

Route to Rights: Children are Speaking up



CHILD RIGHTS NOW!



Published by

Child Rights Now! an initiative from Joining Forces Bangladesh

Joining Forces: Forces is an alliance of the six largest international NGOs working with and for children under the age of 18 to secure their rights and end violence against them.

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This report is the result of a joint effort between six child-focused international civil society organizations, who wanted to use the 30th anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child to take stock of progress towards realizing children's rights, and respond to the unfinished agenda. The project originated in a joint discussion in 2017, supported by the Rockefeller Foundation, that led to the 'Joining Forces' collaboration between Child Fund Alliance (EDUCO), Plan International, Save the Children International, SOS Children's Villages International, Terre Des Hommes International Federation, and World Vision International. Joining Forces currently focuses on two work streams: Child Rights Now! of which this report is a part, and Ending Violence Against Children.

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Abbreviation Explanation

ADFHS	Adolescent Friendly Health Service
ASRH	Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health
BBS	Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics
BANBEIS	Bangladesh Bureau of Educational Information and Statistics
BRIS	Birth and Death Registration Information System
CHT	Chittagong Hill Tracts
CP	Corporal Punishment
CMRA	Child Marriage Restraint Act
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CSO	Civil Society Organizations
CTC	Central Trafficking Committee
DGFP	Directorate General of Family Planning
DGHS	Directorate General of Health
DHS	Demographic and Health Survey
DNC	The Department of Narcotics Control
EBF	Prevalence of exclusive breastfeeding
EFA	Education for All
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GER	Gross Enrollment Rate
GOB	Government of Bangladesh
GO	Government Organization
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
MCWC	Mother and Child Welfare Centers
MCV1	Measles-containing-vaccine first-dose
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MOHFW	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
MOWCA	Ministry of Women and Children Affairs
MOLE	Ministry of Labor and Employment



MOSW	Ministry of Social Welfare
MOE	Ministry of Education
MOFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
NAPA	National Adaptation Program of Action
NER	Net Enrolment Rate
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NIPORT	National Institute of Population Research and Training
NPA	National Plan of Action
NSO	National Statistical Office
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SRH	Sexual and Reproductive Health
TDH	Terre Des Hommes
UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
UHFWC	Union Health and Family Welfare Centers
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
UN	United Nations
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WHO	World Health Organization

Forwarding

Bangladesh is a country with around 60 million children and today they are having a better life than 30 years back. In the last 30 years we achieved a lot such as having free primary education, eliminated Polio, reduce child mortality rate, and reduce child poverty. We should celebrate. This year Convention of the Rights of Children will celebrate its 30 years globally. But we can't celebrate now. Still millions of children's are out of school and having work in hazardous situation. Children's are not getting proper health service; everyday children's are experiencing violence, abuse and being exploited; Girls are facing discrimination and stigmatizing.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child is the most widely ratified treaty in history. Bangladesh was one of the first two states who ratified it in August 1990. The Sustainable Development Goals have been agreed by all governments including Bangladesh. They go hand in hand. We cannot achieve the SDGs without releasing the rights of all children, nor vice versa.

With this drawback in 2017, six child-focused organizations Child Fund Alliance (EDUCO), Plan International, Save the Children, SOS Children's Village International, Terre Des Hommes Foundation and World Vision-decided to address the children alarming situation and collaborate in reporting the status of 2030 Sustainable Development Goals for realizing the status of children's rights by forming Joining Forces-Child Rights Now! In Bangladesh this Joining Forces are focusing on Child Rights Now to push for renewed political commitments to Children's' rights, reflected in SDGs implementation and support for the convention on the rights of the child. This situation analysis report is

one of the major success of their joint coalition.

Joining Forces tried to analysis the children situation through this report. And this report is to help review what have been achieved so far, to identify the most urgent, critical and transformative child rights issues, especially those that intersect with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and those issue that require focused and joint advocacy. Children's voices, views, recommendations, and the expert opinions are central part of the report.

We strongly believe together we will ensure that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the child-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) deliver a step change in the realization of children's rights, with a specific focus on ending all forms of violence against children and working with the most left behind.

It is our great pleasure to present you the "Child Rights Situation Analysis Report in Bangladesh" by Joining Forces-Child Rights Now!!

Let's act together in the best interests of all children in Bangladesh. It's time to deliver.

Johny M Sarkar- Country Director, EDUCO Bangladesh

Orla Murphy- Country Director, Plan International

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Chapter 1: Introduction

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) objectives and goals provide an unprecedented opportunity to improve the quality of the life of children in general. While the CRC goals are specific to children, SDG goals are more overarching, general and specific to the welfare of entire society bringing them together to an avenue leading to a better life for all, including children.

However, these are very challenging times for children and society. Reaching SDG goals create opportunities that come with a time bound prescription. Failure to realize the goals and objectives within the stipulated period of 2015 to 2030 will mean the world will have run out of critical time to make a meaningful difference to many lives. That is why the SDG and CRC strategic partnership of goals is significant for quality development of humanity.

Bangladesh is the ninth most populated country in the world with a population of 160 million. About 47 percent of the population is below the age of 18. Adolescents, aged between 10 and 19 years, made up 22.5 percent of the country's population in 2016.¹

Bangladesh was one of the first countries to ratify the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) in August 1990, demonstrating the country's early commitment to children's rights. Even before that, however, it was enshrined in Article 28 (4) of the Governance Assembly,

¹State of World's Children, UNICEF, 2016

²<https://www.thedailystar.net/country/news/js-passes-children-amendment-bill-1650517>

Education and Development Foundation, National Girl Constitution in 1971 that “Nothing shall prevent the State from making special provision for women and children...” which shows how the founders of the newly independent country recognized that children deserved affirmative action to reach their full potential.

Article 15 of the Constitution also makes it a fundamental responsibility of the State to secure for its citizens, including children, basic necessities such as food; clothing; shelter; education; medical care; and the right to work, reasonable rest, recreation and leisure. Since then, Bangladesh has maintained an impressive track record of enacting various policies and laws, and implementing programs, to realize the rights of its children including the National Children Policy 2011 and the Children Act 2013, which was later amended on 22 October, 2018. The new amendment allows the state to declare Women and Children Repression Prevention tribunals at Children's Court for hearing and delivering the verdict of the cases lodged regarding the children. This however goes against the spirit of the act² and needs addressing.

The United Nations, as well as the international development community has lauded Bangladesh, as the epitome for the socio-economic gains attained under the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The country has moved up to lower middle-income status but more importantly, improved in terms of human development

indicators. This achievement came on the back of stable economic growth.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and targets are meant above all to inspire action to safeguard the needs of present and future generations. A key commitment expressed in the 2030 Agenda is that “no one left behind” and those furthest behind be reached first. Governments are committed to prioritizing on reaching all children by focusing on those who are most excluded and at the risk of being denied their rights.³ The SDGs aim to improve the lives of children and young people through a number of clear goals and targets. They address poverty reduction (Goal 1), health (Goal 3), education (Goal 4), gender equality (Goal 5), violence against children (Goal 16.2), as well as a number of other areas that affect children's lives.

With guidance of SDGs⁴, the Government of Bangladesh is committed towards effective policies and their implementation for bringing positive changes in the children of the country.

In the last quarter century, the world has made great strides towards realizing the rights to survive and thrive. In spite of good efforts, the world is often experiencing issues caused by indifferent management and weak implementation of

³Input from a child rights perspective to the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development review of ‘eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world’ July 2017; retrieved from <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/16641OHCHR.pdf>

⁴Speech of Additional Secretary MoWCA on the govt. commitments and initiative to promote and protect the Child Rights in Bangladesh, October 18, 2018, In the Launching of the Publication ‘Children of Bangladesh: Progress towards Commitments in 2017’

policies and laws related to children. To review the situation, various initiatives have been taken by different organizations and stakeholders on the assessment of child rights and have been implementing the concluding observations made by the UNCRC committee.

The need to conduct proper monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in relation with child rights is very important. This exercise would challenge government to become more transparent and accountable. In 2017, six child-focused organizations -Child Fund Alliance, Plan International, Save the Children, SOS Children’s Villages, Terre Des Hommes and World Vision – decided to address the situation stated above and collaborate in reporting the status of 2030 Sustainable Development Goals for realization of children’s rights.

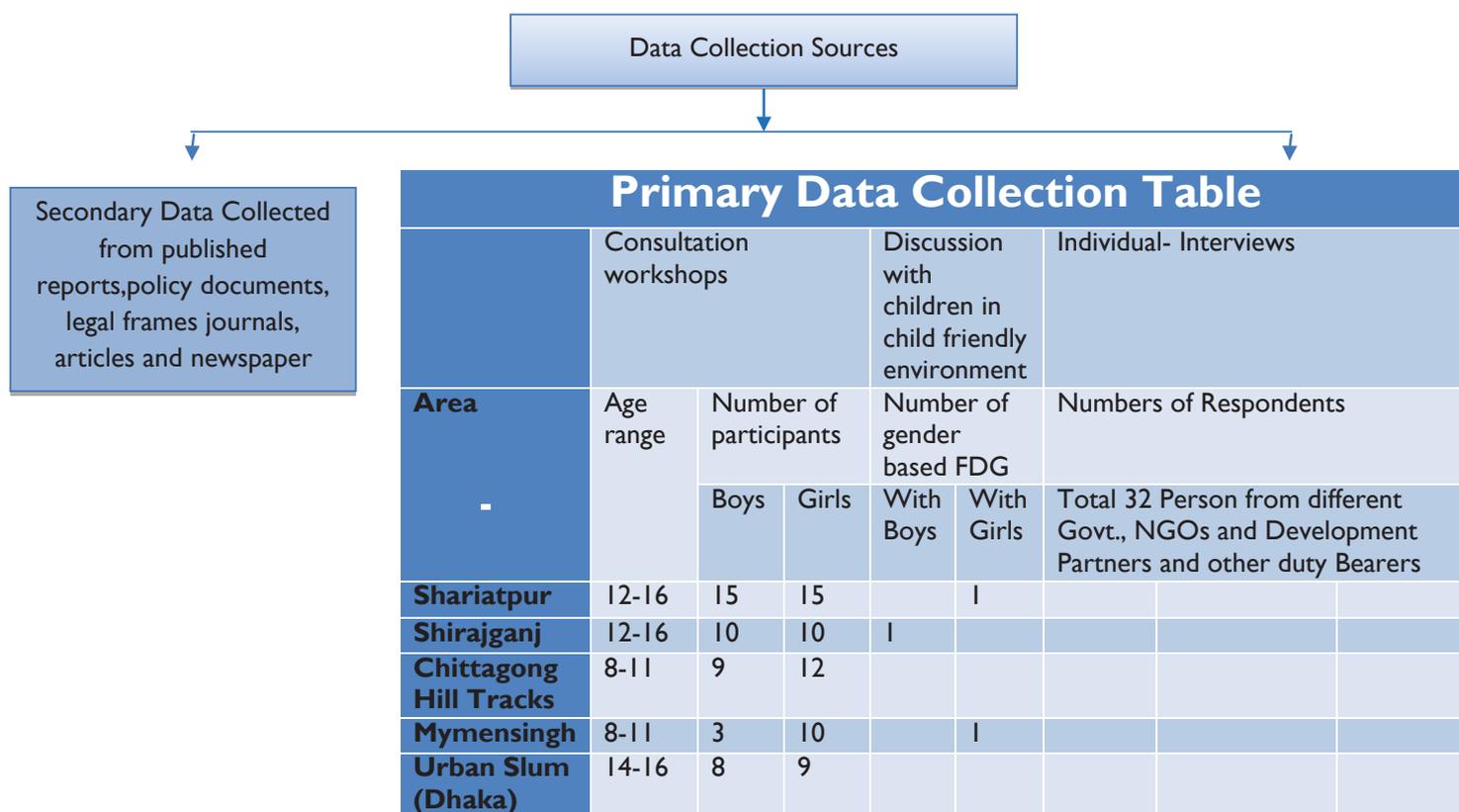


1.1 Purpose of the report

This report is to help review what have been achieved so far, to identify the most urgent, critical and transformative child rights issues, especially those that intersect with SDGs, and those issue that require focused and joint advocacy. The country has experienced visible progress over the years and the report discusses the main achievements of Bangladesh in different fields. It also identifies those key issues that are limiting children’s development in the country. Children’s voices, views, recommendations, and the expert opinions are central part of the report.

