

# BANGLADESH AT A GLANCE

## History

The territory that was formerly known East Pakistan as one of the provinces of Pakistan emerged as sovereign Bangladesh in 1971 after a nine-month War of Liberation against the Pakistan army. Following sociopolitical and economic disparities, the people in this wing of Pakistan were motivated for freedom under the leadership of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Before the Pakistan era (1947-1971), the country was ruled by the British (1757-1947) after the fall of Nawab Sirajuddowla in a battle with the British army in Plassey on 23 June 1757. Nawab Sirajuddowla was the ruler of the then Bengal, Bihar, and Orissha. In 1947, the Sub-continent was divided into two independent nations—Pakistan and India—after the colonial British rule. The present territory of Bangladesh was part of greater Bengal constituted by East and West Bengal (West Bengal now being under India).

## Geographical location

With a total land area of 147,570 square kilometers (56,977 square miles) and a population of about 15 crore. Bangladesh territory is one of the largest deltas of the world. It is a low-lying country stretching in latitude between 20°34' and 26°38' north and in longitude between 88°01' and 92°41' east. The country has borders with India on three sides adjoining West Bengal, Tripura, Assam, and Meghalaya. Only a small strip in the southeast has border with Myanmar. The Bay of Bengal lies on the south. The country is covered with a network of rivers and canals forming a maze of interconnecting channels. Bangladesh mostly comprises floodplain areas, with scattered hills at the eastern and the northern parts. The northern part is in the Himalayan valleys, and the southern part is in the coast of the Bay of Bengal. Bangladesh is recognized as the worst victim of global climate change effects without being responsible for its underlying causes. The country manifests all the direct and indirect effects of climate change, such as global warming and sea-level rise. As a result, human health has to bear enormous costs.

## Climate

With a hot and rainy summer and a dry winter, the climate of the country is tropical. January is the coolest month, with temperatures averaging nearly 26°C (78°F), and April is the warmest, with temperatures ranging from 33°C to 36°C (91°F to 96°F). Most places receive more than 1,525 millimeters of rain a year, and areas near the hills receive 5,080 millimeters mostly during the monsoon (June-September) and little in the winter (November-February). The humidity varies from the lowest 73% in the winter to the highest 86% in the monsoon.

## Religion and Culture

About 89.35% of the people are Muslim, followed by Hindu (9.64%), Buddhist (0.57%), Christian (0.27%), and others (0.17%). Over 98% of the people speak Bangla language. However, English is widely spoken by people in the literate communities. Bangladesh is heir to a rich cultural legacy of about two thousand or more years.

The cultural traditions can be viewed in innumerable tangible and intangible heritages in archaeological sites, in sculptures, in stones and terracotta, in architectures, museums, archives, libraries, classical music, songs and dance, paintings, dramas, folk arts, festivals, games, and ethnic cultural activities. The simplicity and friendliness of the people of Bangladesh are examples of unprecedented communal harmony among different religions from time immemorial.

## Population and Demography

According to the last census in Bangladesh done in 2011, the total population was 14,97,72,364 (male=7,49,80,386, female=7,47,91,976). Bangladesh has the highest population-density compared to any other country in the world, with 1015 living per square kilometer (as of the final results of Population and Housing Census 2011). According to Bangladesh Demographics Profile 2012, urban population comprises 28% of the total, and according to the World Bank report, 71.90% people live in rural areas. The

current national population growth rate is 1.37% as per final result of Population and Housing Census 2011. The rural to urban migration rate is 21.9%; the male to female ratio is 100.3:100. The average household-size is 4.68. The 15-49 years age-group constitutes the largest segment (52.0%) of the population, followed by 33.8% in ≤14 years age-group. The age-groups of 50-59 years and 60+ years comprise 7.3% and 6.9% of people respectively (SVRS 2010). Literacy rate among the age-group of 7+years is 56.8% (SVRS 2010). The life-expectancy is 67.7 years (66.6 years for males and 68.8 years for females) as per SVRS 2010.

