Overview

Bangladesh has been maintaining macroeconomic stability & rapid development with a low external debt and greater resilience to external shocks over the last decades. This pace of development in Bangladesh got momentum thru the first half of in the FY 19 until the outbreak of corona virus (COVID19) emerged as global pandemic. The pace of development in Bangladesh got momentum thru the first half of current fiscal year until the outbreak of corona virus (COVID19) emerged as global pandemic. Lockdown around the world seriously affected the global economic growth, trade and investment; initiating a recession never experienced in hundred years. Bangladesh was not exception from the negative fallout of this pandemic.

In response to this situation, Government has been borrowing additional amount as budget support & project supports to finance COVID-19 response and recovery related project and programs out of regular borrowing. Moreover, scope of mobilization of foreign assistance in concessional term has become less than previous years because most of the development partners have already adjusted their financial terms and conditions either by shortening maturity and grace period or by increasing interest rates as Bangladesh graduated to Lower Middle Income Country (LMIC). On the other hand, to meet the investment needs, especially for some big and nationally important projects, borrowing on non-concessional terms from bilateral sources has increased.

Despite all theses adverse situation, Bangladesh, recently, is being assessed at low risk of external and overall debt distress by IMF. Even taking consideration of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic shock is the assessment process; it is found that debt remains at a low risk of debt distress. Despite the adverse shock to growth and exports, all external debt indicators are below their respective thresholds under the baseline and stress-test scenarios conducted by international organizations as the Bangladesh economy has undergone a major transformation over the past decade, macroeconomic stability has been preserved, and Bangladesh is in a stronger position.

In FY 2019-20, external resources amounting to US$ 9.79 billion has been mobilized; out of this, power and transport sector have the major allocations amounting to US$ 3.31 and US$ 3.25 billion respectively. The other major sectors which have significant allocations are public administration (US$ 1.19 billion), rural development and institutions (US$ 0.65 billion) education (US$ 1.54 billion), health (US$ 0.74 billion), and water resources (US$ 0.31 billion). External resources, one of the main sources of financing development activities, have been playing a pivotal role. The scenario of realization of committed assistance has been improved compared to the last few years. In FY 2019-20, disbursement crossed the landmark of USD 7 billion for the first time and the total amount of disbursement was US$ 7.38 billion which is also the highest since independence. Comparing with 2018, the commitment has decreased by 1.17 percent and disbursement has increased by 12.84 per cent.

Despite the increased mobilization of external assistance, Bangladesh has been able to maintain

a comfortable debt sustainability position in terms of solvency and liquidity. The ratio of Government's external debt stock as on 30.06.2020 to GDP is 15.49% vis-à-vis the threshold limit of 40% reveals the solid solvency position. The external debt stock excluding government's guaranteed debt to GDP is 13.36 in the same FY. On the other hand the ratio of government's external debt service obligation in FY 2019-20 to export of goods and services is 5.40% vis-à-vis the threshold limit of 20% mirrors good liquidity condition of Bangladesh. However, mobilization of non-concessional loans has been increasing recently except last FY. An amount of US$ 3.85 billion non-concessional loan has been mobilized in 2020 which stood at 41.81% of total loans committed. On the other, the volatility of exchange rates and the possibility of increasing LIBOR rate have increased the risks of escalation of borrowing costs in the coming years.

2. This section of the document is organized into following different parts:

i. **Part-1** focuses on the objectives of external resources management with a snapshot of Key information of external resource flows and some important macro-economic indicators;
ii. **Part-2** presents information, analysis and evaluation of external resource flow into Bangladesh;
iii. **Part-3** highlights external debt portfolio including changes in external debt stock with currency composition and maturity structure, debt servicing, and other important debt related issues;
iv. **Part-4** indicates risks associated with external debt portfolio and debt sustainability status;
v. **Part-5** describes some steps taken in recent times in the area of aid and debt management

3.Part-1: Objective of External Resource Management and a Snapshot of key Information

3.1Objectives: The primary objectives of external resource management are:

(a) to ensure mobilization of government's external resource in line with national development strategy at lowest possible cost;
(b) to contain debt burden in a comfort zone consistent with a prudent degree of risk.

3.2 Snapshot: A snapshot of key information relating to external resource flow such as aid in the pipeline, commitment, disbursement, debt stock, debt servicing and aid channeled through Non-Government Organization (NGO) of FY 2019-20 are given in the table below. It also captures related macroeconomic indicators which would offer readers an opportunity to have a broad appreciation of external debt of the country in the context of overall macro-fiscal situation of the country.

A. Foreign Aid Flow and Debt

	FY 2019-20	FY 2018-19
1. Flow of Foreign Aid	*(In million US$)*	*(In million US$)*
(i) Opening Pipeline	**47,268**	**44,529**
(ii) Total Commitment	**9,798**	**9,907**
Grant	584	1,572
Loan	9,214	8,335
Projects	9,798	9,907
Non-projects	0	0
(iii) Total Disbursement	**7,382**	**6,542**
Grant	308	279
Loan	7,074	6,263
Projects	7,371	6,520
Non-projects	11	22
(iv) Closing Pipeline	**48,819**	**47,268**
(v) Foreign grant channeled through NGO		
Amount Approved	891	1,098
Amount released	11	95
2. External Debt Stock	*(In million US$)*	*(In million US$)*
Total public sector outstanding debt	**51,127**	**44,479**
(a) General Government Debt (Medium & Long Term)	**44,095**	**38,475**
Multilateral	29,105	26,630
Bilateral	13,701	10,803
Supplier/Buyer's Credit	1,289	1042
(b)Government's Guaranteed debt	**7,032**	**6,004**
Air Craft	1,069	637
Crude Oil	255	415
Power	4,197	4,020
IMF	1,373	775
BTRC	138	157

	FY 2019-20	FY 2017-18
3. External Debt Service	***(In million US$)***	***(In million US$)***
Total debt servicing	**3,165**	**2,823**
(a) Principal	**2,471**	**2,336**
General Government (Medium & Long Term)	1,257	1,202
Air Craft	165	148
Crude Oil	675	791
Power	231	88
IMF	126	89
BTRC	17	18
(b) Service Charge	**689**	**487**
General Government (Medium & Long Term)	477	391
Air Craft	20	23
Crude Oil	13	15
Power	169	49
IMF	8	7
BTRC	2	2

B. Macro Economic Statistics

Macro Economic Statistic	FY 2019-20	FY 2017-18
i. GDP growth rate (Base Year: 2005/06)	5.24	8.13
ii. GDP at current price (Base year: 2005/06 in million US$)	330,112	302,432
iii. GDP as per PPP at Current Int'l Dollar (in million US$)*	864,883	837,558
iv. Per Capita Income (Base year: 2005/06 in US$)	2,064	1,909
v. **Export of Goods and Services (In million US$)**	**39,600**	**43,500**
Merchandise (FoB)	32,830	37,190
Services	6,770	6,310
v. **Import (In million US$)**	**54,785**	**59,915**
Food	1,672	1,552
Capital Machinery	3,581	5,413
vi. **Foreign Exchange Reserve (in million US$)**	**36,037**	**32,716**
vii. **Remittance (in million US$)**	**18,205**	**16,420**
Of the total from: KSA	4,015	3,110
UAE	2,472	2,540
USA	2,403	1,843

* Reference: World Economic Outlook Database, October, 2020 IMF (Calendar Year Value).

4.Part-2: Aid flow, Composition and Trend

Up to June 30, 2020 a total of about US$ 151.84 billion of external assistance was committed.

According to the classification by purposes the share of food aid is US$ 6.90 billion, commodity aid is US$ 11.07 billion, project aid is US$ 129.04 billion and budget support is 4.83 billion of the total commitments.

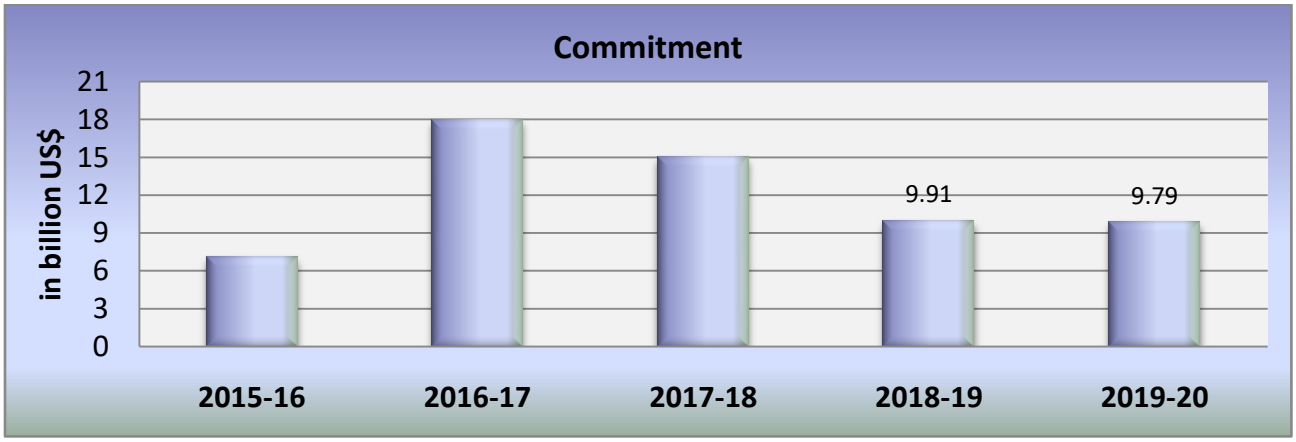
For the period since independence up to June 30, 2020, a total amount of about US$ 93.35 billion of foreign aid was disbursed, of which US$ 28.01 billion is grant and US$ 65.34 billion is loan. Of the total amount, US$ 6.94 billion as food, US$ 10.91 billion as commodity, US$ 70.67billion as project aid and US$ 4.83 billion as budget support were disbursed.

Significant changes have taken place in case of the total aid package to the country over forty nine years since independence. The share of grant is declining gradually is-à-vis the share of loan. Considering sources of the total aid flows, multilateral aid has been growing through years compared to bilateral aid. Vulnerable food security and shift in global economic power-structure have made aid mobilization more difficult than ever before. It is facilitated through a variety of means. Co-ordination with Development Partner (DP) such as holding periodic meetings of the Bangladesh Development Forum, greater partners has an important bearing on the interaction of the Local Consultative Groups which aims at aid effectiveness and harmony, regular triangular portfolio meetings of ERD, DPs and project implementing ministries/agencies etc.

Some key features for the financial year 2019-20 related to external aid are discussed below.

