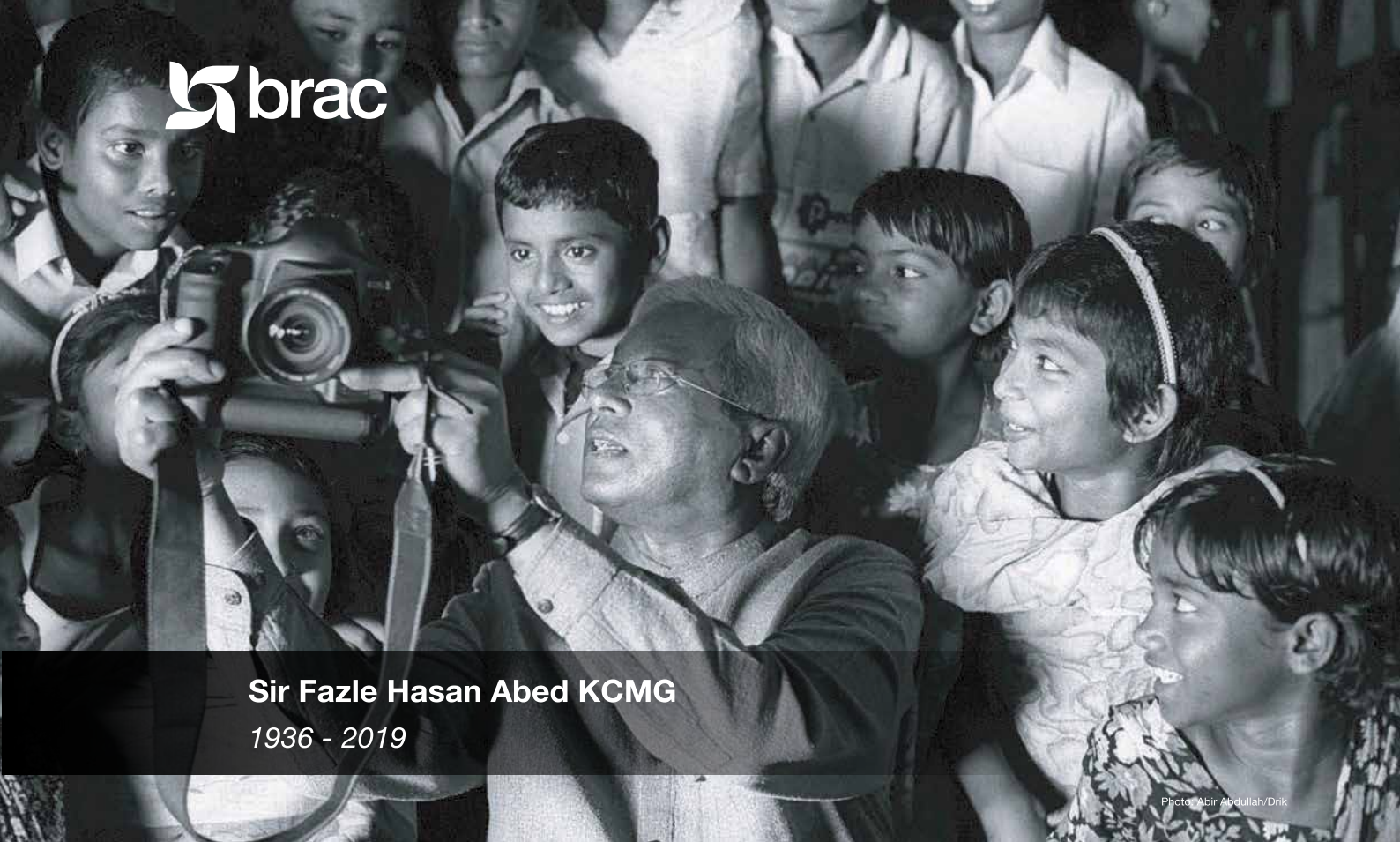




BRAC

SDG CONTRIBUTION

**VOLUNTARY REPORT
2020**

A black and white photograph of Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, an elderly man with glasses, holding a camera and looking upwards. He is surrounded by a group of children, some of whom are looking at the camera. The image is used as a background for the top section of the poster.

Sir Fazle Hasan Abed KCMG

1936 - 2019

Photo: Abir Abdullah/Drik

We will not say 'rest' in peace.

Thank you, Abed bhai.

Thank you for showing us how meaningful one's life can be.

Thank you for instilling the courage in us to take on the impossible.

Thank you for showing us how to listen and learn,
to fail and to get up again in the service of others.

Thank you for making us see that no one is ordinary and
to seek potential in everyone.

We will not say 'rest' in peace.

The Abed bhai we know would not rest until we build an equal world.

We know you would not want us to lament your loss for long.

You would want us to tirelessly fight poverty and inequality,
like you did the last 47 years.

We promise to rise to that responsibility.

We promise to be worthy of your legacy.

A message from the BRAC Family

In memoriam

Sir Fazle Hasan Abed KCMG

(1936- 2019)

Sir Fazle Hasan Abed started BRAC in 1972, at the age of 36, as a small relief and rehabilitation project in north-eastern Bangladesh. Over the past 47 years, BRAC has grown to be one of the most effective non-governmental organisations in the world, touching the lives of more than 100 million people worldwide. BRAC is a unique ecosystem comprising development programmes, microfinance, social enterprises, a university, bank and a range of mission-aligned investments. BRAC currently operates in 11 countries across Asia and Africa, with affiliate offices in the USA, UK and the Netherlands.

Sir Fazle was born in 1936 in Bangladesh. He studied accountancy in London, qualifying as a Cost Management Accountant in 1962. While he was working as a senior corporate executive at Pakistan Shell Oil, the 1970 cyclone and 1971 Liberation War in Bangladesh dramatically changed the direction of his life. He left his job and moved to London, where he helped initiate Action Bangladesh and HELP Bangladesh in support of the Liberation War.

Early in 1972, after the war was over, he returned to the newly-independent Bangladesh, finding the economy in ruins. The return of 10 million refugees who had sought shelter in India during the war called for urgent relief and rehabilitation efforts. Sir Fazle established BRAC to address the needs of refugees in a remote area of north-eastern Bangladesh, guided by a desire to help people living in poverty develop their own capacity to better manage their lives.

In 2019, for the fourth year in a row, BRAC was ranked first among the world's top 500 NGOs by Geneva-based independent media organisation, NGO Advisor - based on its impact, innovation and sustainability.

Sir Fazle was honoured with numerous national and international awards for his achievements in leading BRAC, including the Yidan Prize for Education Development (2019), LEGO Prize (2018), World Food Prize (2015), Spanish Order of Civil Merit (2014), Inaugural WISE Prize for Education (2011), David Rockefeller Bridging Leadership Award (2008), the Inaugural Clinton Global Citizen Award (2007), UNDP Mahbubul Haq Award for Outstanding Contribution to Human Development (2004), Olof Palme Prize (2001) and Ramon Magsaysay Award for Community Leadership (1980).

He has also been recognised by Ashoka as one of the 'global greats'; and is a founding member of its prestigious Global Academy for Social Entrepreneurship. He was a member of the Commission on Health Research for Development (1987-90), the Independent South Asian Commission on Poverty Alleviation (1991-92) and the High-level Commission on Legal Empowerment of the Poor (2005-2008). In 2010, he was appointed Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George by the British Crown in recognition of his services to reducing poverty in Bangladesh and internationally. Sir Fazle was a member of the Group of Eminent Persons appointed by the UN Secretary-General in 2010 to advise on support for the Least Developed Countries. In 2014 and 2017, he was named in Fortune Magazine's List of the World's 50 Greatest Leaders. Sir Fazle was honoured with a Dutch Knighthood in 2019.



Principal Coordinator (SDGs)
Prime Minister's Office
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Message

I am pleased to learn that BRAC is going to publish a report on its contribution towards attaining different targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Government of Bangladesh has adopted a 'whole-of-society' approach towards implementing the SDGs so that under the stewardship of the Government, other sectors, such as the private sector and the NGOs/CSOs can participate actively. This report highlights BRAC's contribution as an NGO partner of choice.

Under the dynamic and farsighted leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, we have integrated all, particularly the marginalized people, in our development endeavour subscribing to the principle of 'leave no one behind'. As a result, Bangladesh has not only achieved the highest cumulative GDP growth globally in the last decade but also maintained strong macroeconomic stability. The resultant increase of per capita income, improvement in human capital, and reduction of economic vulnerabilities have helped Bangladesh to fulfil the three criteria for graduation to a developing country in March 2018. Bangladesh is now expecting to be recommended for graduation in the second triennial reviews of the Committee for Development (CDP) to be held in February 2021.

I believe that publication is a testament to BRAC's commitment to results and transparency. Additionally, the report highlights how any development agency can deliver locally relevant solutions while remaining overarching global. I encourage other NGOs and CSOs operating in Bangladesh to follow this example—I hope BRAC's experience can help them in such endeavour. The SDGs financing strategy prepared by the Government of Bangladesh has an expectation that out of the total financing required for implementing SDGs in our country, four percent would come from the NGOs working here.

I believe that the report will help BRAC promote their work and Bangladesh's commitment to SDGs globally. Most importantly, data coming from voluntary contribution reports can be attributed to national and global development targets, and show up within national reporting.

I wish everyone a happy Mujib centenary.

(Zuena Aziz)



Director General (Grade-1)
NGO Affairs Bureau
Prime Minister's Office
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Message

I am very happy to learn that BRAC is going to publish its first ever Voluntary Contribution Report which documents BRAC's activities and their impact on SDG implementation in Bangladesh. BRAC has contributed to the development of the country since the beginning of its journey. BRAC's work in poverty alleviation, combating hunger, ensuring health, education and financial services for the poorest of the poor has been vital for our success in the Millennium Development Goals. I am confident that BRAC will continue to rise up to the need of the people and with their continued efforts, will help Bangladesh to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

According to the 2030 global development agenda, the NGOs are envisioned to play a partnership role with the government in achieving the SDGs. They have a significant role to play in implementing SDGs at the grassroots level, utilising their access to hard-to-reach areas and delivering essential services to the most marginalised communities of the country. NGOs need to work hand in hand with the government to overcome the last mile delivery challenges and ensure that 'no one is left behind', particularly on targets related to poverty, health, education and access to finance.

BRAC has been a frontrunner in working alongside the government for a long time and has once again proved they are true to their development commitments by providing unparalleled support to the government during the COVID-19 response. We must continue to work together to attain our national development targets of eliminating extreme poverty and reaching upper-middle income country status by 2031 and high income status by 2041.

(Md. Rashadul Islam)



Asif Saleh
Executive Director
BRAC

Foreword

It is my pleasure to write this foreword for BRAC's first SDG Contribution Voluntary Report 2020. This report is a voluntary disclosure of how BRAC is contributing to the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals for Bangladesh. This report specifically outlines different indicators of BRAC's programming to the relevant SDG indicators.

Over the course of almost five decades in Bangladesh, BRAC has established an impressive, holistic model of development that has helped millions out of poverty. It empowered women and their dependents to lead fulfilling lives. BRAC's success has inspired imitation and interest on the part of funders and governments eager to apply the lessons and models developed in Bangladesh to their own efforts throughout the world. BRAC is ingrained in the social fabric of Bangladesh across almost all sectors and communities, and has achieved considerable success in Bangladesh by playing a major role in the country's development and improved social outcomes.

BRAC's success is very much tied with the history of socio-economic growth in Bangladesh. Bangladesh has made remarkable progress in reducing poverty, supported by sustained economic growth – with an annual growth of over 6%. BRAC has a long history of working in collaboration with the Government of Bangladesh. Its joint efforts have significantly contributed to attaining many of the millennium development goals. Currently, BRAC is continuing its close collaboration with the government, across all development sectors, to support the government's plan to achieve sustainable development goals. Though the COVID-19 crisis has disrupted the projected socio-economic growth of the country, we stand shoulder-to-shoulder with our peers, partners, and the government, among many others, to work towards the recovery efforts and get back on track for achieving the SDGs.

I would like to thank Md. Rashadul Islam, Director General NGO Affairs Bureau (NGOAB), for his continuous support to all our endeavours. His guidance was invaluable in preparing this report. In addition, I appreciate the hard work that my colleagues at BRAC had put in for this report, especially the Advocacy for Social Change (ASC) unit to manage the process for getting this report published.

I strongly believe that this report will encourage other non-government development agencies to follow a similar suit. As more reports like this get published by different NGOs, it will help us to bring synergies in different efforts and foster collaboration among relevant stakeholders to ensure maximum impact. I also hope that this report will create a pathway for us to form fruitful partnerships with our peers, partners, and the government. With this spirit, I wish this report all the success.

(Asif Saleh)
Executive Director
BRAC



KAM Morshed

Senior Director
Advocacy, Innovation and Migration
BRAC

Foreword

It gives me immense pleasure to present the first ever 'BRAC SDG Contribution Report' that reflects BRAC's contribution towards the achievement of national Sustainable Development Goals. The report draws inspiration from and complements the Government of Bangladesh's Voluntary National Review (VNR) on SDGs for the United Nations High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) in 2017.

Bangladesh is widely recognised as a poster child of MDGs achievement. The role of non-state actors such as NGOs are also well documented in the accomplishment of such MDG distinction. However, there were hardly any attempts to identify the 'how' and 'what's of such contribution systematically.

As the SDG Progress Report 2018 suggests, the country is one of the first to complete recommended steps to transition from MDGs to SDGs. For example, Bangladesh made extra efforts to ensure that the seventh five-year plan is fully SDG-informed. Bangladesh has identified data gaps, completed a financial needs analysis and developed a National Action Plan and Monitoring Framework for SDG in no time. The progress report also suggests that Bangladesh is poised to take the lead among the best-performing countries in terms of several SDG targets and indicators.

BRAC has been consistently working with the people and Government of Bangladesh since 1972, towards alleviating poverty by empowering the poor in changing their own lives. Throughout its evolution, the organisation has established itself as a pioneer in recognising and tackling the many different realities of poverty in this country. BRAC programmes contribute directly to 11 out of the 17 SDGs. Between 2016 and 2020, BRAC has aimed to empower 20 million of the most underserved and disenfranchised women and men in Bangladesh to gain greater access to and have more control over resources, decisions and actions. This report is an attempt to systematically review and report how BRAC programmes align with and contribute to the achievement of SDGs in Bangladesh at the indicator level. We have taken this initiative in the hope that it will contribute to monitoring SDGs progress and the role of NGOs in it. Moreover, this report can be a point of reference for other NGOs to align their programmatic interventions with the SDGs which in turn can be integrated to find the impact on national level.

It has been a learning experience for BRAC from inception to execution of the voluntary review of SDG contribution. The translation of SDGs' impact indicators into BRAC's programme indicators has been tricky. It was instrumental to begin with 'BRAC SDG Action Plan', where SDG targets and indicators have been aligned with programme level indicators of the concerned programmes/enterprises. In some cases we had to use proxy indicators. BRAC has a very comprehensive organisational log frame which was useful in mapping the programme indicators for monitoring progress in achieving the SDGs of concern. Moreover, BRAC's SDG action plan, prepared with support from SDG focal members, includes remarks/justification of how the specific programmes/enterprises will contribute to achieve the SDG targets. The alignment of BRAC programmes with each SDG have been included in the report with the hope that other NGOs will be able to use this template to carry out similar exercises.

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude towards the Director General of NGO Affairs Bureau for his continuous support for this initiative. The NGO Affairs Bureau is in position to play a commendable role in monitoring NGOs' contribution to SDGs through collecting programme indicator data from all NGOs using the template used for this report. An indicator toolbox can be developed using the method applied in this report. It will be a privilege for us to convey the lessons learnt from the process of producing this report to all the NGOs.

I would also like to thank the main contributors - Mohammad Azad Rahman, Iffat Anjum, and Mithun Datta from Advocacy for Social Change (ASC) for putting together this report. My sincere gratitude goes to our editors Dr Tom Barton and Syeda Nazneen Ferdousi. The team received valuable support from Syed Mahmud Mominul Huq, Moon Moon Hossain, Nourin Rahman, Jannatul Ferdous, Pritiza Parmita, and every focal person from all the programmes.

Last but not the least, I hope that we shall retain our zeal in reporting BRAC's contribution towards achievement of SDGs in the coming days. It should be noted that this report is the first of its kind as a voluntary review of SDG contribution from any NGO. We shall continue to collaborate with our government, stakeholders and citizens for the successful implementation of the goals so that Bangladesh becomes a role model in achieving the SDGs.



(KAM Morshed)
Senior Director
Advocacy, Innovation and Migration
BRAC

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Acronyms

a2i	Access to Information
ADI	Artisan Development Initiative
ADP	Adolescent Development Programme
AFSP	Agriculture and Food Security Programme
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
ASC	Advocacy For Social Change
AV	Audio-Visual
BBS	Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics
BDHS	Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey
BEP	BRAC Education Programme
BHP	BRAC Humanitarian Programme
BNMC	Bangladesh Nursing and Midwifery Council
BTEB	Bangladesh Technical Education Board
CDO	Community Development Organisation
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CEP	Community Empowerment Programme
CF	Complementary Feeding
CGAP	Consultative Group to Assist the Poor
CHW	Community Health Workers
CIP2	Second Country Investment Plan
CMAM	Community-Based Management of Acute Malnutrition
CRSP	Community Road Safety Programme
CSBA	Community-Based Skilled Birth Attendant
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DDS	Dietary Diversity Score
DLAC	District Legal Aid Committee
DOTS	Directly Observed Treatment, Short Course
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
EBF	Exclusive Breastfeeding
ECD	Early Childhood Development
ELCO	Eligible Couple
EMB	Engaging Men and Boys
EPZ	Export Processing Zone
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
FIES	Food Insecurity Experience Scale
FPMU	Food Planning and Monitoring Unit
FYP	Five-Year Plan

7FYP	7th Five-Year Plan
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GE	Gender Equality
GED	General Economics Division
GFATM	Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
GJD	Gender Justice and Diversity
GNB	Girls Not Brides
GoB	Government of Bangladesh
GO-NGO	Government-Non-government Organisations
GQAL	Gender Quality Action Learning
HH	Household
HIES	Household Income and Expenditure Survey
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HLPF	High-Level Political Forum
HNPP	Health, Nutrition, Population Programme
HRLS	Human Rights and Legal Aid Services
HSS	Health Security Scheme
ICSO	International Civil Society Organisations
ICT	Information Communication and Technology
IDP	Integrated Development Programme
IGA	Income Generating Activities
IMNCS	Improving Maternal, Neonatal and Child Survival
ISD	Institute of Skills Development
IYCF	Infant and Young Child Feeding
JSC	Junior School Certificate
LASI	Learning Assessment of Secondary Institutions
LCL	Local Community Leaders
LG	Local Government
LLIN	Long Lasting Insecticidal Bed Nets
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MAD	Minimum Acceptable Diet
MCLC	Multi-purpose Community Learning Centres
MCP	Master Crafts Persons
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MEJNIN	Meyeder Jonnyo Nirapod Nagorikotto
MF	Microfinance
MIYCN	Maternal, Infant and Young Child Nutrition
MMR	Maternal Mortality Ratio

MNCH	Maternal, New-born and Child Health
MoWCA	Ministry of Women and Children Affairs
NCD	Non-Communicable Disease
NEET	Not in Education, Employment or Training
NFPE	Non-Formal Primary Education
NGO	Non-governmental Organisation
NGOAB	NGO Affairs Bureau
NMEP	National Malaria Elimination Programme
NSDP	National Skills Development Policy
NTVQF	National Technical and Vocational Qualifications Framework
PLW	Pregnant and Lactating Women
PPP	Public-Private Partnership
PR	Principal Recipient
PwD	Person with Disability
RMG	Ready-Made Garments
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SDP	Skills Development Programme
SME	Small and Medium Enterprises
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
SSC	Secondary School Certificate
STAR	Skills Training for Advancing Resources
SYP	Skilling through Youth
TB	Tuberculosis
TICF	Timely Initiation of Complementary Feeding
TRL	Transport Research Laboratory
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
UDP	Urban Development Programme
UN	United Nations
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
UPG	Ultra-Poor Graduation
VAW	Violence Against Women
VAWC	Violence Against Women and Children
VNR	Voluntary National Review
VSSC	Village Social Solidarity Community
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WDI	World Development Indicators
WEF	World Economic Forum
WHO	World Health Organization

Executive Summary

The new global development agenda, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), are now in the centre of development discourse and will guide international and national development work and policy for the coming years up to 2030.

As a country aspiring to achieve upper-middle-income status in the near future, Bangladesh has taken timely initiatives to make its mark in the SDG period, to keep with the momentum of the MDG era. The SDGs are much more comprehensive as well as more ambitious than the MDGs. Consequently, effective collaboration between the public and private sectors is needed to achieve real progress in SDGs. Private and non-government organisations have crucial roles to play in pursuing the SDG targets in Bangladesh. As the largest NGO in the world, and with active operation spread all over Bangladesh, BRAC is uniquely positioned to play a significant role in SDG implementation.

BRAC's five-year strategic plan, launched in 2016, has aligned these interventions to SDG goals. BRAC interventions are associated with 72 indicators in 55 targets across 11 out of the 17 SDGs. The first ever "BRAC SDG Contribution Voluntary Report" conveys the mapping of BRAC programmes/enterprises with the SDGs at the indicator level. Fifteen of BRAC's development programmes and three social enterprises are directly contributing to these 11 SDGs. This report conveys BRAC's contribution towards the implementation of SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5.

A combined approach has been used to conduct the background work for this report. Secondary research was conducted on SDG goals, targets and indicators to examine the alignment between BRAC's programmes/enterprises and the SDGs. In addition, a desk review was conducted on existing VNR¹ and SDG related national and international documents to gain insight into each SDG. Finally, the collection of programme level indicator data for BRAC, covering the years of interest completed the background work for the review report.

Between 2016 and 2020, BRAC has aimed to empower 20 million of the most underserved and marginalised women and men in Bangladesh to gain greater access to and have more control over resources, decisions and actions. BRAC will continue to maximise opportunities and expand services for unfulfilled needs of the 110 million people that BRAC has already reached in Bangladesh. In the first five years of the SDG period, BRAC's development programmes have been working towards facilitating social transformation through eight programmatic priorities: elimination of extreme poverty; ensuring financial empowerment; employable skills for decent work; climate change resilience; gender equality; improved quality of education; universal healthcare and improved nutrition; and pro-poor urban development.

BRAC's mission is to empower the poor through services and economic opportunities in order to address the root causes of poverty and realise the potential of the most disadvantaged people in the society. BRAC works towards the elimination of extreme poverty through its iconic two-year graduation approach. The graduation approach has drawn particular attention both nationally and globally. Between 2016 and 2019, a total of 314,217 ultra-poor households graduated from poverty through BRAC's graduation programme, contributing to SDG 1.

