

CHAPTER TWELVE

HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Human resource development is the government's principal goal, in addition to generating rapid growth, through increasing the living standards of disadvantaged and underprivileged people. To combat the long-term impacts of the coronavirus, the government is making continuous efforts to ensure the basic needs of the people through economic restructuring with priority on life and livelihood, as well as to improve the living standards of the disadvantaged and poor people. As a result through implementation of various development programmes, Bangladesh is gradually improving in the Human Development Index (HDI). According to the 'Human Development Report-2021' the position of Bangladesh has been improved to 129 which is 4 steps ahead from 133rd place in 2020. In FY 2022-23, the government has spent about 23.88 percent of the total budget for the sectors related to human resource development such as education and technology, health and family welfare, women and children, social welfare, youth and sports development, culture, labour and employment etc. Multiple programmes have been adopted in the light of the 'National Education Policy 2010' with the aim of creating opportunities for admission at all levels of education and creating skilled and qualified human resources by improving the quality of education. In order to ensure education for all in primary schools, special emphasis has been laid on increasing school enrollment, pre-primary education, stipends and student-teacher connectivity hours. In order to build skilled manpower to meet the challenges of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, maximum emphasis has been laid on technical education. Bangladesh has achieved Millennium Development Goal (MDG) related to health sector, prior to the stipulated time due to undertaking many priorities based programmes in health, nutrition and population sector. Remarkable progress has been achieved in reducing child and maternal mortality and in increasing average life expectancy. The National Deployment and Vaccination Plan has already been formulated under the Extended Immunisation Programme (EPI) to protect lives and prevent deaths from the COVID-19. Through this initiative, work is underway to vaccinate 70 percent of the population against COVID-19. Various development initiatives, programmes, and other activities are being undertaken, as well as necessary legislation and regulations for the creation of equal rights in all aspects of state and public life and the elimination of all types of discrimination against women. The government is carrying out various activities for the welfare of the poor, disadvantaged, neglected, special needs and orphans. Various reform initiatives, including financial sector reform, anti-corruption and preventative actions are being adopted and executed in order to promote balanced development and to establish good governance.

The main goal of the government is to achieve high growth through sustainable and inclusive development as well as qualitative change in the living standards of the people by alleviating poverty and reducing inequality. It is necessary to build a skilled population to accelerate the economic development of the country by tackling the long term effects of COVID-19 and the challenges of the 4th Industrial Revolution. According to the labor force survey 2022,

conducted by BBS, the economically viable workforce above the age of 15 years is 7.3 crore. The government is implementing different types of development programmes to accumulate demographic dividend by utilising the huge number of working age people. Under this circumstance, the government has taken relentless efforts and various initiatives for human resource development of the country through improving the standard of living of the

under privileged and impoverished segments of the population. This has resulted in progress in the Human Development Index (HDI). According to the 'Human Development Report-2021' the position of Bangladesh is 129. Among South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) countries, Sri Lanka (73), Maldives (90) and Bhutan (127) are ahead of Bangladesh (129) in respect of HDI. Other

SAARC countries, such as India (132), Nepal (143), Myanmar (149), Pakistan (161) and Afghanistan (180) are below the ranking of Bangladesh in HDI. Allocations of human development related sectors have been boosted up day by day. Position of Bangladesh in the HDI of recent few years have been presented to the Table 12.1.

Table 12.1: HDI Position of Bangladesh

Year	2000	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Index value	0.485	0.553	0.602	0.612	0.622	0.635	0.644	0.655	0.661

Source: Human Development Report- 2021. UNDP

Public Expenditure for Human Resource Development

The government is committed to ensure the basic needs of the people as well as human resource development through economic reform focusing on life and livelihoods to combat the long-term effects of the coronavirus. More investment is essential in social sectors including education and health for human resource development. This is why the government is gradually increasing the budget allocation for the sectors related to human resource development such as education and technology, health and family welfare, women and children, social welfare, youth and sports development, culture, labor and employment. Particular emphasis has been placed on strengthening the health sector infrastructure, increasing the area of social security, developing human resources and establishing good governance in government institutions.

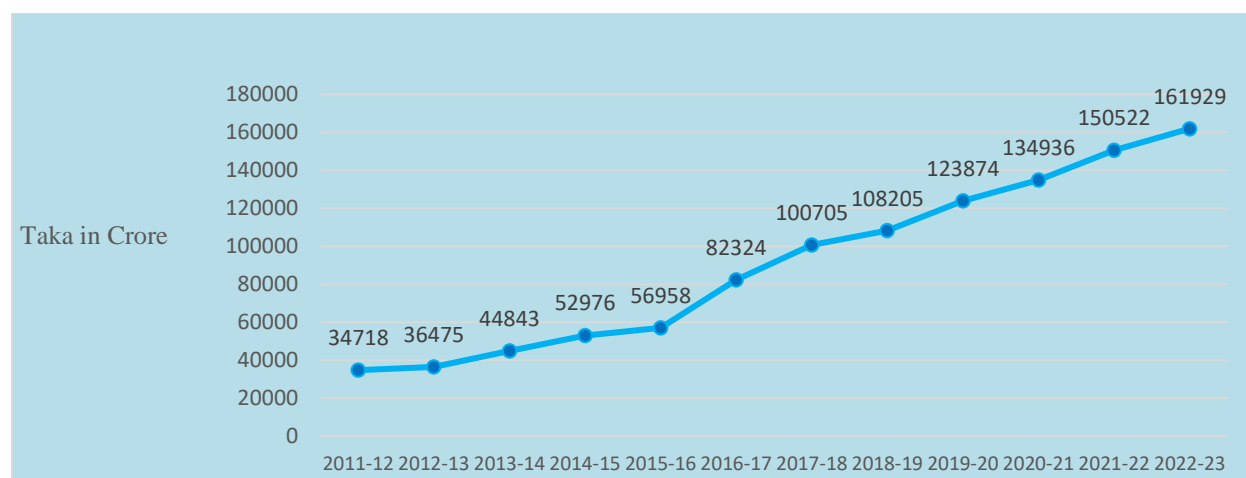
In FY 2022-23, about 23.88 percent of the total budget has been allocated for the sectors related to human resource development, which was 24.93 percent in FY 2021-22. The education and health sectors are considered as the mainstay of human resource development. Therefore, the

government is providing adequate allocation every year in the national budget for the development of education and health sector. In FY 2022-23, a total of Tk. 1,18,312 crore has been allocated in these two sectors, which is 19.59 percent of the total budget. As a result of the execution of practical initiatives in the education and health sectors, the government is playing an effective role in education, health, and family welfare. As a consequence, gender balance has been achieved by elimination of discrimination in the primary and secondary education levels. Human resource development process is going on through achieving significant progress in reduction in fertility rate, reduction of child and maternal mortality rate, prevention of spread of Tuberculosis and AIDS. Sports and youth development can also contribute to human resource development. For that reason, budget allocation is also increased in these sectors. Table 12.2 and Figure 12.1 present the total allocation in operating and development budget in the social sector during FY 2012-13 to FY 2022-23. It is noteworthy that in the last one decade, the total budget allocation in this sector, including the operating and development budgets, has been steadily increasing.