4.1 Commitments:

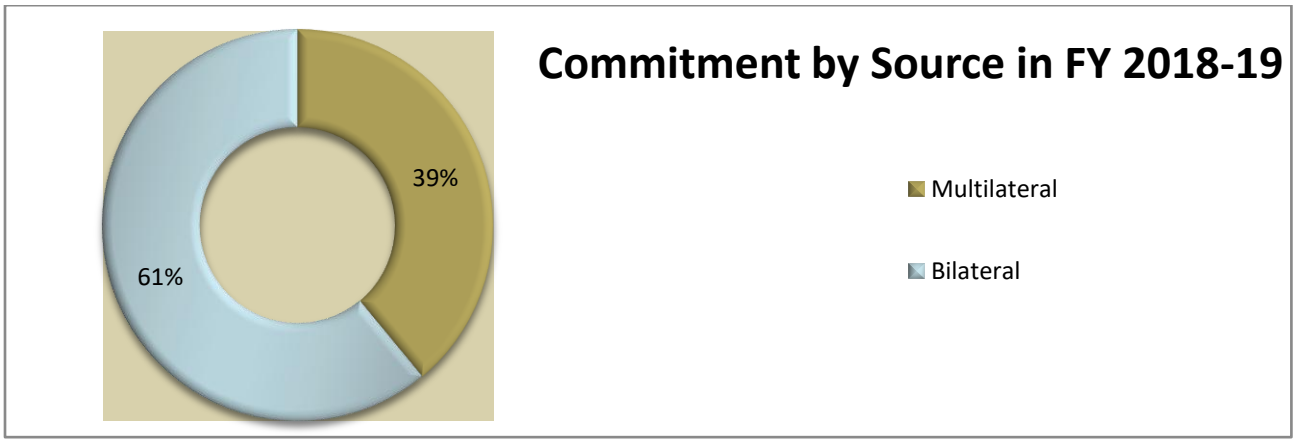
During the FY 2019-20, a total of US$9.79 billion of external assistance was committed. Compared to last fiscal year, the growth of commitment is minus 1.21 per cent. Graph-1 shows commitment of foreign aid for last five years.



Graph 1

In FY2019-20 project aid constituted the lion's share of the whole amount of commitment. There is no commitment for the commodity aid in this financial year. According to source of financing, commitment from multilateral agencies and bilateral sources are US$ 3829.185 million and US$ 5968.688 million

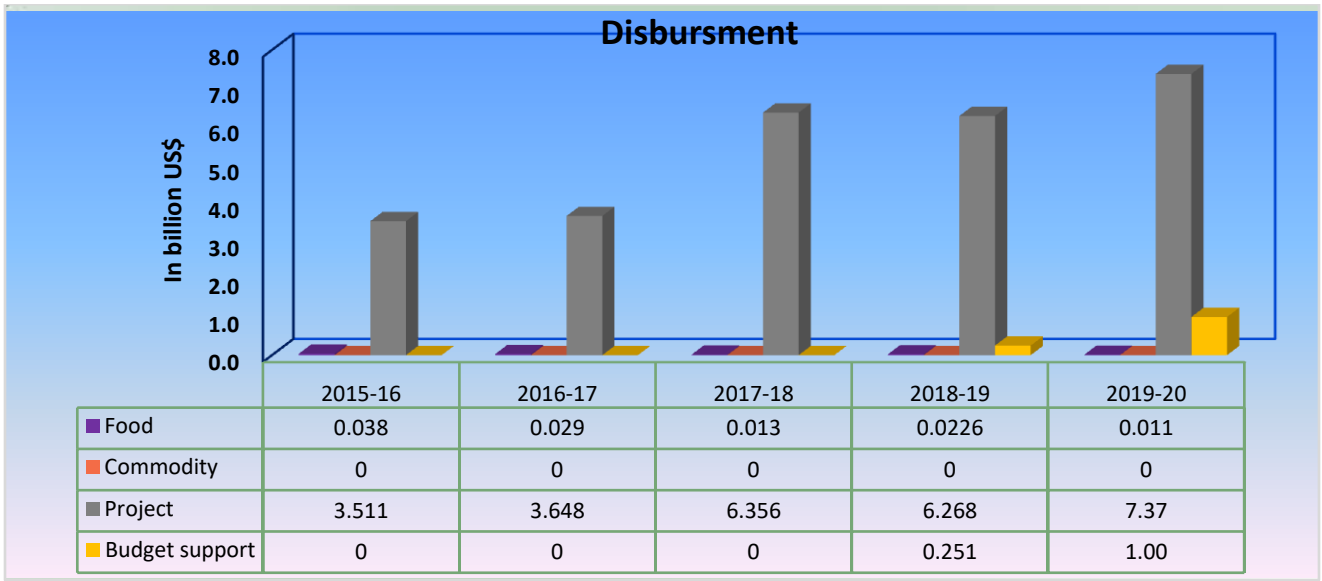
respectively. Composition of commitment is shown for the FY2019-20 in graph 2.



Graph-2

4.2 Disbursement:

In the FY2018-19, a total amount of US$ 6.54 billion was disbursed which registered the highest disbursement in a single financial year since independence. Disbursement during FY 2018-19is 2.67 per cent higher than the disbursement of the previous year. Of this US$ 279.70million is grant and US$ 6262.87 million is loan. Of the total amount, food aid, project aid and budget support are US$ 22.61 million, US$ 6268.82million and 251.14 respectively. Multilateral donors disbursed the lion's share of the total disbursement amounting to US$ 3611.99million and bilateral donors disbursed US$ 2930.58million. Graph-3 shows a comparison of disbursement by purpose in different years.



	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Food	0.038	0.029	0.013	0.0226	0.011
Commodity	0	0	0	0	0
Project	3.511	3.648	6.356	6.268	7.37
Budget support	0	0	0	0.251	1.00

Graph-3

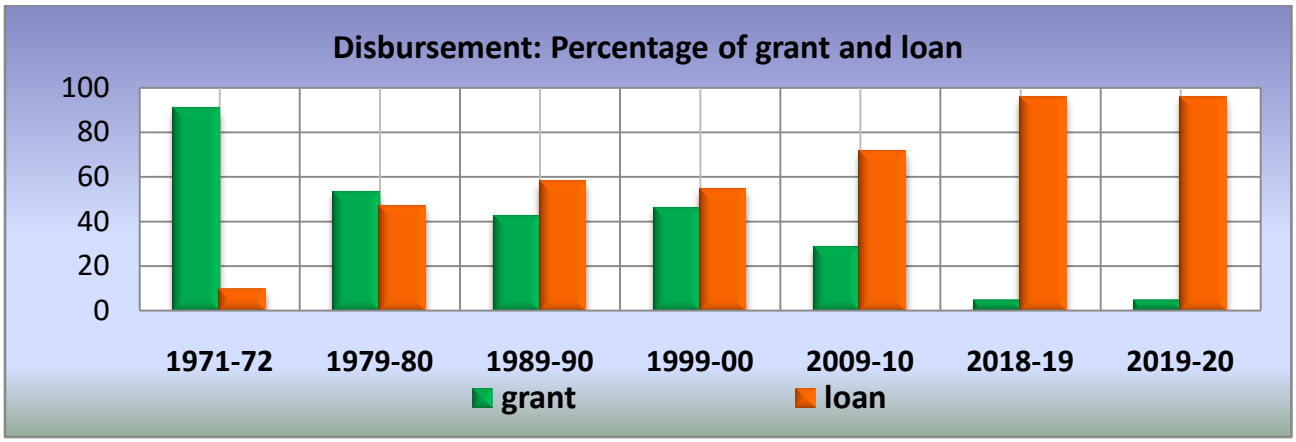
Since 1972 on a cumulative basis of aid disbursement, the major multilateral development partner is IDA followed by ADB. On the other hand, Japan ranks as the

largest bilateral development partner followed by the China. Disbursement of top 10 development partners according to their cumulative contribution since independence has been presented ingraph-4.

