



UNITED NATIONS
BANGLADESH



United Nations
Country Results Report
Bangladesh
2025

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



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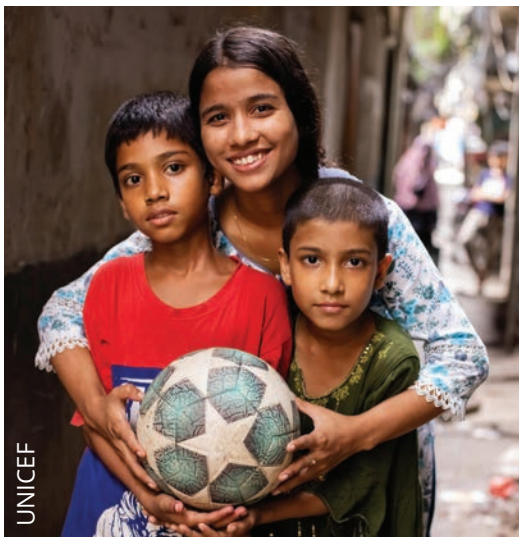
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FOREWORD

Carol Flore-Smrecznik

United Nations Resident Coordinator
in Bangladesh

In 2025, it was a privilege for the United Nations to work alongside the people of Bangladesh on their path through transition. As the Interim Government advanced and consolidated its reform agenda, focused on institution-building, reflection, and preparation for the National Parliamentary Election, the UN remained steadfast in its support to young people, women, diverse voices from across the country, who hoped for credible, inclusive, and peaceful democratic processes. Throughout this important phase, the leadership, resilience, and civic engagement of the Bangladeshi people have been central to shaping dialogue on governance, justice, and the country's future. The UN's engagement has been grounded in principled support, technical expertise, and respect for

national ownership - providing continuity as institutions prepared for elections and broader reforms.

With UN support, young people continued to mobilize, organize, and engage constructively in national conversations, while women leaders and grassroots organizations played a critical role in advocating for rights, representation, and safety. A UN project under the Joint Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Fund brought focus to SDG 5 and enhanced political participation for women at national and local levels. UN agencies joined together to facilitate the design of a national Youth Voice Mechanism. Efforts to support media reform and governance of Artificial Intelligence helped to put the spotlight on emerging areas for enhanced

UN engagement. Overall, the UN delivered USD 193 million in development programming in 2025.

Data and innovation continued to inform these efforts. The UN coordinated support to Bangladesh for the 2025 Voluntary National Review of progress on the SDGs, helped to strengthen data on violence against women, and facilitated the first Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey since 2019, providing critical insights to guide policy, prioritization and accountability. New partnerships with the private sector and investors expanded opportunities to mobilize resources and create pathways to decent work particularly for young people and women.

The year unfolded amid growing global and national funding constraints. The UN system renewed its commitment to efficiency and effectiveness, streamlining operations and prioritizing high-impact interventions. With 24 active joint programmes, the UN in Bangladesh continues to deliver as One UN more than any other country in the Asia-Pacific region. In 2025, the UN agencies collectively saved USD 1.4 million through common services and efficiency measures.

In 2025, Bangladesh's continued to show its commitment to the multilateral system, becoming the first country in South Asia to accede to the UN Water Convention and the first country in Asia to ratify all ten fundamental ILO Conventions. The UN family welcomed the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) as its newest resident agency with the signing by the Interim Government

of a three-year Memorandum of Understanding to establish a mission in Bangladesh – a clear signal of the country's commitment to its international human rights obligations.

Bangladesh continued to play a central role in global peace and security, remaining one of the top troop- and police-contributing countries to UN Peacekeeping Operations. The role of Bangladesh in hosting and supporting 1.2 million Rohingya refugees remained a powerful demonstration of compassion and generosity. High-level visits by the UN Secretary-General, Mr. Antonio Guterres, and Principals from several UN agencies reaffirmed solidarity and partnership with Bangladesh as the Rohingya crisis entered its 8th year. In this spirit, the UN Secretary-General shared an unforgettable iftar meal in the camps of Cox's Bazar as part of his annual Ramadan solidarity visit, together with Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus and Rohingya refugees.

This report reflects our collective support to Bangladesh as a UN family. On behalf of my predecessor, outgoing UN Resident Coordinator, Gwyn Lewis, I extend my sincere appreciation to the Interim Government of Bangladesh for its leadership, to development partners for their collaboration, and to the UN Country Team for its coherence and shared commitment to delivering as one. Together, we remain resolute in supporting Bangladesh through this period of transition and look forward to working hand in hand with the new Government.





CHAPTER 01

INTRODUCTION – KEY DEVELOPMENTS, CONTEXT AND UN SUPPORT

2025 was a consolidation year following Bangladesh’s political transition in August 2024, when mass protests led to the resignation of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and the establishment of an interim government led by Professor Muhammad Yunus as Chief Adviser.

Throughout 2025, Bangladesh engaged in an intensive, nationally-led political transition and institutional reform process, with sustained support from the UN system. A series of independent reform commissions informed deliberations of the National Consensus Commission, which engaged political parties and other stakeholders in structured dialogue. The UN accompanied these efforts through technical assistance, facilitation of dialogue, and comparative policy advice, aligned with national priorities and international standards.

Preparations for the National Parliamentary Elections constituted a central strand of national activity throughout 2025. The UN supported these nationally led preparations through technical assistance on electoral processes, voter participation, and institutional readiness, while emphasizing that decisions regarding timing and sequencing remained the prerogative of national stakeholders.



support throughout 2025. Official data showed a strong increase in remittance inflows following the 2024 transition with total remittances rising by 22 per cent from USD 22.9 billion to USD 32.8 billion in 2025. Monthly inflows demonstrate both peak and sustained momentum, reaching USD 3.3 billion in March 2025 and USD 3.2 billion in December 2025, the highest monthly inflows on record. Increased use of formal banking channels and reduced reliance on informal transfer systems contributed to this trend, supporting household consumption and foreign exchange availability during the year.

With LDC graduation slated for November 2026, the interim government addressed a challenging macroeconomic environment marked by elevated inflation, stress in the banking sector, and constrained fiscal space. Official data showed that inflation remained close to double digits for much of the year, averaging around 9–10 per cent in early 2025, with food prices exerting particular pressure on household purchasing power. Seasonal factors and policy adjustments later in the year contributed to some easing, but cost-of-living pressures continued to affect low-income and urban populations.

Employment and livelihoods particularly for young people, were central to socio-economic discussions. Estimates indicated that youth unemployment (ages 15–24) stood at approximately 9.4 per cent in 2025, compared to about 9.1 per cent in 2024. These figures reflected ongoing challenges related to school-to-work transitions, skills mismatches, and underemployment, particularly within the informal economy.

Remittance flows remained a critical source of household income and macroeconomic

As one of the most climate-affected countries in the world, Bangladesh fortunately did not experience a major disaster event in 2025. However, the country's underlying vulnerability to climate shocks is persistent, and disaster risk reduction and preparedness systems continued to require strengthening to reduce future loss and damage. A significant earthquake shook Dhaka in November 2025, with 10 people killed, more than 600 injured and damage to buildings, a reminder that earthquake risk is an additional vulnerability, particularly in densely populated urban areas.

2025 was a significant year for the Rohingya refugee response, with Bangladesh leading efforts to keep the crisis on the international agenda. Changing trends in the funding landscape triggered an intensive transformation of the response, with the merging of delivery modes, and the rationalization and consolidation of service centres to reduce the costs of delivering assistance to the 1.2 million Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh. In addition to welcoming the UN Secretary-General to the camps of Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh initiated planning for a High-Level Conference on the

Rohingya crisis on the margins of the UN General Assembly in September.

As the year concluded, cooperation between Bangladesh and the UN continued to focus

on supporting nationally led reforms, advancing preparations for the National Parliamentary Elections, safeguarding socio-economic gains, and progressing toward the SDGs.

United Nations Support to Bangladesh



Twenty-four UN agencies are signatories to the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2022–2027. The United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Bangladesh comprises 25 members, of which 20 UN entities maintain a physical presence in the country, 17 as resident agencies.

In addition, the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), and the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) provide complementary support to Bangladesh through policy advisory services and programmatic contributions.



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UN Solidarity and Partnership with Bangladesh

In March 2025, Bangladesh welcomed UN Secretary-General António Guterres on an official visit, underscoring the country's growing global significance and the strength of Bangladesh's partnership with the UN. The visit came at a critical moment as Bangladesh navigated transition, advanced its reform agenda, and continued to host one of the world's largest refugee populations.

During his visit, the Secretary-General met with national leaders, development partners, and representatives of civil society and youth, reaffirming the UN's commitment to supporting Bangladesh's progress toward sustainable development and inclusive governance. A key moment

was the Secretary-General's visit to Cox's Bazar, where he met Rohingya refugees, highlighting the continued need for international solidarity and responsibility sharing to address the protracted refugee crisis.

The Secretary-General also inaugurated the new UN House in Dhaka, which brings multiple UN entities under one roof and strengthens coordination across the UN system. By reinforcing high-level dialogue, humanitarian support and development cooperation, the visit symbolized a shared commitment between Bangladesh and the UN to advance resilience, protect vulnerable communities and accelerate progress toward the SDGs.







IFAD

CHAPTER 02

UN RESULTS AND IMPACT OF PROGRAMMES IN 2025

2.1 Overview of UN Support to National Development Priorities through the Cooperation Framework

The UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework guides the UN system's support to Bangladesh's national development priorities and the SDGs. In 2025, the Joint Steering Committee, co-chaired by the Government of Bangladesh and the UN, agreed to extend the current Cooperation Framework by one year, with a new timeframe from 2022 until end 2027. This ensures that the next cycle aligns with evolving national planning processes and reform priorities under the new government.

During the year, the UN Country Team worked with Government institutions and partners to address emerging challenges while strengthening national

systems for long-term resilience. More than 90 partnerships with Government agencies, civil society organizations and other stakeholders supported implementation across sectors, mobilizing USD 229.4 million in resources and delivering USD 193.2 million in programme expenditure.

Key areas of engagement for the UN include strengthening economic governance and trade capacity, expanding social protection and human development services, advancing climate resilience and ecosystem restoration, supporting governance and justice reforms, and promoting gender equality and protection from gender-based violence. Progress is tracked through the Cooperation Framework results framework, which includes 27 outputs and 111 output indicators across five strategic priorities,

implemented through the annual Joint Work Plan and aligned with national development priorities and SDG targets.

Across these strategic priorities, results achieved in 2025 reflected a shared focus on institutional resilience, prevention and inclusion. Key cross-cutting results included strengthened early warning and anticipatory action systems to protect vulnerable communities from climate shocks; progress in economic governance and policy reforms supporting Bangladesh’s readiness for LDC graduation; reinforced health, education and social protection systems responding to economic and climate pressures and guided by improved data and evidence; and continued support to governance reforms and inclusive participation during a period of national transition.

Cooperation Framework: Data at a Glance

	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
Programmatic Interventions reported	169	187	180	181	210 unique interventions across years
UN Entities	18	17	17	17	18 unique UN entities across years
Parent Contributing Partner	49	62	70	71	90 unique Parent contributing partners across years
Contributing Partner	68	91	100	98	135 unique contributing partners across years
Implementation Partners	95	100	99	100	106 unique implementing partners across years

● ● **Note:** This is an overview of the programmatic interventions as reported by UN entities. The number of reported interventions will differ across years, and is based on the period of the intervention (regardless of funding). The count of UN Entities and partners are based on interventions with available funding for the specified year. UN INFO is a living tool, please note that these figures change regularly.

