
BANGLADESH IN 2016-17

PROGRESS AND DEVELOPMENT



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Bangladesh in 2016-17 Progress and Development

Introduction

In the last eight and a half years, Bangladesh has witnessed a golden era of progress and development under the successive Awami League Governments led by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. During this period, the country has seen robust economic growth, stable macroeconomic outlook, landmark infrastructural undertakings, massive digitization and a consistently upward trend in improvement of all major human and social development indicators. Spurred on by the current Government's apt policies such as "Vision 2021" and "Vision 2041", the aim to transform Bangladesh into a middle income nation by 2021 and a developed one by 2041 respectively, "Education for All", "Electricity for All", and "Digital Bangladesh", the aspiration to turn Bangladesh into a technologically advanced nation, over the last eight and a half years, the country has gone through a transformative phase of unprecedented development in its history. Within six years of being in power, the current Government was able to elevate the economic status of the country to that of a lower-middle income country from a lower income for the first time since its independence 46 years ago. A record number of people have been brought out of the curse of poverty during the same period, denoting that the growth has been inclusive. Owing to this, the country has been termed a 'development wonder', a 'development miracle' and the likes by international organizations and global leaders and thinkers.

This publication looks at the state of progress and development in Bangladesh as it stands at the end of the 2016-17 financial year with particular comparison, wherever possible, to the state of indicators when the current Government took office in 2008.

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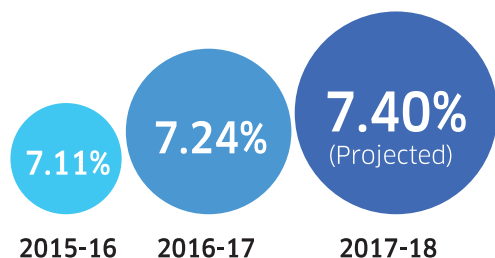
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01 Economy: A Story of Transformative and Inclusive Growth



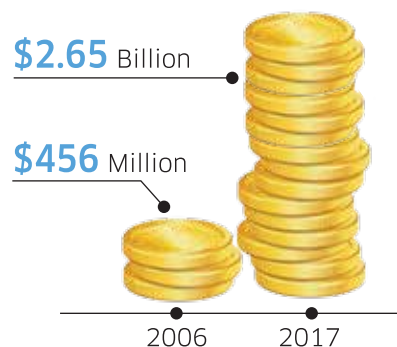
In most of the major economic indicators, at the end of the 2016-17 fiscal year, Bangladesh showed strong and robust growth with forecasts of even better performance in the current fiscal year. Bangladesh's economic growth hit 7.24% at the start of 2017FY, the fastest in its history, surpassing even the target set by the government. In the beginning of the 2016 FY, Bangladesh's GDP growth rate was 7.11%. Bangladesh rolled out its national budget worth almost US 50 billion for the 2017-18 fiscal year (FY) in June 2017, setting the GDP growth target at 7.4%.

Economic Growth



1.1 Foreign Direct Investment

Bangladesh received \$2.65 billion in gross inflows of foreign direct investment (FDI) between July 2016 and May 2017 – over 13% increase from \$2.33 billion received in the same period of the previous year. The nation witnessed growth despite a 2% global decrease and 14% decline in developing countries during this time.



Bangladesh was the **“best performer”** in South Asia after India
World Investment Report 2017



Bangladesh emerged as the **fourth largest** Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) host among the Least Developed Countries (LDCs)

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

1.2 Inflation

Bangladesh's annual inflation eased to 5.44% in the financial year that ended in June 2017, remaining below 6% and fulfilling the target set in the national budget. The new monetary policy is now aimed at keeping average inflation below 5.5 percent in the 2017-18 financial year that started in July. Inflation rate in Bangladesh averaged 6.60 percent from 1994 until 2017, reaching an all-time high of 16 percent in September of 2011.

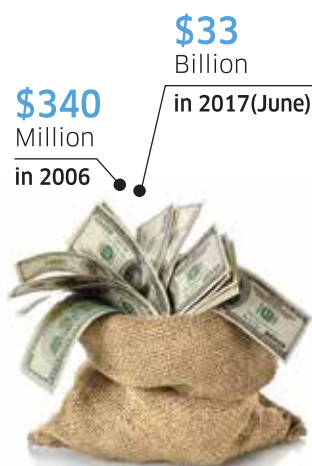
1.3 | Per Capita Income

Bangladesh's per capita income rose to \$1,602 at the end of the 2016 FY, which was \$1,466 in the last fiscal year according to the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), denoting a 9.2% rise. A number of factors can be attributed to the rising incomes, including strong economic growth, plan of implementing the National Pay Scale in 2015, and the 7th Five Year Economic Plan undertaken by the government. Bangladesh envisions to elevate per capita income to \$12,000 by 2041.



1.4 | Forex Reserves

Foreign exchange reserves have crossed \$33 billion for the first time in the history of Bangladesh in 2016-17. Reserves grew 10.5% from the previous FY to \$33.02 billion. In 2001, Bangladesh had to defer its payments to the Asian Clearing Union (ACU) for imports to avoid compromising the then \$1 billion foreign exchange reserves, as that would have undermined the country's global image. 17 years later, Bangladesh Bank's foreign exchange reserves have grown by 33 times. Increasing remittances from expatriates abroad and rising export incomes have boosted Bangladesh's reserves in the past few years.



1.5 | Export Earnings

Bangladesh's export income rose by 4.44% in 2016-17. The country earned a total of \$34.9 billion from exports, of which the readymade garment (RMG) sector accounted for \$28.15 billion. Bangladesh's share of the global clothing market rose in 2016 as the country sealed its place as the second largest exporter of apparel products. The total exports between July 2016 and June 2017, is 4.44% higher than the same period in 2015-16. Particular promise was also shown by leather shoe exports, which rose by 8.5%, jute and jute products, which rose by 4.66%, and medicine, which rose by 8.6%.



1.6 | Remittance

Remittances are Bangladesh's second-biggest source of foreign income but they fell 14.5% to \$12.8 billion in the last financial year, with much of the decline blamed on the impact of lower energy prices on Middle East employment. This is because over half of remittances come from workers in Gulf countries, particularly Saudi Arabia. The falling prices and ensuing economic repercussions have led to less employment opportunities and higher costs of living for migrant workers, reducing their ability to save and remit income home. Informal channels used for money transfers not captured in official statistics may also be a reason for the shift.



1.7 | Credit Ratings

Bangladesh continues to receive positive ratings from the top international agencies as Fitch Ratings has affirmed Bangladesh's Long-Term Foreign- and Local-Currency Issuer Default Ratings (IDRs) at 'BB-'. The outlooks on the long-term incentive distribution rights(IDR) have been stable. The Country Ceiling has also been affirmed at 'BB-' and the Short-Term Foreign- and Local-Currency IDRs at 'B'. The global rating agency Standard & Poor affirmed 'BB-' long-term and 'B' short-term sovereign credit ratings on Bangladesh with a stable outlook in its latest report. Ratings agency Moody's has also maintained a stable outlook for Bangladesh thanks to its robust economic growth, macro-economic stability and relatively low government debt levels and has reaffirmed a credit rating of Ba3 for government bonds.


Stable
Outlook for
Bangladesh

Moody's, Fitch,
Standard & Poor

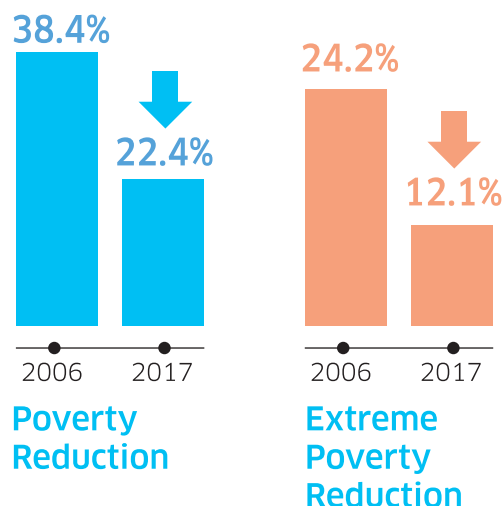
02 Social Justice and Security: Leaving No One Behind



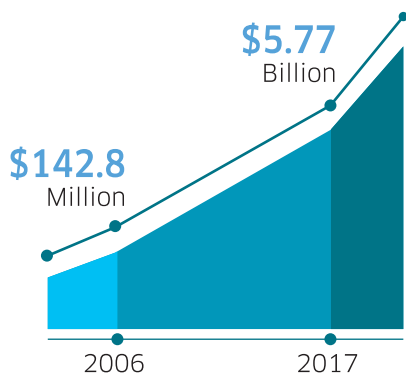
Over the last 10 years, Bangladesh has seen tremendous decline in poverty rate and extreme poverty rate. Owing to a number of poverty reduction programmes and a comprehensive social security net regime, millions have been lifted out of the clutches of poverty. In fact, the World Bank President Jim Yong Kim came to Bangladesh in October, 2016 to see firsthand how the country has dramatically reduced poverty. He praised Bangladesh, its people and leadership for becoming a model for poverty reduction despite being saddled with a long list of hardships. He commented:

" Bangladesh has shown the world that a long list of hardships can be overcome... In fact, its people have shown that innovation, commitment, setting goals and visionary leadership can accomplish feats that few dared to imagine. I believe that Bangladesh can continue to build on this record and can end extreme poverty by 2030".