¹ Voluntary National Review (VNR) is a process through which countries assess and present progress made in achieving the global goals and the pledge to leave no one behind. Bangladesh is one of the 51 countries that have signed up to conduct a voluntary national review.

Moreover, BRAC specifically targets the people living in the hard-to-reach regions such as wetlands (*haor*), and low-lying riverine islands (*chars*) to ensure they have access to basic services. Overcoming poverty is deeply correlated with employment opportunities and financial empowerment. BRAC Microfinance provides customised financial services to cater to the heterogeneous needs of the people living in multidimensional poverty. With the aim of developing employable skills among the youth, BRAC Skills Development Programme has provided training to 44,849 underprivileged and marginalised youth of Bangladesh, during the period 2015-2018.

Tackling multidimensional poverty is tricky business. While all citizens of Bangladesh have benefitted by the rising GDP level, the lowest strata seem to have lost out compared to the top. Such a tendency has caused entrenched poverty in some—most of whom reside in hard-to-reach areas of the country. Identifying those families and helping them to start getting the benefits of national prosperity has become ever more challenging but crucial.

Rapid urbanisation, reduction of quantity and quality of arable land, increased demand for protein, and changing climate are but a few challenges to Bangladesh's food security. Ineffective supply chain and inadequate storage facilities only made the situation worse for the country. To improve food security of the nation, BRAC is continuously updating its methods and interventions to provide support to marginalised farmers. BRAC contributes to improving dietary practices of the people, as well as addressing the food security and nutritional status of two million marginalised people. BRAC has reached a total of 1,120,842 people (60% of them being women) with resilient agricultural technologies from 2016 till June 2018, through its Agriculture and Food Security Programme (AFSP), contributing to SDG 2 (zero hunger).

BRAC programmes contribute towards improving the health indicators, and thereby achieve the SDG 3 (Good health and well-being). Despite the steady decline of maternal mortality rates during the MDG era, data shows that Bangladesh's progress has all but stalled. While there are many ways to explain the dramatic improvement and sudden stagnation, one thing is clear, if we are to achieve the SDG target of only 70 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births by 2030, we need to take substantive and definitive action. BRAC's programmes are initiating innovative interventions to achieve this target. Through BRAC Health, Nutrition and Population Programme (HNPP), 397,053 deliveries were conducted by skilled birth attendants (80% at facility and 20% at home) during the period of January-June 2018. In 2018 alone, HNPP has counselled 2,385,858 mothers of children aged 0-6 months on appropriate IYCF (infant and young child feeding) practices. As of 2018, a total of 11,350 health volunteers (Shasthya Shebikas), 12,438 nutrition promoters (Pushti Shebikas) and 1,411 Pushti Kormis worked in the nutrition project in 23 districts and 141 sub districts, and targeted a population of 34,471,262 people. Moreover, during 2016-2018, 44,797 malaria cases were diagnosed and treated by the BRAC Malaria Elimination Programme in areas with people at risk.

As one of the world's largest private education providers, BRAC addresses age-appropriate educational needs from early childhood to tertiary levels. In 2018, 94.4% BRAC Education Programme (BEP) examinees scored higher than the national average in primary education completion examination; 96.2% scored better than the national average in the JSC examination; and 94.5% scored higher than the national average in the SSC examination, contributing towards SDG 4. However, the rate of student drop-out poses a significant challenge for the education sector. While it is still important to improve the quantitative indicators, such as increasing female participation in tertiary education, reducing drop-out

rates, decreasing NEET (not in education, employment or training) youth etc., the discussion of improving the qualitative aspects of education is still missing at the policy level. High student-teacher ratio, malpractices during public examinations, dependency on coaching-based systems are a few challenges at the core of this sector.

Bangladesh has made noteworthy progress in empowering girls and women, including improving gender parity in the wage rate. However, the increased incidence of violence against women and children is alarming for achievement of this goal. Several of BRAC's programmes and initiatives contribute towards achieving SDG 5 (gender equality). BRAC Gender Justice and Diversity (GJD) programme has successfully reduced the incidence of violence against women and children in the target communities from 77% in 2017, to 45% in 2018, while 1,280 survivors were provided support and referral services. Efforts at prevention of VAWC (violence against women and children) must engage men and boys to become a sustainable solution. In this regard, 191,021 men and boys were involved by GJD in 2018, in changing gender norms and for gender equality promotion. In 2018, GJD and BEP raised awareness on sexual harassment, gender-based violence and sexual and reproductive health and rights amongst 217,898 adolescent girls and boys in schools in Tangail, Jashore and Kishoreganj through their awareness efforts.

Since gender equality and women empowerment is at the core of BRAC's development work, BRAC has introduced internal safeguarding policy, sexual harassment prevention helplines to ensure workplace safety. Gender mainstreaming for all programmes has been made mandatory. On the national level, BRAC aims to pursue behavioural change interventions to address engrained patriarchal norms and culture. Moreover, BRAC aims to strengthen the capacity of the local government, civil society and different ministries to effectively prevent VAWC.

While BRAC is poised to make a significant contribution to the achievement of SDGs in Bangladesh, multiple challenges remain to be addressed. Sustainable financing for development programmes amid reducing international development finance flow to Bangladesh is a crucial challenge. One of the biggest strengths of BRAC is its sustainable financial model with very low aid dependency. However, while making the financial model more sustainable, we will need to ensure that the people in real need can still easily access BRAC's services.

BRAC continues to address the emerging challenges and adapt new and innovative methods for the implementation of its programmes. Climate change has been recognised as a pressing issue in BRAC's five year strategy. Coping with the climate change challenges is incorporated at the programme designing, implementation, and evaluation. BRAC aims to work to increase its overall outreach and will continue to work to ensure that its beneficiaries are not exploited in any manner. BRAC also aims to create adaptable learners who are capable of re-engineering their own skills and capacities in disrupted economies while humane qualities and values, such as empathy, cooperation and integrity in children and young people are not compromised.

Chapter



Introduction

At the 70th United Nations General Assembly meeting on 25 September 2015, the UN member states adopted a set of goals to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure prosperity for all as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Each of the goals has specific targets to be achieved by 2030.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) agenda 2030 is a long-term plan involving 17 interrelated and inseparable goals and targets developed to improve the lives and future of all people around the world, leaving no one behind. Everyone needs to do their part: governments, the private sector, civil society and all the inhabitants of the Earth, for these global goals to be achieved.

Bangladesh has made outstanding progress in the achievement of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), predecessors of SDGs. Under the eight development goals of the MDGs, the country has made remarkable improvement in many important indicators, particularly in: reducing headcount poverty and the poverty gap ratio; reducing the prevalence of underweight children; attaining gender parity at primary and secondary education; reducing the under-five child mortality rate; containing HIV infection and ensuring access to antiretroviral drugs; having under-5 children sleeping under insecticide-treated bed nets; and improving the cure rate of TB under directly observed treatment, short course (DOTS).

In addition, Bangladesh has made noteworthy progress in increasing enrolment at primary schools, lowering the infant mortality rate and the maternal mortality ratio, improving immunisation coverage and reducing the incidence of communicable diseases.

However, the eight MDGs were only able to scrape the surface of the problems, since sufficient attention was not given to the root causes of poverty, or gender inequality, or the urgency of holistic development. According to the World Bank measurement of poverty at the end of the MDGs in 2015, about one billion people lived on less than USD 1.25 a day and some 800 million people lived in hunger at the global level. In addition, women almost everywhere continued to fight for their rights, while millions of women have been dying during childbirth.

The SDGs on the other hand, are more comprehensive than the MDGs, involving three major dimensions: social, economic, and environmental development. Climate change and environmental issues have received significant attention in the SDGs. The 17 goals and 169 targets are ambitious, and will stimulate action over the next decade in areas of significant importance for humanity and the planet.

The SDGs are now in the centre of development discourse and will guide international and national development work and policy for the coming years up to 2030. Aspiring to achieve upper-middle-income status by 2031, Bangladesh has taken timely initiatives to make its mark in the SDG period, to keep up with the momentum of the MDG era. Bangladesh's national plans and policy documents have been aligned with the targets and goals, showing sincere commitment of the government towards achieving the SDGs. A collaborative effort of both public and private sectors will be needed to achieve real progress in SDGs. Specifically, in a country like Bangladesh, with one of the lowest tax-GDP ratios in the world and with the size of the national budget being only 18-20% of the GDP, private and non-government organisations have crucial roles to play in pursuing the national development agenda.

The “SDGs Financing Strategy: Bangladesh Perspective” report published by the Planning Commission of GoB identified five potential sources to finance implementation of SDGs in Bangladesh:

- Public Financing;
- Private Sector Financing;
- Public-Private Partnership (PPP);
- External Sources which include Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), and Foreign Aid and Grants;
- Non-Government Organisations (NGOs).

The analysis in the report anticipates that NGOs will contribute directly towards achieving SDGs 1, 2, 4, 5, 10, 13, 14, and 15.

As the largest NGO with widespread operation across the country, BRAC is poised to play a significant role in this development journey. BRAC interventions are associated with 72 indicators in 55 targets across 11 out of the 17 SDGs. The five-year strategic plan launched in 2016, has aligned these interventions to the sustainable development goals. BRAC's core development programmes and major social enterprises are directly contributing to these 11 SDGs. For the first edition of this report, it was decided to convey BRAC's contribution towards the implementation of SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. A series of similar reports will follow, to present BRAC's achievements and contribution towards the rest of the SDGs in the coming future. In this report, provisional data from different programmes have been used to provide the readers a general idea of BRAC's achievements and contribution towards the implementation of SDGs in Bangladesh.

Scope of BRAC in SDGs

As the largest NGO in the world, BRAC has the scale and scope to play an important role in achieving the SDGs for Bangladesh. BRAC has been ranked the top global NGO in 2020 – taking the top spot for the fifth consecutive year of the “Top 500 NGOs World Rankings” as published by NGO Advisor, an independent media organisation based in Geneva, Switzerland.

BRAC was established with the vision ‘of a world free from all forms of exploitation and discrimination where everyone has the opportunity to realise their full potential’. As a non-profit organisation dedicated to poverty reduction, client welfare has been central to BRAC's mission since its inception in 1972. Currently, BRAC reaches 138 million of the poorest people in eleven countries across Asia and Africa. Its mission is to empower people and communities in situations of poverty, illiteracy, disease and social injustice.

With active operations all over Bangladesh, BRAC is uniquely positioned to make major contributions towards the achievement of SDGs. BRAC expects to build on its significant contribution in the success of Bangladesh towards achieving the targets of Millennium Development Goals during the MDG period (2001-2015). From the commencement of MDGs, BRAC had invested in a range of its programmes aimed at achieving the goals for the people of Bangladesh and to help communities improve their lives and livelihoods.

In the same way, as Bangladesh enters the era of SDGs, BRAC is continuing the efforts by working in many sectors, including community-based healthcare, microloans, savings accounts, education for children, legal and human rights services, women empowerment, social justice interventions, skill development for the youth, and enterprise development.

BRAC is the largest of the non-government forces supporting the almost paradoxical development of Bangladesh. BRAC's own strategic objectives fit well within the national and global SDG context and agenda. Moreover, the five-year strategy (2016-2020) of BRAC is closely aligned with the SDGs and the priorities of the seventh five-year plan of the Government of Bangladesh (GoB).

The five-year strategic plan focusing on eight programmatic priorities:

Between 2016 and 2020, BRAC aims to empower 20 million of the most underserved and disenfranchised women and men in Bangladesh to gain greater access to and have more control over resources, decisions and actions. Meanwhile, BRAC will continue to maximise opportunities and expand services to support the unfulfilled needs of the 110 million people already reached in Bangladesh through the following programmatic areas:

- **Elimination of extreme poverty:** Reduce the per-capita cost of our ultra-poor graduation programme and scale it up to graduate over half a million households out of extreme poverty.
- **Financial empowerment of people living in poverty:** Strengthen client protection mechanisms and expand financial education services to all clients.
- **Skills and decent work for underprivileged women and men:** Equip 500,000 young people (50% women, 10% persons with disabilities and minority groups) with skills and entrepreneurship training and link them to decent jobs or entrepreneurship opportunities.
- **Resilience to climate change and emergency response capacity:** Establish BRAC as a leading humanitarian response entity, helping people adapt to (and mitigate, when applicable) climate change, and integrate climate change adaptability in all programmes.
- **Gender equality:** Creating women and girls' voice and agency, reduce violence against women and children and mobilise men as partners for gender equality and women empowerment across communities through an integrated approach. Create a supportive work environment to increase gender parity and women leadership.
- **Pro-poor urban development:** Deliver customised, affordable and quality-based services for people living in urban poverty. Mobilise communities to be more aware of their rights. Advocate for safe, affordable and quality transportation and pro-poor urban governance.
- **Universal healthcare access and improved nutrition:** Address emerging health problems like non-communicable diseases, increase the professionalism of frontline services and introduce a wide range of profit-making products and services.
- **Investment in the next generation through early childhood and improved education quality:** Enhance quality of and access to education at all levels and advocate for quality education nationally; free schools are to become fee-based, with vouchers for those living in extreme poverty.



Introducing BRAC programmes contributing to SDGs 1-5:

Ultra-Poor Graduation (UPG) programme:

The UPG (formerly known as Targeting the Ultra-Poor/TUP) programme initiated in 2001, uplifts and empowers poor and marginalised households to access the basic social services of the government, or the traditional development interventions of NGOs and civil society organisations. BRAC's graduation approach is a comprehensive, time-bound, integrated and sequenced set of services that enable extreme and ultra-poor households to achieve sustainable livelihoods and socioeconomic resilience, for lifting them out of extreme poverty. At the core of BRAC's graduation approach are four fundamental pillars: i) livelihood promotion; ii) financial inclusion; iii) social protection; and iv) social empowerment. Services under this programme include grant and interest-free loans, hands on coaching, savings, healthcare services and community mobilisation. Research shows that in Bangladesh, 95% of the UPG programme participants graduate from ultra-poverty and attain sustainable livelihoods within a two-year programme cycle and continue with their socioeconomic upward trajectory. The approach has been successfully adopted globally as CGAP and Ford Foundation funded projects in eight countries, where 75-98% of the participants have graduated through meeting the country-specific graduation criteria within 18-36 months. According to a recent report, almost 100 graduation programmes are being implemented by governments, donors and NGOs including BRAC in more than 40 countries.



Microfinance (MF):

As one of the largest providers of financial services for people living in poverty, MF offers a diverse range of products and services to families across Bangladesh. MF supports people living in extreme poverty by facilitating easy access to credit and savings, enabling investment in small enterprises, helping families manage their expenditure on food, accessing foreign employment opportunities and offering coping mechanisms for emergencies. It also provides an alternative to high interest loans from informal lenders or harmful coping mechanisms like selling productive assets. The MF programme has direct contributions to SDGs relating to extreme poverty and thereby, indirectly contributing to SDGs relating to food security, health, education, gender equality, sanitation, inclusive economic growth and climate change resilience. BRAC is a leading provider of financial services for the poor, operating in seven countries - Bangladesh, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, Sierra Leone, Liberia, and Myanmar.

BRAC's MF programme in Bangladesh works through a unique 'credit-plus' approach, i.e. addressing the specific needs of rural women, youth and adolescents, landless poor, marginal farmers, migrant workers, urban poor, and small entrepreneurs. The MF clients use 'customised' financial services for various income-generating activities that ensure stable cash flow for consumption, build resilience against financial shocks and savings for the future. Furthermore, they have access to and benefit from BRAC's other development interventions.



Skills Development programme (SDP):

Since its launch in 2015, BRAC Skills Development Programme (SDP) has aspired to enhance employment opportunities through apprenticeships, institution-based training, enterprise development, and job matching, particularly focusing on decent jobs. By 2020, SDP targets to provide better jobs to 400,000 disadvantaged women and men. SDP supports the government in their goal of ensuring employable skills for all. Its strategic vision is in line with the National Skills Development Policy. It endeavours to break workplace stereotypes by placing women and the marginalised groups (which include people with disabilities, transgender people and other minorities) in non-traditional trades and ensuring decent work environment for all. SDP works in both formal and informal settings across 46 districts. As the majority of the country's workforce is absorbed by the informal sector, SDP works mostly in the informal economy; targeting the poorest and most disadvantaged community members through its apprenticeship training. Formal or classroom-based training facilities are also available at the BRAC Institute of Skills Development and newly established 30 other centres. SDP endeavours to continue strengthening partnerships with the government and private sector, and test out innovative and scalable models. It is also working towards changing the mind-set of people regarding vocational skills training through a 'perception change' project. SDP is also pioneering a data-driven culture to help BRAC in its journey to become a knowledge hub.



Community Empowerment programme (CEP):

Community empowerment is only possible when women living in poverty are given a voice. CEP provides women the tools to claim their entitlements, develop leadership skills to prevent exploitation, and supports them to play active roles in their communities. It addresses both the demand and supply sides of rights. The programme strengthens rural communities by building institutions to close gaps between communities and local government. It increases access to information with a specific focus on reducing violence against women and children. CEP addresses the sustainable development goals of achieving gender equality, empowerment for all women and girls and building effective and accountable institutions at all levels.



Urban Development programme (UDP):

The aim of UDP is to make Bangladesh's urban spaces more liveable for all residents. The interventions are therefore, aimed at making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. Urbanisation is intensifying across the country, and by 2050, an estimated 50% of the country's population will live in urban areas. UDP ensures access to affordable, quality-based services for marginalised communities in urban areas. It addresses systemic inequalities and empowers people to demand their rights and entitlements to improve their own lives. Simultaneously, UDP strengthens urban local government institutions to develop, adopt and effectively implement pro-poor policies and services in urban spaces. UDP also promotes innovations that have the potential to bring transformative change to the cities.

Health, Nutrition and Population programme (HNPP):

HNPP aims to ensure that underserved and disenfranchised people in rural and urban Bangladesh have access to improved healthcare and nutrition services aligned with SDGs 2 and 3. The programme focuses on scale and impact, without compromising quality, equity, gender equality and sustainability. Thousands of frontline community health workers continue to create demand and offer maternal, neonatal, child and adolescent health, nutrition services, and non-communicable diseases, disability and eye care and accordingly connect communities with healthcare facilities. HNPP is piloting various healthcare financing arrangements to impartially reach poor and marginalised people, given the changing scenario of Bangladesh's socioeconomic context and the community demand for quality services. To maintain sustained efforts at scale, HNPP aims to strengthen partnerships with government and the private sector. In addition, HNPP continues to create and manage knowledge resources, disseminate and develop advocacy tools for positive change.



Integrated Development programme (IDP):

Despite the overall development and economic growth of the country, poverty is still very prevalent in the hard-to-reach areas of Bangladesh. BRAC works for unattended communities that are socially and geographically detached from mainstream development, especially the wetlands (*haor*), riverine islands (*char*), and indigenous communities in the northern-western part of the country. BRAC's IDP is a coordinated miniature version of most of the BRAC products tailored for the people in these unyielding circumstances.

IDP was launched in 2012, with a goal of improving the socioeconomic condition, empowerment and livelihood of 1.1 million poor and ultra-poor people in the hard-to-reach areas of *haor*, *char* and also the indigenous people. IDP is currently operating in Netrokona, Kishoreganj, Habiganj, Moulvibazar, Sylhet, Jaipurhat, Naogaon, Dinajpur and Noakhali districts.



IDP has introduced social programming into Village Development Organisations (VDOs) and improved access to government services through the JIBIKA project in partnership with Chevron. Around 40,000 community people living near the Chevron-operated gas fields are working closely with the local level government officials and getting support to access government services. The JIBIKA project under IDP, is creating sustainable income and employment opportunities through value chain development, other needs-based income generating activities and establishing market linkages.

Gender Justice and Diversity (GJD):

In the words of the Founder and Chairperson of BRAC, Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, “BRAC believes in gender justice and diversity, and we have worked for decades to integrate gender justice into our programmes and eliminate gender injustice in society.” For BRAC, gender justice and diversity mean working simultaneously within the organisation and with society. The GJD works to realise BRAC’s vision of freeing the world from all forms of exploitation and discrimination and enabling everyone to have the opportunity to realise their potential. GJD facilitates services to achieve gender equality within BRAC, focusing on gender equality at the local, national and international levels.

Since its inception in 2005, GJD has a proven track record in facilitating community movement on violence against women and children (VAWC). It helps to build a gender-friendly working environment and community platform. Each individual within BRAC and in the community works as an agent of change to establish a just society for women, men and children. It also acts as a catalyst to promote sensitivity towards sexual and reproductive rights, people with different sexual orientation, and people with different abilities and cultural backgrounds. Additionally, GJD is actively involved in national level policy advocacy through different human rights organisations, networks and alliances of government, non-government, and civil society organisations.



BRAC Road Safety programme:

BRAC Road Safety Programme started in 2001, following a request from the GoB. The programme has a two-pronged approach to support the efforts of the GoB in reducing road crashes: BRAC Driving Training and BRAC Community Road Safety Awareness Programme.

BRAC Driving Training has different training programmes for beginner drivers and also for service training programmes such as Driving Instructors' Training, Surakkha (Road Safety and Defensive Training for In-service Drivers) and Four Wheels for Freedom (women drivers' basic driving training-residential). BRAC Driving School signed a MoU with Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) to facilitate driving training and licensing. Through the 'Safe Road for Women and Girls' project which started in 2017, this programme brings young, poor women into the profession of driving by providing basic driving training and employment support.



BRAC Education programme (BEP):

In line with the National Education Policy 2010, BRAC's strategic vision for 2016-2020 ensures inclusive, equitable quality education and promotes lifelong learning opportunities for all (SDG 4). A core challenge for Bangladesh, as a country with an emerging economy, is to ensure that its growth policy addresses equity. The goal of BEP is to make significant contributions to the achievement of Education for All (EFA) in Bangladesh. The education programme aims to provide a full range of education opportunities from early childhood to adolescence, focusing particularly on girls from disadvantaged areas.