**UN DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT IS DELIVERED
ACROSS FIVE STRATEGIC PRIORITIES**





Empowering Young People in a Year of Transition

The year 2025 was a milestone year for Bangladesh. It followed the youth-led political transition of August 2024, a moment that pushed young people to the centre of national discourse as they called for equality, economic opportunity, and rights, capturing the spirit of the Declaration on Future Generations.

Responding to this shift, the UN strengthened its engagement with young Bangladeshis. **For the first time, youth voices informed Bangladesh's Voluntary National Review in 2025. With UN support, the interim government gathered inputs from over 200 young people to assess SDG progress.**

The UN also helped advance the design of a Youth Voice Mechanism – a Government owned platform to amplify the voices of young Bangladeshis in policy development. National consultations with diverse young people across five divisions shaped recommendations for the mechanism, which is being co-designed by young people

to pave the way for their active participation in shaping Bangladesh's future.

The political transition of 2024 increased demand for youth generated evidence. The UN supported four youth research teams examining the mental health impacts of the 2024 uprising and severe floods. Electoral assistance programmes engaged around 700 young people from seven marginalized groups to identify barriers to civic engagement ahead of the 2026 national election. Their inputs informed policy briefs and dialogue with the Bangladesh Election Commission.

Some 56 million voters—under 4 per cent of the electorate—registered for the 2026 election, including millions of first time voters. The UN's Youth Advisory Group grew stronger in 2025, and the UN celebrated UN80 through the "Youth as Catalysts of Change" Photo Exhibition, showcasing young photographers and reinforcing the UN's commitment to supporting youth voices in Bangladesh.

2.2 Economic Development

Strategic Priority 1

Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Development

By 2027, more people in Bangladesh, particularly the most vulnerable and marginalized from all gender and social groups and those from lagging districts benefit from sustainable livelihoods and decent work opportunities resulting from responsible inclusive, sustainable, green and equitable economic development.

Supporting Donors

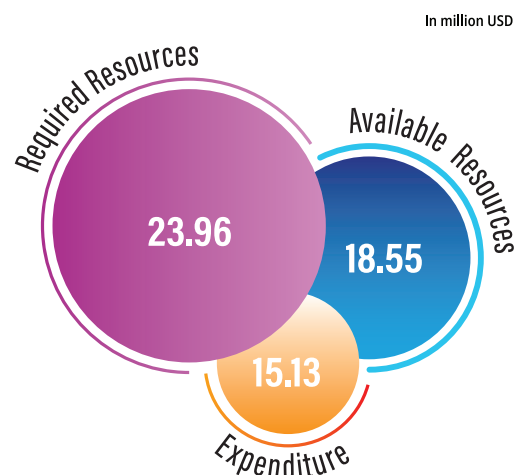
Canada, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Coca Cola Foundation, European Union, Global Agriculture and Food Security Program, The Global Environment Facility, The World Bank.

*Top 10 donors

As Bangladesh continued to prepare to graduate from Least Developed Country (LDC) status, the UN supported a range of inclusive economic development initiatives under Strategic Priority 1. Spanning trade and investment, employment and skills, Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSME) development, economic governance, and safe migration, these efforts were aligned with national priorities and global commitments.

Strengthening Trade, Investment and Economic Governance

The UN supported Bangladesh in strengthening trade capacity and improving the investment climate. A high-level Trade Expert Group was established to strengthen national trade negotiation capacity for post-LDC trade arrangements. The UN also supported reforms to streamline business licensing



through a one-stop investor service at the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority and assisted follow-up to the Investment Policy Review, including development of a reform-tracking system to improve investment governance, faster capital repatriation and streamlined work permit procedures, while preparations advanced for the rollout of dedicated commercial courts to further strengthen the regulatory environment and investor

confidence. A study on tax fairness influenced new measures to boost the tax-to-GDP ratio, to encourage more domestic resources for development.

With UN support, Bangladesh developed its first Household Production Satellite Account (HPSA), revealing that unpaid household and care work contributes nearly 18.9 per cent of GDP, providing critical evidence for gender-responsive economic policy and planning.

Ongoing support for LDC graduation readiness

In 2025, the UN supported in-country consultations with ministries, private sector, political parties and development partners on Bangladesh's LDC graduation readiness, with the report due in early 2026. With UN support, the Government developed a Smooth Transition Strategy, defining priority actions across trade, economic diversification, competitiveness, domestic resource mobilization, social development, and institutional capacity. The UN continued to support preparations for Bangladesh's reporting on the Doha Programme of Action.

Supporting CMSME Growth and Entrepreneurship

The UN expanded support to cottage, micro, small and medium enterprises (CMSMEs), which are central to Bangladesh's economic growth. More than 1,200 small businesses, including many women-led enterprises, received training, mentoring and business development services to improve productivity and market access. UN policy support also contributed to the adoption of the National SME Development Policy 2025,

strengthening the enabling environment for CMSME formalization and growth. In parallel, a credit guarantee scheme launched with Bangladesh Bank and development partners is helping to unlock financing for green and under-financed small businesses. These efforts are spurring entrepreneurship and innovation in various sectors, helping small firms to grow, create jobs, and gradually enter the formal economy.

Inclusive Skills Development for Women and Youth

UN initiatives strengthened employment opportunities and skills development, particularly for young people and women. Training programmes and apprenticeships enabled more than 15,000 youth (around 40 per cent women) to access jobs or self-employment opportunities. Career hubs and digital job-matching platforms also expanded employment services, reaching tens of thousands of jobseekers nationwide and supporting the development of a more responsive and inclusive skills ecosystem.



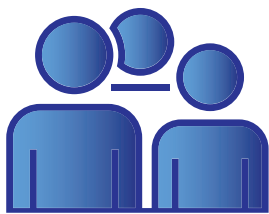


Strengthening Migration and Financial Inclusion

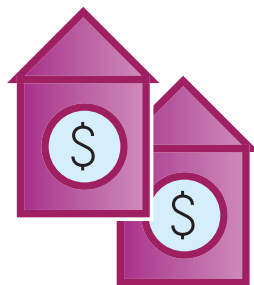
The UN also supported measures to maximize the development impact of Bangladesh's overseas workforce. With UN technical assistance, the Government adopted the National Reintegration Policy for returning migrant workers, providing psychosocial support, skills development and access to finance, particularly for

women returnees. Financial literacy programmes reached nearly 200,000 migrants and family members, strengthening savings and investment practices. Complementary initiatives supported digital financial products linked to remittances and integration of financial education into pre-departure training, helping migrant households use remittances more productively.

Key Results in 2025



445,047 people benefited from income generating activities with UN support



2.5 million people accessed financial services



524 MSMEs improved finance and capacity through UN -supported market partners



ILO

Weaving Dreams and Dignity: From Heritage to Entrepreneurship

My name is Suranjana Singha, and I was born and raised in Kamalganj, Moulvibazar, in a Manipuri ethnic community where weaving is more than just tradition — it is an identity, heritage, and pride. I grew up learning the intricate art of Manipuri weaving by sitting beside my grandmother and mother as they worked on the back-strap loom, a craft passed down through generations. The colours, patterns, and textures of our textiles were part of our everyday lives — woven not just into fabric, but into our culture and sense of belonging. Although weaving was always close to my heart, I initially took a different path. After completing my graduation in Social Science, I dedicated several years

to working in the development sector, focusing on reproductive health with national and international NGOs and UN agencies across Bangladesh. While that work gave me purpose, there was always a lingering question in my mind: how can I preserve and promote our traditional weaving?

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic brought an unexpected turn. I lost my job — like so many others. With BDT 60,000 (USD 500) from my savings, I made a bold decision to follow my heart. I bought three weaving machines, threads, and the basic tools needed, and started my own enterprise in Sreemangal — Nimsing Bishnupria Manipuri Tantshilpo. It began with just

me, a few machines, and a deep belief in the value of our heritage.

Manipuri weaving isn't just a craft. It's a livelihood and a lifeline, especially for women. I saw an opportunity to do more than creating cloth — I could create opportunities. I started training women from the nearby tea garden communities, many of whom were unemployed and had never woven before. Slowly, 20 women became part of my small business — learning, weaving, and earning.

In 2024, I was introduced to the GET Ahead Training organized by a local NGO under a UN project funded by the Government of Canada. This training was a game changer. I had the skills

to weave, but not the tools to run a business. The programme taught me essential entrepreneurial skills: how to grow my business, price my products, set fair wages, increase productivity, and create forward market linkages. I also learned about gender-based violence and harassment at work — and how to build safer, more respectful workplaces.

This knowledge was empowering — not just for me, but for the women I work with. I began sharing these learnings in the tea garden communities. Many of these women live in extreme poverty, often voiceless. I wanted to pass on not only my weaving skills, but also confidence — a sense that they, too, could shape their own futures.



2.3 Human Development

Strategic Priority 2

Equitable Human Development and Well Being

By 2027, more people, in particular, the most vulnerable and marginalized, have improved access to and utilization of quality, inclusive, gender- and shock-responsive, universal, and resilient social protection, social safety-net and basic social services.

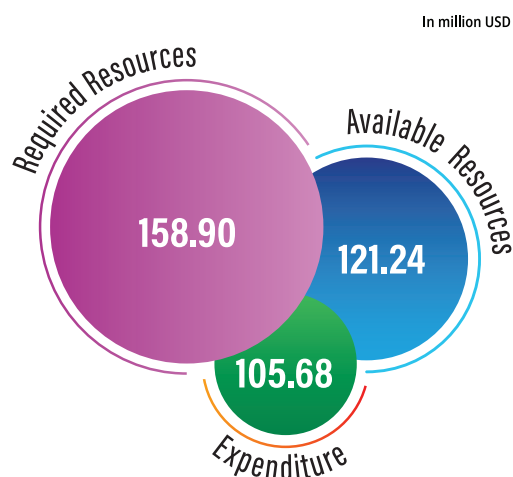
SUPPORTING DONORS

Japan, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, United Kingdom Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, United States Agency for International Development, United States Department of Agriculture, European Union, Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation, The World Bank.

*Top 10 donors

The UN in Bangladesh remained firmly committed to supporting Bangladesh to advance equitable human development and strengthen institutional resilience across the eight areas prioritized under Strategic Priority 2 : Health, Education, Nutrition, Social protection, Child Protection, Food Security, Water and Sanitation (WASH) and Migration. Across these interventions, the UN prioritized equity, resilience and evidence-based reform to safeguard human development gains.

In this context, the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS), conducted in collaboration with the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) and the first since 2019, filled critical data gaps and strengthened the national evidence base for human development. It enabled more precise targeting of interventions, improved monitoring of progress, and supported efforts to address persistent inequalities across health, education and child well-being.



Advancing Universal Health Coverage through System Strengthening

In 2025, UN agencies continued to support implementation of the ongoing health sector priorities of the Health Reform Commission, reinforcing primary health care (PHC) as the backbone of Universal Health Coverage. Technical assistance contributed to strengthening health financing reform, improving regulatory

* MICS 2025 data used in this section.

oversight, and integrating sexual and reproductive health services into PHC delivery models.

Through joint programming, UN entities strengthened referral systems, supported the Bangladesh Digital Health Blueprint (2025-2030), and enhanced regulatory systems for medicines and vaccines, contributing to more integrated and resilient health services and to integrating sexual and reproductive health services into PHC delivery models.

UN technical engagement supported a high-level political commitment to addressing noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) through a Joint Declaration signed by 35 ministries, reinforcing a whole-of-government approach to prevention and control. Diagnosis and treatment of six childhood-onset NCDs were initiated through PHC centres, expanding early detection and care. Key national health frameworks were also developed or updated, including the Bangladesh National Family Planning Strategy (2025–2030), the National Population Policy, the National Newborn Health Strategy (2025–2030) and standard operating procedures for medico-legal services for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence, reflecting strengthened policy dialogue and technical collaboration.