In fighting poverty, and to ensure a country imbued with the spirit of social justice, the current Awami League Government places utmost importance on social security. In the last 8 years, allocation for social protection both in terms of coverage and amount of allowances has been increased manifold aiming to ensure the welfare of the destitute, neglected, and backward communities of the country. The allocation for social protection in 2016-17 was \$5.77 billion, which is 2.3% of GDP. In 2008-09, the allocation for social protection was \$2.01 billion which was 1.96% of GDP.



Social Security Allocation



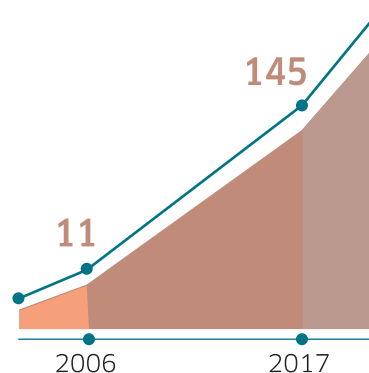
Bangladesh operates a number of social security schemes. In the 2017-18 fiscal year, a number of these have seen expanded coverage in terms of the number of beneficiaries as well as total allocation such as, the number of recipients of old age allowances has been raised from 3.15 million to 3.5 million, the number of beneficiaries of widow and abandoned women allowance has been raised by 10% to 1.26 million. The number of beneficiaries for financially insolvent disabled persons has been raised by 10% to a total number of 825,000 beneficiaries.

The number of beneficiaries of the educational stipend allowances for the disabled person both at the primary and secondary levels has been increased by 10,000 adding 5000 at each level.

The total allocation for special allowance for transgender people has been raised by around 25%. The total allocation for special/ old age allowances of bedde and other backward communities has been increased by around 35%. The number of beneficiaries of maternal allowances has been increased to 600,000, a rise of almost 600%. The number of beneficiaries of maternity allowances for working lactating mothers now stands at 200,000, a staggering rise of 1000%.

At the crux of these schemes lie the "National Social Security Strategy (NSSS)", a roadmap to institutionalize country's social protection system, adopted by the Awami League Government in 2015. As part of implementation of the NSSS, a Technical Assistance project called Social Security Policy Support (SSPS) is undertaken jointly by the Cabinet Division and the General Economics Division (GED) of the Planning Commission. The

Social Security Schemes



first phase of the project will end in 2017. The project supports implementation of a robust social security system and delivery mechanism of social protection.

SSNPs play an important role in supporting poor families to send their children to school. Current government runs a number of projects i.e. Food for Education Programme (FEP), Primary Education Stipend Program (PESP), School Feeding Programme (SEP) and Reaching Out-of-School Children Project (ROSC) to promote education for the children of poor families. Recently, Prime minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the project titled "Mayer Hasi" to disburse primary education stipend using mobile banking. More than 13 million primary students now receive stipend directly into their mothers'

mobile banking accounts. At secondary and higher secondary level, 4 million students received stipends from four separate projects in 2016-17. Safety net programmes in Bangladesh give special consideration for certain vulnerable groups within the poor. During 2016-17, more than 3.15 million senior citizens received benefit. More than 1.15 million widowed, deserted and destitute women were supported during same period with an allocation of \$86.25. About 750,000 disabled persons received monthly allowance from a total allocation of \$67.5 million. An amount of \$37.5 million was disbursed among half a million poor pregnant women in FY 2016-17. Employment Generation Program for the Poorest Project (EGPP) provides short-term employment on community sub-projects in lean seasons over two cycles (March to May and October to December). An amount of \$ 10.25 million was allocated for 91,447 beneficiaries under EGPP during 2016-17. One of the prominent scheme undertaken by the Awami League government is “One House, One Farm” project. This project has enabled the rural poor and the community people to find self-employment opportunities with the physical and financial supports offered by the project. Its coverage extended to some 40,950 wards falling within all 64 districts.

One House One Farm

2009

Project Launched

15

Million



Beneficiaries

\$396.8

Million

Current Size of Permanent Fund of Members

3

Million

Poor Families Get Access to **56,000** Village Development Committees

100,000

VDCs Aimed by 2020 to Bring All Poor Under Coverage



Projects like Ashrayan and Gucchagram (Climate Victims Rehabilitation) provide housing facility to victims of disaster and other types of shocks. Another 38,000 people were rehabilitated under the project- Gucchagram in FY 2016-17. So far, 160,000 families have been rehabilitated through the Ashrayan Project. More 280,000 families will be rehabilitated by 2019 through the Ashrayan Project and project of the housing programme. Government has been continuing different SSNPs to improve the livelihood of tea-garden labourers, harijan, dalit, Bade, transgender (Hijra), and fisherman community. The government has taken an emergency measure to provide 30 Kg rice per month to each of 330,000 poor families affected by the flashfloods. A special allocation of \$ 7.12 million has also been sanctioned to provide cash assistance on monthly basis to them under Special Social Protection Scheme for haor areas.

Ashrayan Project



160,000

Families Provided
Housing



280,000

Families to Get
Housing



21,475

Families Received

\$4 Million

Micro Credit



03 Power and Energy: Ensuring Electricity for All



Ensuring electricity for all and energy security for the country are essential aspects of the future targets of becoming a middle income nation and a developed country. Since assuming power in 2009, the Awami League Government had earmarked the power and energy sectors as priority ones and formulated mid-term and long-term plans. As a result of their successful implementation, in the last 8 years, and especially since 2014, new records have been made in terms of power generation, construction of power plants, ensuring access to electricity, exploring and using a range of sources for energy security and carving out a major space for renewable energy.

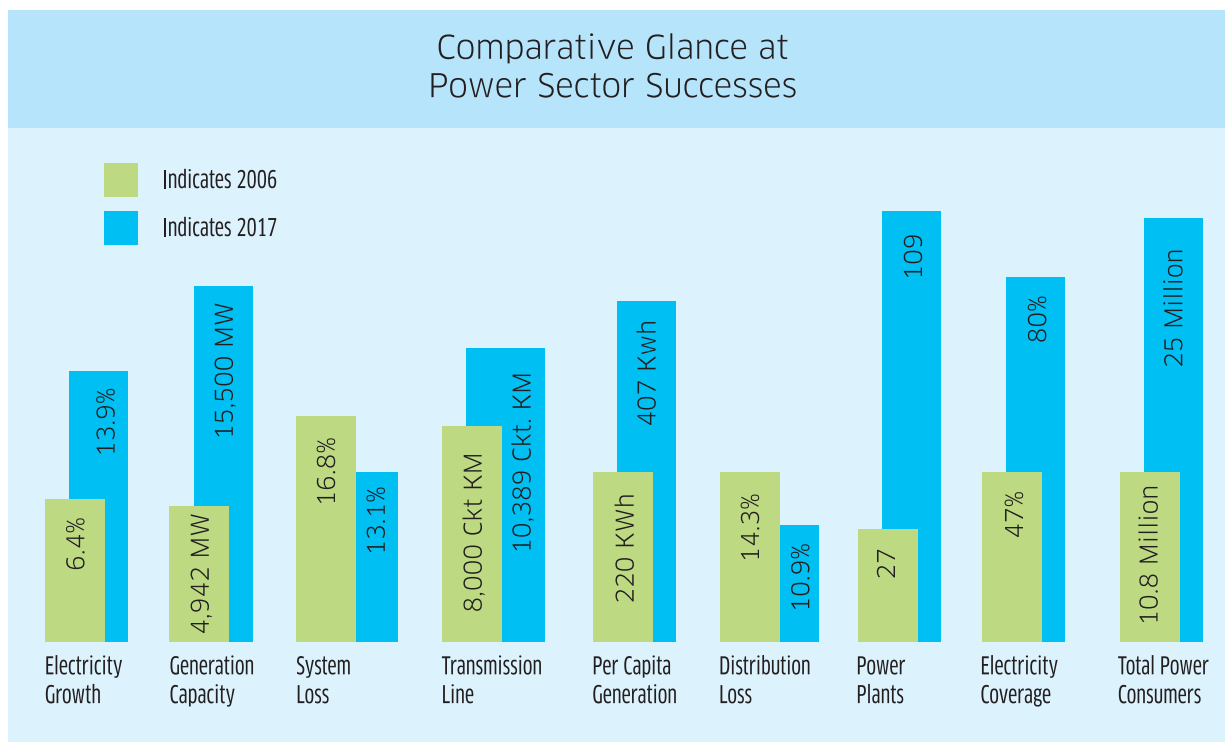


A decade ago, less than 50 percent of Bangladeshis had access to electricity; today, 78 percent have it, underlining the impressive progress made by the Government of Bangladesh in providing power to all its citizens, which it aims to do by 2021. The performance of Bangladesh's energy sector compares favourably with that of its larger South Asian neighbours.