This report will also help:

- To identify the state of rights enjoyed by different groups of children. Also their knowledge, capacities, and attitudes in relation to claiming their rights.
- To identify the groups of children who face major violations of their rights.
- To monitor the access of children to existing platforms designed for children decision making at local and national level.
- To focus on the opportunities and constraints for Child Rights Organizations (CROs) towards the full implementation of the CRC.



Chapter 2: Methodology

The method used in the progress report is a qualitative, descriptive method that is well suited for analysis of the child rights situation based on documents from various sources and data collection strategies. The aim is to show the actual situation as Bangladesh progresses towards the implementation of the UNCRC, along with detailed information on prioritizing children and child-related SDGs.

The report also utilized secondary sources of data – such as the national policy frameworks, strategies, research reports, and documents on SDG implementation and child rights monitoring relevant to UNCRC, SDG goals and application of policies.

To gather primary data at the local level, a variety of approaches were used, including focus group discussions (FGD), in-depth interviews with different stakeholders and (five) divisional consultation workshops. National level data was collected through discussions with multiple stakeholders such as government ministries (MOWCA, MOLE, MOSW, MOE and MOFA), academics, development partners (UNICEF and other UN bodies), civil society organizations (CSOs), and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

2.1 Consultation with children

To organize the consultation workshops, we conducted an orientation to facilitate the consultation and FGD on child protection, including best methods to communicate with children. Consultation workshops were

organized in four districts-Chittagong Hill Tracts, Mymensingh, Shariatpur, and Sirajgonj and one consultation conducted with the children of urban slum area.

Shariatpur was selected as it is one of the most vulnerable districts for children due to river erosion and Sirajgonj was selected because it is one of the most flood prone district of Bangladesh. Children of these areas are at risk of abuse, exploitation, and trafficking, due to the prolonged absence of parents who leave to collect relief and work elsewhere to restore livelihoods.

Adivasi (indigenous)/ethnic minorities live in various regions of Bangladesh. The ethnic minority children in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT), located in the southeastern part of Bangladesh, are “left behind” (marginalized) because of higher (than the national average) incidences of poverty and higher rates of illiteracy, high school dropout, and disease, as well as protection issues, such as higher levels of sexual harassment and sexual violence. The Adivasi from the plain lands (such as in Mymensingh) are another group of marginalized children. The children of Adivasi do not know Bengali and therefore cannot study in mainstream schools. They are also deprived of access to health facilities and other rights.

To conduct the child rights situation analysis, a matrix with four categories showing source of information for a number of indicators and variables was used. The four categories were the child, the household to which the

child belongs, the community infrastructure, and contextual indicators/factors. These categories help to describe the activities of children in learning competencies, socio-economic status, living conditions, perception of their parents in education and child goals, health and sanitation, demographic characteristics, political factors etc.

Limitation

A number of limitations were identified which were barriers to the development of this CRSA. These include restricted time for conducting field visits due to political disturbances. As there were year-end exams in schools and colleges including public examinations such as Primary School Certificate (PSE), Junior School Certificate (JSC) and test exam of Secondary School Certificate (SSC), the team had to spend greater time in the field than anticipated. Political situation due to general election was one of the major challenges that delayed timely finalization of the report. Existing information, resources and lack of proper data hindered preparation of the CRSA.



Chapter 3: Child Rights climate in Bangladesh

i. Progress and challenges

- a) Bangladesh has made notable progress in establishing child rights but these are not enough. Progress in education, child health including immunization, reduction of malnutrition showed positive changes. However, the targets related to child marriage, newborn mortality, adolescent fertility have not been reached. The structural capacity to achieve goals set by the inter-section of CRC and SDG is still uncertain.
- b) Adolescents—about 47% of the population⁵ - face many challenges, with a distinct concern for girls. Adolescent fertility rates have largely stagnated and high adolescent fertility rates indicate that girls have been married off, and therefore cannot achieve expected levels of secondary education. Bangladesh has the highest rate of child marriage in South Asia and child brides experience denial of rights, abuse, and violence at home and in society.
- c) High enrolment in school is tempered by high levels of dropouts in the hard-to-reach areas (study areas); particularly by girls at secondary level due

⁵ State of world's children, UNICEF 2016

to child marriage⁶, inadequate quality of education, and limited school supplies and facilities. Low access of schools by minorities, disabled children, and the hard-to-reach groups are causes of concern.

- d) Issues that affect the best interests of children are poverty, economic inequality- both urban and rural- disparity in social sector spending and the consequent impact on children.
- e) Emerging concerns include weak education delivery, school health and sanitation facilities, and Reproductive Health Rights issues for girls. Corporal punishment and its tolerance at school and home is a worrying issue. Concerns exist about overall mental health of children, state of homeless and marginalized groups' children, access to legal and social justice mechanisms, and limited participation of children in society.
- f) The impact of a degrading environment and climate change on children, which is projected to hit Bangladesh very hard, has not been effectively factored into child rights policies, and sufficient plans and actions are still missing.
- g) Government's good intentions and consequent laws do not always translate into actions. Laws are more common than their implementation. Existing laws are sometimes adjusted to comply with social pressure such as the Child Marriage Restraint Act 2017 has been approved with its special provision. The special provision proposes that underage

females may be married off under "special contexts" as long as it is conducted with the permission of her parents or guardians in conjunction with a magistrate. (no 19 in Child Marriage Restraint Act 2017).

- h) Accountability and reporting mechanism on implementation of SDGs to achieve CRC is not yet effective. Lack of co-ordination among various agencies and absence of a lead ministry to shepherd CRC issues remain as barrier. This applies to implementation of most international instruments signed by the government.
- i) Children continue to experience violence at home and wider social space. Loss of play space due to high population and urbanization, high levels of stress, higher incidence of mental health issues, and coping with uncertainty caused by socio-economic constraints affect children but are not appropriately addressed. Capacity limitation is often ignored.
- j) Children's voices continue to be ignored at all levels and mechanisms – School Cabinets in secondary schools are moribund according to children as per the consultations. Child Welfare Boards exist but are not functional and no Ombudsperson for children has been appointed.
- k) There are 15 ministries having significant activities pertaining to child rights, which have specific budgetary allocations for children. For the moment, most of the ministries working on this are at the planning or review phase. Including the CRC

⁶ UNICEF Bangladesh Strategy Note June 2016

is critical to ending the child marriage, improving nutritional coverage, public finance management, and designing the pathway to achieving SDG goals. However, much depends on the overall administrative capacity and political commitment, which are not always detected.

- I) The UN agencies, GOB and NGOs continue to work but not in concert. Public accountability for the state of children, though committed through CRC, has low socio-political demand and thus is not a priority issue with politicians. While children are emerging as a major social force as evidenced by their organization and participation in social safety issues, a system for listening and processing their opinions formally is missing.

ii. SDG and the rights of the children

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is universal in scope, and their call to “leave no one left behind” puts the world’s most vulnerable and marginalized people – including children – at the top of the agenda.⁷ The SDGs are not just a continuation of previous efforts, like the Millennium Development Goals, that sought to measure and thereby spur progress in global development. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) agenda is universal in scope, speaking to the range of challenges facing the world’s countries, rich and poor alike.

⁷<https://data.unicef.org/children-sustainable-develo>

⁸Progress for Every Child in the SDG Era, Country Profile, UNICEF Region: South Asia, World Bank’s income classification: Lower middle income pment-goals

The SDG agenda covers a broad array of topics – with an expansive monitoring framework of 17 goals, 169 targets and 232 indicators. It also embodies high ambition – aiming to not just reduce the occurrence of preventable child deaths or extreme poverty, but to eliminate them outright, and to not merely expand access to vaccines or basic sanitation, but to make that coverage universal, so that no one is left behind. 44 SDG indicators under nine goals are directly relevant to children’s rights and welfare.⁸ (Detail in Annex 1)

The SDGs represent a historic opportunity to promote the realization of the rights of all children in all countries to get their best start in life, to survive and to thrive, and to live free from violence and abuse. The realization of children’s rights is the foundation for securing a sustainable future and realizing all human rights. When children do not have equal opportunities to reach their potential, all of society suffers the consequences. When children’s rights are respected, protected and fulfilled, dividends returned in the form of security, sustainability and human progress. Children experience disproportionate levels of persisting global poverty and due to their particular life-stage and phase of development, suffers broad and deep consequences of growing up in poverty throughout their lives, hampering the fulfillment of all of their human rights.

Children’s’ rights are reaffirmed in the 2030 Agenda by setting forth a vision for a world that invests in its children and in which every child grows up free from violence and exploitation. The Agenda should serve to eradicate poverty

and promote prosperity for all children, especially those in vulnerable situations and most at risk of being left behind, including girls, refugees, ethnic minorities, children without parental care, children with disabilities, and indigenous and migrant children. In the Agenda, States make key commitments to children, in particular, to promoting children's lifelong learning opportunities, to ending child labor in all its forms, and to accelerating progress in reducing newborn, child, and maternal mortality, and ending all such preventable deaths before 2030.

Crucially, children are defined as agents of change, in recognition of their capacity to be active partners in realizing the SDGs. Given that, the 2030 agenda is to be implemented in accordance with international law, as well as state obligations pertaining to the rights specified in the CRC, as reflected in its four general principles on non-discrimination (Article 2), the best interests of the child (Article 3), their right to life, survival and development (Article 6), and their right to be heard (Article 12)), children must be protected and promoted throughout implementation of the 2030 agenda. Those commitments emphasize that no targets of the SDGs may ever be pursued to the detriment of children's' rights.⁹

iii. Inadequate political commitments to SDG and CRC

Political commitment exists but it is not strong. Promises are made but fulfillment is limited. The focus is on aggregate economic growth not

disaggregated achievements across sectors and social groups. Children may fall through the cracks of macro-objective setting. Disparity has risen even as Bangladesh is achieving a 6%+ growth rate.

There is little socio-political pressure to be a 'child friendly' government. Just as governments feel less obligated to take a special stand for children, the pro-children lobby is without much influence.

Several instances may be cited:

- The long standing commitment to the UNCRC to appoint a Child Ombudsperson has not been done.
- The Child Marriage Restraints Act 2017 was passed with the special provisions of marriage under 18 years in special circumstances significantly reducing its impact.
- Education has been given a priority but the sector has problems. About 30% of money for quality and access enhancement is unspent and only 45% of the allocated money was spent.¹⁰
- No Rules for the Children's Act, 2013 has been published in the last 5 years. Instead, a new clause has been added to declare any court as Children's court, which violates the spirit of the Act.
- Finally, no administrative reforms are on to make the ministries more responsive to the need of children and no ministry has exclusive power to push for children's issues.

⁹Input from a child rights perspective to the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development review of 'eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world' July 2017; retrieved from <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/16641OHCHR.pdf>

¹⁰ Child Budget for 2016-2017, Stepping into the era of SDGs for every last child-Save the Children

iv. Strategy to achieve SDG integration and CRC

SDGs are wider in scope and scale than the MDGs and conceptualize a broad alliance for achieving the goals including for children.

The 7th Five Year Plan talks broadly about children's issues such as education, health, including mental health, primary education for all, and quality services delivery. It also announced the subsidy for impoverished families to continue education, reducing dropouts, increasing enrolment, universal vaccination, establishment of recreational places for children, establishing WASH (water and sanitation) blocks in primary schools for better health, protection from pornography, and special academic facilities for autistic children etc. Reduction of under-five mortality rates, infant mortality rate, proportion of underweight among under-five children, and proportion of stunting among under-five children are also mentioned.