Bangladesh achieved major public health milestones with the rollout of the HPV vaccine and implementation of one of the world's largest Typhoid Conjugate Vaccine campaigns, reaching over 42.5 million children (97%). The country also conducted its first blood tests for heavy metal exposure among mothers and children, advancing environmental health monitoring as a multisectoral priority.

Stepping up for Enhanced Maternal Health

National data show sustained progress in maternal and child health outcomes, with infant mortality declining to 29 per 1,000 live births and 77 per cent of births attended by skilled health personnel. However, the caesarean section rate reached 51.8 per cent, highlighting the need for improved regulation and quality assurance.

UN support strengthened climate-resilient health services in vulnerable districts and expanded midwifery deployment, particularly in remote and underserved regions. Through joint UN partnership, four District hospitals are now fully operational with 24/7 Comprehensive Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care facilities, while 40 Union-level facilities were operationalized for non-complex deliveries. The labour room management protocol was also endorsed and implemented by the Directorate General of Health Services, strengthening the quality and standardization of maternal and newborn care.





UNICEF

Education Cannot Wait and Learning Recovery

In 2025, the UN scaled up the Education Cannot Wait (ECW) initiative to support crisis-affected and climate-vulnerable communities. ECW-supported programmes restored learning continuity in affected districts, integrated psychosocial support for children impacted by floods and economic stress and strengthened teacher capacity through gender-responsive training frameworks.

At policy level, the UN supported dialogue on enactment of the Right to Education and development of a National Teacher Strategy, reinforcing system-level reforms beyond short-term recovery. While data confirms improvements in school participation, disparities in learning outcomes and digital access persist,

underscoring the need for sustained foundational learning investments.

Addressing Growing Food Insecurity and Nutrition through Systems Approaches

Recent evidence highlights continuing nutrition challenges in Bangladesh. Child wasting increased to 12.9 per cent in 2025, compared with 9.8 per cent in 2019, reflecting the effects of price shocks, illness and seasonal vulnerabilities. In response, the UN supported the Government to strengthen nutrition-sensitive social protection programmes, improving access to nutritious foods for vulnerable populations. Through initiatives such as the Food Friendly Programme and the Vulnerable Women Benefit Programme, around 15 million beneficiaries were reached with fortified foods and nutrition support. In 2025, the Joint UN Initiative for Prevention of Wasting (JUNIPr) was also launched to strengthen multisectoral systems and improve access to essential nutrition services, care and social protection for pregnant and lactating women and children under two. At the same time, the UN scaled integrated responses to growing food insecurity and vulnerability, treating over 21,000 children for severe acute malnutrition and supporting nearly 663,000 vulnerable people with food and nutrition assistance. Child wasting continues to trend downward toward the national target of 7 per cent, yet disparities remain in climate-exposed districts. By reinforcing preventive nutrition systems rather than isolated emergency assistance, UN support contributed to longer-term resilience.

Reinstatement of the National School Feeding Programme

With UN technical support, the Government of Bangladesh started the National School Feeding Programme in 2025, committing USD 450 million to reach 3.1 million primary school children in 150 sub-districts over a three-year period. The programme will provide diversified nutritious snacks including eggs, milk, fruits and fortified biscuits in 19,419 government primary schools, covering about 30 per cent of the country's primary schools. Representing a 50 per cent increase in annual government financing, the initiative marks a significant step toward improving child nutrition, reducing short-term hunger and strengthening learning outcomes nationwide.

Strengthening WASH: Innovation and Capacity Building on Climate Change

In 2025, more than 365,000 people gained access to safe and innovative water services, including community water ATMs (automated safe water dispensing systems) and electro-chlorination technology for water disinfection, while market-based approaches expanded basic sanitation for 1.35 million rural residents. Climate-resilient water safety plans, aligned with risk-management guidance, were introduced in two municipalities, improving drinking-water safety for around 100,000 people.

The UN also supported integration of climate-resilient WASH measures into national policy frameworks, including the National WASH Policy 2025 and

Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) processes, while strengthening institutional capacity through training of over 200 sector professionals on climate-resilient WASH and climate finance.

Enhancing Shock-Responsive Social Safety Nets

In 2025, the UN supported reforms toward a more inclusive second National Social Security Strategy, strengthening digital beneficiary registries, enhancing disability inclusion in targeting systems, and integrating climate-trigger mechanisms within social protection frameworks. Linkages between anticipatory action financing and early cash delivery mechanisms were also strengthened, enabling vulnerable households to receive support before climate shocks intensify.

UN support to the National Social Security Strategy also contributed to expansion of Government-to-Person digital payments and stronger delivery systems for major social assistance schemes. These reforms helped increase Old Age Allowance coverage from 4.9 million to 6.1 million and almost doubled disability allowance coverage to 3.5 million, while digital G2P payments reached 40.05 per cent and consolidation of schemes from 140 to 95 improved efficiency, coordination and inclusion.



A pilot of the Mother and Child Benefit Programme (MCBP) in 12 upazilas reached about 30,000 beneficiaries, improving targeting and increasing use of antenatal and postnatal care services. In addition, 1,675 flood-affected households with young children received emergency cash assistance, demonstrating the potential for shock-responsive social protection. UN technical support also strengthened the MCBP and Vulnerable Women Benefit programmes, reaching nearly three million women and vulnerable households, while integration into a unified Management Information System improved coordination, reduced duplication and strengthened programme monitoring.

Expanding Social Protection for Workers

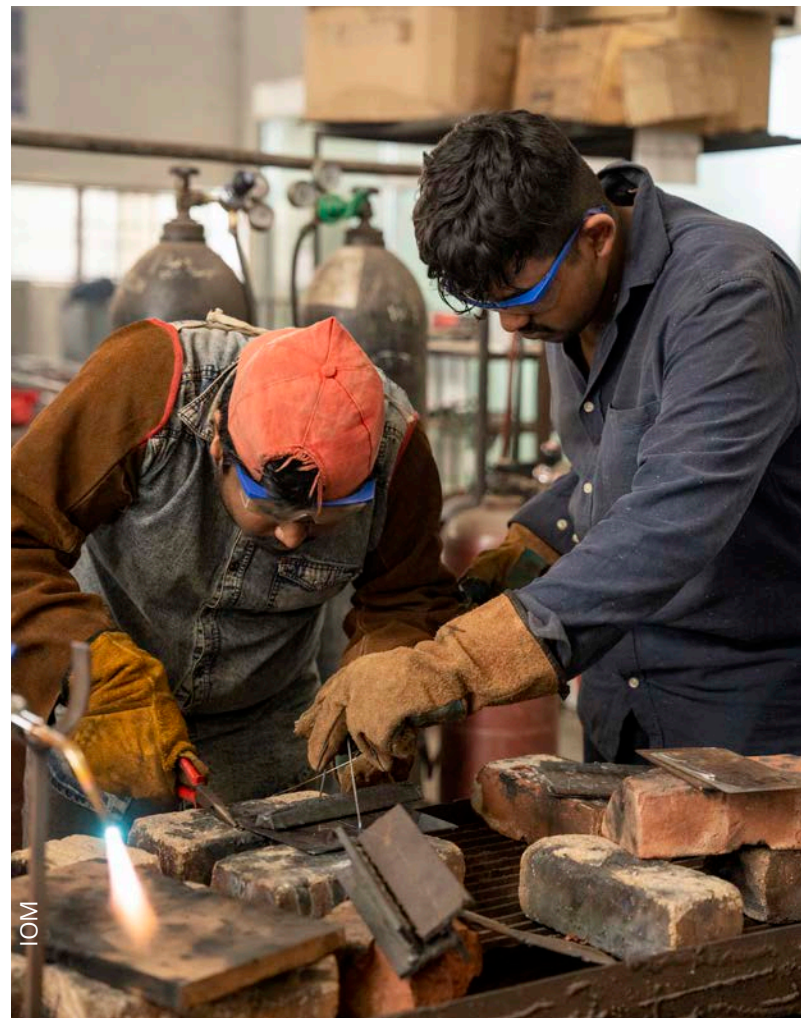
In 2025, the UN supported the expansion of the Employment Injury Scheme (EIS) Pilot—the country’s first social insurance programme beyond the Ready-Made Garments sector to include Export Processing Zone RMG factories and the leather and footwear sector. The scheme provides income protection for workers and their families affected by work-related deaths and permanent disabilities. In parallel, the UN engaged with the Government of Bangladesh and social partners in the amendment of the Bangladesh Labour Law, strengthening national worker protection frameworks and introducing provisions to institutionalize a national Employment Injury Scheme.

Promoting Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration

Recognizing migration as central to human development and household resilience,

the UN supported the Government in endorsing the Gender-Responsive National Reintegration Policy in 2025. The policy establishes structured frameworks for psychosocial support, skills development and economic reintegration of returning migrants, particularly women and survivors of exploitation.

Complementary interventions strengthened migration service centres, enhanced anti-trafficking coordination, and expanded financial literacy initiatives for migrant families. These efforts reinforced protection systems while maximizing the development impact of remittances. The UN also supported a national migration database, enabling government institutions and partners to access updated labour migration statistics and strengthen evidence-based policymaking on safe, orderly and regular migration.





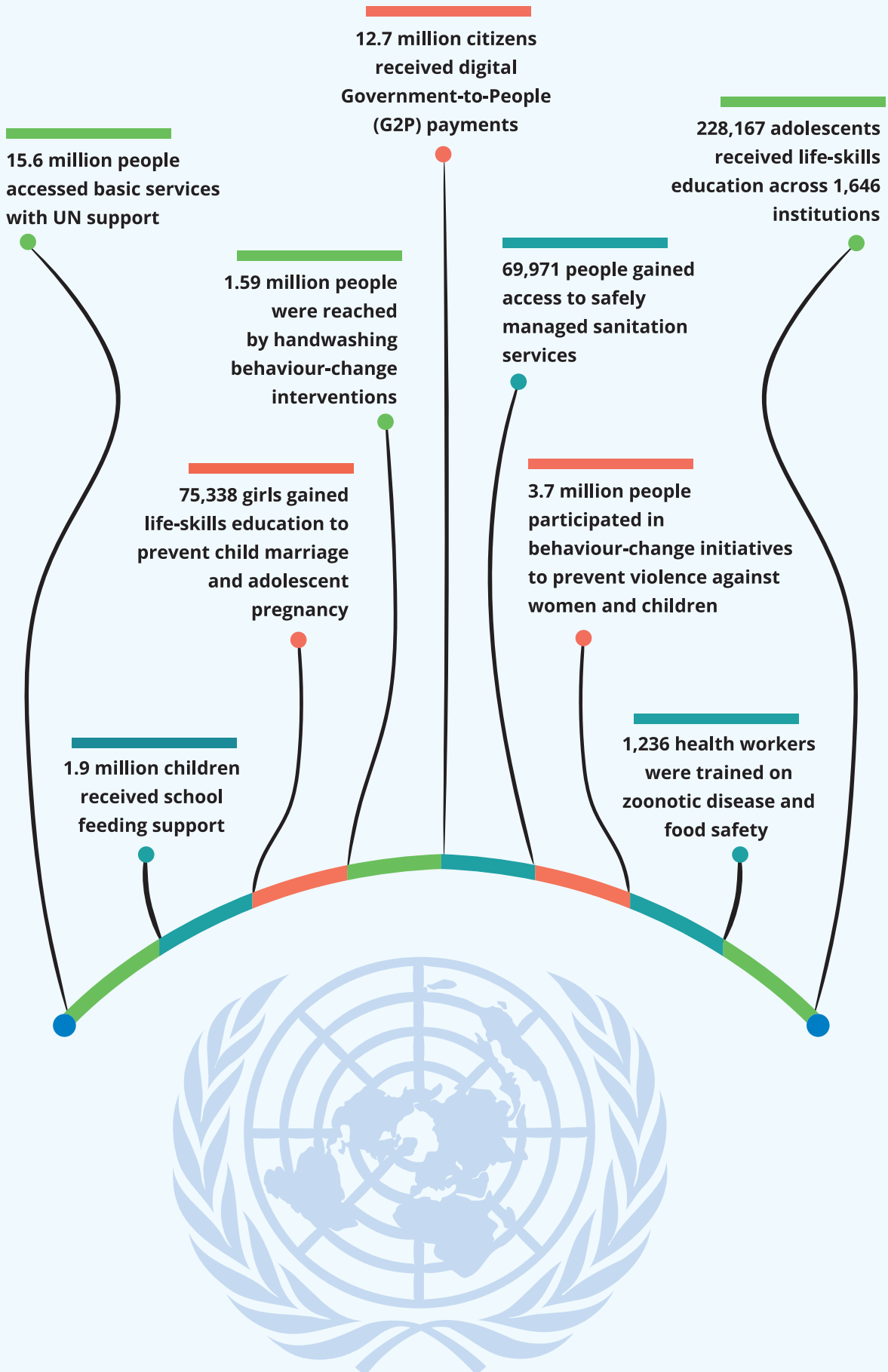
Child Protection and Prevention of Child Marriage

