, climate finance is a pressing concern. In 2010, it was estimated by the World Bank that Bangladesh would need to invest \$40 billion from 2015 to 2030 to implement adaptation measures, such as improved early warning systems, disaster preparedness, surge protection, flood-proofing and protection, climate-resilient infrastructure and communication, drainages systems, stress-tolerant variety improvement and cultivation (including livestock and fisheries), health, biodiversity and ecosystem conservation and capacity building as well as the costs associated with loss. In addition, while Bangladesh has not contributed much to the global greenhouse gas emissions, the Government has indicated its interest in fostering local carbon development, committing to reduce emissions by 5% unconditionally.



Current context

Bangladesh is committed to achieving the SDGs by 2030, including SDG 13 on climate action. The Government prepared the Delta Plan 2100, submitted its National Determined Contribution (NDC) and prepared the NDC Road Map and Sectoral Action Plan. The National Adaptation Plan (NAP) is under preparation. To implement these plans while addressing climate change issues in the framework of the commitments of the NDC, mobilization of funds is required.

The Government took two landmark initiatives aimed at addressing climate vulnerabilities. First, it adopted the Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (BCCSAP) in 2009, currently under revision; and secondly, it created the Bangladesh Climate Change Trust Fund (BCCTF) together with Bangladesh Climate Change Resilience Fund (BCCRF) to finance the implementation of the BCCSAP. Bangladesh also made a pioneering attempt to adopt its Climate Fiscal Framework (CFF) to introduce a climate-responsive Public Financial Management (PFM) system.

In addition to the above, the Government formulated the following policies, plans and programs to address climate change and disaster management issues.

- Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC), 2015.
- First (Initial), Second and Third National Communication 2002, 2012, 2018.
- Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100, in 2019.
- Bangladesh Water Act, 2013.
- Disaster Management Act, 2012.
- National Disaster Management Policy, 2015.
- Standing Orders on Disaster -2010 (revised in 2019).
- Bangladesh Energy Efficiency and Conservation Master Plan up to 2030.

- Renewable Energy Policy of Bangladesh, 2008.
- Bangladesh country Investment Plan for the environment, forests and climate change, 2019.

Other Initiatives include the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) or Carbon Trading, Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM), Climate Technology Centre & Network (CTCN).

Initiatives in the Forestry sector:

Bangladesh has given importance to protect forests and enhance forest coverage as set in SDG 15. At present, forest cover is 14.5% of the land surface. The tree cover is 22.37%. Bangladesh has adopted policies and programs to conserve existing natural undisturbed forests and restore degraded forest lands through collaborative forest management practices and afforestation projects. To this end, the Bangladesh National REDD+ Strategy was drafted as a multi-sectoral approach to reducing deforestation and forest degradation. Bangladesh also developed National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) for detecting GHG emissions from forestry. Meanwhile, Forest Reference Level (FRL) based on 2000-2015 forest land-use change has been submitted to UNFCCC, and technical analysis by UNFCCC was also completed in November 2019. Bangladesh is planning to develop REDD+ Safeguard Information System (SIS).

Additional Initiatives in climate change

Adaptation and Mitigation:

The Ministry of Water Resources is implementing a number of projects, which are considering the adaptation of climate change. Among them are: the Coastal Embankment Improvement Project Phase-1 (CEIP-1); the Blue Gold Program for Water Management and Environmental Development; the re-excavation of small rivers, khals and water bodies in 64 districts

(1st phase); and the Gorai River Restoration Project. Also, a Basin wise water resources management plan addressing climate change is under preparation. The Ministry of Water Resources has improved Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre that factors in the climate change effects. Five days forecasting is reached now, and efforts are made to increase the days lead time for early warning.

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change is implementing several adaptation and mitigation projects such as the Sustainable Forests and Livelihoods (SUFAL) project with support from the World Bank (\$180 million), whose main objectives are improving collaborative forest management and increasing access to alternative income-generating activities.

The Ministry of Road Transport and Bridges implement a mitigation project, "the Dhaka Mass Transit Development project" (\$2,600 million), with support from JICA.

Climate Fiscal Framework:

Bangladesh adopted the Climate Fiscal Framework (CFF) in 2014, aiming to establish greater national ownership of Climate Finance, promoting Government, NGO and private sector harmonization, enhancing result management and broadening the opportunity for resilient development and green growth in Bangladesh. The CFF essentially laid the foundation for pursuing a climate inclusive public financial management system in the country. A separate climate finance module in iBAS++ has also been developed.

Financing:

The cumulative climate budget allocation for five years from FY 2015-2016 to FY 2019-2020 of 25 Ministries/ Division accounts for \$10.40 billion. For the year 2019-20,

the climate allocation is \$2.8 billion, which represents 7.81% of the total allocation. Climate relevant allocation from the national budget increased from BDT 12,163 crore to BDT 23,748 crore (about \$1.44 billion to \$2.83 billion) during the same period. Bangladesh has also accessed financial resources from different international funds. It has received so far funds from the LDC Fund (\$28.47 million for 5 projects); GCF (\$9.5 million for 4 projects); Adaptation Fund (\$9.9 million for 1 project); BCCRF (\$82 million for 5 projects); GEF (\$160 million for 43 projects); WB Climate Investment Fund (\$400 million for 1 project) and JICA (\$2,000 million).

Key Issues and Challenges

- The fragile balance between economic growth and climate change mitigation is in line with the international commitments. Sustainability is sometimes compromised by the short term needs of the private sector demands.
- For NDC implementation (both adaptation and mitigation), it is estimated that about \$68.5 billion will be required by 2030. The absorption capacity of the national institutions also needs to be enhanced.
- Compared to the necessity of making the country

climate-resilient, resources mobilized from domestic sources, and international, bilateral and multilateral sources are far from adequate. While Bangladesh received support for preparing some of the policy documents under UNFCCC and access funds from the LDC Fund, BCCRF, GCF and the Adaptation Fund accessing resources remains cumbersome.

- Few technology transfer projects were implemented, and others are ongoing; however, the needs are much higher. Besides this, there is a persistent lack of capacity and reluctance to adopt new technologies.
- Impact on health due to climate change is a major concern all over the world and particularly for developing countries. Vector-borne diseases are increasing significantly due to climate change. Bangladesh needs to strengthen institutional and technical capacities to address this issue.
- Bangladesh is a pioneer in disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation, particularly in terms of early warning systems, disaster preparedness and introducing stress-tolerant crops. However, as the prediction of temperature rises and so the frequency of extreme weather events, food security and drinking water availability pose a substantial challenge.

Discussion points

- **Current funds are not adequate.** Due to the cumbersome application processes and the need for TA to build capacity at the central and local levels, the current resources mobilized from domestic and international sources are far from adequate.
- **Funding gap.** The Government estimates the funding needed for climate action as \$68 billion annually until 2030.
- **Mapping the current funds.** In addition to the projects from bilateral and multilateral donors such as the World Bank, JICA, SIDA, DFID, the EU and many others, Bangladesh has accessed the following pools of financial resources provided by the development partners.
- **Better data.** Due to its specific geography, Bangladesh is a vulnerable country, and there is a strong need to map its water resources and morphology, aside from the consequences of climate change. Better data collection in this view is needed.
- **Climate change will affect many sectors, but the impact must remain clearly understood.** Climate change funding will have to cover many sectors for the development of the country (forestry, water and waste management, agriculture, transport, energy, etc.). At the same time, climate change funds must be following clear reasoning.
- **Role of the private sector.** According to UNDP regional office representative, the private sector should step in with larger funds to align with the SDGs.
- **Cooperation among development partners and the Government in general and in particular to reach local communities.** The international community and the Government have to align to identify and address the existing issues. Specifically, these partnerships among actors should allow the resource allocation to reach local communities.
- **Insurances.** It may be important to develop a risk transfer model for climate risk insurance.
- Bangladesh's **vulnerability to climate change, with impacts such as extreme weather events, flooding, heat and sea-level rise, threatening the security of millions of Bangladeshis and pose major challenges to the country's sustainable development.**
- The **Green Climate Fund (GCF) will become the greatest source of funding for Bangladesh** in the future and urged development partners to promote climate-resilient development pathways. The GCF's portfolio is \$5.6 billion globally with the responsibility to support countries vulnerable to climate change and received \$10 billion for the next cycle through replenishment. The aspiration for the next ten years is to double their targets and encouraged Bangladesh to also increase its ambition for accessing GCF funding.
- The Water Act 2013 and the 100-year Delta Plan are time-bound holistic plans addressing livelihoods and environmental issues, with over 80 projects.
- The long-term value will come from human capacity building and stability of rivers depends on their geologic character, and to **control rivers in monsoon wet zones, a combination of approaches is necessary.**
- Around 77-80% of the climate change-related expenditure is carried out by the Government. **More joint thinking on climate change expenditure is needed.** Low interest rates represent an opportunity to promote green investments and engage the private sector, but more projects meeting those standards are needed.
- **Classification of the flood control strategy for Bangladesh:** a. Urbanized areas and rural centres to be protected by ring dyke and/or others and b. rural areas to accept annual floods and finding ways to live with floods preparing partially elevated areas to protect assets and lives.



Recommendations

- **Decentralization.** A higher degree of decentralization is required to allow adaptation measures at the community level, particularly to support the most vulnerable individuals and support local authorities.
- **Transparency.** Development partners need tracking mechanisms to understand where climate funding is efficiently spent. Increased transparency in the use of funds is necessary to allow international donors to channel larger funds.
- **Capacity building and mainstreaming.** Capacity building of central and local authorities remains essential, including for non-environment and climate specialists. In particular, environmental and climate considerations should be central in transport, energy or agricultural decisions.
- **Environmental standards for mitigation and long-term sustainable growth.** Work at the national level to ensure higher environmental standards (e.g. on air and water pollution, forestry management, soil and land use, etc.) is essential to ensure that international commitments are enforced.
- **Planning and investing for the medium and long term.** The policies in place should stimulate investments in the medium-long term to avoid stranded assets and should ensure that all investments have an in-depth Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) carried out.
- **Update the Gender Action Plan from 2009** to incorporate the gendered climate vulnerability of women;
- **Reverse the process of low resource allocation** to local communities through partnership;
- Develop a **risk transfer model for climate risk insurance**;
- **Increase partnership** among different actors—locally-led action and supporting rural areas.
- Identify potential core areas to be protected in the future.

Commitments and follow up actions

- a) Being responsible for a low share of the global emissions of CO₂, Bangladesh will reduce emissions by 5% unconditionally and more than 10% conditionally compared to a business as usual scenario if getting support from international sources by 2030.
- b) Bangladesh has taken the initiative to stabilize/channelize the big rivers providing room for harvesting economic potentials of rivers and irregular flood patterns.
- c) Considering sea level rise due to climate change, Bangladesh is implementing programs/projects to strengthen all embankments in the coastal region by raising the height and widening crest to save people and property in that area.
- d) In the Delta Plan 2100, Bangladesh has identified 34 climate-relevant adaptation and mitigation projects that require investing \$36 billion.
- e) Bangladesh planned to build climate-resilient cities to accommodate climate migrants from coastal and river eroded areas.



4.3 Innovative Financing for Self-reliant Bangladesh

Innovative Financing for Self-reliant Bangladesh

29 January 2020, [Harmony, BICC]

Chair

H.E. Mr M A Mannan, MP, Hon'ble Minister for Planning

Keynote

Mr Monwar Ahmed, Secretary, Economic Relations Division

Panelists

Dr Ahmad Kaikaus, Principal Secretary, Prime Minister's Office- not present

Mr Ilias Skannelos, Lead Financial Sector Economist, FCI, The World Bank Group

Mr Dongdong Zhang, Principal Financial Sector Specialist, ADB

Barrister Ms Nihad Kabir, President, MCCI

Mr Arastoo Khan, Ex Member Planning Commission (Chair Build Bangladesh)

Overview

Innovative finance refers to a range of strategies to effectively use and generate additional financial resources to achieve development goals. In practice, it is often used as a catch-all term to describe, among others, Blended Finance, Impact Investment and Results-Based Finance. These are the three potentially related but fundamentally different concepts, each of which represents large fields of practice:

- Blended finance relates to approaches for raising

or leveraging additional finance for development purposes using a wide range of financial instruments;

- Impact Investment primarily focuses on how private capital is deployed;
- and Result-based Finance may refer to a specific group of financial instruments for encouraging more effective and efficient use of resources and implementation capacity towards the national and international development agenda.

Current context

While the prospective graduation from the LDC status can open new opportunities for the country, it will also mean rising costs of development finance and higher debt servicing liabilities as access to concessional finance will cease. While Bangladesh has transformed itself, the role of ODA cannot be undermined for poverty alleviation, social sector activities and infrastructural development. Of the nearly \$1 trillion gap in SDG financing, five potential sources of financing were identified: private sector financing (42.09%), public sector financing (35.50%), public-private partnership (5.59%), external financing (14.89%-- out of which, FDI contribution would be 9.95% and foreign aid and grants would comprise 4.94%) and finally non-Government organizations (3.93%).

The above context highlights that graduation will be challenging for Bangladesh as the country will lose specific support measures. The country must start preparing itself for blended finance that includes loans from development institutions and other sources with a higher interest rate and a shorter repayment period. At the same time, it must emphasize private investments (including tapping into global markets) and public-private partnerships for a smooth transition out of LDC status as well as to influence the private sector to help achieve the SDGs.

Key issues and challenges

- Along with traditional financing mechanisms, the country needs to bring innovations in resource allocation and implementation while introducing new financial instruments and tools to improve resource utilization and to harness additional financing for sustained development.
- Bangladesh' tax-GDP ratio is one of the lowest in the world. The NBR must embark on new initiatives based on reforms, automation,



capacity development and audit to improve revenue mobilization in Bangladesh. Access to climate funds critically depends on our capacity to negotiate with the development partners.

- Regarding domestic public borrowing, efforts could be made to develop the long-term domestic bond market by issuing longer-term Government bonds and bills and thereby reducing its dependence on borrowing through the national savings schemes and short-term treasury bills issued by the Bangladesh Bank.
- In the absence of a well-developed capital market, the growth in bank credit has indeed played a positive role in supporting the expansion of the private sector in Bangladesh. However, the banking sector is vulnerable to high non-performing loans and poor corporate governance. Also, the banking sector has limited capacity to finance long term projects with short term deposits. In comparison to neighbouring countries, Bangladesh's financial markets are still underdeveloped. Therefore, a supportive environment for private sector access to long

Discussion points

The panellists were asked how the development partners can support Bangladesh in piloting new financing models that can help in private sector support for advancing towards the SDGs and contributing to smooth LDC graduation; and what lessons can Bangladesh learn from the experiences of other LDC graduates on innovative financing models. The role of the private sector in augmenting the financing for development through innovations was also discussed. Overall, the role of the financial sector in making Bangladesh a self-reliant country was the overarching discussion theme.

According to Mr Ilias Skamnelos, Lead Financial Sector Economist, FCI Global Practice of The World Bank Group (WBG), Bangladesh can become a self-reliant country by achieving the three goals:

- (1) Strong and efficient banking sector:** In the context of moral suasion to bring the interest rate down to a single digit, it was discussed that interest rate could go down automatically by managing nonperforming loans (NPLs) in the banking sector. If the flow and stock of NPLs are handled properly, then banks' capital will be released, and banks will automatically be in a position to lend more at cheaper interest rates. Re-thinking the role of the state is also important for the financial sector – whether direct intervention is needed or creating an appropriate incentive for the banks to function efficiently is more appropriate. The analytics provided by the WB-IMF in the last year on these areas can be particularly insightful for creating a strong and efficient banking sector.
- (2) Building a vibrant capital market:** To ensure the availability of long-term finance, a capital market needs to be developed, which is a complicated and time-consuming process and requires strong political commitment. The Joint Capital Market Development Program (JCAP) of the WBG is

term finance needs to be designed. Factors that need to be addressed for better private sector access to financing include reducing the high spread between deposit and lending (a factor that discourages private sector and household investment), addressing the efficiency issues of the banking system (e.g. high administrative costs, low efficiency in managing loan/ investment portfolio without proper balance between risk and return and low return on capital) and the limited scopes for small firms and rural people to access bank credit in Bangladesh.