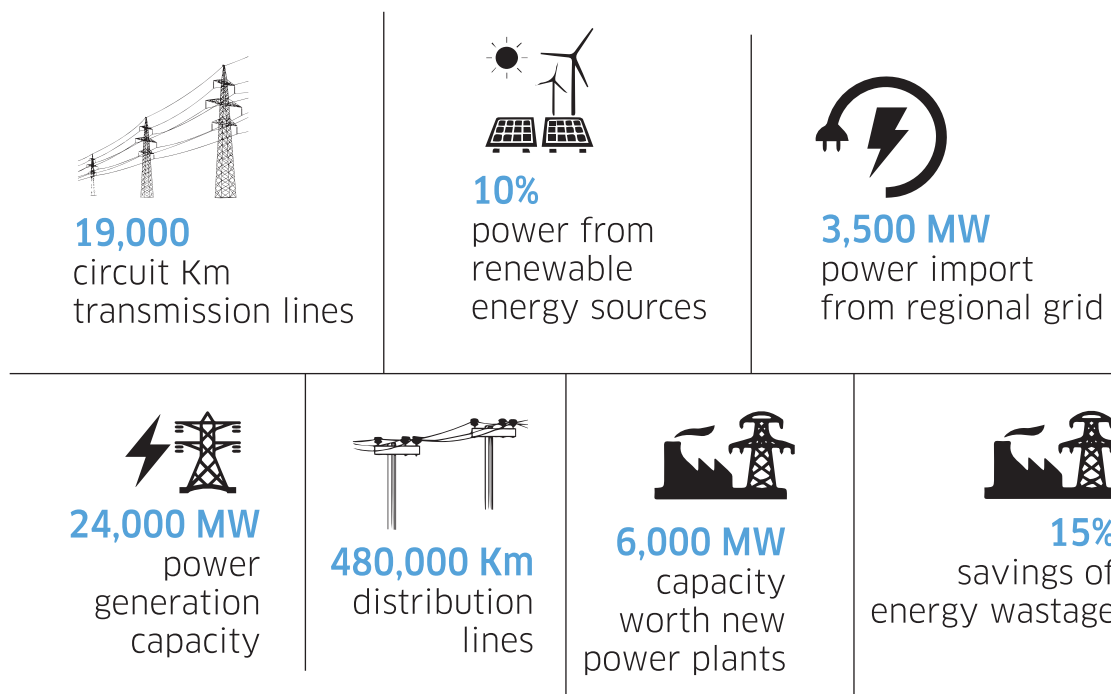


3.1 Power Sector

The Government is working with a clear vision to ensure universal access to quality electricity at a cost-effective and affordable manner. Their activity in the power sector is centered on the mission to ensure reliable electricity for all by 2021 through integrated development of generation, transmission and distribution system.



■ Power Sector Targets by 2021: Power Sector Master Plan

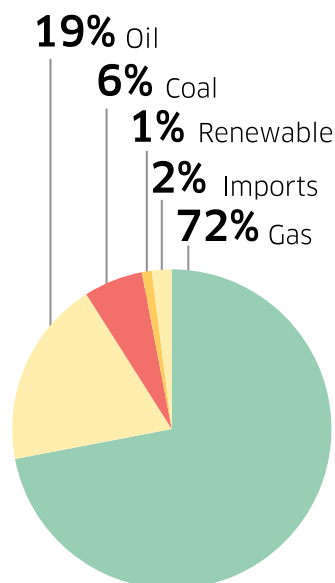


3.2 | Energy Diversification

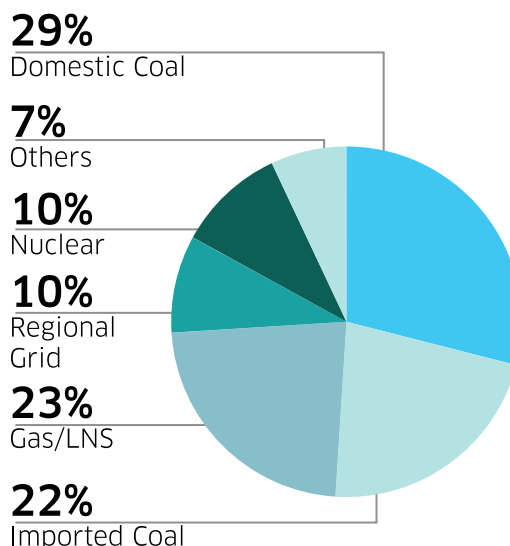
To ensure energy security for the future, Bangladesh is looking to diversify the energy portfolio. Currently, gas is the predominant source of energy supplying 62% impetus for power production. The demand is 3,200 mmcf and the supply is 2,700 mmcf. Now, Bangladesh is aiming to diversifying the sources to ensure: capacity to absorb external shocks, reduce dependency and mitigate risks of manipulation. It is estimated that imported Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) will constitute 17% of total gas supply by 2019 and 70% by 2041. Currently, work on 3 LNG offshore terminals by Bangladeshi, Indian and US companies are underway. A land-based LNG terminal will commence operation in 2027 as well. Bangladesh is trying to replace its dependence on natural gas with Liquefied

Petroleum Gas (LPG) and LNG given the depleting reserves of the former and the sustainability of import prospects for the latter two. To that end, household pipeline gas is being replaced by LPG. In terms of LNG, contract has been signed for a Floating Storage Regasi-cation Unit (FSRU) to be commissioned within next 2 years. The Government also has a vision to generate 4,000 MW nuclear energy by 2030. To that end, works on Bangladesh's first nuclear power plant is now well underway at Rooppur. The Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant is a planned 2.4 GWe nuclear power plant of Bangladesh. It will be the country's first nuclear power plant, and the first of two units is expected to go into operation in 2023.

■ Present Energy Mix



■ Energy Mix by 2030



3.3 | Renewable Energy

The current Government has given the utmost priority in the development and use of renewable sources of energy. It has set the target of producing 10% of the required power from renewable sources by 2021. This means that, by 2021, Bangladesh is aiming for 3,000 MW from renewable sources. Currently, 2.76% of total electricity generation in Bangladesh comes from renewable sources. The Government is aiming for 7 Solar Parks to be implemented by IPPs, connecting to the national grid.

More than 4.5 million solar home systems have been installed in the rural areas, bringing energy at the doorsteps of 20 million people who live in the off grid areas of the country. Bangladesh is also actively pursuing solar energy as a major energy source for grid power as well. In March 2017, the Government approved the proposals on setting up four solar power plants to produce a total of 258 MW power in different places across the country with a cost \$1.1 billion in the next 20 years. In January 2017, Southern Solar Power Ltd, a subsidiary of US-based SunEdison in Bangladesh, signed a deal with the Government

to set up a 200 MW solar power plant at Teknaf in Cox's Bazar with an estimated investment of US \$300 million. Another 100 MW solar power plant is being built in Feni by the Electricity Generation Company of Bangladesh.

Bangladesh is also considering wind as a viable renewable energy source. Currently, 13 sites are being assessed across the country for wind resources potential. Bangladesh has signed a deal with Denmark for a 60 MW wind power project in Cox's Bazar. This, the country's first wind turbine power plant at Cox's Bazar, will likely go into production by the end of 2017. The wind turbine power plant will be built with Danish investment. Vestas, the world-renowned Danish wind turbine provider, has already collected one-year data in this regard. US-DK Green Energy (BD), a joint venture between Taylor Engineering Group of USA, ph-consulting group of Denmark and Multiplex Green Energy of Bangladesh, is establishing another plant at Kurushkul, southeast of Moheshkhali river at a cost of \$120 million

■ Renewable Energy:
Achievements at Present



185 MW
Power



4.5 Million
SHS
(Solar Home Systems)



10%
Population
Coverage



13 sites
Being Assessed for
Wind Resources



04 Healthcare: Healthy Bodies and Healthy Minds



In the last several years, Bangladesh has performed exceedingly well in guaranteeing quality healthcare for its people and also played a major role in the development of people's mental wellbeing.

One particular area of success has been maternal health. 57% of newborns are now breastfed within one hour of birth in 2014; this compares to just 17% in 2000. Significant progress has also been made in reducing the maternal mortality ratio (MMR) from 569 in 1990 to 176 in 2015 with an average annual reduction of 4.7% shows a recent survey. The ratio of skilled-birth attendants also increased from 12% in 2000 to 42% in 2014 and of these 37% are institutional deliveries, according to the survey findings. To achieve success in the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG), efforts are put in place to bring the MMR down to 70% or less by 2030.