Table 12.2: Allocation (Operating and Development) of Selected Ministries

(Taka in Crore)

Sector	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Education, Science & ICT	21561	28272	33499	34370	52914	65444	67935	79488	85762	94877	99978
Health and Family Welfare	9130	9955	11537	12695	17486	20652	23,383	25733	29247	32731	36863
Youth, Sports and Culture	976	1061	1068	1199	1343	1803	2008	2063	2057	1709	1919
Labour and Employment	134	192	226	302	308	262	227	313	350	365	357
Social Welfare, Women's Affairs and Liberation War Affairs	4091	4730	5962	7613	9433	11394	13343	15083	16285	19658	21474
Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs	583	633	684	779	840	1150	1309	1194	1235	1182	1338
Total Allocation (Operating and Development)	36475	44843	52976	56958	82324	100705	108205	123874	134936	150522	161929

Sources: Finance Division, Ministry of Finance. (*Figures are based on budget)**Figure 12.1: Trend of Government Allocation in the Social Sector of Selected Ministries****Sources:** Finance Division, Ministry of Finance (*Figures are based on Budget)

Education and Technology

The government is taking various steps to ensure inclusive and science-based modern education system along with implementation of inclusive and science-oriented education activities and development of infrastructure in order to accelerate the development of education by overcoming the crisis of COVID-19. The government has approved the 'National Education Policy 2010' as a step towards implementing a time befitting technical education system in the country which will help to establish digital Bangladesh where the main goal is set out

in Vision 2021. The cardinal objective of policy is to foster humanity among the future citizens of the country and to grow them as creative, rational, tolerant to others opinion and liberal who will be able to lead the country towards inclusive development and progress.

Primary and Mass Education

As a consequence of the government's prompt actions to promote inclusive and equitable quality education for all and create opportunities for lifelong learning, success in primary education has been achieved in different indices and human resource development has been expedited. In line

with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), target has been set to ensure quality pre-primary education for all children and quality primary education for all school-going children by 2030. Government is implementing Stipend project, 4th Primary Education Development Programme (PEDP-4), Reaching Out of School (ROSC) project, School Feeding programme for poor areas, need based government and newly nationalised primary school development project (1st phase), Basic Literacy project and some other projects for attaining the goals of SDG. Number of primary schools in the country was 49,539 in 1991. The number has increased to 1,18,891 (different NGO schools, child welfare and *Madrassa*/Mosque based centre/*Qawmi*

madrassa) in 2021. Number of enrolment and ratio of female students is increasing consistently. Rate of enrolment of female students is more than the male students. In 1991, the male-female student's ratio was 55:45. Currently, the ratio is about 50:49. Table 12.3 shows students' enrolment rate and percentage of male-female students at primary levels from 2010 to 2021. Some students are compelled to leave the school before completion of primary education for various reasons. Rate of drop out is consistently decreasing as the government has taken several realistic steps. Table 12.4 shows remarkable changes of drop-out scenario of students at primary level during the period 2010 to 2021.

Table 12.3: Boys- Girls Enrolment at Primary Level

Year	Total	Boys (%)	Girls (%)	Net Enrollment Rate (%)
2010	169.58	83.95 (49.50)	85.63 (50.50)	94.8
2011	184.32	91.39 (49.60)	92.93 (50.40)	94.9
2012	190.03	94.63 (49.80)	95.40 (50.20)	96.7
2013	195.85	97.81 (49.94)	98.04 (50.06)	97.3
2014	195.53	96.39 (49.30)	99.14 (50.70)	97.7
2015	190.68	93.69 (49.14)	96.99 (50.86)	97.9
2016	186.03	92.28 (49.60)	93.75 (50.40)	97.96
2017	172.55	85.08 (49.32)	87.47 (50.68)	97.97
2018	173.38	85.39 (49.25)	87.99 (50.75)	97.85
2019	201.22	99.69 (49.55)	101.53 (50.45)	97.34
2020*	215.51	105.60 (49.00)	109.91 (51.00)	97.81
2021*	201.01	101.42 (50.46)	99.59 (49.53)	97.42

Source: Ministry of Primary and Mass Education (* With pre-primary)

Table 12.4: Year wise Drop-out Rate at Primary Level

Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Dropout rate (%)	39.8	29.7	26.2	21.4	20.9	20.4	19.2	18.8	18.6	17.9	17.2	14.15

Source: Annual Primary School Census, 2021, Directorate of Primary Education.

Important Activities in Primary Education

- ‘4th Primary Education Development Programme (PEDP-4)’ has been implemented to develop the quality of primary education. Through various activities under this programme, priorities have been given to increase enrolment and attendance of school-going children, reduce drop-out and enhance school contact hour.
- The Government of Bangladesh has been distributing books free of costs among the students of the primary schools every year at the first day of the academic session through a book distribution festival. In 2023, 63.29 lakh for pre-primary level students, 9.66 crore for primary level and 2.12 lakh reading materials/Textbook for students (1st-3rd class) of 5 minor ethnic groups (*Chakma, Marma, Tripura, Garo, Sadri*) have been distributed.
- Decentralisation of administrative and financial power in primary education has been implemented. As a step towards decentralisation, ‘School Level Improvement Plan (SLIP)’ and ‘Upazila Primary Education Plan (UPEP)’ have been implemented phase wise.
- ‘Bangabandhu Gold Cup Primary School Football Tournament’ for boys and ‘Bangamata Sheikh Fazilutunnesa Mujib Gold Cup Primary School Football Tournament’ for girls has been arranged every year with a view to enhance physical and mental strength and to create a competitive attitude among the students. Due to COVID-19 pandemic, the two football tournaments scheduled to be held on 2020 and 2021 has been postponed. The two football tournaments of 2022 has been held in 2023.
- Since 2009, terminal examination in Grade-5 has been held based on unique questionnaires throughout the country. *Ebtedayee madrasas* have been included under terminal examination system since 2010. The final examination was not held in 2020 and 2021 due to Covid-19 pandemic.
- To increase enrolment and to retain the enrolled student, “School feeding programme in poverty prone area” has been implemented for the period July 2010 to June 2022 at an estimated cost of Tk. 4991.97 crore. Fortified biscuits were distributed in each school day among the 29 lakh students of 104 *upazillas*. The project has been completed on June 2022. Feasibility study is ongoing to initiate a new project of school feeding at large scale.
- In order to ensure quality primary education, recruitment of teachers for vacant/created posts in government primary schools is in progress. 37,574 assistant teachers have been recruited on January, 2023 through publishing appointment circular in 2020 and 35,017 assistant teachers joined among the selected. Notification has been issued for another more vacant posts.
- Under PEDP-4, implementation of ‘Second Chance Education’ programme will offer primary education to 10 lakh deprived children, aged 8-14 years who are out of schools and dropouts. Institutional teaching programme of 1 lakh children has been completed and centre opening for the rest 9 lakh learners is under process.

- "Basic Literacy Project (64 districts)" from February, 2014 to June, 2022 has been implemented in 250 Upazilas of 64 districts under 7 divisions to provide basic literacy to 4.5 million illiterate adolescents and adults in 15-45 age group.

Physical Infrastructure Facilities at Primary School Level

Infrastructure development activities have been undertaken for increasing the quality of primary education. Infrastructure development scenario is as follow in FY 2022-23, till February, 2023:

- During 2010 to February, 2022, a total of 1,15,588 classrooms have been constructed in 29,962 schools.
- Under PEDP-4, 50,000 additional classrooms and 10,500 head teachers' rooms will be constructed. So far, construction of 12,741 classrooms has been completed in 3,273 schools. In addition, 29,000 separate wash blocks will be constructed for students and pure drinking water supply system will be installed in 15,000 schools.
- Under Need-based Infrastructural Development of Government Primary School (1st phase), project 40,000 additional classrooms will be constructed. Therein, construction of 26,516 classrooms, 3,481 wash blocks and installation of 3,950 tube-well have been completed. Besides, under Need-based Infrastructure Development of Newly Nationalized Primary School (1st phase), project 25,000 additional classrooms will be constructed. Besides Construction of 22,140 classrooms have been completed. Furthermore, construction of 2,518 wash blocks and establishment of 3,199 tube-well have been completed.
- 356 Government schools will be constructed/renovated under the "Establishment & Infrastructure

Development including beautification of Govt. Primary Schools in Dhaka City and Purbachal project". Master plan of 41 schools have been approved and development of 10 schools are ongoing.