However, these are stated as general objectives and the prognosis will have to be read in the light of previous achievements. A matter of concern has been the observations of the UNCRC committee on the gaps between statements and achievements for the last 5 years – predating the SDGs. **Given this scenario, child rights organizations should consistently frame gaps in CRC implementation as SDG gaps and, wherever possible, integrate the two in advocacy to ensure better resourcing and monitoring of child rights in Bangladesh.**



v. High commitment and low implementation

Bangladesh is committed to achieve SDG targets and is working in fulfilling the 2030 agenda. Status are measured on a scale with “target met”, “on track”, “acceleration needed”, “insufficient trend data”, and “no data”.

The Government has adopted “Whole of Society” approach to ensure wider participation of NGOs, development partners, private sector, media and CSOs in the process of formulation of the Action Plan and implementation of the SDGs. To spearhead the process, ‘SDGs Implementation and Monitoring Committee’ has been formed at the Prime Minister’s Office to facilitate and implement the SDGs Action Plan.

The Government’s goal is to take Bangladesh to a “dignified” position in the global arena. Prime Minister of Bangladesh urged the children and youth of the country to be prepared to take the country forward as the “successors of a victorious nation”.¹¹

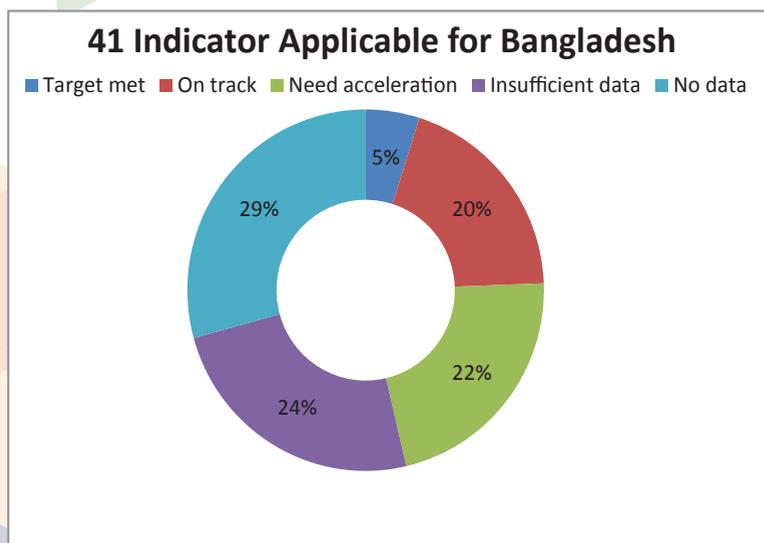
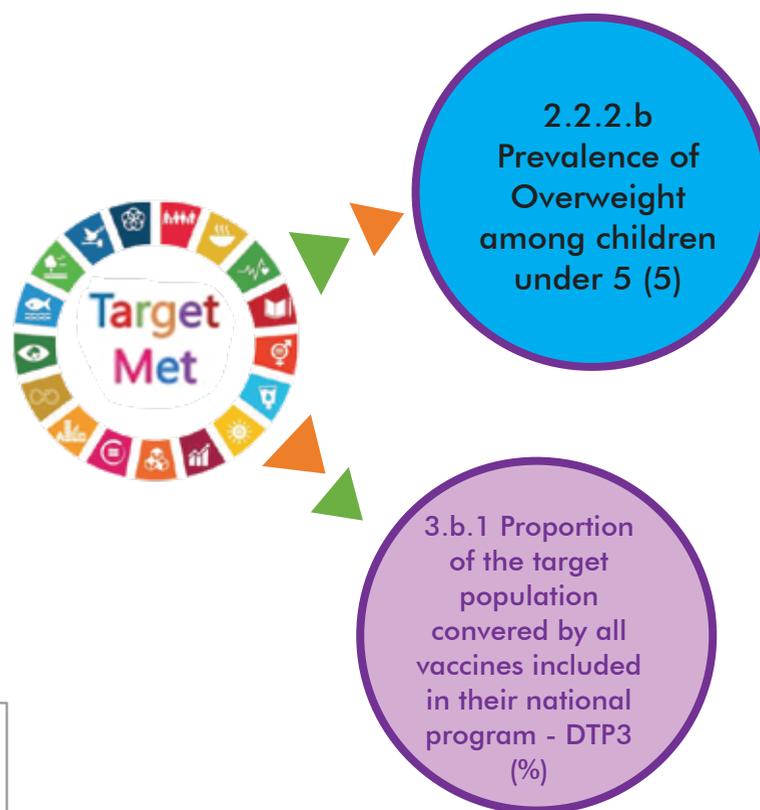


Figure 1 Scale wise percentage distribution

Figure 2 Indicators that have been met

According to the World Bank (2017), national statistical capacity score of Bangladesh is 70 percent and the country rank is 61 among 140 countries. Among 44 indicators, 41 indicators are applicable for Bangladesh. Only two indicators have been met, eight are on track and nine indicators need acceleration. So, only 17 indicators are expected to be met. That covers only 38 percent of the total target.¹²

¹¹<https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/2018/03/26/get-ready-take-country-forward-pm-asks-children>

¹²Progress for Every Child in the SDG Era, Country Profile, UNICEF Region: South Asia, World Bank’s income classification: Lower middle income

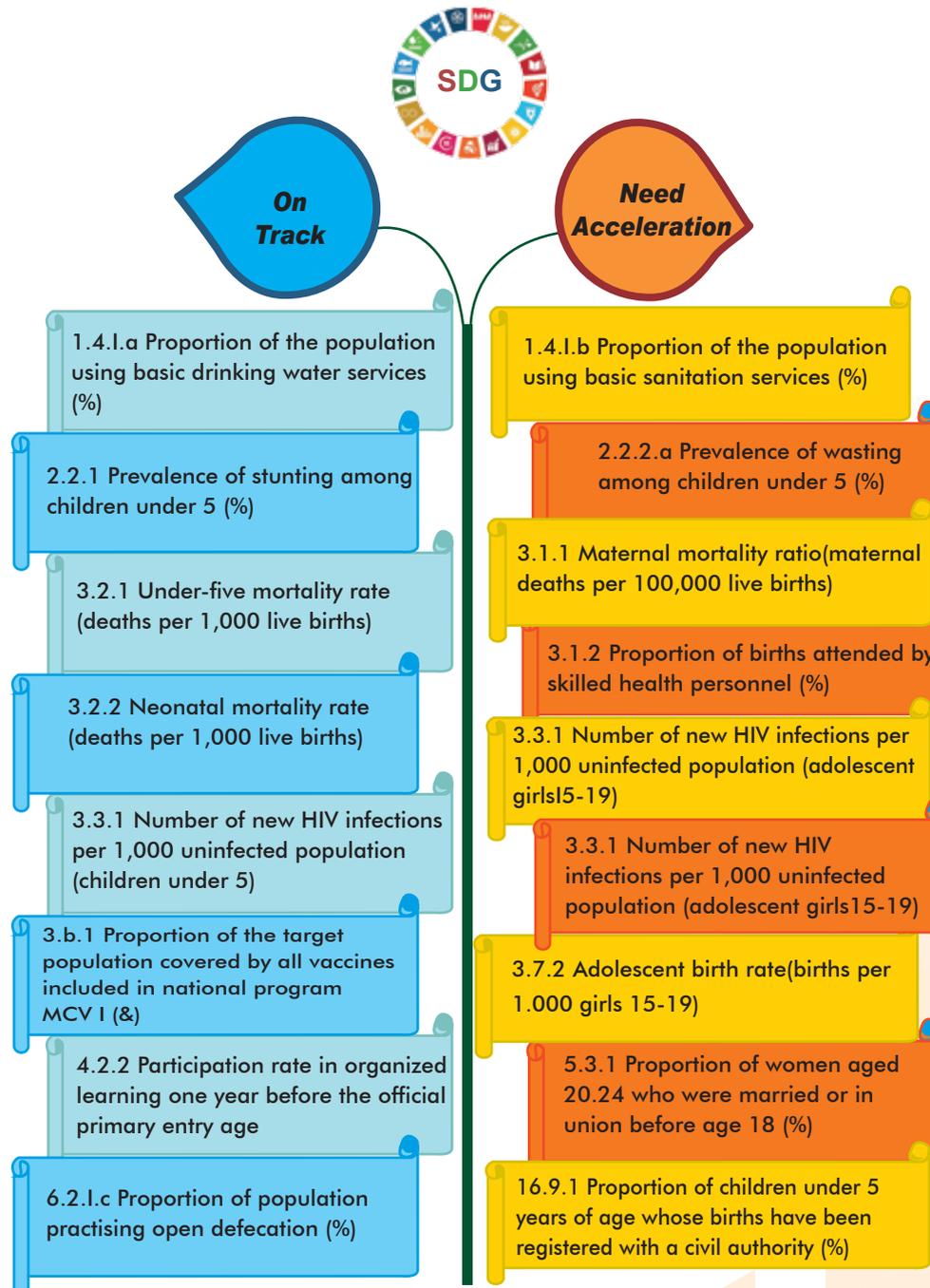
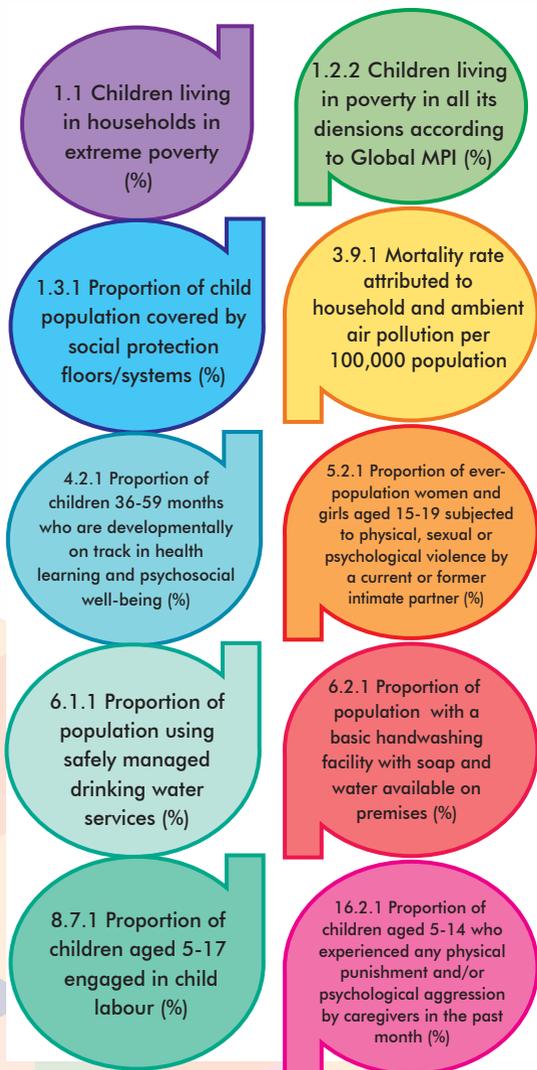


Figure 3: Indicators that are on track & need acceleration

Among 41 indicators, 10 indicators are in lack of trend data and the remaining 12 indicators have no data¹³ that is 53 percent in statistics.

