

BANGLADESH

SUMMARY STATISTICS

Region	South-central Asia
Currency	Taka (BDT)
Surface area (square kilometers)	147570
Population in 2011 (estimated, 000)	150494
Population density in 2011 (per square Km)	1019.8
Capital city and population in 2011 (000)	Dhaka (15391)

ECONOMIC INDICATORS

GDP: Gross domestic product (million current US\$)	2011	106200
GDP: Growth rate at constant 2005 prices (annual %)	2011	6.7
GDP per capita (current US\$)	2011	706.0
GNI: Gross national income per capita (current US\$)	2011	764.0
Gross fixed capital formation (% of GDP)	2011	32.8
Gross fixed capital formation (% of GDP)	2011	24.7
Exchange rates (national currency per US\$)	2011	81.85
CPI: Consumer price index (2000=100)	2011	203
Agricultural production index (2004-2006=100)	2011	132
Food production index (2004-2006=100)	2011	131
Employment in industrial sector (% of employed)	2005	14.5
Employment in agricultural sector (% of employed)	2005	48.1
Labour force participation, adult female pop. (%)	2011	57.2
Labour force participation, adult male pop. (%)	2011	84.3
Energy production, primary (000 mt oil equivalent)	2010	17665
Telephone subscribers, total (per 100 inhabitants)	2011	57.5
Internet users (per 100 inhabitants)	2011	5.0
Internet users (per 100 inhabitants)	2005	0.2
Exports (million US\$)	2011	13143.0
Imports (million US\$)	2011	17622.9
Balance (million US\$)	2011	-4479.9
Major trading partners (% of exports)	2011	United States (25.7), Germany (15.2), United Kingdom (9.5)

Major trading partners (% of imports)	2011	China (15.6), India (13.2), Kuwait (7.2)
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SOCIAL INDICATORS

Indicators	Year	
Population growth rate (average annual %)	2010-2015	1.3
Urban population growth rate (average annual %)	2010-2015	3.0
Rural population growth rate (average annual %)	2010-2015	0.6
Urban population (%)	2012	28.9
Population aged 0-14 years (%)	2012	30.0
Population aged 60+ years (females and males, % of total)	2012	7.0/6.5
Sex ratio (males per 100 females)	2012	102.4
Life expectancy at birth (females and males, years)	2010-2015	70.2/68.5
Infant mortality rate (per 1 000 live births)	2010-2015	41.8
Fertility rate, total (live births per woman)	2010-2015	2.2
Contraceptive prevalence (ages 15-49, %)	2006-2010	55.8
International migrant stock (000 and % of total population)	mid-2010	1085.3/0.7
Education: Government expenditure (% of GDP)	2006-2012	2.2
Education: Female third-level students (% of total)	2006-2012	37.0
Intentional homicides (females and males, per 100 000)	2008-2010	4.3/12.4
Seats held by women in national parliaments (%)	2012	19.7

(Source: World Statistics Pocketbook / United Nations Statistics Division)

TRADE AND INVESTMENT SCENARIO

- Bangladesh recorded \$29.6 billion total exports in 2013, a 10 percent growth rate over 2012. Similarly, total imports were \$40.24 billion, recording an 8 percent growth over 2012. Combinely, both exports and imports constitutes around 54 per cent of GDP.
- Liberal trade regime, availability low-paid workers and duty and quota free access to almost all the developed countries is helping Bangladesh in achieving higher export growth. Current account turned deficit in 2012 to surplus in 2013 due higher merchandise export growth rate.
- In 2012, in term of merchandise exports and imports Bangladesh ranks 68 and 62 in world trade respectively. Manufacturing, particularly, textile product remained major export commodities for Bangladesh. On the other hand, agricultural and manufacturing products remained the main imported items for Bangladesh.

- European countries, USA and India remained the major export destinations for Bangladesh. On the other hand, China, India and European countries are major import sources.
- Bangladesh was granted WTO membership in 1995 and has services sector GATs commitments. Bangladesh has signed 6 FTAs and in discussion with India, China, Pakistan, Iran, Turkey, Malaysia and Sri Lanka for bilateral trade agreement to improve exports and investment.