Despite progress, national data show that nearly half of women aged 20–24 were married before age 18, highlighting persistent structural challenges. Through Phase III of the Global Programme to End Child Marriage, the UN expanded life-skills education, community engagement and legal awareness initiatives nationwide. In 2025, the programme introduced the “Social Protection Plus” model, integrating norm-change interventions into the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs’ social safety nets. The initiative reached 315,000 marginalized women and increased by 31 percentage points the share of parents prioritizing girls’ education over marriage. School-based programmes also supported 120,000 vulnerable adolescent girls, reducing their exposure to early marriage risks.

Community protection systems were strengthened through 54 Child Protection Community Hubs, reaching over 85,000 people with multi-sectoral referral services. UN support also contributed to strengthening enforcement of the Child Marriage Restraint Act, improving referral systems for children at risk and reinforcing institutional child protection mechanisms.



Key Results in 2025





UNFPA

Hands That Clean, Hands That Heal, Hands That Fix

In the women's ward of this hospital, a small team works quietly behind the scenes to keep mothers and newborns safe. For the past four years, nurse Tahmina Akhter has supported mothers through some of their most vulnerable moments—preparing them for delivery, caring for them after birth, and ensuring newborns receive safe care in their first hours of life.

With the introduction of the WASH FIT initiative, Tahmina and her colleagues began working closely with hospital staff responsible for cleaning and sanitation to improve hygiene conditions in the ward. "In the first hours after birth, both mother and baby are especially vulnerable to infections," she explains. "Cleanliness is not just important—it is life-saving." Before the improvements, maintaining

hygiene was challenging. "We didn't have enough waste bins, and mothers or staff sometimes had to go several floors down just to wash their hands or find a working toilet," Tahmina recalls.

Today, the ward has functional handwashing stations, color-coded waste bins, and personal waste buckets for patients, helping ensure proper hygiene and waste management. These changes have strengthened infection prevention and improved safety for mothers and newborns.

"We now have better facilities, and we have been trained to use them properly," says Tahmina. "What we need now is regular upkeep and maintenance support so these improvements last."

Returning Home, Moving Forward

When 40-year-old Nasima Begum from Tangail rolls up the shutters of her small tailoring shop each morning, the rhythmic sound of her sewing machine reminds her of how far she's come. Like many Bangladeshis, Nasima left home to earn a living abroad. Her journey started with determination and a loan. After six years as a health worker in Saudi Arabia, she had to return home abruptly after enduring years-long exploitation by her employer.

Nasima suffered physically and emotionally. "In my final 18 months in Saudi Arabia, the situation worsened further. My employer stopped paying me altogether. At the same time, back in Bangladesh, tragedy struck – my son was in a serious road accident. His treatment required large sums of money, and I had no savings left. I desperately sought help from neighbours and relatives and eventually returned home — spending my last riyals on my son's recovery."

Nasima's experience mirrors that of hundreds of thousands of Bangladeshi migrants who returned home with bare hands, many as victims of exploitation or having lost their jobs during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.

Nasima's experience reflects the challenges faced by thousands of Bangladeshi migrants returning after job losses, exploitation or the economic disruptions following COVID-19.

Returning to Bangladesh, they brought back memories of a better time, their newfound skills and a quiet struggle — the anxiety of returning home to mounting debt, unemployment, and the stigma of "failed migration." Many had spent years supporting their families through remittances that fuel Bangladesh's economy, only to find themselves uncertain of their role when they came back.

To address these challenges, the Government of Bangladesh, with support from the World Bank and UN launched the Recovery and Advancement of Informal Sector Employment (RAISE) project.

Working with the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment and the Wage Earners' Welfare Board, the project established 31 Expatriate Welfare Centres (EWCs) across 30 districts, providing one-stop services for returning migrants. These centres offer counselling, skills training, financial literacy, remittance management and entrepreneurship support, along with psychosocial assistance for migrants coping with trauma and reintegration challenges.

When Nasima first heard about the EWC in her district, she hesitated. "I thought it was just another office," she said. "But when I met the counsellor there, she listened. Really listened." At the Center, she received personalized counselling, learned basic financial



planning, and enrolled in a tailoring course. A few months later, with a small incentive of BDT 13,500, she opened her shop — the same one that now hums with the sound of sewing machines and conversation. Her counsellor, Farzana, remembers her well. “We see hundreds of returnees each month,” she said, “but Nasima stood out for her determination. What she needed most was a plan and someone to believe in her.”

Across Bangladesh, the RAISE project has registered over 228,000 returning migrants, provided counselling to more

than 217,000 individuals, referred over 213,000 migrants to services, trained over 111,000 returnees, and supported around 200,000 migrants with cash assistance to rebuild their livelihoods.

The success of RAISE lies not only in the number of people served but also in how it has reimagined reintegration services in Bangladesh. It recognizes that the story of migration does not end with return—it continues as migrant workers rebuild their lives, restore dignity and contribute to their communities.

When Awareness Turns Into Action: How A School In Chapainawabganj Stands Up Against Child Marriage

At Nawabganj High School in Chapainawabganj, Bangladesh, 13-year-old Asfia Rehani dreams of continuing her education and avoiding early marriage, a bold stance in a district where 73% of girls marry before 18. Poverty and entrenched social norms drive families to prioritize marriage over schooling, with about 20% of students dropping out annually, mostly girls.

COVID-19 worsened the situation, as economic hardship pushed families to see early marriage as a way to reduce expenses. Teachers, led by Head Teacher Hasinur Rahman and Assistant Head Teacher Shahnaz Begum, fight back through awareness campaigns, parent meetings, and vigilance, though many marriages still occur in secret.

Nawabganj High School joined a new initiative under the Global Programme to End Child Marriage (GPECM) Phase III, supported by the UN in collaboration with the Department of Secondary and Higher Education, Department of Women Affairs and local implementing partner Concerned Women for Family Development. The project trains teachers on gender equality, adolescent sexual and reproductive health, and rights-based communication. Boys are also learning to challenge harmful norms, recognizing shared responsibility in marriage and the importance of education.

The initiative extends beyond classrooms, engaging parents, community leaders, and local authorities to intervene in child marriage cases. With 352 schools

across Chapainawabganj adopting similar life skills and awareness programmes, momentum is building toward cultural change.

Bangladesh has made progress in recent years, yet child marriage remains one of the most persistent human-rights challenges. Almost every second girl (47%) in the country still marries before the age of 18, and 13% before 15. The consequences are severe, higher risks of maternal mortality, health complications, and interrupted education.

Despite challenges, small victories, like students openly rejecting early marriage, signal progress. For the teachers of Nawabganj High School, this is just the beginning. "Every time a girl stays in school, we win a small victory," says Head Teacher, Mr. Hasinur Rahman. "And if we keep trying, one day child marriage will be history."



2.4 Climate, Pollution and Biodiversity

Strategic Priority 3 Sustainable, Healthy and Resilient Environment

By 2027 ecosystems are healthier, and all people, in particular the most vulnerable and marginalized in both rural and urban settings, benefit from and contribute in a gender-responsive manner to a cleaner and more resilient environment, an enriched natural resource base, low carbon development, and are prosperous and more resilient to climate change, shocks and disasters.

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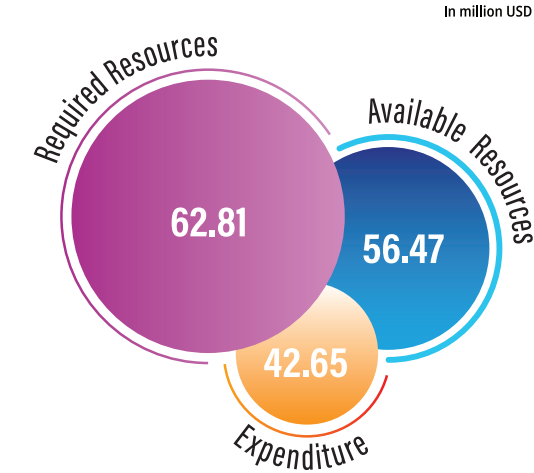
Japan Association for the WFP, Norway, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, United States Agency for International Development, Adaptation Fund, Central Emergency Response Fund, Disaster Preparedness ECHO Programme, The Global Environment Facility, The Green Climate Fund, Switch Asia-European Union.

*Top 10 donors

In 2025, Bangladesh had a rare reprieve from major climate-related disasters, enabling the Government and partners to consolidate preparedness and climate resilience activities and step up efforts to protect the environment and its precious biodiversity.

Advancing Early Warnings for All

In 2025, the UN supported Bangladesh in advancing Early Warnings for All (EW4All) from consultation to formal adoption of the EW4All National Roadmap (2025–2030). Following extensive planning and multi-stakeholder engagement, the Government endorsed the roadmap in November, establishing a coordinated framework to strengthen end-to-end multi-hazard early warning systems, clarify institutional roles and mobilize resources to expand nationwide



coverage. Bangladesh also shared its EW4All experience at the 30th session of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), contributing to global dialogue on multi-hazard early warning systems and financing pathways.

Additionally, work advanced on Bangladesh’s National Emergency

Telecommunication Plan, alongside the testing and exploration of cell broadcast solutions to strengthen last-mile warning dissemination, enabling faster and more reliable delivery of life-saving alerts. Capacity-building efforts supported risk knowledge, early warning operations and communication, including targeted training on risk assessment and the Common Alerting Protocol, as well as dedicated engagement with media representatives to improve understanding of forecast uncertainty and early warning messaging across multiple regions.

Tracking Climate-Induced Displacement and Strengthening Resilience

Bangladesh is expected to experience intensifying climate hazards, including cyclones, floods, erosion and salinity in the near future. These climate phenomena will continue to drive internal migration toward urban centers. In partnership with the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, the UN strengthened national systems in 2025 to address

rising climate-induced displacement. The nationwide assessment carried out by the UN, estimated that nearly 5 million people are internally displaced due to natural disasters, highlighting persistent vulnerabilities such as unsafe housing, unemployment and inadequate sanitation. The initiative strengthened policy dialogue, institutional coordination and development of displacement data frameworks.

Operational progress included training personnel from 300 evacuation shelters, developing Evacuation Shelter Management Guidelines and establishing a National Evacuation Shelter Database. Over 8,000 shelters were mapped nationwide, and renovation efforts improved preparedness in high-risk districts. Additional support included climate-resilient livelihood training for over 300 individuals, shelter assistance for 400 disaster-affected people and targeted WASH services, strengthening resilience and access to essential services for vulnerable communities.