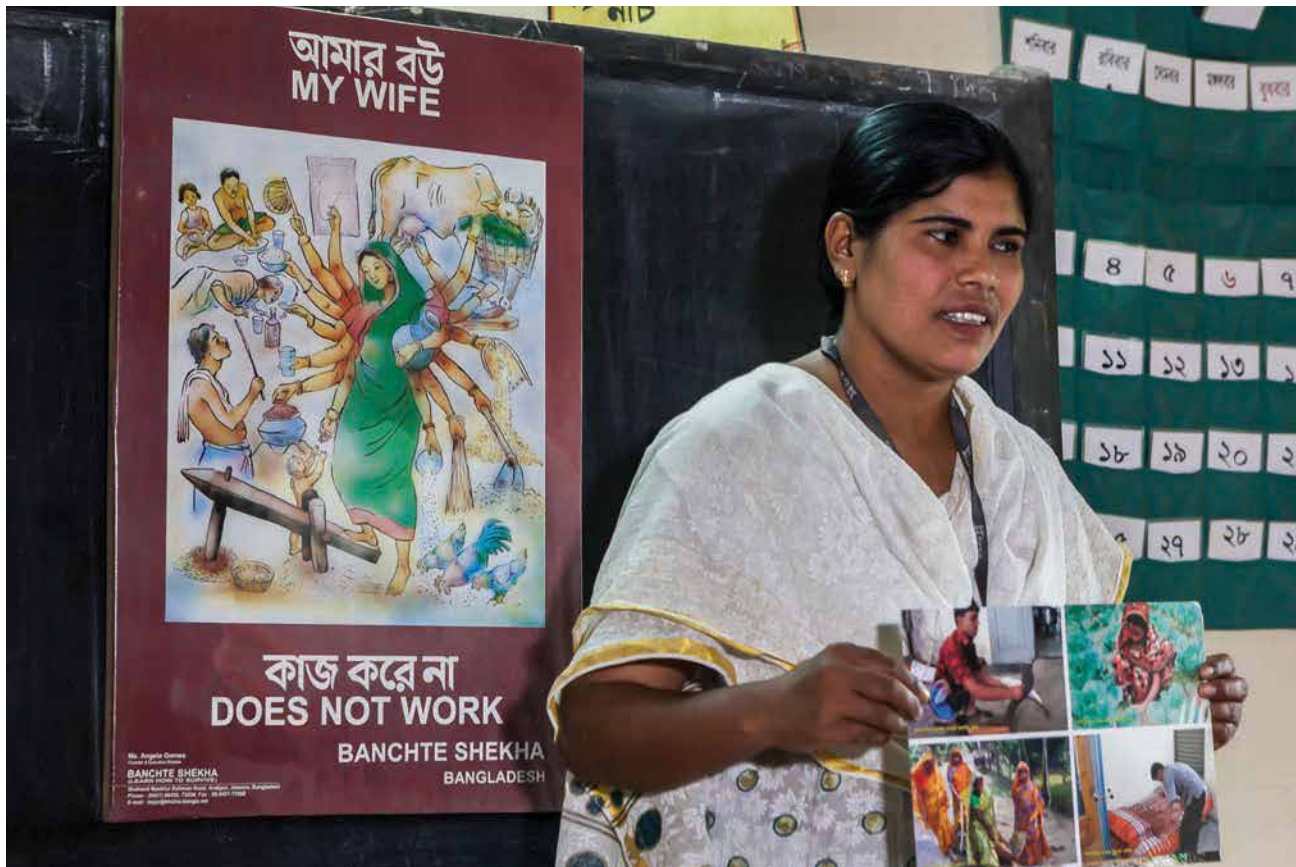
BEP was initially launched as BRAC Non-Formal Primary Education (NFPE) in 1985, with 22 one-room primary schools. The intention was to develop a school model that would equip poor, rural children - especially girls, with basic reading, writing, numeracy and life skills. The Non-Formal Primary Education (NFPE) model involved a three-year programme for poor children aged 8-10 years, who were never enrolled or had dropped out of formal schooling. In 1999, this model was expanded from a three-year cycle (covering Grades I-IV) to a four-year cycle covering Grades I-V. The programme has evolved progressively, with capacity and potentials to empower communities through livelihood improvement, citizenship development and poverty alleviation.

BRAC partners with other development organisations to expand education opportunities for disadvantaged children providing them with technical and financial support to implement BRAC's non-formal primary education model with changes as needed. These collaboration activities are called 'Education Support Programmes'.

Human Rights and Legal Aid Services (HRLS):

Access to justice is defined by the ability to seek and obtain remedies for wrongs, through formal or informal institutions or to seek justice, in compliance with universal human rights standards.

HRLS believes that in order to facilitate smooth access to justice, it is necessary to uphold the quality of justice services, particularly through legal aid and raising legal awareness, strengthening the capacity of civil society, exercising equal and fair application of the law, promoting transparency in the judiciary, and upholding professionalism in delivery of justice services. Commenced in 1986, HRLS is currently providing services to over four million people in 61 districts in Bangladesh.



Communicable Diseases:

Ever since 1972, BRAC Communicable Diseases Programme has been providing preventive and curative services for tuberculosis and malaria in collaboration with the GoB, WHO, sub-recipient NGOs, private sector and academic institutes. The primary approach is to deliver doorstep services through community-based health workers, who then connect the community to any necessary static services through their household visits and health forums. Social support is provided for early diagnosis and high treatment for people living in poverty. Our malaria programme works toward early diagnosis, prompt treatment, disease prevention and elimination in targeted districts, aligned with the national malaria strategic plan. The programme includes provision of services to mobile and migrant populations, particularly the Rohingya refugees from Myanmar.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH):

Access to safe water and sanitation are internationally recognised as basic human rights. Lack of access to them can lead to a wide variety of social impacts, from water-related diseases and malnutrition, to low school attendance rates and loss of productivity. WASH has been working to improve services related to water, sanitation and hygiene in Bangladesh since its inception in 2006, and has so far covered half of the country. WASH works to ensure sustainability through community ownership, developing linkages with local governments, and supporting local entrepreneurs.



Agriculture and Food Security Programme (AFSP) (2009-2018):

Bangladesh is one of the most vulnerable countries in the world regarding climate change and climate variability. Crop production is adversely influenced by erratic rainfall, extreme temperatures, increased salinity, droughts, floods, river erosion, and tropical storms. AFSP, launched in 2009, had been committed to developing and disseminating a diverse range of climate-smart agriculture technologies and ensuring food security. The interventions designed in the programme are in line with the SDGs for achieving food security, improved nutrition and sustainable agriculture. The programme was restructured in 2018.



BRAC Humanitarian programme (BHP):

BRAC has been providing humanitarian assistance in Bangladesh since its inception in 1972. A standalone Disaster Management Programme was established in 2008, recognising the need to specifically address disaster management. The programme was renamed as BRAC Humanitarian Programme (BHP) in 2018, which works with the government, NGOs and communities across Bangladesh to build disaster resilience and respond holistically to the effects of disasters. BHP bridges the humanitarian and development work to build resilience of the most vulnerable communities and provide humanitarian support to communities affected by natural and human-induced disasters, such as cyclones, storms, flooding, heat waves, Nor'westers (kalbaishakhi), tornadoes, landslides, riverbank erosion, cold waves, fires, building collapses, forced displacement and unrest.

BHP has been the largest civil society responder to the Rohingya crisis in Cox's Bazar and has provided humanitarian support through a comprehensive and multi-sectoral approach, aiming to address the needs of both the Rohingya population and host communities, in an all-inclusive manner. BHP Interventions include disaster risk reduction, livelihood, food security, health, nutrition, shelter, WASH, protection and education.



2

Chapter

Methodology

This report was developed through a combined approach. Secondary research was conducted in the context of SDG goals, targets and indicators to examine the alignment between BRAC's programmes/enterprises and the SDGs. In addition, a desk review was conducted on existing VNR and SDG related national and international documents to gain insight on each SDG. Finally, collection of programme level indicator data for BRAC, covering the years of interest, completed the background work for the review report.

BRAC's five-year strategic plan for the 2016-2020 period coincides perfectly with the beginning of the SDG period (2016-2030), and it helped to come up with the review framework for this report.

The main challenge for a massive organisation like BRAC was to establish a coordination cell (referred to as 'BRAC's internal SDG cell'), for proper reporting and coordination among functioning units. The internal SDG cell consists of SDG focal persons from relevant programmes and enterprises, along with the respective programme heads.

After developing an SDG action plan, the review process formally began by collecting information on progress/achievement at the indicator level for 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019. Another challenge faced at this stage was that there had been changes in programme level indicators from one year to another. Therefore, data from all levels were not monitored from the beginning of the strategic plan, which ultimately created a data gap. Moreover, all SDG indicators are not quantifiable. Assessing and measuring the non-quantifiable/qualitative indicators under the SDGs posed a challenge that was overcome by using a qualitative approach to assess programmatic impact.

A unique contribution mapping methodology has been developed for the review process. A keyword matching exercise was undertaken to primarily identify the matches among the BRAC programmes' M&E and SDG indicators. Based on the initial match, a detailed discussion with each of the programmes was undertaken to understand the details of programmatic goals, outcomes and target population and how each activity contributes towards achieving the SDGs. In several cases it was found that a programme's activity/intervention is contributing to multiple indicators across different SDGs. This is due to the cross-cutting nature of SDGs.

A group of focal persons from all the programmes of BRAC was convened as well as workshops held to assess the contribution of the programmes, achievements and future targets for reporting BRAC's contribution to the SDGs. Based on the outcomes of the discussions and workshop exercises, the framework for the report was finalised. Desk review of all the available reports and researches on SDGs were conducted to examine the alignment between BRAC's programmes/enterprises and the SDGs in the country.

An obvious limitation of the report is that it focuses on SDGs 1-5, even though BRAC directly contributes to many more of the SDGs. This is deliberate, so that the report can serve as a feasible pilot voluntary review project undertaken by an NGO for the first time. The translation of SDGs' impact indicators into BRAC's programme indicators has been tricky. In some cases, proxy indicators have been used to complete the framework.

3

Chapter

Policy and Enabling Environment

Bangladesh is one of the front-runners in the transition from MDGs to SDGs implementation process. The government has exhibited the utmost commitment in creating an enabling environment for achieving the targets.

Today, Bangladesh is a brilliant example of a development miracle. Bangladesh's socioeconomic condition has changed substantially, earning international acclamations for the tremendous success in implementation of MDGs. The government envisions Bangladesh to become an upper middle-income country by 2031, and a high-income country by 2041, and has committed to intensifying its efforts to achieve SDG targets. Concrete initiatives have been taken by government agencies in this regard. The SDGs priorities have been adequately reflected in the development outline, the Seventh Five-Year Plan (2016-2020), which came out almost simultaneously with the SDGs declaration. The plan integrates the SDGs well within the broader agenda of the economic, social and environmental development of the country. A high-level national committee headed by the Principal Coordinator (SDGs Affairs, Prime Minister's Office) has been formed for the implementation and monitoring of SDGs' progress. The committee mapped out the responsibilities of the Ministries/Agencies against 169 targets and 231 indicators so that each individual ministry can prepare its own action plan to achieve the SDGs. A monitoring framework has also been established for the SDGs' progress. The government has incorporated the principle of "Leave No One Behind" at the core of all efforts. The 'Whole of Society' approach has been sincerely adopted in the SDGs implementation process involving all stakeholders, including civil society, academia, media, businesses and people from all strata of the society. The government is working for the benefits of SDGs to reach every citizen, particularly the poor and marginalised segment. To achieve SDGs in Bangladesh by 'leaving no one behind' in the shortest time possible, a set of 39 indicators has been selected under the instructions of the SDG Working Committee of The Prime Minister's Office. Among these indicators, some were selected from the global SDGs and some of the indicators were selected after modification based on the Bangladesh perspective. Bangladesh has also developed a financing strategy; reported progress on SDGs regularly through two VNR reports in 2017 and 2020, and a progress report in 2018. The government is also organising ministerial SDG implementation review sessions every year involving all relevant stakeholders.

BRAC has contributed significantly in achieving the MDGs and is fully committed in helping the country achieve the SDG targets. BRAC has aligned its strategic focus and programmatic activities with the SDGs. It is also committed to report its achievements and contribution towards the achievement of the SDGs. This voluntary report is one of the first attempts to capture BRAC's contribution towards achieving the SDG targets in Bangladesh.

BRAC is a key member of the NGO Affairs Bureau's technical committee which supports the steering committee for SDG implementation. NGOAB, under the Prime Minister's Office, is entrusted to regulate the activities of foreign donations received by local and international NGOs. The steering committee for SDG implementation has taken an initiative to prepare a guideline by consulting with the stakeholders, particularly the Prime Minister's Office and other NGOs. A year-wise action plan and targets have been prepared specifying the responsibilities of the organisations as well as individuals to bring all concerned stakeholders on the same platform to discuss and plan. This approach might be considered a "Whole of Organisation" approach.

BRAC is the Chair of the Citizens Platform for SDGs Bangladesh and a member of the core group. The platform was formally launched on 18 June 2016. Apart from the core group of individual members, the platform also includes 104 organisations from across the country working on SDGs as partners. The overall guidance is provided by an advisory group comprised of eminent citizens of the country. The platform provides an opportunity to track the progress of SDG delivery; sensitise policymakers towards challenges in implementation; bring transparency in the implementation process; and facilitate exchange of information and coordination among all those working on the SDGs in Bangladesh. The platform will also facilitate relevant stakeholders to work for the poor and marginalised, e.g. ethnic groups, persons with disabilities, etc., particularly for achieving SDG 16.

BRAC is also a member of the 'Leave No One Behind' project launched in late 2017, as a partnership of 12 International Civil Society Organisations (ICSOs). In 2018, the partnership set up national coalitions in five pilot countries (Bangladesh, India, Kenya, Nepal and Vietnam), bringing together national NGOs and civic platforms, as well as community-based organisations. The objective was to deliver a practical solution for this challenge, giving voice and agency to marginalised groups who are at risk of being overlooked in the implementation of the SDGs, thereby, enabling the 'Leave No One Behind' partnership to make SDG implementation more inclusive and accountable.





4

Chapter

BRAC's Contribution in Achieving Sustainable Development Goals

BRAC interventions are associated with 72 indicators in 55 targets across 11 of the 17 SDGs. The five-year strategic plan of BRAC, launched in 2016, has aligned the organisation's interventions with the SDGs. BRAC's core development programmes and major social enterprises will contribute directly to the implementation of identified SDGs. In this first voluntary review report, BRAC's contribution to SDGs 1-5 is reflected.

4.1 SDG 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere

4.1.1 National Perspective on SDG 1

Over the past few decades, the prevalence and depth of poverty in Bangladesh have been decreasing gradually. Bangladesh has reduced poverty from 56.7% in 1991, to 24.3%² in 2016; the percentage of the ultra-poor population declined from 41.1% to 12.9% in the same timeframe. Sustained annual economic growth of around 6.5% on average, in the last decade was instrumental to the reduction of poverty and half of the total national budget expenditure was directed towards reducing poverty in these same years. Between 2010 and 2016, eight million Bangladeshis graduated out of poverty. If the present trend continues, Bangladesh will be on track to achieve the first Sustainable Development Goal by 2030.

The task ahead will not be easy as the country still has an ultra-poor population of around 20 million. There are a few major challenges for Bangladesh to achieve SDG 1. Robust economic growth continues to drive poverty reduction in the country, but at a slower rate. Despite a noticeable increase in the GDP growth rate, the national poverty rate only fell by 1.2 percentage points annually from 2010 to 2016.

In addition, while income per head is increasing, most economic measures suggest growing disparity. Between 2010 and 2016, the income GINI coefficient deteriorated from 0.41 to 0.48. The income share of the lowest 10% of households decreased from 2% in 2010, to only 1.01% in 2016, whereas the income share of the top 10% of households increased from 35.85% to 38.16%.

Regional variation in the intensity of poverty remains an important factor. Analysis of the latest Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) revealed that in the west, poverty increased in Rangpur division, stagnated in Rajshahi and Khulna, while in the east, poverty declined moderately in Chittagong, and rapidly in Barisal, Dhaka, and Sylhet during the 2010-2016 timeframe.

² Source: Bangladesh Voluntary National Review (VNR) 2017

Tackling urban poverty is critical for Bangladesh since at current trends, over half of the poor in Bangladesh is projected to live in the urban areas by 2030. Between 2010 and 2016, rural areas accounted for about 90% of the poverty reduction in the country, while the poverty reduction in urban areas and the share of urban people living in extreme poverty remained the same.

Moreover, the pace of job creation has slowed in recent years. According to the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, only about seven million new jobs were created between 2010 and 2016-17 against nearly thirteen million new entrants to the job market. Some studies estimate that total employment in traditional sectors like RMGs has reduced due to widespread automation. This phenomenon of joblessness remains a serious concern for the progress and sustainability of Bangladesh's poverty reduction efforts.

Finally, addressing systemic challenges such as poverty reduction initiatives for people with disabilities has not produced very encouraging results. Targeted social safety net programmes for people with disabilities have had limited success and are often criticised for having minimal compliance. Systemic discrimination in access to public services, access to financial services, and social stigma make it extra difficult for persons living with disabilities to move out of ultra-poverty.

4.1.2 BRAC's Contribution

In its 2016-2020 strategy³, BRAC's poverty alleviation efforts are aligned with SDG 1 and the government's 7th FYP. BRAC aims to *"reduce poverty in all forms, to 16% overall and 8% among extreme poor in the country, in line with SDG 1 for 2030 and the Government of Bangladesh's 7FYP"*.

Towards SDG 1 (No Poverty), BRAC's work is aligned with seven of the 10 core indicators spread over five of the primary targets of the goal. BRAC will directly contribute to eradicating poverty through the interventions of seven programmes: i) Ultra-Poor Graduation (UPG) programme, ii) Microfinance (MF), iii) Integrated Development programme (IDP), iv) Community Empowerment programme (CEP), v) BRAC Humanitarian programme (BHP), vi) Human Rights and Legal Aid Services (HRLS), and vii) Skills Development programme (SDP). BRAC's social enterprise Aarong also contributes towards achieving SDG 1.

Annex 4.1 provides an overview of BRAC's programmatic alignment with specific targets and indicators under SDG 1.

4.1.3 Progress on SDG 1

BRAC's iconic two-year graduation approach tackles multiple dimensions of poverty in Bangladesh, thereby contributing to targets SDG 1.1 and 1.2⁴. UPG programme utilises poverty maps and village-level participatory rural appraisals to identify and invite the participation of the poorest and most vulnerable members of a community. These participants then go through different phases of the graduation approach, including engagement in income generation activities, access to grants and interest-free loans, receiving enterprise development training, hands on coaching on enterprise management and knowledge enhancement on social and health issues, achieving financial security through savings, receiving access to healthcare services and social integration. To graduate, the participants have to achieve economic and social advancements measured by pre-determined programme criteria.

BRAC works in the poorest districts of the country, according to the poverty maps produced by the World Bank and the government. The UPG programme specifically targets those who are the most vulnerable to shocks, whether climate-induced or caused by economic and social factors.

³ BRAC's Five-Year Strategy 2016-2020

⁴ SDG 1.1 aspires to globally eradicate extreme poverty – livelihood under \$1.90 a day as defined by the present international poverty line. SDG 1.2 addresses the more complex and inter-sectoral multiple dimensions of global poverty.

the UPG programme's target is to support two million ultra-poor households to climb the ladder of socioeconomic upward trajectory by 2020⁵. UPG programme graduated 86,205 ultra-poor households in 2016, 72,804 households in 2017, 43,682 households in 2018, and 111,526 households in 2019, bringing the cumulative households UPG programme had reached to 314,217. The Integrated Development Programme (IDP) also aims to lift 26,700 ultra-poor households from extreme poverty in the hard-to-reach areas between 2016 and 2020 through the graduation approach. IDP graduated 9,100 extreme poor households in 2016, 5,000 in 2017, 5,000 in 2018 and another 6,000 in 2019. .

DURING 2016-2020 BRAC AIMS TO LIFT 400,000 HOUSEHOLDS OUT OF EXTREME POVERTY, WHICH IS 21.4% OF THE NATIONAL TARGET FOR THE SAME PERIOD.

**Based on population estimates of UN World populations prospects and HIES 2016 data.⁶*

The true merit of BRAC's graduation approach is that it emphasises more on the qualitative aspects of a household's graduation from poverty than the quantity of graduates. The aim is to ensure that when the households graduate, they do so in a sustainable manner - so that they don't fall back into poverty due to any financial/health shocks.

Poverty has multiple dimensions, and BRAC has several programmes working on fighting poverty in their specialised ways. As Bangladesh is going through its demographic dividend, one thing it has in abundance is the youth in need of jobs. A large portion of this youth from poor households seek new employment every year. BRAC's Skills Development Programme (SDP) contributes to SDG 1.2, by aiming to ensure a minimum income and employment for the poor through its multifarious projects focused on developing employable skills, job matching, providing apprenticeship opportunities, and enterprise development training and support. Since its launch in 2015 till 2019, SDP has provided training to 66,810 underprivileged and marginalised youth of Bangladesh. Among them, 71% trainees were from the bottom of the pyramid households (below the extreme poverty line), out of which 53% were female learners. SDP contributes in promoting equality and fair employment opportunities, inclusive and sustainable economic growth and productive employment under decent working conditions.

The poor are more vulnerable left on their own, without any voice or opportunity to play an active role in their community. BRAC strengthens rural communities by building institutions to close gaps between the communities and local government. The Community Empowerment Programme (CEP) ensures effective coverage of social protection systems, enabling poor and vulnerable populations to cope with risks and crises. BRAC had facilitated access to services or mobilisation of resources from GoB and NGOs for 1,216,385 marginalised people in 2017 alone. From 2016 to 2019, community-based women group, 'Polli Shomaj' mobilised 2,715,987 social safety net services for people. This contributes to SDG 1.3 which focuses on 'implementing nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all'. In addition, Human Rights and Legal Aid Services (HRLS) provides assistance in recovering money for widows and maintenance expenses for children and unemployed people. Between 2016 and 2019, HRLS provided legal assistance to a total of 65,505 vulnerable people of which 98% were women. A total amount of BDT 1.58 billion was recovered for the poor and vulnerable women, children and unemployed persons during this period.

⁵ As measured since the inception of the UPG programme

⁶ Total population target under BRAC programme 1,783,740; Government target (2016 extreme poor 24,116,830; 2020 extreme poor estimate 15,789,103) is 8,327,727. Estimated household size 4.11 (HIES 2016)

Social empowerment is as important for sustainable livelihood as economic empowerment. The UPG programme links its participants to the broader community by establishing Village Social Solidarity Committees (VSSC), led by village leaders who volunteer their time and resources to support the programme participants. The committee serves as a platform for participants to boost confidence and build social status/networks and leverage community ties. The objectives of these committees are to provide participants with guidance and support, in particular how to safeguard their assets, to provide additional services that complement the programme resources, for example how to improve housing, sanitation and access to safe drinking water. Other provisions include emergency expenses, protection of the poor from domestic violence and child marriage, linkages to other support networks, reaching out to and support members who may not be UPG participants. These committees are established as formal, legal entities and act as social protection systems for the poor and the vulnerable and hence contribute to SDG 1.3.

The UPG programme intervention combines elements of livelihood promotion, financial inclusion, social protection and social integration to ensure access to economic resources and basic services for all (SDG 1.4). During 2016-2019 period, 344,293 households received grants and interest free loans for access to better livelihood options. It provides enterprise development training and linkages to government services. Successful graduates are linked with BRAC Microfinance for financial inclusion options and access to financial services like savings, loans, insurance and digital financial services for people who are usually left out of the mainstream banking system. As of July 2020, MF's total borrowers were 6.1 million, with an overall clientele of around seven million. In 2018, HRLS reached out to 85,689 community people and created awareness on land rights, land documents and land services and thus contributed to SDG 1.4.