Although private sector borrowing from abroad is very limited. National policies need to be introduced to improve the overall environment for investment to increase private borrowing. Bangladesh has made progress in developing a favourable investment climate while there are scopes for further improvement in this area to attract more productive FDI.





assisting the authorities in this area. Given the distortionary impact of the National Saving Scheme on domestic capital market development, the recent decline in the issuance of the National Saving Certificates is a positive development in this regard. From a regulatory reform perspective in the capital market, Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) has a huge role to play. Also, institutional investors base, (e.g. insurance, provident funds) needs to be developed so that the private sector's issuance of bonds can be subscribed by the long-term funds. A WB project - Bangladesh Insurance Sector Development (BISDP) – is trying to enhance the capacity of the insurance companies in Bangladesh so that they can emerge as potential investors in the capital market without risking themselves. These are all complex processes achievable with political commitment.

- (3) Introducing new financial products: While points one and two are well known and require strong political commitment, there are other innovative financing solutions that can help Bangladesh to advance towards the SDGs. Some financial products that are common in other countries but new to Bangladesh such as, risk-sharing facilities or, partial credit guarantee scheme, impact bond, green bond, revenue factoring platform for value chains, securitization for housing finance market and bonds targeting migrant workers, were proposed to launch in appropriate cases in Bangladesh. The development partners can play a convening role in this regard.

Barrister Ms Nihad Kabir, President of MCCI, stated additionally that misperception of the country risk by

the international community is also mentioned as a barrier for the private sector to mobilize funds from the international market. Such misperception about risks negatively affects the ability of the country as well as private sector firms to secure funds at a competitive rate. A Collateral supported infrastructure bond was proposed as a solution since the bond will be backed by solid infrastructure to incentivize the new investors. Frequent changes in taxation and duty structure was highlighted as a constraint in developing long term business plan by the private sector. In addition, there should be more transparency in Government institutions. Merely formulating policies by the public sector will not ensure robust private sector investment.

Mr Dongdong Zhang, Principal Financial Sector Specialist of ADB, highlighted the use of impact bonds and how development partners can support in this regard. Bangladesh should continue to focus on inclusive financial market development through expanding mobile financial services, agent banking together with traditional banking services. Capital market challenges and needs for development were re-iterated.

Mr Arastoo Khan, Ex-Member of the Planning Commission (Chairman, Build Bangladesh), underscored that effectiveness of innovative financial products such as impact investment were discussed in terms of risk, return and impact. The first impact investment (\$100 million) in Bangladesh in 2016 were presented as an example and how this can be an effective solution to cater for the diverse finance needs of the country. Another pipeline impact investment was mentioned for the year 2020, with which low-cost housing for the apparel industries' workers would be built.

Recommendations

- Identify the needs of SME, rural economy and microfinance sectors and support with innovative intervention and policy;
- Support for self-reliant Bangladesh through innovative and noble financing mechanisms;
- Initiate green finance such as green bond issuance to green projects, especially infrastructure financing after disasters;
- Promote medium-term debt management strategy;
- Ensure first track facilities to invest in Bangladesh.
- Strengthen the banking sector stability by NPL resolutions and improving corporate governance, particularly in the state-owned banks, to increase efficiency;
- Use structural policy intervention such as managing the stock and flow of NPLs rather than arbitrarily fixing interest rate to ensure availability of funds for borrowers at lower costs;
- Develop the capital market by regulatory reforms to create a more enabling environment, gradually phasing out the open tap policy for the National Saving Scheme, and developing institutional investors base;
- Introduce new financing tools in the market such as risk-sharing facility (e.g., for MSMEs and women entrepreneurs), impact bond, green bond, revenue factoring platform for value chains, and securitization for the housing finance market;
- Continue to expand the digital financial services and other non-traditional services (agent banking, mobile financial services) to the unbanked population for more inclusive financial sector development and economic growth;
- Enhance transparency in Government services and institutions to encourage private sector investment;
- Harmonization of tax regime for the private sector investors and stable revenue mobilization policy to support the private sector in their long-term business plan formulation.



Rural Transformation:

29 January 2020, [Harmony, BICC]

Chair

Md. Tazul Islam, Hon'ble Minister for Local Government and Rural Development

Keynote

Mr. Helal Uddin Ahmed, Senior Secretary, Local Government Division

Panelists

Mr. Md. Aminul Islam, Director General, Rural Development Academy
Mr Omer Zafar, Country Director, International Fund For Agricultural Development (IFAD)

Mr. Robert Simpson, FAO Representative in Bangladesh

Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director, South and South West Asia Office, UNESCAP

Dr K A S Murshid, Director General, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies

Overview and current context

Bangladesh has made impressive gains in reducing poverty and improving human development indicators in the last decade. 90% of the poverty reduction has taken place in rural areas. Recent analysis shows that Bangladesh is undergoing a rural transformation where there has been a more pronounced non-farm orientation of jobs in rural areas since 2010. In terms of rural poverty

reduction, 59% occurred among the 47% of households whose primary sector of employment is in industry or services. The increase in non-farm employment was much faster in Eastern than Western divisions of the country, which can partly explain the re-emergence of the East-West divide in terms of welfare after 2010.

Innovations in the rural service delivery process have also added a further dimension to this rural transformation. Identifying and recognizing breakthrough ideas for increasing the efficiency of public service is creating a culture of intellectual competition among junior and

mid-level duty bearers. However, initiatives to make accountability tools (e.g. citizens charter, Grievance Redressal Mechanism- GRS, Right to Information, Annual Performance Agreement etc.) more rural-centric will accelerate citizen-friendly public service system.

It is also notable that despite the declining share in GDP, the agriculture sector still provides employment to more than 41% of the labour force. Meanwhile, about 87% of rural households rely on agriculture for at least part of their income.

The above situation reflects an emerging development context for Bangladesh. While rural-urban inequalities are often highlighted in the country's discourse, intra-rural inequality has yet to gain as much attention. Simultaneously, a strong, efficient local Government structure is essential for accelerating the rural transformation. However, there is a lack of integration with national and local level planning and budgeting system in the country. Hence, there is a need for coordinated and integrated efforts to ensure sustainable rural transformation.

The Government has taken on its 'Amar Gram Amar Shohor' (My Village My Town) initiative to provide access to all modern civic amenities services in rural areas. The initiative focuses on ten key areas, including developing an Upazila masterplan, building compact townships, using ICT for inclusive education and healthcare delivery, building the capacity of Upazila and Union Parishad Governments, developing growth centres and markets places and improving rural connectivity and access to water and sanitation.

Since a large portion of the households is still involved in agriculture, raising the agriculture productivity, farming system diversification, and movement up-the value chains - in partnership with the private sector is also essential for structural transformation. In addition to the modernization of the agricultural sector, the Government intends to provide supports to the non-agricultural sector, including manufacturing light equipment.

Key Issues and Challenges

Rural Transformation, the most important factor is rural transportation: rural roads are considered as the conduits through which a number of basic services or rights can be delivered to the rural people. These are employment opportunities, access to the market, education, health, entrepreneurship, women right etc. There are a number of impact studies of rural roads on these basic services.

Growth Centre and Rural Market Planning focusing more employment – Some changes in Growth centre and rural market planning can boost up the rural employment as well as the economic growth of the rural areas. The election manifesto 2018 of the Government has articulated some of these.

Developing growth centre and market near the Economic Zones – The Government has planned to set up 100 economic zones around the country. A number of private economic zones have started their operations, and the Government economic zones are under development.

Increasing number of Growth Centres through countrywide survey, analysis and priority-based development – During the 1980s, the Planning Commission of Bangladesh did a countrywide survey and selected 1400 growth centres around the country. During the 1990s, it was made 2100. After that, there was planned intervention for connecting roads and infrastructure development. The strategy has been proved effective as it could lift the rural economy.

Promoting Rural E-Commerce – needs some sort of anchorage and patron. The planned growth centre/market can allocate a space for rural e-commerce and build the capacity of the local entrepreneurs in association with the programs of a2i and the ministry of commerce.

Special Markets for special products – Different regions of Bangladesh are famous for different farm or non-farm products. Mangoes in Chapainawabganj, watermelons in Patuakali, handlooms in Narsingdi etc., are some of them. Fishes and vegetables are also being grown in bulk quantities in some Upazilas. A number of region-based markets can be developed for these special products.

Development of management framework development for Market Management Committee focusing capacity building and innovation – One of the weak links to make the markets vibrant is their operation- management. So, one of the strategies is to focus on the management framework for Market Management Committee to build their capacity and devise innovative ways such as incentives (Best Market Committee etc.) to make the management structures more vibrant.

Rural Water Supply and Sanitation is a basic right and part of an important goal of sustainable development goal number 6. In rural areas, the national coverage of water supply is around 87% (piped, mini piped and hand tube-well). But considering salinity, arsenic and other contamination - the coverage of safely managed water is only 56%. On the other hand, the sanitation coverage is around 99% considering the pit latrine, shared latrine etc. It is only 61% if we consider improved sanitation.



Recommendations

The session addressed a set of policy options and means for building a strategic partnership with all key stakeholders, including the private sector, development partners and NGOs, to make the ongoing rural transformation more sustainable and inclusive, including:

Improved role of the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) to support lives of rural people, improving local Government institutions. Functional aspects of dealing with construction, the management or rural connectivity- water supply sanitation and sewerage. Rural roads, health services, firm and non-firm activities.

Strategies for rural growth centre planning will need to enhance employment creation, economic growth based on planning by LGED. Special market for a better product, innovation in market management. Opportunities presented includes a commitment of the Government to bring urban facilities to rural areas and to achieve the objective of leaving no one behind. Coordinated effort to transform. LGED preparing implementation strategy.

Agriculture sector improvement rural job is largely driven by agriculture. Therefore, it is important to boost competitive high-value commodities for a multiplier effect. Agriculture and food system as an approach to increase livelihood opportunity. Looking at the consumption of nutrients and composting to cycle back in production. Food producer to food supplier requires elevated attention. Investment in human capital as an engine of growth and to focus on gender through female empowerment. Looking at the household level as a means of diversification; Infrastructure and policy incentives; promotion of innovation and research with tech and non-tech; engaging with the private sector for capacity development. Central planning to market lead economy creates capital accumulation.

Boosting up climate-resilient non-firm- infrastructure development access to financing, beyond microcredit to address enterprise development- e-commerce, crowdfunding. Importance of remittances and productive utilization of the resource. Rural non-firms have access to markets that are not fragmented. Link to mobile service and transactional services. Skills are developed for gain, participation of women and equal access to credit, training, decision making in economic planning. Shift to high-value commodities, increase access to financing, increase women participation, disruptive technology. Build on the institutional strength of NGOs.



Commitments and follow up actions

The rural Transformation process is a new priority agenda of the Government for achieving sustainable development goals and in its journey towards becoming upper middle income and developed nation. It also provides a new intervention context for the development partners for the development of rural areas and alike.

Many issues are to be addressed, and those must go through a learning process so that the proper agenda and process can be determined towards the goal. Inclusiveness is an issue to get priority as the governance and accountability in roles and responsibility that should be gender-based.



Health Services: Inclusive Delivery Options

30 January 2020, [Harmony, BICC]

Chair

H.E. Zahid Maleque, Hon'ble Minister for Health and Family Welfare

Keynote

Mr Md Ashadul Islam, Secretary, Health Services Division

Panelists

Mr Sheikh Altaf Ali, Member, Bangladesh Public Service Commission
Ms Kerry Pelzman, Deputy Assistant Administrator for USAID
Mr Bardan Jung Rana, WHO Representative
Ms Farah Kabir, Country Director, Action Aid

Overview

Bangladesh's health sector in Bangladesh continues to grapple with the existing issues of increasing access to, improving quality of and achieving equity in health care services for all. Specific challenges to address include i) reducing out-of-pocket expenditure to achieve UHC; ii) improving overall nutrition situation including underweight and stunting and iii) improving service quality, standardisation and accreditation for the quality of care. A severe shortage and unequal distribution of qualified health personnel are also major stumbling blocks: only 25% of health workers serve rural areas where 70% of the population lives.

Current context

Bangladesh has made great strides towards improving the health of women and children. Since the mid-1980s, the maternal mortality rate has fallen by one-third, and in the last decade, the child mortality rate has been cut in half. High and largely equitable coverage of immunisation and Vitamin-A, respiratory and diarrheal disease control, and increased use of family planning methods are part of this remarkable success story. Bangladesh's achievements were reflected during the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) era.

But the country is still far from its goal of universal

health coverage (UHC). According to "Sustainable Development Goals: Bangladesh Progress Report 2018", Bangladesh's health sector continues to grapple with the existing issues of increasing access to, improving quality of and achieving equity in health care services for all. The share of private provision is growing rapidly with covering more than two-thirds of the health market. The Out of Pocket Expenditure rate for health services is 72.5%, and the ability to raise revenue for health remains challenging, with only 2.8% of Government expenditure spent on health. Specific challenges include

- i. reducing out-of-pocket expenditure to achieve UHC;
- ii. acute shortage and unequal distribution of skilled health personnel;
- iii. provision of quality healthcare; and
- iv. improving overall nutrition situation including all forms of malnutrition (stunting, wasting and overweight).

Against a minimum need of 44 skilled providers per 100,000 population, Bangladesh has only 9.9 (WHO), and only 25% of health workers serve rural areas, but this is where 70% of the population lives.

There hasn't been a specific framework for nutrition services within the health system also remains a significant challenge for accountability.

Infant mortality has also stagnated in recent years and requires increased attention to achieve the SDG target for reducing under-five mortality. Additionally, in family planning, the total fertility rate has also stalled since 2011. Emerging issues like adolescent reproductive health, especially considering the high rate of child marriage in Bangladesh, need to be integrated in the ESP service delivery system with adequate health system support through intensified PHC system. A huge part of the population seeking services in the private sector do so with little to no regulation by the Government to ensure quality within the private sector.



In this context, Bangladesh aims to provide all citizens and communities with the quality health services they need at a price they can afford by 2030. It is essential to optimise the pluralistic provision of healthcare by the various disciplines active in the country.

While Bangladesh's private sector is very vibrant, private sector engagement needs to be further intensified for rapid growth and development for implementing various development plans, like Vision-2041, SDGs.

Engagement of the private sector in health is vital for achieving Vision 2041, and the SDGs. However, capacity building of the health ministry to properly harness the private sector, is an urgent pre-requisite.

Key Issues and Challenges

The health service sector faces emerging challenges due to demographic changes, epidemiological shift (67% of deaths due to NCD), rapid urbanisation and environmental and emerging infectious diseases, especially pandemics. Moreover, assuring the quality of care with a lack of a skilled health workforce is a challenge.

The achievement of Universal Health Coverage and Financing remain big challenges and need to be addressed appropriately. Also, effectively addressing the gap in health care services between the rural and urban facilities, lack of quality of care, and skilled HR can reduce high referral to capital and secondary hospitals.

While increasing the health budget is required, the capacities of the Health Ministry and its Line Directorates to use the funds appropriately and in a transparent and accountable manner needs to be strengthened.

Although there has been considerable recruitment of health care workforce (doctors, nurses, midwives, field level health and family planning workers), leading to vacancy rates declining to around 15% in 2018 from above 20% in 2011, due to lack of a human resources deployment and retention policy, the newly recruited health workforce is not being properly utilised in appropriate positions, resulting in maldistribution.

There is an urgent need to prioritise and promote quality medical education in the public and private sectors. The dearth of teachers is a crucial challenge in this area and should be addressed through innovative strategies, including utilising retired medical personnel. Efficient coordination intra and inter-ministerial coordination is required to address new challenges of the health sector.



There are also needs for service packages for young mothers, survivors of child and early marriages, children with special needs, adolescents, and counselling services for young people under stress due to exposure to technology, social media, drugs, substance abuse. The health sector needs to provide all these services along with counselling.

Need to establish strong supervision and monitoring and ownership to ensure commitment to establish inclusive service delivery. Inadequate capacity is coupled with poor system support for data analytics at a disaggregated level and the ability to use Data for Action (D4A).