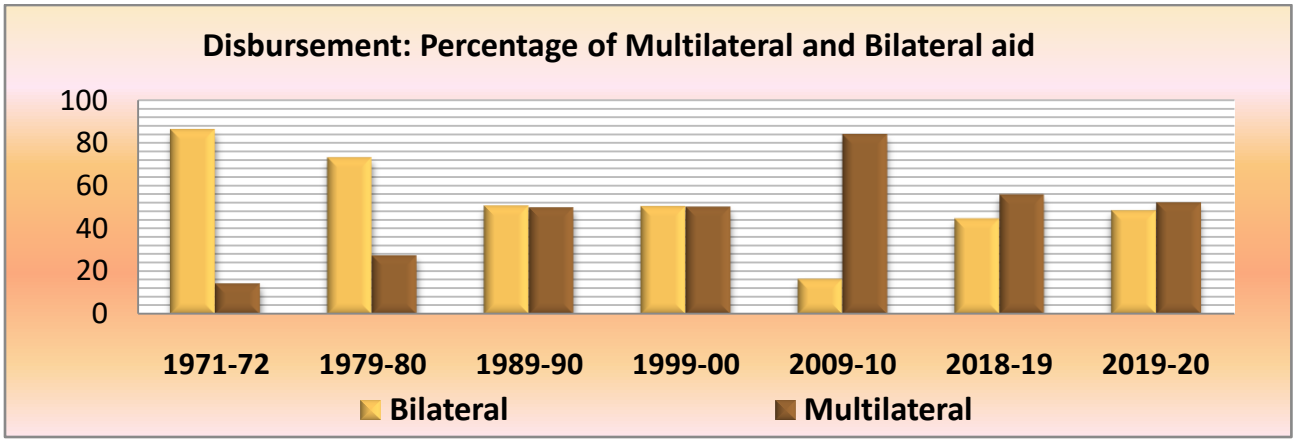
Graph-4

4.3 Changing scenarios in aid composition

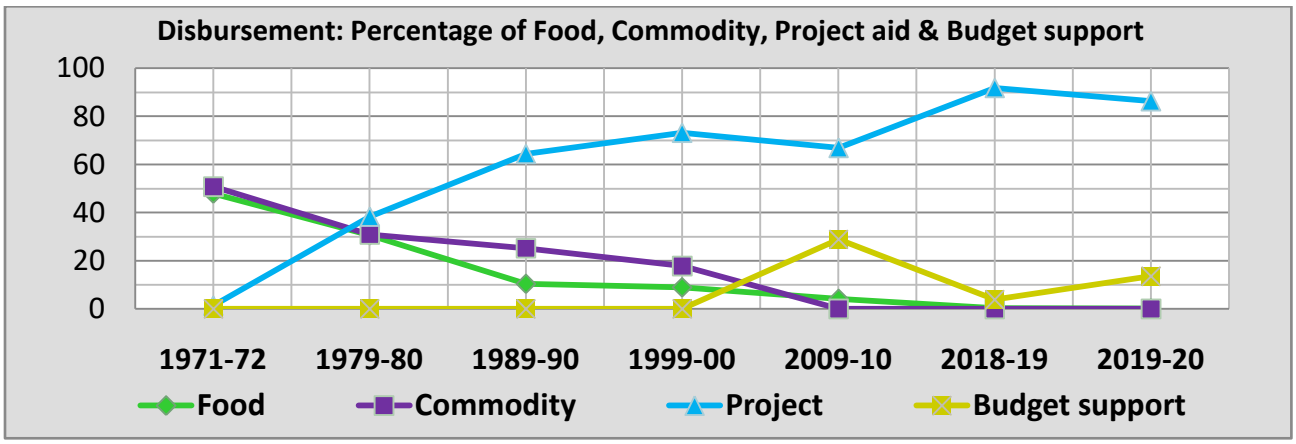
Over the past several years changes have taken place in the composition of foreign aid disbursement. The share of grant is declining and share of loan is increasing gradually. The share of grant and loan of disbursed aid was 90.5 per cent and 9.5 per cent in FY 1971-72 which stood at 4.2 per cent and 95.8 per cent respectively in FY2019-20. Similarly, multilateral aid has increased over the period. The share of bilateral aid has decreased from 85.7 per cent in FY 1971-72 to 48.1 per cent in FY 2019-20. On the other hand, share of multilateral aid has increased from 14.3per cent in FY 1971-72 to 51.9 per cent in FY2019-20. However, there is an increasing trend in the share of bilateral aid since FY 2010-11 compared to past couple of years. Some Bilateral development partners such as China, Russia and Indian have become more active in the global aid architecture. Bangladesh, like many other countries, has been mobilizing resources from these countries to fulfill it's growing investment needs in the large infrastructures projects. Moreover, over time, the flow of food and commodity aid has drastically declined. Food aid, which was 47.9 per cent in FY 1971-72, has decreased to 0.1 per cent in FY2019-20. Similarly, commodity aid has come down to nil in FY 2019-20 from 50.8 per cent in FY 1971-72. On the other hand, project aid has shot up from 1.3 per cent to 99.9 per cent during the same period. Changes in disbursement pattern over the years can be seen in Graph -5, 6and 7.



Graph -5



Graph -6

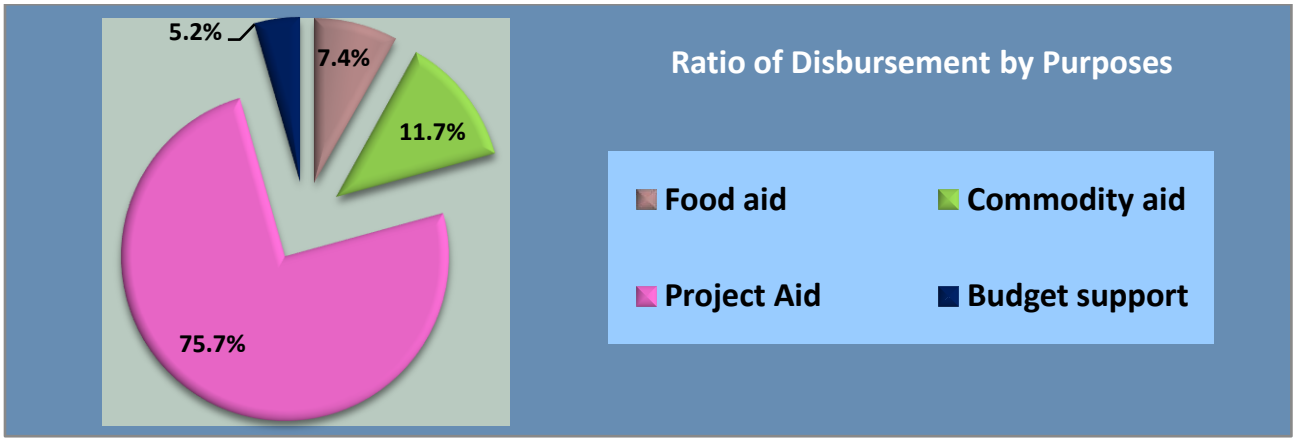


Graph -7

4.4 Aid Utilization:

Aid utilization is in a state of a critical juncture. This arises from slow implementation of projects. Over time, food aid and commodity aid have lost their place as important constituents of total aid package. On the other hand, project aid has become more and more

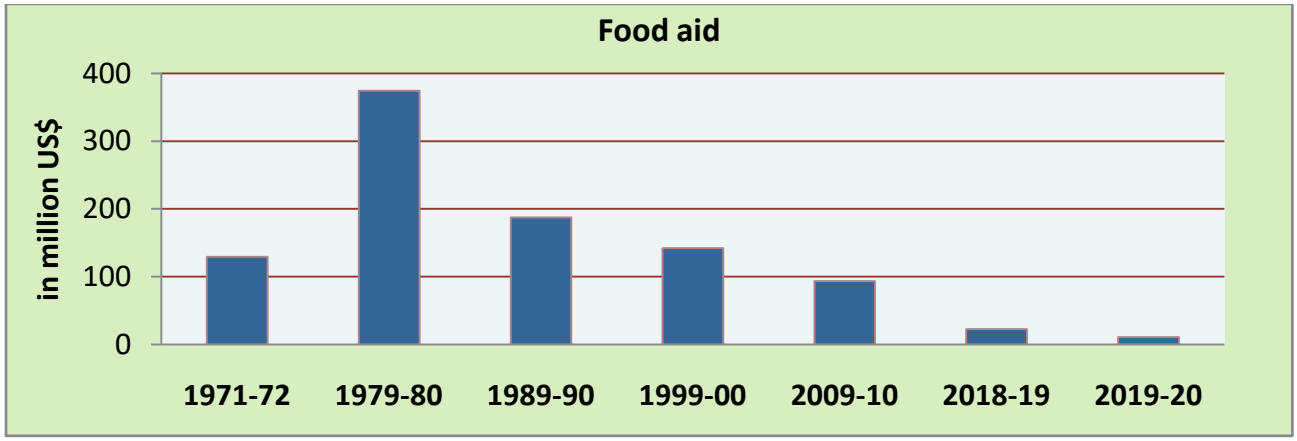
popular and important mode of assistance considering the purpose of aid. From independence to June 30, 2020, a total of US$ 93.35 billion of foreign aid was disbursed on a cumulative basis. As a policy the donors reduced commodity and food aid as a young nation matured over years. The food and commodity aid is generally replaced by more and more project aid. The bilateral aid gives way to more multilateral concessional loan. The share of total food aid, commodity aid, budget support and project aid have been shown in the following pie chart.



Graph-8

4.4.1 Food aid:

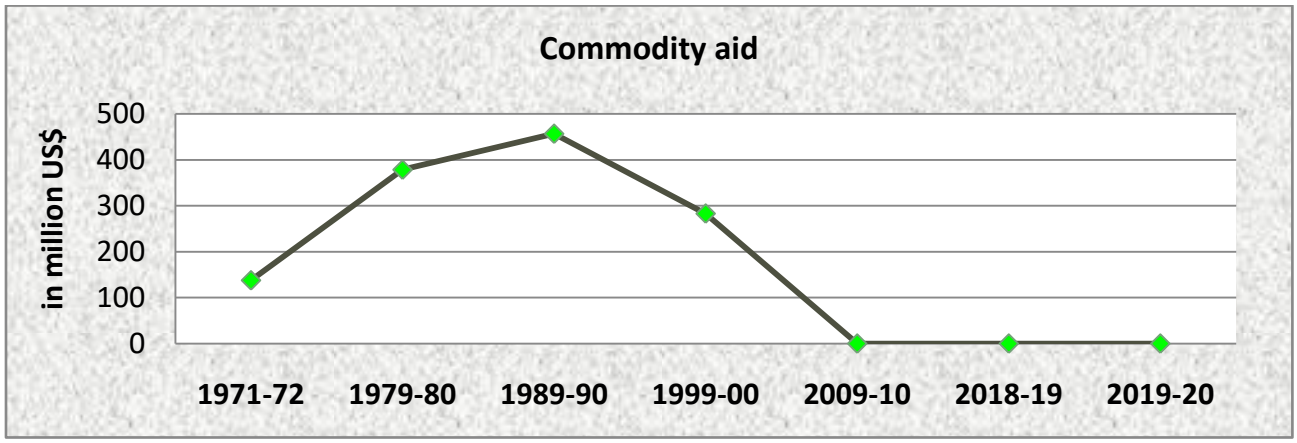
Food aid is now availed of in reduced volumes and occasionally received in larger amount to support natural calamities like floods, cyclones and unfavorable weather conditions. This is because self-sufficiency has been nearly achieved in recent years with the increased food production. Although, a persistent level of food aid is essential to assist the poorest section of the population and to run the targeted safety net programs like VGD and FFW. The share of food aid has gradually declined over the years which are presented in the bar chart below.



Graph-9

4.4.2 Commodity aid:

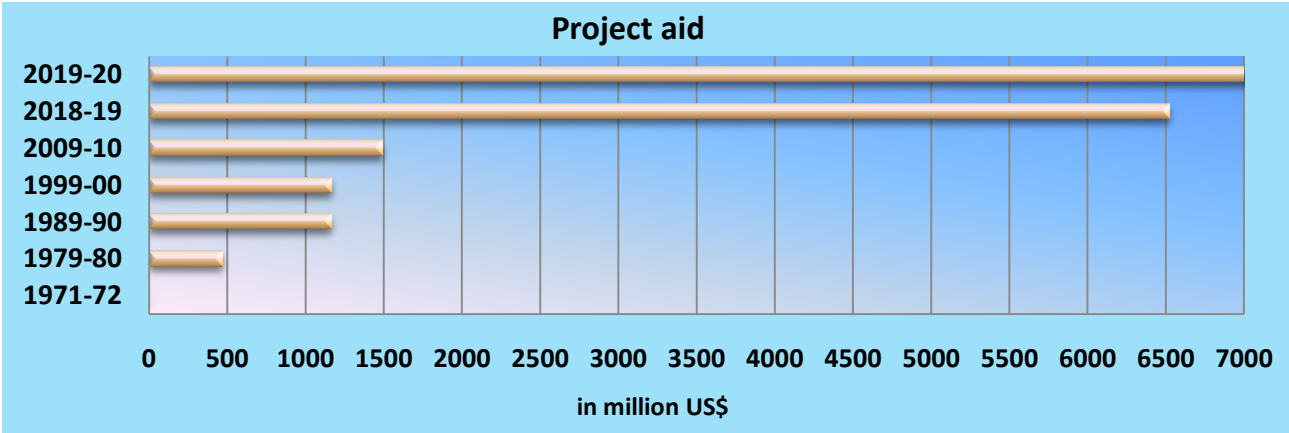
Generally, commodity aid is offered for acquisition of intermediate inputs and raw material and thus, provide cushion to balance of payments. Increasing export volume, tax revenue growth and consistent increased flow of foreign remittance have eased balance of payment deficit from own resources. In the process, the share of commodity aid has declined considerably in the recent years and zeroed in FY2019-20.