Disaster risk management is central to poverty reduction and development efforts since the poor and vulnerable suffer the most when there are climate-induced or man-made social and environmental disasters. Hence, BRAC emphasises on building resilience of the poor and the vulnerable in crisis situations (SDG 1.5). BRAC Humanitarian Programme (BHP) links with UPG programme to increase the resilience of such disaster-affected ultra-poor households and to open pathways out of poverty. The UPG programme provides market-relevant support to enterprises appropriate to their geographic context and region. In 2016, BRAC recorded 29,884 UPG programme graduates in 14 districts, identified as climate vulnerable. In 2019, a total of 75,911 programme participants graduated from the climate vulnerable districts. Moreover, BRAC MF provides safe and reliable savings facilities from which low-income households can withdraw funds or get loans in emergencies. Loans help low-income households respond to health shocks as well as climate-induced emergencies. MF provides an insurance option to borrowers, which, in the case of death of the borrower or a selected family member, would waive the remaining instalments and provide a cash benefit to cover related costs and economic start up activities. The insurance benefits launched nationally in the field from 2017, and by 2019, 97% of the borrowers were brought under insurance coverage.

BHP has set its priority to recover losses and build resilience of 543,000 vulnerable households in 32 hazard-prone areas during the period 2016-2020. As an inter-sectoral concern, the programme contributes to SDG indicator 1.5.1 that tracks numbers of persons affected, dead or missing in a disaster. BRAC designed an integrated approach to address the needs of 157,333 affected households during 2016-2019. A standard operating procedure (SOP) aligned with the national and local government strategies was adopted that was integrated in district level contingency plans and humanitarian and the disaster risk reduction strategy as mentioned in 1.5.3.

4.1.4 Challenges in Achieving SDG 1

Resource mobilisation or sustainable financing for implementation of relevant programmes is the key challenge for BRAC in achieving SDG 1.

Throughout the graduation process BRAC works to reduce the economic and social vulnerability of ultra-poor people and ensure sustainable livelihoods. Despite this effort, there remains a small chance of the graduated people falling back into poverty due to major shocks or vulnerability.

4.1.5 Way Forward

BRAC's work with the ultra-poor has drawn attention both nationally and globally. BRAC aims to pursue the government to adopt this graduation approach and scale up nationally to eliminate extreme poverty from Bangladesh in its entirety.



The House of Sunshine

It is 7am, and Jinnatun has already brought in firewood to cook her meals, watered her crops and made breakfast. She starts her day with a cup of tea on the steps, listening to the birds in the trees. In a country where 75% of the population is still living in huts or mud houses, Jinnatun is sitting on brick steps. It took five years to build her new house that has three spacious rooms and a veranda. She has painted it orange with spots of blue to emulate the morning sky. She says with a smile, *"I've brought the sunshine inside."* She continued, *"I still remember that dreadful night when one of the walls collapsed during a storm. I held my children for hours and took shelter under the bed. I vowed that night that whatever it takes, I*

would somehow build a house with bricks". This is not in any way unique for Bangladesh. Often referred as the ground zero for climate change, huts and mud houses are regularly destroyed in natural disasters and extreme weather. Jinnatun worked as a housemaid and a seasonal agriculture worker while caring for her husband who had suffered a stroke and was unable to do hard work. There were days when the family had to live on only one meal as Jinnatun did not find work. As she didn't own any productive asset or land, she used to wonder how her condition would improve. Then in 2006, Jinnatun was enrolled in the ultra-poor programme and in just a few years, she was able to utilise her assets to invest and diversify her income. Jinnatun now owns a shop in the market, farmland, livestock and this beautiful house. She provided for her two sons to graduate from college and they are now working in Dhaka and supporting the family. Jinnatun is no longer engaged in casual labour. Her sons work in Dhaka and her husband runs the shop. She looks after the house and the livestock and teaches recitation of the Holy Quran to local children. *"Now I've got plenty of time"*, says Jinnatun as she looks outside to the fields from her window *"and I don't have any more worries"*.

4.2 SDG 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

4.2.1 National Perspective on SDG 2

One of the most successful countries with the MDGs, Bangladesh made remarkable progress in multiple social indicators including reducing poverty, ensuring food security, lowering mortality rates for mothers, infants and children, improving primary school enrolment and reaching gender parity in primary and secondary education. However, despite such progress, persistent high levels of malnutrition and under-nutrition pose a significant challenge for the country. While most of Bangladesh's nutrition indicators improved in the early part of this decade, it has not been at a pace to meet the SDG goals for 2030. Decline in prevalence of undernourishment from 17.2% in 2010 to 16.4% in 2016, is not very encouraging. Greater effort is needed to reduce prevalence of undernourishment to 10% by 2030. The proportion of 'wasted children' (low weight for height) has declined from 15.6% in 2011, to 14.3% in 2014. The most alarming trend, however, is the rise in prevalence of 'stunting' (height for age) among children under 5 years of age— which has risen from 15.3% in 2011 to 36.1% in 2014. This is a matter of concern as malnutrition in the early stages of life has long lasting adverse impacts on the development of human capital, labour productivity, and economic growth of the country. In addition, micronutrient deficiency, also known as 'hidden hunger', is a worrying factor. The National Micronutrients Status Survey 2011-12 report estimates losses of \$7.9 billion in the national GDP due to micronutrient deficiencies.

Table 4.2.1: Selected key indicators of SDG 2 in Bangladesh

Indicators	Base	2020 (Target)	2025 (Target)	2030 (Target)
Prevalence of undernourishment (% of population)	16.4 (2016)	14	12	10
Prevalence of stunting among children under-5 years of age (%)	36.1 (2014)	25	16	12
Proportion of wasted children under the age of 5 years (%)	14.3 (2014)	12	10	5
Proportion of overweight children under the age of 5 years (%)	1.6 (2014)	1.5	1	1

Data source: FAO and MoHFW

With around 63% of the population in the working age range (15-64 years)⁷ and an average population age of 26, Bangladesh is now going through a demographic window of opportunity. To transform its young population into a healthy workforce, effective strategies are needed to address the challenges of hunger, undernourishment and malnutrition and thereby ensure that the youth are able to utilise their full potential and contribute to economic growth. A coherent multi-sectoral approach is essential to overcome these nutritional challenges and coordinate the diverse efforts of various actors from national to the local levels. The National Nutrition Policy 2015, focuses on ensuring safe food as well as diversification of diets through nutrition-sensitive and nutrition-specific interventions. Local government needs to be reinforced for successful implementation of the nutrition policy, which in turn will require strong political consensus and commitment. The Global Hunger Index 2018, report underscores the importance of promoting nutrition-sensitive interventions in agriculture, including the production of nutrient-rich crops and fish for improved nutrition. Bangladesh is, however, one of the most vulnerable countries when it comes to climate change. Greater policy support is needed for the small-scale farmers and low-paid food producers to build resilience to climate change in the agriculture sector.

⁷ Source: Labor Force Survey (LFS), 2016-17, BBS



Another major challenge for Bangladesh in achieving SDG 2 is the low government expenditure on health. Public health expenditure in Bangladesh is below 1% of the GDP, one of the lowest in South Asia. Although Bangladesh was able to achieve commendable progress in several social and health indicators during the MDG period by resorting to low-cost solutions, further improvement in nutrition and health will require significant increase in public health expenditure. The Bangladesh Second Country Investment Plan (CIP2), prepared by Food Planning and Monitoring Unit (FPMU) under the Ministry of Food, has proposed 13 investment programmes to improve food and nutrition security in the country, with an estimated total cost of USD 9.2 billion. This will require greater public investment in the health sector.

In reality, increased joint efforts from the government and NGOs are required for successful implementation of SDG 2.

4.2.2 BRAC's Contribution

As poverty and hunger go hand in hand, SDG 1 and 2 have many cross-cutting areas. With its poverty reduction operation throughout the country, BRAC is well-positioned to make significant contributions to SDG 2 by providing services especially in the remote areas. BRAC contributes to SDG 2 through five of its core programmes: i) Health Nutrition and Population programme (HNPP), ii) Ultra-Poor Graduation (UPG) programme, iii) Agriculture and Food Security programme (AFSP), iv) Integrated Development programme (IDP), v) Water, Sanitation and Hygiene programme (WASH), and two enterprises: BRAC Seed and Agro Enterprise and BRAC Dairy and Food Project.

In the context of SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), BRAC's work is aligned with eight of the 14 core indicators that link to six core targets of the goal. The HNPP and AFSP are contributing to improving dietary practices of the target population, as well as addressing the food security and nutritional status of two million marginalised people. The UPG programme will be supporting 400,000 extremely poor households to enhance their food and nutrition security with resilient livelihoods and enterprises by 2020. BRAC's Seed and Agro Enterprise, Dairy and Food Project, and the WASH and IDP programmes also contribute to SDG 2, both directly and indirectly.

Annex 4.2 provides an overview of how BRAC's programmes and enterprises are aligned with the targets and indicators under SDG 2.

4.2.3 Progress on SDG 2

Through the UPG programme, BRAC supports ultra-poor households to increase their food and nutrition security with resilient livelihoods and enterprises, thus directly contributing to SDG 2.1. An impact evaluation conducted by BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD) in August 2020 found that the proportion of households participating in the UPG programme that had adequate food for everyone within the household in the previous month had increased by 8%-14%. 114,528 participating households in 2018 and 104,912 households in 2019 experienced increased food and nutrition security and resilient livelihoods and enterprises. Also contributing to this SDG, the IDP is working to improve lives and livelihood of the extreme poor targeting to reach 1.1 million people by 2020, which in turn, will improve their food and nutrition security.

Improved dietary practices are essential in reducing prevalence of malnourishment. BRAC's HNPP aims to improve dietary practices of the target population, and thereby, the overall nutrition of the community. HNPP provides low-cost basic healthcare, combining curative, preventive and promotive services which include specific interventions on improving health and nutrition of women, in line with SDG 2.1. BRAC's integrated service delivery model utilises around 100,000 frontline Community Health Workers (CHW), linking underserved communities and formal healthcare systems, including BRAC-run health facilities. Door-to-door health services connect communities with private and public providers in the most remote regions. HNPP also includes specific interventions and referral systems focusing on improving the health and nutritional status of women. Structured and informative community-based discussions help to raise awareness regarding nutrition and improved dietary practices.

Under the AFSP support, 3,500 nutri-gardens have been established to promote food security and improved nutritional status of two million marginalised people with climate adaptive technologies. AFSP has reached a total of 1,120,842 people (64% being women) with resilient agricultural technologies from 2016 till June 2018.

Conforming to BRAC's emphasis on reducing food insecurity (SDG 2.1), AFSP worked on building sustainable systems of production and distribution. Quality seeds are offered at fair prices besides developing better crops and practices. AFSP promotes efficient farming techniques and environmental sustainability, which do not need to be mutually exclusive. BRAC develops markets by encouraging entrepreneurship, self-sufficiency in food production, and networking community model farmers as permanent ambassadors of good farming practices.

BRAC's nutrition programme has been working at household and community level for creating awareness on nutrition for all ages (contributing to SDG 2.2). Under this programme, community health workers (*Shasthya Shebika*) and nutrition promoters (*Pushti Kormis*) visit households to provide counselling, coaching and demonstration. Moreover, they offer community-based management of acute malnutrition (CMAM) services including supplementary food to mothers and children of six to 59 months, affected by moderate to acute malnutrition. The programme measures a number of practice level indicators related to infant and young child feeding (IYCF) for children under the age of two years. The indicators include children under six months that are exclusively breastfed (EBF), early initiation breastfeeding (EIBF), complementary feeding (CF) and timely initiation of complementary feeding (TICF), that are measured for adolescents and pregnant and lactating women (PLW). In 2018, HNPP has counselled 2,385,858 mothers of children aged 0-6 months on appropriate IYCF practices, of which, 1,426,557 mothers exclusively breastfed their children and 400,004 children received a minimum acceptable diet. 930,242 mothers of children aged 7-24 months received counselling on complementary feeding and timely initiation of complementary feeding. 696,687 pregnant women received counselling on Dietary Diversification and Adequate Food Intake, of which 487,681 took at least five diversified food groups (DDS 5) within the last 24 hours of the reporting day. 2,887,524 adolescent girls have been counselled on Dietary Diversification and Adequate Food Intake, of which 1,530,388 reported to have taken at least five diversified food groups within the last 24 hours (DDS 5).





Moreover, sachets of micronutrient powders are distributed under the Maternal, Infant and Young Child Nutrition (MIYCN) home fortification programme. This intervention helps to prevent anaemia of six to 59 months old children by providing required iron, vitamins and minerals. As of 2018, a total of 11,350 health volunteers (Shasthya Shebikas), 12,438 nutrition promoters (Pushti Shebikas) and 1,411 Pushti Kormis worked in the nutrition project in 23 districts and 141 sub districts, and targeted a population of 34,471,262 people. All these interventions contribute to reducing the prevalence of health issues such as stunting and wasting in children under the age of five years and thus contribute towards achieving SDG 2.

In addition, BRAC has an essential healthcare package for the graduation programme participants, which includes health and nutrition education - covering topics such as the importance of exclusively breastfeeding until the sixth month, child immunisation, administration of vitamin A, pregnancy care, etc. A study conducted by BRAC Research and Evaluation Division found that the likelihood of wasting in children in households participating in the Graduation programme decreased by 8% and the likelihood of being underweight decreased by 19%. The interventions of UPG programme also has spill-over effects on non-participating households in the treatment areas where other poor households also produced similar results regarding prevalence of malnutrition and wasting in children.

Good hygiene practices decrease the likelihood of malnutrition in children. BRAC provides sustainable and integrated water, sanitation, and hygiene related services across half of the country through its WASH programme - breaking the cycle of contamination caused by unhygienic latrines, contaminated water, and unsafe hygiene practices.

SDG 2 also aims to increase agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers (SDG 2.3), BRAC's AFSP works with the target of achieving 5% increase in crop productivity and increase in harvest for farmers supported by BRAC. In 2018, the BRAC Seed and Agro Enterprise worked on increasing the knowledge base of farmers on crop cultivation, best practices and technology dissemination through 2,038 scheduled farmers' meetings in 2018 and 832 meetings in 2019, reaching more than 30,000 farmers for ensuring a higher yield. In addition, BRAC Dairy and Food Project contributes to increasing the number of farmers with direct access to milk markets.

Interventions under AFSP include training and awareness raising programmes for farmers on climate-resilient production technologies. These technologies ultimately contribute to ensuring sustainable food production systems along with implementing resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production (SDG 2.4).

In line with SDG 2.5, the AFSP supports the collection, conservation, and continued cultivation of indigenous crop varieties for broader genetic protection and benefits. Moreover, the AFSP investment adds to the agricultural sector, contributing to achieving SDG 2.a.

4.2.4 Challenges of Achieving SDG 2

As one of the most climate change vulnerable countries in the world, Bangladesh faces difficulty in achieving sustainable agriculture and food security. Agricultural land is shrinking by 1% annually while the population is growing at a rate of 1.2%. Approximately 10,000 hectares of land is lost every year due to erosion and even more through ever increasing urbanisation. These pressures are creating a rise in demand for food, while constraining the available land for cultivation. Unpredictable weather conditions also pose a challenge to farmers who are trying to meet those rising demands.

4.2.5 Way Forward

BRAC recognises the challenge of climate change and its adverse impact on agricultural productivity and food security as the most pressing one. BRAC is continuously updating programme intervention designs to address these challenges by increasing adaptation and mitigation capacity. Its ongoing action research and depth of engagement support communities to mitigate and adapt to climate change, and recover from disasters.



4.3 SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all

4.3.1 National Perspective on SDG 3

During the MDG period, Bangladesh showed tremendous progress in some major national health indicators. For example, the reductions in under-five mortality rate, maternal mortality, prevalence of underweight children under-five, and prevalence of malaria and tuberculosis were praiseworthy. Despite the MDG achievements, similar progress towards the SDG health targets will be much more difficult for Bangladesh. The SDGs require an integrated development approach, whereas many of the MDG targets were addressed in isolation from each other (e.g., maternal health, hunger, gender equality). Low cost interventions, such as door-to-door health services, enabled Bangladesh to make considerable progress in major health indicators during the MDG period. However, the targets ahead for the SDGs are more challenging. The interventions will have to be more innovative, more integrated, and much more costly to get closer to the targets.

The targets under SDG 3 focus on improving major health indicators, including reproductive health, maternal and child health; prevention of communicable and non-communicable diseases; universal health coverage; and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable medicines and vaccines for all. Special focus has been given to the health needs of women and children.

During the MDG implementation period (2001-2015), the maternal mortality rate in Bangladesh declined from 322 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births in 2001, to 194 per 100,000 live births in 2010, indicating a degree of success in the health sector. The Bangladesh Maternal Mortality and Health Care Survey 2016, found that the maternal mortality ratio (MMR) was 196 per 100,000 live births, i.e., remained almost unchanged since 2010. The fourth Health, Population and Nutrition Sector Programme 2017–2022, has set the target of reaching an MMR of 105 per 100,000 live births in 2022 (Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, 2017), and the SDG target for 2030 is to bring down MMR below 70 per 100,000 live births.

Toward these targets, the government initiated a three-year midwifery diploma course under Bangladesh Nursing and Midwifery Council (BNMC). Percentage of births attended by skilled health professionals increased from 5% in 1991 to 42% in 2015, and further to 53% in 2017. Besides, the government has been implementing an accredited community-based skilled birth attendant (CSBA) training since 2003 in both government and non-government sectors.

The infant mortality rate declined from 94 infant deaths per 1,000 live births in 1990 to 29 per 1,000 live births in 2015; while the under-five mortality rate declined from 151 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1990 to 36 per 1,000 live births in 2014. The neonatal mortality rate stood at 18.4 per 1,000 live births in 2017. SDG 3 aims to further reduce the under-five mortality to 25 per 1,000 live births, and neonatal mortality rate to 12 per 1,000 live births.

Regarding communicable diseases, the HIV/AIDS prevalence remains comparatively low in Bangladesh. However, with an estimated incidence rate of 225 per 100,000 people in 2015, for all forms of tuberculosis, Bangladesh has one of the 30 highest TB burdens in the world. An estimated 45 per 100,000 people died of TB in 2015 (National TB Programme Annual Report 2017). Bangladesh is also one of the four major malaria endemic countries in South East Asia; the prevalence of malaria incidence was 4.3 per 1,000 population in 2015. Bangladesh aims to bring down the cases to 3 per 1,000 people by 2020 and eliminate malaria by 2030.

Looking at current conditions, achieving the SDG targets related to non-communicable diseases will pose a big challenge for the country. Bangladesh is one of the top 10 countries in the world with high prevalence of tobacco use and its associated health risks. Moreover, according to World Health Organisation reports, there is also an increase in the death rate due to traffic injuries in Bangladesh from 13.6 per 100,000 people in 2013 to 15.6 in 2017. SDG 3.6 focuses on reducing the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents. Thus to address this SDG target, the eighth National Road Safety Strategic Action Plan 2017-2020 has been formulated.

Achievement of SDG 3 will largely depend on successful implementation and monitoring of the health sector initiatives undertaken by the government and its partners. Bangladesh will be pursuing the targets not reached during the MDG period as well as the new targets for SDG 3. As mentioned earlier in this report, public expenditure on health in Bangladesh is one of the lowest in the world (less than 1% of GDP). Consequently, the out-of-pocket health expenditure (71.8% in 2015) is one of the highest in the world. High out-of-pocket health expenditure poses a significant burden on poor people seeking health services, and results in increasing inequality in the society. Increasing public investment in the health sector should be a policy priority for the country.

4.3.2 BRAC's Contribution

In the context of SDG 3 (good health and well-being), BRAC's interventions align with nine of the 21 core indicators, linked to seven of the core targets under this goal. Four of BRAC's programmes are directly associated with these targets – i) Health, Nutrition and Population programme (HNPP), ii) Integrated Development programme (IDP), iii) Water, Sanitation and Hygiene programme (WASH) and iv) Road Safety programme. Aarong– a BRAC social enterprise, also contributes to SDG 3.

Improving maternal health services is a priority area for BRAC's HNPP, including safe delivery care at community level and in urban slums. A wide network of frontline community health workers (CHWs) are employed to ensure that people living in poverty are able to access high quality, affordable health and nutrition services. In addition, BRAC incorporates modern tools and technologies for identification of TB and malaria cases, with the eventual goal of bringing the number down to zero by 2030.

BRAC Road Safety Programme contributes to SDG 3.6 by initiating the drivers' training and the community road safety awareness programmes, aiming to reduce the number of deaths from road traffic accidents.

IDP also contributes to targets under SDG 3 through the health centres, delivery centres and health workers in hard-to-reach areas. In line with SDG 3.9, WASH works on reducing the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals; and air, water and soil pollution and contamination.

Annex 4.3 provides an overview of how BRAC's programmes and enterprises are aligned with the targets and indicators under SDG 3.

4.3.3 Progress on SDG 3

BRAC provides community-based healthcare service through two components under the Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health Programme: 'Manoshi' (Urban), which operates in city slums of nine city corporations, and Improving Maternal, Neonatal and Child Survival (IMNCS), which works in rural areas of 14 defined districts.

In the urban slums, BRAC's trained community health workers (CHWs), known as *Shasthya Shebikas* and *Shasthya Kormis*, as well as urban birth attendants at delivery centres (also called Birth Huts) provide service to the most vulnerable women and their children at a low cost, with minimal infrastructure. In rural areas, *Shasthya Kormis* are trained as skilled birth attendants to assist in safe home deliveries. This programme also includes referral services for prompt identification and management of complicated cases at local public health facilities in urban and rural settings. This includes provision of services for preventing Postpartum Haemorrhage. During the period of January-June 2018, a total of 397,053 deliveries were conducted by skilled birth attendants (80% at facility and 20% at home). More than three-quarters (78% on average) of births in BRAC's target areas were conducted by skilled birth attendants. Moreover, in the hard-to-reach areas covered by IDP, 5,256 births in 2016, 9,353 births in 2017, 7,810 births in 2018, and 8,701 births in 2019 were attended by BRAC supported skilled health personnel.