Discussion points

The keynote paper on Health Services: Inclusive Delivery Options was presented by Mr. Md Ashadul Islam, Secretary, and Health Services Division. It focused on how the health sector is positioned to deliver the services and to address the challenges in making services more inclusive both from the providers' and beneficiaries' points of view. The speaker mentioned that the foundation of the health services as laid down by the father of the nation is planned to be inclusive from the beginning. Referring to the Constitution of Bangladesh, he mentioned that the constitutional obligation of the Government is the guiding principle for the development of the National Health Policy (NHP), National Population Policy and the National Nutrition Policy (NNP) that led the Government to maintain a high level of commitment to pursue consistent policies, programs, and to provide budget support for the development of the health, nutrition and population (HNP) sector. Therefore, all the recognition and achievements are for the inclusiveness of the health sector. He added that the continuous expansions of health services are modelled on accessibility and equity. The speaker talked about a sustained sense of pluralism which is the strength of

the health sector leading all initiatives in a collaboration and network of multiple players, such as development partners, NGOs, local service providers and philanthropy.

Recommendations

- **Improve total health service management such as specialized institutes** and, increased health manpower and budget, inclusion through digital technology, national call centre, telemedicine, shared health record, use of IT services and monitoring through video conferencing.
- **Increase availability of skilled health workforce to ensure quality healthcare across** public and private sectors and from primary to tertiary levels. This should include not only **general and specialized doctors, nurses and midwives but also medical technologists, biomedical engineers and technicians, health planners and managers, statisticians and procurement specialists.**
- **Inclusive health sector** - improvements through implementing health security plan, multi-sectorial action plan for prevention and control of NCDs (2018-2025), developing innovative schemes for health insurance and management of PPP, introducing a mechanism for health technology assessment, improving quality of care including standards and accreditation, and addressing micro bacterial resistance. To combat the emerging challenges of infectious diseases and ensure low-cost health services, reducing out of pocket expenditure private sector needs to be harnessed.
- **Strong primary health care system** is a platform for combatting challenges and to build healthy family to work and strive;

- **Sectoral dialogue on gender-responsive services:** A comprehensive planning is required for gender-responsive services for drug addicts, gender-based violence and substance abuse.
- **Community-based primary health care services:** expanding and consolidating community-based quality primary health care services for ensuring access of the poor, gradually increasing Government's role from service provider to purchaser for expanding service provision.
- **Expanding the coverage of existing health protection schemes** and adopting occupational health insurance schemes (e.g., public servants, garment workers, etc.). Improving readiness of the public service facilities, upgrading existing and creating new facilities for both quality service provision and coverage expansion. Carrying out surveys, studies, research and development work on a regular basis for bringing in improvement in the delivery and systems of health service.
- **Development of digital mHealth data management,** incremental use of IT in health services and inclusion of private sector health information in the health MIS.
- Legal reform in the health sector: adoption of laws, rules and formulation of new policies, updating existing policies, etc., for improved governance, equity and inclusiveness.

Commitments and follow up actions

- Much higher levels of public financing are needed for the health system if the country is to meet the health SDG. Specifically, it needs to make much faster progress towards universal health coverage (UHC) through strengthening

its' existing Primary health Care (PHC) system, structure and services. Due attention is required to address out of pocket expenditure, as 3.4% of the Bangladesh population is pressed into poverty due to out-of-pocket healthcare expenditures of households, which represent 64.3% of total health expenditures.

- The health sector reiterated its' commitment to take affirmative actions in respond to the emerging health sector challenges due to demographic changes, epidemiological shift-significant increase in NCD cases and deaths, rapid urbanization, adverse health impact of environment and climate change and emerging infectious diseases.
- To make health and nutrition sector more inclusive, efforts would be taken for improvements through implementing health financing strategy, health sector plans, multi-sectorial action plan for prevention and control of NCDs (2018-2025), developing innovative schemes for publicly financed health insurance and fostering public-private partnership.
- Further strengthening the Primary Health Care (PHC) system in Bangladesh including creating facility readiness with efficient use of existing human resources with appropriate skill mix and further improvement of HR, health Infrastructures, supply chain to offer quality essential services (ESP) including standards and accreditation system being introduced with appropriate accountability framework within the public sector.
- Address inequity across geography and social strata to reach underserved and marginalized populations, reduce Out of Pocket Expenditure (OPP) through increased public financing and other appropriate financing options and also the decentralization of the health system with appropriate accountability framework and undertake organizational reform in the context

of the emerging need of the population. Further strengthen and capacitate the Health Information System, expanding and use of the Human Resource Information system (HIS), eLMIS, mhealth and telemedicine services using ICT and digital technology and artificial intelligence for improved capacity at the sub-national level for data analytics and Data for Action (D4A).

- More concrete efforts are needed to enhance quality service delivery through the private sector by strengthening the regulatory capacity of the Government and enforcing of regulatory system (standards, pricing, waiver for the poor, Quality of Care, accreditation mechanism, supervision etc.)
- Address health and nutrition system institutional issues, i.e. quality assurance of health care facilities through proper accreditation system; ensuring availability of skilled human resource (HR) based on an effective and efficient Health Workforce Strategy (HWS); utilizing full capacity and potential of the existing and upgraded public facilities at the district, Upazila level as well as strengthening the community service delivery network including union level facilities and community clinics with effective referral linkages; strengthening governance, stewardship and regulatory functions; mobilizing more resources for the HPN sector efficient and effective use of budget including a proper balance between new facilities and adequacy of materials and supplies; and retaining skilled health service staff in rural areas;
- Strengthen resource allocation towards PHC system strengthening responsive to the needs of the most vulnerable and marginalized population driven by geographic locations may require health reform or transformation along with differential programming in its' service delivery system that will enable to reach all population in need of health services both in rural and urban areas.

- More engagement and prioritization of the MoHFW in environmental health and climate change issues children, women and elderly people are likely to be more affected by the environmental health hazards. Re-prioritization of public health interventions to address environmental factors and climate change to achieve national and global objectives for improved health status under the SDG agenda.
- Strengthen demand generation for the right health care interventions: Enhancing community participation in health policy formulation and decision making. Enhance population capacity in understanding importance of investment in PHC and inclusive planning considering the needs of special groups such as disabled, hard-to-reach population, poor and vulnerable.
- The private sector plays a major role in service delivery in Bangladesh. The quality and safety of health services delivered through the private sector should be enhanced by strengthening the regulatory capacity of the Government and enforcing of regulatory system.

Development partners to continue to work together and leverage diverse ideas and resources, built partnership to ensure the Bangladeshis especially the poor and most vulnerable has access to quality and affordable health services, particularly looking forward to working with the health sector in the 8FYP and reach SDGs by 2030.



Energy Security for Sustainable Growth

30 January 2020, [Carnival BICC]

Chair

H.E. Tawfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury, Hon'ble Adviser to PM (Power, Energy & Mineral Resources)

Keynote

Mr Md Anisur Rahman, Secretary, Energy and Mineral Resources Division

Panelists

Mr Monowar Islam, ndc, Chairman, Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission

Mr. Mohammad Mejbahuddin, Chairman, BDBL (Former Secretary to the Government)

Mr. Abul Mansur Md. Faizullah, ndc, Secretary, Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division

Mr Van Berkel Rene, UNIDO Representative for India and South Asia

Dr Tika Limbu, Head, Portfolio Management Unit, ADB

Mr Abdi Hamid, General Manager, ITFC, Islamic Development Bank Group

Overview and current context

Bangladesh has set targets to make electricity available for all by 2020 and be a developed country by 2041. To fulfil the target, the Government prepared the Power System Master Plan-2016 (PSMP-2016) based on a viable fuel mix of natural gas, coal, liquid fuel, nuclear and renewable energy sources.

In January 2009, power generation capacity was 4,942 MW, and the maximum generation was 3,268 MW against the demand of about 5,000 MW. Due to the huge gap between supply and demand, the population was suffering from severe load shedding ranging from 1,000 to 1,500 MW during peak hours in summer. About 43% of the total population had access to electricity, and per capita, generation was 220 kWh. The Awami League Government assumed power in 2009 and took immediate, short, medium and long-term plans to

provide electricity for all. The Government has been implementing and promoting power generation projects under the public and private sectors. The projects should pay special attention to Environmental aspects, following the Environmental Conservation Act and the implementation of the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF).

As a part of its commitment towards sustainable development following the Paris Agreement, the Government of Bangladesh prepared an Implementation Roadmap for the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to manage growing emissions without compromising economic development while allowing Bangladesh to play its role in global efforts to limit temperature rise to two degrees or less above pre-industrial levels.

Bangladesh made commitments to developing its economy on a low carbon pathway. In the NDC, the country's commitment is to reduce GHG emissions in the power, industry and transport sectors by 5% below 'business as usual' by 2030 using only domestic resources or by 15% below 'business-as-usual' by 2030 if sufficient and appropriate support is received from the international community. Bangladesh has already achieved 95% area coverage of electricity and is moving steadfastly towards ensuring access of 100% households to electricity by 2020, well ahead of the target time in 2025.



Among the main energy-saving potentials (source SREDA):

- Commercial buildings/services: Building retrofits, High COP Air Conditioning, LED lighting, occupancy & daylight sensor;
- Industrial/Manufacturing: high-efficiency machines, motors, air compressors, once-through boilers, regenerative, burners, variable speed drives, waste heat recovery, CHP, combustion controls etc.;
- Residential: LED lighting, high-efficiency water pumps, motors for fans, variable speed compressor for refrigerators and ACs, heat pumps, solar water heaters, LED backlight TVs;
- Agriculture: high-efficiency pumps, motors, solar PV pumps, variable speed drives etc.
- Transport: Fuel economy standards for ICE vehicles, public transport systems, electric mobility, etc.

The country has adopted the Energy Efficiency & Conservation Master Plan 2030, targeting to reduce by 15% the country's energy intensity (energy consumption per production value) by June 2021 and 20% primary energy per GDP by 2030 in comparison with the fiscal year 2013/14. To achieve this goal, the master plan identifies five major interventions, which are: (i) energy audit, (ii) EE&C in building (iii) home appliances EE&C star labelling (iv) EE&C finance, and (v) awareness-raising.

Key Issues and Challenges

- Environmental considerations*- one of the biggest challenges for Bangladesh is to find a balance between economic growth and to make that growth environmentally friendly and sustainable.
- Depleting natural gas reserve & volatile international fuel market*- In 2019,

dependency on domestic natural gas is 57.5%, and the reserves are depleting. Due to gas shortage, several gas-based power plants cannot run at full capacity. For this reason, the Government decided to diversify primary fuel supply for power generation projects. According to the PSMP 2016, the coal-based power plants, power trade from neighbouring countries, gas based power plants, and nuclear power plants will be used for baseload power supply, and LNG will be used to complement the gas shortage. Liquid fuel power plants will be used for peak load power supply. Bangladesh is moving towards imported fuel, which is more expensive and risky due to the volatility of the international fuel market and the cost of carrying. As a result, keeping the generation cost at a minimum/affordable level is one of the major challenges.

iii) **Reliability of Transmission and Distribution Network-** At present, Bangladesh has surplus generation. Yet due to limitation of capacity and also lack of automation in transmission and distribution network reliable power cannot be delivered throughout the country. Bangladesh faces significant outages during the peak demand hours, especially during irrigation and summer seasons. At the same time, transmission and distribution loss is around 12%, considered high compared to the regional average.

iv) **Budgetary Constraint-** Bangladesh approved some mega projects to increase transmission and distribution networks. These require financing from DPs, multilateral aid together with Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and domestic financing. A total of 4,258.36 billion BDT (51.94 billion US\$) in the public sector is required during FY 2021-25. 2,487.69 billion BDT (30.34 billion US\$) is required during FY 2026-30. As per the SDGs Needs Assessment and Financing Strategy 2017 of the GED, the Power Sector will require an additional 827,348 crore BDT (89.92 billion US\$) to attain SDG targets from 2017 to 2030. To implement Power System Master Plan 2016, during 2017-2041, an estimated investment of US\$ 127 billion, US\$ 31 billion and US\$ 35 billion is required in generation, transmission and distribution, respectively. Budget constraint is one of the major challenges to implement the plan.

v) **Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency-** Power Division has set a target to increase the share of renewable energy to 10% of total generation by 2020. Land scarcity is the main barrier to installing solar parks. Challenges lie in obtaining suitable land, difficulties in constructing evacuation lines over privately owned land, high cost of land acquisition and development etc. Furthermore, solar irradiation in Bangladesh is quite low. For the development of Waste to Energy, the main obstacle is lack of technology, high production cost/tariff and lack

of initiative from City Corporations. Wind speed in Bangladesh is low to moderate, for which the prospect of wind farms is not promising. There is no more potential for hydropower in the Hill tracts area as due to resistance of the local population, the capacity of Kaptai lake cannot be increased. For energy efficiency, the major challenges are the lack of skilled human resources, awareness, incentive and investment, and public resistance to adopt energy efficient equipment.

vi) **Land acquisition & Right of Way (RoW)-** are main hurdles to set up new power plants and substations for transmission and distribution systems. There is no provision for compensation to the affected population for the RoW except a lump sum amount for crop and infrastructures over the land.

vii) **Coal Transportation-** Bangladesh does not have yet a deep-sea port to handle the imported coal for coal-fired power plants. Bangladesh is going to construct a deep-sea port at Matarbari Island, having a channel length of 14.3km, width of 350 meter and draught 18.5 meter and a dedicated jetty for coal handling. This port facility is expected to come into operation in 2024 and will be used for the Matarbari power plant and others. High construction costs of the port and associated infrastructures i.e. road/rail network and port handling costs (O&M) are a challenge.

viii) **Human Resource Development-** There are not enough experts in certain technologically advanced fields such as: energy efficiency, smart grid and others. Human resources need to be developed.

ix) **Other Challenges-** For implementing underground distribution system projects not getting timely road cutting permission from city corporations and city development authorities is a challenge, which hinders the smooth implementation of projects.

Discussion points

The main features of the energy sector developmental strategies were expressed, which includes:

- Diversification and an efficient use of fuel;
- Diversification of financial resources: export credit agency (ECA) financing, private sector financing in Independent Power Producer (IPP) projects, joint venture projects financing, G2G financing, raising funds from capital market and bond market, use PPP model and FDI;
- Implementing system automation such as SCADA and GIS;
- Rooftop and floating solar systems;
- New sources like off-shore wind farm to be explored;

Some of the next energy sector projects were also mentioned such as: Production enhancement program, Land based LNG terminal at Materbari and Pyra, Cross border R-LNG import, India-Bangladesh friendship pipeline of petroleum, Dhaka Chattogram Petroleum pipeline, and Storage capacity enhancement program. The estimated budget for their implementation as identified by the 8 FYP is \$15 billion. The Government requested Development Partners' support aligned with Bangladesh's demands and growth aspirations.



The issue of energy market deregulation was raised.

In the discussion it was stated that to ensure energy security, it is necessary to have financial (quantity and sustainable price) as well as environmental sustainability; that energy supply should be affordable and cost effective and therefore the need for an increased engagement of the private sector. It was also pointed out that renewable energy is not as competitive as gas and requires Governmental subsidies.

System losses were also identified as a challenge for which a system upgrade is needed: 2% loss means that the system runs 3 hours a day with no economic value. According to SDG target, a 3% energy efficiency improvement a year is planned.

It was highlighted that in the long run, energy should be future-proof and therefore it needs to be decarbonized. In this context, RMG companies were mentioned as increasingly demanding homegrown solutions to carbon-neutral production.

Recommendations

- To increase diversification of fuel sources for power generation, with a priority to renewable energy sources (solar power, hydro, bio to gas, on/off shore wind power), while investing in capacity to design, install, operate, manage and maintain renewable energy based modern services, also considering regional connectivity potential (e.g. for hydropower);
- To maximize energy efficiency by prioritizing the top energy-saving potential areas of intervention (including system modernization through automation, digitalization and readiness for renewables' integration), to promote soft/low interest loans for energy efficient services

and equipment, and to implement initiatives like Building Energy & Environment Rating, in commercial, industrial and residential;

- To further unlock innovative energy finance and leverage additional private and public co-financing (loans, guarantee schemes, equity), while involving financial institutions and local banks;

Commitments and follow up actions

Diversification & Efficient use of Fuel. To ensure energy security for Bangladesh, the Government is diversifying the fuel mix for power generation. In 2030, the targeted fuel mix for Power Generation is Gas/LNG 45%, Coal 34%, Liquid Fuel 9.57%, Import 7%, Nuclear 4% and Hydro 0.43%. On the total of Renewable Energy generation, the Government targeted a 10% share of power generated by renewables by 2020, and up to 20% by 2030 (a target not yet achieved). This diversification will minimize the dependency on a single type or source of fuel. Efficient use of expensive imported fuel needs to be ensured. Therefore, higher efficiency turbine, generator and auxiliaries are to be used in the power plants. Energy efficiency for both supply side and demand side is to be maintained. Awareness on energy efficiency needs to be raised. Use of energy efficient equipment at consumer level should be promoted.