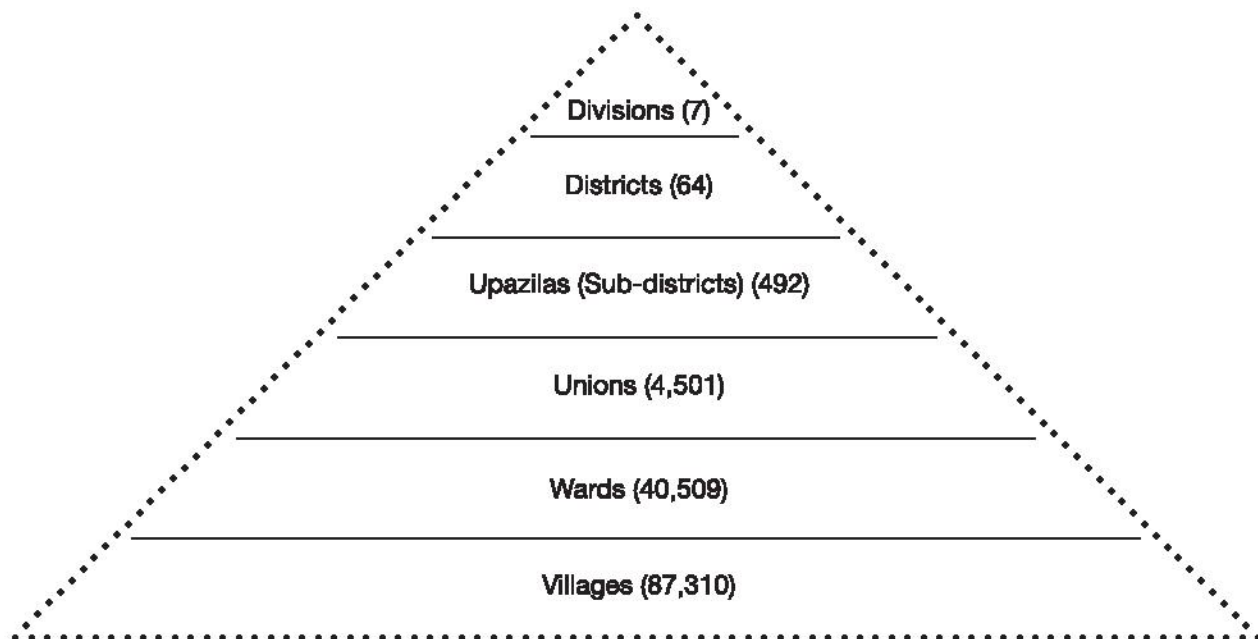
### Governance

With a unitary form of government, Bangladesh has no states or provinces. For purposes of smooth running of the government programs, the country is divided into 7 administrative divisions. There are several districts under a division. There are 64 districts in the country. Each district is divided into several upazilas (subdistricts). There are 492 upazilas in the country. The upazilas are divided into unions, and each union is divided into 9

wards comprising a cluster of villages. There are 4,501 unions and 40,509 wards in the country. The urban areas have 10 city corporations and 277 municipalities. The country is governed by the Parliamentary Democracy, and it has a unitary National Parliament, named Bangladesh Jatiya Sangsad. There are 40 ministries and 21 functional divisions. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is one of the largest ministries of the Government.

### Economy

Bangladesh has an agrarian economy, although the contribution of agriculture to GDP has been decreasing over the last few years. Yet, it dominates the economy, accommodating the major rural labor-force. The principal industries of the country include readymade garments, textiles, chemical fertilizers, pharmaceuticals, tea-processing, sugar, leather goods, etc. The principal minerals include natural gas, coal, white clay, glass-sand, etc. From marketing point of view, Bangladesh has been following a mixed system (public and private) that operates on the free-market principles. The GDP growth rate is 6.3%.