To reduce the neonatal mortality rate, BRAC's HNPP provides comprehensive care for new-born babies. During antenatal care visits, the CHWs educate mothers on essential new-born care i.e., wrapping, drying, (umbilical) cord care, beginning breastfeeding (within one hour of birth) and continuation of exclusive breastfeeding up to six months. CHWs in rural and urban MNCH areas visit all mothers and new-borns within 24 hours of delivery to record birth weight, and assess, counsel and refer in case of any neonatal complications. New-borns with low birth weight and their mothers receive follow up visits and care until reaching the recommended body weight. As mentioned earlier, BRAC interventions ensured exclusive breastfeeding of 1,410,683 children in 2019, 1,433,173 children in 2018, 1,152,269 children in 2017, and 847,318 children in 2016 (0-6 months old). In the BRAC intervention areas, 281,380 children in 2017, 502,331 children in 2018, and 488,275 children in 2019 (7-24 months old) consumed the minimum acceptable diet (MAD).

The hard-to-reach areas, such as haor, and char areas, often fall out of healthcare coverage. The Integrated Development Programme (IDP) of BRAC specialises in service delivery at these areas. In the context of SDG 3, IDP aims to decrease neonatal mortality rate by 30% in the programme's target areas by 2020, against the baseline level (2012). The neonatal mortality rate in the IDP operating areas has fallen from 21 per thousand live births in 2016 to 16 per thousand live births in 2019. IDP further aims to improve the socio-economic conditions, empowerment and livelihoods of 1.1 million poor and ultra-poor people in the hard-to-reach areas of haor, char as well as among indigenous people in the north, which in turn will have a positive impact on their health.

BRAC is the principal recipient (PR) of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM), along with the government. The aim of the Tuberculosis Control programme is to reduce the morbidity, mortality and transmission of TB until it is eradicated. Currently, BRAC covers 322 sub-districts from 45 districts, 11 city corporations with a population of 101 million people, including 49 academic institutes, 41 prisons, 484 peripheral laboratories and 28 external quality assessment centres. BRAC also operates in two port hospitals and three EPZ, 28 GeneXpert and X-Ray sites and 34 X-Ray sites. BRAC is leading a group of 42 local NGOs who are the sub-recipients (SRs) of the GFATM. Between 2016 and 2019, a total of 504,608 people with TB were diagnosed and enrolled for treatment.

BRAC is the leading partner of GoB in the battle of eliminating TB, malaria, and other communicable diseases. The National Malaria Elimination Programme (NMEP) is an effective partnership with a consortium of 21 NGOs led by BRAC. BRAC's Communicable Disease programme aims to provide preventive care, early diagnosis and prompt treatment and mass distribution of Long Lasting Insecticidal Bed Nets (LLIN) among 18.09 million people at risk. 44,797 malaria cases were diagnosed and treated by the BRAC Communicable Disease programme in areas with people at risk during 2016-2018 thereby contributing to SDG 3.3.

One major difference between the MDGs and SDGs is that MDGs were concerned with communicable diseases only, while SDGs put significant emphasis on non-communicable diseases (NCD) as well. Community-based prevention of non-communicable diseases- hypertension, diabetes and cancer- is being implemented by BRAC in selected areas. As the primary service delivery agents, CHWs have been trained on how to screen for diabetes and hypertension using bedside tests/exams. Between 2016 and 2019, 446,426 patients with confirmed hypertension and diabetes began standard treatment protocol. Health education on early signs of breast cancer and cervical cancer is also provided by BRAC.

Prevention of deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents has been included in the SDG agenda under goal 3 (target 3.6). BRAC's Road Safety programme has been contributing towards this target as well as the national endeavour to road safety through i) basic driving training for beginner drivers; ii) road safety and defensive driving training for in-service drivers and iii) train and orient through implementation of community road safety projects. In the last four years (2016-2019), the programme has trained 3,975 beginner drivers with basic driving training. 2,724 in-service drivers were provided

with road safety and defensive driving training under Surakkha initiative. In addition, 586,111 community people that included students, teachers, drivers, community leaders, transport leaders, transport workers, and policy makers received road safety awareness orientations.

HNPP initiatives ensured 10,190,601 women of reproductive age (15-49 years) in 2018 and 9,906,070 women in 2019 had their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods. In the year 2016 alone, 15 million women, adolescent girls and their families received counselling on and services relating to reproductive health and rights (SDG 3.7). In 2018, BRAC raised awareness among 219,963 adolescent girls and boys on sexual harassment, gender-based violence, and sexual and reproductive health rights. CHWs supply non-clinical methods and make referrals for clinical methods besides monitoring/referring for complications/side effects management through locally available public/ private health facilities supported by HNPP. During 2016-2019, on average 71% of targeted eligible couples (including adolescent girls) were using modern contraceptives.

To reduce adolescent and unwanted pregnancy, HNPP is providing health education for women of reproductive age, including adolescent girls, as well as targeting boys and adult males. HNPP's reproductive health services include limited curative care, education, counselling, and nutrition, and other health advice. A total of 1,478,764 pregnant women were registered (180,690 were adolescents of 10 -19 years) during the period of January to June 2018.

The Water, Sanitation and Hygiene programme (WASH) contributes to ensuring good health and well-being for all, by contributing to SDG 3.9 (reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination). The number of individual persons that gained access to improved (safe) drinking water through WASH interventions was 21,720 in 2016, 43,714 in 2017, 79,418 in 2018, and 80,454 in 2019. Of these, at least 45% were women. 12,414 people in 2016 gained access to hygienic latrines through revolving funds, which increased to 50,380 people in 2019. Moreover, 237,780 people (at least 45% women) gained access to a hygienic latrine through grants in 2018, and 240,094 people in 2019.

4.3.4 Challenges of Achieving SDG 3

The challenge of achieving good health and well-being for all (SDG 3) is intensified by the threat of neonatal mortality, which remains a major health concern for Bangladesh, especially for marginalised and hard-to-reach population. Access to remote areas such as Remakree, Thanchi and Bandarban has been proven to be extremely difficult. It has been difficult to recruit workers and train them to provide services in such areas.

Another challenge is ensuring all births are attended by skilled health professionals. Lack of properly skilled attendants at birth can be attributed to the uncontrolled child marriage and teenage pregnancy that continue to endanger the health status of women and children.

4.3.5 Way Forward

BRAC has always had a pro-poor approach towards healthcare and as such, focused mainly on the proportion of the population that is poor and who do not have access to proper healthcare. Bangladesh entered the status of a lower middle-income country in July 2015. As we progress towards becoming a developing nation, we must start focusing on people from different socioeconomic backgrounds. BRAC will continue to work to increase the overall outreach and with the shift of focus towards the lower-middle class, middle class and upper-middle class, it must ensure specialised, high-quality services are provided. Right now, the out-of-pocket expenses of the people of Bangladesh for healthcare stands at more than 65% while the rest are being subsidised by the government or other service providers. BRAC as a service provider will continue to work to ensure that our beneficiaries are not being exploited in any manner when it comes to receiving healthcare. BRAC constantly transforms programme designs according to the changing healthcare needs of the people and we will continue to do so. To that end, HNPP has determined mental health as one of our priority areas and BRAC will focus on working towards expanding our services in that regard.



In search of a new life- Hero Mia

It was a hot sunny evening when we met Hero Mia, a happy 55-year-old electric shop owner in Chorpara Bazar, Mymensingh. But suddenly Hero Mia's life turned upside down when he was diagnosed with MDR-TB. At first, he didn't realise the reason for his extreme cough and fever. He sought primary medical assistance but he continued suffering. He then met Asma, a health worker (*Shasthya Shebika*) from BRAC who advised him to visit the Upazila (sub district) health complex for necessary tests. When his sputum and x-ray tests came out positive for MDR-TB, he was mentally torn apart. He had heard that tuberculosis is curable but not MDR-TB. He said, "I became so depressed that I stopped looking after my business and was simply waiting for my life to end". Right at that moment, Asma's advice

came as a blessing for him as she told him that MDR-TB is curable provided medicines are taken meticulously. He started taking prescribed medicines regularly under Asma's supervision. He said, "I took medicines regularly for one year from Doctor Apa" (*Shasthya Shebika Asma*, also known as 'Doctor Apa' to the village patients). "She has been very strict about my medicines. Now I feel a lot better and am looking forward to being cured completely" he added. Hero Mia was full of high hopes, "I will have to continue medication for another six months to be cured completely!" Asma was also present while we were talking to Hero Mia. This is just another story how BRAC TB Control Programme has contributed to reduce the burden of tuberculosis around the country.

4.4 SDG 4: Quality education

4.4.1 National Perspective on SDG 4

Bangladesh is now going through a demographic window of opportunity where human resource development is the key to taking the country further ahead. As we step into the era of the fourth industrial revolution, the only way an economy can hope to thrive in the future is by ensuring quality education for its future generation. SDG 4 emphasises on the quality of education and inclusive and equitable learning opportunities for all. The key targets under this goal focus on completion of schooling for all boys and girls, access to quality early childhood development, technical and vocational skills, ensuring gender equality and inclusion of all marginalised groups in education, and increasing the number of qualified teachers, scholarships, inclusive education facilities. While MDG 2 focused on the quantitative aspects of education, SDG 4 puts more emphasis on the qualitative aspects of education. Till now, most of the development plan in the education sector of Bangladesh has been focused on the quantitative aspects of education, such as increasing net enrolment, reducing dropout rates, etc. Bangladesh has successfully increased net enrolment in primary and secondary education⁸, but now it must aim for increasing the quality of education.

The importance of early childhood development (ECD) was recognised by the first education commission formed in 1974, after the independence of the country. The National Education Policy 2010, also recognises this as a priority area. Multiple public, private and non-government organisations are working on providing early childhood education to children of less than six years of age. According to the World Development Indicators (WDI) of the World Bank, gross enrolment ratio in pre-primary education has increased from 17.1% in 2000 (16.9% for boys, and 17.3% for girls) to 34.3% in 2016 (33.7% for boys and 34.9% for girls).

The Government of Bangladesh had emphasised on universal primary education during the MDG era, making five years of primary education compulsory for children aged 6-10 years. The national net enrolment rate for primary education has increased from 60.5% in 1991-92 to 98% in 2017, with the female enrolment rate being higher than the males. The dropout rate in primary also declined from 39.8% in 2010 to 18.9% in 2017, and the student-teacher ratio also improved from 46:1 to 39:1 during the same period.

Secondary education in Bangladesh is divided into two major levels: secondary education (grades 6-10) and higher secondary education (grades 11-12). Over 11 million students are now enrolled in about 20,000 secondary education schools and 10,000 Madrasahs, 99% of which are non-government schools. Since 1980, enrolment in secondary education has more than tripled, as has the number of secondary education institutions, though the increase in completion rate is higher for boys than girls. Secondary school completion rate was 63% and the dropout rate was 37% in 2015.

Gender disparity evidently widens at the tertiary level. In 2014, the net enrolment rate in tertiary education stood at 13% (10.6% for girls and 15.3% for boys). The ratio of girls to boys in tertiary education was 0.57 in 2005, and it only increased to 0.68 by 2017. The unequal progress in girls' education between primary and secondary education levels and even greater gender disparity in tertiary education indicate that gender equality in the higher education level needs more attention from policy makers and implementers.

⁸ Formal education in Bangladesh has three major stages - primary, secondary and tertiary education. Primary education has two streams - general and Madrasah; secondary education has three streams - general, technical and vocational, and Madrasah. Tertiary education has three streams - general, technology and Madrasah.

One of the indicators to measure effective learning is the number of students having at least a minimum proficiency in reading and mathematics. The national Learning Assessment of Secondary Institutions (LASI) 2015 shows that 57% of the students (62% boys and 52% girls) were able to achieve minimum proficiency in reading Bangla. Although students are taught English as a second language from an early age, the proportion of students achieving a minimum reading proficiency in English has reached only 19% (22% boys and 18% girls)⁹.

SDG 4 also emphasises on technical and vocational education. The growth experiences of China and Vietnam show the significant impact that market-based skills development and vocational training can have in the development of a country. In 2014, there were 689,663 students in Bangladesh's Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) system; of these, the vast majority were boys (72.6%), and only 27.4% were girls. Unfortunately, the World Bank Enterprise Skills Survey 2012 reveals that employers do not regard graduates of Bangladesh's higher education and training programmes qualified enough to match the demands of the market.

The government needs to take the lead in providing quality education to ensure equity, since public spending on education is inadequate to meet the SDG target. Bangladesh spends only around 2% of its GDP in education, which is the second lowest in South Asia and one of the lowest in the world. The 7FYP targeted to spend 2.84% of total GDP on education, while UNESCO's Education 2030 Framework for Action recommended spending at least 4-6% of the GDP. Therefore, in order to meet the SDG targets successfully by 2030, public expenditure on education needs to be increased by 2-4% of GDP.

4.4.2 BRAC's Contribution

BRAC regards 'quality education' at the core of youth development. BRAC's work in education is directly linked to nine of the 11 core indicators across eight targets under SDG 4. BRAC's agenda for achieving quality education is being implemented by four core programmes – i) BRAC Education programme (BEP), ii) Integrated Development programme (IDP), iii) Skills Development programme (SDP) and iv) Urban Development programme (UDP).

BEP has aligned its strategic plan for 2016-2020 with SDG 4 (quality education). BEP's target is to ensure attendance and graduation of more than 3.35 million children and adolescents (0.8 million students) through high quality, pedagogically cutting-edge, climate-sensitive and sustainable learning and development institutes. The target number is aggregated by equal proportion of boys and girls, with at least 3% persons with disabilities, and at least one student from ethnic minorities in every classroom. Moreover, BEP's methods are designed to target age-appropriate learning aligned with early childhood development, pre-primary, primary and secondary education. The targeted outcome is students' ability to think critically and adopt the mind-set of pursuing higher education. The programme's operations also include supporting men and women in receiving equal access to non-formal education and training. BEP's adolescent development programme (ADP) clubs provide training to adolescents on ICT (EITA: English and ICT training to Adolescents), while the Multipurpose Community Learning Centres (MCLC), known as Gonokendros, also provide training on ICT. Moreover, BEP supports its students in their secondary education journey through 'Advancing BRAC Graduates' programme.

The skills development programme (SDP) provides technical and vocational training through apprenticeship-based training and classroom-based training. In the apprenticeship model, underprivileged young people who have dropped out of school for over a year are placed at the

⁹ Learning Assessment of Secondary Schools (LASI) 2015, Prepared by Australian Council for Educational Research for Monitoring and Evaluation Wing, Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education, Bangladesh, 2016

workplace of master crafts persons (MCP). These youths are businesses-owning, and are given orientations on pedagogy, business development and decent work training. In addition to hands-on vocational training (covering 17 demand-driven trades), there is also theoretical training to ensure that the apprentices are well aware of the proper terminology and approach. The training is conducted in line with the National Technical and Vocational Qualifications Framework (NTVQF), which means all trainees become officially certified. SDP also provides entrepreneurship training along with access to finance for young people who want to start their own business.

Through the BRAC Institute of Skills Development (BRAC-ISD) and 36 centres across 15 districts, SDP provides training that are classroom-based and market-driven to people above the age of 18. Candidates receive certificates that are nationally accredited by the Bangladesh Technical Education Board (BTEB), and internationally by City & Guilds.

Annex 4.4 provides an overview of how BRAC's programmes are aligned with the eight targets and 9 indicators under SDG 4.

4.4.3 Progress on SDG 4

As one of the world's largest private education providers, BRAC addresses age-appropriate educational needs from early childhood to tertiary level. BEP's target for the period 2016-2020 is to have 5 million BRAC graduates pursuing higher education after completion of the inclusive, basic BRAC schooling. In 2018, 59.1% of students that enrolled in the newly opened BRAC pre-primary and primary schools were girls (contributing to SDG 4.2).

Contributing towards SDG 4.1, in 2019, 99.46% BEP examinees scored higher than the national average in primary education completion examination; 98.34% scored better than the national average in the JSC examination; and 92.27% scored higher than the national average in the SSC examination.

BEP's innovative mobile education facilities - 'boat schools' - provide education services in haor (wetlands) regions. Aiming to lift future generations of these areas from hardship, BEP works to ensure that 95% of the enrolled children successfully complete/graduate from BRAC's pre-primary and primary schools and demonstrate at least 85% (excellent) level of learning¹⁰. BEP had also enabled 7,905 students (4,500 in pre-primary and 3,405 in primary) to achieve this target in 2017 (99.9% of total enrolled), 4,979 (2,564 in pre-primary, and 2,415 in primary) in 2018 (99.6% of total enrolled), and 4,084 (2,986 in pre-primary, and 1,098 in primary) in 2019.

SDG 4.3 aims to ensure equal access for men and women to affordable and quality technical, vocational, and tertiary education. In accordance with the National Skills Development Policy (NSDP) 2011, SDP provides hands-on apprenticeships in enterprises and institution-based training. In 2016, SDP interventions successfully reached 17,890 youths and adults, of which, 5,124 were female and 825 were persons with disabilities. The number increased to 160,581 youths and adults in 2019 (31,214 were female; 1,284 were persons with disabilities). By 2020, SDP aims to graduate 500,000 youths and adults to demonstrate employable skills through programmes or partner programmes facilitated by BRAC, 60% of which will be girls or women.

Over 2 million people enter the labour force annually in the Bangladesh, but two out of every five youths are not in education, employment or training (NEET). BRAC's apprenticeship and training activities provide high quality formal and informal ICT training for underprivileged youths, adults and migrants. SDP also links graduates with decent work opportunities that respect the rights of workers. This directly contributes to SDG 4.4.

¹⁰ Based on BEP criteria (reading proficiency, basic mathematics skills, age-appropriate scientific concepts and climate change adaptation concepts etc.)

BRAC and its partners have 33,980 people across 46 districts engaged with SDP, working to provide support with skills training, jobs and decent work interventions. 2,711 youths and adults (56% women) received ICT training in 2016 and 2017. In 2019, 19,681 SDP graduates were in profitable and decent employment, including self-entrepreneurship. Out of these employed graduates, 10,448 were females, and 808 were persons with disabilities. By 2020, SDP aims to reach a total of 400,000 graduates employed in profitable and decent workplaces, including self-entrepreneurship.

BRAC's Skills Training Access in General Education is a partnership project with the Government of Bangladesh's Access to Information (a2i) programme. The project integrates skills training¹¹ into general education, thereby providing an alternative vocational pathway, particularly for possible drop-outs. The IDP ensures a special-need focused education curriculum for children and adolescents living in hard-to-reach areas and differently abled students. In urban areas, the UDP works to ensure that targeted poor urban households receive BRAC's education, health, financial, and crisis management services. In 2018, UDP provided education support to 3,475 students from ultra-poor families, and established school WASH facilities serving 490 students from low income communities including 23 disable students.

BRAC's ADP clubs and MCLCs aim to ensure that children who attend and graduate through BRAC learning and development institutes demonstrate at least an 85% excellence level of learning outcomes. Over a million participants (with equal proportion of boys and girls) in the ADP clubs and MCLC had successfully achieved this target (1,551,218 in 2016, 1,422,369 in 2017, 1,460,280 in 2018, and 1,398,152 in 2019).

SDG 4.c draws attention to the teachers that spearhead the provision of education. The target focuses on supplying teachers "who have received at least the minimum organised teachers' training¹² pre-service or in-service required for teaching at the relevant level in a given country". BRAC teachers for BEP's graduation courses are trained and internally evaluated to ensure: (i) reading proficiency, (ii) basic mathematics skills, and (iii) age-appropriate scientific concepts, including climate change adaptation concepts. The numbers of BEP trained teachers at this quality level were 35,250 in 2016, 34,715 in 2017, 29,401 in 2018, and 24,983 in 2019. BRAC's SDP also contributes to the numbers of qualified teachers by providing professional training courses for teachers, trainers, instructors and managers.

4.4.4 Challenges of Achieving SDG 4

Several challenges persist in both education and skills sectors. The rate of student drop-out is alarming. It is essential to ensure that all children complete their primary schooling and go on to secondary school. Additional efforts are required to empower girls to believe they are equally capable as boys. The staggering number of young people in the NEET population is a matter of concern for a country like Bangladesh, which currently enjoys a demographic dividend. More innovative approaches are needed to ensure quality of education and to equip young people with the right skills for the era of the fourth industrial revolution. Moreover, political instability and conflicts leave young people vulnerable to violence, disrupt schooling and access to basic health services and, in many cases, inflict psychological trauma.

One of the challenges of implementing this goal in Bangladesh is the data gap. The indicators to measure qualitative aspects of education under this goal are new for Bangladesh. According to the 'Data Gap analysis for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Bangladesh Perspective' (2017) prepared by the General Economic Division, Planning Commission, Government of Bangladesh, data for only two out of 11 indicators is readily available in the existing systems, while six indicators' data are partially available and three indicators' data are not available. This data gap makes it difficult to track the progress in this goal.

¹¹ At institutions with government-accredited NTVQF qualifications

¹² E.g., pedagogical training

4.4.5 Way Forward

Globalisation and technology are reshaping the lives of young people worldwide. 85% of jobs that today's learners dream of doing in 2030 do not exist now. To that end, BRAC will continue to incorporate technology in the assessment mechanisms, teachers' development and to instil the twenty-first century skills among learners. There is an urgent need to redesign curricula for secondary, vocational and higher education to develop skills and competencies that will meet the needs of the future and BRAC intends to advocate with the relevant government stakeholders as befits. Creating adaptable learners who are capable of re-engineering their own skills and capacities in disrupted economies should be the goal, while instilling human qualities and values (such as empathy, cooperation, emotional intelligence and integrity) in children and young people is of utmost importance.

Minimising the political instability and conflict is imperative to safeguard the future generation. Furthermore, efforts to protect children and young people from violence, drug abuse, conflict and poverty is fundamental for enabling them to lead more productive lives and contribute to society.





Ayub's Sunflower Learning Centre

In August 2017 and afterwards, more than 745,000 people from the Rohingya community came to Bangladesh from Myanmar, fleeing ethnic cleansing, genocide, loot, rape and extensive torture. Among them, 52% were children. Ayub is one of them.

After addressing the primary needs of the deported people, BRAC established about 700 temporary learning centres with the support of its partner organisations. Nearly 50,000 learners including Ayub, have been enrolled in those learning centres.

"The name of our learning centre is Sunflower Learning Centre. It looks like a huge colourful butterfly, flying in the air, with wings spread out. I feel blessed

to study here," said Ayub. He was full of enthusiasm when he said, "The centre is very near to my house, which makes it easy for me to attend. We learn Maths, English and Burmese language in the learning centre as we did in Burma. We are also taught life skills - about cleanliness, customs and behaviour. But we learn everything through fun and play."

Ayub, a confident boy with calm bearing says, "I enjoy learning here because it is made to be fun. Sometimes, I do miss my country. I think of our house, my friends and classmates. At the same time, I cannot forget the torture, I can still visualize the fires. That's why I want to study - so that I can aspire to reduce people's agony one day."



Self-Sufficient Shyamoli

Shyamoli Debnath lives with her sister, stay-at-home mother Chomma Debnath, and father Sadhon Debnath who works at the bazaar. Due to financial constraints, instead of pursuing an education, her neighbours and relatives suggested marriage as the best option for Shyamoli.