Strengthen Transmission and Distribution Networks. Many projects are being implemented to strengthen transmission and distribution networks. However, more emphasis on implementing system automation, GIS, SCADA etc., is required.

Diversifying Financial Resources. In order to mobilize additional financing Power Division will continue to explore innovative financing such as Export Credit Agency (ECA) financing, private sector financing in IPP projects, joint venture project financing, G2G financing. Power Division can also raise funds from the capital market and use the PPP model. FDI is also seen as a good option.

Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency. For installing solar parks land may be acquired and developed with evacuation facilities then the utilities may go for tariff bidding. Solar power may be imported from the neighbouring countries. Regional power/electricity trade among Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Bhutan and Myanmar is also explored to tap the hydropower potentials in these countries. In off-season excess electricity from solar irrigation systems may be supplied to the national grid. Through 'Wind Resources Mapping Project' 9 sites have been identified for wind power where wind turbine may be established through the private sector. Promoting roof top solar and off-shore wind farm is envisaged. For development of Waste to Energy projects, coordination between power sector agencies and City Corporations needs

to be strengthened. Considering the positive impact of these projects on the environment, this sector may be subsidized. Skilled manpower in the field of Energy Efficiency needs to be developed by capacity building through proper training. Intensive public awareness program on Energy Efficiency may also be taken up.

Ensuring Adequate Fuel Supply. To implement the power development plan sufficient fuel supply needs to be ensured for the plants. For its proper distribution throughout the country, necessary infrastructure such as: LNG terminal, deep sea port along with associated gas pipeline, road and railway networks needs to be constructed. Therefore, proper coordination among different Ministries must be ensured.

Strengthen Inter-agency Coordination. For land acquisition coordination among utilities, line ministry, Ministry of Land and DC office needs to be strengthened. The electricity Act may be amended or provisions in regulation may be kept so that affected people get adequate compensation for Right-of-Way for the transmission and distribution line. Coordination among the utilities, city corporations and city development authorities needs to be strengthened for getting timely permissions for road-cutting among others.

Providing local and foreign training. For human resource development local and foreign training through BPMI or other similar organizations can be provided to personnel working in the power sector.

Sustainable Cities: Services and Protection for the Vulnerable

30 January 2020, [Harmony, BICC]

Chair

H.E. S M Rezaul Karim, Honorable Minister for Housing and Public Works

Keynote

Md Shahid Ullah Khandaker, Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Public Works

Panelists

Md. Nurul Amin, Secretary, Planning Division

Engr. Md. Nurul Huda, Former Chairman, RAJUK

Ms Angelika Fleddermann, Head of German International Cooperation, GIZ

Mr Sudipto Mukerjee, UNDP Resident Representative, Bangladesh

Mr Andrew Cross, Chief Financial Officer, AIIB

Ms Ridma Khan, Director, Bangladesh Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Overview and context

Bangladesh is one of the world's fastest growing economies, driven by the country's rapid urbanization. The rapid urbanization has meant that the cities in Bangladesh are not sustainable and this session aimed at understanding how to improve service delivery mechanisms for the urban poor and vulnerable populations to ensure more inclusive and sustainable development in cities.



Discussion points

H.E SM Rezaul Karim, Minister for Housing and Public Works (MoHPW) who chaired the session, pointed out various initiatives of the Government to provide accommodation to the homeless. While Md. Shahid Ullah Khandaker, Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Public Works, presented the keynote address. Md. Shahid Ullah shared the vision and function of MoHPW about planned urbanization; safe and affordable housing linked with SDG 11. He focused on provision for services and protection for vulnerable group, the key elements of public space and the integrated approach by the ministry for sustainable development in cities.

In the panel discussion Nurul Huda, Former Rajuk Chairman, emphasized for better coordination among the relevant bodies that work for city development. As way out of the situation now prevailing in the Dhaka city he pointed out some recommendations which includes implementation of Master plan by DAP, proper use of rivers and water bodies, transfer of slums in a planned way from the metropolitan area, use of rivers and other water bodies to avoid traffic congestion, creating a provision for one stop crisis centres for city dwellers etc.

Md. Nurul Amin, Secretary, Planning Division stated that the Government of Bangladesh has taken different initiatives to reduce the pressure on urban areas including *Ashrayan* and *Guccho Gram* as well as *Amar Gram*, *Amar Shohor*. He also pointed out H.E Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's instruction in ECNEC meeting regarding urban project design to build and develop sustainable cities.

Angelika Fleddermann, Head of German International Cooperation, GIZ also called for integrated urban planning and development; creating liveable and inclusive cities and empowering cities also as development actors. Thus she put emphasis to involve the private sector and specially the vulnerable residents in the planning process. She added that vulnerable families need decent livelihood, they need low cost housing and not

spend their life in a slum. They need income opportunity thus they need life skill and market oriented training. Planning Investment must be paid under special intention to the migrants, women, child, elderly and disable persons. She also highlighted the need to ensure access to information by making an information hub for the underprivileged especially climate change migrants, to make the development initiatives more sustainable. Emphasizing that the process requires financial and other resources, Angelika urged for more private sector involvement in that aspect.

Sudipto Mukerjee, UNDP Resident Representative in Bangladesh, presented important data to understand the condition of cities to live in Bangladesh. He highlighted that by 2030, 50% of Bangladesh population would live in cities. The treatment and time cost of urban illness is about \$130 million every single year. Urban Pollution causes 28% of deaths in Bangladesh. The country waste \$6.5 billion every year for urban pollution. Dhaka's traffic constitutes a loss of almost 7% of GDP. Poverty rates in slums two and half times greater than other areas. The cost for water logging in Bangladesh will be something like in 2014/2040 to 2050 would be 13900 core BDT. If an earthquake happens 95% of the city's buildings could collapse as these are not completely complied with the RAJUK's approval. He urged learning more about the slum dwellers and their needs. Citing the joint initiative of UNDP and DFID, Livelihoods Improvement of Urban Poor Communities Project, he called for their involvement in city planning exercises.

Andrew Cross, Chief Financial Officer, AIIB said that without capital and financing it is not possible to build and develop megacities with reasonable quality of life for citizens. One of the challenges in Bangladesh is a number of savings in the country do not get the project/opportunity needed. Without good governance, without stable revenue stream, sustainable cities could not be developed. He also said about the importance of taka financing. In Asia one of the big differences between Asia and the rest of the world is that the capital market is still broadly around 3% of GDP. It's been 3-5% for the last 10-15 years. He also emphasized on bond market.

Ridma Khan, Director, Bangladesh Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said that she is in a unique position here because she represented both the private sector and one of the vulnerable groups from women. She emphasized private sector engagement. It is really important to understand that by 2050, 70% of the world population would be living in cities. She highlighted that a sustainable city is a city which is resilient to climate change like disaster. She pointed out that there is no dedicated ministries to PPPs and also lack of competent and skilled professionals dealing with this management issues. She shared examples to engage private sector for sustainable businesses or social enterprises to reduce pressure on cities.

Recommendations

Ensure effective coordination among different agencies to overcome the significant challenges in implementation of the detailed area plan for Dhaka city as well as preservation of water bodies (rivers, canals and other areas) in the city and other area of Bangladesh. Government's new intervention on Planning 'Amar Gram amar sohor' to reduce the gap between urban and rural facilities. Project for waste management in the cities needs to be initiated.



Commitments and follow up actions

H.E. S M Rezaul Karim, Honorable Minister for Housing and Public Works highlighted that the BDF is a unique platform for effective dialogues among Government, development partners, national and international NGOs, development think-tanks, development practitioners, leaders from business and industrial sectors. It creates an opportunity for building the partnership among the stakeholders in policy formulation, identifying implementation challenges and mobilizing required resources. He mentioned that the Ministry of Housing and Public Works is playing significant role to ensure sustainable urbanization for achieving high-income country by the year 2041.

Market based training for employment, integrated planning and development to ensure inclusive cities. She pointed out that the city authorities should have clear mandate of planning and its implementation.

Making the cities safe accessible to all, pollution and traffic congestion in the mega city Dhaka, impact of Climate change and climate refugees in future, high cost of living, waterlogging in cities, and others issues for sustainable cities for living.

Infrastructure investment to support rapid growth in cities as a consequence of climate change. Financing from bond markets would be a good option for developing mega cities. Engaging the private sector in formulation of Master Plan, as well as for mobilizing finance, air quality management and other relevant aspects of city development.

Green economic growth for the city development is highly critical at the current backdrop of climate change. Active involvement of private sector in this endeavour and proper legal framework for PPP investment needs to be in place.

4.8 Quality Education for All: Preparing for 4th Industrial Revolution

Quality Education for All: Preparing for 4th Industrial Revolution

30 January 2020, [Carnival, BICC]

Chair

Dr Dipu Moni, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Education

Keynote

Mr Md Mahub Hossain, Secretary, Secondary and Higher Education Division

Panelists

Dr Hans Lambrecht, Team Leader Education & Human Development, EU

Mr Tomoo Hozumi, UNICEF Representative

Mr Munshi Shahabuddin Ahmed, Secretary, Technical & Madrasah Education Division

Mr Akram-Al-Hossain, Secretary, Ministry of Primary and Mass Education

Ms Rasheda K Choudhury, CAMPE

Overview

Bangladesh economy saw sustained and impressive economic growth, and the country aspires to reach the stage of a developed economy by 2041. The economy is becoming an industry and service-driven with increasing technological progress. Firms need highly skilled manpower. Equipping the youths with the right skills for accessing job markets is crucial for the nation to stay on course for the needed prosperity and growth.

In the arena of education, Bangladesh stands out for its achievement in expanding educational opportunities at primary, secondary and tertiary levels.



Current context

Bangladesh has a conducive political, policy and programme environment for education reform. Under the aegis of SDG4, Vision 2021 and 2041, and Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100, the Ministry of Education (MoE) has been implementing its all development agenda. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2010 provides the framework for harnessing the education system to the nation's human resource development priorities. The 7th Five-Year Plan (2016-2020) recognizes the integral role of human resource development in pursuit of a prosperous nation and will advocate measures to ensure that development is indeed inclusive. This objective fits in well with the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4 that focuses on ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities. MoE is committed to the SDG 4.1 target of enabling all children to complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education, leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes. The ongoing endeavours would be continued during the next plans.

The country is now nearing universal access to primary education. The Gross Enrolment Rate (GER) was 114.23% in 2018. The Net Enrolment Rate (NER) reached 97.85% in 2018. The primary education cycle completion rate rose to 81.40% in 2018. Gender equity was well attained at primary level.

Between 2000 and 2018, secondary gross enrolment rate (GER) increased from 52% to 75.32% (Boys: 82.50% and Girls: 82.50%). Gender equity is well attained in enrolment. In 2018, the secondary education cycle completion rate was 62.38% (Boys: 63.99% and Girls: 58.81%). Student enrolment in higher education tripled from 1.3 million in 2004 to about 4 million in 2014. The secondary education sector is dominated by non-Government schools, which enrol more than 95% of secondary and higher secondary students. The secondary sub-sector supports more than 12 million students in grades 6-12 across 20,300 general schools and 9,400 madrasahs with more than 2 million students. Government and non-Government schools and madrasahs receive public funds for teacher's salaries in the form of Monthly Pay Orders (MPOs), free textbooks and stipends and tuition to disadvantaged students, particularly female students in rural schools.

Key issues and challenges

Despite being close to universal access to primary education, quality assurance in primary education remains a big challenge. Ministry of Primary and Mass Education (MOPME), the responsible ministry for pre-primary (1-year) and education (grades 1-5, both formal and non-formal), has set all of its development agenda's, connected to SDGs, Vision 2021, Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100 and is implementing various interventions. In this endeavour, a 4th Sector Wide Approach (SWAp), titled Primary Education Development Programme 4 (PEDP-4), is being implemented. The programme is organized around three major components, which are: (i) Quality Teaching-Learning; (ii) Access and Participation; and (iii) Management, Governance and Finance. Besides, some discrete projects are also undertaken by MOPME to address Stipend for Primary Students, School Feeding Programme, Preparing Primary Students' Profile as part of CRVS, etc.

Similarly, given the need to further harmonize across the programs and agencies of the Secondary Education sub-sector, MoE has introduced a SWAp, titled Secondary Education Development Program (SEDP), on a pilot basis. All the programs/schemes/activities under the SWAp will be organized around three critical areas: (i) improved quality; (ii) Increased quantity; and (iii) Increased efficiency. MoE has been implementing a series of development interventions, e.g. pro-poor stipend, facilities development in underserved areas, institution performance grants, creating flexible learning pathways among the types of schools, improved teaching-learning in English, mathematics and science, and reading habit development, advanced teaching-learning using ICT and updated science equipment, data-driven quality and access monitoring and evaluation, and enhanced competency-based teacher development. MoE will continue to focus on improving governance, management and planning, Education Management Information System (EMIS) data and Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) to administer, manage, monitor, analyse and report for a strengthened education system.

Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) plays very crucial role in the development of human resources and economic emancipation of a country. With continuous efforts of the Technical and Madrasah Education Division (TMED), the enrolment in the TVET stream has increased significantly. It is expected that TVET enrolment will reach 20% by 2020 and 30% by 2030.

Technical education institutes (TEIs) are struggling to produce employable graduates for the job market. Private universities established under the Private University Act have largely supplemented the overly crowded public universities. Access to tertiary education is not equitable across gender and income groups, with females and students from poor families at a disadvantage. The female share of enrolments across the TEIs stood at around 38% in Bangladesh, which needs to be increased.

Participation in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) is to be increased. There are lacunas in the area of teaching and learning facilities. Student-teacher ratios are generally high across the TEIs. The absence and inadequacy of proper classroom facilities hinders the delivery of lectures, making teaching and learning less effective. The limited supply of qualified teachers is another area of challenge in tertiary level education.

The potentials of industry collaboration and private sector participation in promoting research and development (R&D) work and supporting the commercialization of research output is yet to be fully explored and utilized (in particular in the fields of medicine and agriculture).

Nevertheless, noteworthy progress has been made in pursuing the quality assurance agenda in higher education through the passing of the Bangladesh Accreditation Council Act in 2017. The Office of the Bangladesh Accreditation Council (BAC) has been established. The University Grant Commission (UGC) has established a Quality Assurance Unit, which has set up Institutional Quality Assurance Cell (IQACs) in public





and private universities. IQACs have initiated Self-Assessment (SA) exercise in university departments and institutes. The UGC has prepared a 13-year Strategic Plan for Higher Education in Bangladesh, SPHE 2018-2030, to raise the standard of higher education of the country. Under this plan, all universities will prepare their respective strategic plans.

Discussion points

Priority areas for interventions and investment are already identified. The broad areas for investment will mainly focus on: (a) Access and equity; (b) Quality and relevance; (c) research and development; (d) governance and management. The following priority interventions are recommended:

1. Investing in more and better-trained teachers at all levels of the education system through a more supple recruitment system with the needed incentives and strengthening e-learning opportunities.
2. Adapt to the 4th Industrial Revolution by increasing public R&D expenditure and build capacity, with

a strong emphasis on digitalization. Need for evidence-based informed policy, which requires research and better data.

3. Preparing for the 4th Industrial Revolution requires an important investment in the education sector overall that should be reflected in an increased budget allocation, in line with the Education 2030 Incheon Declaration. Continued support through ODA to address the financing gap is also required, in particular for Education in Emergencies.
4. Mainstreaming TVET/skills development and steps towards Life-Long Learning and leverage the demographic dividend.
5. More involvement of the private sector to address the skills gaps and the current skills mismatches in the labour market. Potentials of industry collaboration and private sector participation in promoting research is to be further explored.
6. Promote a comprehensive approach to curriculum development and a seamless transition between the different levels. Further pursue the currently ongoing curriculum revisions at primary and secondary level and make the link with tertiary.
7. Stronger investment in STEM but also STEAM (STEM + Arts & Humanities). Non-cognitive skills should be integrated into the curriculum at all levels.
8. Quality Early Childhood Development to be universalized.
9. Ensuring schools as a platform for holistic school health and nutrition interventions, including school feeding.
10. National education assessment systems are being changed and will be further expanded. More formative and less summative assessment. Lessen the burden of exams so that students learn with joy.
11. Expanding poverty-targeted scholarship and tuition support for students to encourage low-income secondary school graduates, especially girls.