Insufficient Data



No Data

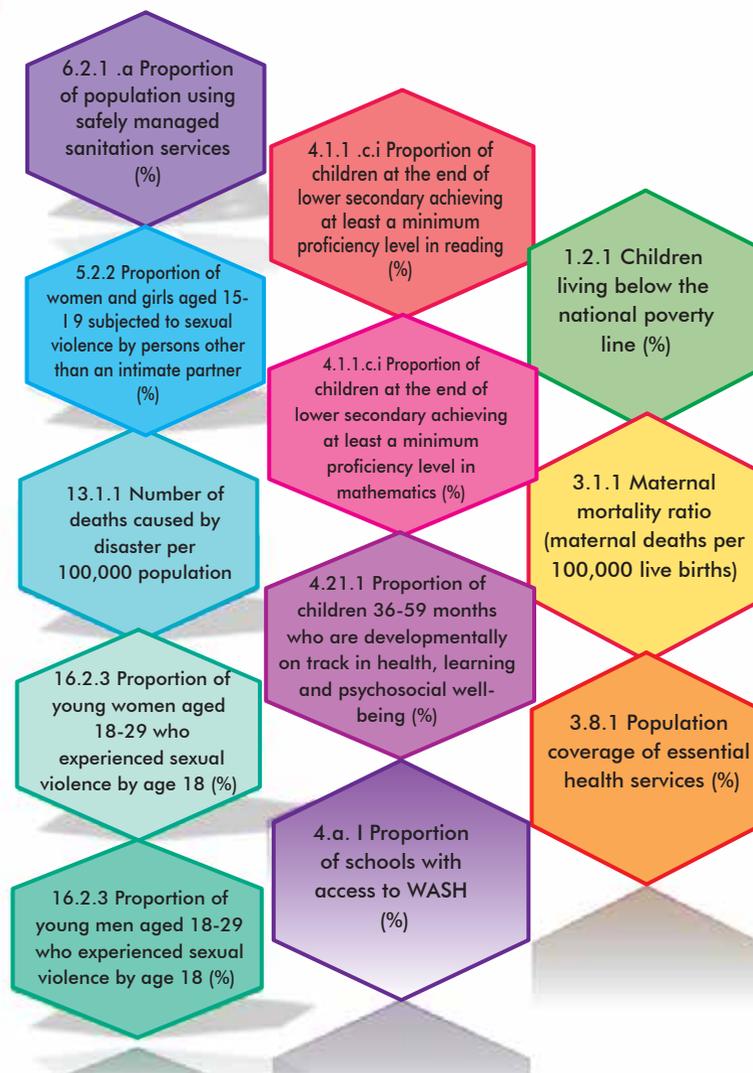


Figure 4 Indicator that have no data & insufficient trend data

¹³ Progress for Every Child in the SDG Era, Country Profile, UNICEF Region: South Asia, World Bank's income classification: Lower middle income



Chapter 4: Game Changers To Realize Child Rights

Bangladesh has made considerable effort to fulfilling rights for its children over the past decades, particularly in the areas of health and education. It has made high progress in reducing child mortality, immunizing more children, and increasing the numbers of children enrolled in schools, thereby showing a real willingness to invest 'to the maximum extent of the resources available'. This is the state of the CRC being implemented in Bangladesh.¹⁴

This section of the report will discuss the current situation and how it relates to the child rights issues, changes since 1989, and what needs to be done and by whom, to successfully address child rights issues. This section examines the underlying causes, intricacies, and dynamics of these children's rights-based issues/problems, in order to identify gaps and constraints in the fulfillment of their rights, and to provide implications and analysis.

¹⁴25 YEARS OF THE CRC IN BANGLADESH SNAPSHOT OF SUCCESS, by Child Rights Advocacy Coalition in Bangladesh, Ain O Shalish Kendra, Save the Children)

Game Changer 1: Health- positive achievements but a long way to go

i. Infant mortality ratio, maternal mortality ratio, and child malnutrition

Maternal mortality reduction remains a priority under SDG Goal 3. “Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages” in the SDG agenda through 2030. In Bangladesh Under-five child mortality rate has been successfully reduced by 74% between 1990 and 2015. But neonatal mortality rate has decreased by 47% only between 1990 and 2015, a much slower reduction rate.¹⁵

In 2015, maternal mortality ratio in Bangladesh was 176 per 100,000 live births (World Bank data). According to the global indicator framework 2016, the target is to reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 1,000,000 live births by 2030 (WHO estimation).¹⁶ To reach an acceptable ratio, it requires 59% reduction.¹⁷

Child mortality rates have been scaled into three categories. They are under-five, infant and neonatal per 1,000 live births. In all three sectors, its decreasing but neonatal and infant mortality rate decline is very slow. Around 62,000 neonatal babies die every year in

Bangladesh (UNICEF, 2017), which is not being addressed effectively.¹⁸

The underlying causes for slower reduction rates are malnutrition and premature birth, which links the problem to the overall health and nutritional support delivery structure.

Newborn deaths occur most in very young women with Bangladesh having one of the highest adolescent birth rates in the world, -113 per 1,000 live births.¹⁹

According to UNICEF data 2017, adolescent mothers are highest at risk because around 29% Bangladeshi girls are malnourished²⁰.

According to BDHS 2014 data, severe food insecurity still affects 27% of the population. Poverty and environmental crises affect food security, compounded by poor sanitation and consumption habits leading to child under nutrition. Identified as a critical factor, gender inequalities in household consumption also affect nutritional status of women and children.

About 50% of adolescent girls are bearing children by 19 years since the year 2000 (NIPORT et al. 2016). Inadequate infant and young child feeding practices also factor into this. Prevalence of exclusive breastfeeding

¹⁵Journey to SDGs 2030 for Health, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, 2017

¹⁶Annual Report HSD 2017-2018

¹⁷Journey to SDGs 2030 for Health, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, 2017(http://www.dghs.gov.bd/images/docs/Publicaations/JourneytoSDGs2030%20forHealth_Fin_ed2.pdf)

¹⁸<https://www.unicef.org/bangladesh/en/saving-newborn-lives>

¹⁹<https://dhsprogram.com/pubs/pdf/FR171/08Chapter08.pdf>

²⁰http://files.unicef.org/transparency/documents/Bangladesh_Programme%20Strategy%20Notes%20-%20June%202016.pdf

practice has increased to 64% in the BDHS report in 2011, which further declined to 55% in the recent report of BDHS in 2014. A recent study conducted on the prevalence of EBF in a rural sub-district in Bangladesh which showed a significantly lower prevalence of EBF 36% than the national figure 55%.²¹

32% of urban infants receive harmful pre-lacteal feeds (NIPORT et al. 2016).²² However, rural infants are more likely to have sub-optimal complementary feeding practices.

Poor sanitation facilities increase risk of illness and infections. Only 45% households, 21% in rural and 48% of urban households- use water and soap for hand washing.²³ The Bangladesh Maternal Mortality Survey (BMMS) 2016 shows that the rate of maternal mortality has stagnated. Although there has been an increase in the facility delivery, about 50% of the deliveries took place at the facility under observation of skilled birth attendants. This indicates a clear gap in the quality of services. The Bangladesh Health Facility Survey (BHFS) 2014 also shows low-level readiness of the public facilities to deliver quality services to mothers and children.

ii. Adolescent Health

Adolescent health is a cornerstone of the SDGs. Goals 1 (No Poverty), 3 (Good Health and Well-being), 4 (Quality Education) and 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation)

²¹<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5833089/>

²²Bangladesh Nutrition Profile, March 2018 USAID

²³Bangladesh Nutrition Profile, March 2018, USAID

²⁴Adolescents in Bangladesh: A Situation Analysis of Programmatic Approaches to Sexual and Reproductive Health Education and Services, Janu.2017

emphasize on adolescent health. Initiatives to address adolescent health in Bangladesh have been implemented by both the Government of Bangladesh (GOB) and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), but these activities have often been fragmented. For example, both DGFP and DGHS have components on ADFHS. However, the ADFHS corners are only available in the DGFP facilities and are mostly supported by the development partners (UNICEF, UNFPA and USAID). A small-scale evaluation conducted by the Population Council showed gaps in the existing services.²⁴ The evaluation also provided a list of recommendations to improve the services in these corners.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW) has developed the National Strategy for Adolescent Health 2017-2030 that focuses on four priority thematic areas of intervention: adolescent sexual and reproductive health (ASRH), violence against adolescents, adolescent nutrition and mental health. Social and behavioral change communication and health systems strengthening are included as cross cutting issues to address effective implementation of the strategy.

23 Clinics are providing School Health program including training of primary school teachers to run school health sessions.

The National Baseline Hygiene Survey 2014 showed the adverse impact of poor toilet facilities in educational institutions, including health problems and low

attendance. In June 2015, the Ministry of Education (MOE) issued a directive for the implementation of certain measures **for gender friendly sanitation in every school, including separate toilets for girls and boys.** Interventions for disabled students puberty education, and supply of sanitary napkins (if necessary, on payment) etc were also included in the directive.

However, **actions are not effective and significant improvement is not noted.** Children's views based on all the consultation with children indicate a range of issues:

“We even do not have separate toilets for us,” said one of the girls when discussing the issue of toilet facilities. This is not in one school but common in several schools. **“There are no special toilets for disabled children,”** informed children in all the consultation workshops.

“You better read this chapter when you are at home” is the type of advice we received from our teachers on the chapters on SRH education,” said the students. Officially, these chapters are a mandatory part of the school curriculum, but no lecture or discussion on this issue takes place in regular classes.

iii. Mental Health

For the first time, world leaders are recognizing promotion of mental health and well-being and the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, as significant health priorities within the global development

agenda. Within the health goal, two targets are directly related to mental health and substance abuse. Target 3.4 requests that countries: “By 2030, promote mental health and well-being.” Target 3.5 requests that countries: “Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol.” **Mental health issues have become a major area of concern** including the rising number of suicides in Bangladesh. Social, peer and parental pressure, weak family support mechanism, and lack of child friendly activities are responsible for the suicides of 213 children in 2017. The linkages to pressures related to school exams is clear and higher for girls.

“If we don't do well our parents said that they will marry us off”, said the girl children in consultation at Shariatpur and Sirajgonj. Therefore, pressure on girls to marry is very high and many are forced to go along.

The majority of the suicide cases go unreported, according to media. This happens due to many reasons including pressure to do well in school, marry early and general lack of control over their life's major issues.

iv. Drug abuse

Bangladesh has a significant number of drug addicts and most of them are between the ages of 15 to 25 years.²⁵ The UN Committee has made several recommendations on prevention and treatment of addiction but in Bangladesh, drug abuse is addressed

²⁵Annual Drug Report 2016, Department of Narcotics Control, Security Service services Department, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

through law and order interventions than socio-economic or health approaches. Currently, addressing the problem is largely limited to killing of drug dealers during encounters with law enforcement agents. Laws have been passed to curb dealing and supply of narcotics as priority.

The Department of Narcotics Control (DNC) has developed a “Drug Action Plan” (2018) which includes facilities for treatment in hospitals which, given the size of the problem, is very limited. Over 29,000 anti-narcotic committees were formed in educational institutions to carry out a campaign, but its impact is unknown.²⁶

The Annual Drug Report of Bangladesh (2016)²⁷ says, young people between 16-20 years are the second highest drug user group in society.

Children in Shariatpur said that **20% of their friends were addicted and all are boys. “You can have drugs at any time if you wish. This easy access to drug is the main reasons of drug addiction”.**

Recommendations

Government is the key duty bearer to uphold the cause and rights of children in all spheres of life.

Continuous support from other ministries, UNICEF, other

development partners, NGOs, NGO sector coalitions, professional groups, the private sector and civil society will improve the state of children by adopting and conducting various programs.

- The Government along with respective ministries and NGOs can initiate emergency needs assessment of school and pre-school level children’s state of malnutrition and integrate intervention with school grants system to attain goals 1, 2 and 3 of SDG.
- Ensure reduction of malnutrition as part of administrative supervisory duty of apex at local level officials involved in school management for achieving the goals 1, 2 and 3 of SDG. (Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Ministry of Education)
- Undertake school sanitation campaign by schools as part of regular duty and integrate with annual performance appraisal mechanism. Schools, Ministry of Education, local government bodies and respective NGOs can support this plan to implement and attain the goals 3, 6 of SDG.
- The government along with respective ministry and development partner should revise and expand National Nutrition Policy with focus on adolescent malnutrition, particularly girls, for achieving SDG goals 2 and 3.

²⁶<http://www.theindependentbd.com/post/151915>

²⁷Annual Drug Report 2016, Department of Narcotics Control, Security Service services Department, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

- Undertake plan to train teachers and care givers to identify early indicators of deteriorating mental health and basics of mental health care and develop a referral system at the appropriate tiers. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Ministry of Education, respective NGOs and civil society can coordinate plan among themselves to achieve SDG goal 3.
- Introduce Mental Health Care network for psychosocial first aid/counseling at the school level to achieve SDG goal 3. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Bangladesh Association for Child and Adolescent Mental Health (BACAM) and Psychological Health & Wellness Clinic (PHWC) can coordinate to achieve this effort.
- Campaign for a pro – child National Mental Health Policy overcoming earlier integrated approaches with focus on immediate to long term interventions. (Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Bangladesh Association for Child and Adolescent Mental Health (BACAM), and The National Institute of Mental Health & Hospital) can coordinate efforts to achieve goals under SDG 3.
- Establish and monitoring system of collecting and collating national data on child mental health. (Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and The National Institute of Mental Health & Hospital) can coordinate efforts to achieve goals under SDG 3.