Secondary Education

The government has been giving the highest importance to the expansion of sustainable and quality secondary and higher secondary education. To sustain the success achieved in the rate of secondary education together with the gender parity, emphasis is being placed on the implementation of various programmes like general, science and technology based education and training, provision of financial assistance for students and teachers, various talent development activities, providing supportive policies and environment, and building capacity and constructing and developing the infrastructure of government secondary schools. Activities, such as providing financial benefits to teachers of MPO-enlisted private educational institutions, distributing free textbooks, introducing e-books, and setting up of *Upazila* ICT training and resource centres are underway.

Establishment of educational institutions and development of physical infrastructure

Quality, participatory and universal education is essential to build a developed and prosperous Bangladesh. And for this, the construction of standard and modern education infrastructure is required. From the previous year 2009-10 to the present period, 27,213 buildings have been included in the project. Out of this, 13,113 buildings construction/extension works have been completed and 14,100 buildings are under construction. Under the "Physical Infrastructure Development of Selected Private Secondary Schools (1st Revised)" project, construction of 1-storey academic building with 4-storey foundation has been completed in 3,000 educational institutions. Under the project "Construction of Academic Buildings of Selected Private Madrasahs" of 1-storey academic

buildings with 4-storey foundation have been completed in 1,000 madrasahs. 11 government secondary schools have been established in Dhaka city. Academic activities have already started in educational institutions. 05 new universities and 03 engineering colleges have been set up. Construction of 07 new government secondary schools in Khulna, Barisal and Sylhet cities has been completed. 14,698 repair and renovation works have been programmed in government/private educational institutions. Among them, 10,883 repair and renovation works have been completed. Modern computer/ICT labs have been constructed in secondary schools, madrasahs and technical education institutes. At the college level, ICT buildings, ICT Learning Centers, Teachers Training Institute (TTC) buildings have been constructed.

Use of information technology in education

Considering the importance of science and technology based education, especially the Fourth Industrial Revolution, a number of initiatives have been taken to leverage ICT and digital technology in education management and education programme.

- In the light of the new National Curriculum framework-2021, Digital Technology subject has been introduced in class 6 and class 7 in the academic year 2023. As a result of uploading e-books on the website of National Curriculum and Textbook Board, anyone living in different countries of the world including Bangladesh can download and use the textbooks from anywhere in the world. Audio clips of Listening Texts of English for Today textbooks for 6th to 9th-10th class have been created and uploaded on NCTB' website.
- In order to make the use of textbooks easy and attractive in the context of technological development digital content of 21 textbooks of primary level and Interactive Digital Text (IDT) of 16 textbooks of class 6 have been completed and have been made accessible for

learners by uploading on web site. The e-learning modules for 6 subject textbooks of grade 7 and 8 and e-learning materials for 6 textbooks for grade 9-10 have been improvised and uploaded.

- Prepared audio visual training content for teachers for proper conduct of class activities in all subjects of class 6th and 7th in light of new curriculum and training provided to all teachers.
- MyGov service has been launched. With the easy adoption of digital applications by citizens through a service platform, it has become possible for government services to reach the doorsteps of the people.
- Online entry of secondary schools under the Department of Secondary and Higher Education is in progress. Field level offices and educational institutions are being monitored under the Digital Monitoring System (DMS) app.

Providing stipends to students

Under the Prime Minister's Education Assistance Trust, Tk. 1321.77 crore was distributed for stipends and tuition fees among 48.47 lakh poor and meritorious students at secondary level disbursed through Mobile Banking and Online Banking.

Free text books distribution among students

Free text books are distributed among students for ensuring the opportunity of education for both rich and poor, preventing drop outs and making education standard, comprehensive and effective. First day of the year is celebrated as the 'Textbook Day'. Free textbooks are distributed among primary and secondary students on this day across the country at the same time. A number of 33.48 crore textbooks were distributed in 2023 under this programme.

Technical Education

Various initiatives have been taken to mainstream technical education in preparation for

the Fourth Industrial Revolution. At the same time, opportunities for quality technical education have been expanded to create skilled manpower suitable for the domestic and international labor market. For example, infrastructure development for the purpose of enrolling more students, project implementation for capacity building of 64 TSCs, training of English and Mathematics teachers.

There are a total of 10,856 technical education institutions in government and private educational institutions approved by the Bangladesh Technical Education Board. In the last 10 years, progress was made in the field of technical education. In 2021, the enrollment rate in technical education was 15.79 percent. In that continuity, various projects/programmes have been taken to improve the enrollment in technical education by 30 percent by 2030.

Again, necessary steps have been taken to implement National Technical and Vocational Qualifications Framework (NTVQF) at all levels. To eliminate inequality in technical and vocational education, stipends are being provided to the students, free textbooks are being distributed, and one-time grants are being provided to the poor and meritorious students and teachers. Several programmes, such as setting up of 1 technical school and college (TSC) in each of 100 *Upazilas*, establishment of 1 women's polytechnic institute in 4 divisional cities (*Sylhet, Barisal, Mymensingh, Rangpur*), establishment of Polytechnic Institutes in 23 districts and establishment of 1 Engineering College in each of 4 divisions (*Chattogram, Khulna, Rajshahi, Rangpur*) are underway.

Madrasah Education

The government has undertaken extensive activities for the development and modernisation of *madrasas*. To enhance the quality of *madrasa* education, construction of new buildings for 1,800 *madrasas*, setting up of multimedia rooms for existing 653 *madrasas* and capacity building

of *madrasa* teachers will continue through the 'Development of Scheduled *Madrasas*' project. As part of the integration of *madrasa* education into the mainstream of education, steps are being taken to ensure transparency in the funding available from various sources in the private sector for the development of *madrasas*. At present, there are 8,229 MPO registered *madrasas* in the country. Curriculum on Quran, *Aqeedah* and *Fiqh*, Arabic and Hadith has been developed from 1st to *Alim* class in order to make *Madrasa* education up-to-date. In line with the existing general education curriculum and syllabus formulated by the National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) for general compulsory and optional subjects except Arabic subjects up to secondary level for *madrasa* education are being followed. Textbooks on all subjects are being printed and distributed through NCTBA.

Higher Education

During last decade radical change has been accomplished in higher education sector in Bangladesh. The government has taken a number of significant steps through the Bangladesh University Grants Commission (UGC) to expand and enhance the quality of higher education. A public university has been established in almost every old district of the country. At present, number of public universities stands to 53, 50 of which started academic programme and out of 110 private universities, 102 already started academic activities. For improvement of higher education and research activity, 'Strategic Plan for Higher Education in Bangladesh: 2018-2030' has been formulated as well as initiatives taken to implement it by UGC.