Recommendation

Focus on Quality: Focus on quality at different levels is needed. The education system needs to bring children and young people to school to learn. Relevant curriculum (e.g. integration of non-cognitive skills, focus on problem-solving skills, critical thinking, etc.) and trained teachers are critical, and continued assessment (both summative and formative) needs to be organized. The National Student Assessments (NSAs) show that overall performance remains low and that significant differences exist between the rural and urban areas. International evidence shows that investment in early childhood education and teacher development gives good results. To get quality teachers, continuous training, peer-to-peer follow-up and constant support at different levels are needed. But most importantly, Bangladesh urgently needs to set up pre-service teacher training.

Financing: Increase of the resources going to education compared to other middle-income countries. Bangladesh only allocates 2.1% of the GDP to the education sector, which is much lower than the regional average. Out-of-pocket investments of households for education are getting higher, which endangers equal access to quality education.

Skills for the 4th Industrial Revolution: Highly adaptable workers are needed for a stronger and more diversified economy. Basic skills remain critical but also job-specific skills as well as social and emotional skills. In order for the education system to deliver on this and to ensure more and better decent jobs, improved coordination is needed in the TVET and skills development sector with strong involvement of all social partners, including the private sector and the trade unions.



Commitments and follow up action

- By 2030, all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes;
- By 2030, all women and men have equal access to affordable and quality technical, Vocational and tertiary education, including university;
- By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship; and
- By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equity, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and culture's contribution to sustainable development.



Effective partnership for implementing the 8FYP aiming towards achieving SDGs

Keynote Presenter



Dr. Shamsul Alam

State Minister
Planning Ministry
(Former Senior Secretary and Member, GED)

Dr. Shamsul Alam is a Bangladeshi economist, and the current State Minister of Planning of Bangladesh since 19 July 2021. He worked as a member of General Economics Division (GED) of the Bangladesh Planning Commission from 2009 until 30 June 2021. During this tenure he led the preparation of National Planning Documents including Sixth Five Year Plan FY2011-FY 15; Revised Accelerated Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper II (FY09-FY11) entitled, 'Steps Towards Change'; 'Perspective Plan of Bangladesh 2010-21 Making Vision 2021 a Reality'; National Sustainable Development Strategy (2011-2021) and First & Second Implementation Review of the Sixth Five Year Plan. He led the preparation of the Bangladesh National Social Security Strategy (2015-2025), the Seventh Five Year Plan (FY 2016-FY2020) and Eighth Five Year Plan (FY 2021-FY2025).

Annex Presentations along with the biographies of the presenters

Bangladesh Development Forum 2020
Effective Partnership for Implementation of 8th Five Year Plan towards Achieving SDGs

Dr. Shamsul Alam
Member (Senior Secretary)
General Economics Division (GED)
Bangladesh Planning Commission
Ministry of Planning

Introduction

- The need for **multi stakeholder partnership** for mobilizing resources, transferring technology, sharing knowledge to fully materialize the agenda 2030 as of Goal 17 where revitalizing the Global partnership for sustainable development was emphasized.
- Political leaders were passionate about SDGs, underpinned by the success in MDGs.
- Election Manifesto
- BDP2100

Promoting Prosperity Fostering Inclusiveness

Happy and Prosperous nation

A welfare state where everyone can have a decent standard of living and enjoy the social, economic, political, cultural and human rights

Vision and objectives of the eighth plan

- Building infrastructure of similar level of upper middle income economy,
- Reducing moderate poverty to 12 percent and extreme poverty to 5 percent,
- Graduation from LDC to developing country by 2024
- Leaving no one behind

Effective Partnership

- The government must resort to the collective action where private sector will take the lead role
- A large part of underlying partnership will come through in the form of investment and trade by North-South, South-South, regional and international cooperation

Two parts of implementing the plan

Hard part- investment in infrastructure, education, health, poverty reduction-those generally entail sizable cost

Soft part- capacity of institutions, reforms in the functionality of administrative, legal, judicial, social, economic and political institutions

Background

- Bangladesh integrated well Agenda 2030 into the national development plan at the early stage.
- Over the last decade, Bangladesh was one of the fastest growing economies with an **average growth rate of 6.75**.
- During this period, the poverty rate came down to **20.5 percent** in 2019 from 31.5 percent in 2010, extreme poverty to **10.5 percent** from 17.6 in 2010.
- The government is now set to drive the economy at new level by investing heavily on **mega infrastructure** and establishing economic zones for foreign direct investment.

Background (Contd.)

- Bangladesh crossed the bar to **lower middle income country status** in July 2015 as per World Bank classification
- Bangladesh for the first time has been eligible to **graduate from Least Developed Country (LDC)** status by fulfilling all three criteria-per capita income, human asset index and economic vulnerability index
- Bangladesh is expected to be a developing country to be effective from 2024

Major Strategies

Rapid rural transformation

'My Village-My Town'-extension of modern civic amenities to every village

Partnership with government and private sector in entrepreneurship development, between government and NGOs, Development Partners in investing in human capital

Boosting savings investments

overall investment of 77,418 billion BDT during the plan period (private sector will contribute to 76 percent)

Projection of investment in the 8th plan period

Fiscal Year	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25
	(As % of GDP)					
Gross National Savings	30.8	31.8	32.9	33.9	35.0	36.2
Gross Investment	32.8	33.6	34.5	35.3	36.2	37.2
Public Investment	8.2	8.4	8.5	8.7	8.9	9.0
Private Investment	24.5	25.2	25.9	26.6	27.3	28.2
Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)	1.0	1.2	1.4	1.6	1.8	2.0
Domestic Investment	23.5	24.0	24.5	25.0	25.5	26.2
Investment (In Billion Taka)	9580	10117	10308	15134	17581	20494

Background (Contd.)

PERSPECTIVE PLAN OF BANGLADESH 2021-2041

Rapid Inclusive and Sustainable Growth for Shared Prosperity

- The government has adopted Vision 2041 that is a continuation of Vision 2021 and seeks to take the nation to the development path dreamt by Bangabandhu
- Vision 2041 seeks to eliminate extreme poverty and reach **Upper Middle-Income Country (UMIC)** status by 2031, and **Prosperous Country status** by 2041 with per capita income of over \$12500 in today's price.
- Perspective Plan for 2021-2041 (PP2041)** translates Vision 2041 into a development strategy, with policies and programmes

8th Five Year Plan

Guiding principles of the 8th plan

- the second Perspective Plan 2021-2041
- the election manifesto of the ruling Awami League
- SDGs as the integral part

	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25
Poverty (ratio)	16.36	15.00	13.76	12.61	11.54
Extreme poverty	7.57	6.76	6.02	5.37	4.78

8th Five Year Plan Projection

Major Strategies

Harnessing the potential of young generation

	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25
Labor Force (total in million)	67.1	68.8	70.5	72.3	74.1
Labor Force growth (%)	2.28	2.28	2.28	2.28	2.28
Overseas Employment	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Employment growth rate (%)	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3
Job Creation (Domestic in ml)	1.59	1.64	1.68	1.73	1.79
Macroeconomic Framework, 8th Five Year Plan Projection	2.23	2.29			
Unemployment rate (%)	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1

Major Strategies

Consolidating effort for revenue mobilization

Massive changes across institutions engaging in revenue collection, law enforcing agencies and the mindset of the mass people

Big push for rapid implementation of mega infrastructure

Sizable level of investment in infrastructure which resembles to that of upper middle income economy

Eradicating poverty and reducing regional disparity

Renewed emphasis on minimizing regional inequality through not just social safety net but scaling up investment in health, education, physical infrastructure, establishing economic zones in lagging regions.

Major Strategies (Contd.)

Supporting SME development

Contribution of SME to employment in lower middle income economy is estimated to be around 68 percent

Income Group	Contribution (%)
High Income	~55
Lower Middle	~68
Upper Middle	~55

Promoting modern and sustainable agriculture for nutrition for all
Address the gap in issues related to nutrition, food security, production sustainability and impact of climate change on agriculture

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Major Strategies (Contd.)

Focusing quality education

achievement is literally limited to gender parity in primary and secondary education, adult literacy rate

Ensuring power and energy security

Major steps undertaken in ensuring uninterrupted supply of power to the household, use of agriculture and industry

To ensure basic health care and sufficient nutrition services to all for better quality life

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Role of private sector

- Investment and growth in the plan period will be mostly driven by the private sector.

Fiscal Year	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25
Private Investment	24.5	25.2	25.9	26.6	27.3	28.2

Strengthening the Role of NGOs
NGOs are heavily concentrated in following sectors relating to human development:

- (1) Health, Nutrition and Population; (2) Education; (3) Water, Sanitation and Hygiene; (4) Skill Development; (5) Disaster, Environment and Climate Change; (6) Rural Development; (7) Urban Development; (8) Agriculture and Food Security; (9) Gender Justice and Women Empowerment; and (10) Poverty eradication; (11) Uplifting the marginalized and the most disadvantaged.

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Role of Development Partners (DPs)

- Continue and upgrade support to Policy Reforms and Implementation;
- Strengthen the role of DPs for localization of SDGs realigning their country strategies with enhanced fund provisions;
- Scale up investment in health and education sector (Supply side intervention);
- Reinforce the action for building resilience against climate change and disaster and helping implement BDP 2100;
- Enhance support to capacity building and sustainability;
- Promote actions that have lasting impact on the societal progress-particularly human development;
- Ensure that their assistance strategy and programmes are fully consistent with the GoB strategies;
- Facilitate foreign direct investment to contribute to employment, growth and poverty reduction.
- Finance critical investment projects of the Delta Plan

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Major Strategies (Contd.)

Empowering ethnic minorities, the marginalized and the disabilities

In line with impulse of SDGs – “leave no one behind”

Encouraging women empowerment

Zero tolerance policy against rape, sexual harassment, abuse, human trafficking

Multiple approach for Women empowerment

Managing urban transformation through

Polycentric decentralized development, better utilization of land resources, mitigating increased demand for housing and urban services, protecting, preserving and improving the urban environment

GED: Making Growth Work for the Poor 15

Major Strategies (Contd.)

Tackling climate change, managing disaster and protecting environment

In compliance to *Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100*, fund will be mobilized to undertake more programs in climate change adaptation and mitigation

Zero tolerance policy against corruption

Empowering local government and decentralization

The role of the local government will be pivotal in transforming the lives of rural people

Emphasis on harnessing the potential of young generation.

Emphasis on SME. Formal SME contributes up to 45% of total employment, up to 33% of GDP

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THANK YOU ALL

Recent progress in Partnerships for the goals

Remittance is bouncing back to its peak

Fiscal Year	Remittance (US\$)
FY20	12.0
FY21	12.7
FY22	12.8
FY23	14.5
FY24	15.3
FY25	15.8

Both ODA and FDI surged in the last couple of years

ODA and FDI during the last decade

Fiscal Year	ODA (US\$)	FDI (US\$)
FY10	2.2	0.8
FY11	1.8	0.8
FY12	2.1	1.2
FY13	2.8	1.7
FY14	3.3	1.9
FY15	3.4	2.0
FY16	3.5	2.5
FY17	4.1	2.5
FY18	6.1	2.6
FY19	6.3	3.8

GED: Making Growth Work for the Poor 17

Fiscal operation of the government, FY2020-2025

Fiscal Year	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25
Fiscal Sector Indicators	Projections (% of GED)					
Revenue and Grants	10.75	11.85	13.06	14.19	15.26	16.35
Total Revenue	10.60	11.70	12.92	14.05	15.12	16.21
Tax Revenue	9.30	10.20	11.20	12.20	13.20	14.20
Grants	0.15	0.145	0.14	0.138	0.136	0.135
Total Expenditure	15.57	16.75	18.06	19.30	20.40	21.52
Non-Development Expenditure including net lending	9.42	10.02	11.18	12.30	13.35	14.42
Development Expenditure	6.15	6.73	6.88	7.00	7.05	7.10

Tax effort may be increased further by 2 or 3 percent of GDP through invoking appropriate policies including the policy of progressive taxation

GED: Making Growth Work for the Poor 18

1. Private Sector Engagement and Trade Facilitation

Keynote Presenter



Mr. Md. Sirazul Islam

Executive Chairman
Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA)

Mr. Md. Sirazul Islam has been appointed the Executive Chairman of Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA) on September 4, 2019. A retired secretary, he has been appointed to the position for three years. He spent several years working in the Election Commission Secretariat, first as Additional Secretary and then as Secretary, until October, 2016. He was then appointed Secretary at the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare — a position he held before going into retirement in October, 2017. He has worked in many other vital roles including at the Ministry of Education (1988, 2008, 2010-2011), Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge Authority (2003-2007), Tariff Commission (1994-1997) and at the Ministry of Home Affairs (1992-1993).

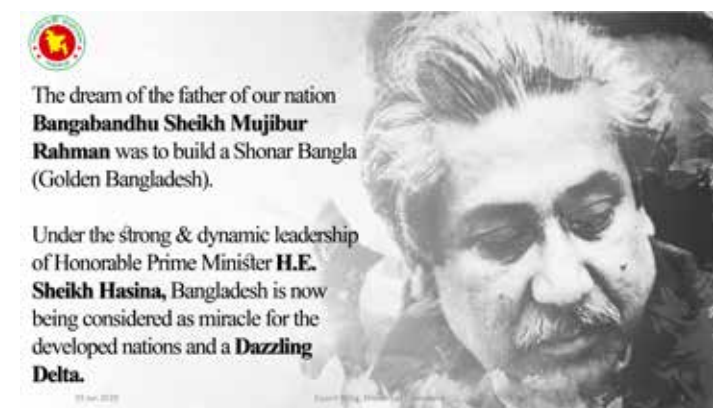


Dr. Md. Jafar Uddin

Former Senior Secretary
Ministry of Commerce

Dr Md Jafar Uddin served as the Secretary to the Ministry of Commerce from April 2019 to June 2021. He was promoted as senior secretary in April 2021. Prior to becoming the secretary of ministry of commerce Mr. Jafar also served as the secretary to the Ministry of Youth and Sports from February 26, 2019 to September 16, 2019. Earlier, Dr Jafar served as the additional secretary (budget and macro economy) to the Finance Division. Currently he is serving as the CEO of Bangladesh Foreign Trade Institute (BFTI), a non-profit research and training institution, parented by the ministry of commerce.