Game Changer 2: Child Development: Good intent, less achievement

i. Enrollment and Dropout

Obtaining a quality education is the foundation for sustainable development. SDG 4 (quality education) has 10 targets encompassing many different aspects of education.

Education for All (EFA) is a fundamental state policy and GOB has planned for compulsory primary education up to Class-VIII by 2018. At present, primary education is free in all government schools for all children aged between six to ten years.

Free textbooks are provided to all primary and secondary school students including the visually impaired.

Gross Enrollment Rate (GER) and Net Enrolment Rate (NER) in Primary education increased 111.70% and 97.97 % in 2017 from 93.7% and 87.2% in 2005.²⁸ But the Bangladesh Bureau of Educational Information and Statistics (BANBEIS) in its report 'Bangladesh Education Statistics 2017' shows that the **dropout rate of girl students** at the secondary level is still very high, although various incentives exist. Total combined dropout rate of boys and girls was 37.81%, with 41.52% for girls and 33.43 % for boys.

ii. Quality education

Inadequacy of qualified teachers, number of schools, classrooms, libraries and playgrounds all contribute to inadequate quality of education. Children in hard-to-reach areas, riverine or hilly areas are more deprived.

Teaching methods are archaic and a child friendly environment is missing. Students feel bored due to poor teaching method, and teachers who have no accountability also abuse students physically and mentally.²⁹

Lack of teachers in GOB schools is another cause of inadequate quality. There is also low opportunity for physical activities. If there is play space, they do not have enough equipment or planned extra-curricular program. As there is no high school in villages, the transition to secondary education is affected and children only receive primary education.

²⁸<http://data.banbeis.gov.bd>

²⁹From all Consultations with the children

“We do not have any teacher who can teach us science subjects. We are science group students but without any laboratory facilities,” said the students of Char Chouhali of Sirajgonj District.

“Our teachers come to the class room with a mobile phone in one hand and a cane in the other hand. Classes are also too boring and we do not enjoy them,” said the student of a district town (Shariatpur) which was repeated by students of urban slums.

iii. Leisure, recreation and cultural activities

Though the Children Policy 2011 gives importance to cultural, artistic and sports activities, there are shortage of playgrounds and recreational facilities are high. The UN Committee had recommended allocation of resource to increase such facilities but GOB has yet to pay heed. In the absence of playgrounds or equipment, children's rights to the arts and sports cannot be fulfilled. **Specialized recreational facilities for disabled children do not exist.**

“Our parents do not allow us to go outside our homes due to insecurity. We have no other options other than watching movies and TV shows on mobile phones,” said girl children during the consultation in Char Chouhali, Sirajgonj.

iv. Education for children with disabilities

The Government has granted 90,000 stipends to students with disabilities for 2018-2019.³⁰ However due to inadequate gender and age segregation, the approach has had limited impact on this vulnerable group. Most children with disabilities are not going to school regularly. Except for the **provision of braille books and trained teachers** in some areas, the GOB efforts are limited.

Recommendations for child development for attaining SDG 4

Dropout

- Develop guidelines to identify potential dropouts at school and ensure mentoring and relevant interventions to prevent dropouts. (Ministry of Education)
- Formulate National Dropout Prevention policy and its integration into the school management system with annual tracking of success and failure by schools, Boards and Ministry of Education.

Quality education

- Expand teacher training through distance education to support residential training program to address the gaps identified in children consultation relating to quality education. (Ministry of Education)
- Hire para-teachers/support teachers, particularly

for science subjects, until national demand (identified in children consultation) for special/science education is met. (Ministry of Education)

- More focused training for teachers on sexual and reproductive health and puberty education at the school level in both content and delivery. (Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare)
- Develop a national education plan on gender/sexual and reproductive health/puberty/sexual safety. (Ministry of Education, Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE))



³⁰Ministry of social welfare, Dhaka Bangladesh

Game Changer 3: Child Protection - Children are still at risk

i. Birth Registration

The Government expressed commitment to fulfill the SDG target 16.9: By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration.³¹ It even set up an online Birth and Death Registration Information System (BRIS) achieving 98.91% birth registration.

The UN Committee has highlighted the importance of awareness campaigns to achieve universal birth registration. As per consultations with children, it is clear that parents and children know it is mandatory to register birth for admission to schools, open bank accounts or get a job. However, it is a need-based registration instead of registration within the first 45 days of birth as mandated by law. This rate is around 3% for Bangladesh.

Although birth registration is to be done free of cost, there are “charges” attached in most cases. **Children also have several birth certificates for various uses and reasons, which shows the informal nature of the practice more than its role as a tool in policy planning.**

“It is not difficult to get another birth certificate, if you provide money you can get another birth certificate” said the children in all consultation workshop.

³¹Fifth periodic report of state parties due in 2012 (2014) Committee on the Rights of the Child, Consideration of reports submitted by State Parties under article 44 of the Convention

³²Human Rights Council Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review Thirtieth session, 7–18 May 2018 (National report submitted in accordance with paragraph 5 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 16/21* * Bangladesh)

ii. Child Abuse, child marriage and other issue

The protection of children from all forms of violence is a fundamental right enshrined in the UNCRC. The inclusion of a specific target (SDG 16.2) in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to end all forms of violence against children gives renewed impetus towards the realization of the right of every child to live free from fear, neglect, abuse and exploitation. Several other SDG targets address specific forms of violence and harm towards children, such as child marriage (target 5.3) and the eradication of child labor. (target 8.7).

A National Plan of Action (NPA) to prevent violence against women and children (2013–2025) exists. Legal support, socio economic facilities, prevention of violence against women and children, rehabilitation and institutional measures and strategies for implementing the NPA are also being put in place. Nine ‘One-Stop’ Crisis Centers and 60 One-Stop Crisis Cells have been established at 40 district hospitals and 20 Upazila Health Complexes as shelters for survivors.³² National Trauma Counseling Centre provides psychosocial counseling to the survivors of violence. In all, eight Safe Custodies and six Woman Support Centers are providing shelters for six months, legal assistance, psychosocial counseling and skill development training. In addition to that, police are

also running eight 'Victim Support Centers' to assist and rehabilitate violence survivors. One-stop crisis centers for gender-based violence (GBV) are now planned for the Upazila level. A national helpline, (which can be reached by dialing "109"), for services related to all forms of GBV is operational.

The GOB has **revised the earlier law to target elimination of child marriage by 2041**. It provides for formation of child marriage prevention committees at both national and local levels and authorizes public officials to prevent child marriage.

The Government runs a **24-hours toll-free Child Helpline** (which can be reached by dialing "**1098**"), to provide free protection/support to children facing immediate threat from violence, abuse and exploitation. However, implementation and supply compared to demand is very low.

"We don't know anything about the child helpline", children said in all the consultations.

Initiatives have reduced child marriage but not as well as expected. UNICEF reports that in 2017, Bangladesh has one of the highest child marriage rates worldwide and **the highest rate of marriage involving girls under 15. About 59% of girls are married by their 18th birthday and 18% by the age of 15. Early marriage is more prevalent in rural areas and urban slums.**

In some cases, local administration and people through special committees are reported to be preventing child

marriages but in general, the practice continues with the consent of both sets of parents. It clearly is not a priority issue with the government.

Child consultations suggest that around of 40% girls are married as children. The urban slums are no better off.

Reasons cited for child marriage are poverty, insecurity, parental ignorance of consequences, social pressure and negative attitude towards the girl child.

In February 2017, Parliament adopted the Child Marriage Restraint Act 2017 despite widespread concerns over a special provision allowing child marriage in "special cases", where "special cases" were not specified or defined. It is feared that such a provision will legitimize statutory rape in some cases and also encourage child marriage.

As the NPA, which aims to eliminate child marriage by 2030 was launched in August 2018, it is too early to gauge its impact on ending child marriage. However, the resourcing and monitoring of the NPA should be a priority of child rights organizations. **From children consultations, it appears that a complex web of socio-economic compulsions drives child marriage ranging from poverty to perceived protection of children from sexual harassment.** Dowry is also an issue, which increases as girls get older meaning poorer families are more likely to have child brides.

iii. Corporal punishment

GOB has started work on SDG Goal 3: Good Health and Well-Being and Goal 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions. Both goals relate to physical punishment. **“The National Children Policy 2011, the Children Act 2013 (revised 2018)”**, and various official circulars and court orders prohibit physical and psychological punishment in schools, though the practice continues.

Social attitude supports such physical punishment unfortunately. A survey reports found that 67% of parents in Bangladesh support this in school and 79% hit their children at home. 27% thought that children will be in disciplined if parents do not physically punish their children.”³³

“Our teachers punish us by using bamboo sticks, teachers beat us with hands, sometimes by throwing ruler, chalks and dusters at us and mentally torture us”, children said in all the consultations.

iv. Child labor

In efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labor, Bangladesh extended its Child Labor National Plan of Action through 2021. The Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishments also provided comprehensive training to a majority of labor inspectors, and institutionalized the use of a factory inspection checklist that includes child labor components and child domestic labor.

The seventh Five Year Plan (2016-2020) includes the elimination of child labor by forming policy, giving focus on the domestic workers and the vulnerable groups. Domestic Workers' Protection and Welfare Policy, 2015 has been adopted with a view to provide legal protection to the domestic workers against abuse, discrimination, irregular employment, low wages, and long work-hours. This policy specified that no children under 12 years of age can be employed as domestic workers at any household and also that child domestic workers cannot be engaged in heavy and dangerous work. Besides this, Seventh Five Year Action Plan (2016-2020) includes the elimination of child labor by forming policy, giving focus on the domestic workers and the vulnerable groups.

Besides GoB takes measures to eliminating or preventing child labor but still there are some gaps in child labor related laws and regulations. The jurisdiction of the Bangladesh Labor Act is limited as far as informal sectors are concern. Unfortunately more Child labor are prevalent in the informal sectors ,Also, the types of hazardous work prohibited for children do not cover garments production , fish drying and full time domestic works ; but these are areas where evidences evidence that children work in unsafe and unhealthy environments without break. Though the labor law stipulates that children older than 12 may only engage in lighter works that does not endanger their health or interfere with their education, but law does not specify the activities or the number of hours per week for that light work is permitted.³⁴

³³Survey report titled “Corporal Punishment on Children in Schools: Present Scenario and Preventive Responsibilities” by Save the Children and Blast.

³⁴Child Labor and Forced Labor Report on Bangladesh - Bureau of Int. Labor Affairs ,US Department of Labor, 2017

While important achievements in the fight against child labor continue to be made in Bangladesh, some 1.2 million children are still trapped in its worst forms, according to the latest National Child Labor Survey report, published in 2015.³⁵

Although government has formulated the Domestic Workers Protection and Welfare Policy 2015 however, a legal vacuum still exists for the millions of domestic workers in Bangladesh as the policy is yet to be implemented due to lack of publicity, monitoring, counseling, and proper practice.



v. Trafficking

The government has prioritized training and sensitization of public prosecutors and law enforcement to eliminate child trafficking apart from making relevant laws. A Central Trafficking Committee (CTC) is also in place. Although the number of trafficking incidents has decreased, it is still very high. Recovery of victims also does not lead to rehabilitation. Family and social integration is low till date.

With the support of several international and local non-governmental organizations, Indian and Bangladeshi Task Forces are now working towards standardization and a streamlined approach when caring for survivors of trafficking (Bangladesh Ministry of Home Affairs, 2015).

Understanding of emerging trends in human trafficking and smuggling of migrants is still limited. Lack of transit, short-stay homes for victims at the border areas, lack of reliable data on cross-border trafficking and the limited number of repatriations carried out, show the picture as less than successful.