Graph-10

4.4.3 Project aid:

The largest share of foreign assistance comprises of project aid. It is extended by the development partners primarily to finance projects included in the Annual Development Program (ADP). The share of project aid excluding budget support has increased over years as shown in graph 11.

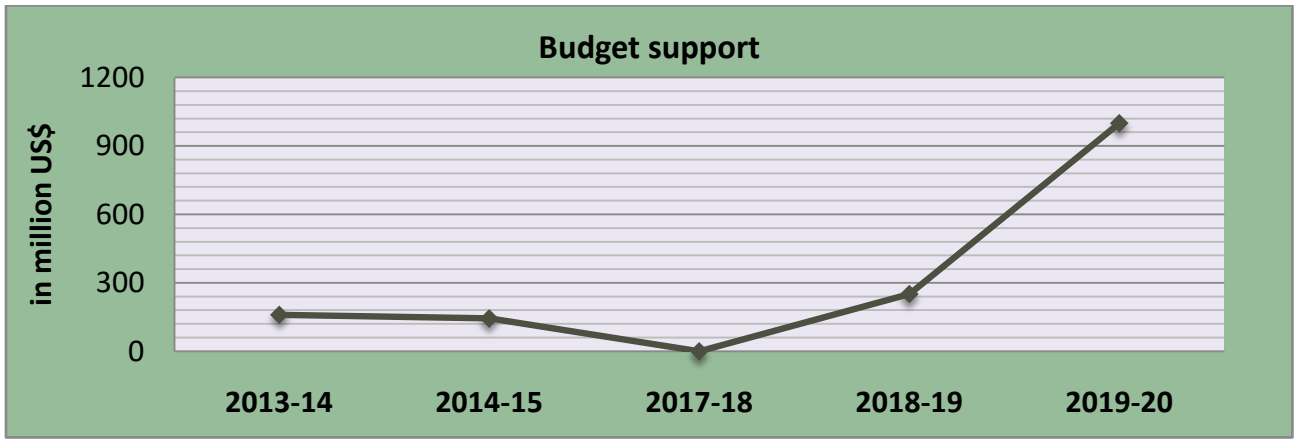


Graph-11

4.4.4 Budget support

Budget support is extended in one single or multi tranche to undertake different priority programs. The payments against budget support are triggered on fulfillment of certain agreed policy objectives between the

recipient country and Multilateral Financial Institutions. It gives recipient country more flexibility to align aid spending with national priorities in comparison to project aid. Therefore, budget support is becoming more popular form of receiving external aid. However, budget support does not come by very frequently. It is usually offered sparingly on occasions where development partners trigger payment only after recipient countries achieve previously agreed benchmarks. Disbursement under budget support scheme for the last couple of years including US$ 1000.00 million in FY 2019-20, out of which 500 million from ADB and 250 million from World Bank & AIIB each, has been shown in graph-12.



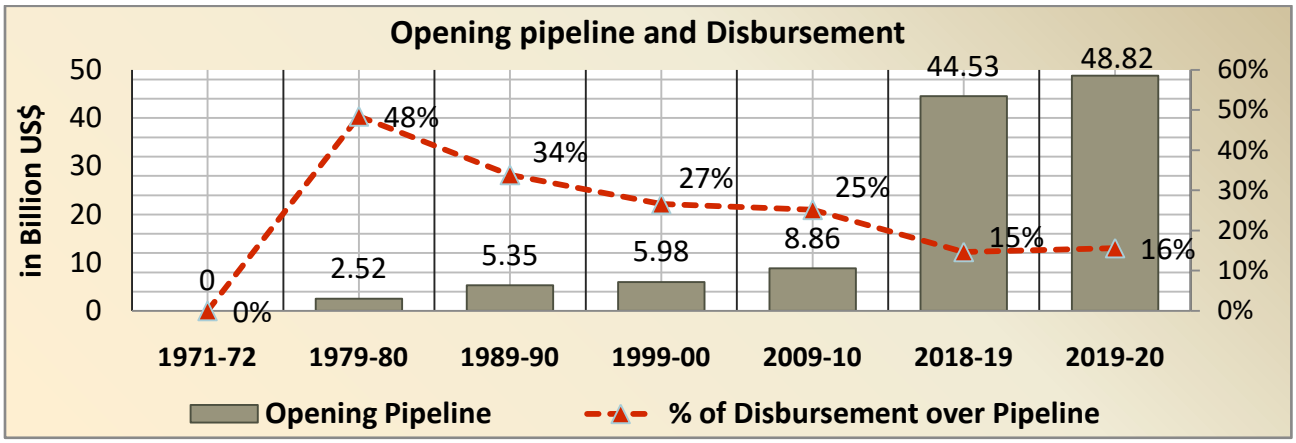
Graph-12

4.5 Aid in the pipeline

FY 2019-20 began with an opening pipeline of about US$ 47.27 billion on July 1, 2019. The new commitment during the period amounted to US$ 9.79 billion and total disbursement during FY 2019-20 amounted to US$ 7.38 billion. The closing pipeline as on 30th June, 2020 stood at about US$48.82 billion after cancellation/adjustment which is 3.28 per cent higher than that of the previous year. The sharp increase of closing pipeline in the past couple of years has occurred due to the larger commitments during FY 2017 and 2018. In the FY 2017, Russian credit of US$ 11.38 billion for Ruppur Nuclear Power Plant Project and in the FY 2018, Indian credit of US$ 4.5 for 3rd Line of Credit and in the FY2019, Japanese credit of US$1.33 billion for matarbari coal fired power project are the main factors for the spike in the pipeline. The disbursement of foreign aid during FY 2019-20 as a percentage of pipeline opening balance is near 15.62 per cent. In FY 2019-20, the disbursement as percentage of opening pipeline is increased by 1.00 compared to that of the last financial year.

Slow implementation of project results in slow disbursement of aid which leads to time and cost overrun. It impacts negatively on the balance of payments leading to increased borrowing from domestic sources. Factors creating difficulties in the speedy implementation of projects or utilization of economic assistance are manifold. Projects are often designed without proper planning or feasibility studies. Also people engaged in the

project preparation are not properly trained. In many cases, faulty design of the project leads to a revision of the Development Project Proposal (DPP)/Technical Project Proposal (TPP) even before commencement of the project. Lengthy approval process of the DPPs/TPPs takes longer time to start the projects. Sometimes, projects are not adequately staffed with right kind of people. Moreover, in many cases, project personnel are transferred (in case of government officials) and/or moved to another job. Procurement related bottlenecks and challenges in land acquisition process also slow down the speed of project implementation. Besides, projects involving several sectors/organizations often suffer from lack of coordination. On the other hand, delay in approval of awarding contracts, delay in appointing consultants, delay in releasing fund and lack of coordination among co-financers,(in case of multi-donors funded projects)were found to be the causes of slow disbursement. In graph 14disbursementratios over opening pipeline in different years have been shown.



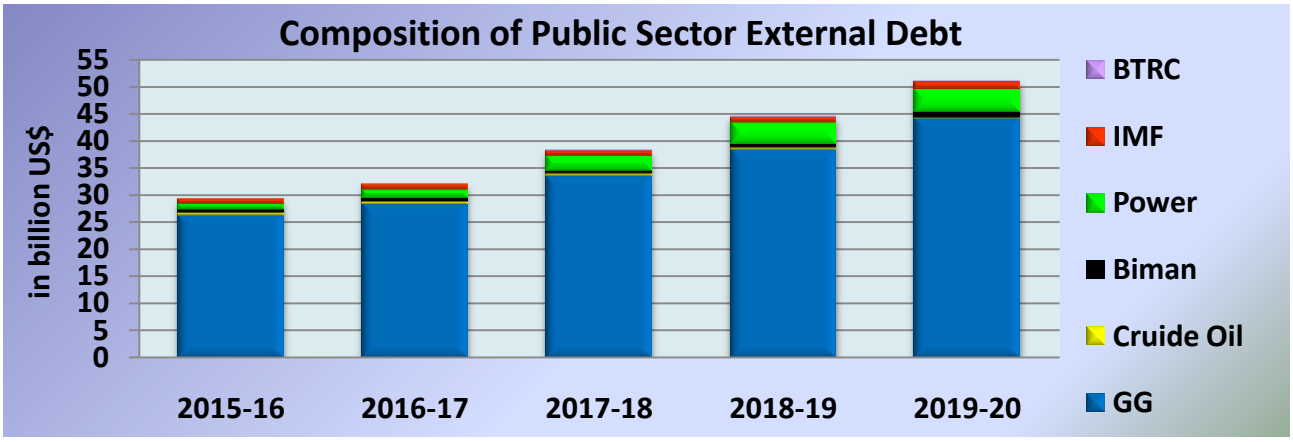
Graph-13

5. <u>Part- 3: External Debt management</u>

Managing external debt is more sensitive to some extent than that of domestic debt. Domestic debt is a charge on budget and must be serviced with government revenue and/or additional domestic borrowings. Whereas external debt, in addition of meeting repayment obligation with government revenues, is also a charge on balance of payments and it is serviced with foreign exchange by drawing down on the reserve. Large trade deficit, savings-investment gap, slow growth of revenue and rapid growth of public expenditures contribute to the increased external debt of the country.