Institutional Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) has been set up in 119 (public 41 and 78 private) universities to evaluate the activities of each department and institute of the country's universities and to ensure quality teaching and the cells are being closely monitored. Instructions

have been issued by the Commission for the establishment of IQAC in the remaining universities. The Bangladesh National Qualifications Framework (BNQF) formulated by the Commission has been approved by the government and has been sent to all the universities for necessary purposes. Curriculums of all the private universities are being updated on the basis of OBE Template from 01 January 2023 in a bid to make the higher education time-befitting, modern and world-class. Through this, a radical change of taking place in tertiary education. Besides, academic activities are being conducted laying emphasis on vocational, science and IT education in private universities.

Development of Health and Family Welfare Sector

The government is making continuous efforts to address the global pandemic of coronavirus properly and to overcome its economic impact by giving priority to life and livelihood. In order to

build a healthy, strong and functioning population, the government has intensified its efforts to ensure affordable and quality healthcare for all citizens through development of health, nutrition and population sectors. Significant progress has been made in the health sector as a result of taking various activities. As a consequence of prompt intervention of the government, significant progress has been made in lowering the fertility rate and mortality rate, improving average life expectancy, and lowering infant and maternal mortality rates.

The expansion and quality of health services has improved and significant success has been achieved in controlling infectious diseases due to the health and social protection programmes adopted by the government. In addition, due to the development of food security system, expansion of women's education, the standard of living of the people has improved and life expectancy has also increased. Table 12.5 shows the trend of health indicators from 2014 to 2021.

Table 12.5: Recent Trends in Health Indicators

Indicator	Level	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021*
Crude Birth Rate (per 1000 population)	National	18.9	18.8	18.7	18.5	18.3	18.1	18.1	18.8
	Urban	17.2	16.5	16.1	16.1	16.1	15.9	15.3	16.4
	Rural	19.4	20.3	20.9	20.4	20.1	20.0	20.4	19.5
Crude Death Rate (per 1000 population)	National	5.2	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.0	4.9	5.1	5.7
	Urban	4.1	4.6	4.2	4.2	4.4	4.4	4.9	4.8
	Rural	5.6	5.5	5.7	5.7	5.4	5.4	5.2	6.0
Average Age at Marriage	Male	24.9	25.3	25.2	25.1	25.5	25.3	25.2	25.3
	Female	18.3	18.4	18.4	18.4	18.9	18.9	19.1	19.1
Life Expectancy at Birth (year)	Both	70.7	70.9	71.6	72	72.3	72.6	72.8	72.3
	Male	69.1	69.4	70.3	70.6	70.8	71.1	71.2	70.6
	Female	71.6	72.0	72.9	73.3	73.8	74.2	74.5	74.1
Infant Mortality Rate (<1 year) (per 1000 live births)	National	30	29	28	24	22	21	21	22
	Urban	26	28	28	22	21	20	20	21
	Rural	31	29	28	25	22	22	21	22
Under 5 Mortality Rate (per 1000 live births)	National	38	36	35	31	29	28	28	28
	Urban	30	32	32	27	27	26	26	26
	Rural	40	39	36	33	31	29	28	29
Maternal mortality Ratio (per lakh live births)	National	193	181	178	172	169	165	163	168
	Urban	182	162	160	157	132	123	138	140
	Rural	196	191	190	182	193	191	178	176
Contraceptive users rate (%)		62.2	62.1	62.3	62.5	63.1	63.4	63.9	65.6
Total Fertility Rate (per women, 15-49 years of age)		2.11	2.10	2.10	2.05	2.05	2.04	2.04	2.05

Source: Report on Bangladesh Sample Vital Statistics-2021.

Community Clinic (CC) based Primary Health Care Services

Community Clinic (CC) is the first tier public health facility to provide primary health care services to the people at periphery, especially in remote and very hard to reach areas. At present 14,200 CCs are functional all over the country at the union level. These community clinics have become fully operational by recruiting community health care providers (CHCPs) based on community clinics to provide them with appropriate training to develop their skills and distribute adequate medicine and family planning materials. It is estimated that an average of 38 patients per day receive service from each CC and 95 percent of them are women and children. Beneficiaries from the CCs from 2009 to February, 2022 are the rural people getting services through around 114 crore visits. During the same period, about 1 crore emergency and complicated patients were referred to centres with higher facility for better management. About 4,000 community clinics across the country are providing normal delivery services

and about 1 lakh normal deliveries have been completed so far in this system which has been started gradually since 2009.

Extended Programme on Immunisation (EPI)

Government is continuing vaccination programme against vaccine preventable diseases (VPD) through the expanded programme of immunization (EPI) to protect the children against those diseases. EPI is providing vaccines against 10 vaccine preventable diseases named: Tuberculosis, Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus, Hepatitis-B, Haemophyllus Influenza-type-B, Pneumococcal Pneumonia and Measles and Rubella. As a result of successful implementation of EPI, World Health Organization (WHO) declared Bangladesh as Polio free country and this position is maintained. To achieve the year wise coverage, EPI programme has procured and disbursed routine vaccination for children and women of 68186.34 lakh for the year 2021-22 and for this current year 2022-23 FY the process of procurement of 92402.08 lakh of routine vaccines are ongoing. Table 12.6 shows the yearly EPI coverage.

Table 12.6: Vaccination under EPI Programme

Year	BCG (%)	OPV- 1 (%)	OPV-2 (%)	OPV-3 (%)	Penta-1 (%)	Penta- 2 (%)	Penta-3 (%)	Measles (%)	MR- 1	MR-2	All vaccines (%)
2012	99.0	99.0	97.7	95.1	99.0	97.6	90.0	88.5		-	82.9
2013	95.0	95.0	94.0	92.0	91.0	93.0	92.0	86.0			81.0
2014	99.2	95.1	94.2	94.0	91.0	93.0	93.0	86.6	-	-	81.6
2015	99.2	94.0	94.7	92.7	92.6	93.3	86.6	86.6	-	-	81.6
2016	99.5	97.8	97.0	90.1	97.8	97.0	90.1	87.5	-	-	82.3
2017	101.3	100.1	99.3	97.9	100.1	99.9	98.5	98.8	97.7	86.3	98.8
2018	100.6	99.3	98.2	97.7	98.7	97.3	96.6	97.6	97.1	95.3	97.6
2019	102.3	101.4	100.3	99.3	101.4	100.3	99.3	99.0	98.7	96.8	97.1
2020	97.3	95.9	93.9	92.6	95.7	93.7	92.5	91.4	92.8	91.8	92.0
2021	103.2	102.1	101.0	99.9	102.1	100.9	99.7	99.7	99.1	97.2	99.3
2022	104.2	103.3	102.5	101.6	102.8	101.8	101	-	101	98.2	99.9

Source: *Bangladesh EPI Census 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, DHIS2 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022

COVID-19 Vaccination Strategy, Management and Initiatives

The National Deployment and Vaccination Plan has already been formulated under the Extended Immunization Programme (EPI) to protect lives and prevent deaths from the COVID-19 epidemic, through which the World Health Organisation (WHO) targets 70 percent of the population to be vaccinated against COVID-19. At the initiative of the Department of Health Services, age and authority based registration is introduced through the web portal www.surokkha.gov.bd. So far, 114,328,048 (73%) people have registered for the vaccine against the target. The government has stocks of vaccines required to provide vaccines with booster to the target population.