Foreign Direct Investment

- Bangladesh attracted \$1.60 billion FDI in 2013 which was 24 higher than 2012. Stable economic situation and a more open FDI climate encouraged inflows to Bangladesh since early 2000s.
- Most of the investing countries in Bangladesh are developed countries like UK, Australia and Japan and the share of developing country remained at low level. Majority of FDI flows to the manufacturing and services sector and agricultural sector attracted least amount.
- Bangladesh is following very liberal FDI policy since early 1990s and most of the sectors are opened to private investment except the five reserved sectors, which are reserved only for public investment and even domestic private investment is not allowed in these. These reserve sectors are: defence, nuclear energy, forest, currency printing and air transaction and railways
- Although Bangladesh is following friendly FDI policies, the country is facing many problems in attracting foreign investment. This has been reflected in ranking of Bangladesh in World banks doing business report 2013. The World Bank's 2013 Doing Business Report ranks Bangladesh at 132th out of 189 economies for the ease of doing business overall only better than Afghanistan in South Asia. Infrastructure bottlenecks, lack of financial development, corruption and political instability are the major hindrances of investment.

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT SCENARIO

- Women live in a highly patriarchal society where gender inequality is a major challenge. As per the Bangladesh Health and Demographic Survey (BDHS) in 2007, 53% of ever married women (15-49 years) had experienced some form of physical/sexual violence in their lifetime. Wife beating is widely prevalent in the country. According to BDHS 2011, the most widely accepted reason for wife beating among women in Bangladesh is arguing with her husband (22 %), followed by neglecting the children (19 %).

- Women's economic activities in rural areas include postharvest processing, livestock and poultry rearing, household agriculture, horticulture, selecting and storing of seeds, food processing, garment making, coir (rope) production and handicrafts. A large proportion of rural women are unpaid family workers (almost half of men, by contrast are own account workers and another quarter are day labourers).¹
- Women's economic opportunities continue to be limited by factors such as discrimination in the labour market, limited access to market relevant training, high illiteracy levels and particularly heavy household work burdens due to deficiencies in basic services.² Women's work tends to be in the low wage side of formal employment and informal sector activity and the gender gap in earnings is significant.
- While access to education has improved in the country learning outcomes continue to be poor, particularly for girls and the gender gap is significant by the end of secondary schooling.³
- It remains a challenge for women in politics to influence public decision making due to both lack of experience and continuing resistance from male counterparts.⁴

HEALTH SCENARIO

- In Bangladesh, about 3% of GDP is spent on health, out of which the government contribution is about 1.1%. In term of dollar, the total health expenditure in the country is about US\$ 12 per capita per annum, of which the public health expenditure is only around US\$ 4 only.⁵
- The Directorate General of Drug Administration (DGDA) under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, is the Drug Regulatory Authority of the country. This DGDA supervises and implements all prevailing Drug Regulations in the country and regulates all activities related to import, procurement of raw and packing materials, production and import of

¹ Country Gender Assessment Bangladesh, Asian Development Bank.

² *ibid*

³ *ibid*

⁴ *ibid*

⁵ Health System in Bangladesh. <http://ban.searo.who.int/en/Section25.htm>

finished drugs, export, sales, pricing, etc. of all kinds of medicines including those of Ayurvedic, Unani, Herbal and Homoeopathic systems drugs and medicines.