5.1 Public Sector External Debt: The external borrowings of Bangladesh consist mainly of public sector external debt. The share of private sector external borrowing is negligible. The total Public Sector External Debt has increased from US$ 973.80 million in FY 1974-75 to about US$ 51.13 billion in FY 2019-20 which constitutes a debt liability of 15.49 per cent of GDP. The per capita debt obligation of the country has risen from US$ 6.59 in 1973-74 to US$ 305.13 in FY 2019-20.Public sector

external debt consists of General Government debt and guaranteed debt of State Owned Enterprises (SOEs) and debt to IMF. Composition of public sector external debt may be seen in the following graph:



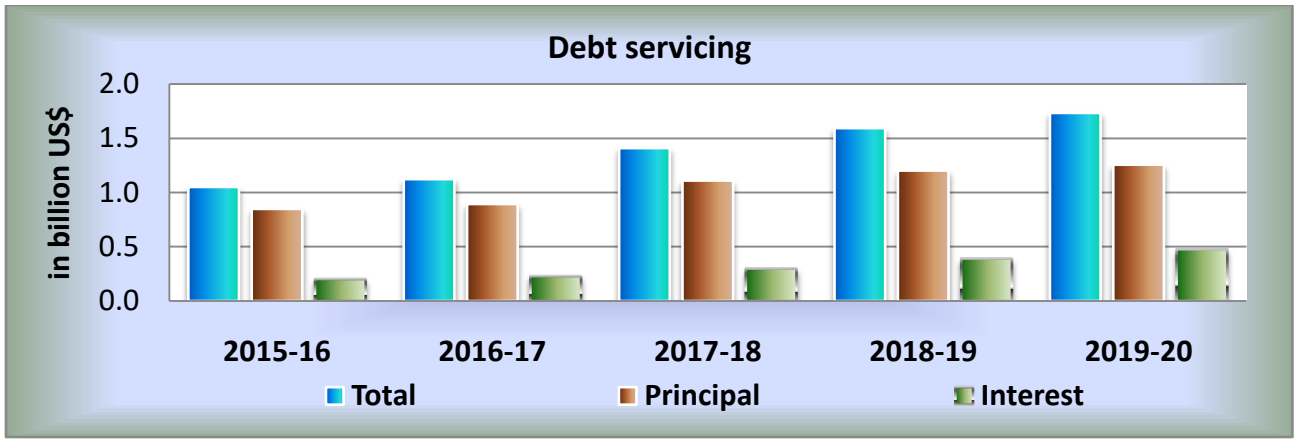
Graph-14

5.2 General Government Debt

The General Government debt amounting to US$ 44.09 billion is the major component of Public Sector External Debt. All of the general government external loans are Medium and Long Term (MLT) in nature. The share of MLT debt is 86.23 per cent of total Public Sector External Debt and it constitutes a debt liability of 13.36 per cent of GDP. Most of MLT credits are acquired on concessional terms with a weighted average grace period of 8.3 years, a weighted average maturity period of 30.6 years and weighted average repayment period of 22.3 years. These credits mainly come from bilateral and multilateral sources. Economic Relations Division manages the General Government external debt. Few issues related to General Government external debt are presented in the following paragraphs:

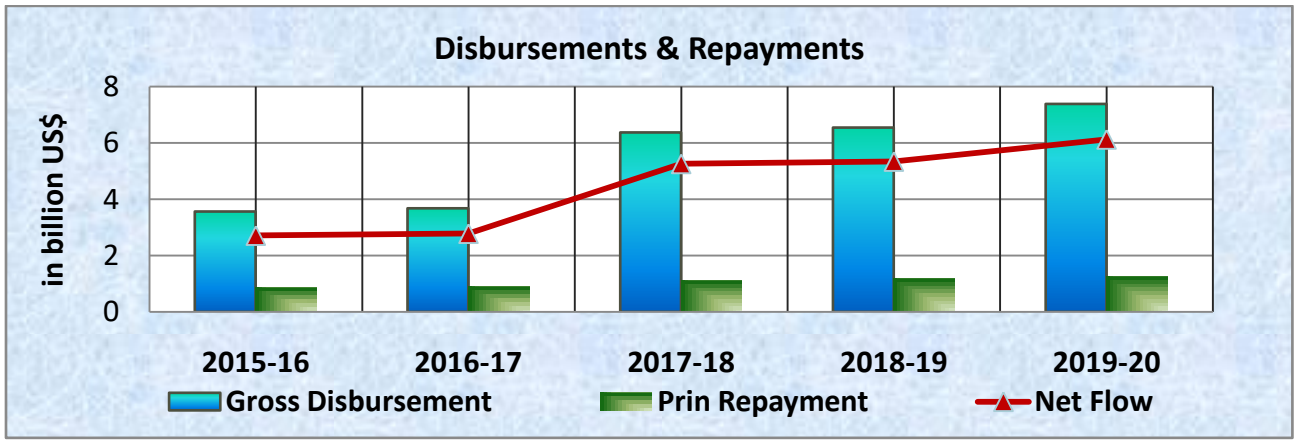
5.2.1 Debt Servicing

A total expense for debt servicing of the government is US$ 1733.99 million in FY 2018-19. Of the total, principal repayment is US$ 1256.55 million and interest is US$ 477.44 million. Of the total debt servicing amount US$ 1205.11 million is paid to multilateral creditors and US$5 288.88 million is paid to bilateral creditors. Statistics of debt servicing for the last five years are shown in Graph-15.



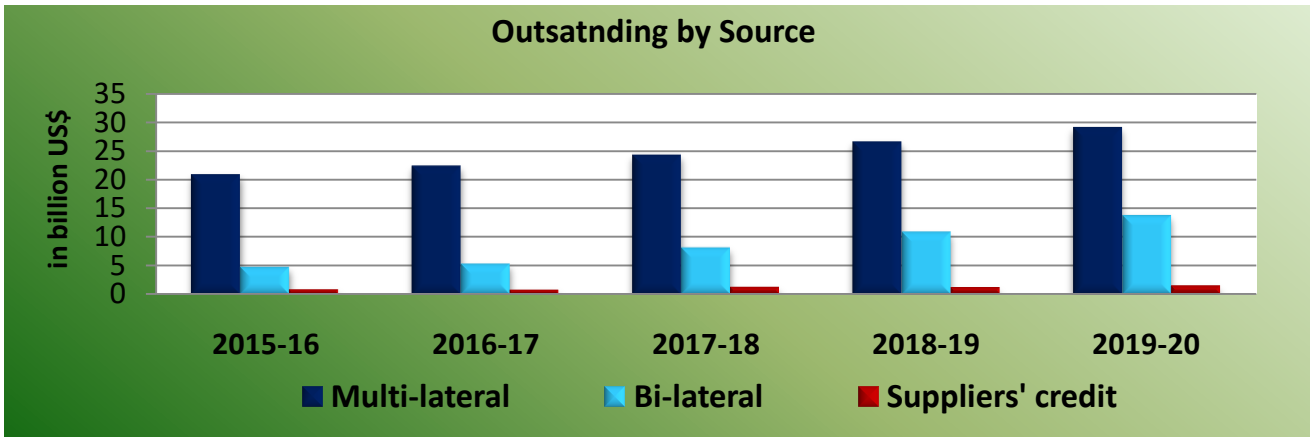
Graph-15

5.2.2 Net Flows and Transfer: Net flows, which account for the difference between disbursement and amortization (principal repayment), registered a positive value in FY 2019-20 by US$ 6125.18 million. In the FY 2018-19 net flows were US$ 5341.09 million. Compared to previous year, net flow increased by 14.68 per cent in FY 2019-20. Since independence net flow of each financial year has been always registering a positive value due to the higher disbursements than amortization. Moreover, net transfer which is the residual value after netting of interest payments from net flows, has also been scoring positively since independence. Graph below shows the net flows for the last five financial years.



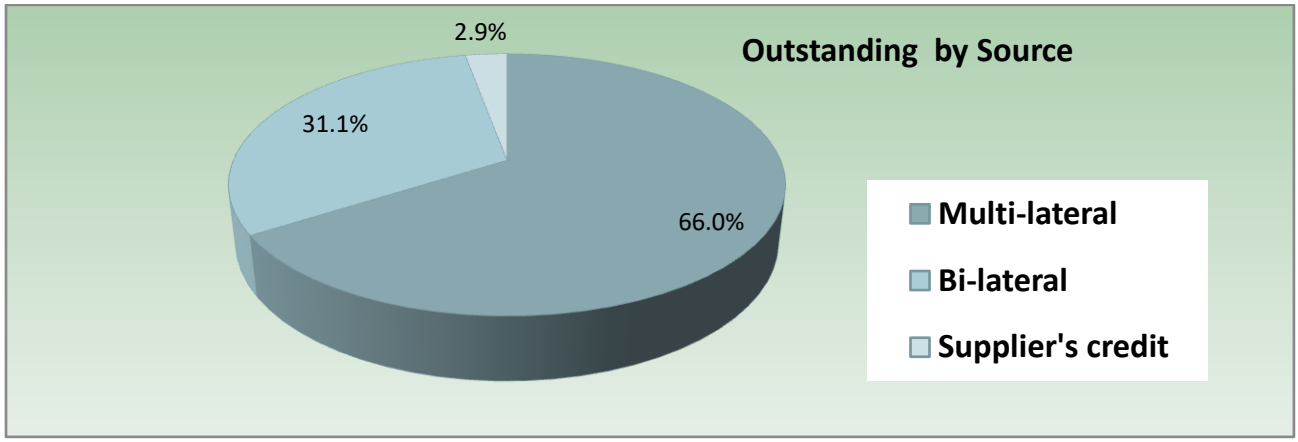
Graph-16

5.2.3Source composition: Usually, external debt is mobilized from bilateral, multilateral and commercial sources. Except few non-concessional loans, almost all the loans received from different sources are concessional in nature. Bangladesh as a policy generally refrains from contracting commercial loan. The share of outstanding debt as on 30th June 2020 from multilateral source is US$ 29.10 billion, while it is equal to US$ 13.70 billion in case of bilateral sources and suppliers' credit US$ 1.29 billion.



Graph-17

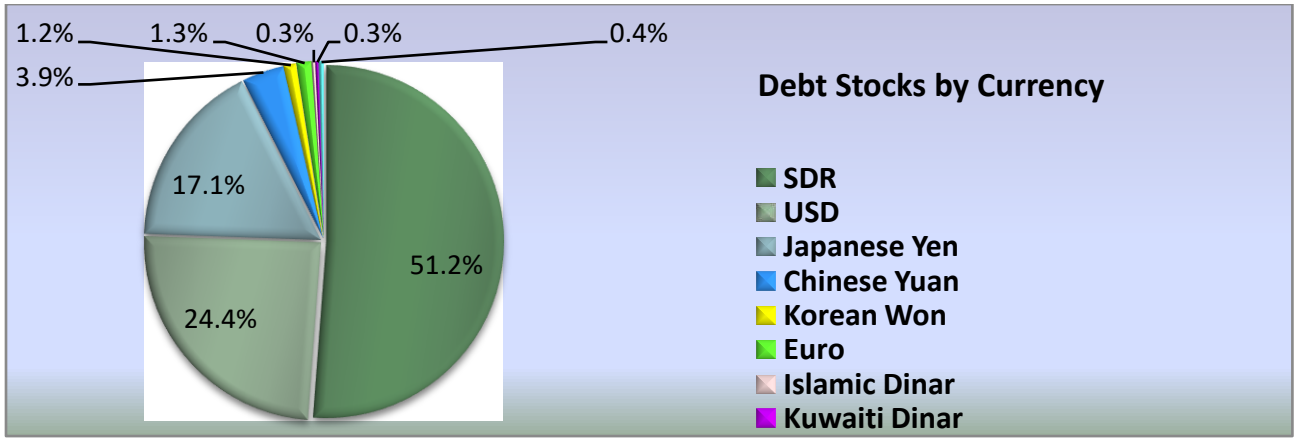
In FY 2019-20 the share of multilateral outstanding loans increased by 9.27 per cent compared to that of FY 2018-19. Similarly, share of bilateral outstanding loan increased by 26.85 per cent and outstanding of suppliers'/buyers' credit increased by 24.04 per cent compared to last financial year. The share of debt outstanding by source for the FY 2019-20 are shown in graph-18.