Shyamoli was getting multiple marriage proposals while she was in grade 10 but she decided to concentrate on her studies. The life skills classes at the kishori club (adolescents club) had taught her about the dangers of early marriage. Later on, the English and information technology for adolescents (EITA) course was initiated at the kishori club to enhance members' abilities through information technology. Shyamoli didn't waste time to grab the opportunity and was soon elected as an expert trainer. She started teaching other students using her IT experience and continuing her studies simultaneously. She now earns around BDT 5,000 per month and is able to bear her own education expenses. With an ambition to become a professor of English at a

university, Shyamoli is studying bachelors in English at Manikganj Debendra College.

"Computers always fascinated me. I had seen computers at school and at the markets but didn't get the chance to ever use one. Now, I am not only using computers, I am also teaching other members of our club how to use one. "I am very happy to be a member of the BRAC Kishori Club. I have learned a lot of things here", said Shyamoli Debnath, leader of the kishori club in Jom Duara near Aricha Ghat in Manikganj. Shyamoli graduated from a BRAC school and became a member of the kishori club and was later elected to be the ICT peer leader.

BRAC Adolescent Development Programme (ADP) has established these kishori clubs in the most remote areas in the village. The purpose was to empower girls to become self-sufficient, prevent child marriages, enhance leadership skills and to encourage them to excel in every aspect of life by improving their physical and mental health.

4.5 SDG 5: Gender equality

4.5.1 National Perspective on SDG 5

SDG 5 aims to eliminate all gender gaps and end all forms of discrimination against women and girls of all ages. The nine targets under this goal focus on eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls, undertaking reforms to ensure equal rights for disadvantaged women, eliminating early and forced marriages as well as trafficking of women and girls, ensuring access to reproductive health care services, equal opportunities for men and women in education and employment, and equal participation of women in public services and parliament.

Bangladesh has made progress in gender equality and women empowerment over the past two decades. The Global Gender Gap Report 2020, published by World Economic Forum (WEF), shows that Bangladesh has been able to close 72.6% of the overall gender gap in the country, ranking top among the South Asian countries for the fifth consecutive time. Table 4.5.1 shows the rank and score of South Asian countries, sorted by the overall global rank. The table shows the overall gender gap index as well as the four sub-indices (economic opportunity and participation, educational attainment, health and survival, and political empowerment). Bangladesh has been most successful in closing the gender gap in the political empowerment sub-index, with a global rank of five and the top ranking in South Asia. In the health and survival sub-index, Bangladesh was only outperformed by Sri Lanka, while in the educational attainment sub-index, Bangladesh ranked 4th among South Asian countries and 116th among all countries in the world. On the economic opportunity and participation sub-index, Bangladesh was in the lower half, but did score better than India and Pakistan.

Table 4.5.1: Comparative performance of South Asian countries in global gender gap index and its sub-indices in 2020.

Country	Overall Gender Gap Index		Economic Opportunity & Participation		Educational Attainment		Health & Survival		Political Empowerment	
	Rank	Score	Rank	Score	Rank	Score	Rank	Score	Rank	Score
Bangladesh	50	0.73	141	0.44	120	0.95	119	0.97	7	0.55
Sri Lanka	102	0.68	126	0.56	88	0.99	1	0.98	73	0.19
Nepal	101	0.68	101	0.63	133	0.89	131	0.97	59	0.23
India	112	0.67	149	0.35	112	0.96	150	0.94	18	0.41
Maldives	123	0.65	131	0.51	1	1.00	147	0.95	115	0.11
Bhutan	131	0.64	130	0.54	116	0.95	144	0.96	132	0.08
Pakistan	151	0.56	150	0.33	143	0.82	149	0.95	93	0.16

Data Source: The Global Gender Gap Report 2020, WEF

SDG 5.1 focuses on eliminating all forms of discrimination against women, and SDG 5.2 aims to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls. According to the Violence Against Women Survey 2015, 54.7% of Bangladeshi women and girls experienced one or more forms of violence (physical, sexual, economic, emotional and controlling behaviour) by their husbands occurring 12 months before the survey period, which was down, from 66.9% in 2011. SDG 5.2 is measured by the proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older who were subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months. The 2015 survey on violence against women revealed that 6.2% of Bangladeshi women and girls aged 15 years and older had been subjected to physical violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the past 12 months, and 2.5% experienced sexual violence by non-partner during that period. The SDG target aims to bring the percentage down to zero, i.e., bringing an end to all such violence against women by 2030.

The ambition of SDG 5.3 is to eliminate all harmful gender-based practices, such as child marriage, forced marriage and female genital mutilation. A decrease in the percentage of women aged 20-24 who were married before age of 18 years indicates progress in terms of reducing child marriage. The Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey (BDHS) 2014 found that 59% of women aged 20-24 were married before age of 18; this was a 6 percentage point decline from 65% in 2011. The 7FYP targets a reduction to 30% by 2020, which remains a challenge.

Unpaid domestic work receives considerable attention in SDG 5. SDG 5.4 calls for policymakers to recognise the value of unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility. According to the Time Use Survey conducted by BBS in 2012, women spend 25.8% of their time in unpaid domestic work, while men on average spend only 5% of their time in similar work.

In terms of political empowerment of women, Bangladesh has achieved remarkable progress globally. As seen in the table above, Bangladesh had a world ranking of 5 on the political empowerment sub-index, which was by far the top ranking in South Asia. The current prime minister, opposition leader, and the speaker of the parliament are all women, and 20.6% of the seats in the parliament are occupied by women political leaders. Greater commitment is needed, however, to increase the number of women in decision-making positions among the legislative, judiciary and administrative wings of the government.

The government of Bangladesh (GoB) has asserted a strong commitment towards reducing gender gaps, which is being reflected in some of their recent policies. For example, gender responsive budgeting was introduced in 2009 to ensure that gender issues receive significant valuation in all relevant ministries.

4.5.2 BRAC's Contribution

In the context of SDG 5, BRAC's work is linked to ten of the 14 core indicators, under nine targets. Eight of BRAC's programmes contribute directly to SDG 5: i) Gender, Justice and Diversity (GJD), ii) Community Empowerment programme (CEP), iii) Integrated Development programme (IDP), iv) Human Rights and Legal Aid Services (HRLS), v) BRAC Education programme (BEP), vi) Ultra-Poor Graduation (UPG) programme, vii) Urban Development programme (UDP) and viii) Skills Development programme (SDP).

BRAC provides a platform for 1.65 million women and girls to raise their voices through grassroots institutions and platforms that aim to reduce the gap between communities and local governments, and to take collective action against any forms of gender-based violence and child marriage. The GJD initiatives are aimed at educating and supporting women to exercise their rights, developing leadership for preventing and protecting against all forms of gender-based violence and injustice. At the same time, BRAC works with local governments to improve governance through institutional strengthening and gender sensitisation. BRAC has recently accelerated gender mainstreaming into its programmes and enterprises for more collaborative and integrated approaches towards achieving gender equality and women empowerment - in alignment with SDG 5.

Annex 4.5 provides an overview of BRAC's programmes and enterprises aligned with the targets and indicators under SDG 5.

4.5.3 Progress on SDG 5

BRAC targets both young women and men who are socioeconomically disadvantaged. BRAC's skills development programme (SDP) enrolls women in trades such as tailoring, beautification and housekeeping, but it also enrolls them in occupations such as retail sales and mobile phone servicing which are traditionally dominated by men in Bangladesh. Additionally, SDP also encourages people from the transgender communities as well as persons with disabilities to enrol in training and

employment thereafter. SDP, through its interventions, has reached 266 transgender and 41,782 women, of which, 2,554 are women with disabilities.

Analysing real time data and identifying patterns, SDP has identified master crafts persons (MCPs) who can offer more congenial work environments to women and also to learners with disabilities. Studies reveal that women are not being placed in certain trades due to established norms and perception that women cannot perform jobs such as welding, leather machine operation. SDP works towards breaking the norm and proving that women are capable of doing any work as men. Through their intervention, SDP increased the participation of women in the light engineering sector from 28% in 2018 to 40% in 2019 by assessing that women have great potential in trades like welding and leather machine operation. Between 2016 and 2019, SDP trained 12,543 women in nonconventional trades. This contributes to SDG target 5.1 which aims to end all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere.

The gender mainstreaming approach of GJD integrates gender equality (GE) perspectives in the work of all of BRAC's programmes, enterprises, and departments. By 2018, BRAC had reached 1.85 million people (female: 1,654,611 and male: 191,021) through gender integration efforts for prevention of and protection from violence against women and children (VAWC) in communities, thereby contributing directly to SDG 5.2. GJD has successfully reduced the incidence of VAWC in the target communities of BRAC from 80% in 2016 to 44% in 2019, while support and referral services were provided to over 2,000 survivors.

Efforts at prevention of VAWC must engage men and boys - to become a sustainable solution. In this regard, 191,021 men and boys were engaged by GJD in 2018 in changing gender norms and for gender equality promotion. In addition, BEP works on mainstreaming the principles and tools of Gender Quality Action Learning (GQAL). The GQAL programme was launched in 1995 with an aim to improve gender relations within communities and within BRAC. In 2019, with the help of teachers and Kishorinetris (adolescent leaders), they reached out to 705,310 children of pre-primary and primary schools through awareness campaigns on "good touch and bad touch" through disseminating audio-visual (AV) mediums and posters. Moreover, BEP raised awareness on sexual harassment, gender-based violence and sexual and reproductive health and rights amongst 164,767 adolescent girls and boys through their awareness efforts in 2019.

HRLS works on improving knowledge of legal and human rights among community level participants, including men and boys, toward preventing VAWC. The programme's aim is to build a society that is more aware of legal and human rights as well as to build a group of gender and human rights sensitive local government and community leaders. These leaders are expected to play active roles to prevent and protect from GBV and secure the human rights of low-income and vulnerable communities. Through BRAC's legal clinics, 1,544 VAW-related incidents were investigated in 2018, 769 survivors were assisted to go to police to get justice, and 146 survivors received legal assistance. HRLS successfully raised awareness among 60,001 participants in 2016, 90,025 participants in 2017, 90,118 participants in 2018, and 91,626 participants in 2019. Over ten thousand community leaders participated in local community leaders (LCL) workshops and become aware on their responsibilities in preventing trafficking and addressing issues of gender based violence in their Upazila and Union in 2019. 2,228 survivors of non-compoundable criminal cases were referred to DLAC (District Legal Aid Committee) to get legal aid assistance from the government.

BRAC's CEP addresses VAWC through a prevention, protection and social reintegration and rehabilitation mechanism. Between 2016 and 2019, CEP served 14,072 survivors of intimate partner violence with at least one critical service.

UDP runs awareness campaigns to prevent VAWC and child marriage, and provides support to women and children for access to appropriate services. UPG programme provides awareness messages to its participants on child marriage and dowry while the Village Social Solidarity

Committee (VSSC) established by the programme contributes to stop child marriages and violence against women and children in programme participants' households. One of the criteria for graduation is - 'no child marriage takes place in the participating households during the programme cycle'. Through incorporating similar principles, SDP contributes to target SDG 5.3 as a direct result of their interventions.

In addition to technical training, SDP also provides soft skills training which includes raising awareness on issues such as gender, disabilities, child marriage, family planning and job market negotiations. These classes are conducted by female peer leaders (selected from local communities) trained on these issues by sector specialists of SDP to conduct the soft skills classes. A research using randomised controlled trial method on the learners of SDP's flagship project, Skills Training for Advancing Resources (STAR), shows that the impact of SDP's intervention on young women are much higher than on men. The study findings show that the increase in women's incomes is 6% higher than their male counterparts. Moreover, the intervention areas have seen a 62% reduction in child marriage.

IDP works on preventing announced or planned adolescent marriages in BRAC's target areas. Through its initiatives in the target areas, IDP has prevented 198 child marriages in 2016, 112 in 2017, 98 in 2018, and 48 in 2019. In addition, BRAC reached 24,542 adolescent girls and boys directly through the project titled 'Empowering girls on sexual and reproductive health rights towards combating child marriage' in two districts to end child marriage.

By 2019, CEP initiatives had empowered 79,585 women and enabled them to play leadership roles in the local power structures. Moreover, 794 women leaders of Polli Shomaj have been elected as members of Union parishad. This has contributed to SDG 5.5 that aims to ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life. Under CEP, 12,800 women-led community-based organisations (CBOs) in 2017 and 2018, and 12,517 CBOs in 2019 were strengthened to uphold their voice and take initiatives for accessing equal rights and entitlements. Leadership and organisational capacity of 1,114 women leaders were enhanced by UDP in 2019, enabling them to negotiate with the city authorities for budget allocation for low income communities. UDP has also ensured engagement of women in urban planning by 20 city corporations and municipalities.

In line with SDG 5.6, 14 million women and married adolescents were counselled by BRAC staff and volunteers on family planning; 1.49 million adolescent girls were counselled on menstrual hygiene management; 110 schools are supported with improved and hygienic toilets for girls; and 2.7 million school children were counselled on hygiene practices in schools across Bangladesh during 2016-2019.

Under the UPG programme, in accordance with SDG target 5a, women and their families are being provided with livelihood empowerment, financial inclusion, social empowerment and social integration support. As a result, they now have control over their assets, can take decisions regarding family matters and are living in society with dignity.

In line with 5.c, CEP works for increasing women's access to resources and their role in local decision making process to influence resource allocation. Through the active leadership stand of Polli Shomaj under CEP, 2,715,987 services were received by communities from different agencies.

BRAC is engaged in advocacy and lobbying with the government as well as international organisations to ensure a congenial policy environment for women, girls and children. BRAC GJD programme is a member of the United Nations' GBV Cluster, Social Action Committee, Citizens' Initiative on CEDAW, and Citizens' Initiative on Domestic Violence, We Can Alliance and National Girl Child Advocacy Forum. BRAC took a leadership role in Girls Not Brides Bangladesh (GNB)

partnership, a 26-member organisation in the country and played an important role to raise a joint voice against child marriage. The GNB partnership contributed in high-level advocacy with the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA) to review the legal and policy provisions related to child marriage. BRAC also leads Engaging Men and Boys Network in Bangladesh with 30 member organisations to collectively mobilise the men and boys in Bangladesh for establishing gender justice.

4.5.4 Challenges of Achieving SDG 5

Although women are more empowered now than they were two decades ago, VAWC incidents are still occurring at an alarming rate. Comprehensive intervention in reaching out to service providers - especially law and administration to address VAWC prevention and protection remains a big challenge. Adoption of policy initiatives is making it evident that the problem is deeply rooted in our patriarchal society. Hence, Engaging Men and Boys (EMB) for gender equality and women empowerment is crucial.

4.5.5 Way Forward

When the problem is deeply rooted in patriarchal norms and culture, a focus on engaging men and boys to bring behavioural change in the society can be an effective way of preventing VAWC. Meanwhile, it is also crucial to strengthen the capacity of local government organisations to streamline activities related to safety and welfare of women and children. More engagement of local government and civil society and different ministries for effective gender budget implementation will also help with better monitoring of progress on this goal.





“The Last Card”

The real inspiration in the stories of people overcoming poverty often lies not with the individual successes, but in their commitment to improve the lives of others.

Nurunnahar's husband passed away in an accident, seven years after their marriage. She went back to her parents' house with her son and daughter. In her days of crisis, Nurunnahar faced the harsh reality of poverty.

However, after being selected as a UPG programme participant in 2009, she regained her confidence, as targets were set and she had to progress towards them. Nurunnahar diversified her income sources within two years and successfully met all the other criteria of graduation.

She strongly believes that besides her assets, the social and health lessons were the most important inputs she gained from the programme. The lessons encouraged her to raise her voice against her underaged niece's marriage. After the incident, Nurunnahar won

credibility as a 'voice of reason and justice' in her community. People started seeking her advice on similar issues. Nurunnahar was elected as commissioner in the municipal elections in 2011. Her efforts were recognised as vital in reducing the menaces of dowry and child marriage in the community. She took part in various workshops and presently works as a district secretary of the Women Development Forum. She is also a member of the district women council.

Nurunnahar takes pride in her success for stopping 20 cases of child marriages and numerous cases of discrimination in her community.

“We come to Nurunnahar when we see any injustice in our village”, says Rafiq, a community member. He added, “She never disappoints us. That is why we've given her a title – ‘the last card’”. As BRAC's programme helped Nurunnahar change her own life, so has she changed the lives of many!



Nishat: A Brave Girl

Nishat studies at Hafiza Khatun Girls' High School in Moulvibazar district. Students of this school regularly pass through the street of the municipal area. On 31 July 2018, Sahad and his friends harassed a few girls from the school as they were returning home. The Student Watch Group members Fahmida Ramzan Nishat, Arpita Roy Tuli, and Shimla Sutradhar Puja were walking through the same path at that time, and they noticed the incident. Fortunately, the police superintendent of the area, Shahjalal, was also nearby, at a bus-stand. Nishat, along with her friends, went and sought his help.

Shahjalal instantly responded and detained two of the offenders. Later, Shahad was sent to court and sentenced to one month's

imprisonment. The other offender was set free after verbal warning.

Shahjalal awarded a prize to Nishat and her two friends for their courage to protest an incident of violence against women.

Nishat believes that the implementation of the MEJNIN (Meyeder Jonnyo Nirapod Nagorikotto) project in the schools has increased the ability of students to protest against incidents of violence. They are now more aware and have learned how to stand against injustice in the society. On receiving this award, Nishat said, "I am grateful to have a proper guideline, and the MEJNIN project teaching us to protest against injustice, particularly violence against women."



Ascending to the Top

Jaheda Begum was born in a low-income family of Radharbari village in Sunamganj district. She had to stop her studies and marry Nilu Mia, a farmer of the same village. She struggled with poverty and hunger. She wanted to take control of her life and give her family a better future. It wasn't until 1998, when a Polli Shomaj was formed near her village that she realised her full potential.

She became a member of the women-led institution, and owing to her leadership qualities, she was chosen as the president by the members. She took the lead role to make the women aware and mobilise them to change their position in the society. She took part in mobilising services and resources from local government offices, conducted welfare services for neighbours and took collective action against cases of child marriage, dowry, and violence against women.

Her hard work has paid off and she was one of the recipients of the 'Joyeeta' award from the

Ministry of Women and Children Affairs. Following this feat, the government sponsored her training from Hyderabad in India. She then received training on livestock farming. Gathering skills and hands-on experience, Jaheda started providing training for the women of her village on sewing, aquaculture, livestock farming, and making Japanese flowers with paper etc.

The training helped women become active agents of their own lives and they started working to change their circumstances. Thus the Rubber Bari Polli Shomaj became familiar in the locality and the local Member of Parliament sanctioned BDT 30,000 to acknowledge their achievements. Jaheda bought six sewing machines with this money, with which 35 women are now actively working. Under Jaheda's leadership, their polli shomaj is strong and is actively participating in the development of education, eradicating early marriage, providing free medical services and addressing other social issues.

Annex 4.1: BRAC programmes and enterprises' alignment with SDG 1

SDG 1: NO POVERTY							
SDG Targets	SDG Indicators	Ongoing Activities (Prog/Proj)	Prog/Proj Timeframe		Remarks, Justification, Indicators	Specific Targets	Results/ Achievements
			Start (Year)	Finish (Year)			
1.1 By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day	1.1.1 Proportion of population below the international poverty line, by sex, age, employment status and geographical location (urban/rural)	Ultra-Poor Graduation [UPG] Programme	2016	2020	BRAC addresses this target through the cumulative number of ultra-poor population that graduate from UPG programme. To graduate, participants achieve economic and social advancement measured by pre-determined programme criteria.	To have 400,000 targeted households graduate between 2016 and 2020.	UPG programme graduated 86,205 ultra-poor HHs in 2016; 72,804 HHs in 2017; 43,682 in 2018, and 111,526 in 2019 bringing the cumulative HHs BRAC had reached to 314,217.
1.2 By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions	1.2.1 Proportion of population living below the national poverty line, by sex and age	Ultra-Poor Graduation [UPG] Programme	2016	2020	BRAC addresses this global indicator through the cumulative number of ultra-poor population that graduate from UPG programme.	400,000 ultra-poor graduates between 2016-2020.	
		Integrated Development Programme [IDP]	2016	2020	This activity provides asset grant, soft loan, capacity building training, subsistence allowance, and health subsidy to extreme poor people of hard-to-reach areas in Bangladesh. [IDP provides a package of multiple BRAC services. It receives budget from specific BRAC programmes working in areas where IDP operates]	To lift 26,700 ultra-poor HHs from extreme poverty between 2016 and 2020 through graduation method in hard-to-reach areas.	IDP graduated 9,100 extreme poor HHs in 2016. 5,000 in 2017, 5,000 in 2018 and 6,000 in 2019.
	1.2.2 Proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions	Ultra-Poor Graduation [UPG] Programme	2016	2020	BRAC addresses this global indicator through the cumulative number of ultra-poor population that graduate from UPG programme.		
		Skills Development Programme [SDP]	2016	2020	SDP addresses this indicator by providing training and ensuring minimum income and employment for the poor, underprivileged and marginalised youths of Bangladesh.	500,000 unemployed youths (60% of whom would be girls, 10% people with disabilities and other disadvantaged groups) would graduate through BRAC interventions.	Between 2016 and 2019, SDP trained 66,810 learners of which, 71% were from below extreme poverty line, of which 54% were female.
1.3 Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable	1.3.1 Proportion of population covered by social protection floors/systems, by sex, distinguishing children, unemployed persons, older persons, persons with disabilities, pregnant women, new-borns, work-injury victims and the poor and the vulnerable	Community Empowerment Programme [CEP]	2016	2020	CEP's women led community based organisation Polli Shomaj facilitates social safety net services from GO/NGOs for poor and vulnerable communities to cope with risks and crises.		Between 2016 and 2019, the community-led platform, Polli Shomaj, mobilised 2,715,987 social safety net services/resources for community people.
		Aarong (social enterprise)			Aarong ensures artisans receive retirement benefits.		In 2017, 224 artisans received retirement benefits in 2017 in the amount of BDT 5,540,111. In 2018, 493 artisans received retirement benefits in the amount of BDT 11,512,447
		Human Rights and Legal Aid Services [HRLS]	2016	2020	HRLS provides legal assistance to vulnerable people (of which 98% were women) and recovered money for their maintenance and for widowed women.		# of people HRLS provided legal assistance to: In 2016: 14,425 In 2017: 14,174 In 2018: 16,340 In 2019: 17,944

SDG Targets	SDG Indicators	Ongoing Activities (Prog/Proj)	Prog/Proj Timeframe		Remarks, Justification, Indicators	Specific Targets	Results/ Achievements
			Start (Year)	Finish (Year)			
							Amount of money recovered for vulnerable women, children, unemployed persons: In 2016: 331,100,950 BDT In 2017: 346,223,538 BDT In 2018: 436,750,300 BDT In 2019: 469,499,000 BDT
1.4 By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance	1.4.1 Proportion of population living in HHs with access to basic services	Ultra-Poor Graduation [UPG] Programme	2016	2020	UPG programme provides ultra-poor HHs with grants and interest free loans for access to better livelihood options.		344,293 HHs received grants and interest free loans for access to better livelihood options.
		Microfinance [MF]			MF facilitates access to financial services like savings, loans, insurance and digital financial services for people who are usually left out of the mainstream banking system. MF provides financial products/ services to clients for income generating activities.		As of July 2020, MF's total number of borrowers were 6.1 million.
		Aarong (social enterprise)			Aarong's Artisan Development Initiative [ADI] under Ayesha Abed Foundation centres comprises key BRAC programme services, including Microfinance loans.		By ADI reports, in 2017, 5,594 loans were issued. In 2018, the number of loans issued was 5,379.
		Human Rights and Legal Aid Services [HRLS]	2016	2020	HRLS reaches out to community people and created awareness by educating people on land rights, land documents and land services.		In 2018, HRLS educated 85,689 people on land rights, land documents and land services.
1.5 By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters	1.5.1 Number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population	Ultra-Poor Graduation [UPG] Programme	2016	2020	BRAC provides recovery and rehabilitation support for HHs affected by nationally declared disasters.		
		BRAC Humanitarian Programme [BHP]	2016	2020	An integral part of the Humanitarian Programme is to support people affected by disasters.	To recover losses and build resilience of 543,000 vulnerable HHs in 32 hazard-prone areas.	
		Microfinance [MF]	2016	2020	MF provides client products/services including risk-transfer options. MF provides safe and reliable savings facilities where low-income HHs can withdraw funds in emergencies. MF also provides an insurance option to borrowers.		At July 2020, the closing balance of MF was USD 1.15 Bln and 97% of borrowers were provided insurance benefits.
	1.5.4 Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies	Ultra-Poor Graduation [UPG] Programme	2016	2020	UPG programme provides support to ultra-poor HHs for achieving better livelihoods that enable them to better cope with climate change. UPG programme supports market relevant enterprises appropriate to their geographic context and region.		In 2016, BRAC recorded 29,884 UPG programme graduates in 14 districts nationally defined as climate vulnerable. In 2019, a total of 75,911 programme participants graduated from the climate vulnerable districts.
		BRAC Humanitarian Programme [BHP]	2016	2020	BRAC provides support to district level governance bodies in selected climate vulnerable districts for planning and taking actions to respond to disasters towards DRR (Disaster Risk Reduction). BHP links with UPG programme to increase the resilience of affected ultra-poor HHs and to open pathways out of poverty.		BRAC designed an integrated approach to address needs of 157,333 affected HHs during 2016-2019. It uses a standard operating procedure (SOP) aligned with national and local government strategies; it is integrated in district level contingency plans and the Humanitarian and Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy.