Support to Disaster Resilience and Early Recovery

The UN supported Bangladesh to strengthen climate resilience at community and systems levels. Across climate-vulnerable areas, more than 1,800 Cyclone Preparedness Programme volunteers were trained, while nearly 5,900 farmers adopted climate-resilient agriculture practices and over 5,400 people received support for climate-sensitive livelihoods. Resilience investments also strengthened local adaptation systems through climate-resilient housing, embankments, solar-run cold storage, five Local Adaptation Programmes of Action, and an operational Adaptation Learning Centre.

Building on recovery from the 2024 eastern flash floods, the UN supported 5,000 high-risk households with shelter repair and technical guidance, while 1,833 female-headed households received livelihood support for early recovery.

Risk Financing and Insurance for Climate Resilience

In 2025, the UN supported risk-financing solutions to protect livelihoods and stabilize incomes of climate-vulnerable communities. Building on prior pilots, the UN implemented a cooperative self-insurance product for 17,130 smallholder farmers in Cox's Bazar, strengthening collective risk pooling and timely recovery after shocks. Complementing this, UN support to develop flood, cyclone, and crop micro-insurance schemes has reached more than 50,000 households since 2020, expanding access to affordable, context-specific protection. The UN also expanded crop and livestock insurance

to 3,584 highly vulnerable households in Khulna and Kurigram, including women-headed households, further broadening risk protection for climate-vulnerable populations by generating BDT 476,880 in payouts to provide timely support to vulnerable households affected by climate-induced losses. Together, these instruments help smallholder farmers manage climate and market volatility, reduce distress coping, and safeguard productive assets which are key enablers for food security and inclusive growth.

At the policy level, approval of the National Strategy for Disaster Risk Financing in 2025 marked an important step. In nine climate-vulnerable districts, performance-based climate finance and community-driven adaptation reduced risks for 34,700 people, restored 355 hectares of land for climate-smart agriculture, ensured daily access to 260,000 litres of safe water, and strengthened adaptive capacity and financial literacy for 42,500 beneficiaries. Adoption of the Climate Vulnerability Index in local fiscal allocation processes further advanced climate-responsive planning and financing.

In collaboration with regulators and national institutions, UN support advanced development of a microinsurance regulatory framework, government-led agricultural insurance, and local capacity in actuarial analysis and inclusive insurance. Together, these efforts marked progress toward a more robust and scalable insurance ecosystem for climate resilience.

Ecosystem Restoration

Completion of the National Forest Inventory strengthened Bangladesh's ability to manage its forest resources



FAO

sustainably and meet international climate reporting commitments. Conducted in partnership with the Forest Department, with UN support and World Bank financing, the inventory delivers updated data on forest status, biomass and carbon stocks, enhancing evidence-based policy and climate finance readiness.

Ecosystem restoration efforts in Cox's Bazar and other climate-exposed districts contributed to increased forest cover, improved biodiversity and strengthened land stabilization. The UN supported the restoration of 524 hectares of forests, combined with establishment of permanent nurseries and extensive capacity-building for over 4,000 participants, including more than 1,200 women. These efforts enhanced institutional and community capacity for sustainable forest management. Improved safe disposal practices for hazardous agricultural waste further reduced environmental and public health risks.

Biodiversity Conservation

Ecosystem-based Adaptation interventions in the Barind Tract and Haor wetlands strengthened water security, protected biodiversity, and enhanced climate resilience for vulnerable communities. Rehabilitation of ponds, canals and wetlands restored local water systems, supporting irrigation, fisheries and domestic use, while expanded tree cover reduced erosion and improved soil stability. In addition to conserving local biodiversity, these interventions directly benefited more than 16,000 people, with an additional 54,400 indirect beneficiaries, contributing to diversified eco-friendly livelihoods, improved food security, and reduced vulnerability to climate shocks.

The UN also stepped-up biodiversity conservation support along Bangladesh's ecologically fragile coastal areas. On Saint Martin's Island, Bangladesh's only coral reef island, the Government advanced a master plan with UN technical support for

consolidation and broader consultation, helping integrate community perspectives into conservation planning.

In Cox's Bazar, biodiversity protection was strengthened through the release of around 5,600 sea turtle hatchlings, restoration of 2 hectares of mangroves to stabilize shorelines and support habitat recovery, and establishment of community-based conservation groups, including Elephant Response Teams and Sea Turtle Conservation Groups. Together, these efforts reinforced ecosystem protection while linking biodiversity conservation with community resilience and local economic opportunities.

Contributions to Bangladesh's Updated NDC 3.0

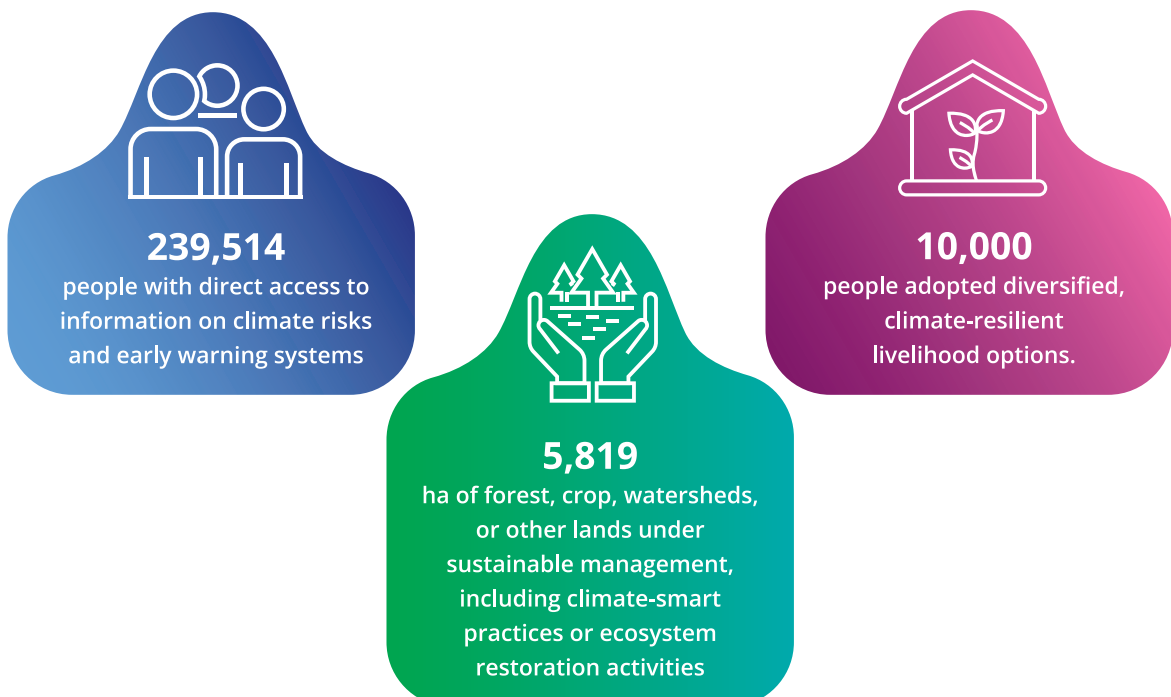
The UN provided multi-agency technical, and analytical support to the Government of Bangladesh in preparing its third Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC

3.0), which Bangladesh submitted to the UNFCCC in September 2025.

This support led to Bangladesh becoming the first country in Asia to include a dedicated Just Transition chapter in its updated NDC 3.0. The chapter embeds decent work, social justice and inclusive economic transformation within national climate policy, committing to tripartite social dialogue, stronger labour protections and skills development to support workers transitioning from carbon-intensive to green sectors.

The NDC 3.0 also sets a global precedent for youth inclusion, placing children and young people at the center of national climate action. By prioritizing inclusive participation and safeguarding essential services during climate shocks, the framework promotes fairer, more resilient climate solutions that strengthen community well-being across Bangladesh.

Key Results in 2025



Innovative Partnerships Unlock USD 20 Million To Strengthen Anticipatory Action For Floods And Cyclones

Through expanded partnerships and collaboration across the UN, NGOs and Red Crescent movement, the UN helped to pre-position nearly USD 20 million in multi-year joint financing for anticipatory action (AA) in 2025. These ready-to-deploy AA funds are designed to enable communities to receive support before floods and cyclones strike, helping households and small businesses strengthen preparedness, safeguard assets, protect livelihoods and maintain access to essential services, including health care.

The package taps into pooled funds, including USD 10 million from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), with USD 6 million allocated for monsoon riverine floods and USD 4 million for cyclones.

This support reflects CERF's mandate to provide flexible and timely financing for humanitarian action, and it was made possible by the generosity of CERF's top donors in 2025, including the United Kingdom, Norway, the Netherlands, Denmark, and Ireland.

A further USD 10 million* was secured through co-financing from UN agencies and NGO partners. Together, these resources brought the total available for AA in Bangladesh to nearly USD 20 million, strengthening capacity for early interventions for communities at highest risk.

As climate impacts intensify, AA is increasingly recognised as an efficient and cost-effective way to deliver life-saving support. Impact evaluations show that people who receive cash ahead of floods experience less hunger, better mental health and skipped fewer meals than those who receive this assistance weeks or months after the peak flooding. Global evidence shows that every USD 1 invested early can save up to USD 7 in response costs.

* For monsoon riverine floods: WFP, Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS), BRAC, Concern Worldwide, Start Network, and Save the Children have secured over \$3,993,055 in additional co-funding. For cyclones: BDRCS, BRAC, STEP, UNFPA, UNICEF, Islamic Relief, Save the Children, START Network, and WFP have secured \$5,951,987 in additional funding.





UNRCO



WFP



UNICEF

The AA frameworks were developed in close collaboration with the Government of Bangladesh and humanitarian partners. They build on lessons from after-action reviews and include strengthened early warning, improved forecasting, and an inter-agency plan to enable coordinated action in response to pre-defined triggers.

Through this co-financing mechanism and coordinated implementation, partners are eliminating duplication, improving coherence and strengthening the capacity to act early. Bangladesh is demonstrating that innovative, well-coordinated action can save lives and livelihoods while reducing the overall cost of responding to climate shocks.

Because the support arrived before the flooding worsened, we had what we needed at home. The diapers, pillow and antiseptic made a big difference in caring for my baby when going outside wasn't possible."

— Fatema, young mother, Jamalpur

2.5 Governance and Human Rights

Strategic Priority 4

Transformative, Participatory and Inclusive Governance

By 2027 more people, especially the most vulnerable, benefit from more equitable, nondiscriminatory, gender-responsive, participatory, accountable governance and justice, in a peaceful and tolerant society governed by the rule of law.

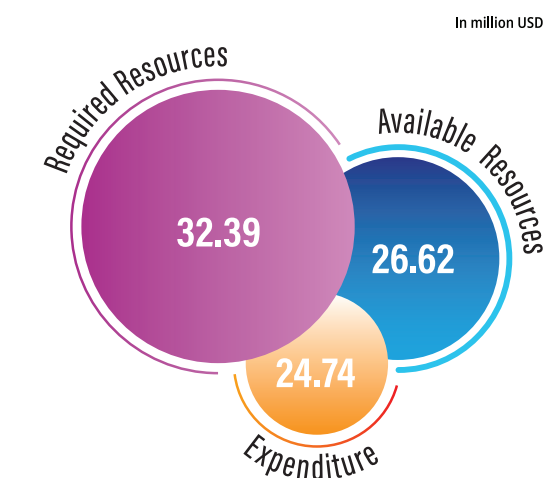
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Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade & Department of Home Affairs, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, Global Affairs Canada, Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation, Japan, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, European Union, GiveDirectly, Multi-Partner Trust Fund.