Maternal and Neonatal Health Services

As special priority to the improvement of Maternal and Child Health, many activities have been undertaken at the national level. Various training programmes are being introduced to improve the skills of physicians, nurses, midwives, and other professionals who offer emergency maternity care, encourage institutional delivery, and provide maternal and child health services. The government has launched Emergency Obstetric Care (EmOC) in each district with the help of various development partners to provide emergency maternity services. At present Comprehensive Emergency Obstetric Neonatal Care (CEmONC) services are available in all Medical College Hospitals, 59 District Hospitals, 03 General Hospitals, 132 *Upazila* Health Complexes and 63 Maternal and Child Welfare centres. Rest of the *Upazila* Health Complexes is providing Basic Emergency Obstetric Neonatal Care (BEmONC) service. Expansion of EmONC services has reduced maternal mortality to 163 per lakh live births and neonatal mortality to 28 per thousand live births. In addition, more than 200 mothers are being screened for cervical and breast cancer

in each *upazila* every month. At present there are 43 colonoscopy centres in Bangladesh at district and *upazila* level.

The Maternal Health Voucher Scheme has provided services to 50,472 poor mothers in 55 *Upazilas* of the country from July, 2021 to June, 2022 and provided cash incentives and travel allowances through Tk. 1071.32 lakh through mobile banking. The government has provided short-term training for community based skilled birth attendant (CSBA) and midwives and deployed them to the remote and rural areas. Till to date 12,510 CSBAs have been trained to provide maternal health care services at the rural level. 3 years midwifery training course is going on and 3,000 posts have been created for midwives and 2,550 midwives are posted in different health facilities.

Nutrition

To expand the nutrition service throughout the country, the Operational Plan (OP) 'National Nutrition Services (NNS)' has been taken up under 4th HPNSP. It's being implanted by the Directorate of Health. The main purpose of the programme is to provide up to date and scientific nutrition service to the vulnerable population, awareness building for the food habit changing and nutrition induced life style and reducing maternal and child mortality by prevention of malnutrition.

To provide nutrition services to children suffering from acute malnutrition, activities are being done out in all District Hospitals, Medical College Hospitals, and *Upazila* Health Complex 410 Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) units. At the grassroots level, 412 Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI) and Nutrition Corners have been set up to prevent child malnutrition. In order to provide nutrition services to the people in slums, remote areas of villages especially in *char*, *haor* area, NNS is conducting nutrition services activities in coordination with various Ministries/Division

/Departments and local and foreign private aid agencies. Guideline on COVID-19 has been formulated and guidelines have been distributed among all health and family planning officers/service providers. About 62,000 officers/service providers have been trained on

Comprehensive Competency Nutrition Training (CCTN). In addition, 108 episodes of the weekly programme titled 'Nutrition Prosperity' have been aired on BTV World. Table 12.7 shows a whole picture of nutrition status of Bangladesh.

Table 12.7: Nutrition Status of Bangladesh

Index	2011 (%)	2014 (%)	2018 (%)	Target 2023 (%)	Remark
Underweight child (0-59 month's)	36.4	32.6	22	25	On Track
Stunted child (0-59 month's)	-	36.1	31	25	On Track
Wasting (0-59 month's)	-	14.3	8	<10	On Track
Low birth weight	-	22.6	-	<18	On Track
Exclusive breast feeding	47.1	50.8	69	60	On Track
Rate of breast feeding child	64	55.3	65	65	On Track
Rate of Anemic pregnant women	-	-	-	Less than one-third decrease	On Track
Rate of Anemic adolescence girl	-	-	-		On Track
Rate of Anemic child	-	-	-		On Track
Night blindness	-	0.2	-	<1	On Track
Usage rate of Iodine salt at household level	82	-		Less than one-third decrease	On Track
Rate of Vitamin-A capsule intake (6-59 month's)	60	92	79	>90	On Track

Source: Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Health Information System and E-health

MOHFW has drawn global attention for the successful utilisation of IT in the health sector. Laptops and Android Tablets have been provided at the community clinics and other grass root level workers. Programmes are active for enrolling information related to each pregnant mother and under-5 children. A uniform 'Health identifier Code' is being provided to every citizen which will be used to make the permanent health record software design linking with the national ID card database. A draft of national E-Health Policy and Strategy has been finalised.

Programmes regarding admission in medical and dental colleges, human resources management in the health sector, leave and deputation of the doctors, every type of training and higher study management have been digitalised.

A call centre named 'Swasthya Batayan-16263 has been set up to provide health services to the people. Health services are being provided through mobile phones from every district and *upazila* level government hospital in the country. Advanced telemedicine services are being provided from 96 hospitals. Video conferencing systems have been installed in all Divisional and

District Health Offices, District Hospitals, Medical Colleges and Hospitals, and *Upazila* Hospitals in collaboration with the Department of Health.

Shashtho Shurokkha Karmashuchi (SSK)

The government has developed the 'Strategy for Finance in the Health Sector: 2012-2032' in order to provide universal health care in the country by 2030. The '*Shashtho Shurokkha Karmashuchi (SSK)*' has been developed in accordance with the policy to fund healthcare services for those living in poverty. The pilot programme under the SSK has been initiated to reduce the out-of-pocket expenses of the poor population and protect them from the catastrophic health expenditure in receiving hospital-based services. While receiving inter-departmental services from hospitals, every family holding a card gets free treatment including costs of diagnosis and medicines.

Specialised Health Care

The project is being implemented to set up a 100 bed full-fledged cancer treatment unit at the Government Medical College Hospital in the divisional town to facilitate the treatment of cancer patients. In addition, Currently, under the "Hospital Services Management (HSM)" operational plan, there are a total of 35 "Shishu Bikash Kendras" in the country's 21 medical college hospitals and 14 district hospitals. Shishu Bikash Kendras provide medical services to children diagnosed with autism and neurodevelopmental disorders. In each center, Child Health Physicians, Child Psychologists and Developmental Therapists provide the specialized services aimed at the physical and mental development of children. At the same time, for the purpose of improving the health care of newborns, SCANU services are currently in place in 59 health facilities in 50 districts. In addition to the development/expansion of these SCANU, the process of establishment of these services in the remaining 14 districts is ongoing.

In addition, to facilitate women to receive the health services from the government health facilities more easily, the establishment of district hospitals as "Women Friendly Hospitals" is underway. Up to February, 2023, 21 district hospitals have been recognized as "Women Friendly Hospitals", as well as 19 other district hospitals are underway in the process of recognizing as "Women Friendly Hospitals" according to the operational plan objectives.

Addressing the COVID-19 pandemic and Protecting Public Life

The main scheme was approved on 18 April 2020 to provide health services and prevent future epidemics with emergency loan assistance as part of the government's response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The scheme covers the procurement of the COVID-19 vaccine, transport costs of the vaccine, procurement of 11 crores of auto disposable (AD) syringes for administering the vaccine, and other incidental expenses. Also, a vaccine testing lab (WHO maturity level-3) has been set up for strengthening the National Control Laboratory of Drug Administration Directorate.

The procurement of a cold chain system for vaccine supply and storage is underway and will be completed soon. And as a result, the immunity of the people of the country due to coronavirus increases, and the adverse reaction to the disease decreases. Five-function beds, emergency ventilators, pulse oximeters, compact gas-powered ventilators, oxygen concentrators, and other necessary equipment and MSRs are provided to various healthcare institutions on an urgent basis for the treatment of Covid-19 patients. Liquid medical oxygen systems have been installed and oxygen is being supplied to 30 hospitals to meet the urgent medical oxygen needs of Covid-19 patients. In addition, construction of 10-bed ICU and 20-bed Isolation has already been completed in 10 Medical

College Hospitals, 10-bed ICUs, and 20-bed Isolation units in 13 district hospitals with the aim of permanently increasing the capacity of health services. In addition, the construction of a 10-bed ICU and 20-bed isolation, ICU in 2 infectious disease hospitals is underway in 30 more district hospitals. These activities will strengthen the intensive care programme for other patients including Covid-19.