Annex 4.2: BRAC programmes and enterprises' alignment with SDG 2

SDG 2: ZERO HUNGER							
SDG Targets	SDG Indicators	Ongoing Activities (Prog/Proj)	Prog/Proj Timeframe		Remarks, Justification, Indicators	Specific Targets	Results/ Achievements
			Start (Year)	Finish (Year)			
2.1 By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular, the poor and people in vulnerable situations including infants to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round	2.1.1 Prevalence of undernourishment	Health, Nutrition and Population Programme [HNPP]	2016	2020	Improving dietary practices of the target population will eventually improve the overall nutrition of the community. HNPP provides low-cost basic healthcare, combining curative, preventative and promotive services to meet community health needs. HNPP includes specific interventions and referral systems focusing on improving health and nutrition of women.		The integrated service delivery model utilises around 100,000 frontline Community Health Workers (CHWs).
	2.1.2 Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population, based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES)	Ultra-Poor Graduation [UPG] Programme	2016	2020	Programme gives support to HHs to increase food and nutrition security with resilient livelihoods and enterprises.	To impact 400,000 HHs by 2020.	UPG intervention resulted in an increase of 8-14% in the ability to have 2 meals a day in the participating households.
		Agriculture and Food Security Programme [AFSP]	2016	2018	BRAC measures number of HHs growing at least 5 nutrient rich crops.	To establish 3,500 nutri-gardens to achieve food security and improved nutritional status of 2 million marginalised people with climate adaptive technologies.	3,500 nutri-gardens were established. AFSP reached a total of 1,120,842 people with resilient agriculture technologies from 2016 until programme shut down in June 2018; 64% of people reached were women.
		BRAC Seed and Agro Enterprise	2016	2020	This BRAC enterprise creates awareness of nutritional aspects in farm families through Uthan Boithak, involving AFSP focusing on homestead 'nutri-gardening'.		In 2018, BRAC Seed and Agro held 925 such Uthan Boithaks.
2.2 By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under-5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons	2.2.1 Prevalence of stunting (height for age <-2 standard deviation from the median of the World Health Organisation (WHO) Child Growth Standards) among children under-5 years of age	Health, Nutrition and Population Programme [HNPP]	2016	2020	Decreasing stunting among children under-5 is addressed by HNPP's impact level indicator. Impact of nutrition services ultimately contributes to this target. CHWs provide counselling, coaching and demonstration at HHs; they offer community-based management of acute malnutrition (CMAM) services including supplementary food to mothers and children of 6 to 59 months who are affected by moderate acute malnutrition. Sachets of micro-nutrient powder are distributed under the home fortification programme.	As of 2018, a total of 11,350 health volunteers (Shashtya Shebikas and 12,438 nutrition promoters (Pushti Shebikas) and 1,411 Pushti Kormis worked in 23 districts and 141 upazilas and targeted a population of 34,471,262 people.	In 2018, 2,385,858 mothers of children aged 0-6 months on appropriate IYCF practices of which 1,426,557 exclusively breastfed their children and 400,004 children received a minimum acceptable diet. 930,242 mothers of children aged 7-24 months received counselling on complementary feeding and timely initiation of complementary feeding. 487,681 of the 696,687 pregnant women counselled on Dietary Diversification and Adequate Food Intake took at least 5 diversified food groups (DDS 5) within the last 24 hours of the reporting day. 1,530,388 of the 2,887,524 adolescent girls counselled on Dietary Diversification and Adequate Food Intake reported to have taken at least 5 diversified food groups within the last 24 hours (DDS 5).

SDG Targets	SDG Indicators	Ongoing Activities (Prog/Proj)	Prog/Proj Timeframe		Remarks, Justification, Indicators	Specific Targets	Results/ Achievements
			Start (Year)	Finish (Year)			
		Water, Sanitation and Hygiene [WASH]	2016	2020	Impact of WASH's work in Goal 6 will contribute to 2.2.1 and 3.9.2. WASH contributes to breaking the cycle of contamination caused by unhygienic latrines, contaminated water, and unsafe hygiene practices.		WASH is providing sustainable and integrated WASH services across half the country.
		Ultra-Poor Graduation [UPG] Programme	2016	2020	UPG programme grants the participants access to the Essential Health Care package that includes health and nutrition education covering topics such as importance of exclusively breastfeeding until the 6th month, child immunisation, administration of Vitamin A, pregnancy care, etc.		The likelihood of wasting in children in households participating in the Graduation programme decreased by 8% while the likelihood of being underweight decreased by 19%.
2.3 By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment	2.3.1 Volume of production per labour unit by classes of farming/pastoral/forestry enterprise size	Agriculture and Food Security Programme [AFSP]	2016	2018		BRAC supported farmers' target was a 5% increase in crop productivity and increase in yield.	
		BRAC Seed and Agro Enterprise	2016	2020	In 2018, the Seed and Agro enterprise started working on increasing knowledge base of farmers on crop cultivation, best practices and technology dissemination.	1,200 Farmers' Scheduled Meetings, covering 30,000 farmers focusing on Vegetable, Rice and Maize for ensuring a higher yield.	In 2018, Seed and Agro Enterprise had held 2038 scheduled farmers' meetings.
		BRAC Dairy and Food Project	2016	2020	In 2018, the project increases total number of farmers with direct access to milk market.		The BRAC Dairy and Food Project increased the number of farmers who have direct access to milk market from 8018 at the end of 2017 to 10,792 at the end of 2018.
	2.3.2 Average income of small-scale food producers, by sex and indigenous status	Ultra-Poor Graduation [UPG] Programme	2016	2020	On the impact level, UPG programme participants' income is increased.	To increase HHs' income among programme participants by 5% per year.	
		Integrated Development Programme [IDP]	2016	2020	IDP's contribution in SDG 2.3.2 is an accumulation of all its work in all areas it covers. Hence its budget has been mentioned individually in IDP contributions across the framework.	To reach 1.1 million people by 2020 providing different socio-economic services.	
2.4 By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality.	2.4.1 Proportion of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture	Agriculture and Food Security Programme [AFSP]	2016	2018	BRAC addresses this SDG target by training and raising awareness of farmers on climate resilient production technologies. Adopting these techs ultimately ensures sustainable food production systems. AFSP worked on building systems of production and distribution, offering quality seeds at fair prices while developing better crop varieties and practices. AFSP promoted efficient farming techniques and environmental sustainability. It develops markets by encouraging entrepreneurship, self-sufficiency in food production, and networking model farmers.		

SDG Targets	SDG Indicators	Ongoing Activities (Prog/Proj)	Prog/Proj Timeframe		Remarks, Justification, Indicators	Specific Targets	Results/ Achievements
			Start (Year)	Finish (Year)			
		BRAC Seed and Agro Enterprise	2016	2020	In 2018, the Seed and Agro enterprise starts working on increasing knowledge base of farmers on crop cultivation, best practices and technology dissemination.	1,200 Farmers' Scheduled Meetings, covering 30,000 farmers focusing on Vegetable, Rice and Maize for ensuring a higher yield.	In 2018, Seed and Agro Enterprise had held 2038 scheduled farmers' meetings while in 2019, they have held 832 meetings.
2.5 By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at the national, regional and international levels, and promote access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilisation of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as internationally agreed.	2.5.1 Number of plant and animal genetic resources for food and agriculture secured in either medium or long-term conservation facilities	Agriculture and Food Security Programme [AFSP]	2016	2018	AFSP supported collection, conservation and cultivation of indigenous crop varieties in on-farm conditions and conserves these accessions for broader genetic gain.		
2.a Increase investment, including through enhanced international cooperation, in rural infrastructure, agricultural research and extension services, technology development and plant and livestock gene banks in order to enhance agricultural productive capacity in developing countries, in particular least developed countries.	2.a.2 Total official flows (official development assistance plus other official flows) to the agriculture sector	Agriculture and Food Security Programme [AFSP]	2016	2018	AFSP investment contributed to total official flows (official development assistance plus other official flows) to the agriculture sector.		

Annex 4.3: BRAC programme and enterprises' alignment with SDG 3

SDG 3: GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING							
SDG Targets	SDG Indicators	Ongoing Activities (Prog/Proj)	Prog/Proj Timeframe		Remarks, Justification, Indicators	Specific Targets	Results/ Achievements
			Start (Year)	Finish (Year)			
3.1 By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births	3.1.2 Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel	Health, Nutrition and Population Programme [HNPP]	2016	2020	Addressed by improved utilisation of maternal health services including safe delivery care at community level and urban slums. There are two components under the MNCH: 'Manoshi' (Urban) in city slums of nine city corporations, and Improving Maternal, Neonatal and Child Survival (IMNCS), in rural areas of 14 districts.		During the period Jan-Jun 2018, a total of 397,053 deliveries were conducted by skilled birth attendants (80% at facility and 20% at home). More than three-quarters of births in targeted areas were conducted by skilled birth attendants (77% in 2016 and 78% in 2017).
		Integrated Development Programme [IDP]	2016	2020	3 BRAC health centres, 15 Delivery centres and 1800 community health workers provide health care services to community people. [HNPP Fund]		In the areas covered by IDP, 5,256 births (representing 26%) were attended by BRAC supported skilled health personnel in 2016. In 2017, the numbers were 9,353 (48.57%), 7,810 (67%) in 2018 and in 2019, 8,701 (62.20%).
3.2 By 2030, end preventable deaths of new-borns and children under-5 years of age, with all countries aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births and under-5 mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1,000 live births	3.2.2 Neonatal and under-5 child mortality rates	Health, Nutrition and Population Programme [HNPP]	2016	2020	Addressed by improved utilisation of maternal health services including safe delivery care at community level and urban slums. CHWs in rural and urban MNCH areas visit all mothers and new-borns within 24 hours of delivery to record birth weight and assess, counsel and refer in case of any neonatal complications. Low birth weight neonates and their mothers are followed up at HH level using a standard protocol until reaching recommended body weight.		BRAC interventions ensured 1,410,683 children of 0-6 months of age in 2019, 1,433,173 children in 2018, 1,152,269 children in 2017 were exclusively breastfed. The number of 7-24 months old children in BRAC intervention areas who consumed minimum acceptable diet (MAD) was 281,380 in 2017; 502,331 in 2018 and increased to 488,275 in 2019.
		Integrated Development Programme [IDP]	2016	2020	3 BRAC health centres, 15 Delivery centres and 1800 community health workers provide health care services to community people. [HNPP Fund]	To decrease neonatal mortality rate by 30% in the programme's target areas by 2020 against the baseline level.	The neonatal mortality rate in the IDP operating areas has fallen from 21 per thousand live births in 2016 to 16 per thousand live births in 2019.
3.3 By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, waterborne diseases and other communicable diseases	3.3.2 Tuberculosis incidence per 1,000 population	Health, Nutrition and Population Programme [HNPP]	2016	2020	Intense community-based approach, organizing sputum collection at field level, providing social support to patients and Introducing new technology (LED microscopy, Gene-Xpert, X-ray etc.) will be helping programme to achieve higher than the target for both indicators. BRAC is leading a group of 42 local NGOs who are the sub-recipients of the GFATM.	To reduce the morbidity, mortality and transmission of TB until it is no longer a public health problem.	BRAC covers 322 sub-districts from 45 districts, 11 city corporations with a population of 101 million people including 49 academic institutes, 41 prisons, 484 peripheral laboratories and 28 external quality assessment centres. BRAC also operates 2 port hospitals and 3 EPZ, 28 GeneXpert and X-Ray sites and 34 X-Ray sites. Between 2016 and 2019, a total of 504,608 persons with TB were diagnosed and enrolled for treatment.

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SDG Targets	SDG Indicators	Ongoing Activities (Prog/Proj)	Prog/Proj Timeframe		Remarks, Justification, Indicators	Specific Targets	Results/ Achievements
			Start (Year)	Finish (Year)			
	3.3.3 Malaria incidence per 1,000 population	Health, Nutrition and Population Programme [HNPP]	2016	2020	The National Malaria Elimination Programme (NMEP) established an effective partnership with a consortium of 21 NGOs led by BRAC.	To provide preventive care, early diagnosis and prompt treatment and mass distribution of LLIN (Long Lasting Insecticidal Bed Nets) among 18.09 million of the population at risk.	During 2016-2019, 56,155 malaria cases were diagnosed and treated among the at-risk population.
3.4 By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being	3.4.1 Mortality rate attributed to cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes or chronic respiratory disease	Health, Nutrition and Population Programme [HNPP]	2016	2020	BRAC promotes early detection and prompt treatment for NCDs and disabilities within targeted community As primary service delivery agents, CHWs have been trained on how to screen for diabetes and hypertension using bedside tests/exams. They can recognise 'normal' and 'deviated' results and advise accordingly.		From Jan-Jun 2018, 115,552 patients with hypertension were screened and among them 50,765 were referred for confirmation of diagnosis and treatment. In case of diabetes, the numbers were 89,897 screened and 41,816 referred.
3.6 By 2020, halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents	3.6.1 Number of road traffic fatal injury deaths within 30 days, per 100,000 population (age-standardised)	Road Safety Programme	2016	2020	Road Safety Programme contributes towards national endeavour to road safety.		Since 2016 until 2019, the Road Safety Programme provided basic driving training to 3,975 novice drivers. The programme provided road safety and defensive driving training to 2,724 in-service drivers. Road safety awareness orientations were provided to 586,111 community people.
3.7 By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes	3.7.1 Proportion of women of reproductive age (aged 15-49 years) who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods	Health, Nutrition and Population Programme [HNPP]	2016	2020	BRAC promotes modern method of family planning by promoting informed choice and voluntarism in contraceptive use among eligible couples.		HNPP initiatives ensured 9,906,070 women of reproductive age (15-49 years) had their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods in 2019 and 10,190,601 in 2018. Between 2016 and 2019, on average, 71% of targeted eligible couples were using modern contraceptives. In 2016, 15 million women, adolescent girls and their families received counselling on and services relating to reproductive health and rights.
		Integrated Development Programme [IDP]	2016	2020	IDP works to ensure access to essential health care services, modern family planning methods. [HNPP Fund]	Ensuring 70% ELCO using modern contraceptives.	
	3.7.2 Adolescent birth rate (aged 10-14 years; aged 15-19 years) per 1,000 women in that age group	Health, Nutrition and Population Programme [HNPP]	2016	2020	HNPP is providing health education for women of reproductive age, including adolescent girls, as well as targeting boys and adult males. HNPP's reproductive health services include limited curative care, education, counselling, and nutrition, and other health advice. Health forums are arranged at ADP clubs (for adolescents).		During Jan-Jun 2018, a total of 1,478,764 pregnant women were registered and among them 180,690 were adolescents (10 -19 years).

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SDG Targets	SDG Indicators	Ongoing Activities (Prog/Proj)	Prog/Proj Timeframe		Remarks, Justification, Indicators	Specific Targets	Results/ Achievements
			Start (Year)	Finish (Year)			
3.8 Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all	3.8.1 Coverage of essential health services (defined as the average coverage of essential services based on tracer interventions that include reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health, infectious diseases, non-communicable diseases and service capacity and access, among the general and the most disadvantaged population)	Integrated Development Programme [IDP]	2016	2020	3 BRAC health centres, 15 Delivery centres and 1800 community health workers provide health care services to community people. [HNPP Fund]		
		Aarong (social enterprise)	2016	2020	Aarong's Health Security Scheme [HSS] provides health coverage for artisans. The scheme has been scaled up to cover all Ayesha Abed Foundation sub-centres in 2017.		In 2017, a total of 21,481 artisans of Aarong and 50,890 family members were enrolled under the HSS. In 2018, a total of 25,514 artisans and 60,159 families were enrolled under the HSS.
3.9 By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination	3.9.2 Mortality rate attributed to unsafe water, unsafe sanitation and lack of hygiene (exposure to unsafe Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for All (WASH) services)	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene [WASH]	2016	2020	Impact of WASH's work in Goal 6 contributes to 2.2.1 and 3.9.2.		The number of individual persons that gained access to improved (safe) drinking water through WASH interventions was 21,720 in 2016; 43,714 in 2017; 79,418 in 2018; and 80,454 in 2019. Moreover, 12,414 people gained access to hygienic latrines through revolving funds in 2016 which increased to 23,814 in 2017, 25,670 people in 2018 and 50,380 people in 2019. Also, 183,590 people gained access to a hygienic latrine through grants in 2017; 237,780 in 2018; and 240,094 people in 2019. At least 45% of all beneficiaries were women.

Annex 4.4: BRAC programmes and enterprises' alignment with SDG 4

SDG 4: QUALITY EDUCATION							
SDG Targets	SDG Indicators	Ongoing Activities (Prog/Proj)	Prog/Proj Timeframe		Remarks, Justification, Indicators	Specific Targets	Results/ Achievements
			Start (Year)	Finish (Year)			
4.1 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes	4.1.1 Proportion of children and young people: (a) in grades 2/3; (b) at the end of primary; and (c) at the end of lower secondary achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in (i) reading and (ii) mathematics, by sex	BRAC Education Programme [BEP]	2016	2020	2020 BRAC MCLC (Multi-Purpose Community Learning Centres) and ADP clubs aim to ensure that children who attend and graduate through BRAC learning and development institutes demonstrate at least an 85% excellence level of learning outcomes.	Ensure attendance and graduation of 3+ million children and adolescents through high quality, pedagogically cutting-edge, climate-sensitive and sustainable learning and development institutes. The target is to have an equal proportion of boys and girls, at least 3% persons with disabilities and at least 1 student from ethnic minorities in every classroom.	Among BEP students in 2018, 99.4% scored higher than national average in primary education completion examination; 96.2% better than national average in JSC examination; and 94.5% higher than national average in the SSC examination. In 2019, 99.46% of the students scored higher than national average in primary education completion examination (PECE); 98.34% better than national average in JSC examination; and 92.27% higher than national average in the SSC examination.
		Integrated Development Programme [IDP]	2016	2020	BEP operates innovative mobile education facilities – 'Boat Schools' – and follows the basic BEP formula in providing education services in Haor regions.	Enrolment of at least 50% girl students in BRAC primary and pre-primary schools towards achieving gender equality in successful graduation at BEP catchment area. To ensure 95% of enrolled children successfully complete/ graduate from BRAC pre-primary and primary school and demonstrate at least an 85% (excellent) level of learning.	In 2017, the BEP enabled 7,905 students (4,500 in pre-primary and 3,405 in primary) to achieve this target (99.9% of total enrolled); in 2018, it was 4,979 (2,564 in pre-primary, and 2,415 in primary), which was 99.6% of total enrolled. In 2019, it was 4,084 (2,986 in pre-primary, and 1,098 in primary), 99.43% of total enrolled.
4.2 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education	4.2.1 Proportion of children under-5 years of age who are developmentally on track in health, learning and psychosocial well-being, by sex	BRAC Education Programme [BEP]	2016	2020	BEP uses methodologies for age-appropriate learning aligned with ECD, Pre-Primary, Primary and Secondary education.	Outcome is students developing the ability to think critically and adopt the mind-set of pursuing higher education.	In 2018, girls comprised 59.1% of students enrolled in newly opened BRAC pre-primary and primary schools. In 2016, 611,823 BEP students were promoted to the next grade; 430,089 students in 2017, and 402,669 students in 2018.
	4.2.2 Participation rate in organised learning (one year before the official primary entry age)	BRAC Education Programme [BEP]	2016	2020		BRAC's ECD pupils move into the primary education in BRAC schools.	In 2016, 377,954 pupils moved into primary education from ECD; 373,400 in 2017; 298,713 in 2018 and 487,252 in 2019.