Graph-18

5.2.4Currency composition: External MLT debt as on 30th June 2020 mainly composed of eight major currencies, such as Special Drawing Right (SDR), United States Dollar, Japanese Yen, Korean Won, Islamic Dinar, European Union Euro, Kuwaiti Dinar and Chinese Yuan. The currency structure of external debt remains virtually unchanged. In terms of denominations continues to account for the largest share. The share of SDR stood at 51.19 percent in FY 2019-20 compared to 56.60 percent in 2018-19. World Bank and ADB (ADF) provided loans in SDR denomination. Due to the disbursements of SDR denomination loan of the two multilateral agencies; debt stock in SDR is still predominant in the debt portfolio. Similarly, the share of debt stock of US increased to 24.37 per cent in FY 2019-20 from 21.01 per cent in FY 2018-19. USD occupied the second largest share of the total debt stock. New net flows of loan in USD from various new

bilateral creditors like Russia, and India constituted increased share of USD loan in the debt portfolio. On the other hand, Japanese Yen gained its share by 1.7 per cent compared to previous year's share of debt stock due to record highest disbursement of loan. The share of major currencies in the debt stock may be seen in the following graph.



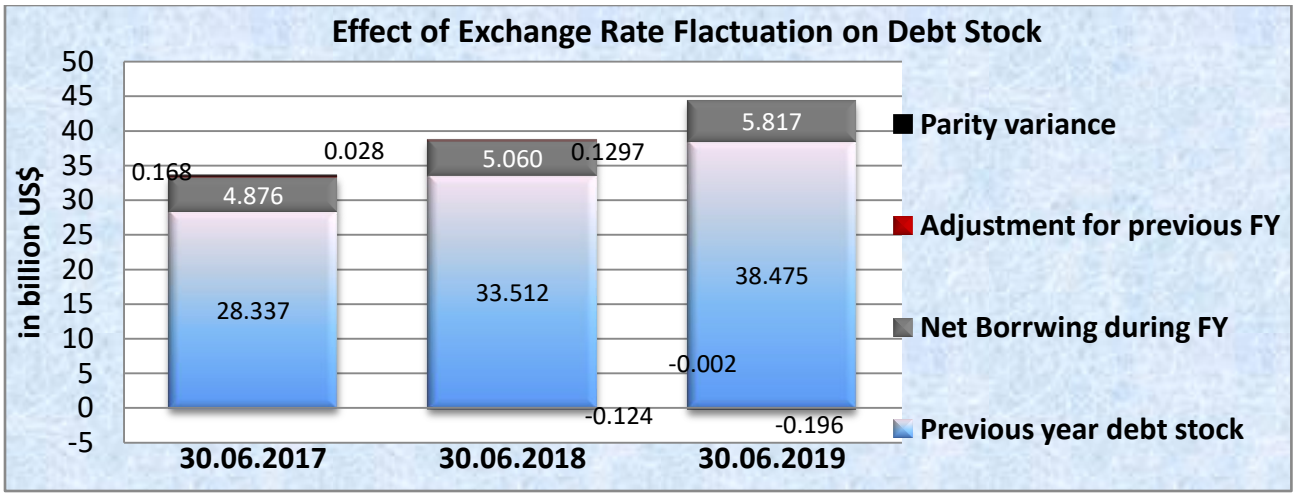
Graph-19

6. Part-4: Risk Analysis

Around 86.23% of the total external debt is derived from Medium and Long Term loan and most of the loans are mobilized under fixed term interest rate basis. Therefore, the risks of existing external debt portfolio is minimized considering that our portfolio is exposed mainly to exchange rate fluctuation and, minimally, to interest rate change. However, there are some other risks which are related to economic performance and overall debt strategy of the country. To examine the risks of the debt portfolio, detailed information related to currency composition, interest rate, maturity and repayment period are required. As ERD only manages General Government loans, therefore risks analysis of existing external debt portfolio is confined within the purview of General Government debt which may be seen in the following few paragraphs.

6.1 Foreign Currency Risk

The total government medium and long term external debt stock increased to US$ 44.095 billion as on 30th June 2020 from US$ 38.475 billion as on 30th June 2019, indicating an increase of US$ 5.620 billion during the year. However, net government external borrowing during the same period stood at US$ 5.620 billion. Episodes of depreciation of US dollar against SDR and against Japanese Yen were frequent during the year (parity variance). This parity variance recorded a decrease of US$ 0.196 billion to the debt stock in US dollar during the year.



Graph-20

But the flip side is that excessive concentration of SDR in the debt portfolio has the effect of exposing the public debt to one single currency exchange rate risk. As the share of SDR in debt stock is more than 51%, depreciation of the nominal value of US dollar against SDR may cause an increase of debt stock in US dollar without adding new loan to the debt portfolio. Similarly, it may also increase expenditure in US dollar on account of debt servicing as most of SDR loans are paid in US dollar. Adverse movement of exchange rate between foreign currencies and local currency causes increase of debt servicing expenditure in Taka. However, in the FY 2019-20 the value of SDR against US dollar appreciated slightly. LIBOR rate has decreased considerably compared to last financial year. Moreover, the value of taka was depreciated against US dollar. However, actual expenditure of debt servicing in Taka was less than the budget provision. An amount of Taka 10,653.74 crore and Taka 4047.42 crore paid as principal and interest respectively against the budget provision of Taka 10,880 6crore and Taka 4,845 crore which made an under expenditure of Taka 1,023.84 crore in total for the government.

6.2 Liquidity Risk

The capacity of servicing external debt is measured by liquidity monitoring indicators. Interest service ratio and total debt service ratio are the two key indicators for the purpose. Interest service ratio is measured by the cost of external debt as a percentage of export. In FY 2019-20 the interest service of MLT debt ratio is 1.20 per cent which was 0.83 percent in FY 2018-19. Total debt service ratio is the ratio of total debt service (principal plus interest payment) as percentage of export. Total debt service of MLT debt ratio is 4.38 per cent in FY 2019-20 compared to 3.41 per cent in FY 2018-9. The rollover ratio, the ratio of amortization over total disbursement in a single year also indicates the comfort zone of liquidity position. The Rollover ratio in case of MLT debt went down to 17.05 per cent in FY

2019-20 which was 18.44 per cent in FY 2018-9. Total debt service payment to revenue earning is also an important tool to monitor liquidity risk. The total debt service to revenue in FY 2019-20 and 2018-19 are 5.58 percent and 5.31 percent respectively.

6.3 Solvency Risk

Debt burden indicator is measured by various ratios. Of these, one is the ability to repay all outstanding debt from export earnings in a single year. In FY 2019-20, outstanding of MLT debt stood at 111.35 per cent of the export earnings compared to 82.33 per cent of the same in FY 2018-19. Based on the result of the above analysis it could be said that solvency risk does not pose any significant threat to the external debt portfolio.

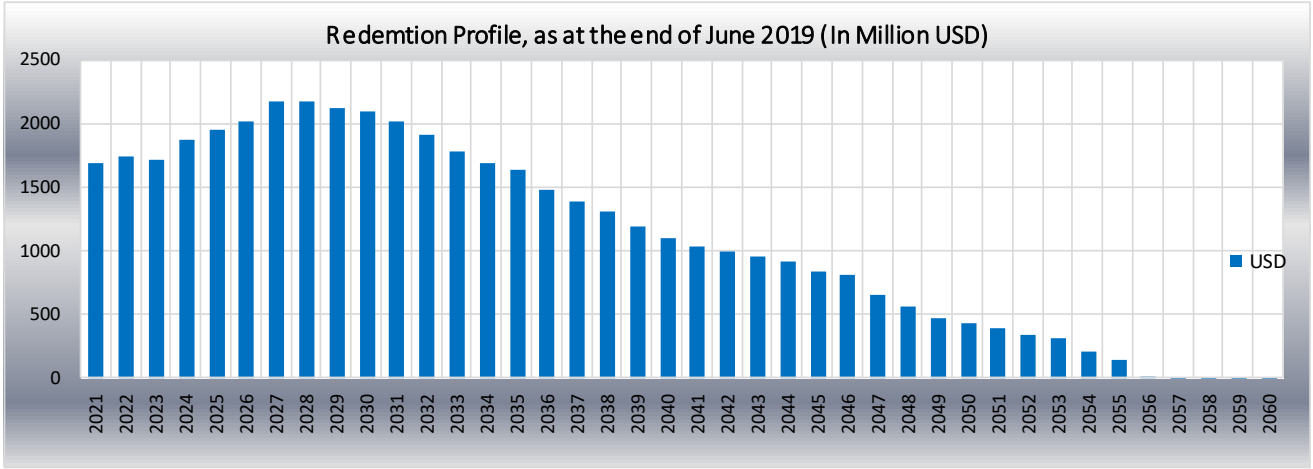
6.4 Re-fixing and Interest Rate Risk

Interest rate risk does not pose significant threat to the external debt portfolio as almost all external loans are acquired at concessionary fixed rates. On the Other hand, there is no such refinancing risk as only 3.8% of outstanding debt will mature in the next financial year.

Risks	Indicators	FY 2019	FY 2020
Cost of Debt	Weighted Average interest Rate	1.4%	1.3%
Refinancing Risk	Average Time To Maturity (ATM) (Years)	12.0	13.1
	Debt maturing in 1yr (% of total)	4.0%	3.8%
Interest Rate Risk	Average Time to Repayment (ATR) (years)	11.0	11.3
	Debt re-fixing in 1yr (% of total)	14.5%	19.9%
	Fixed rate debt (% of total)	88.0%	82.7%

However, interest rate risk is high when the variable interest rate dominated debt portfolio exists. Recently few loans have been mobilized at variable interest rate. All that is required to keep a close eye on the issue of interest rate risk for coming years.

Redemption profile of debt at the end of June 2020 does not pose any risk as there is no extreme spike of amortization seen in the graph-21. According to the redemption profile amortization is smoother and it will remain below 2.2 billion in the medium term.