Child trafficking, as a component of human trafficking, is now on the rise in Bangladesh. Child marriage is also used as a way to carry out child trafficking.³⁶

³⁵<https://www.daily-sun.com/printversion/details/315140/2018/06/12/Initiatives-to-Stop-Child-Labour-in-Bangladesh>

³⁶Interview with Child Protection workers in the Camp, Cox's Bazar

vi. Drowning

According to a 2014 WHO global report on drowning, **43 % deaths among children aged 1-4 years in Bangladesh was due to drowning.**

Statistics show that most **accidents occur when children go to their villages for vacation.** The number of deaths caused by drowning is on the rise.³⁷ In 2017, number of deaths by drowning was 391, while in 2016 it was 302 (Source: Disaster Forum).

vii. Protection of the children of marginal groups

Children from marginalized groups fall significantly outside the net of social services. They are deprived based on all data indicators and no comprehensive policy exists to cover children from marginalized groups. There is no organized activism for the marginalized children either. Political value of supporting their cause is limited and in some areas, they are in conflict with the state. The need for specific advocacy for children of marginalized communities is critical.

viii. Children of indigenous communities

Children from indigenous/ethnic minority groups, another marginalized group, face discrimination and denial and lack access to quality education, in particular relating to education in their mother tongue.

Physical and socio-economic remoteness limits their access to education, health clinics, safe drinking water or universal immunization coverage. Those who are not enrolled in school, remain outside of the birth registration process.

Reading materials for five ethnic groups have been developed in their mother tongue. The books are, however, still to be distributed as of end 2018. Other indigenous groups (Adivasi) are still without textbooks in their mother tongue.

Children in Tea Gardens

Only 13.7 % of births of children under 5 years are registered, almost 60 % girls between 15-19 years are victims of child marriage.³⁸ It also encourages dropping out from school. Many girls engage in household activities and drop out of school, others are sent to work. Tea garden owners also prefer girls as workers and discourage opening schools near the gardens.

Tea garden workers are inter-generational laborers who cannot seek employment elsewhere in the economy due to lack of access and geography. As they are also an ethnic minority, they face high discrimination. The result is, their socio-economic options are very limited. Both children and parents face this constraint.

³⁷Childhood Drowning Prevention in Bangladesh: Where we are?; Regional Workshop on Drowning Prevention, Thailand, 2014, Supporting Document (1) Page 164 of WHO Bulletin OMS Vol. 76 and (2) dhsprogram.com/pubs/pdf/FR165/09Chapter09.pdf page 129/130)

³⁸(PDF) Assessment of the situation of children and women in the tea gardens of Bangladesh: https://www.researchgate.net/publication/258238096_Assessment_of_the_situation_of_children_and_women_in_the_tea_gardens_of_Bangladesh By Abdul Barkat ,GolamMahiyuddin, NazmulShaheen, Avijitpoddar, Asma Osman 4 November, 2013

Children of the sex workers

More than 20,000 children (boys and girls) are born and live in the 18 registered sex work cluster areas of Bangladesh.³⁹ However, from the very beginning of life these children face discrimination and challenges in accessing their basic rights. They grow up in an environment that is totally estranged from mainstream society in terms of life style, grooming, language, behavior and custom.⁴⁰

According to, Child Act 2013, the children of the sex workers are not allowed to live with their mothers after the age of 4 (section 77). In Rajbari area Government program for these children is confined to EPI (Extended Program for Immunization) and limited health facilities through a community clinic. To ensure a dignified and safer life of the children and to give them the opportunities of quality education as well as a window of socially accepted profession, in 1997 Save the Children started a safe home for the children and a school for the community in Galando of Rajbari . Similar safe home initiative was replicated in Tangail as well with the support of TDH. Due to fund constraint, both the initiatives are now facing uncertainty.⁴¹

Rohingya children in Bangladesh

About 900,000 Rohingyas have entered Bangladesh, of whom 55% are children.⁴² Unaccompanied children,

and children separated from their families are also present. Most children have experienced violence which forced them to leave their homes.

Life in Rohingya camps is extremely difficult with 70% children out of school.⁴³ Makeshift settlements have put children particularly girls at high risk of exploitation and abuse. Many girls have become mothers or are, pregnant and many are nursing their infants. According to UNICEF, up to 10% of the entire camp population consists of children living without a guardian and they are the most likely to suffer long-term health damage.

To help children particularly unaccompanied ones, a foster parenting program has been introduced. However, to date, it is an intervention with limited scope and effectiveness. Some cases of exploitation by foster parents have also been reported.⁴⁴

Street children

The numbers of street children are high. Begging, theft, drugs peddling, and odd jobs are common forms of employment for these children, putting them at major risk. To rehabilitate these street children, Ministry of Women and Children affairs created database and sixteen shelter homes.⁴⁵

³⁹Sex Work and HIV/AIDS in BANGLADESH; retrieved from https://www.aidsdatahub.org/sites/default/files/documents/sex_work_and_hiv_aids_bangladesh.pdf.

⁴⁰<https://www.thedailystar.net/children-in-brothels-24101>

⁴¹Ref: Interview with program manager, Save the Children, Rajbari district, Bangladesh

⁴²Bangladesh Refugee Emergency population factsheet by UNHCR as of 31 October, 2018

⁴³<https://theirworld.org/news/most-rohingya-children-out-of-school-in-bangladesh-refugee-camps>

⁴⁴Interview with Child Protection workers in the Camp

⁴⁵Information booklet for Children Affairs (Ministry of Women and Children Affairs)

Recommendations

To ensure protection and to attain SDG 1, 4 and 8

- Introduce special project for school going children in hard to reach areas (Ministry of Education and Ministry of Women and Child Affairs, Ministry of Social Welfare and respective NGOs)
- Initiate emergency text book development project in mother language of marginalized groups (Ministry of Education, Ministry of Women and Child Affairs, and Ministry of Social Welfare)
- Introduce special stipends for economically marginalized children (Ministry of Education, Ministry of Women and Child Affairs, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief and Ministry of Social Welfare)
- Develop National policy for the protection of marginalized children (Ministry of Education, Ministry of Women and Child Affairs and development partners)
- **Advocacy and lobbying needed to :**
 - a) Ratify ILO convention 138 on minimum age to end the child labor,
 - b) Make provision for sufficient fund to bail out the children in the trap of child labor. International Labor Organization estimates that economies reap a seven fold return on every dollar spent on eradicating child labor and investing in education and social services for children,

c) Ensure the recognition of domestic work as hazardous labor.

- Need to take fresh initiatives to ensure quality and safe alternative childcare program for the children of the sex workers by a reviewing the present Govt. and non-govt. initiatives. This review should be participatory in nature.

To stop corporal punishment and to attain SDG 16

- Rigorous monitoring of the ban on corporal punishment in educational institutions at all levels (Ministry of Women and Child Affairs, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Social Welfare)
- Organize national campaign against corporal punishment (Ministry of Women and Child Affairs and respective NGOs)

To prevent child marriage and address other protection issues to achieve SDG 5

- Establish committee at all levels to review the concluding observation made by United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. (Ministry of Women and Child Affairs & Ministry of Social Affairs)
- Develop a National Plan of Action for social mobilization integrating child marriage with Center for Violence against Women and Children (Ministry of Women and Child Affairs & Ministry of Social Affairs)
- Publish annual state of gender-based loss of protection review report in selected areas (Ministry of Women

and Child Affairs & Ministry of Social Affairs)

- Ensure that the child marriage prevention committees are established, functional and held accountable for all cases of child marriage within their catchment areas (Ministry of Women and Child Affairs & Ministry of Social Affairs)
- Advocate with duty bearers to file cases under Child Marriage Restrain Act 2017 (Ministry of home, Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs)
- Seek government accountability for resourcing National Plan of Action to end child marriage (Ministry of Women and Child Affairs)



Game Changer 4: Child Participation - High enthusiasm low recognition

GOB has initiated the process of organizing adolescents clubs and broadcasting tv programs to empower girl children. So far, 4,883 adolescent clubs have been established in 4,553 unions and 330 municipalities across the country.⁴⁶ While the clubs are in place, no data exists on their functioning or efficacy as yet. The focus is also on media campaigns to serve issues relating to CRC and girl children. No impact report is available a yet.

A significant protest movement was staged in 2018 by the secondary and higher secondary school students, belonging to the age group of 14–18 years demanding safe roads and transportation. Formulation and implementation of road-safety law, and punishment of drivers violating traffic laws were demanded raised following the death of two students by heavy vehicles. It was a nine day long protest from 29 July 2018 to 8 August 2018. A number of students were injured and arrested by the police according to media reports. After the protest, the UN called upon all parties to keep children and young people safe on the roads and safe from all kinds of violence.

Opportunity for children to express their own opinion has increased but not its recognition. They are involved with the Girls' Guide, Child Marriage Protection Committee, Jubo (Youth) Red Crescent, Scouts and School Cabinets in the GOB affiliated secondary schools.

⁴⁶ Ministry of Women and children affairs, Bangladesh

However consultation with children show that their opinions are not given importance and school teachers or parents decide about study, leisure and other issues without consulting the children.

“They call and we go to the meetings without knowing the agenda - we never receive any minutes of the meeting”- State by an active member of the Child Marriage Protection Committee during a consultation meeting in Shariatpur district, Bangladesh.

“Every year teachers organize an annual picnic but they never ever ask us where we want to go and how we want to go”, said all children in the consultations.

It is also a challenge to ensure participation of children and establish children forums among marginalized groups, including slums and hard-to-reach areas, and hence the right to participation remains limited in achievement.

Bangladesh is a transitional society undergoing changes where children are becoming more visible and vocal. This means there is demand, support and resistance by adults on the issue. Generally, participations are limited as shown by feedback on School cabinet and Child Marriage Protection Committee. Society is slowly coming to terms with public participation in general. Post-colonial societies are bureaucracy and elite dominated where children and non-elite adults tend to be marginalized. Thus, child participation will not happen in isolation. Progress is, however, occurring as various socio-political events, including the children led national road safety movement, show forced government action.



Game Changer 5: Legal and Policy Formulation - Limited framework low results

i. Child Welfare Board

As per the Children Act, 2013 Child Welfare Boards at national, district and sub district (Upazila) levels are to be set up but there is little evidence of their functioning. There is lack of coordination between the respective departments and various official agencies are seen. These bodies are not even always aware or know what they are supposed to do.

ii. Ombudsperson

The term Ombudsman (person) was in the first constitution but the GOB (irrespective of party in power) has shown little interest in appointing one. The Government cancelled the first Ombudsperson appointment and after extensive lobbying, the government agreed to establish Child Welfare Boards as a substitute. The Bangladesh National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) is monitoring the overall child rights situation in the country. However, in concluding observations, the committee expressed concern regarding the level of resource allocated to the National Human Rights Commission to monitor and investigate violations of children's rights. Committee also expressed concern on the 'little progress' shown in establishment of a Children's Ombudsperson.

iii. Law

The laws enacted and revised so far especially for promoting and protecting the child rights, are as follows:

- The Children Act, 1974/2008/2013/revised 2018
- The Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929, revised 2017
- Domestic Workers Protection and Welfare Policy 2015
- National Nutrition Policy 2015
- The Non-Formal Education Act, 2014
- National Children Policy 2011
- Child Labor Elimination Policy 2010

- Education Policy 2010
- National Health Policy 2008

Due to both international and national influences and pressures as well as felt need for improvement of the situation, a series of legislative measures were taken.

Number of children in the detention centers (renamed as Kishore Unnayan Kendra – adolescent development centers) is rising. The situation of children in conflict with law is very critical in nature. The CRC and other relevant international standards for dealing with juvenile offenders provides a rough but broadly adequate framework for any national system. However, Bangladesh is lagging behind in implementing international juvenile justice standards. The domestic legal initiatives for the protection of children in contact/conflict with law are not adequate and, to some extent, these are not consistent with the spirit of the CRC. Next to non-implementation of laws, the mindset and approach of the people towards children are crucial factors that require attention. Recently the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court expressed annoyance against 75 judges of 69 juvenile courts across the country for keeping 21,503 cases pending.⁴⁷

Recommendations

- Bangladesh Government should develop an implementation plan for CRC related laws and commitments with time bound targets.