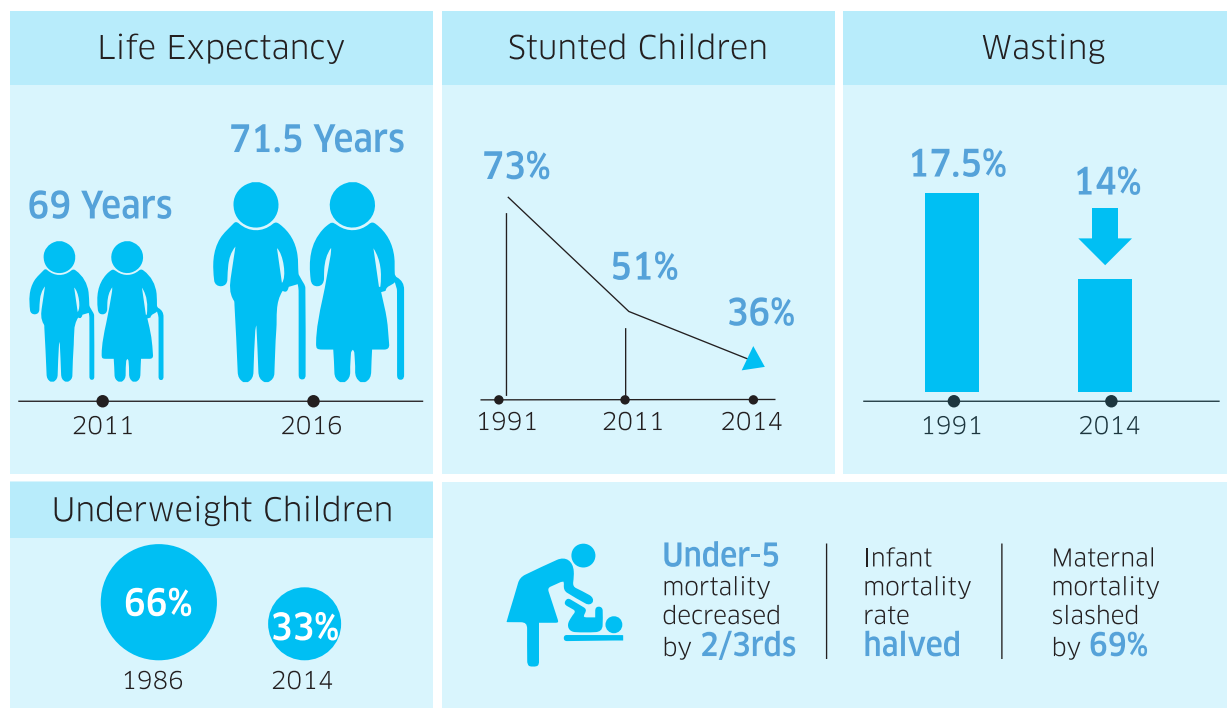


Bangladesh's present achievements in health sector have set an example for many countries around the world

Dr. Margaret Chan

Director General of the World Health Organization (WHO)

■ Major Recent Health Successes



4.1 | Universal Healthcare

Bangladesh has set the target to attain universal healthcare by 2032. To that end, the per capita health expenditure has been increased to \$30.83 in 2014 from \$16 in 2000. Over 16,400 community clinics have been built across the nation to enhance basic health care at grassroots. These clinics provide free treatments and 30 types of free medicines are being provided. 30,000 satellite clinics provide maternal and child healthcare around the country. These clinics employ 13,500 health care service providers. More than 120 million patients have received services from these clinics and medicines.

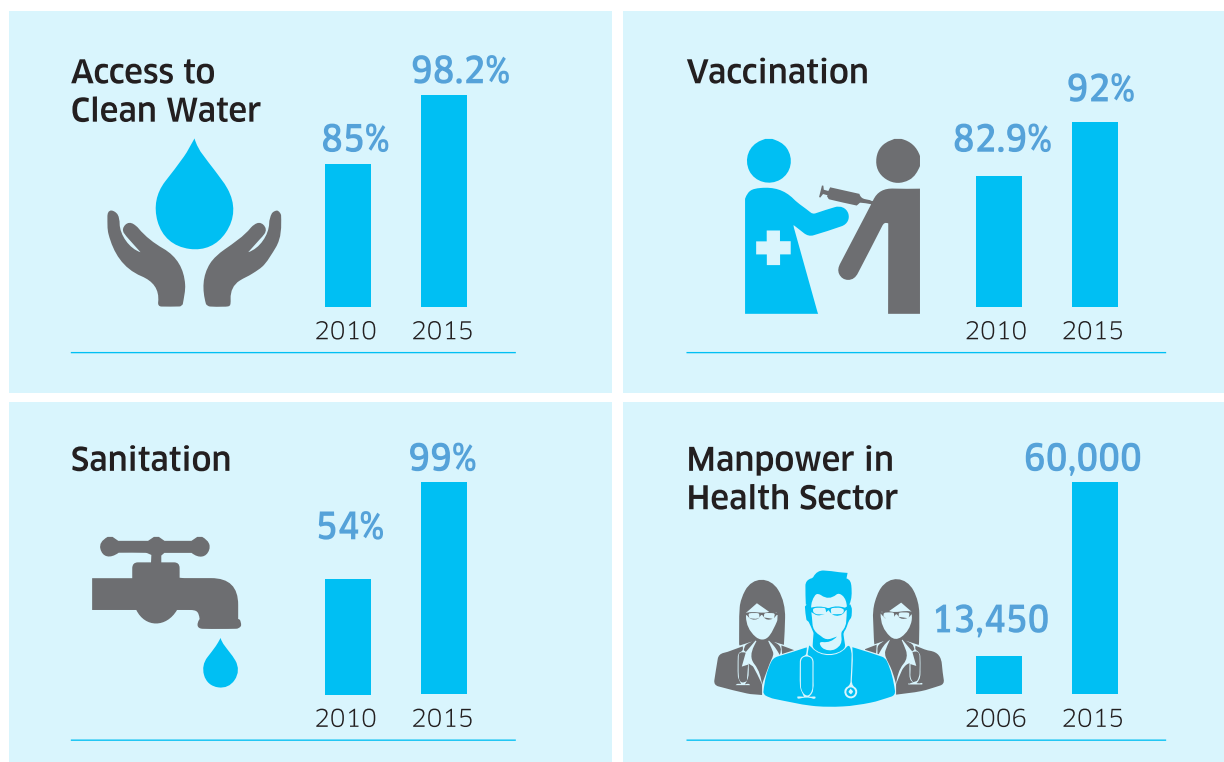
The Awami League Government enacted the National Health Policy 2011 and the Population Policy 2012 and built a three-tier health infrastructure at village, union and Upazila levels enabling people at grassroots to avail healthcare facilities free of cost or with minimal costs. In the last eight years, the Government has built 16 government and 5 army medical colleges. 10,660 beds were added to the government hospitals across the country in the last eight years.

For best treatment of burn victims, the current Government is constructing a specialized burn and plastic surgery hospital in Dhaka. This is a

12-storied institute with a 500-bed hospital worth \$66.1 million to address constant services to the patients of burn injury particularly those sustained severe burn injuries during arson attacks. Additionally, 320 centers have been established throughout the country to conduct cervical and breast cancer screening program and 1,228 service providers from 64 districts.

To ensure greater maternal and delivery services, the community-based skilled birth attendant (CSBA) training program is being organized in 342 Upazilas of 60 districts, while a course has been introduced for midwifery with new 3,000 midwives positions created. Health Call Centre has been introduced by the Government which provides 24/7 health service, introduced in 2016. Free medical services are ensured for freedom fighters and their families.

103 service centers for disabled persons servicing 500,000 autistic children free of cost. Special centers for Autistic children have been established in 22 public and private hospitals. Tele-medicine service has been launched in 43 hospitals around the country for providing medical service at home round the clock.



4.2 | Vaccination & Immunisation

Bangladesh has one of the largest vaccination and immunization programs in the world. Vaccine receiving children under one year has increased from 2% to 99% between 1985 and 2015. The Program on Immunization (EPI) has been expanded. Bangladesh's EPI is globally acclaimed for high vaccination coverage and contribution to the reduction in childhood deaths. It began in 1979 with six vaccines which were gradually increased to 11 in 2015. In 2018, Rota virus vaccine to prevent a common childhood diarrhea and human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine to prevent cervical cancer would be introduced. A budget of \$97 million has been allocated by the Government for vaccination programmes in 2017.

Expanded Program on Immunisation (EPI) which engages thousands of vaccinators and covers over 170,000 schools and 150,000 immunization centers. Bangladesh has been declared Polio-free on March, 2014 along with other 10 countries. Bangladeshi children currently receive vaccines against 9 diseases: Tuberculosis, Polio, Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus, Hepatitis B, H. influenza type B infection, Measles and Rubella.

4.3 | IT for Health

A number of innovations in technology have made healthcare digitized in Bangladesh, and hence more accessible, including: Health Service via mobile phone, Telemedicine service, Pregnancy care advice through texts, Hospital automation, Online population health registry, and digital training facility for health care professionals. In the future, the following aspects would be introduced: Fully 'Digital healthcare' system, Bio-surveillance using mobile phones, Monitoring civil surgeons by video-conferencing, health advisory, vaccination alerts, medication reminders, pregnancy advise through text messages, electronic blood supply database and scope for advanced e-learning for doctors and medical workers.

05 Agriculture and Food Security

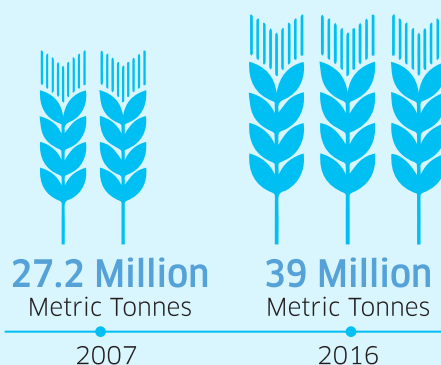


After the Awami League Government came to power in 2009, Bangladesh for the first time since its inception, became a food-self sufficient nation. Agricultural innovations, policy interventions and social safety nets, have made Monga (seasonal famine due to joblessness in the Northern districts of the country) a thing of the past.