RT-PCR Kits, Antigen Kits have been provided urgently for the identification of patients with the Covid-19 virus. Additionally, the construction of 27 modern microbiological laboratories and 2 biosafety level-3 laboratories is in progress. During the COVID period, additional patient care and identification activities are provided to various healthcare institutions by recruiting manpower in various positions including doctors, nurses, and lab consultants on an emergency basis. Also helping in contact tracing and active case identification process, providing health protection materials (PPE, KN95 mask, hand gloves), and raising social awareness to eliminate misconceptions about Coronavirus.

Also, in order to deal with future epidemics, a total of 07 medical screening units are being set up at 05 ports of entry, 20 medical waste management plants are being set up, and infection prevention and control units are being set up in 62 districts hospitals, and epidemiological units are being set up in 64 civil surgeon offices.

Family Planning Services and Reproductive Health

The family planning programme has achieved significant success as a result of various effective initiatives taken by the government. In 2001, Bangladesh's population growth rate was 1.57 percent, which is now 1.37 percent. At the same time, the number of birth control users has increased. At present, 65.6 percent of couples are using birth control methods, but in 2001 it was

53.8 percent. In 2021, Total Fertility Rates (TFR) has been declined sharply from 3.0 in 2011 births to 2.04 in 2021.

About 9.43 lakh adolescents have been counselled about prevention of child marriage, and prevention of adolescent motherhood. As a result, the rate of child marriage and adolescent pregnancy has decreased from 59% to 52% and from 31% to 22% respectively. 500 Model Union Health and Family Welfare Center service has been established for maternal Child Reproductive Adolescent health services and free ambulance service has been introduced for maternal health services. Fund has been allocated for another 40 Health Center. Administrative approval has been received for the manpower of 159 newly constructed 10-bed Maternal and Child Welfare Centers (1,590 in total in 06 categories), out of which 121 Mothers and Child Welfare Centers have launched limited services. 1,250 officers have been brought under digital monitoring till January, 2023 for smooth management of family planning-maternal and child health activities at field level. Besides, Clinical Contraception Services Delivery Program unit has recruited 3,866 PPVs (Paid Peer Volunteers) in 100 *Upazilas* of 28 districts (hard to reach and low performing areas) to motivate & counsel young married couples & perform domiciliary court yard meetings.

In addition, the two specialized hospitals under the DGFP, Maternal & Child Health Training Institute (MCHTI), Dhaka and Mohammadpur Fertility Services and Training Center (MFSTC), Dhaka have been brought under the service automation including e-ticketing, drug distribution and medical services to the service recipients are provided through automation where medical records are electronically stored. Besides, Service information on family planning, maternal and child health, nutrition, adolescent health and reproductive health services is being

published using the online software 'Monthly Service Statistics Report' and 'Monthly Logistics Report'.

Health in Private Sector

The government has taken various effective initiatives to ensure the health services desired by the people. The government as well as the private sector and NGOs are being encouraged to provide quality health services through open competition. For that purpose, 4,544 private hospitals, 9,178 diagnostic centers and 177 blood banks have been licensed in the country. The role of NGOs as well as the government in health services, especially hygienic sanitation, supply of clean drinking water and elimination of other infectious diseases including covid-19, diarrhea, dengue, is worth mentioning. Also, several domestic and foreign NGOs are actively working in addition to government initiatives to reduce child and maternal mortality rates significantly under health, population and nutrition programs. Opportunities for public-private partnership (PPP)-based investment in the health sector have been created.

Medical Education

The government's multiple endeavors to reform the medical education system have resulted in significant changes in medical education. Under the direction of Hon'ble Prime Minister, an initiative has been taken to set up a Medical University in each division. After the commencement of activities of *Rajshahi*, *Chattogram* and *Sylhet* Medical Universities, the establishment of *Sheikh Hasina* Medical University, *Khulna* is in progress. Besides, the effort for expansion of modern and updated education in medical sciences is continued. Initiative has been taken to expand the opportunities to improve Medical Education. For these reason post-graduation courses have been started both in specialized institutions and different Medical colleges. Besides this different

curriculum of medical education have been updated.

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW) is currently implementing Health, Population and Nutrition Sector Programme (HPNSP) starting from January, 2017 to June, 2023. The HPNSP is the 4th Sector Wide Approach (SWAP). It is being implemented through 31 Operational Plans (OPs). Expansion of quality health-education, technology-based, research-based health-education is needed to sustain the achievements of the health sector and increase its ability to recover from future epidemics. Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, the country's first medical university established in 1998, is progressing in parallel with medical education and services, as well as research activities. Bangladesh Medical Research Council (BMRC) is involved in research activities related to medical science.

Nursing Services

At present, 42,176 nurses are serving in government health service and nursing institutes. In order to improve the quality of nursing and midwifery education and services, Bachelor of Science in Nursing (4 Years' Course) has been started in 13 government nursing colleges where 1,200 seats exist. Diploma in Nursing Science and Midwifery (3 years' course) is being conducted in 46 government nursing institutes where 2,730 seats exist. Diploma in Midwifery (3 years' course) is being conducted in 62 government nursing institutes where 1,825 seats exist. It is to be noted that in addition to these educational institutions at the government level, for pursuing higher education in Nursing, 10 Nursing Colleges are running 02-year Post Basic B.Sc. in Nursing and Nursing in Public Health and 01 institutions are conducting 2-year MSc Nursing courses. Nurses and midwives are at the frontline fighter of global corona risk management. The Directorate General of Nursing and Midwifery has successfully deployed nurses

and midwives in conjunction with Covid-19 dedicated hospitals to provide quality nursing and midwifery services. Deputation of students of Post Basic B.Sc. in Nursing College and National Institute of Advanced Nursing Education and Research (NIENER) has been cancelled and they have been assigned to corona patient care and teachers have been given the responsibility to monitor it. 5,045 nurses were recruited on an urgent basis and deputed to the Covid-19 dedicated hospitals across the country. In order to improve the quality of nursing and midwifery services, the government has undertaken various programmes, such as- Nurse Expert Exchange with different countries, foreign training, creation of higher education opportunities at home and abroad etc.

Programmes for Women and Child Development

The government is committed to women's political, economic, and social empowerment, as well as the abolition of gender inequality, the establishment of child rights, and their integration into the mainstream of overall development. The role of women in empowerment and development in Bangladesh has been strengthened as a result of the government's timely execution of policies and plans. Necessary laws and regulations have been formulated for the establishment of equal rights in all spheres of state and public life and elimination of all forms of discrimination against women and various development projects, programmes and other activities are being implemented. National Women Development Policy-2011, National Child Policy-2011, Comprehensive policy on Initial Care and Development of Child-2013, Prevention and Protection of Domestic Violence Act-2010 and Rules-2013, Dowry Prevention Act-2018, Child Marriage Prevention Rules-2018', *Shishu* Academy Act-2018, Women and Child Abuse

Suppression (Amendment) Act-2020 and The Child Daycare Act-2021 have been enacted.