*Top 10 donors

The UN's work on governance and human rights expanded significantly in 2025 as the Interim Government's reform agenda progressed, and preparations for the 2026 National Parliamentary Election got underway. A key milestone was the launch of the UN electoral assistance project, a joint initiative providing technical support to strengthen electoral capacity and inclusive participation processes. In parallel, the UN advanced justice and labour reform initiatives through policy dialogue, advisory support and institutional capacity development aligned with international standards.

The publication in February of the OHCHR Fact-Finding Report on Violations and abuses related to the protests of July and August 2024 was a landmark development. Following this, OHCHR became the newest member of the UNCT after signing a three-year Memorandum of Understanding with Bangladesh. The new OHCHR mission will engage directly on the ground with the Government, civil



society and others to provide expertise and assistance on the fundamental reforms Bangladesh is undertaking. The new mission will offer training and technical assistance to the authorities across a range of areas, towards meeting the country's national and international human rights commitments, as well as undertake capacity-building for government institutions and civil society actors.

Strengthening Electoral Integrity and Public Trust through Support to the Bangladesh Election Commission

At the formal request of the Bangladesh Election Commission and under the mandate of the UN Secretary-General, the UN launched the BALLOT electoral assistance project in 2025, in line with the recommendations of a UN Needs Assessment Mission. UN support strengthened institutional capacity, civic engagement and information integrity ahead of the 2026 National Parliamentary Election. Early results included updating the national voter list, covering 127.6 million citizens (62.8 million women, 64.7 million men and 1,230 Hijra voters), and enrolment of 7.89 million new voters. The improvement of registration, verification and operational readiness, alongside targeted outreach to women, youth, persons with disabilities and minority groups, helped to lay the foundations for more inclusive, credible and accountable elections.

Advancing Judicial Independence, Access to Justice and Labour Reform

In 2025, the UN supported justice sector reform in line with the Chief Justice's Reform Roadmap, contributing to progress toward a more independent, efficient and accessible justice system. Support helped advance key reform measures, including the Judicial Appointment Council Ordinance, the Supreme Court Secretariat Ordinance, the draft Commercial Court Ordinance, amendments to the Legal Aid Act, and establishment of e-Family Court.



It also strengthened judicial digitization, digital court processes, a new Supreme Court helpline, and Digital Legal Aid in eight pilot districts. Expanded Village Courts provided local justice services, enabling 3,041 Union Parishads to provide fast and affordable dispute resolution, and delivery services to around 61 million citizens. In total 80,035 cases resolved at an average cost of USD 2.70 per case within 18 days.

The UN also provided support to labour reforms, upon request from the Government, workers' and employers' organizations. This included amendments to the Bangladesh Labour Act, and the ratification of three key ILO Conventions, namely Conventions 155 and 187, on occupational safety and health, which are fundamental principles and rights at work, as well as Convention 190 on violence and harassment.

Support to Law Reform on Human Rights

The UN supported review of Bangladesh's legal framework on human rights, and provided recommendations to strengthen rights protection, including redesign of the National Human Rights Commission. This contributed to the drafting and approval of the National Human Rights Commission Ordinance 2025, which sets out an expansion of the Commission's mandate and reinforces its independence, authority and autonomy. Informed by national consultation with around 600 victims, stakeholders and experts, the reform addressed key gaps in independence, investigative authority and access.

The new framework would enhance financial autonomy, introduce more transparent appointment processes and enable decentralization of services beyond Dhaka. This would mark a step toward alignment with the Paris Principles, strengthening institutional accountability and access to remedies, including legal aid, rehabilitation and compensation.

A Child Rights Manifesto for Bangladesh

As the year drew to a close, UN agencies stepped up advocacy with political parties as they developed their policies and election manifestos. A Child Rights Manifesto was adopted and endorsed by 12 political parties, reflecting a shared commitment to a 10-point child-rights agenda. This initiative helped position child rights as a core electoral priority, laying the ground for inclusive and child-responsive governance ahead of the 2026 polls.

Harnessing Emerging Technologies for Inclusive Digital Transformation

In 2025, the UN supported the Government of Bangladesh to advance an inclusive, ethical, and nationally owned approach to artificial intelligence and digital transformation. In close partnership with government institutions, the UN supported the application of a global AI Readiness Assessment to inform the development of national AI policy and governance frameworks. This government-led, multi-stakeholder process provided evidence-based analysis of Bangladesh's institutional, legal, and technical readiness to govern and deploy AI responsibly, in line with international ethical standards. The assessment identified priority gaps in connectivity, digital and AI skills, data protection, cybersecurity, and gender and rural inclusion, while recognizing progress in e-government and public trust in digital services. Through technical assistance, policy dialogue, and validation workshops, the UN helped translate global norms into actionable, nationally owned priorities that position AI as a driver of inclusive and sustainable development.

Advancing Inclusive, Participatory and Rights-based Governance

The UN supported the Interim Government's reform agenda by advancing inclusive, participatory, and rights-based governance that placed women, youth, media, and civil society at the centre of decision-making. Through initiatives promoting democratic reforms and inclusive participation, the UN strengthened women's leadership, youth

engagement, and the participation of marginalized groups in political and governance processes, contributing to the restoration of public trust in state institutions. These efforts were reinforced by the Women’s Manifesto, a nationwide, grassroots process that articulated women’s priority reform demands and provided an evidence-based agenda to inform political dialogue, legal reform, and institutional accountability. Complementing this, the UN launched the design phase of a Youth Voice Mechanism, which created a structured national platform for young people—particularly young women and underrepresented groups—to engage meaningfully in

policy discussions during the transitional period. The UN also supported a freer, more independent and pluralistic media environment. A joint assessment of the media sector analysed legal, institutional, financial and professional challenges, identifying barriers such as restrictive laws, market distortions, safety risks for journalists and gender inequality, while proposing practical reform pathways. Its findings informed the interim government’s Media Reform Commission and strengthened national dialogue on journalist protection, gender equality, media and information literacy, helping expand civic space and support more transparent and accountable governance.

Key Results in 2025





A Historic Step For Safer Workplaces: Ratification Of ILO Convention 190

In November 2025, Bangladesh marked a historic milestone in advancing labour rights by ratifying ILO Convention No. 190 on Violence and Harassment in the World of Work. With this action, Bangladesh became the first country in Asia to ratify all fundamental ILO conventions and the first in South Asia to adopt Convention 190, reinforcing its commitment to international labour standards and safer workplaces.

Convention 190 establishes a comprehensive global framework to prevent and address violence and harassment in the world of work, including gender-based violence. It applies to all workers—across formal and informal sectors—and requires governments to strengthen legal protections, enforcement mechanisms and workplace policies to prevent abuse and ensure accountability.

The ratification followed the adoption of the Bangladesh Labour (Amendment) Ordinance, 2025, which strengthened national legal provisions related to

occupational safety, harassment prevention and worker protections. The UN supported nationally led reform efforts through policy dialogue, technical advisory engagement and alignment with international labour standards.

The significance of Convention 190 extends beyond legal reform. In sectors such as garments, agriculture, domestic work and services, where women represent a substantial share of the workforce, the Convention provides a stronger legal foundation to address harassment, discrimination and unsafe working conditions. By aligning national legislation with global standards, Bangladesh has reinforced institutional accountability and strengthened protections for millions of workers.

The ratification signals a broader commitment to dignity at work, promoting safe, inclusive and equitable workplaces as a foundation for sustainable economic development and social justice.

2.6 Gender Equality and Eliminating Gender-based Violence

Strategic Priority 5

Gender Equality and Eliminating Gender-Based Violence

By 2027, more women, girls and sexual minorities benefit from an environment in which they are empowered to exercise their rights, agency and decision-making power over all aspects of their lives and towards a life free from all forms of discrimination, violence and harmful norms and practices.

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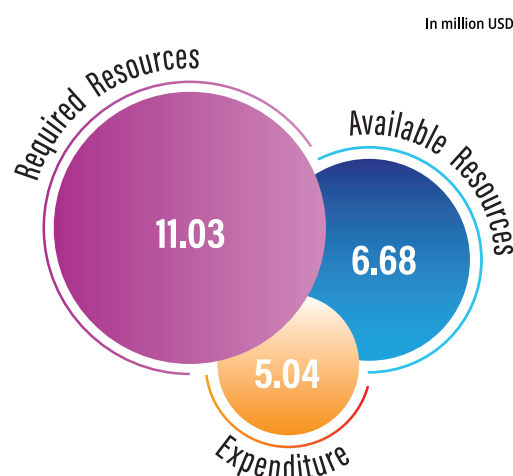
Global Affairs Canada, Japan, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Central Emergency Response Fund, European Union, Global Agriculture and Food Security Program, The Global Environment Facility, The World Bank.

*Top 10 donors

Advancing gender equality and eliminating gender-based violence remained a central priority in 2025. The UN supported strengthened legal frameworks, institutional capacity and survivor-centered approaches to address persistent gender-based violence and discrimination.

Strengthening Gender-Responsive Legal and Policy Frameworks

In 2025, two key gender-related laws and regulatory reforms were advanced, meeting national targets for strengthened legislation. Progress under the Domestic Violence and Sexual Harassment frameworks reinforced legal protections, clarified institutional responsibilities and strengthened accountability mechanisms. Institutional capacity indicators exceeded targets, reflecting improved coordination and policy engagement across relevant government entities.



The ratification of ILO Convention No. 190 on Violence and Harassment in the World of Work strengthened legal protections against gender-based violence and harassment across formal and informal workplaces and reinforced safer, more equitable working environments, particularly for women.

Another milestone was the announcement of four commitments by the Interim

Government at the UN General Assembly and the Beijing+30 High-Level Meeting, building on priorities proposed by the UN Country Team to advance gender equality and women's empowerment. Throughout the year, advocacy by the Women's Affairs Reform Commission and women's rights organizations was supported through coordinated platforms such as the Local Consultative Group on Women's Advancement and Gender Equality (LCG WAGE) and the LCG Development Partner Executive Committee, strengthening alignment, joint action and policy coherence across UN entities and development partners.

Strengthening Evidence and Data Systems on Violence Against Women

The completion of the 2024 National Violence Against Women (VAW) prevalence survey, with the final report launched in October 2025, provides the most comprehensive dataset on gender-based violence in Bangladesh to date. The survey combined national statistical analysis with qualitative research, aligning prevalence trends with survivors' lived experiences and strengthening the foundation for evidence-informed policy and programming. Findings confirm that a substantial proportion of women experience physical, emotional or sexual violence during their lifetime and in the 12 months leading up to the survey, with significant variation across regions and socio-economic groups, particularly in disaster-prone areas and urban slums. The survey highlights persistent barriers to reporting and accessing services, including stigma, fear of retaliation and limited awareness of available support. These insights are informing national

prevention strategies, legislative review processes and improvements in survivor-centred service delivery. By strengthening data transparency and institutional accountability, the VAW survey supports coordinated, evidence-based efforts to prevent violence, protect survivors and promote safer environments for women and girls across Bangladesh.

Preventing Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence

The 16 Days of Activism campaign focused on technology-facilitated gender-based violence, expanding public dialogue on digital safety, harmful online norms and reporting mechanisms. A national joint event organized by the UN, partners and the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs highlighted the prevalence and impact of online GBV in Bangladesh, strengthening awareness and promoting coordinated prevention and survivor protection in digital spaces. Complementary communication initiatives, including the "Cartoons for Equality" exhibition and interactive drama on digital safety "Vote Shomachar", alongside media roundtables and talk shows, helped broaden public engagement and encourage collective





UNDP

action by government, technology platforms, educators and communities to address digital violence.

Strengthening Institutional Coordination and Survivor Services

Efforts continued to strengthen survivor-centered services and institutional response mechanisms. While progress

was made in advancing legal frameworks, continued efforts are required to fully operationalize national coordination mechanisms and sustain institutional reforms. Through legislative reform, strengthened data systems and enhanced institutional capacity, UN support in 2025 contributed to advancing safer, more inclusive and accountable systems for women and girls.