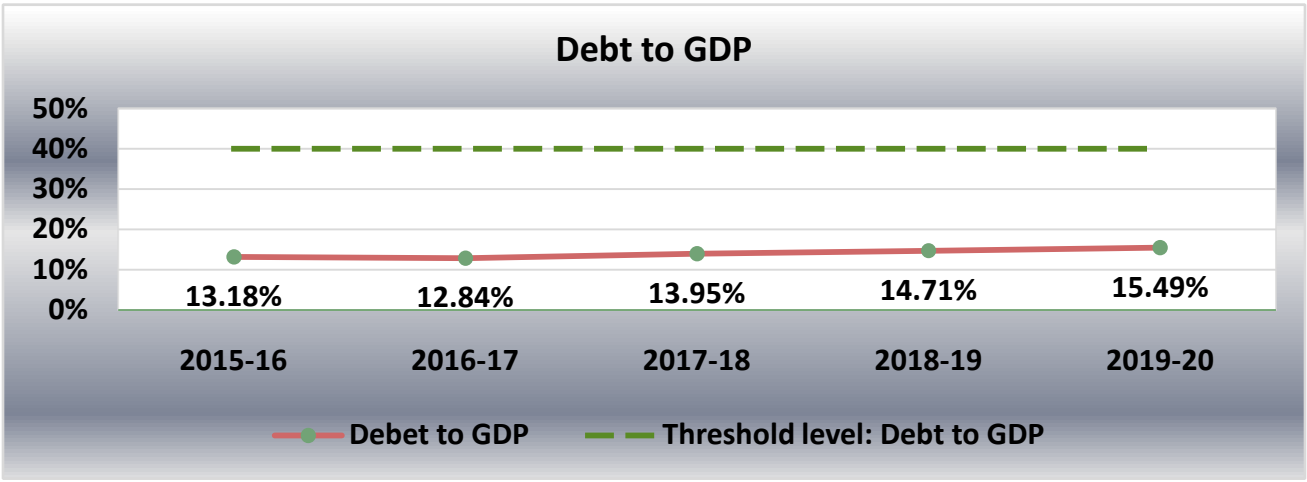


Graph-21

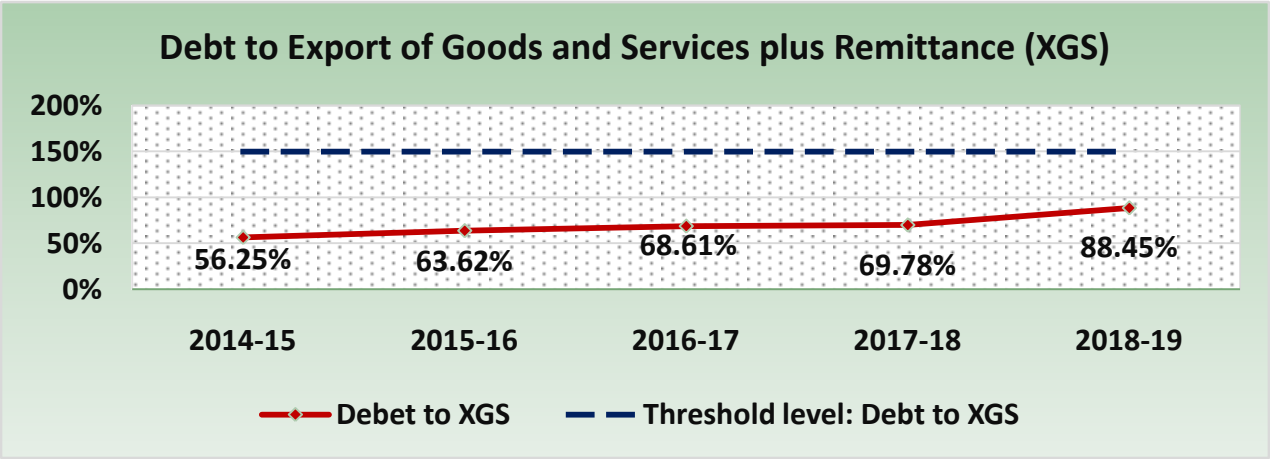
6.5Debt sustainability of overall Public Sector External Debt

Broadly overall debt sustainability is measured by applying two aggregate sets of indicators. One is the ratio of ***total debt outstanding***(public sector external debt) ***to GDP***. The other one is the ratio of ***debt servicing to export of goods and services and revenue earning***. Overall debt sustainability situation of Bangladesh is presented in the following graphs.

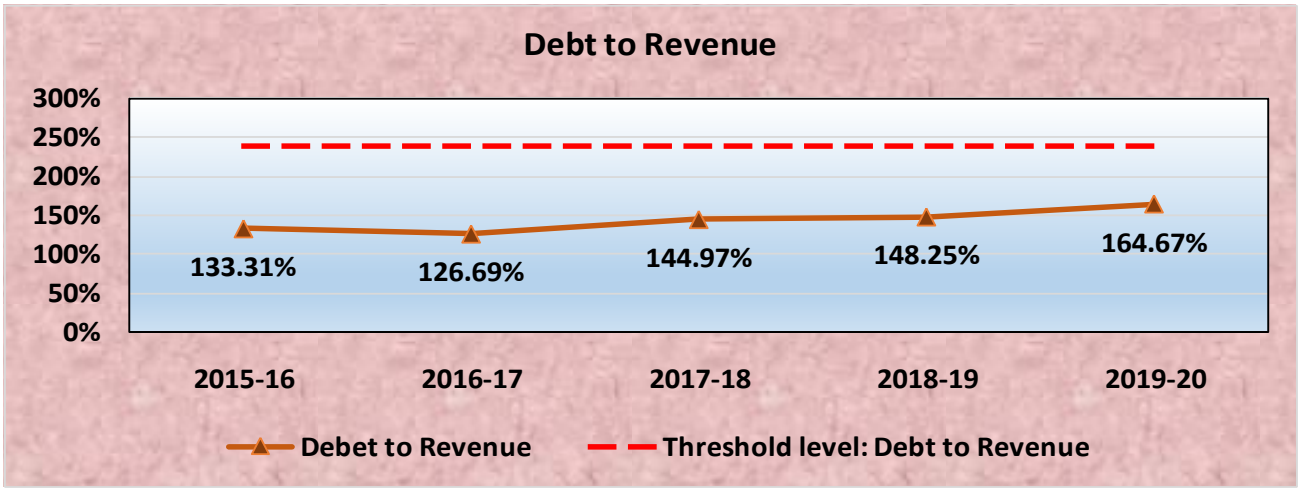
Debt Stock to GDP, Export of goods & services plus Remittance (XGS) and Revenue ratio and Threshold Level



Graph-22

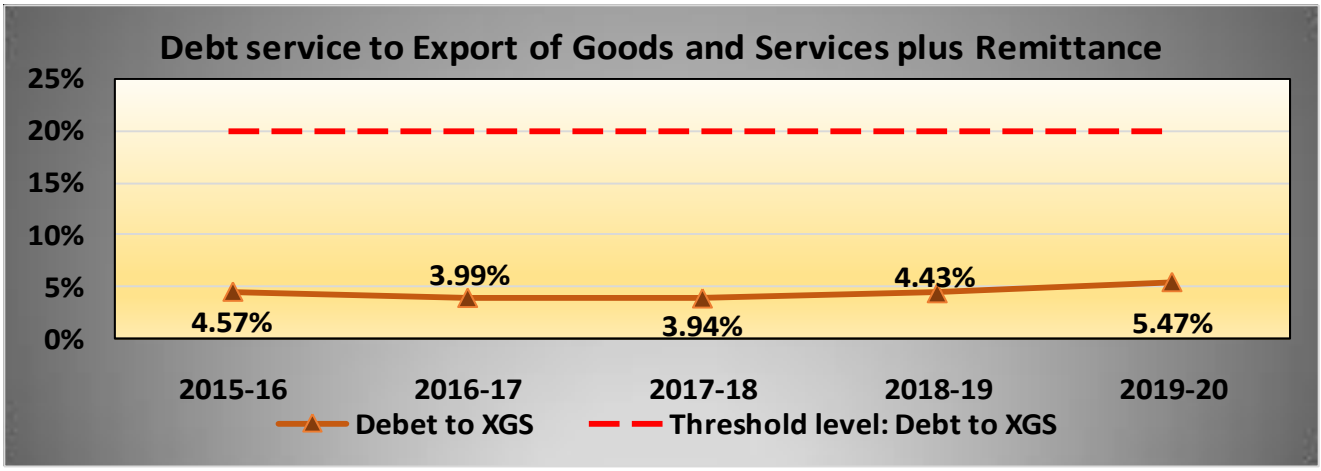


Graph-23

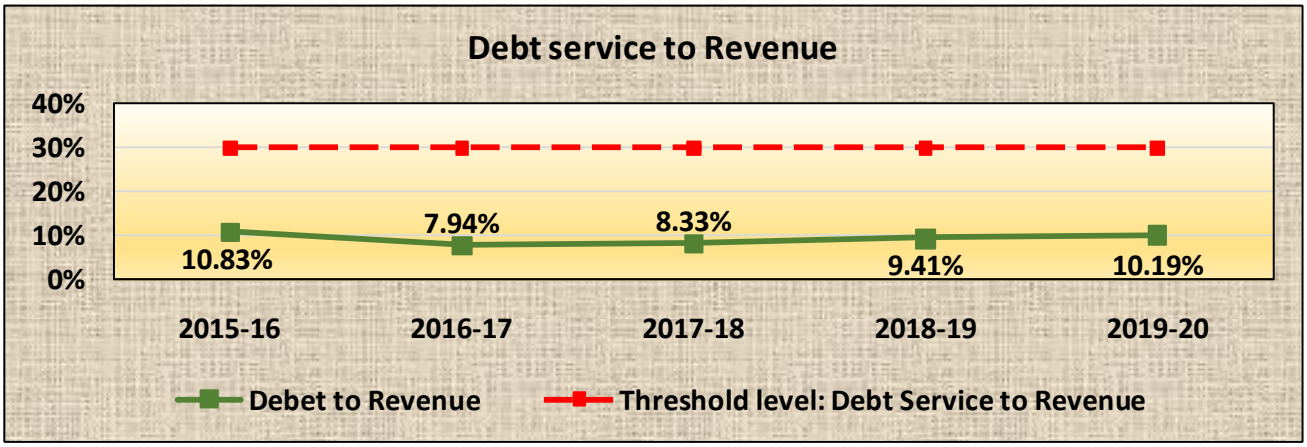


Graph-24

Debt Service to Export of goods & services plus Remittance (XGS) and Revenue ratio and Threshold Level



Graph-25



Grapg-26

From the above indicators it is clear that all the indicators of the external debt sustainability related to debt stock and debt service have improved in FY 2016-17 compared to the previous year. All the indicators are below the level of threshold. According to present classification by World Bank, Bangladesh is categorized as "less indebted" country.

7. Part-5: Developments in Aid and Debt Management

7.1Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building: The recent IMF/WB/UNCTAD and the DeMPA Missions highlighted in their findings the need to improve on the institutional arrangement of public debt management. Economic Relations Division took a number of activities that should lead to improved institutional arrangement for external debt management. One of the major initiatives is up-gradation of Foreign Aid Budget and Accounts (FABA) Branch to FABA wing. In addition, a number of domestic and foreign programmers' were arranged that exposed officials of the debt management entities to specialized training in risk analysis, debt strategy analysis and related areas in order to gain best practice and experience. In September, 2015 a new wing, Development Effectiveness Wing has been established in ERD for responding to the changing dynamics of international development cooperation. The broad mandate of this Wing is to undertake analytical and research work to help ERD in adapting strategic policy measures for ensuring aid effectiveness.