SDG Targets	SDG Indicators	Ongoing Activities (Prog/Proj)	Prog/Proj Timeframe		Remarks, Justification, Indicators	Specific Targets	Results/Achievements
			Start (Year)	Finish (Year)			
4.3 By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university	4.3.1 Participation rate of youth and adults in formal and non-formal education and training in the previous 12 months, by sex	BRAC Education Programme [BEP]	2016	2020	BRAC's skills training access in general education is a partnership project between BRAC and the Government of Bangladesh's Access to Information (a2i) programme. The project integrates skills training ¹³ into general education, thereby providing an alternative vocational pathway, especially to students who are in danger of dropping out.	Men and women in target communities have equal access to non-formal education and training. Each year 2 million youth/adolescents participate in the BRAC ADP, MCLC and SMSS	With 2,044,018 youth/adolescents participating in ADP in 2016, 2,402,176 in 2017, 2,120,354 in 2018 and 2,278,524 in 2019, this target was achieved successfully. More than 50% of the participants were women.
		Skills Development Programme [SDP]	2016	2020	The SDP provides hands-on apprenticeships in enterprises and institution-based training in keeping with the National Skills Development Policy 2011 (NSDP). The programme puts special focus on disadvantaged groups, including women and migrant workers, helping them to gain the skills needed to secure desired employment.	By 2020, SDP to have graduated 500,000 youth and adults able to demonstrate employable skills through the programme or partner programs facilitated by BRAC. The graduates will be able to demonstrate employable skills, and 60% of the graduates will be girls or women.	In 2016, SDP interventions successfully reached 17,890 youth and adults; of these, 29% were female; 5% were female or male persons with disabilities. In 2017, this increased to 23,972 youth and adults (37% female; 5% persons with disability); In 2018, it increased to 26,002 youth and adults (39% female, 5% persons with disabilities). In 2019, this further increased to 160,581 youth and adults (23% female; 0.8% persons with disability).
4.4 By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship	4.4.1 Proportion of youth and adults with information and communications technology (ICT) skills, by type of skill	BRAC Education Programme [BEP]	2016	2020	BRAC's ADP clubs give training to adolescents on ICT (EITA: English and ICT training to Adolescents); our Gonokendro also provide training on ICT. BRAC provides ICT training to our BEP Librarians.	Members of Multi-purpose Community Learning Centres (Known as Gonokendro) and ADP (Adolescent Development Programme) centres receive basic ICT training.	BEP members received basic ICT training from the Gonokendro and ADP centres: 2016: 44,008 2017: 43,684 2018: 33,856 2019: 14,672
		Skills Development Programme [SDP]	2016	2020	BRAC's apprenticeship and training activities provide high quality formal and informal ICT training for underprivileged youth, adults and migrants. The SDP also links graduates with decent work opportunities that respect the rights of workers, unlocking the potential of future generations. BRAC started the Skilling Youth through Partnership (SYP) project in 2016. In 2017, the SYP expanded and was re-formed as the Institute of Skills Development (ISD).	By 2020, SDP to have placed 400,000 disadvantaged women and men in jobs where they are employed in gainful and decent workplaces, including self-entrepreneurship.	BRAC and partners have 33,980 people across 46 districts engaged in the SDP to provide support with skills training, jobs and decent work interventions. 2016: 7,465 SDP graduates were in gainful and decent employment, including self-entrepreneurship, 43% of the employed graduates were female, and 8% were persons with disabilities.

¹³ At institutions with government-accredited NTVQF qualifications

SDG Targets	SDG Indicators	Ongoing Activities (Prog/Proj)	Prog/Proj Timeframe		Remarks, Justification, Indicators	Specific Targets	Results/ Achievements
			Start (Year)	Finish (Year)			
							2017: 10,008 SDP graduates were in gainful and decent employment, including self-entrepreneurship, 53% were female, and 10% were persons with disabilities. In 2018: 9,144 SDP graduates were in gainful and decent employment, including self-entrepreneurship; 66% were female, and 9% were persons with disabilities. In 2019: 19,681 SDP graduates were in gainful and decent employment, including self-entrepreneurship, 53 % were female, and 4% were persons with disabilities.
4.5 By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations	4.5.1 Parity indices (female/male, rural/urban, bottom/top wealth quintile and others such as disability status, indigenous peoples and conflict-affected, as data become available) for all education indicators on this list that can be disaggregated	BRAC Education Programme [BEP]	2016	2020		To achieve gender equality in both enrolments in and successful graduation from BRAC learning and development institutes.	Special-need focused education curriculum is used for children and adolescents living in hard-to-reach areas and differently abled students. 2016: 56% students were girls; 34,348 were children with disabilities; 64,884 students were ethnic minorities 2017: 54.6% students were girls; 44,898 children with disabilities; 44,230 students were ethnic minorities 2018: 55.1% students were girls; 41,348 were children with disabilities; 41,348 students were ethnic minorities 2019: 55.1% students were girls; 33,811 were children with disabilities; 28,510 students were ethnic minorities.
		Skills Development Programme [SDP]	2016	2020	SDP focuses on reaching women for skills training.	To support 120,000 women to receive skills training and /or to be placed in jobs and 15,000 persons with disabilities to receive skills training and/or placed in jobs.	Between 2016 and 2019, 61,465 women were reached through SDP's intervention and 2,519 reached were persons with disability.

SDG Targets	SDG Indicators	Ongoing Activities (Prog/Proj)	Prog/Proj Timeframe		Remarks, Justification, Indicators	Specific Targets	Results/ Achievements
			Start (Year)	Finish (Year)			
		Skills Development Programme [SDP]	2016	2020	SDP focuses on reaching women for skills training.	9,521 of BRAC SDP's graduates or BRAC partner graduates are employed in gainful and decent work places, including self-entrepreneurship (5568 were female, 3,953 were male, and 1,078 were person with disability).	Between 2016 and 2019, 61,465 women were reached through SDP's intervention and 2,519 reached were persons with disability.
		Integrated Development Programme [IDP]	2016	2020	IDP ensures special-need focused education curriculum for children and adolescents living in hard-to-reach areas and differently abled students.	Gender equality in both enrolment in and successful graduation in BRAC primary and pre-primary schools in IDP catchment areas.	Gender equality achieved in both enrolment in and successful graduation in BRAC primary and pre-primary schools in IDP catchment areas.
		Urban Development Programme [UDP]	2016	2020	In urban areas, BRAC's UDP works to ensure that targeted poor urban HHs receive BRAC's education, health, financial, and crisis management services.	To increase # of targeted HHs receiving and using BRAC's education, health, financial, and crisis management services.	UDP provided education support to 3,475 students from ultra-poor families in 2018.
4.7 By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and nonviolence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development	4.7.1 Extent to which (i) global citizenship education and (ii) education for sustainable development, including gender equality and human rights, are mainstreamed at all levels in: (a) national education policies, (b) curricula, (c) teacher education and (d) student assessment	BRAC Education Programme [BEP]	2016	2020		Over one million participants in each year from BRAC ADP clubs and MCLC.	A total of 5,832,019 participants at BRAC ADP clubs and MCLC in between 2016 and 2019.
		Skills Development Programme [SDP]	2016	2020		400,000 BRAC SDP graduates or BRAC partner graduates are employed in gainful and decent workplaces, including self-entrepreneurship.	
4.a Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all	4.a.1 Proportion of schools with access to: (a) electricity; (b) the Internet for pedagogical purposes; (c) computers for pedagogical purposes; (d) adapted infrastructure and	BRAC Education Programme [BEP]	2016	2020			BRAC Learning and Development Institutes is comprised of: ECD Centres, Pre-primary Learning Classes, BRAC Primary Schools, Shishu Niketon, PACE Centres, ADP Centres, and selected Secondary Schools.

SDG Targets	SDG Indicators	Ongoing Activities (Prog/Proj)	Prog/Proj Timeframe		Remarks, Justification, Indicators	Specific Targets	Results/ Achievements
			Start (Year)	Finish (Year)			
	materials for students with disabilities; (e) basic drinking water; (f) single-sex basic sanitation facilities; and (g) basic hand washing facilities (as per the WASH indicator definitions)						
4.c By 2030, substantially increase the supply of qualified teachers, including through international cooperation for teacher training in developing countries, especially least developed countries and small island developing States	4.c.1 Proportion of teachers in: (a) pre-primary; (b) primary; (c) lower secondary; and (d) upper secondary education who have received at least the minimum organised teacher training (e.g. pedagogical training) pre-service or in-service required for teaching at the relevant level in a given country	BRAC Education Programme [BEP]			BRAC teachers are trained and internally evaluated to ensure: (i) reading proficiency; (ii) basic mathematics skills; and (iii) age-appropriate scientific concepts, including climate change adaptation concepts.		The numbers of BEP trained teachers at this quality level were 35,250 in 2016, 34,715 in 2017, 29,401 in 2018 and 24,983 in 2019.
		Skills Development Programme [SDP]			SDP contributes to numbers of qualified teachers by providing professional training courses for teachers, trainers, instructors and managers.		

Annex 4.5: BRAC programmes and enterprises' alignment with SDG 5

SDG 5: GENDER EQUALITY							
SDG Targets	SDG Indicators	Ongoing Activities (Prog/Proj)	Prog/Proj Timeframe		Remarks, Justification, Indicators	Specific Targets	Results/ Achievements
			Start (Year)	Finish (Year)			
5.1: End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere	5.1.1 Whether or not legal frameworks are in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non discrimination on the basis of sex	Skills Development Programme [SDP]	2016	2020	Through their research, SDP realised that women are not being placed in certain trades due to the perception that women cannot perform jobs like welding. Through their intervention, SDP increased the participation of women in the light engineering sector.		The percentage of women in light engineering sector increased from 28% in 2018 to 40% in 2019. Since 2016 until 2019, 12,543 women were trained in non-conventional trade.
5.2: Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation	5.2.1 Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by form of violence and by age	BRAC Education Programme [BEP]	2016	2020	BEP works on mainstreaming the principles and tools of GQAL and other gender focused pilots and adapting in the programme for programme participants to use. BEP also sensitises men and boys, BEP staff and reaches out to children for awareness.		BEP raised awareness on sexual harassment, gender-based violence and sexual and reproductive health and rights amongst 200,384 adolescent girls and boys through their awareness efforts in 2018 and 164,767 adolescent girls and boys in 2019. With the help of Kishorinetris, BEP reached out to 723,645 children by awareness campaigns on Good Touch and Bad Touch through disseminating audio-visual mediums and posters in 2018 and 705,310 children in 2019.
		Gender Justice and Diversity [GJD]	2016	2020	BRAC Gender programme is integrated with other programme and enterprise interventions. This target is addressed by the proportion of prevented VAWC among community level participants in other partnered programmes. Indicator: Measured as the proportion of prevented VAWC among community level participants in other partnered programmes.		GJD successfully reduced incidence of violence against women and children in BRAC target communities from 80% in 2016 to 44% in 2019, while providing support and referral services to 1280 survivors in 2018 and 1,124 survivors in 2019.

SDG Targets	SDG Indicators	Ongoing Activities (Prog/Proj)	Prog/Proj Timeframe		Remarks, Justification, Indicators	Specific Targets	Results/ Achievements
			Start (Year)	Finish (Year)			
		Urban Development Programme [UDP]	2016	2020	UDP runs awareness campaigns to prevent VAWC and child marriage. UDP adopts principles and tools of GQAL and other gender-focused pilots. It provides support to women and children for access to appropriate services after domestic violence incidents.	To reduce the proportion of women experiencing intimate partner violence by 10% by 2020 over baseline in 2015 BSS survey.	
		Community Empowerment Programme [CEP]	2016	2020	CEP addresses VAWC through a prevention, protection and social reintegration and rehabilitation mechanism. CEP also uses engaging men and boys as an approach to prevent violence.		Between 2016 and 2019, 14,072 survivors of intimate partner violence have been served with at least one critical service.
		Human Rights and Legal Services [HRLS]	2016	2020		To build an awareness in society on legal and Human Rights so that proportion of women experiencing intimate partner violence will be reduced decreased by 10% by 2020 over baseline in 2015 BSS survey.	No. of HRLS course participants stated they are aware of laws related to Gender based violence, Human rights, land rights, human trafficking: In 2016: 60,001 In 2017: 90,025 In 2018: 90,118 In 2019: 91,626
		Human Rights and Legal Services [HRLS]	2016	2020		To build group of gender and HR sensitive Local Government (LG) and community leaders so that they can play an active role to prevent and protect GBV and secure HR of poor and vulnerable community.	No. of community leaders participated in LCL workshop so that they become aware on their responsibilities in preventing trafficking and addressing issues of Gender based violence (GBV at the Upazila and Union Level: In 2016: 7,808 In 2017: 11,266 In 2018: 11,498 In 2019: 10,441.
		Human Rights and Legal Services [HRLS]	2016	2020	To ensure justice against GBV. Indicator: No. of Survivors supported and linkages for referral services to Government legal aid system.		In 2018: 1,862 survivors of non-compoundable criminal cases were referred to DLAC (District Legal Aid Committee) to get government legal aid. In 2019: 2,228 survivors non-compoundable criminal cases were referred to DLAC (District Legal Aid Committee) to get government legal aid assistance.
	5.2.2 Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by age and place of occurrence	Urban Development Programme [UDP]	2016	2020	UDP runs awareness campaigns to prevent VAWC and child marriage. UDP adopts principles and tools of GQAL and other gender-focused pilots.		

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SDG Targets	SDG Indicators	Ongoing Activities (Prog/Proj)	Prog/Proj Timeframe		Remarks, Justification, Indicators	Specific Targets	Results/ Achievements
			Start (Year)	Finish (Year)			
		Community Empowerment Programme [CEP]	2016	2020	CEP prioritises preventing sexual violence (cyber bullying, sexual harassment, child marriage) towards adolescent girls through implementing MEJNIN project.		Between 2016 and 2019, 3,077 survivors of VAWG, who have never been married, have been provided with at least one critical service.
		Human Rights and Legal Services [HRLS]	2016	2020	Improving knowledge of legal and human rights among community level participants, including men and boys toward preventing VAWC Indicator: Proportion of community level participants, including men and boys, that report having prevented VAWC.	At least 50% of 507,180 community level participants, including men and boys, prevented VAWC through improved knowledge of legal and human rights by 2018.	In 2019, 2,713 HRVI survivors received legal counselling of which 2,234 were women and girls. Out of legal counselling receivers, 319 survivors were provided assistance to medical hospital to take treatment and admitted to One Stop Crisis Centres (OCC), 1,287 survivors were provided assistance to file cases in different police stations and 137 survivors were assisted to file court cases. In 2018, 1,544 VAW related incidents were investigated of which, 769 survivors were assisted to go to police station to get justice, and 146 survivors received legal assistance.
5.3: Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation	5.3.1 Proportion of women aged 20-24 years who were married or in a union before age 15 and before age 18	BRAC Education Programme [BEP]	2016	2020	BEP reaches out to children for awareness while men and boys, staffs are sensitised in efforts to prevent VAWC and child marriage.		191,021 men and boys were engaged by GJD in 2018 in changing gender norms and for gender equality promotion.
		Gender Justice and Diversity [GJD]	2016	2020	BRAC is actively engaged in campaigns and policy-level interventions to reduce child marriage.		BRAC took a leadership role in Girls Not Brides Bangladesh (GNB) partnership, a 26-member national organisation where it played an important role to raise a joint voice against child marriage. The GNB partnership contributed in high-level advocacy with MoWCA to review the legal and policy provisions related to child marriage.
		Integrated Development Programme [IDP]	2016	2020	IDP works to enhance women leadership in community and collective actions to improve the condition, participation and influence of women in HHs for reduced violence. [GJD, CEP and HRLS Fund]	To prevent 75% of announced/ planned adolescent marriages annually in programme's operational area.	In its target areas, IDP prevented 198 child marriages in 2016, 112 in 2017, 98 in 2018 and 48 in 2019. In 2018, BRAC reached 24,542 adolescent girls and boys directly through project titled 'Empowering girls on sexual and reproductive health rights towards combating child marriage' in two districts.

SDG Targets	SDG Indicators	Ongoing Activities (Prog/Proj)	Prog/Proj Timeframe		Remarks, Justification, Indicators	Specific Targets	Results/ Achievements
			Start (Year)	Finish (Year)			
		Community Empowerment Programme [CEP]	2016	2020	CEP reaches out to people through awareness efforts on violence against women/children, and prevention of child marriage.		345,371 child marriage and other forms of VAWG have been addressed by the community in between 2016 and 2019.
		Skills Development Programme [SDP]	2016	2020	SDP provides soft skills training to the learners that raises awareness on gender issues, disability, child marriage, family planning, etc.	To empower women participants in the training programmes.	In 2018, the intervention of SDP's flagship project, STAR, have led to a 62% reduction in child marriage in the intervention areas.
		Ultra-Poor Graduation [UPG] Programme	2016	2020	UPG programme provides awareness messages to its participants on child marriage and dowry while the Village Social Solidarity Committee (VSSC) established by the programme contributes to stop child marriages and violence against women and children in programme participants' households. One criterion for graduation is also that no child marriage takes place in the participating households during the programme cycle.	To prevent child marriage in participating households.	UPG programme reached 344,293 ultra-poor women and HHs to provide awareness messages on child marriage and dowry.
5.4: Recognise and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate	5.4.1 Proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work, by sex, age and location	Urban Development Programme [UDP]	2016	2020	UDP advocates for policies that include basic entitlements for poor urban dwellers (including women) that cover tenure security, legitimise informal work, etc.		In 2019, construction of water points and WASH facilities by UDP significantly reduced workload of women. An estimated 35,000 women were benefited. On the other hand, UDPs low cost housing initiatives empowered women by receiving loan and involvement with house design and construction activities. 824 people are benefited by the housing interventions. It also significantly strengthened land tenure security of women headed households.
		Community Empowerment Programme [CEP]	2016	2020	CEP promotes men and boys' participation in care work under EMB project.		In 2019, CEP engaged 2,400 men and boys in VAWG prevention and care work as social change makers at households.
5.5: Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life	5.5.1 Proportion of seats held by women in (a) national parliaments and (b) local governments	Urban Development Programme [UDP]	2016	2020	BRAC works towards developing newer competencies -- entrepreneurial and data-informed innovation skills -- among second- and third-line leaders (disaggregated by gender). It promotes city corporations and municipalities to regularly engage urban poor women in city-wide planning and management.		750 women leaders in 2018 and 1,114 in 2019 were provided with leadership and organisational development training. These trainings helped them negotiate with the City Authorities for budget allocation for low income communities. Women leaders in 20 cities were actively involved with community development planning and decision making.

SDG Targets	SDG Indicators	Ongoing Activities (Prog/Proj)	Prog/Proj Timeframe		Remarks, Justification, Indicators	Specific Targets	Results/ Achievements
			Start (Year)	Finish (Year)			
		Community Empowerment Programme [CEP]			CEP promotes women's leadership in local decision making process through its community led institution building and strengthening local governance components.		By 2019, CEP initiatives have empowered 79,585 women and enabled them to play leadership roles in local power structures. 794 women leaders of Polli Shomaj have been elected as members of Union Parishad.
	5.5.2 Proportion of women in managerial positions	BRAC Education Programme [BEP]	2016	2020	Leadership capacity of women is enhanced through regular meetings. BRAC measures this by calculating the rise in women's presence in managerial position demonstrating newer competencies, entrepreneurial skills and skills of data informed innovations.		
		Urban Development Programme [UDP]	2016	2020	BRAC Community Development Organisation [CDO] committees focus on equal women representation in management.		Leadership and organisational capacity of 1,864 women CDO leaders were enhanced by UDP during 2017-2019, and they are now active in community decision making. UDP also ensured 20 City corporations and municipalities are engaging women in urban planning. In 2019, women held the management positions of 400 CDOs.
		Community Empowerment Programme [CEP]	2016	2020	CEP works towards developing women agency through women led institution building to realise their rights.	12,800 women-led community-based organisations are strengthened to uphold their voice and take initiatives for accessing equal rights and entitlements.	Under CEP, 12,800 women-led community-based organisations were functioning in 2017 and 2018 for poor women's empowerment.
5.6: Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed, in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences	5.6.1 Proportion of women aged 15-49 years who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health care.	Integrated Development Programme [IDP]	2016	2020	IDP works to enhance women leadership in community and collective actions to improve the condition, participation and influence of women in HHs for reduced violence. [GJD, CEP and HRLS Fund]	To improve the condition, participation and influence of women in HHs and to engage them in decision making activities both at household and local level.	14 million women and married adolescents were counselled by BRAC staff and volunteers on family planning; 1.49 million adolescent girls were counselled on menstrual hygiene management; 110 schools are supported with improved and hygienic toilets for girls; and 2.7 million school children were counselled on hygiene practices in schools across Bangladesh during 2016-2019.

BRAC SDG contribution voluntary report 2020

SDG Targets	SDG Indicators	Ongoing Activities (Prog/Proj)	Prog/Proj Timeframe		Remarks, Justification, Indicators	Specific Targets	Results/ Achievements
			Start (Year)	Finish (Year)			
5.a: Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws	5.a.1 (a) Proportion of total agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land, by sex; and (b) share of women among owners or rights-bearers of agricultural land, by type of tenure	Ultra-Poor Graduation [UPG] Programme	2016	2020	UPG programme addresses this target through encouraging women to get actively involved in key household decisions. VSSC committees also help by providing guidance and support, in particular how to safeguard their assets.	Reach 400,000 ultra-poor HHs where women make informed decision.	In 2019, UPG programme reached 111,526 ultra-poor HHs, bringing the cumulative HHs BRAC had reached to 1.9 million.
		Urban Development Programme [UDP]	2016	2020	Indicator: Proportion of women demonstrating ability to control how their own income and family resources are used (agency level changes)—capability, competence, confidence.	Proportion of women demonstrating ability to control how their own income and family resources are used is increased by 5% point per year.	3,763 women in 2018 and 18,445 in 2019 were provided with livelihood support and skills development training as a result of which, they now have control over their income.
5.c: Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels	5.c.1 Proportion of countries with systems to track and make public allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment	Community Empowerment Programme [CEP]	2016	2020	CEP works for increasing women's access to resources and their role in local decision making process to influence resource allocation.	Women-led community-based organisations are able to take actions related to their rights and entitlement. Increased women's leadership and decision making capacity specifically at 504 Union Parishads (UP); 20% of decisions taken by UP to include women-friendly initiatives.	Through the active leadership stand of Polli Shomaj under CEP, 2,715,987 services were received by communities through different providing agencies.
		Gender Justice and Diversity [GJD]	2016	2020	BRAC is also engaged in advocacy and lobbying with government as well as international organisations to ensure a congenial policy environment for women, girls and children.		BRAC GJD is a member of the UN GBV Cluster, Social Action Committee, Citizen's Initiative on CEDAW, and Citizen's Initiative on Domestic Violence, We Can Alliance and National Girl Child Advocacy Forum. BRAC also leads the Engaging Men and Boys Network in Bangladesh with 30-member organisations to collectively mobilise the men and boys' network in Bangladesh for establishing gender justice.

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