Key Results in 2025



111 facilities in priority districts provided survivor-centred GBV response services



29 national and local institutions applied gender-responsive budgeting tools, enabling more equitable allocation of public resources



83,352 women and girls received case management, health and psychosocial support, legal services, and awareness-raising



Addressing Digital Violence Through Storytelling

After posting content or expressing an opinion, receiving threats of physical assault and rape has become a regular phenomenon,” says Maisha Mahjabeen Prioty, a student, activist and artist, describing her online experiences. “If I turn off the comments section, they message me directly. If I ignore those messages, I receive abusive emails. Once it starts, it becomes a wave. I usually wear a mask when I go out – not because of pollution, but to hide my face and feel a little safer. It affects me in every possible way, every day. I am conscious of what I wear and where I go, because I know that the hatred I face online could at any moment become a reality offline.”

This experience is shared by many young women and girls in Bangladesh. According to an unpublished UN study, online harassment rose sharply during and after the civil unrest of 2024, with 66 per cent of women saying they’d received explicit or threatening messages on social media. Global studies suggest that 16–58 per cent of women experience digital violence.

To understand such experiences, thousands of young people have been engaging with the interactive online drama “Safetyforher. Net”, which asks them to step into the

lives of women navigating harassment, privacy violations and social pressure – both online and offline. Created by the UN, the interactive film invites viewers to make choices for its characters – whether to report, share or stay silent, revealing how everyday decisions can either reinforce harm or create change.

By combining entertainment and education, the initiative has turned awareness into action, encouraging empathy, accountability and dialogue on issues seldom discussed openly.

Last year, more than 480,000 people across Bangladesh viewed the interactive drama, and over 230,000 participated in shaping the storyline – 46.5 per cent were aged 18–24. The findings revealed fewer than half of participants recognized online bullying or workplace harassment as gender-based violence, and many said they’d handle situations privately rather than report them, often due to stigma.

These findings are now helping UN and partners to strengthen prevention programmes and design interventions rooted in real behaviour instead of assumptions.



2.7 Rohingya Refugee Response

In 2025, Bangladesh continued to show generosity and compassion in hosting Rohingya refugees. By the close of the year, nearly 1.2 million Rohingya refugees were housed in the camps of Cox's Bazar and on the island of Bhasan Char, nine years into the protracted crisis. Some 140,000 new arrivals were identified through joint biometric identification with the Government, now comprising 12 per cent of the camp population. Conditions in Myanmar remained unsafe and not conducive to voluntary, dignified, and sustainable return.

In an overall environment of reduced funding, a prioritization exercise completed in April firewalled urgent, lifesaving needs. However, response partners were forced to reduce services, cut costs and deprioritize non-essential activities, contributing to worsening living conditions. The 2025 Inter-Sector Needs Assessment showed mixed trends: improvements in school enrolment, health access, and perceptions of safety, alongside declining water and waste management services, overcrowding, and worsening nutrition and health. Vulnerable groups—including youth, persons with

disabilities, women and girls, and older persons—faced heightened risks, while new arrivals remained worse off across most sectors.

Delivering Results for Refugees and the Host Community

Despite funding constraints, population growth, and rising protection risks, partners worked with the Government to sustain lifesaving assistance. Refugees received food, cooking fuel, and safe water; health services delivered around 400,000 consultations monthly. Nutrition programmes supported over 100,000 children and mothers, and more than 300,000 children accessed learning. Skills training reached over 9,000 refugees, while protection partners provided counselling and case management to tens of thousands. Biometric registration enabled some 37,000 newly arrived families to receive assistance. In parallel, localized early warning systems for landslides and extreme weather were expanded, alongside reforestation, slope stabilization and community-based risk reduction measures,

improving preparedness, reducing environmental degradation and supporting livelihoods through cash-for-work and volunteer engagement.

Cost-saving measures included consolidating facilities, standardizing services, expanding community-based approaches, and sharing resources such as fleets, warehouses, and offices. Expanded solid waste management systems, including sanitary landfill operations, improved waste collection and processing, and recycling and composting initiatives, reduced environmental and public health risks for both refugees and host communities, while strengthening more sustainable service delivery systems. Combined with donor flexibility and fewer natural disasters in 2025, these steps helped avert a major crisis.

To support a more adaptive and coordinated response, the UN further strengthened data and analysis for decision-making. Through dedicated analytical capacities, including the Cox's Bazar Analysis and Research Unit, the UN generated timely insights on risks, protection concerns and regional dynamics that informed programming and improved inter-agency coordination.

In parallel, the Government of Bangladesh led efforts to mobilize international support. High-level events—including the UN Secretary-General's Ramadan visit; the Stakeholders' Dialogue with refugee leaders; the International High-Level Conference on the Situation of Rohingya Refugees, a UN General Assembly side event; and the Global Refugee Forum Strategic Dialogue—sustained attention on the crisis and reinforced calls for a political solution in Myanmar.

Looking Forward

Humanitarian conditions remain fragile heading into 2025. Funding shortfalls and deprioritization of critical activities have increased vulnerability in the world's largest refugee settlement. The 2025 Refugee Influx Emergency Vulnerability Assessment (REVA) found 83 per cent of households highly vulnerable, including 33% categorized as extremely food insecure.

From 1 April 2026, food assistance will be prioritized for the most vulnerable, in parallel with other service reductions. A recalibrated 2025/26 Joint Response Plan (JRP) will focus on urgent needs and cost-effective approaches, aligned with Government priorities, to sustain minimum humanitarian standards through an integrated "one-camp approach." These measures have reduced the projected 2026 appeal by over USD 250 million to USD 710 million, almost 30 per cent, compared to 2025.

Sustained humanitarian funding is needed to prevent further deterioration of essential services and reversal of gains in camp living standards.





Host Community Farmers Find A New Market In The Rohingya Camps: Almas's Story

Every morning, Almas, a smallholder farmer from Cox's Bazar, gathers freshly harvested vegetables and makes her way to the Balukhali aggregation centre. Only a few years ago, she had no reliable market for her crops. She didn't know how to negotiate prices, and much of her produce spoiled before she could sell it.

Everything changed when she started receiving UN's support aimed at strengthening local food systems and building the resilience of smallholder farmers.

Today, Almas sells her produce at fair prices to local buyers as part of the UN's food assistance programme for the Rohingya population – now nearly 1.2 million people.

When WFP piloted its local rice procurement initiative, Almas expanded into paddy farming. She now leads an all-

women producer committee representing more than 1,000 farmers who sell through the Balukhali aggregation centre.

The training they received from the UN partners in climate-smart agriculture and post-harvest handling has been a game changer. "Now we earn more, waste less, and feel proud of what we produce," she says.

Since 2021, UN and its partners have established 62 aggregation centres across Cox's Bazar, 32 managed directly by the UN. These hubs allow farmers – most of them women – to clean, grade, store and sell their produce at predictable, fair prices. By sourcing part of its vegetable, rice and other fresh produce needs for the Rohingya response locally, the UN helps to shorten supply chains, reduces transport costs, and injects millions of dollars into the Bangladeshi economy every month.





CHAPTER 03

PARTNERSHIPS, SDG FINANCING AND UN COHERENCE

3.1 Whole of Society Approaches and Financing for the 2030 Agenda Government-led Coordination and Global Engagement

Government-led Coordination and Global Engagement

The UN continued to strengthen Government-led coordination platforms to advance Bangladesh's development priorities and implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Engagement with key ministries and institutions supported alignment of development partner assistance with national priorities, including the Smooth Transition Strategy for LDC graduation and SDG financing frameworks. Through these platforms, the UN facilitated policy dialogue and coordination among government entities, development partners and national stakeholders to advance reform priorities and strengthen evidence-based planning.

Bangladesh also expanded its engagement in global policy dialogues and multilateral cooperation. With UN support, the country joined the UN Water Convention in 2025, becoming the first South Asian country to accede to the agreement and strengthening international cooperation on transboundary water management and climate resilience. High-level visits by the UN Secretary-General and senior UN officials further reinforced system-wide support to Bangladesh during a period of transition and reform, highlighting the country's leadership in areas such as climate action and the Rohingya response. Participation in international climate forums, including preparations for Conference of Parties engagements, also strengthened Bangladesh's global role in climate diplomacy.

Collaboration with International Financial Institutions

Partnerships with international financial institutions, including the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, supported policy reforms and investment initiatives linked to Bangladesh's economic transition. Joint engagement focused on strengthening trade negotiation capacity, improving the investment climate and advancing development financing reforms. This was complemented by World Bank-supported initiatives on Inclusive Services and Opportunities for Host Communities and Rohingya Refugees, expanding access to services and economic opportunities for vulnerable populations.

Private Sector and Foundation Partnerships

Collaboration with the private sector expanded to mobilize investment, innovation and employment opportunities

aligned with the SDGs. Dialogue platforms with business associations supported responsible business practices and inclusive economic growth. Partnerships with foundations and companies helped advance youth skills development, digital inclusion and green entrepreneurship. Support from the City Bank Limited specifically contributed to advancing women's access to sexual and reproductive health services. Through the Generation Unlimited programme, implemented with private sector partners, 30,000 marginalized youth are being equipped with digital, financial and entrepreneurial skills to improve employability. In parallel, the Green Startup Grant, supported by The Coca-Cola Foundation, provided financing to young entrepreneurs developing circular economy solutions, contributing to sustainable industry transformation.

South-South and Triangular Cooperation

Bangladesh strengthened its role in South-South and triangular cooperation, sharing knowledge and innovations with partners across Asia and beyond. Initiatives such as the Agriculture Sector Transformation Programme and regional forums on employment-intensive infrastructure enabled countries to exchange experiences on climate-resilient agriculture, labour market development and infrastructure planning. These initiatives reinforced Bangladesh's position as both a contributor to and beneficiary of global knowledge exchange supporting sustainable development.

Advancing SDGs and Climate Financing

Efforts to strengthen SDG and climate financing were advanced through

support to the Government's Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF) and engagement in global financing platforms. The UN supported coordination between ministries, development partners and private sector actors to align financing flows with national priorities. The UN also supported Bangladesh's participation in global financing dialogues, including the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development, where the country advocated for increased climate finance and innovative financing approaches to sustain development momentum beyond LDC graduation.

Digital Transformation Partnerships

Partnerships also advanced digital governance and access to justice. The Digital Legal Aid Project, implemented with national institutions and supported by development partners, introduced online case management, virtual mediation and digital service delivery to improve access to legal aid. These innovations are helping reduce case backlogs, improve efficiency and expand access to justice for vulnerable populations.



3.2 Results of the UN Working More and Better Together

Multi-Stakeholder Support for VNR Data

UN entities supported the Government of Bangladesh in preparing its third Voluntary National Review (VNR) by providing technical and coordination support throughout the process. The UN Country Team facilitated consultations with government institutions, development partners, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders, strengthening data analysis and evidence-based reporting on progress toward the SDGs. Civil society organizations played

an active role through multi-stakeholder consultations and the preparation of complementary inputs to the national report, contributing to a more inclusive and comprehensive review. Key milestones included multi-stakeholder consultations, a workshop on SDG data gap analysis, and the preparation of civil society inputs, reinforcing Bangladesh's commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Stronger Together: How Joint Programming And Pooled Financing Accelerated Results In Bangladesh

In 2025, Bangladesh demonstrated the power of unified action, operating 24 joint programmes—one of the highest numbers in the Asia-Pacific region—and engaging 17 UN entities in coordinated delivery. Together, these programmes represent a USD 207 million joint programme multi-year portfolio aligned with national priorities and the UNSDCF.