An incentive package has been implemented for women to enable them to address the ongoing impact of COVID-19 and facilitate economic recovery. Maternity allowances and working and lactating mother allowances have been provided to meet the health and nutritional needs of poor pregnant women in rural and urban areas and ensure complete development of the child, and micro-credit activities have been running to ensure self-employment of women. A total of 67 One-Stop Crisis Cells (OCCs) have been set up in 47 District *Sadar* Hospitals and 20 *Upazila* Health Complexes under the Multisectoral Programme to provide services to women and children victims of persecution across the country and 13 One-Stop Crisis Cells have been set up in Government Medical College Hospitals. These One-Stop Crisis Centers and One-Stop Crisis Cells have provided services to a total of 1,74,209 abused women and children as of February, 2023. Initiatives have been to make less educated, poor and helpless women self-reliant by providing income generating training and IT training. Projects for the establishment of Community Nursing Degree College for Women in Dhaka, and the 'Promotion of Women Entrepreneurs for Economic Empowerment at Grassroot Level' are in progress. Under the project, 56,122 women have been trained in 6 trades (beautification, catering, fashion design, interior design and event management, baby care and housekeeping) till February, 2023 in 80 training centers in 78 *Upazilas* in 5 years. Government is conducting various activities for psychological and cultural development as well as flourishing the latent genius of the children with an objective to developing them as competent citizens of the country. Among them-safety and social security of child from embryo to 8 years of age, establishment and operation of *Shishu Bikash Kendro* for children of 4 years of

age, expansion of activities of *Shishu Bikash Kendro* for the ultra-poor and separated children, vocational training for student of *qawmi madrassas* in the rural areas, establishment of day care centres for female workers of tea garden and garments, safe internet, safe children etc. are significant. There are six *Shishu Bikash Kendro* (child development centre) in the country including one for female children in *Azimpur* and two for male children in *Keraniganj* and *Gazipur* and also three in *Rajshahi*, *Khulna* and *Chattogram* divisions. One *Shishu Bikash Kendro* and one pre-primary education centre has been established in 71 offices including 64 districts and 6 *Upazilas*. Children of 4-5 years of age are being developed for admission to primary schools through these centres. More than 900 books for children have been published by *Shishu Academy* for developing reading habit in children.

Social Welfare

The government is carrying out various activities for the welfare of the poor, disadvantaged, neglected, special needs and orphans. The Social Security Programme is a successful programme of the Ministry of Social Welfare (MOSW). Currently, different types of allowances and food assistance activities are running under social security programmes of the MoSW. Old age allowance, destitute women allowance, widow and husband deserted women allowance, insolvent disability allowance, education stipend for students with disabilities, development projects of the marginalised people, financial support programmes for patient with cancer, kidney and liver cirrhosis, stroke paralysis, congenital heart diseases and thalassemia, rehabilitation of beggars and alternative employment programme etc. are the most notable social security programmes of MoSW. Apart from government activities, financial grants are being provided for the adoption and

implementation of service-oriented projects in private enterprises.

In the country, 85 *Sarkari Shishu Paribar* are operating for the upbringing of non-parental children, instilling a sense of responsibility and discipline in them, as well as rehabilitation through training and education. There are 6 institutions (*Chotomani Nibash*) in 6 districts of the country for the upbringing, maintenance, sports and general education of abandoned children aged 0-7 years without parental identity. 03 child development centres for correction of disobedient children of parents to prevent social degradation, 06 government shelters for rehabilitation of nomads and homeless persons with appropriate training and 'safe home' operations for nurturing, training, treatment, recreation and rehabilitation of women and children detained in the police station/jail are being conducted in *Barisal*, *Sylhet*, *Rajshahi*, *Chattogram*, *Bagerhat* and *Faridpur* districts. In addition, probation and after care service are being conducted with the aim of providing casework, correction, socialisation and other legal support under the supervision of probation officers, without convictions for first-time offenders and minor offenders, or for incarcerated offenders through 70 units. In addition, *Sheikh Russel* Child Training and Rehabilitation Centers are working across the country to protect all disadvantaged and endangered children.

The government is conducting various programmes for the welfare and protection of the rights of persons with special needs and for their rehabilitation. Such as integrated visionary education programme, schools for the visually impaired, institution for children with mental disabilities, vocational training, employment and rehabilitation centre for physically handicapped and so on. A total of 103 'Disability Services and Help Centres' have been set up in 64 districts and 39 *Upazilas* of the country to provide therapeutic

services to the challenged people in remote areas of the country. All these centres provide free therapeutic, counseling and referral services and assistive devices to people with autism and other disabilities in remote areas of the country. The project 'Construction of Sports Complex for Persons with Special Needs' has been undertaken by the National Disability Foundation under the Ministry of Social Welfare for the socio-economic development of persons with disabilities in the country and to ensure their facilities in sports. The Department of Social Services is implementing 05 poverty reduction programmes for the purpose of socio-economic development through providing micro credit to the poor, helpless, neglected, backward and backward people living in rural/urban areas of the country. These are-rural social services, rural mothers centre, urban community programme, rehabilitation programme for the burnt and people with disabilities and loan programme in *ashrayan* project.

Freedom Fighter Welfare

The contribution of the freedom fighters, the finest child of the nation is everlasting in the service of motherland. The government has undertaken various activities to honor them and expand the spirit of *Bangabandhu* and Liberation War to the grassroots level by providing overall welfare to the families of war wounded heroic freedom fighters, dead war wounded heroic freedom fighters, titular heroic freedom fighters, dead heroic freedom fighter families and families of martyred heroic freedom fighters. In addition, government has undertaken to provide honorarium and other allowances for all the valiant freedom fighters through the G2P system directly from Bangladesh Bank to the beneficiary banks by creating the Management Information System containing a complete database for freedom fighters. To improve the socio-economic condition of the valiant freedom fighters, a total of Tk. 2 crore has been allocated in FY 2022-23

Youth Development

The government is implementing training programmes and development projects through the Department of Youth Development to engage the youth in national development by providing them with the right direction, practical, technical knowledge and skill-enhancing training. Considering the all-out welfare of the youth, training, self-employment, micro credit, poverty alleviation and other motivational activities are continuing at all *Upazilas* and districts of the country.

The Department of Youth Development has imparted skill enhancement training to a total of 33.11 lakh youth in various trades till January, 2023 for the purpose of employment and self-employment of youth and young women. Among the trained youths, 7.54 lakh have been engaged in self-employment. Under the credit scheme, and amount of Tk. 2057.15 crore was disbursed (including the revolving fund) to 12.1 lakh beneficiaries since inception till December, 2022 to establish and expansion of self-employment enterprises. The government is implementing the National Service Programme through the Department of Youth Development with the aim of creating employment for the educated unemployed youth of the country. To date, 138 *Upazilas* in 47 districts of the country have been brought under the National Service Programme.

Sports Development

The government has been formulating and implementing policies and strategies to improve the quality of sports in the national and international arenas. Construction and development activities of modern stadiums, gymnasiums, swimming pools and sports infrastructure are being carried out across the country with a view to increase sports opportunities. The government continues to play a significant role in motivating children and adolescents to participate in sports at the grassroots level, producing national and

international standard players, expanding social security in sports, preventing drug abuse, raising health and environmental awareness, empowering women, and enhancing athletes' social status. Free sports equipment is being provided for organising and conducting sports in educational institutions and sports clubs. Bachelor of Physical Education (BPED) education is being imparted to young men and women with bachelor's degree through 06 Government Physical Education Colleges and Masters of Physical Education (MPED) is being imparted through Dhaka Government Physical Education College. The '*Bangabandhu Krirashebi Kalyan* Foundation' was established by enacting the '*Bangabandhu Krirashebi Kalyan* Foundation Act 2011' to realise the cherished dream of Father of the Nation *Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman* with the aim of providing financial assistance to indigent, injured and disabled sportsmen and sports organisers. In FY 2022-23, steps have been taken to provide grants to a total of 1,500 indigents, injured and disabled athletes and sports organisers through the said foundation.