Presentation



Progress (3)

- Export Readiness Fund, Technology Development Fund and Green Fund
- Compliance and Implementation of Due diligence in factories and Establishments (Amendment of labor Law, EPZ labor Act, Modernization of labor Court, Trade Union Registration, Strengthening Dept. of Inspection and Factories Establishment & Fire Service, and Oversight of BGMEA/BKMEA)
- Rank in the Doing Business Index (168 From 176)**
- Graduation from LDC status (By 2024)**



Opportunities

Goal	FY 2019	Vision 2021	Vision 2041
GDP (Billion USD)	302.43	335	2,580
GDP (Growth Rate)	8.15	8.2	9.9
GDP Per Capita (USD)	1,909	2,140	16,994
Export (Billion USD)	46.87	60	100
FDI (Billion USD)	3.9	9.56	153
Private Investment as % of GDP	23.0	24.0	33.9

- ### Challenges
- Removal of DFQF upon Graduation from LDC
 - Regular Time Release Survey (time reduced for Goods clearance at port)**
 - Fully functional National Single Window in the National Board of Revenue
 - Diversification of export product basket
 - Transport Facilitation and coordination between border agencies
 - Formulation of Comprehensive Trade Policy
 - Institutional Capacity Development
 - Commitment of the Development Partners for timely implementation of T.F. measures



- ### Trade Facilitation Agreement Implementation Status
- According to the provision of TFA Ministry of Commerce finalized Category A, Category B and Category C measures for trade facilitation
 - Category A:** 21 sub measures - already implemented by February 2018.
 - Category B:** 19 sub measures - to be implemented from February 2020 to February 2022.
 - Category C:** 13 sub measures - to be implemented upon receipt of capacity building support from Development Partners. [List of Categories A B C.docx](#)

- ### Assistance Needed
- Category C** measures (e.g. establishment of enquiry point, test procedures, risk-management, post-clearance audit, authorized operators, expedited shipment, clearance of perishable goods, border agency cooperation, single window, some aspect of transit). [List of Category C.docx](#)
 - Integrated Transport Modality and logistic support enabling environment for enhanced investment and export
 - Post LDC benefit for export sector

- ### Assistance Needed (2)
- Time release Survey reports can be produced for all border clearance on regular basis by the National Single Window
 - Capacity Development of Other Government Agencies (BSTI, Quarantine, Fisheries and Livestock, Port Authorities and numerous license issuing agencies apart Ministry of Commerce and National Board of Revenue)
 - Strengthening private sector to regulate with the automation of government agencies and modernization of customs procedures

Investment Climate of Bangladesh

- Secured by law against nationalization and expropriation
- Local and Foreign investments are given equal treatment
- 100% foreign equity is allowed along with unrestricted exit
- Almost all industrial sectors are open for foreign investors
- Bilateral Investment treaties (BITs) signed with 32 countries
- Double taxation treaties with 28 countries including UK
- All laws, regulations are conducive to investment**

Competitive Edge of Bangladesh in Investment

- Export Oriented** ▶ Abundance of competitive work-force, Lowest Wage in Asia, Duty Free Market Access, Bond Facilities, EZs/EPZs
- Consumer Market/ Finance** ▶ Population of more than 160 Million, along with 3 billion regional market with Young and Brand Conscious Consumers
- Infrastructure/ Energy** ▶ Number of Mega Projects, Volume of ODA, external finance
- Start-Ups / IT** ▶ High Mobile Density, Internet Density, Tech Savvy Young Generation, Digital Bangladesh Policy

“As we (Bangladesh) strive to materialize the goals of **‘Vision 2021’** and **‘Vision 2041’**, I request the international investors and entrepreneurs to partner with us in investment, trade, profit sharing and prosperity.”

Her Excellency Sheikh Hasina
Hon'ble Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
05/06/2016, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

2. Partnership for Climate Change and its Financing

Keynote Presenter



Mr. Ziaul Hasan

ndc, Secretary
Ministry of Science and Technology
(Former Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change)

Mr. Ziaul Hasan ndc took up his responsibilities as Secretary in the Ministry of Science and Technology on 6 July 2021. Immediately before this assignment, he had served as Secretary in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) from 09 January 2020 to 6 July 2021. Earlier he had served as Chairman of Bangladesh Space Research and Remote Sensing Organization (SPARRSO). Ziaul Hasan ndc belongs to 8th Batch of Bangladesh Civil Service Administration Cadre. He joined in December 1989 as a Probationary Assistant Commissioner at Deputy Commissioner's Office in Gopalganj. In successive period he served in a wide range of responsibilities

Presentation

Concept Note On Partnership for Climate Change and its Financing

Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change(lead)
and
Ministry of Water Resources (co-lead)

PRESENTED
BY
ZIAUL HASAN ndc
Secretary
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
Government of Bangladesh

Slides to Follow

- Climate change and Vulnerability of Bangladesh to its Impact
- Bangladesh Initiatives due to climate change
 - Policy Response
 - Present Interventions
- Climate Financing
 - National Budget
 - Bangladesh Climate Change Trust Fund (BCCTF)
 - International Support
 - Future Plan
- Challenges and Way Forward

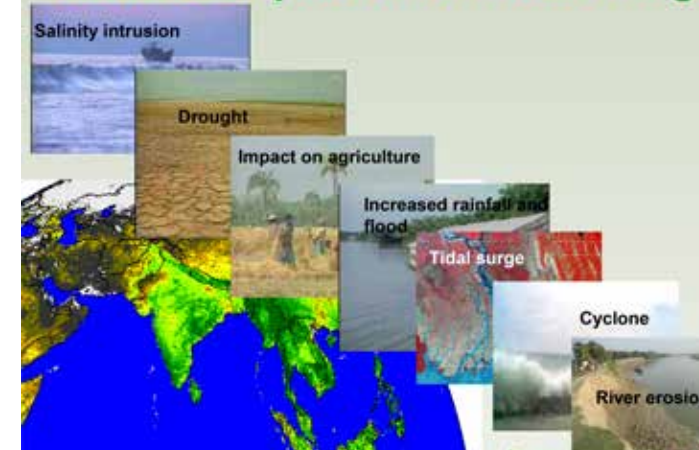
Impacts of Climate change

- Human activities are estimated to have caused approximately 1.0°C of global warming above pre-industrial levels, with a likely range of 0.8°C to 1.2°C. Global warming is likely to reach 1.5°C between 2030 and 2052 if it continues to increase at the current rate (high confidence) (IPCC Special Report on 1.5° C).
- By the end of the century the max temp are projected to increase by 2 to 2.5 deg Celsius by RCP(Representative concentration pathway) 4.5 scenario, while it will be 4 deg C RCP 8.5.

Climate change and Bangladesh vulnerability

- According to German watch Bangladesh is the 9th most affected countries in the Climate Risk Index of 2017; while Bangladesh is ranked as the 7th most affected countries in the long term (1998 to 2017).
- According to recent study of DoE conducted by consultant of BUET, IWM and CEGIS, it has been found that the overall trend in the coastal zone in the last 30 years has been 6-21 mm/year which is much higher than IPCC findings of 3.2 (2.8-3.6) mm/year.
- Life and livelihood of around 42 million people of 70 Upuzilla of 19 Coastal Districts is predicted to be at stake due to sea level rise if the trend continues in the future.

Adverse Impact of Climate Change



Coastal Vulnerability of Bangladesh

Assessment of Sea Level Rise on Bangladesh Coast through Trend Analysis



Water level trends for the Ganges, Meghna and Chittagong coastal sub zone of Bangladesh based on the data of last 30 years

Policy Response at National Level

- Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (BCCSAP), 2009; (undergoing update)
- Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC), 2015
- NDC Implementation Road Map, 2018 and Mitigation Action Plans in Power, Industry and Transport sectors
- Formulation of National Adaptation Plan (NAP)
- Country Investment Plan for environment, forest and climate change(2016-2021)
- Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100
- Bangladesh water act 2013
- Disaster Management Act, 2012
- National Disaster Management Policy
- Standing Order on Disaster(SOD)

Additional Initiatives related to climate change adaptation and mitigation

- Sustainable Forests and livelihoods (SUFAL) project- project cost US\$ 180 million supported by World Bank
- Coastal Embankment Improvement Project Phase-1 (CEIP-1) Project cost 400million USD supported by World Bank climate Investment Fund
- Blue Gold Program for Water Management and Environmental Development. Project Cost: 80 million USD supported by theNetherlands
- Re-excavation of small rivers, khals and water bodies in 64 districts (1st phase).Project Cost: 268 million USD
- Basin Wise Water Resources Management
- Flood Forecasting Activities

Future Plan

- Bangladesh has taken steps to strengthen all embankments by raising height and widening crest in coastal region and international funding is required to expedite it to save people and property due to climate change
- Implementation of climate relevant projects in Bangladesh delta plan 2100 . It needs to invest 36 billion USD for 34 projects in coming days.
- Bangladesh has a plan to build climate resilient city to accommodate climate induced migrated people from coastal and river eroded areas.

Challenges and way forward

- Resources from UNFCCC process is far from adequate
- The process to access resources through UNFCCC process – GCF, LDC Fund and Global Environment Facility(GEF) is cumbersome and time consuming.
- Lack of adequate resources to implement NDC Implementation roadmap including 3 sectoral mitigation action plans and BDP2100 .
- Lack of Institutional and technical capacity to adapt and mitigate climate change
- Lack of efficient and low cost technology related to adaptation and mitigation due to climate change.
- Impact on health due to climate change. Institutional capacity has to be developed in this regard.

Climate financing

- Bangladesh adopted Climate Fiscal Framework (CFF) in 2014 .
- The cumulative climate budget allocation for five years from FY 2015-2016 to FY 2019-2020 of 25 Ministries/Division accounts for 10.40 billion USD.

Bangladesh climate change trust fund

- Bangladesh has established a climate change trust fund in 2009 . Since then, about 450 million USD has been allocated from Government's own budget
- 720 adaptation and mitigation projects have been taken by this fund.
- Innovative works are: Established 9529 cyclone resilient low cost houses at Aila and Sidr affected coastal areas.
- Introduced the technology of floating bed agricultural system at the water logged areas in the country
- Different stress tolerant rice and crop varieties have been introduced in saline, drought and flood prone areas of our country.

Challenges and way forward (cont..)

- Food security due to climate change is a challenge in Bangladesh. Necessary preparation is required at this issue.
- Internal displacement in urban areas due to Sea Level rise along with tropical cyclone, storm surges, river flooding and river bank erosion is major concern in Bangladesh.
- Being a densely populated country, it is a big challenge to achieve forest cover target to 18% from existing 14.5%.
- Recent Influx of Rohingya Refugees from Myanmar is putting tremendous pressure on forest, ecosystem and biodiversity in Ukhia and Teknaf , Cox'sbazar.

Challenges and way forward (cont..)

- Effective implementation of initiatives undertaken under the UNFCCC. As COP25 and previous COP decision, Developed countries need to fulfill their commitment to mobilize 100 billion USD every year to address the needs of developing countries for meaningful mitigation actions .
- Strengthen bilateral and multilateral collaboration with development partners to implement adaptation and mitigation activities identified under the NDC Implementation Roadmap and BCCSAP 2009, BDP 2100.
- Encourage private sector engagement particularly in mitigation activities to achieve Paris agreement goal.

International Funding

Bangladesh has accessed financial resources from the following funds:

- Least Developed Countries (LDC) Fund - US\$ 28.47 million for 5 projects;
- Green Climate Fund (GCF) - US\$ 95 million for 4 projects;
- Adaptation Fund (AF)- US\$ 9.9 million for one project
- Bangladesh Climate Change Resilience Fund (BCCRF) - US\$82 million for 5 projects.
- Global Environmental Facility(GEF)- US\$ 160.82 million for 43 national and regional projects;
- JICA -Construction of Dhaka Mass Transit Development project (line 6) - 2000 million US\$.
- Asian Development Bank : Coastal Towns Infrastructure Improvement Project (project cost 30 million US\$) and Coastal Climate Resilient Infrastructure project (project cost million US\$)

Future Plan

- Implementation of National determined contribution roadmap and action plan in different sectors . Investment needed is 68.5 billion USD.
- Existing Forest cover is 14.5% in the country. To achieve SDG target to 18% By 2030,several projects are under going But further investment of 1.8 billion USD is required .
- Bangladesh takes initiative to stabilize/channelize the big rivers providing room for the rivers to harvest all economic potentials of the rivers and manage erratic behavior of flood.

3. Innovative Financing for a Self-reliant Bangladesh

Keynote Presenter



Mr. Monowar Ahmed
Former Secretary
Economic Relations Division

Mr. Monowar Ahmed joined the Bangladesh Administrative Service in 1986 and worked in different Ministries/Divisions such as Cabinet Division, M/o Public Administration, M/o Local Government and Cooperatives in various capacities. Mr. Ahmed was graduated in Economics from the Jahangir Nagar University in 1983. Later he received Master's degree in Administrative Science from the German University of Administrative Sciences, Speyer, Germany in 1998. He served as the Secretary to the Economic Relations Division, Ministry of Finance, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh from October 2018 to February 2020. Currently he is serving as the National Project Manager of the "Support to Sustainable Graduation Project" undertaken by ERD.

Presentation



7th FYP: Financing Framework

	(in US \$ Billions)		
	Total	Public	Private
Total Investment	409.01	92.98 (22.73%)	316.03 (77.27%)
Domestic Resources	369.88 (90.43%)	81.85 (22.13%)	288.03 (77.87%)
External Resources	39.12 (9.56%)	11.12 (28.43%)	28.00 (71.57%)



Potential financing sources

Domestic Finance

- Tax and Non-Tax Revenue
- Borrowing
- Bond market
- Capital market
- Private investment
- Public-private Partnership
- Impact investment fund, CSR fund
- Climate finance, green finance
- Venture capital, cooperative funds

External Finance

- ODA
- Borrowing from DPs
- Non-traditional Donors- South-South Cooperation
- energy bonds, climate fund
- Private sector borrowing
- FDI and PPP
- Diaspora Bond
- remittances
- International Capital Market- Sovereign Bond

Strategy for Development Financing

- Efficiency and Effectiveness
 - Increasing tax revenues through widening tax base and improving management
 - Addressing Illicit Financial Flows
- Strategic Resource Allocation
 - Human capital development with skill set for the 4th industrial Revolution
 - Maximizing the benefits of Financial Inclusion
- Greater Leverage on Private Sector
 - Mobilizing private sector financed to address risks, use guarantees and risk sharing instruments
 - Mobilization of new private financing instruments finance, GDP-linked bonds, SDG-linked bonds
 - Improving sovereign credit ratings, Export Credit Agency country ratings

Key Challenges and Way forward

Area/Flow	Challenges	Way Forward
1. Public Expenditure and National Priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allocative efficiency among sectors • Performances of SoEs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving strategic resource allocation • Strengthening links between planning and budgeting processes • Enhancing operational efficiency in SoEs
2. Revenue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government revenue to GDP ratio is low • Large informal sector- avoidance of tax 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Widening tax base through automation, training • Integrated budgeting and accounting system- effective and efficient use of IBAS++ platform
3. Private Sector Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPP initiatives are yet to tap the potentials • FDI is very low 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entrepreneur development program, e.g. start up • Improving WB's Doing Business Indicator • Dedicated zoe economic zone and JET park
4. ODA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aid fragmentation, lack of harmonization, lack of ownership • High dependence on foreign consultants who in many cases lack in local understanding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnering with DPs under Busan Agreement, 2011 Framework • Designing projects through effective consultations • Finding need-based homegrown solutions

Key Challenges and Way Forward

1. Climate Change Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failed to mobilize large funds • No big commitments from international community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance institutional capacities at local, sub-national and national levels • Campaigning climate change issue at regional and international forums
2. South-South and Triangular Cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current South-South cooperation modality is mostly supply driven and not well coordinated with traditional donors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify potential scope for resources, knowledge and technology sharing • Pooling resources for building new institutions for supporting impact or social investment
3. Foreign direct investment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination challenges among various agencies and departments • Financial intermediaries and small capital market • Low level of branding and information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BIDA should be a single window for potential investors • PPP prioritization for coherence with FDI opportunities • Review the corporate tax regime, tariff and duty for attracting investors
4. Public-private partnership (PPP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bangladesh is not known as a market for potential PPP investors • Weak strategic national infrastructure development plan with long term vision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen capacity of financial institutions for equity and debt financing • Develop a risk assessment strategy
5. Remittances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low value adding job • Lack of job market diversification • Missing effective economic diplomacy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Massive skill development program • Enhancing economic diplomacy and campaign for recreating rising Bangladesh image • Building effective network with NRB

Role of DPs/ MDBs/ IFIs

- Promoting new market-based techniques for raising development finance
- Providing assistance in producing reliable and timely data needed to do innovative financing deals
- Partnering in improving sovereign ratings with major rating agencies
- Greater engagement of Non-traditional DPs, i.e. the South South Cooperation bilateral support and new DPs
- DPs can deepen engagement of large and international companies around their business activities
- DPs can mobilize private capital to complement public development financing

Thank you all



Let's have greater partnership for effective development financing



4. Rural Transformation: Creating Opportunities for All

Keynote Presenter




Mr. Helal Uddin Ahmed
Senior Secretary
Local Government Division

Mr. Helal Uddin Ahmed a noted civil service officer. He belongs to Bangladesh Civil Service Administration Cadre (BCS '85 Batch). He joined as Secretary to Local Government Division, Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives on 30 May, 2019. He was promoted to Senior Secretary on January 27, 2021. Prior to that he was working as Secretary to Election Commission Secretariat on 20 February, 2018 where he was working as acting Secretary to the Election Commission since 30th July of 2016. He obtained both his Honours Bachelor and Master's Degree in the discipline of Zoology from the University of Chittagong in 1983 and 1984 respectively. He also obtained Orientation Degree from Duke University of the USA.