- Monitoring compliance with GMP in the pharmaceutical sector and monitoring the quality and safety of drugs in the market has been mandated to the Directorate of Drug Administration as the regulatory authority. The outcome of repeated inspections organized by UNICEF of the manufacturing facilities of local suppliers who had expressed interest to be recognized as UN pre-qualified suppliers, was that only a limited number of the local manufacturers were able to fulfill the international GMP requirements.
- Bangladesh ranks fifth in the global list of 22 countries with the highest burden of tuberculosis (TB). The Directly Observed Treatment Short-course (DOTS) strategy introduced in 1993 has reached a 70% case detection and more than 85% treatment success rate (Directorate-General of Health Services 2006).⁶
- Enhancing access of the common people to essential quality medicines has been one of the priorities of the government. With support from the government a big pharmaceutical industry is there to manufacture drugs for the local consumption as well for exporting in other countries of the world. Currently, the local production meets about 97% of the overall local demand for drugs and 100% of that for the essential drugs. The internal market (private sector) for pharmaceutical products is worth annually approximately US\$ 740 million. In addition, Bangladesh exported to 76 countries in 2009 amounted to approximately USD 49 million, demonstrating value in cost and quality of the products manufactured in Bangladesh.
- The nurse–doctor and medical technologist–doctor ratios are among the poorest in the world. While the majority of people live in rural areas, the majority of health professionals work in urban areas. Different assessments have highlighted major quality gaps in the teaching–learning process and facilities in health workforce educational institutes.⁷

⁶ WHO Country Cooperation Strategy 2008-2013.

http://www.who.int/countryfocus/cooperation_strategy/ccs_bgd_en.pdf.

RESOURCE SCARCITY, FOOD SECURITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE SCENARIO

- In Bangladesh, there is a significant water access gap, with 25 million people don't access to safe water for drinking and around 67 million people don't access to have safe sanitation.
- Arsenic is naturally present in the Ground water. And the levels of arsenic have affected an estimated 30-35 million people in Bangladesh (WHO). This cause death for 1 out of every 5 people in Bangladesh.
- Salt water intrusion into the south-west of the country is poisoning the ground water supplies to town and villages.
- Bangladesh is going through energy crises as most of the power plants are gas based which will be phased out in future. Misuse, system loss and corruption in power sector are the main issue regarding this crisis.
- Bangladesh is using natural gas as fuel about 81.43 % of the total capacity. Other power stations are based on 5.34% furnace oil, 4.08% diesel, 4.39% hydro and 4.77% coal (Pub. Of spilling energy, 2008)
- 90 million of the populations out of 140 million do not have direct access to electricity and remaining 50 million people have access but reliable and quality power is still beyond their reach (BPDB, 2007).
- Bangladesh is amongst the countries with the highest population density in the world with more than 1 000 inhabitants/km².
- The total permanent arable land is approximately 8.5 million hectares, which is about 60% of the land area. Out of this about 40000 sq km is irrigated. The arable land has been shrinking by 0.6 percent every year due to demand from housing and industries, and infrastructure, as well as loss of land from river erosion.
- In rural areas 89% of landowners own less than 1 ha and thirty-nine percent have less than 0.2 ha. The number of landless households is growing (USAID, 2010).

- It is estimated that due to sea level rise, another one-sixth of the land may be submerged with brackish water. The soil fertility has been declining due to overexploitation of soil nutrients, and imbalanced use of fertilisers

FOOD SECURITY

- The main challenge of archive food security in Bangladesh is its continuing growing population which is increasing by 1.8 million people every year.
- Changing climatic conditions has made the monsoon more erratic, and increases instability in agriculture productivity.
- The intrusion of salinity in the ground water is a serious challenge towards Food productivity.
- There is a gap between agricultural research/technology generation and dissemination/extension of services.

CLIMATE CHANGE

- Bangladesh has a low lying geography which makes it more vulnerable to Climate Change impacts like Flood, sea level rise etc.
- At the present rate of sea level rise, it could take just 25 years for encroaching saltwater to waterlog the farmland and poison fresh drinking water for as many as 10-million people.
- Warming is predicted to be significant from 0.9°C to 1°C by the 2020s and 1.6°C to 2°C by the 2050s. (Tanner et al, 2007).
- Increase in temperature and high precipitation has increased the rate of increase of vector borne diseases i.e., Malaria & Dengue.
- In 1998, flood reduces agriculture production by 45% (Ahmed, 2006). This affects the rural income, where agriculture still employs 70% of the population.
- Cyclonic storms are common along 700km coastline of Bangladesh (Tanner et al, 2007). Cyclones are expected to become 10 to 20% more powerful if sea-surface temperatures rise by of 2 to 4°C in South Asia, therefore the number of devastating cyclones will increase (Knutson and Tuleya, 2004 in Cruz et al, 2007)

More to Read:

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