Cultural Affairs

The government has been providing necessary patronage for the betterment of all branches of art and culture including Bengali language and literature, music, art, drama, film and creative publishing. Various activities are being carried out for the development, preservation and expansion of culture of Bangladesh through 18 departments/agencies under the Ministry of Cultural Affairs. The Department of Archeology is carrying out developmental activities including survey, excavation, renovation and preservation of important archeological sites and monuments for the purpose of proper preservation and presentation of archeological resources and monuments of the country.

In order to achieve cultural excellence, the *Bangla* Academy conducts various notable

activities related to Bangla language and literature, compilation of dictionaries, various researches and publications as well as arranges book fair in the month of February and celebrates different significant days every year. Besides, Bangladesh *Shilpakala* Academy is working to develop, preserve, spread and encourage national culture through fine arts, drama, music etc. 07 organisations are working under the Ministry of Cultural Affairs to preserve and develop the traditional and colorful cultures of 12 small ethnic groups living in the greater Chattogram Hill Tracts region and to integrate those small ethnic cultures into the mainstream of national culture. Initiatives have been taken to implement development projects on preservation of Rose Garden, various regional archeological monuments.

Bangladesh National Museum is devoted to archaeological, classical, decorative and contemporary art, history, natural history, ethnography and world civilisation. It has continued to collect different kinds of important archaeological artifacts from the remote areas of the country for the purpose of exhibiting hundreds of thousands of visitors to the museum. A project titled '1971: Construction of Genocide-Torture Archive and Museum Building' is being implemented running at an estimated cost of Tk. 32.22 crore. The copyright registration process has been automated. The project titled '*Bangladesh* copyright Building construction' is ongoing for the construction of its own copyright office building. Different initiatives have been taken to implement special programme activities related to identification, collection, evaluation and preservation of folk cultural expressions. The project titled 'Nationwide Mobile Library' is being implemented by the Department of Public Libraries with the aim of sustaining the activities of the mobile library. 76 mobile libraries are providing mobile library services at the doorsteps of readers across the country. The project titled 'Establishment of

Bangabandhu and Liberation War Corner' in the libraries of the country, 'Expansion of online service activities of government public libraries' is underway.

Religious Affairs

Pilgrimage to Saudi Arabia was halted in 2020 and 2021 due to the global COVID-19. In 2022 pilgrims from Bangladesh have performed Hajj smoothly. In 2022 pilgrims from Bangladesh have performed Hajj smoothly. In order to apply the maximum application of information technology in Hajj activities, database management and the issuance of biometric visa have been incorporated in the system. In FY 2022-23 Imam and Muajjin welfare Trust of Islamic Foundation has distributed tk. 2.65 crore as aid to its 8,832 members and tk. 1.20 crore interest free loan to its 600 members. In the current fiscal year Hindu Religious welfare Trust has targeted to disburse total tk. 4.80 crore for development of Monastery/Temple/Crematory and as aid to its poor people. Buddhist religious welfare Trust has disbursed tk. 30 lakh as yearly grant for building and repairing of Buddhist institutions. Endowment fund of the Christian religious welfare Trust has disbursed tk. 20 lakh as grants to its Churches/prayer houses. Islamic Foundation press, as a self-sufficient division of Islamic Foundation is an authorised entity for printing Islamic books, keeps on contributing to the proclamation and expansion of Islam from its establishment. Since July, 2022 the Islamic Foundation press has printed books of 85 titles from other divisions of Islamic Foundation. Halal Sonod division of Islamic Foundation has issued halal certificates as per Islamic law to 67 commercial institutes of our country in FY 2022-23. The application of ICT is gradually rising for the monitoring of all religious education management for the children and its teacher administration system across the country.

Development of Chattogram Hill Tracts

The *Chattogram Hill Tracts* is an integral part of our culture and heritage. The government is working tirelessly for the development of marginalised communities in the hilly areas. The government is implementing various development projects and technical projects for the development of the hill people and for preserving their glorious culture. A total of 1,936 projects/schemes have been taken up in the three hill districts (16 under ADP and 1,920 schemes under development assistance) in the budget for the FY 2022-2023 at a cost of Tk 932.18 crore. These projects aim to improve education, healthcare, agriculture, social welfare, information technology, electricity, communication, infrastructure, mixed fruit and spice gardens, basic healthcare services for 4,500 Para centers, provide safe drinking water, and promote sports, culture, and development through various economic and social activities, it's progress is very promising.

Broadcast

Information on the overall activities of the government including development activities is transmitted from the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to various print and electronic media including the top level of the government. The government is taking various projects/activities for the modernisation and development of the media. The government is currently implementing various projects aimed at modernising Bangladesh Television and Radio Centre and developing digital broadcasting system. The number of ongoing projects of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in FY 2022-23 is 13. All of these projects/activities are designed to propel Bangladesh forward in the unparalleled development of communication networking with global media, in keeping with technological advancement and excellence in the context of globalisation and that Bangladesh is going ahead in this development. In addition, to being aware and involved in the 10 special

initiatives of the Hon'ble Prime Minister, education, health, nutrition, development of women and children, climate change, counter-militancy, migration, making people positively aware of various issues and promoting the development of rural communities to achieve various goals strengthening projects are being implemented. In order to develop the film preservation system, facilities have been created for the restoration and preservation of old films, scientific documentation and research, including the creation of state-of-the-art facilities in the film archiving system. After the successful completion of first phase of construction of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Film City project, the second phase of this project has been taken. Under the ongoing project, initiatives have been taken to expand the number of FM based radio stations of Bangladesh Betar and to modernize the existing stations by installing digital broadcasting equipment. Besides, the projects for modernization of central broadcasting system of Bangladesh Television, and Introduction of digital terrestrial broadcasting across the country are running properly.

Reforms and Good Governance

Aside from achieving high growth, various reform measures are being taken and implemented to ensure sustainable and inclusive balanced development, such as improve service, and good governance, the implementation of the Right to Information (RTI) Act, the formulation and amendment of employment-related rules, financial sector reform, and anti-corruption and prevention activities, etc. In order to strengthen good governance and accountability, the Annual Performance Agreement (APA) of the ministry/department/agency has incorporated National Integrity Strategy (NIS), Grievance

Redress System, E-governance and Innovation, Right to Information and citizen charter action plan.

Apart from nominating suitable candidates for the service of the Republic through the Bangladesh Public Service Commission, recommendations are also given on formulation-amendment and disciplinary matters relating to promotion and appointment. From 2010 to 2023, the Commission has recommended 35,662 candidates for recruitment in different cadres through 12 consecutive B.C.S. examinations.

The Independent Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) was established to curb and prevent corruption and corrupt practices in the country. The Commission is implementing multifaceted programmes such as conducting enquiry and investigation against allegations of corruption as well as building honesty and integrity in the society by raising public awareness against corruption. With the launch of Toll Free Hotline (106), the daily complaints of public corruption can be easily presented directly to the ACC. Besides, ISD number +8809612106106 has been launched for receiving complaints. The Enforcement Unit of ACC is constantly conducting immediate operations in various departments on the basis of specific allegations. As of July, 2022 to February, 2023, a total of 2,417 instant operations were conducted. Under the project 'Investigation and Prosecution Management System (IPMS)' software has been launched through which it has become possible to automate the enquire, investigation and prosecution activities of corruption starting from complaints of corruption received by the Anti-Corruption Commission. In addition the Anti-Corruption Commission has currently a total of 3 ongoing research projects to formulate more effective corruption prevention strategies.