7.2Development in Borrowing Strategy: Since independence, Bangladesh has been depending on concessional loan from multilateral and bilateral agencies/countries. However, besides complex and time consuming loan approval process, the concessional loans are usually conditional. Moreover, Bangladesh's access to the ODA is limited compared to increased investment need for fulfilling the national development strategy. Global economic recession has also adversely affected mobilizing foreign aid in concessional terms. But, interest rates in the external borrowing markets are at still low.

In this context, the Government is evaluating various financing alternatives now to bridge the financing gaps. Government already signed agreement with Russia, European Investment Bank, France Development Agency, Exim Bank of China etc. to borrow at a market floating interest rate. For ensuring better screening of non-concessional loan, the government has for a long time a high level committee naming "Standing Committee on Non-Concessional Loan" to contain debt burden in a comfort zone consistent with a prudent degree of risk. The Committee approved 54 proposals of non-concessional loans from 1st July 2013 to 30th June 2020.

7.3Debt Management System: Bangladesh developed a debt accounting and management system immediately after the liberation of the country with some assistance from IMF. This was refined into a system by 1978. UNCTAD reviewed the system and based on it developed its Debt Management and

Financial Analysis System (DMFAS). Since 1992 FABA has been using UNCTAD formulated software, for managing external debt. In June 2013 DMFAS was successfully upgraded from version 5.3 to version 6.0 under Deepening Medium Term Budget Framework (DMTBF) project of SPEMP. DMFAS version 6.0 is a web based software that connected Office of the Controller General of Account, Bangladesh Bank, Economic Relations Division (ERD) and Finance Division through Wide Area Network (WAN). The essence of this interconnectivity is to improve debt data quality and reporting among the institutions concerned. The operational linkages among institutions are yet to be completed. Once this process is completed, the quality of the country's debt management capacity will be substantially enhanced.

7.4Initiative towards aid effectiveness: A real time data sharing platform between ERD and Development Partners, Aid Information Management System (AIMS) is in operation since 2013. The AIMS captures data of commitments and disbursements, both of public and non-public sectors, from development partners. It provides a robust picture of aid flows by capturing aid data flowing to non-public sector along with public sector. Moreover, Development Effectiveness Wing of ERD is currently working on drafting development cooperation policy. Bangladesh is actively working with some major international organizations related to aid transparency and effectiveness. Honorable Minister, Ministry of Finance is one of the Co-Chairs of Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation which advocates effective development across the globe. Secretary, ERD is working as Vice-chair of the governing board of International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) which makes information about aid spending easier to access, use and understand. Asia Pacific Development Effectiveness Facility (AP-DEF), a country-led regional platform, chaired by the Government of Bangladesh, also supports countries to implement their national agendas on development finance and cooperation. The Facility is a platform for regional dialogue, cooperation, and sharing of country knowledge and experiences.

7.5Monitoring of slow disbursing projects/ programs: To speed up disbursement against commitment, ERD has taken some measures which are as follows:

(i) Initiatives have been taken to indentify slow moving projects by using following criteria:

- Projects which failed to achieve disbursement of less than 80% of the commitments over a period of 5 years or more;
- Projects which failed to achieve disbursement of less than 50% of the commitments over a period of 3 years or more; and
- Projects which failed to achieve disbursement of less than 10% of the commitments over a period of 1 year or more.

(ii) To expedite project implementation and establishing better cooperation among stakeholders, ERD arranges 'Tripartite Review Meeting' among ERD, Line Ministries and DPs at least once in three months at the Wing Chief level and biennially at the Secretary level. Progress, bottlenecks, measures taken to mitigate the bottlenecks of project implementation is monitored in the Tripartite Review Meeting. Variance between planned disbursements according to DPP/TPP and actual disbursements are also examined in the meeting.

(iii) ERD officials inspect the slow moving projects and submit report regularly.

7.6 Fast Track Project Monitoring Committee: A high level committee, chaired by honorable Prime Minister, has been established to monitor progress of the large projects that have or will have transformational value in economic development of the country. Up to June 2017, ten projects have been selected for monitoring by the committee. The Projects are: Padma Multi-purpose Bridge Project, 2X600 MW Maitree Super Tharmal Power Project (Rampal), Ruppur Nuclear Power Plant Project, Dhaka Mass Rapid Transit Development Project (Metro Rail), LNG Terminal construction Project, Sonadia Deep Sea Port Project, Matarbari 2X600 MW Ultra Super Critical Coal Fire Power Project, Paira Sea Port Project, Padma Rail Link Project and Construction of Single Line Duel Gauge Track from Dohazari to Ramu-Cox Bazar- Ghumdum (near to Myanmar).

7.7Initiatives toward diversification of sources of external resources: To strengthen the platform of South-South Cooperation, according to the decision of High Level Meeting on 'South-South and Triangular Cooperation in the Post 2015 Development Agenda: Financing for Development in the South and Technology Transfer', Bangladesh has communicated with 127 countries as an initiative to establish Finance and Development Ministers' Forum of the South. A number of countries have already responded positively. Moreover, Bangladesh has communicated with the UN to take initiative for a Resolution of General Assembly regarding establishing Finance and Development Ministers' Forum of the South. Besides that Senior Secretary of ERD has been nominated as National Designated Authority (NDF) to coordinate with Green Climate Fund (GCF), established under UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), to ensure just share for Bangladesh as it is one of the worst victims of the climate change.

7.8Bangladesh Development Forum (BDF): The latest edition of Bangladesh Development Forum (BDF) was held on 29-30 January, 2020 in Dhaka. Honorable Prime Minister of the Government of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina, MP, inaugurated the BDF main session. This was the fourth round of BDF that took place over the last 10 years following its earlier edition in 2010,2015 and 2018. This flagship event provides as an appropriate platform for assessing the progress made in implementing

the SDGs aligned with the upcoming 8th five year plan for dialogue on ways to accelerate Bangladesh's development. Senior Vice President of JICA Mr. Junichi Yamada, Vice President of World Bank for South Asian region Mr. Hartwig Schafer, Vice President of Asian Development Bank Mr. Shixin Chen along with others representatives from Development Partners, international development agencies, foreign missions, civil society organizations, private sector, think tanks, research organizations and Ministries/Divisions of the Government of Bangladesh attended the event. The forum also serves to affirm broad-ranging support for Bangladesh's Development. Among many other issues, integrated SDG financing and strengthening multi-stakeholder partnerships, broader strategies of the upcoming 8th five year plan and national priorities were discussed widely in the Forum. The deliberations of the Forum will support collective efforts to help Bangladesh in achieving SDGs, promoting inclusive, resilient, sustainable growth and development, and improving the lives of all Bangladeshis.

7.9Developing Foreign Aid Management System (FAMS): ERD has taken initiative to develop a computerized system for managing foreign aid. The system, named FAMS, launched in June 2017 and operationalized from June 2018.The system covers activities from borrowing programs to foreign aid allocation to projects included in the Annual Development Program (ADP). The projects and related ministries/ divisions are connected by web based software. The software has been designed in a way that can facilitate tracking progress of project implementation both in terms of aid disbursement and utilization. Besides that, the system provides the facility to get aid inflow data routing through Bangladesh Bank.

From the experience of using the system, it is learned that a second version of the system is required to make it more user friendly and to adjust various issues. ERD is planning to take an initiative to have its 2nd version shortly. It is expected that the system will strengthen the capacity of ERD in the formulation of budget related to foreign aid as well as aligning aid with 8th Five Year Plan in the long run.

7.10 Initiative towards project readiness: To ensure readiness for implementation of the projects, ERD prepared a check list of jobs to be complemented at the formulation stage of projects. Consequently, a policy of allocating and managing fund for preparation of project and completion of jobs listed in the check list was also prepared. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved both the check lists and the policy on 08.02.2017. It was published as a gazette on 6.3.2017. It is expected that the lead times for commencing implementation of the project will be reduced considerably. It is implied that the rate of utilization of aid in the pipeline will be improved with faster implementation of projects.

7.11 Efforts towards implementation of SDG: The preliminary assessment of General Economic Division (GED) of the Ministry of Planning shows that it may require around

US$928.48 billion worth of additional resources for full implementation of SDGs from 2017 to 2030.That mean, annual average cost would be 66.32 billion US$ which is 19.75% of the accumulated GDP. Importantly, external resources are estimated as 14.89% (9.95% FDI and 4.94% foreign aid and grant) of total resource requirement. ERD pertains to Goal-17 of SDG (Partnership for the Goals) which entails multi-stakeholder partnership needs for mobilizing resources and transferring technology through innovations and sharing knowledge in accomplishing the Agenda 2030. ERD's role has been instrumental in realizing Bangladesh's SDGs through mobilizing foreign resources as well as enhancing effective ties with the Development Partners (DPs) and International organizations. As per the Handbook on Mapping of Ministries published by the General Economic Division (GED), ERD is the Lead agency for 15 different targets, Co-lead for 2 targets and Associate for another 29 targets. According to Target 17.2 of SDGs Developed Countries are supposed to fulfill their commitments in providing Official Development Assistance (ODA) at a minimum rate of 0.7% of the GNI of respective countries. It has been urged to provide at least 0.15-0.20% of GNI to LDCs out of the total target flow of ODA. ERD has undertaken several strategic Institutional and policy measures to harness resources to support Bangladesh's SDGs implementation. As per the directives from the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), General Economic Division (GED) of the Planning Commission in consultation with the SDG based coordinating ministries/divisions and relevant stakeholders prepared a comprehensive Voluntary National Review (VNR) of Bangladesh through series of meetings and workshops. All coordinating Ministries/ Divisions were instructed to organize Consultation Workshops on SDGs Implementation involving Lead, Co-Lead, and Associate Ministry/Division, DPs, local and international NGOs, CSOs and relevant stakeholders to provide necessary inputs for the VNR. Like other coordinating Ministries/Divisions, ERD also arranged a Consultation Workshop on the progress of SDG Implementation on 29 December 2019 involving relevant stakeholders. The findings of this workshop was reflected in the VNR Report of Bangladesh. This Division also submitted its SDG Implementation Report (SIR) 2019 to the PMO. This VNR report on SDGs implementation will be presented in the next United Nations High Level Political Forum (HLPF) through Virtual Meeting VNR 2020 which is scheduled on FY 2020-21.

ERD is providing on relevant indicators to **SDG Tracker**- a macro-level data repository system prepared by a2i project of Prime Minister's Office to facilitate the results based monitoring system within Government.