⁴⁷<http://www.newagebd.net/article/47654/21503-pending-cases-with-juvenile-courts-annoys-cj>

- Each CRC related policy must incorporate sections relating to how vulnerable children of marginalized groups are affected and ways to cope with them.
- Bangladesh should publish an annual review of various laws relating to children; their application and execution.

Game Changer 6: Barriers

Lack of coordination: Despite efforts in the past, coordination of ministries remains inadequate. It creates a critical barrier to the implementation of many positive government policies. The need is recognized for achieving SDG goals but the mechanism remains weak. (Game Changer 2 and 5)

Weak clarity on the role and responsibilities of the duty bearers: In response to the Children Act 2013, constituting the Child Welfare Boards at sub-district (upazila), district and national levels are under process. However, till date no terms of reference for the committee members published. A structured mechanism for designated child protection focal points including establishing specialized offices wherever needed is not in place. (Game Changer 5)

Quantity over Quality: Currently, over 140 interventions are underway under social protection/social safety nets program. The challenge is that protection measures do not always reach those for whom they are intended. These programs are mostly for adults but children in especially difficult circumstances need them as well.⁴⁸

⁴⁸<https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/interviews/our-economic-and-political-choices-now-will-determine-our-childrens-future>

Lack of Initiative to integrate relevant programs:

Despite a global commitment for birth registration within 45 days of birth, they are obtained when needed such as for school admissions. Thus, children remain invisible in demographic information clusters till they are ready to enter schools. (Game Changer 3)

Underachieved policies in education: Despite many remarkable achievements in the education sector, the 'right to basic education' is still missing from the policy and legislative framework and field situation is not positive. "One size for all" approach failed to accommodate the different need of the hard to reach people and thus not much help to promote and achieve the SDG goal "left no one behind". (Game Changer 2)

Lack of continuous research and mechanism of updating the knowledge: Research work, exclusively on the development of children is weak. Despite announcement for more allocation on education planning and implementation of child related development programs, this is absent making planning, intervention and monitoring structurally weak. (Game Changer 2)

Lack of consistency in investing on children: Bangladesh has not prioritized investing in children under the age of five. Government takes up programs for pregnant mothers and care of children up to the age of six months. However, the next focus is only when they are five years old. So sequential investment in children is missing which can ensure inclusive growth and development. (Game Changer 1 and 2)



Chapter 5: Overall Recommendations

1. Establish an Inter-Ministerial body to track and monitor CRC and SDG interventions led by a focal ministry for children (MOWCA) with a specialized Directorate for children (this does not exist at present). Establish capacity development project for GO-NGO staff to plan, implement, and monitor CRC and related SDG programs within this cluster.
2. Analyze and assess the financial need of the government mechanism and structure required to ensure effective implementation of CRC and SDG and advocate for higher allocation.
3. More liaisons with the office of the Chief Coordinator for SDG on the insufficient data issue to make a comprehensive assessment of the missing links.
4. Develop a National Plan of Action for child participation at all levels including capacitating existing organizations.
5. Develop a National Plan of Action for mainstreaming children from marginalized groups including children of minorities and hard to reach area groups.
6. Establish a National Ombudsperson Office/National CRC Commission with powers to raise concerns, receive complaints, investigate violations of CRC and other related issues.

7. Support development of research capacity within the GOB and partners on CRC/SDG issues and establish a national database to support research on the issue.
8. Initiate a strong and united advocacy campaign to review the latest amendment (22 October 2018⁴⁹) of Children Act to uphold the spirit of Children Act and a child friendly judiciary system.
9. Need to monitor the implementation of the Children Act specially section- 13 to form child help desk and placement of dedicated police officer for the children in every police station and Probation Officer to take care of the children in contact with law.
10. Reorganized the parliamentary caucus⁵⁰ on child right, which was established by child rights organization as well as by UNICEF to achieve SDG focusing CRC.

Conclusion

The review of the situation shows a transition is going on in Bangladesh in all aspects and sectors. CRC and SDG realization is not the business of the GOB and NGOs alone. Nor can communities wait for change but must become pro-active in the process. Most importantly, children have changed and have shown the

capacity to make Governments listen, as the recent “Road safety movement” illustrates. Participation is no longer just official and organization driven, but a much wider social reality. Children have emerged as visible agents of change.

For optimal achievements (CRC and SDGs), capacity in research, service delivery and implementation, monitoring, evaluation, reporting etc must be enhanced along with community level skill development to achieve CRC and SDGs.

Bangladesh is turning in an impressive but skewed economic growth and the influence of international agencies and their local counterparts are on the wane. To retain relevance and exert positive influence, NGOs must design a role for themselves that suits this transition, as the GOB becomes the largest player in service delivery and the private sector becomes a larger economic player.

By developing a wider social and activist alliance, that is not entirely dependent on the official and organizational world, the space for community partnership will be enhanced. SDG goals also state that in this alliance, everyone can be partners, which is also the spirit of the CRC.

⁴⁹Page 5 of this report

⁵⁰The Parliamentary Caucus on Child Rights, formed on October 13, 2014 is a non-partisan, cross-party, cross-ministerial grouping of current Members of Parliament (MPs) who work to advocate for better implementation of constitutional and legislative protection for children.

About Joining Forces- Child Rights Now! Its Member organizations in Bangladesh

Joining Forces is a global coalition to works with and for children and young people under the age of 18, in an inclusive, gender and age responsive way, to promote their rights and end violence against them.

In Bangladesh Joining Forces focusing on Child Rights Now! Six international child-focused agencies (EDUCO, Plan International Bangladesh, and Save the Children in Bangladesh, SOS Children’s Village Bangladesh and World Vision Bangladesh) have joined this forces to push for renewed political commitments to and accountability for children’s rights, as set out in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). Together we will ensure that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the child-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) deliver a step change in the realization of children’s rights, with a specific focus on ending all forms of violence against children and working with the most left behind. Head of Organizations of joining forces-Child Rights Now in Bangladesh

1	Johny M Sarkar-Country Director, EDUCO Bangladesh
2	Orla Murphy-Country Director, Plan International Bangladesh
3	Ghulam Ahmed Ishaque-National Director, SOS Children’s Villages Bangladesh
4	M. Kabir–Country Director, Terre Des Homes Netherlands
5	Christopher Morris-Country Director, Terre Des Homes Lussane
6	Valentina Lucchese- Country Representative, Terre Des Homes Italia
7	Mark Pierce-Country Director, Save the Children Bangladesh
8	Fred Witteveen- National Director, World Vision Bangladesh

Education and Development Foundation (Educo)

Education and Development Foundation (Educo) is a global development NGO and a member of Child Fund Alliance, with more than 25 years of experience that works for pursuing children well-being in forms of CRC. Educo has three strategic development goals; Right to Education, Right to Protection and Governance.

Educo's vision of a world where all children fully enjoy their rights and lead a life of dignity & its mission to work with children and their communities to promote just and equitable societies that guarantee their rights and well-being.

In Bangladesh Educo, in partnership with schools, communities and local government, carries out programs in 108 schools in urban and rural communities, reaching about 15,000 school children and their families each year. At present, Educo Bangladesh works in 14 sub-districts across 5 districts of Dhaka, Sylhet and Mymensingh divisions. Educo's major projects include: Community-based Early Childhood Development (ECD), strengthening child-friendly learning environment, child friendly community, promoting quality education in Government primary schools and reduction of hazardous child labor in urban areas to fulfill the Rights of the Children. Educo is also contributing to ensure rights to education and dignity of life for children in tea garden and haor areas of Moulvibazar district in

Bangladesh through an integrated program approach.

For more information please visit : Website:
<https://www.educo.org>

facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Educo.99>

Plan International

Plan International is an independent development and humanitarian organization that advances children's rights and equality for girls. We believe in the power and potential of every child. This is often suppressed by poverty, violence, exclusion and discrimination. Its girls who are most affected. Plan International's new Global Strategy aims to transform the lives of 100 million girls by implementing an integrated programme and influence approach. Operating in 70 countries globally, Plan International is the world's largest organisation with a specific focus on advancing equality for girls. In Bangladesh, Plan International has been operating since 1994 to ensure the rights of children and young people to education, health, safe water and sanitation, protection, youth economic empowerment and protection from climate change, environmental degradation and natural or man-made disasters. We are working with children, their families, communities, wider society and governments to reach out to more than a million children and their communities in Bangladesh.

For more information, please contact **Farukh Ahmed**, Country Child Protection Fucal. Plan International Bangladesh,

Tel: +88 02 9861599, or Email:
farukh.ahmed@plan_international.org.

Save the Children

Save the Children believes every child deserves a future. Around the world, we give children a healthy start in life, the opportunity to learn and protection from harm. We do whatever it takes for children – every day and in times of crisis – transforming their lives and the future we share.

We have been working to assist the children in Bangladesh since 1970. We work in Bangladesh promoting the rights of children and adolescents to education, to health and to a life without violence. Our approach is based on the participation of children and adolescents, their families and communities in their own development. The programme works across six thematic sectors: Child Rights Governance, Child Protection, Health- Nutrition-HIV/AIDS, Child Poverty, Humanitarian and Education. From August 2017, Save the Children has been responding to the Rohingya Crisis and has now scaled up our interventions with health, child protection, and support for shelter, food rations, clean water and sanitation.

Save the Children directly reaches more than 12 million children and adults in Bangladesh through implementation of over 90 projects in all 64 districts of Bangladesh. Our 1500 highly skilled staff and over 65 partner organizations are instrumental in ensuring

delivery of high quality programs that address the needs and rights of children and their communities.

For more information, please contact **Abdullah Al Mamun**, Director, Child Rights Governance and Child Protection, Save the Children in Bangladesh, Phone - Telephone: +88-09612555333, Ext. 1703, or Email: abdullah.almamun@savethechildren.org

Website: <https://bangladesh.savethechildren.net/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/SCinBD>

YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/SCinBD>

LinkedIn:
<https://www.linkedin.com/company/save-the-children-in-bangladesh/>

Facebook: @savethechildreninbangladesh

SOS Children's Village Bangladesh

SOS Children's Village Bangladesh is a non-governmental social development organisation working to protect and care for children who have lost parental care or who are at risk of losing parental care. SOS Children Village is currently working in 135 countries and territories around the world. We work with communities, partners and states to ensure that the rights of all children are fulfilled. The first SOS Children's Village was established by Hermann Gmeiner in 1949 in Imst, Austria who witnessed the sufferings of children as a result of the Second World War. He realised the

importance of protecting those affected children and established SOS Children's Villages. In Bangladesh, SOS Children's Villages started its activities in 1972 immediately after the war of independence with the consent from the father of the national Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Six SOS Children's Villages have so far been established in six locations in Bangladesh. The first SOS Children's Village was established in Dhaka in 1972. Later on, five more SOS Children's Villages were established in Rajshahi, Khulna, Chattogram, Bogura and Sylhet. SOS Children's Villages has pioneered a family approach to the long-term care of children with the vision: Every child belongs to a family and grows with love, respect and security. SOS is providing support to the target group of children through its Alternative Care, Family Strengthening, Education, Advocacy and Emergency Programmes.

For more information, please contact: **Ms. Nusrat Jahan**, Assistant Director-Advocacy & Communication, SOS Children's Villages Bangladesh; Tel: +88 09609 500 519 or Email: nusrat.jahan@sos-bangladesh.org

Terre Des Hommes International Federation

The Terre Des Hommes International Federation (TDHIF) is a network of ten organisations working for the rights of children and to promote equitable development without racial, religious, political, cultural or gender-based discrimination. The organizations are; Terre Des Hommes-Canada, Terre Des Hommes- Denmark, **Terre Des Hommes-Foundation (Lausanne, Switzerland)**, Terre Des Hommes-France, Terre Des Hommes-Germany,

Terre Des Hommes-Italy, Terre Des Hommes-Luxemburg, **Terre Des Hommes-Netherlands**, Terre Des Hommes-Spain and Terre Des Hommes-Switzerland.