Rural Transformation: Creating Opportunities for All


Helal Uddin Ahmed
Senior Secretary
Local Government Division
Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives
Government of People's Republic of Bangladesh



Give more attention to the villages as they are the center of all development.

The whole country will march forward while transformation of villages along with their economic prosperity will accelerate together –

Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman




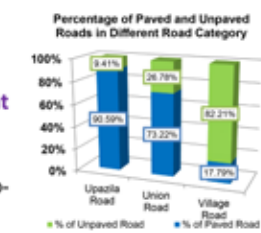
Rural Transformation: Rural Transport

Rural roads are not only roads; they are the lifeline of rural people:

- ✓ Quality of Education
- ✓ Health Services
- ✓ Farm and Non-farm Economy
- ✓ Creating Employment Opportunities
- ✓ Poverty Alleviation & Social Challenges

Rural Transportation Development Strategy

- ❖ Rural Access to Rural Transport
- ❖ Climate Resilient: Road Network Up-gradation
- ❖ Roads for more Employment and Growth

Strategies for Development of Rural Growth Centers (GC) and Markets

- ❖ GC/ Market planning focusing employment creation
- ❖ Economic Zone based GCM
- ❖ Proper Planned GCM through Detailed Survey & Analysis
- ❖ Promoting Rural E-Commerce
- ❖ Special Markets for Special Products
- ❖ Capacity building of Market Management Committee for better O&M, Innovation in Management




My Village-My Town: Implementation Plan

- 20 Agencies under 14 Ministries will be involved in implementation of My Village-My Town program
- Committee headed by Hon'ble Minister for LGRD&C will coordinate at central level.
- Mechanism for local level coordination by Upazila Parishad, Union Parishad will be developed.
- LGD will work mainly in seven areas: Rural Transportation, Growth Centre and Markets, Water Supply and Sanitation, Waste Management, Community Space and Recreation, Upazila Master Plan and Capacity Development of Upazila and Union Parishads.
- Other major areas are – Agriculture, Quality Education, ICT, Healthcare and Electricity
- Creating employment opportunities and skill development of youth is a central theme

My Village-My Town

Proposed areas of involvement of different ministries/division/agency and linkage



14 Ministries, 20 Agencies are involved. Some activities will be piloted before full implementation

Strategies for Development of Rural Water Supply, Sanitation and Waste Management

Water Supply & Sanitation

- Increase in piped & mini piped water supply Coverage
- Coastal Villages Water Supply: Ponds Digging & Treatment Plant
- Arsenic contaminated Villages: Mini Treatment Plant Install
- Improved Sanitation Coverage
- Faecal Sludge Management Pilot Project



Piped Water Supply to Densely Populated Villages

Solid Waste Management

- Awareness raising program
- Two separate model development for Union centric & Market centric waste management model
- Piloting and gradual upscaling



Strategies for Development of Community Space and Upazila Master Plan

Community Space Development

- Using Public Places
 - ✓ local educational institutions
 - ✓ donated houses/ spaces.
- Walkways, parks alongside of water bodies in gender equitable manner.

Upazila Master Plan

- Develop Structural master plan (2021) & Complete Master Plan for all Upazila within 2030
- Capacity development of Upazila Parishad for implementation of Master Plan

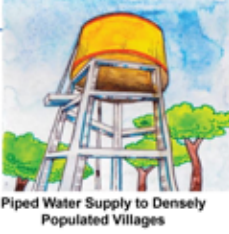




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Piped Water Supply to Densely Populated Villages

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- Piloting and gradual upscaling



Role of Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives (MoLGRD & C)

Mission of MoLGRD&C:

- Improving living standards of rural people
- Strengthening local government institutions (LGIs)
- Implementing activities in social, economic and infrastructure development.

Major Functions Relating with Rural Transformations:

- Construction, maintenance and management of Upazila, Union and Village roads including municipal areas and bridges/ culverts
- Growth centres and hat-bazaars
- Water Supply, Sanitation & Sewerage
- Small scale water resource infrastructures
- Finance, control and inspect local government institutions

My Village-My Town: Projects and Financing

Sector	Proposed Budget (Investment+ study projects)					Total (million BDT)
	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	
Rural Transportation	117,310	189,110	240,130	290,760	364,400	1,201,700
Rural Growth center & markets	3,030	5,400	14,280	36,710	33,170	92,590
Rural water supply & sanitation	13,440	20,000	22,600	25,540	26,800	1,08,380
Rural Waste management	0	2,720	7,150	13,530	8,650	32,050
Community space & recreation	0	7,920	12,470	12,630	8,030	41,050
Upazila Master Plan	0	300	300	14,900	18,550	34,050
Pilot village project	0	1,500	1500	1500	1500	6,000
Technical Assistance	20	180				200
Total	133,800	227,120	298,430	395,560	461,100	1,516,020

Year wise investment plan (million BDT)



- Guideline formulation- 30 nos.
- Study/feasibility- 36 nos.
- Investment project- 45 nos.

My Village-My Town: Opportunities and Constraints

Opportunities:

- Strong leadership & Commitment of the Government
- Election manifesto: to bring urban facilities to rural level in an inclusive manner.
- Global Agenda 2030 'leaving no one behind', priority on rural transformation and poverty reduction

Constraints:

- Acquisition and optimum use of limited resources compared to huge population
- Concerted and coordinated effort for public, private and grassroots level participation
- Climate change and adaptation
- Systematic learning and sharing process for making the transformation dynamic and sustained

5. Health care Services: Inclusive Delivery Options

Keynote Presenter



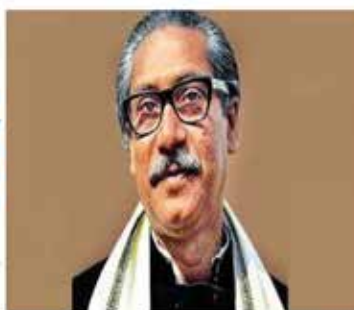
Mr. Md Ashadul Islam

Former Secretary
Health Services Division

Mr. Md Ashadul Islam served as the Secretary to the Health Services Division from November 2018 to June 2020. Later he was appointed Secretary at the Planning Division. He was promoted to senior secretary in June 2020—a position he held at Planning Division before going into retirement. He has worked in many other vital roles including at the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Health Economics Unit.

Bangabandhu's Birth Centenary & 'My Village-My Town'

- Celebration of Bangabandhu's birth centenary is an important milestone in the journey of the nation.
- Commencement of implementation of 'My Village-My Town' is another milestone of the nation that would manifest the dream of father of the nation to transform the villages as a vibrant part of golden Bengal.
- LGD is going to publish 'My Village-My Town' implementation strategy.
- Eight pilot villages will be developed in eight divisions
- 'Clean Village- Clean Town' Programme



Thank You



BDF 2020

Inclusive Delivery Options in Health Care Services

Md. Ashadul Islam
Secretary
Health Services Division

Introduction



- Bangladesh Health Service is a model for expanding accessibility, affordability and equity
- Its achievements and recognitions are mainly due to its inclusive approach
- A pluralistic system with government leadership inclusive of public, private, NGOs, Philanthropies

Initiatives for increased inclusiveness

- Programs for poor and marginalized
 - Scaling up EmOC services in regions
 - Exploring different types of health protection schemes
 - Urban Primary Health Care services
 - Mental health and services for autism & neuro developmental disorders;
 - Improving readiness of public service facilities; conducting surveys, studies and research regularly for bringing in improvements in health services



Measures to increase inclusiveness

- Partnerships:
 - PPP projects for dialysis, diagnosis and other services
 - Strategic purchasing



Introduction (contd.)

- Health Sector pioneered SWAp in the government for comprehensive service planning and implementation. This approach
 - created opportunities for better coordination and harmonization of multiple development partners, providers and resources
 - laid high focus on pro-poor ESP, which contributed to improve equity
- Current Sector Program 4th HPNSP (2017-2022) has taken a holistic approach on achieving Universal Health Coverage.
- It has adopted an inclusive approach- both from providers and beneficiaries' perspectives

Emerging Challenges

- Demographic change
- Epidemiological shift
- Rapid urbanization
- Changes in Social and Environmental determinants of health
- Emerging and re-emerging diseases (dengue, chikungunya)
- Service expansion to hard-to-reach (HTR) areas
- Reducing out-of-pocket expenditure

Support towards further Improvements

- Implementation of Health Security Plan
- Implementation of Multi-sectoral Action Plan for Prevention and Control of NCDs (2018-2025)
- Developing innovative schemes for health insurance, and management of PPP
- Introducing mechanism for health technology assessment (HTA)
- Improving quality of care (including standards and accreditation)
- Addressing micro-bacterial resistance

CONCLUSION

- Health Sector has made remarkable progress in achieving health and nutrition outcomes
- It is set for moving towards the Health SDG with strong leadership, and policy and system changes
- It is on the faster track for achieving Universal Health Coverage and realizing the dream of our Father of the Nation for 'Sonar Bangla'
- Continued and increased support from Development Partners is crucial for its sustained development.



Initiatives for increased inclusiveness

- Increasing public network
 - Operationalizing the Community Clinics (14,000)
 - Increased bed capacity of District and Sub-district Hospitals
 - New Medical College Hospitals
 - Specialized Institutes and treatment facilities
 - Increased health manpower and budget



Inclusion through digital technology

- National Call Centre - 'Shathya Batayan' (@16263)
- Telemedicine services
- Shared Health Record for every citizen
- Using IT for service improvement
 - Monitoring through weekly video conference
 - Introduction of Grievance Redressal System (GRS)
 - Automation from CCs to tertiary-level hospitals
 - Bio-metric attendance of the health service providers



Thank You

6. Energy Security for Sustainable Growth

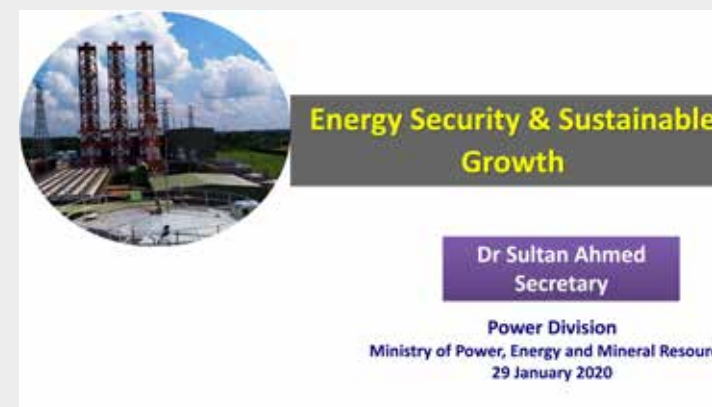
Keynote Presenter



Sultan Ahmed
Former Secretary
Power Division

Dr. Sultan Ahmed served as the secretary to the Power Division of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Ministry from January, 2020 to November 2020. Prior to becoming the secretary to the power division he was the Chairman of Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha (RAJUK). Dr Sultan is a member of Bangladesh Administrative Services of the 8th batch. He has been having an excellent academic feat in science, engineering and technology, and an outstanding experience of solid works in development administration. This had made him an expert official with a unique blend of general and technical abilities. Dr. Sultan studied civil engineering and transportation engineering at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET).

Presentation



Energy Security & Sustainable Growth

Dr Sultan Ahmed
Secretary

Power Division
Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources
29 January 2020

Power Sector: Current Status At a Glance

- Generation Growth : 10 % (Av.)
- Installed Capacity (Inc. Captive & RE): 22,787 MW
- Power Import : 1,160 MW
- Consumers : 36.0 Million
- Transmission Line : 12,068 Ckt. km
- Distribution Line : 5,53,000 km
- Distribution Loss (FY 2018-19) : 9.35 % (technical & Non technical)
- Per Capita Generation : 510 kWh
- Access to Electricity : 95%

Achievement of Last 11 years in Power Sector

Particulars	2009	2020	Achievement
Power Plants (No)	27	137	(+) 110
Installed Capacity (MW)	4,942	22,787*	(+) 17,845
Highest Generation (MW)	3,268 (6 Jan 2009)	12,893 (29 May 2019)	(+) 9,625
Power Import (MW)	-	1,000 (Bheramara) +160 (Comilla)	(+) 1,160
Consumers (million)	10.8	36.0	(+) 25.2
Transmission Line (Ckt Km)	8,000	12,068	(+) 4,068
Distribution Line (Km)	2,60,000	5,53,000	(+) 2,93,000
Grid sub-station capacity (MVA)	15,870	43,559	(+) 27,689
Access to Electricity (%)	47	95	(+) 48
Per Capita Generation (KWh)	220	510	(+) 290
Distribution System Loss (%)	14.33 (FY 2008-09)	9.35 (FY 2018-19)	(-) 4.98

* Captive & RE (hydro, off-grid solar etc.) included

Targets for 2030

Item	Target
Generation Capacity	45,276 MW
Total Transmission lines	28,320 ckt. km
Total Transmission Substation Capacity	178,635 MVA
Total Distribution lines (33 kV and below)	660,226 km
Total Distribution Substation (33/11 kV) Capacity	80,040 MVA
Total Distribution Transformer (11/0.4 kV) Capacity	68,780 MVA

Cost estimates of the Power Sector

Sub sector	2016-20*	2021-25**	2025-30***
Generation (including RE & EE) (bn BDT)	3174.96	2752.89	1481.69
Transmission (bn BDT)	752.59	356.84	415.68
Distribution (bn BDT)	1347.37	1148.63	590.32
Total (bn BDT)	5274.91	4258.36	2487.69
Total (bn USD)	64.33	51.94	30.34

*As per SDG Action Plan **As proposed in 8th FYP *** As per present generation plan (January 2020) & Revisiting PSMP 2016

Challenges

- Depleting natural gas reserve & volatile international fuel market
- Budgetary Constraint: Fund requirement during 2017-41 for Generation 150 bn US\$, Transmission 31 bn US\$ & Distribution 35 bn US\$ (As per Revisiting PSMP 2016)
- Reliability of transmission and distribution network and providing quality power
- Another major challenge during implementation of transmission and distribution projects is getting Right-of-Way (RoW). Presently there is no provision for compensation to the affected people for the RoW except a lump sum amount for crop and infrastructures over the land.
- For ground mounted solar power plant: Obtaining suitable land, difficulties in constructing evacuation line over privately owned land, high cost of land acquisition and development etc. Furthermore, solar irradiation in Bangladesh is quite low.

Challenges

- Wind speed in Bangladesh is of low to moderate. Moreover, there is no more potential for hydro power in the Hill Tracts area.
- For development of Waste to Energy: lack of technology, high production cost/tariff and lack of initiative from the City Corporations.
- For energy efficiency, major challenges are lack of skilled manpower in energy efficiency (EE), awareness in energy efficiency, incentive & investment on EE programs, public willingness to accept new energy efficient equipments.
- Challenge in coal transportation
- For implementing underground distribution system projects not getting road cutting permission from the City Corporations in time is also an obstacle.
- Human resource development

Way Forward

- Diversification of fuel and efficient use of fuel
- Diversifying Financial Resource: Export Credit Agency (ECA) financing, private sector financing in Independent Power Producer (IPP) projects, joint venture project financing, G to G financing, raise fund from capital market and bond market, use the PPP model and FDI
- Implementing system automation, GIS, SCADA etc.
- Formulation of electricity rule with the provision to give compensation for constructing tower and right of way
- Roof top and floating solar
- Off-shore wind farm

Way Forward

- For development of waste to energy projects coordination between power sector agencies and city corporations need to be strengthened. Considering the positive impact of these projects on the environment, this sector may be subsidized.
- Skilled manpower in the field of energy efficiency needs to be developed by capacity building through proper training
- Intensive public awareness program on energy efficiency may be taken up.
- Ensuring adequate fuel supply: proper distribution of imported fuel throughout the country necessary infrastructure such as: LNG terminal, deep sea port along with associated gas pipeline, road and railway networks need to be constructed
- Coordination among the utilities, city corporations and city development authorities need to be strengthened for getting road cutting permission easily and in time
- Local and foreign training through BPPI or other similar organization



7. Sustainable Cities: Services and Protection for the Vulnerable

Keynote Presenter



Mr. Md. Shahid Ullah Khandaker
Secretary
Ministry of Housing and Public Works

Mr. Md. Shahid Ullah Khandaker joined the BCS administration cadre in 1986. He joined the Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division of the Ministry of Planning as the Acting Secretary in 2014. In his long career, he has gained a lot of reputation in the job market by performing government duties with honesty, efficiency and dedication. He was promoted as Secretary to the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh in 2015. He joined the Ministry of Textiles and Jute as Secretary in February 2016. He has been serving as the Secretary of the Ministry of Housing and Public Works since March 2016.