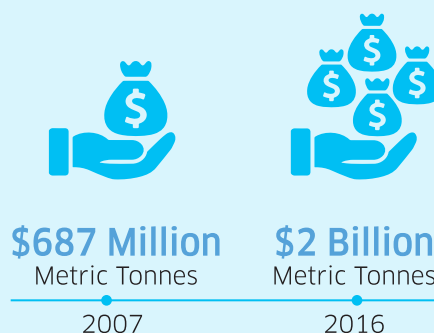
To help farmers grow crops without any hassle with all the help they can get from the authorities, 245 Agriculture Information Centres have been established across the nation which provides easy access of agriculture-related information. To ensure access to adequate farming tools, 20.83 million agriculture cards have been provided to farming families. To bring farmers, the backbone of the country's food security regime, within financial systems, the Central Bank has initiated bank account opening service for farmers costing Tk. 10 only (\$0.124).

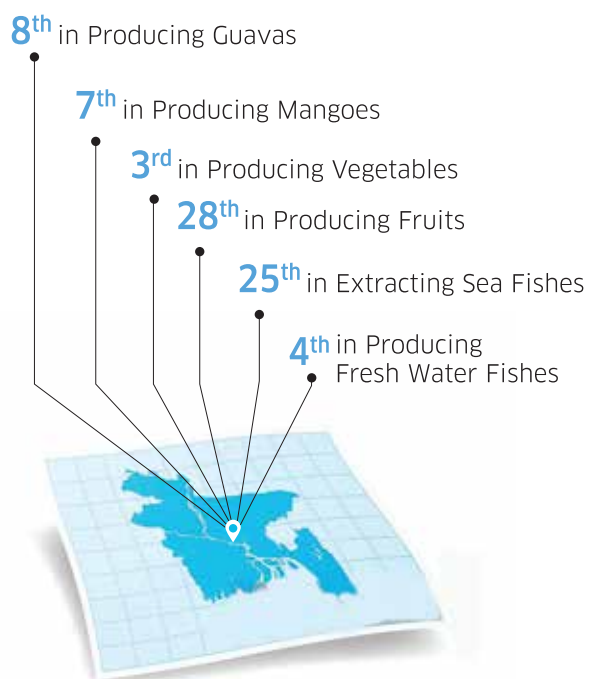
To ensure safety of food, the Government formulated the 'Food Safety Act 2013' in February, 2015. By the same token, Bangladesh Food Safety Authority was established on 2nd February 2015. From 2009, more than 2.85 million metric tons of food grains have been sold in 7 years under Open Market Sale (OMS) scheme. The Government is now providing rice at Tk. 10 per kg for poor families. Every family can buy 30 kg of rice per month under this scheme. A total of around 5 million families have been listed across the nation as beneficiaries of this programme.

Food Grain Production



Agricultural Loan Disbursement





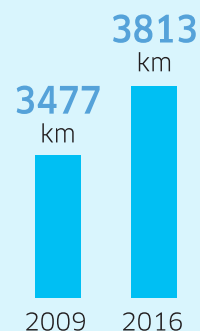
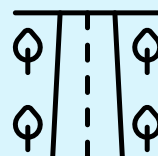
For the first time in 2014, government exported 25,000 metric tons of rice to Sri Lanka. After the devastating earthquake in Nepal in 2015, Bangladesh sent 10,000 metric tonnes of rice as relief. As a matter of policy, the current Government prefers to buy as much as food grains as possible from the local farmers as opposed to importing them. In the last eight years, from local farming sources, the Government bought 8.7 million metric tonnes rice and 1.1 million metric tonnes paddy. During the same period, in the wheat harvesting season, 8,63,707 metric tonnes wheat and 6,70,000 metric tonnes was purchased.

The government, in 2017, has installed a solar-powered multistoried food storage silo with a capacity of storing 25,000 metric tons of food grains. In 2006, the food storage capacity of the country was deplorable, with 1.45 million metric tonnes capacity only. Due to a variety of new storage facilities built since 2009 in Chittagong, Khulna, Rajshahi, Dhaka etc. the storage capacity now stands at 2.4 million metric tonnes.

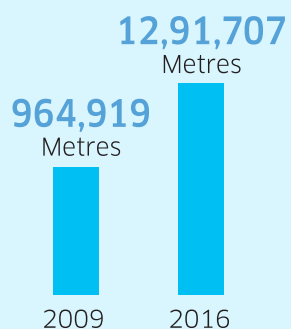
06 Infrastructure and Mega Projects

Bangladesh has seen a communications revolution with the fastest development of roads, bridges, flyovers, culverts etc. Most major national highways are being converted to four-lanes from existing two-lanes. Some of the essential statistics are illustrated below:

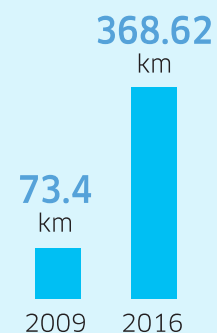
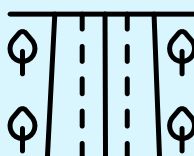
National Highways



Bridges/ Culverts



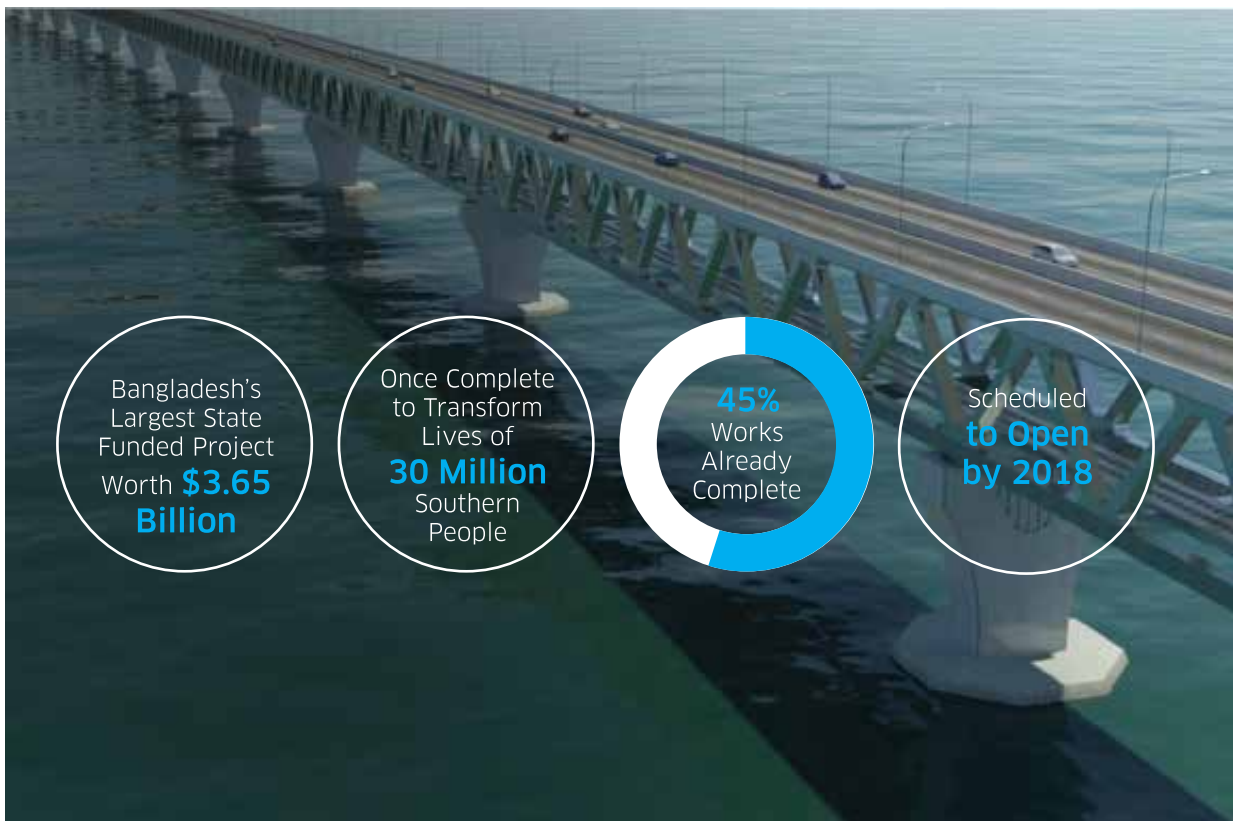
Four-Lane Highways



6.0 | Mega Projects

To achieve **Vision 2021**, the current Government in Bangladesh has embarked on constructing a number of mega infrastructural projects. Status of some of the major ones are highlighted below:

6.1 | Padma Multipurpose Bridge



6.2 | Rooppur Nuclear Plant



6.3 | Rampal Power Plant



6.4 Payra Deep Seaport



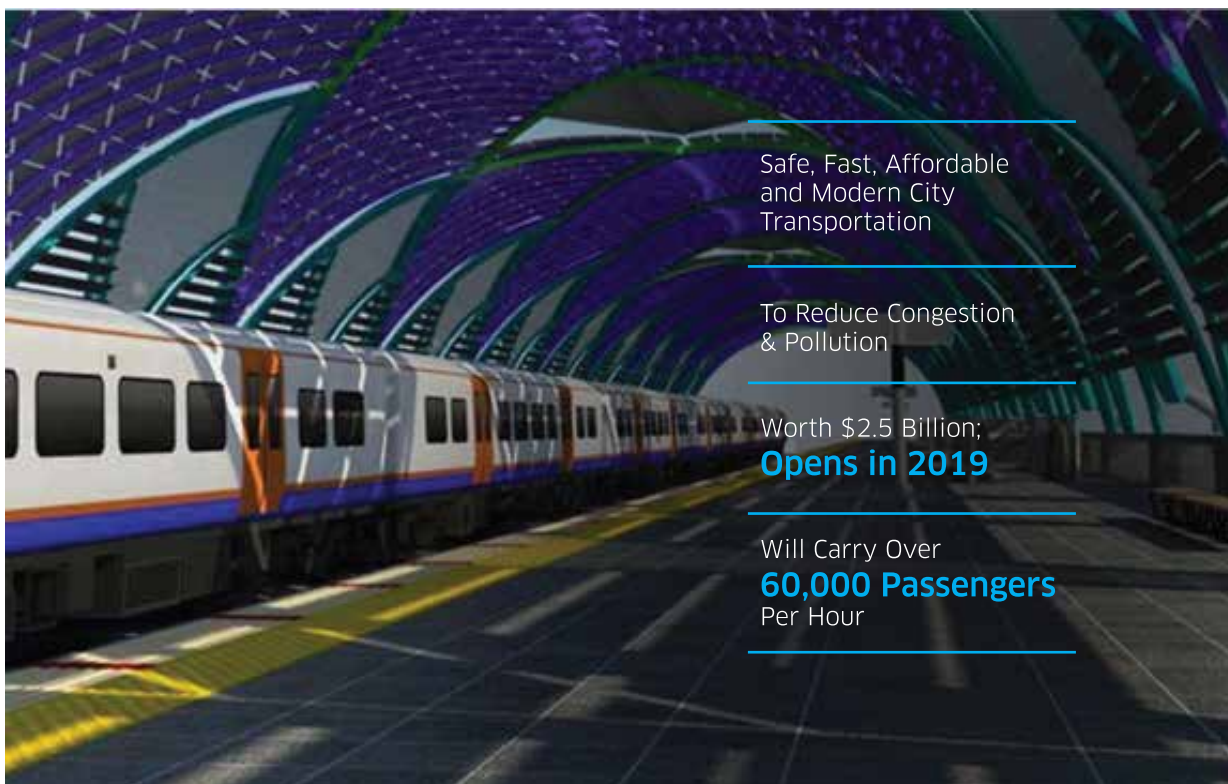
6.5 Matarbari Power Project & Sea Port



6.6 | LNG Terminal



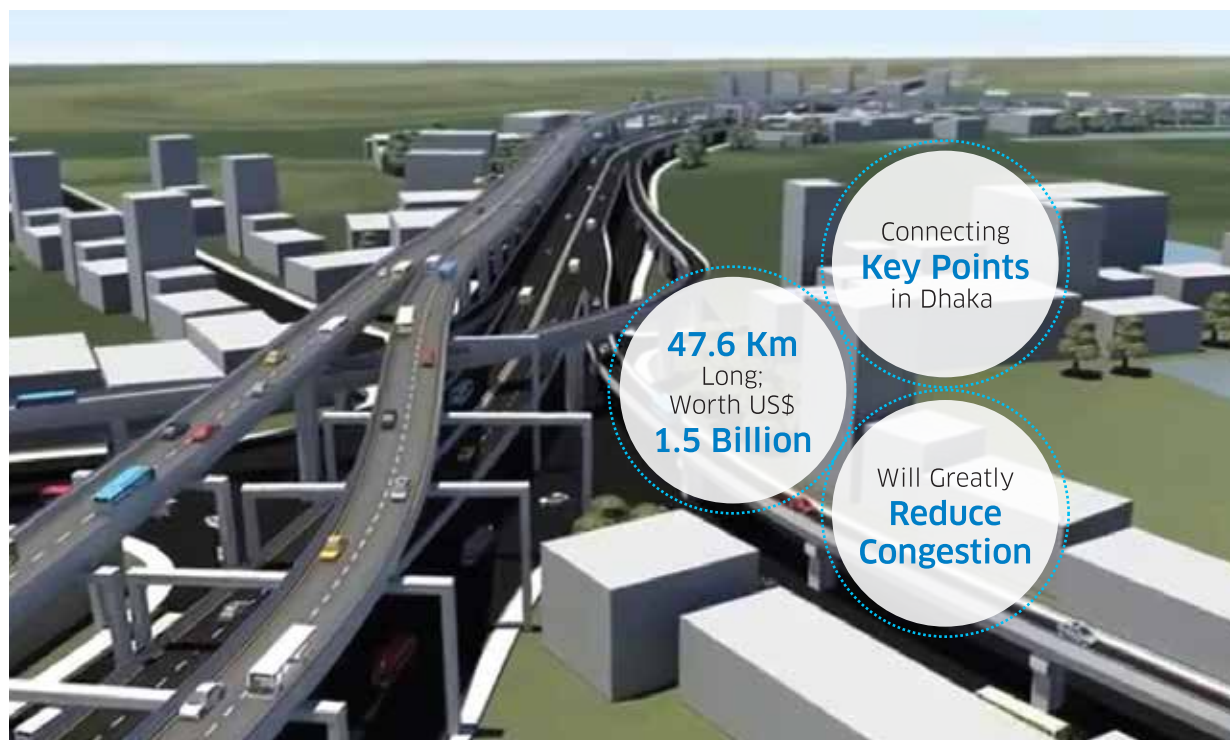
6.7 | Dhaka Metro Rail



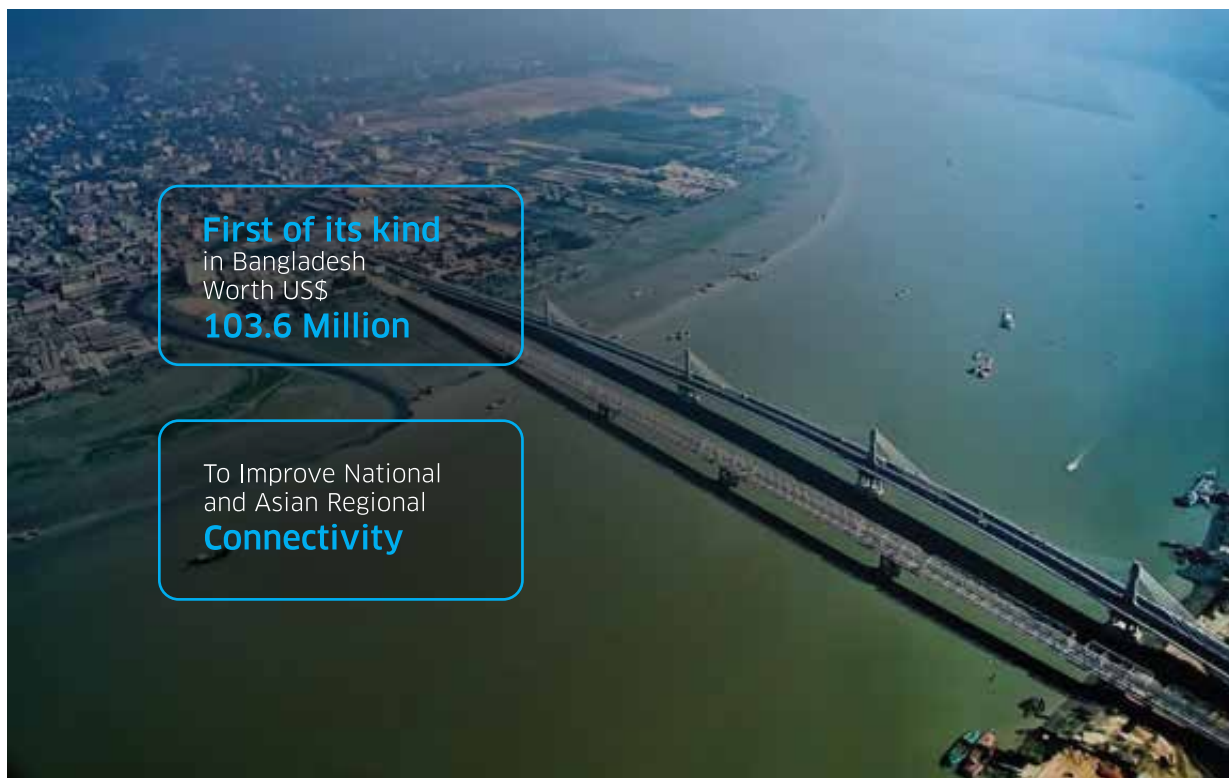
6.8	Dhaka-Chittagong Elevated Expressway
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6.9	Dhaka Elevated Expressway
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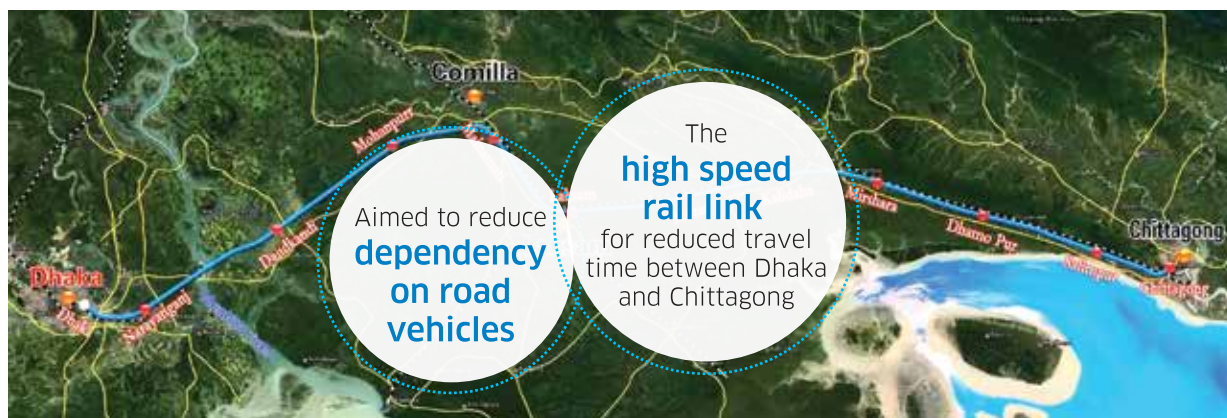
6.10 | Karnafuli Underwater Tunnel