Working in alliances with peer organisations is a part of its strategy. TDHIF organizes its resources together to channel a common voice for common objectives to bring changes in behaviors, in policy, in ways of working, learning, getting intelligence and being challenged by peers. Each Terre Des Hommes organisation are active in respective networks at national or international level.

Policy advocacy on children issues is one of the priority area of work of Terre Des Hommes. Terre Des Hommes' advocacy comes directly from the life and views of children and their communities whose human rights have been violated. Terre Des Hommes produces specialised expertise on specific "niche" issues in the context of child rights, development and humanitarian aid. This expertise comes directly from the lessons drawn from field projects and serves as basis for change.

Those are the international alliances and networks Terre Des Hommes International Federation is member of:

- **International** Child Rights that includes Inter-agency working group to end child immigration detention, Child Rights Connect (formerly The NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child), The Steering Committee of the NGO Coalition for the ratification and

implementation of the Optional Protocol 3 to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, The Keeping Children Safe Coalition, Child Protection Working Group including co-leadership on the “Minimum Standards” project, International Panel on Juvenile Justice, Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict

- **International Development and Relief**
- **UN Cluster system**
- **European Networks and EU policy**

Terre Des Hommes-Netherlands, Terre Des Hommes-Foundation (Lausanne, Switzerland) and Terre Des Hommes-Italy is actively working with Child Rights Now campaign in Bangladesh.

For more information, please contact: **Ehsanul Hoque**, Programme Specialist- Child Protection, Terre Des Hommes Netherlands Bangladesh Country Office; E-mail: e.hoque@tdh.nl; Office: +88 02 48110265; <https://www.terredeshommes.nl/en/asia>

World Vision Bangladesh

World Vision Bangladesh a Christian humanitarian aid, development, and advocacy organization is serving about 100 countries worldwide focusing the wellbeing of children. At present, in Bangladesh World Vision is serving around 5 million children under 27 administrative districts. With active presence in 68 locations at sub-district level, the organization is working in fulfilling its overarching goal of “Achieving sustainable well-being of 2 million children by tackling causes and addressing effects of poverty, inequalities and injustices.” To support Sustainable Development Goal 16.2 World Vision in Bangladesh launched a global campaign ‘It Takes Me to End Physical Violence against Children’ in March 2017.

More information about WVB and on the campaign is available here: <https://www.wvi.org/bangladesh>

For more information, please contact: **Shabira Sultana**; Deputy Director-Advocacy & Justice for Children; Phone : +88-02-982004-11; E-mail-shabira_sultana@wvi.org

Annex: 1 Child-focused indicators related to SDGs⁵¹

1. Prevalence of stunting among children under 5 (%)
2. Prevalence of wasting among children under 5 (%)
3. Prevalence of overweight among children under 5 (%)
4. Maternal mortality ratio (maternal deaths per 100,000 live births)
5. Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel (%)
6. Under-five mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births)
7. Neonatal mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births)
8. Number of new HIV infections per 1,000 uninfected population (children under 5)
9. Number of new HIV infections per 1,000 uninfected population (adolescent girls 15-19)
10. Number of new HIV infections per 1,000 uninfected population (adolescent boys 15-19)
11. Malaria incidence per 1,000 population
12. Adolescent birth rate (births per 1,000 girls 15-19)
13. Population coverage of essential health services (%)
14. Proportion of the target population covered by all vaccines included in their national program – MCV1 (%)
15. Proportion of the target population covered by all vaccines included in their national program – DTP3 (%)
16. Proportion of children at the end of lower secondary achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in reading (%)
17. Proportion of children at the end of lower secondary achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in mathematics (%)
18. Proportion of children 36-59 months who are developmentally on track in health, learning and psychosocial well-being (%)
19. Participation rate in organized learning one year before the official primary entry age
20. Proportion of schools with access to WASH (%)
21. Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15-19 subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner (%)
22. Proportion of women and girls aged 15-19 subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner (%)
23. Proportion of women aged 20-24 who were married or in union before age 18 (%)
24. Proportion of girls and women aged 15-49 who have undergone female genital mutilation/cutting (%)
25. Proportion of children aged 5-17 engaged in child labor (%)
26. Number of victims aged 0-19 of intentional

⁵¹UNICEF global databases or as defined in the methodological notes available on the report webpage, Progress for Every Child in the SDG Era, at uni.cf/sdgreport

- homicide per 100,000 population
27. Conflict-related deaths per 100,000 population
 28. Proportion of children aged 1-14 who experienced any physical punishment and/or psychological aggression by caregivers in the past month (%)
 29. Proportion of young women aged 18-29 who experienced sexual violence by age 18 (%)
 30. Proportion of young men aged 18-29 who experienced sexual violence by age 18 (%)
 31. Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority (%)
 32. Mortality rate attributed to household and ambient air pollution per 100,000 population
 33. Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)
 34. Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)
 35. Proportion of population with a basic hand washing facility with soap and water available on premises (%)
 36. Proportion of population practicing open defecation (%)
 37. Proportion of the population using basic drinking water services (%)
 38. Proportion of the population using basic sanitation services (%)
 39. Proportion of population with primary reliance on clean fuels and technology (%)
 40. Number of deaths caused by disaster per 100,000 population
 41. Children living in households in extreme poverty (%)
 42. Children living below the national poverty line (%)
 43. Children living in poverty in all its dimensions according to Global MPI (%)
 44. Proportion of child population covered by social protection floors/systems (%)

Annex: 2 List of Document Review

- 1) Convention on the Rights of the Child
- 2) Human Rights Council Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review Thirtieth session, 7–18 May 2018 (National report submitted in accordance with paragraph 5 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 16/21* * Bangladesh)
- 3) <http://www.dwa.gov.bd>
- 4) National Annual Report 2017-2018, Ministry of Women and Children affairs.
- 5) <http://data.banbeis.gov.bd>
- 6) http://data.banbeis.gov.bd/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&id=225&Itemid=271
- 7) Levels and Trends in Child Mortality: Report 2017”
- 8) National Strategy for Adolescent Health 2017-2030
- 9) Bangladesh Demographics Profile 2018
- 10) <https://data.unicef.org/country/bgd/>
- 11) Bangladesh Government developed National Strategic plan for Neurodevelopmental disorder (2016-2021)
- 12) Adolescent Friendly Health Corners (AFHCs) in Selected Government Health Facilities in Bangladesh: An Early Qualitative Assessment
- 13) CR-Monitoring-Report-2017Final
- 14) Child-Rights-Situation_Bangladesh_2016, Educo
- 15) BANGLADESH 2017 HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT
- 16) SDG-CRC mapping final, UNICEF
- 17) National-Action-Plan-to-Prevent-Violence-Against-Women-and-Children-2013-20251
- 18) SEVENTH FIVE YEAR PLAN FY2016 – FY2020, General Economics Division (GED), Planning Commission, Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh
- 19) Country Office Portal, Annual Report 2011 for Bangladesh, ROSA
- 20) The Eighth Periodic Report of Bangladesh, DEVELOPMENT PERSPECTIVES AND WOMEN’S ADVANCEMENT
- 21) <http://www.theindependentbd.com/post/139261>
- 22) Bangladesh Refugee Emergency population factsheet by UNHCR as of 31 October, 2018
- 23) Under nutrition in Bangladesh A Common Narrative:
- 24) (http://docs.scalingupnutrition.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/Common-Narrative_BANGLADESH-Final.pdf)
- 25) Bangladesh: Nutrition Profile: (USAID)
- 26) <https://www.unicef.org/bangladesh/en/press-releases/every-child-alive-campaign-demands-and-delivers-solutions-newborns>

- 27) <https://www.girlsnotbrides.org/child-marriage/bangladesh/#stats-references>
- 28) UNICEF, State of the World's Children, 2016
- 29) Human Rights Watch, Marry Before Your House is Swept Away, 2015.
- 30) Human Rights Watch, Marry Before Your House is Swept Away, 2015.
- 31) Child marriage prevalence is the percentage of women 20-24 years old who were married or in union before they were 18 years old (UNICEF State of the World's Children, 2017)
- 32) <https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/interviews/our-economic-and-political-choices-now-will-determine-our-childrens-future>
- 33) National Nutrition service Report
- 34) Overview of the World Bank in Bangladesh, retrieved from <https://www.worldbank.org>, 2018
- 35) August,2018: bdnews24.com,Dhaka Tribune, The daily Star, NEWAGE youth, Daily Sun
- 36) Journey to SDGs 2030 for health, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, 2017
- 37) <https://data.worldbank.org>
- 38) UNICEF Report, 2017
- 39) icddr,b et al. 2013
- 40) NIPORT et al. 2013, 2016
- 41) Annual Primary School Census (APSC)-2017
- 42) Abdul Barkatet. all, 4 November, 2013
Assessment of the situation of children and women in the tea gardens of Bangladesh by derived from
<https://www.researchgate.net/publication/258238096>
- 43) Bangladesh Refugee Emergency population factsheet by UNHCR as of 31 October, 2018
- 44) www.irinnews.org/.../lost-generation-no-education-no-dreams-rohingya-refugee-child, May,2018)
- 45) <https://theirworld.org>
- 46) The National Children Policy 2011
- 47) Bangladesh-Nutrition-Profile-Mar2018, USAID

Annex 3: List of stakeholders and Identified informants

1. Selina Hossain, Chairman, Bangladesh Shishu Academy
2. Dr. Atiur Rahman, Former Governor, Bangladesh Bank
3. JoynalAbedin, Senior Officer, Bangladesh Bank
4. Zulfikar Haider, Directorate, Ministry of Social Welfare, Dhaka
5. Md. Kamal Hossen, Deputy Director, Ministry of Social Welfare, Shariatpur
6. Mohammad Matiur Rahman, Assistant Director, Ministry of Social Welfare, Sirajganj
7. Umme Kulsum, Deputy Director, Ministry of Social Welfare, Sirajganj
8. Kaniz Fatema, Deputy Director, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, Sirajganj
9. Mr. Md. Shah Kamal, Secretary, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief
10. Representative of WHO, Dhaka, Bangladesh
11. Shabnaaz Zahereen, UNICEF, Dhaka, Bangladesh
12. Jamil Ahmed Chowdhury, UNICEF, Khulna, Bangladesh
13. Vivek A Prakash, BRAC, Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh
14. Bithi Roy, UNHCR, Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh
15. Mr. Shyamol Chowdhury , Specialist, Save the Children's global CP based in Sweden/ England
16. RifatAfroze, MEAL (Monitoring, evaluation, accountability and Learning) Manager (Education) at Save the Children
17. Representative of Save the Children, Dhaka, Bangladesh
18. Jamal Uddin, Save the Children, Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh
19. M. Rafiqul Islam, Save the Children, Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh
20. Dr. Mohammad Shanewaz, Director, National Nutritional Council, Bangladesh
21. Rasheda K Choudhury, Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE) Bangladesh
22. Abdulla Al Mamun, Program Coordinator, Manusher Jonno Foundation, Dhaka
23. Mr. Saiful, Program Manager, Save the Children, Rajbari.
24. Rasheda Nasrin, Director, Alok Shikkaloy, Dhaka
25. Dr. Mekhala Sarkar, Associate Professor, Dept. of Psychiatry, National Institute of Mental Health
26. A.H.M. Noman Khan, Executive Director, Centre for Disability in Development
27. Nabaleswar Dewan, Program Director at Films 4 Peace Foundation (F4P)
28. YanganMro, Teacher, Thanchi, Bandarban
29. Monoara Begum, UP female member, 1 number Bhubankhura Union, Haluaghat, Mymensingh
30. Mokhlesur Rahman, (LGSP 3)1 number Bhubankhura Union, Haluaghat, Mymensingh
31. Mr. Shankar Richil, UP member, 4 number ward, 1 number Bhubankhura Union, Haluaghat, Mymensingh
32. Fancy Sishim, School Teacher, Akshipara Government Primary Schhol, Haluaghat, Mymensingh

Design Back cover