Key Note Paper
on
"Sustainable Cities: Services and Protection for the Vulnerable"

Ministry of Housing and Public Works
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

www.moHPW.gov.bd

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Outline of Presentation

- Overview of Bangladesh Development Forum(BDF)
- Overview of MoHPW
- Sustainable Development Goals-11
- Provision for services and protection for vulnerable group
- Public Space of Dhaka city
- Risk Sensitive Land Use Plan
- Basic Services for the Urban Poor
- Achievements of PWD, RAJUK and NHA
- Conclusion

Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)

continued.....

- Goal 11 of Agenda 2030 has five direct and seven indirect indicators.

The direct indicators are:

- i. 11.1.1 urban population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing,
- ii. 11.7.1 share of the built-up area of cities that is open space for all, by sex, age and persons with disabilities.
- iii. 11.3.2 participation structure of civil society in urban planning and management that operate regularly and democratically.
- iv. 11.a.1 proportion of population living in cities that implement urban and regional development plans integrating population projections and resource needs.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)

continued.....

The indirect indicators are:

- i. 11.2.1 access to public transport, by sex, age and persons with disabilities,
- ii. 11.5.1 and 11.5.2 number of deaths, missing persons and persons affected by disaster per 100,000 people and disaster economic loss,
- iii. 11.6.2 annual mean levels of fine particulate matter in cities; and
- iv. 11.4.1 total expenditure on the preservation, protection and conservation of all cultural and natural heritage, by type of heritage (cultural, natural, mixed and World Heritage Centre designation), level of government (national, regional and local/municipal),
- v. 11.6.1 regularly collection of urban solid waste and final discharge out of total urban solid waste generation,
- vi. 11.b.1 adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030,
- vii. 11.b.2 number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies; and
- viii. 11.c.1 financial support to the least developed countries to the construction and retrofitting of sustainable, resilient and resource-efficient buildings utilizing local materials.

Overview of Bangladesh Development Forum (BDF)

- BDF a unique platform for effective dialogues among development partners, national and international NGOs, development think-tanks, development practitioners, leaders from business and industry.
- It creates an opportunity for building the partnership among the stakeholders for identified implementation challenges and policy or resource gaps.
- The BDF 2020 is very crucial for keeping up the commitment of the present government for LDC graduation by 2024, attaining SDGs by 2030 and becoming a prosperous developed nation by 2041.
- BDF is also important for formulating the 8th Five Year Plan

Mission Statement and Function of MoHPW

Vision: "Planned Urbanization; Safe and Affordable Housing".

Mission Statement:

"Provide Sustainable, Safe and Affordable Housing for Low and Middle Income People, Planned Urbanization by Ensuring the Optimum Use of Land, and Providing with Infrastructure with Modern Facilities for Various Ministries/ Divisions/ Departments/ Directorates of the government through Appropriate Planning and Research".

Function:

- Preparation of architectural and structural design of public buildings and other infrastructure, its construction and maintenance;
- Preparation/amendment of policies, laws, codes and rules for the expansion of planned housing sector
- Undertake measures to ensure planned urbanization, proper use of land and other matters related to development

Provision for services and protection for vulnerable group of society

Vulnerable group includes:

1. Children
2. Woman
3. Older
4. Disable

Provision for services and protection for vulnerable group elaborated in the existing building code, housing policy, laws, rules etc.
(i) fire hazard,
(ii) earthquake
(iii) flooding etc.

Provision for services and protection for vulnerable group of society

continued...

Building Code, Housing Policy, Acts, Rules etc.

(a) Bangladesh National Building Code, 1993 upgraded in 2020

- includes various aspects of building construction:
- fire safety and prevention,
 - earthquake risk sensitive building construction,
 - industrial hazard,
 - community open space for buildings etc.

□ BNBC mentioned the issue of Floor Area Ratio for density control.

(c) National Housing Policy, 2016 made provision for 'Social Housing'

(d) Building Construction Rules, 2008 made provision for

- ramp for movement of the disabled,
- safety for children,
- fire safety and also provision of open space, park, kitchen, toilet facilities

(e) The Private Land Development Rule, 2004 made provision for space standards for urban community facilities under the Tofail 3

Major Functions of MoHPW

- Allotment of government residential accommodation to government officers and staff and collection of rent
- Research and technological innovation on urban development, housing, construction of buildings, construction materials and techniques
- Management of land and abandoned property controlled by the ministry; and
- Creation of opportunities for involvement of the private sector in solving urbanization and housing problems.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)

- Sustainable Development Goal-11 (Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable)
- As per SDG tracker of Bangladesh, SDG Goal-11 has 10 targets, 15 indicators and 29 providers.
- Its targets 11.1, 11.3, 11.7.1 and 11.a are relevant to Ministry of Housing and Public Works (MoHPW).
- Government has given responsibility to MoHPW as a coordinating ministry (focal point) of SDG Goal-11.
- MoHPW is attentively active to achieve this goal and targets.

Public Space of Dhaka City

- Public space makes provision for a higher level of community interaction and places a focus on public involvement
- For measurement of indicator 11.7.1, the elements which can be considered as open public space include:

Parks: The remarkable open spaces in the Capital Dhaka especially parks:

- Ramna Uddayan, Shurwardi Uddayan, and **Gulshan Park** in Dhaka, and **Jamboree Park** at Commercial Capital Chattogram etc. **Rose garden** is another important **heritage** in Dhaka city.
- for public safety for all sector of the society and also for providing free air recreation and contact with nature.

Recreational areas: Hatirjheel project, Rabindra Sarobar at Dhanmondi, Hadis park at Khulna as recreational open space for the inhabitants of Dhaka city

- also for environmental preservation.
- Moreover, the Hatirjheel project, Tejgaon acts as temporary retention pond for flood control and also provides accessibility for all.

Risk Sensitive Land Use Plan

- UDD has prepared the first risk sensitive land use plan in Bangladesh: Mymensingh Strategic Development Plan (MSDP), 2011-2031 Project

➤ MSDP included:

- Basic services: housing, accessibility, water supply, sanitation, waste management etc.
- Vulnerability: earthquake, flood, fire hazard and crime

➤ Presently master plans are being prepared following the model developed under MSDP project.

➤ UDD and development authorities under MoHPW already covered over 10% area of Bangladesh under master plans.

➤ LGED also prepare risk sensitive master plans for towns and municipalities/ city corporations

8. Quality Education for All: Preparing for 4th Industrial Revolution

Keynote Presenter



Mr. Md Mahub Hossain

Secretary
Secondary and Higher Education Division

Mr. Md. Mahub Hossain joined as Secretary, Secondary and Higher Education Division on 31 December 2019. Prior to joining in this post, he served as Additional Secretary (Urban Development) at Local Government Division, Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives. Mr. Md. Mahub Hossain, a member of B.C.S. (Administration) of 1986 (8th) batch, joined in civil service on 20 December 1989. In his long and illustrious career, he served in various Ministries and Divisions such as Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Science and Technology, Planning Commission, Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Local Government Division as Assistant Secretary, Senior Assistant Secretary, Deputy Secretary, Joint Secretary and Additional Secretary.

Basic Services for the Urban Poor

- Slum people are vulnerable particularly in case of shelter, accessibility and basic services.
- According to the Census of Slum Areas and Floating Population 2014, a total of 2.2 million population was enumerated.
- They account for 6.33 % of the urban population and 1.48% of the total population of the country. The total slum population enumerated in 1997 was 1.3 million
- The annual population growth rate in slum census 2014 is 2.70%.
- National Housing Authority (NHA) is opted to provide housing for those low income people on rental basis.
- NHA also provides serviced plots for low income people all over Bangladesh through sites and services scheme.

Conclusion

- MoHPW is playing its role in sustainable urbanization for achieving high income country by the year 2041
- BDF 2020 as the high-level multi-stakeholder participatory forum for effective dialogues among:
 - development partners,
 - national and international NGOs,
 - development think-tanks,
 - development practitioners,
 - leaders from business and industry
- an opportunity for building the partnership among the stakeholders for identified implementation challenges and policy or resource gaps.

Initiative from RAJUK, NHA and PWD

- PWD has constructed **16120 nos. of flats** for Government employee which is about 8.76 percent of total requirements. It would enhance to about 22 percent if ongoing and pipeline projects are completed.
- **Purbachal, Uttara & Jhilmil 35085 nos plot** will be developed by PWD.
- NHA has completed construction of **2169 nos flat** by 9 nos projects and developed **4709 nos plot** by 19 nos projects for low and middle income group which cover **17 district and 4 Upazila**.
- Provisions are also made for **rainwater harvesting, STP, fire hydrant and solar panel** in all the flat projects of RAJUK, PWD and NHA.
- RAJUK has also taken "Urban Resilience Project RAJUK Part (2015-2020)" for implementation of the disaster related programs projects undertaken due to adverse impacts of climate change with the following components:
 - Risk sensitive land use planning
 - Vulnerability assessment of essential and critical facilities and lifelines
 - Electronic construction permission system
 - Establishment of urban resilient unit
 - Professional accreditation and training of engineers, architects and planners; and
 - Enforcement of Building code

**Thank you very much
for
kind attention and patience**

Quality Education for All: Preparing for the Fourth Industrial Revolution

Md Mahub Hossain
Secretary
Secondary and Higher Education Division
Ministry of Education

Structural changes of the economy

- Progress in human development, education, and health has been impressive and sustained over the last decade;
- The country produced a healthier and better-educated working population;
- More women are joining the workforce while gender gaps in pay are gradually narrowing;
- The country transitioned from agro-based to industry and service driven economy;
- Technological progress is rapidly changing the production and service modality;
- Technological progress is rapidly changing the production and service modality;
- Growing and youthful workforce in Bangladesh provides a window of opportunity to improve productivity and accelerate economic growth

Tertiary Education Statistics 2018

	Private University	Affiliated Madrasah under Islamic Arabic University (IAU)	Bangladesh Open University (BOU)	Affiliated Colleges under National University (NU)	Public University (Excluding NU, BOU, IAU)
Number of Institutions	85	1285	01	2223	34
Number of Students	350130	598031	207829	2073069	244363
Number of Teachers	15058	22921	136	44000	12131

Policy Framework

- Election manifestos of present government
- SDG
- Vision 2021 and 2041
- Five Year Plans
- National Education Policy (NEP) 2010
- Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100
- Policies and Strategies;

Education Streams

Types of Education	Level of Education
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Education; • Madrasah Education; • Technical Education; • Professional Education; • Teacher Education; • Specialized Education; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Childhood Education; • Pre-Primary Education; • Primary Education; • Secondary Education; • Higher Secondary Education; • Tertiary Education

Education Statistics as of 2018

Primary level	Secondary Level
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of Primary Education Institution: 134147; • Gross enrollment Rate: 114.23% (Boys: 110.32% and Girls: 118.30%); • Net Enrollment Rate: 97.85% (Boys: 97.55%; Girls: 98.16%); • Dropout Rate: 18.60% (Boys: 21.44% and Girls: 15.69%); • Completion Rate: 81.40% (Boys: 78.56% and Girls: 84.31%); 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of Institutions: 20465 (Public: 727) • Gross Enrollment Rate: 75.32% (Boys: 69.56%; Girls: 74.68%); • Net Enrollment Rate: 69.38% (Boys: 64.47%, Girls: 74.68%); • Dropout Rate: 37.62% (Boys: 36.01%, Girls: 40.19%); • Completion Rate: 62.38% (Boys: 63.99%, Girls: 58.81%);

Fourth Industrial Revolution

- 4th Industrial has both challenges and promises;
- Super automation and robotics would heavily influence the manufacturing process;
- Virtual reality, artificial reality, genome editing, wearable technology, 3-D printing would appear as the important features of lifestyle and economy;
- Ministry of Education aware of the challenges and promises of upcoming fourth industrial revolution;
- digital readiness in terms of human capital is the most crucial elements to face the challenges of the IR4;
- Curriculum, research will be aligned in line with the demand of the industry, manufacturing and service sector;

Challenges and future Interventions in Secondary Education

Challenges	Future area of interventions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equitable access and retention; • Quality and relevance of curriculum; • Classroom assessment and national examination; • Governance and Management, Accountability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reforming curriculum to make it more integrated across the grades, sufficiently bench-marked against national goals; • Improving teachers' quality; • Standardization of examinations and assessments; • Improved teaching-learning in Bangla, English, Mathematics, Science; • Utilization of ICT for Pedagogy; • Introduction of pre-vocational and vocational in general stream

Education Statistics as of 2018

Technical Education	Madrasah Education
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Polytechnic Institutes: 439 (Public: 52; Private: 387); • Technical Schools: 174 (Public: 64; Private: 110); • Vocational School and College: 6865 (public: 866; Private: 5999) (Attached: 4653; Independent: 2212); • Number of Students: 1067484 (Boys: 803222; Girls: 264262); • Number of teachers: 50931 (Male: 40719; Female: 10212) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of Institutions (Post Primary): 9294 (Public: 3, Private: 9291); • Number of Student: 2477962 (Boys: 1108762, Girls: 1369200); • Number of Teacher: 109918 (Male: 95276, Female: 14642)

General Features of Secondary Education

- 95% of secondary Education Institutions is Private, mostly supported through public subsidies;
- The country pursue a service delivery strategy where public-private partnership model is adopted by combining public financing with private provisions;
- 95% of secondary level students enroll in private institutions;
- Various types of non-state providers in the providers in the provision of secondary education ;
- 12 million students of 6-12 grade across 20300 general schools and 9400 madrasah with more than 2 million students;
- All institutions receive free textbooks, stipends for meritorious students, financial assistance and tuition fees for disadvantaged students;
- Monthly Pay Orders (MPOs) for teachers' salary in private institutions;
- 20224 Institutions and 265390 teachers receive salary support in the form of MPOs;

Challenges in tertiary education

- Gross enrollment is (17%), lower middle income countries (24%);
- Access to tertiary education across gender and income groups, with females at a disadvantage;
- The female share of enrollment across the Technical Education Institutions (TEIs) stood at around 38% in Bangladesh, lower than other South Asian Countries;
- Participation in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) is low, particularly the case for tertiary colleges, which account for more than half of the tertiary enrollments.
- Around 9% of college students are enrolled in STEM courses.
- Oversupply of graduates in humanities subjects and skills shortage for technology to be addressed;

Challenges in tertiary education

- Traditional teaching & learning and assessment system;
- Student teacher ratio;
- Full utilization of potentials of academic researchers;
- Industry – academic researchers collaboration;
- Governance and fiduciary accountability;
- Quality assurance;

Tertiary Education: Future intervention area

- Expanding poverty-targeted scholarship and tuition support for students to encourage low income secondary school graduates, especially females, who are proven meritorious to continue with higher education in the universities and colleges;
- Establishment of a trust or company to operate loan program for poor and meritorious students of the universities;
- Enhancing universities' ICT capabilities through increasing investments in teaching and learning and ICT facilities;
- Improvement of the governance and financial management system in universities;
- Implementation of Bangladesh Accreditation Council Act 2017 in its entirety;
- Formulation of policy guidelines for Islamic Arabic University to make madrasah education compatible with mainstream education;

Tertiary Education: Future intervention area

- Implementation of Strategic Plan for Higher Education:2018-2030;
- Establishment of a national research center and capacity building of the UGC;
- Increase of public spending on enhancing research capabilities, provision of lab and facilities and research skills training;
- Establishment of a residential pedagogical training academy for the university teachers;
- Promotion of university-industry collaboration for generating funds, particularly for research;
- Forging partnership with renowned foreign universities through twinning or joint programs is an effective means to raise the quality of teaching and learning in Bangladeshi universities.
- Establishment of a flagship university in Bangladesh;

Expected result by 2030

- All girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes;
- All women and men have equal access to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university;
- Substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship; and
- Ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equity, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and culture's contribution to sustainable development.







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2020



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