A major enabler of this progress is the UN's use of pooled financing mechanisms, including those supported by the UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTF Office). Through harmonized financial management and transparent oversight, pooled financing enables Bangladesh to reduce fragmentation, improve alignment with government systems, and support multi-sector delivery at scale.

The steady increase in use of MPTF financing has translated into tangible country-level results. To date the Local Government Initiative on Climate Change (LoGIC) mobilized USD 45.48 million to

strengthen local-level adaptation planning and community-led resilience across climate vulnerable districts. In Cox's Bazar, the SAFE II joint programme deployed USD 31 million in pooled contributions to increase cleaner energy access, restore degraded land, and expand skills training for refugees and host communities, advancing humanitarian-development coherence through a single financing and delivery platform.

Public health capacities also advanced through pooled funding under the One Health approach, with almost USD 1 million supporting antimicrobial-resistance surveillance, laboratory systems, and awareness campaigns.

Joint programming further reinforced inclusion and social protection, with pooled financing supporting reintegration services for returning migrants, expanding access to primary health care, and enabling nationwide vaccine introduction and wasting-prevention initiatives. These

efforts demonstrated how pooled financing makes it possible to design and deliver integrated interventions that no single entity could implement alone.

Bangladesh's 2025 experience marks the consolidation of a coherent pooled financing ecosystem, aligned with the UN Development System Funding Compact and grounded in national ownership.

With strong foundations in climate action, humanitarian–development linkages, health system strengthening, and gender equality, the UN Country Team is well positioned for the next UNSDCF cycle.

The lesson from 2025 is clear: planning together, financing together, and delivering together accelerates results for people across Bangladesh.

Disability and Gender inclusion

In 2025, the UN Country Team in Bangladesh strengthened internal accountability on gender equality through quarterly tracking of workforce gender parity and collective efforts to improve representation across agencies. The UNCT also supported the Inter-Agency Disability Inclusion Team in developing a strategy and five-year action plan for implementing the UN Disability Inclusion Strategy (UNDIS), advancing more systematic and coordinated disability inclusion across the UN system.

Advancing the UN80 Initiative in Bangladesh

In 2025, the UN Country Team in Bangladesh advanced the UN80 initiative, supporting the Secretary-General's vision for a more efficient, coherent and impactful UN system. Through strengthened inter-agency collaboration, joint programming under the Cooperation Framework, and expanded common services, the UN system enhanced its collective support to national development priorities.



These efforts also included continued strengthening of common premises and shared services, including the operationalization of UN House in Dhaka, which brings together multiple UN entities and advances the Secretary-General's efficiency agenda while improving coordination and generating operational cost efficiencies.

Common Premises – Strengthening System-wide Collaboration

The UN House in Bangladesh, inaugurated by the United Nations Secretary-General, brings together 13 UN entities and over 540 staff, strengthening system-wide coordination and advancing the UN Secretary-General's efficiency agenda. Through shared services and streamlined operations, the Common Premises is expected to generate over USD 1.5 million in cost efficiencies over five years. UN House symbolizes the UN's strong partnership with the Government and people of Bangladesh in advancing the SDGs.

Operational Efficiencies and Cost-Effectiveness

In 2025, joint operational solutions under the Business Operations Strategy (BOS) strengthened efficiency and cost-effectiveness across the UN system in Bangladesh. Through 19 shared services across administration, human resources, ICT and procurement, UN agencies streamlined operations and improved coordination. These efforts generated USD 1.37 million in cost avoidance in 2025, contributing to projected cumulative efficiency gains of USD 14 million for 2021–2030. Strong system-wide engagement was reflected in 19 entities completing BOS reporting, reinforcing collective accountability and enabling more resources to be

directed toward programme delivery and development results.

3.3 Lessons Learned and Evaluations

In 2025, the Joint Steering Committee of the Cooperation Framework agreed to extend the implementation period by one year, until 31 December 2027, to align with the Government's national planning cycle and the evolving transition context. As part of this process, the UNCT undertook a review of the Cooperation Framework's output indicators to ensure continued relevance and alignment with current national priorities. Preparations were also initiated for the Cooperation Framework evaluation, which will be conducted in 2026.

This included the development of the evaluation terms of reference, consultations with technical and programme management groups, and the establishment of governance arrangements to guide the evaluation. The findings will provide evidence-based insights on the relevance, effectiveness and impact of the current Cooperation Framework and inform the design of the next Cooperation Framework cycle.

3.4 Financial Overview and Resource Mobilization

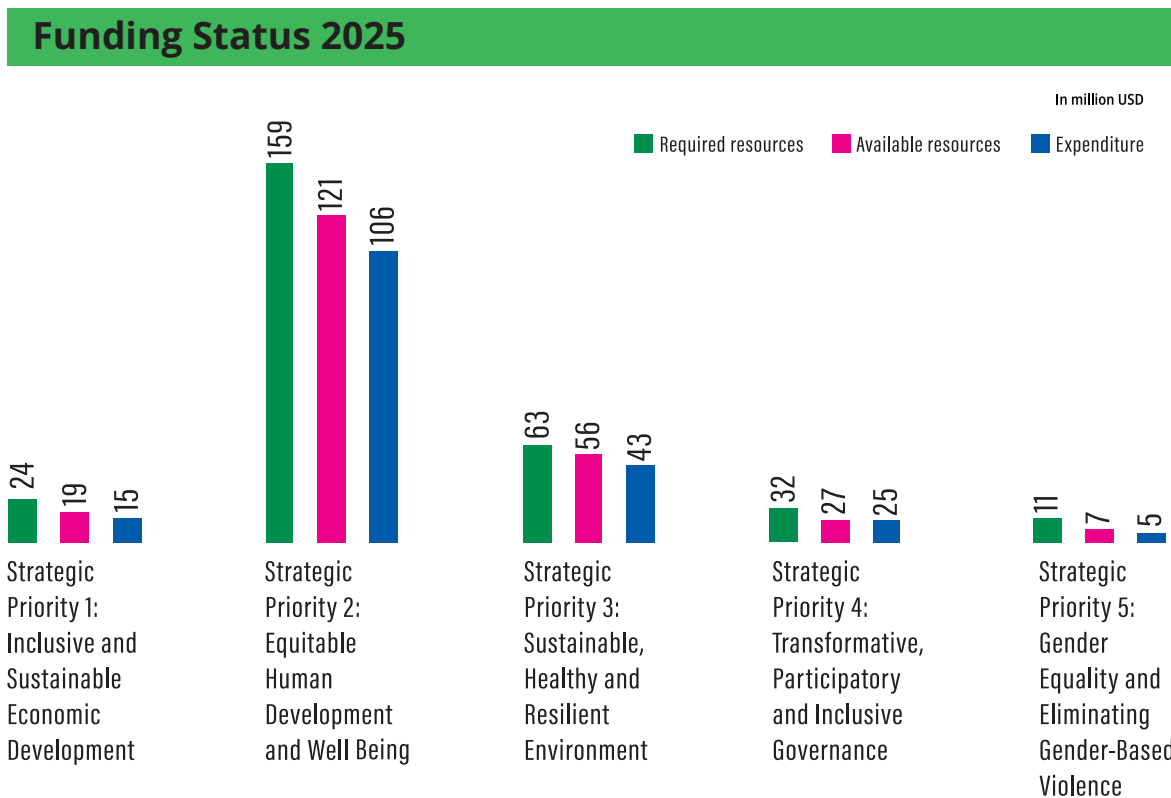
The Cooperation Framework continues to guide UN engagement in Bangladesh, aligning resources with national priorities over the six year cycle. Total resource requirements are estimated at USD 1.3 billion, of which approximately USD 1 billion has been mobilized (77 per cent coverage), and USD 830 million has been delivered to date - demonstrating strong implementation capacity across UN entities despite a complex and evolving operational context.

In 2025, total requirements reached USD 289 million, with USD 230 million mobilized (79 per cent coverage). Expenditure totaled USD 193 million, or 84 per cent of available resources, reflecting solid absorption capacity and continued delivery momentum.

Overall performance in 2025 remained strong, although delivery was moderately lower than in the previous year. This was primarily due to the absence of major climate induced emergencies, unlike in 2024 when the UN supported large scale disaster responses. In line with a risk informed approach, resources had been provisioned for anticipatory action related to floods and cyclones; however, as trigger thresholds were not met, these funds were not activated and were carried forward. In addition, adjustments to implementation timelines for selected programme components contributed to differences between planned and actual expenditure. These variances reflect prudent contingency planning and implementation sequencing rather than reduced delivery capacity.

More broadly, the UN has leveraged a diverse financing base to maintain operational flexibility and responsiveness, enabling timely adjustments to programme delivery in support of national priorities. In a context shaped by ongoing governance reforms and increasing climate related risks, greater funding predictability—alongside continued flexibility—will be critical. While resources remain concentrated in human development and environmental priorities, economic development, governance, and particularly gender equality continue to receive comparatively lower coverage, highlighting the need for a more balanced resource mix.

In response, the UN is strengthening its resource mobilization efforts by deepening engagement with partners, advancing pooled and flexible financing modalities, and improving alignment between resources and strategic priorities to support both immediate needs and longer term development outcomes.







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CHAPTER 04

LOOKING AHEAD: UN FOCUS FOR 2026

In 2026, the UN in Bangladesh will continue to provide coordinated support as the country enters a new phase of governance following the national elections. The UN Country Team will work closely with the newly formed Government to strengthen democratic institutions, reinforce public trust, and promote inclusive and accountable governance. This includes continued support to electoral institutions, civic engagement, and reforms aimed at strengthening transparency, human rights protections, and institutional resilience.



UN/Md Imrul Kayes

The UN will support Bangladesh in strengthening economic resilience and preparing for a sustainable transition beyond LDC status. The UN system will focus on key areas including export diversification, productivity enhancement, and skills development, helping to strengthen competitiveness while ensuring that economic transformation remains inclusive and equitable.

Climate action will remain a central priority. Building on existing partnerships, the UN will expand support to mobilize and effectively deploy climate finance, strengthen national capacities to access global climate funds, and support adaptation and mitigation measures.

Recognizing the need for integrated development approaches, the UN will promote systems-based solutions in food systems, water and energy management,



UN/Md. Ashrafu Islam

supporting policies and investments that improve efficiency, resilience, and sustainable infrastructure. Across the social sectors, health, education and social protection will continue to be priority areas for UN support.

Ensuring inclusive growth and meaningful participation will remain a cross-cutting priority. The UN will support initiatives that expand economic opportunities and civic participation for women, young people, and marginalized groups, while strengthening platforms for inclusive dialogue and decision-making. Through these efforts, the United Nations will continue to support Bangladesh in advancing equitable development outcomes that leave no one behind.



UNRCO

Preparations will begin in 2026 for the new UNSDCF. The UN in Bangladesh is committed to a fully transparent and consultative approach as it embarks on a new planning process, inviting diverse voices from across Bangladesh and working hand in hand with the newly elected Government to align programmes and planning with national priorities.

ANNEX

i. 2025 Financial Data

<i>In million USD</i>			
UN Agency	Total Required resources	Total Available resources	Expenditure
FAO	24.43	13.07	9.24
ILO	18.97	6.85	5.06
IOM	2.52	2.52	2.24
UN Women	6.38	5.38	4.37
UNAIDS	0.02	0.02	0.02
UNCDF	4.49	4.49	3.67
UNDP	54.80	52.93	52.12
UNEP	2.32	2.17	1.48
UNESCO	2.86	2.43	2.22
UNFPA	15.87	9.22	7.75
UNICEF	56.17	37.90	32.50
UNIDO	3.69	3.58	2.98
UNODC	3.93	2.03	1.64
UNOPS	28.25	27.41	27.30
UNV	0.01	0.00	0.00
WFP	27.05	24.61	9.08
WHO	37.34	34.95	31.58
	289.09	229.55	193.23





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