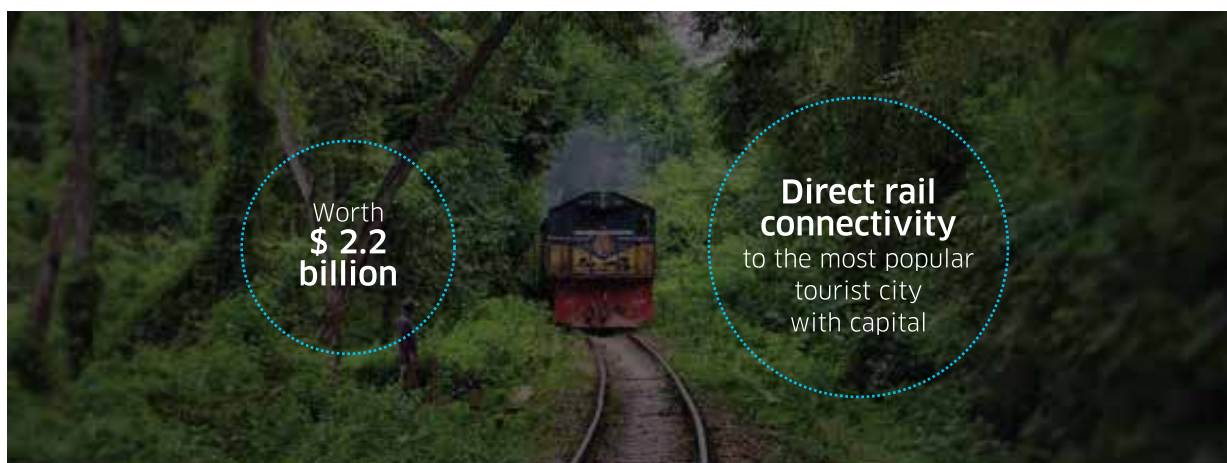
6.11 | Bus Rapid Transit
(BRT) in Dhaka



6.12 | Dhaka Chittagong Express Railway



6.13 | Dhaka Cox's Bazar Railway Link



6.14 | Dhaka Ashulia Elevated Expressway



07 Education For All



Bangladesh has made remarkable achievements over the past decade by ensuring access to education, at all the levels and especially for girls. The country's net enrollment rate at the primary school level increased from 80% in 2000 to 100% in 2015. Furthermore, the percentage of children completing primary school is more than 80%, and Bangladesh has achieved gender parity in access to primary and secondary levels. Radical changes have taken place in education system during the successive tenures of Awami League government. National policies and resources are directed towards ensuring access, retention, inclusivity and quality education in all levels. A time-befitting education policy (Education Policy 2010) has been formulated and being implemented in phases. The budgetary allocation for education was recorded at \$6.1 billion for the fiscal year 2016-17 for education sector which is 14.40% of the total budget. There has been a steady rise in allocation for the sector in the last 9 years.

Adult Literacy Rate



2.3 Billion Free Books

Distributed Since 2011



37 Million

Total Students in Bangladesh



17 Million

Students Received Scholarships and Stipends



32,000

Educational Institutes With Multimedia Facilities



8 Years

Saw Number of Students Double

7.1 | Textbook Distribution

Bangladesh government distributes free textbooks from class 1 to 9 to ensure that all children get the opportunity of education. A total of 2.3 billion free books have been distributed so far under the scheme. In the academic year 2017, more than 362 million copies of textbooks were given to the students of pre-primary, primary, secondary and technical education schools and Ebtedai and Dakhil madrasas. The government also provides books for visually impaired students. More than 9,000 braille books were distributed to visually impaired students.

7.2 | Primary Education

To ensure quality primary education, the Government has established 11 new Primary Teachers Institutes (PTIs). The Student-Teacher Ratio has improved to 36:1 in 2015 from 53:1 in 2011. 9,000 primary schools now have multimedia classrooms. 130,100 primary teachers have been newly recruited. Teacher's guides have been distributed among six million primary level teachers. More than 13 million primary students now receive stipend directly into their mothers' mobile banking accounts. New primary schools have been established at 1,500 villages. As a result, primary education cycle completion rate is more than 80% since 2015. More than 3 million students of 15,700 schools get special protein biscuit everyday.



7.3 Inclusive Education

Education policies and plans have adopted the tenets of inclusive education. The general education system is now more responsive to the education needs of children of diverse cultural, social, physical and intellectual backgrounds. Students with disabilities are getting access and education in conventional schools. Children of 5 ethnic communities (Chakma, Marma, Tripura, Sadri and Garo) receive textbooks written in their mother tongues. Some 77,000 copies of pre-primary textbooks, written in 5 ethnic languages were distributed in academic year 2017. 9,703 copies of Braille textbooks were distributed among 12,100 visually impaired students in academic year 2017. Students of backward communities like Dalit, Bede, Horijan receive monthly stipend as incentive for education. 21,000 students with disability receive stipends each month since 2015. Education and rehabilitation facilities have been created for students with disabilities in every district. Mainstream schools has been accommodating students with mild to moderate disabilities.

7.4 Reaching The Hard to Reach (Drop-out)

Special initiatives have been taken to cater for basic education to out of school children so that they can participate in the national development. Government of Bangladesh with support from the World Bank (WB), launched Reaching Out-of-School Children (ROSC) Phase-2. Approximately 0.3 million out-of-school children are currently enrolled in 11,162 Ananda Schools located in 123 poorest rural areas. Another project is being implemented under which 50,000 slum children, targeted by the government, are given primary education in eleven city corporations in the country. Bureau of Non-Formal Education (BNFE) runs Basic Literacy Program and Sustainable Non-Formal Education Program at Community Learning Centers (CLC) in backward areas to provide basic education to out of school children and adults.

7.5 ICT in Education



32,000
Educational
Institutes
Equipped with
Multimedia
Facilities



23,000
Multimedia
Classrooms in
Secondary
Schools



3,000
Digital Lab and
Language Clubs
Established Since
2016



61,000
Teachers
Trained in ICT
and Digital
Content



125
Upazila ICT
Training and
Resources
Centre
Established

7.6	Technical & Vocational Education
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National Technical and Vocational Qualifications Framework (NTVQF) is being implemented to promote technical and vocational education. Under this, a teacher training program has been launched. Currently, the number of technical institutes is 49. 7,773 private training institutes got approval since 2009. The number of seats in Diploma level have been increased to 57,780 from 25,000. These institutes are following

7.7	Higher Education
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Currently, the number of public universities in Bangladesh stands at 39. At the same time, the government has given approval for establishing 42 universities at the private sector between 2009-17. The government has passed laws for setting up 2 new medical universities in Chittagong and Rajshahi. A quality assurance mechanism has been introduced through the establishment of Institutional Quality Assurance Cells (IQAC) in 61 public and private universities.



curriculum and training manuals matching with international standard. 12 Industry Skill Councils and 2 Centres of Excellence has been established. Skills for Employment Investment Program (SEIP), Bangladesh Skills for Employment and Productivity (BSEP), Skills and Trainign Enhancement Project (STEP) are currently being implemeted to reform and strengthen skills training system.

To allow for ease of research, the regulatory body University Grants Commission's digital library is now allowing 44 member universities and research institutions access to more than over 30,000 research databases, e-journals and e-books. The Government's Academic Innovation Fund (AIF) has awarded 345 academic innovation grants awarded to 27 public and 9 private universities.