**For smooth governance, the country is divided into the above geographic hierarchies**

**Source of information:** BBS 2011 and Key Indicators on Report of Sample Vital Registration System 2010 by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, World Bank Report, IMF Report 2011, BDHS 2011, BMSS 2010

## Bangladesh: Basic Information

Indicator		Source
<b>A. Geography</b>		
Location	Latitude: between 20°34' and 26°38' north Longitude: between 80°01' and 92°41' east	Bangladesh Data Sheet, BBS
Boundary	North and West: India; South: Bay of Bengal; East:: India and Myanmar	
Area (sq.km.)	147,570 sq. km.(56,977 sq. miles)	
Territorial water	12 nautical miles	
Standard time	GMT+ 6 hrs	
Rainfall	203 mm/month	
<b>B. Administration</b>		
No. of divisions	7	Bangladesh Data Sheet, BBS
No. of city corporations	10	
No. of metropolitan cities	4	
No. of municipalities	277	
No. of districts	64	
No. of upazilas	492	
No. of unions	4,501	
No. of wards	40,509	
No. of villages (approximately)	87,310	
No. of households	3,18,63,396	
Average size of a household	4.6	SVRS 2010
<b>C. Education and economy</b>		
Per-capita GDP (in US\$) 2011	674.93	World Bank Report 2011
GDP growth rate (%) 2011-2012	5.5	IMF FY 2011-2012
Poverty rate	National: 31.5%; Urban: 21.3%; Rural: 35.2%	Bangladesh Data Sheet, BBS
Average monthly household income (Tk.)	National: 11,480; Urban: 16,477; Rural: 9,648	
Average monthly household expenditure (Tk.)	National: 11,200; Urban: 15,531; Rural: 9,612	
Average monthly household consumption expenditure (Tk.)	National: 11,003; Urban: 15,276; Rural: 9,436	
Per-capita daily calorie intake (kcal)	National: 2318.3; Urban: 2244.5; Rural: 2344.6	
Households benefiting from social safety nets	National: 24.6%; Urban: 9.4%; Rural: 30.1%	
Households with access to electricity	National average: 54.6%	
Households with mobile phones	National: 63.7%; Urban: 82.7%; Rural: 56.7%	
Literacy rate (7+ yrs)	56.8% (SVRS 2010)	
Adult literacy rate (Pop.15+), both sexes	58.6 (SVRS 2010)	SVRS 2010, BBS

Table Continued

Indicator			Source
D. Demography			
Population (in million) (2011 Census)	Total Male Female	149.77 74.98 74.79	BBS 2011
Population projected for July 2015 (in million)	Total Male Female	158.96 81.96 77.33	Bangladesh Data Sheet, BBS
Population projected for July 2019 (in million)	Total Male Female	167.39 85.86 81.51	Bangladesh Data Sheet, BBS
Sex ratio (male per 100 female)		100.3	BBS 2011
Population aged 0-14 years (both sexes in %)		33.1	SVRS 2010
Female population (15-49 years in %)		54.3	SVRS 2010
Population (60+ years in %)—both sexes		6.7	SVRS 2010
Population density per sq.km		1015	Population & House hold Census 2011
Crude birth rate (per 1,000 pop.)		19.2	SVRS 2010
Crude death rate (per 1,000 pop.)		5.6	SVRS 2010
Population growth rate (%)		1.37	BBS 2011
Total fertility rate (birth per women 15-49 yrs)		2.12	SVRS 2010
Gross reproduction rate		1.05	SVRS 2010
Net reproduction rate (NRR)		1.04	SVRS 2010
Life expectancy at birth (years)	Both Sexes Male Female	67.7 66.6 68.8	SVRS 2010 SVRS 2010 SVRS 2010
Mean age at first marriage (years)	Male Female	23.9 18.7	SVRS 2010 SVRS 2010
<b>E. Health status</b>			
Infant mortality rate (per 1000 livebirths)		36	SVRS 2010
Maternal mortality ratio (per 100,000 livebirths)		194	BMMS 2010
Neonatal mortality rate (per 1,000 livebirths)		26 and 32	SVRS 2010, BDHS 2011
Under-5 mortality rate (per 1,000 livebirths)		47 and 53	SVRS 2010, BDHS 2011
Percentage of population using safe drinking-water (tap and tubewell)		98.1	SVRS 2010
Percentage of population using sanitary latrines		63.5	SVRS 2010
Prevalence of night blindness among pre-school children		0.04	IPHN, DGHS 2010
Percentage of births attended by skilled personnel		31.7	BDHS 2011
Percentage of women receiving at least one antenatal care		54.6 and 71.2	BDHS 2011, BMMS 2010
Percentage of mothers receiving PNC from a trained provider within 2 days of delivery		27.1	BDHS 2011
Malaria incidence rate per 1,000 population		4.75	DGHS 2011
TB incidence rate per 100,000 population		225.0	WHO 2011

Table Continued

Indicator		Source
TB case notification rate (%)		65
TB cure rate (%) with DOTS		92.0%
Immunization		
EPI (Valid immunization coverage by 23 months of age)	BCG	99.1%
	Measles	88.5%
	Penta-3	90%
	OPV 3	95.1%
	Fully immunized	82.9%
Vitamin A coverage	Infant (9 - 11 months)	85.2%
	Children (12 - 59 months)	92.2%

### F. Health services provision

Government hospitals at upazila and union level	459	DGHS 2012
Government hospitals at secondary and tertiary level	124	
Total no. of government hospital	583	
No. of non-government hospitals (Regd. by DGHS)	2,966	
No. of beds under MoHFW (Functioning)	41,655	
No. of beds in private sector facilities (Regd. by DGHS)	53,448	
No. of registered physicians	58,977	BMDC 2011
Estimated no. of doctors available in the country	43,537	
Doctors working under MoHFW	29.36%	HRD Data Sheet 2011&MIS,DGHS
Doctors working under other ministries	3%	
Doctors working in the private sector	68.64%	
Doctors under DGFP	1060	
Registered diploma nurse	28,793	
No. of dental surgeons	4,986	
No. of family planning officers	508	
No. of assistant family planning officers	485	
No. of registered sanitary inspectors	527	
No. of dental technologists	498	
No. of laboratory technologists	1613	
No. of pharmacy technologists	2174	
No. of radiographers	635	
No. of physical therapists	147	
No. of sub-assistant community medical officers	4,216	
No. of health assistants (HA)	19,279	
No. of assistant health inspectors	3,669	
No. of family welfare visitors (Sanctioned)	5,710	
No. of health inspectors (Existing)	1,132	
No. of family planning inspectors (Existing)	4,500	
No. of family welfare assistants (Existing)	23,500	
No. of registered dental surgeons	4,986	BMDC 2011
No. of government medical colleges	21	DGHS (ME) 2011

**Table Continued**

<b>Indicator</b>		<b>Source</b>
No. of private medical colleges	54	DGHS (MB) 2011
No. of private dental colleges	14	DGHS 2011
No. of private institute of health technology (IHT)	83	DGHS 2011
No. of personnel under DGHS (Existing)	92,927	DGHS 2011
No. of doctors under DGHS (Existing)	16, 236	DGHS (MIS) 2011
No. of registered nurses	30,418	BNC 2011
No. of nurses in public sector (Existing)	15,709	DNS 2011
No. of nurse midwives	27,000	State of World's Midwifery 2011
No. of trained skilled birth attendants	6,500	BNC 2011
Population per physician (Current population per available registered physician)	2,586	DGHS 2011
Population per hospital bed (Beds of hospitals under MoHFW ) + Regd. private hospitals)	1,574	DGHS 2011