08 Digital Bangladesh: Information Technology for Development

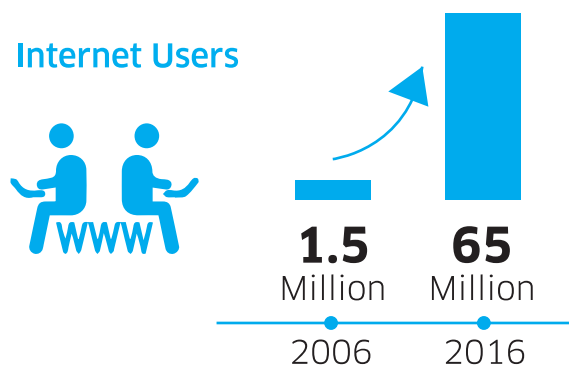


In 2009, the Awami League Government embarked on the mission to build a 'Digital Bangladesh', which sought to transform Bangladesh into a technologically advanced nation and utilize the usage of ICT (Information and Communication technology) as a tool for development and sustainability. To that end, the country has come a long way. Driven by widespread digitization in the public and private sectors, the country has seen exponential growth in its internet connectivity, mobile phone usage, IT export earnings and use of ICT in education and accessibility of public services. ICT training by the Government has opened a new horizon in youth employment through outsourcing. When the Digital Bangladesh efforts got underway seven years ago only 20 million of Bangladeshis were accessing mobile phone. Today that number has grown to more than 120 million and is still climbing.

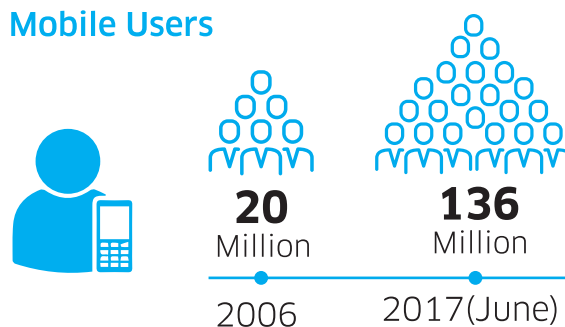
A total of 5,275 digital centers have been set up across the country that already served people 120 million times with services like registration of 70 million births, and providing essential information to more than 2 million overseas job-seekers. Around 1.3 million ICT professionals, along with, 10,000 ICT entrepreneurs have become self-reliant, helping the country earn around \$300 million over the years and turning Bangladesh as an emerging hub for ICT outsourcing. The total size of the ICT market in

Bangladesh was merely \$26 million in 2008 which now has reached \$600 million. With the introduction of the country's first satellite, Bangabandhu-1, the country is set to enter the space age by 2017.

Internet Users



Mobile Users



99% people and 95% geographic area of Bangladesh have been brought under mobile telecommunications service and network coverage. To ensure the latest mobile technology for the people, the Government of Bangladesh will soon auction spectrum for 4G/LTE (fourth generation/long term evolution) mobile technology. State-owned Bangladesh Telecommunications Company Ltd. (BTCL) will ensure high-speed broadband in all metropolitan areas, districts and sub-districts under the

'Wireless Broadband Network Connectivity (4G, LTE) for Digital Bangladesh' project. To ensure safer use of mobile, the Government of Bangladesh, in collaboration with the mobile operators, conducted one of the most comprehensive mobile registration schemes in the world between December 2015 and June 2016, whereby 130 million mobile SIM cards were biometrically referenced during this time with the National ID cards of the users.

8.1 | Bangladesh: ICT Essentials

ICT Education

75,000

ICT professionals being trained by Government

170,000

educational institutions to have multimedia labs

24,122

teachers being trained on ICT equipment

ICT Export Earnings



\$300
Million
in 2016

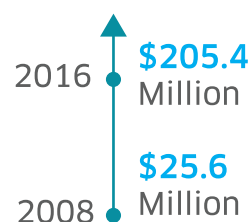
ICT Sector Earnings

\$600
Million

\$26
Million
2008



Budgetary Allocation for ICT



12 years tax exemption for developers

10 years tax exemption IT/ITeS companies

No VAT on e-commerce

Incentives for Investors in Digital Bangladesh

100% foreign ownership profit repatriation

Duty free vehicle import

Duty free import of capital machineries

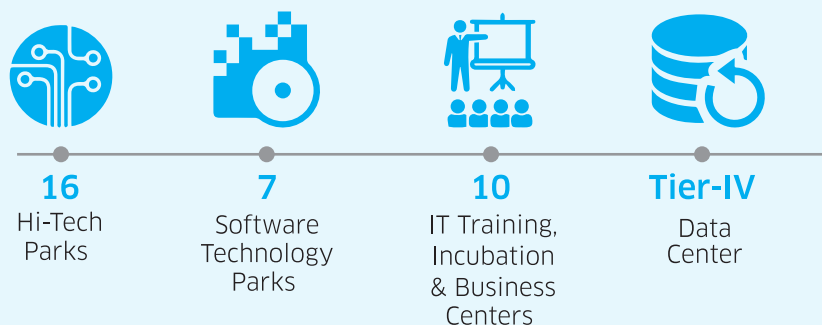
8.2 Outsourcing

Owing to a raft of measures to equip the youth force with soft skill trainings, the country has seen a rapid rise in the outsourcing landscape while international ratings put Bangladesh in the league of top ten destinations around the globe. According to the technology website, Tech in Asia, Bangladesh is ranked as the 7th most popular destinations for outsourcing among 186 countries. According to the latest estimates, there are over half a million registered freelancers in Bangladesh and the number is growing steadily. Capital city Dhaka enjoys the 3rd position in Odesk, a freelancing platform, among the global outsourcing cities. Given that the ICT sector has been announced as a 'thrust sector' by the government of Bangladesh, apart from the various private outsourcing training centers, there are many initiatives being undertaken by the government itself.

8.3 ICT Training

So far, the ICT Division has trained 3,342 people under "Freelancer to Entrepreneur" programme to create entrepreneurs in the ICT sector. Under the Leveraging ICT for Growth, Employment and Governance (LICT) Project, the Government is going to provide a six-month extensive training to 10,000 youth on online outsourcing. Steps have been taken to develop standard manual and courses by a team of local and foreign experts for the training keeping provision to participate in the bids offered by the online marketplaces and give delivery of the desired services after winning jobs. Under the 'Learning and Earning' project, training to 5,120 youth on professional outsourcing is ongoing. Previously, this project trained 20,000 women and 1,920 media professionals. The government has launched seven digital training buses for providing training

Some Planned ICT Infrastructure



More than US\$ 100 million is projected to be the earnings from the sector by 2020 as per current growth trajectory. However, given the various initiatives taken by the Government, the aim is to help the industry earn \$1 billion in software export and outsourcing by 2018, and take the figure to \$5 billion by 2021. Plans have been also laid out to generate 200,000 employments in outsourcing every year from 2021. The latest Global Service Location Index (GSLI) by one of the world's top management consulting organizations A.T. Kearney has reaffirmed Bangladesh as among the top outsourcing locations in the globe.

to 166,000 women on IT/ITES under 'Sustainable Women Development on ICT' programme by the next three years across the country. The government also plans to set up more than 500 business process outsourcing (BPO) centres soon. To create an IT-friendly and adaptive manpower, the Government has taken a number of steps to train the youth and create 2 million IT professionals by the end of 2021. Through ICT division's LICT project, government has already provided 10,000 graduates and post-graduates with 'Top Up IT' training while 20,000 youths, having at least higher secondary degree, are offered foundation training. Already, school and

college goers, numbered around 5,000, have received such trainings. Target has been set to train 10,000 more youths with high value training in IT and 5,000 government officials and non-government IT professionals. Another initiative, titled 'Support to Development of Kaliakoir Hi-tech park' project has trained 6,041 youths including 1305 girls. Under the employment scheme, 1,286 trainees have been hired by several IT firms and renowned business organizations. For the youth at grassroots level, Government is providing training on e-commerce to create 'Info-leaders'. Already 3,500 youth have received such training.

8.4 | Digital Centers

One of the principal methods of the current Government of Bangladesh to spread the benefits of digitization to the smallest units of local government is 'Digital Centres'. In seven years, 5,275 digital centers have been set up in union levels. These centers are providing 200 types of digital services to the rural people. Around 4 million people are benefited by these services every month. These centers are also promoting entrepreneurship in the local level. More than 10,000 entrepreneurs are involved with these centers. Monthly income of these entrepreneurs is more than US\$ 600,000. The total income from these centers in 2015 was around US\$ 180 million.



8.5 | Country's First Satellite

Bangladesh is set to enter the space age with the launching of its first satellite, Bangabandhu Satellite-1, into space. The project, costing more than US\$ 381 million, was approved in September 2014. The French company, Thales Alenia Space, was entrusted with the responsibility of building the satellite in November 2015 through an open tender process. The Government has already struck a US\$ 179.7 million deal with HSBC for

financing the project through its own means. Under the contract, the French company has to: build the satellite, launch it into space, construct two ground control stations, housing and equipment installations, ensure insurance for launch and post-launch one year, and operate ground station for three years post-launch. By October 2016, more than 50% work of the satellite has already been -finished.

Project Costs

US\$ 381
Million

Work Already

Complete (Oct 2016)
50%

Cost for
Orbital Slot

US\$ 28
Million

Bangabandhu-1 Satellite

58th

Country to have
own satellite

Annual Savings

US\$ 14
Million

Launch into Space

**December
2017**





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